2018 PREA Statistics

2019 PREA Statistics
The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed into law in 2003 by President George W. Bush. The act mandated zero tolerance of sexual abuse inside correctional facilities and developed standards to detect and prevent sexual abuse and sexual harassment of those incarcerated. This report serves as an annual review to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training at the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center, in accordance with the national PREA standards 115.88 and 115.89.

Following these standards, the SACDC will:

1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual abuse data annually in order to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training to include:
   a. Identifying problem areas;
   b. Taking corrective action on an on-going basis; and
   c. Preparing an annual report of its findings.

2. Compare the current year’s data and corrective actions with those from prior year’s and provide assessment of the agency’s progress in addressing sexual abuse.

3. Publish the annual report of its findings and corrective actions on the Charleston County Sheriff’s Office website.

2016 to 2019 Comparisons:

In 2016, the first PREA Audit was done at the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center. This audit showed where our shortcomings were and what areas we needed to focus on to implement better policies and procedures to prevent, detect, and eliminate sexual harassment and abuse. We had a total of 16 PREA allegations in 2016 due to lack of training on how to report incidents and lack of awareness of PREA. In 2017, the number of PREA allegations jumped to 39. This was a result of implementing training for both inmates and staff on preventing, detecting, and reporting sexual abuse and harassment to comply with the PREA standards as well as for the safety of all at the facility. Since 2017, our number of PREA allegations have been declining. In 2018, there were 34 PREA allegations and in 2019, there were 29 PREA allegations. With improvements in training, policies, and procedures, as well as continued vigilance, we work to maintain a culture of zero tolerance of sexual abuse and harassment.