

Sauk County Jail 2024 Annual PREA Report

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that was established in 2003 to help with the elimination, reduction, and prevention of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment in all correctional facilities.

The Sauk County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) has established a zero-tolerance policy for the incidence of any type of sexual misconduct involving inmates or staff in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The SCSO policy and Sauk County Jail rules prohibit sexual intercourse, contact, or conduct between inmates. Violations will result in disciplinary sanctions. Inmate-on-Inmate sexual assaults will also be prosecuted according to Wisconsin State Statutes. In addition, any sexual acts between staff and inmates are ALWAYS prohibited and are a violation of SCSO policy, Jail rules and Wisconsin Law. Violators are subject to departmental discipline as well as prosecution punishable by prison sentences and fines. It is also inappropriate and against the rules for an inmate to approach a staff member for the purpose of sexual activity.

The SCSO thoroughly investigates all reported incidents of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault and sexual harassment, to determine the merits and validity of the allegations under scrutiny. After the investigation, all cases have been assigned a result of either substantiated, unsubstantiated or unfounded.

Substantiated - The event was investigated and determined to have occurred, based on a preponderance of the evidence.

Unsubstantiated - The investigation concluded that evidence was insufficient to determine whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded - The investigation determined that the event did NOT occur.

In compliance with PREA standards, here is published data for January 1 - December 31, 2024.

Male inmates on December 31, 2024 = 87

Female inmates on December 31, 2024 = 19

Male ADP from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 = 107

Female ADP from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 = 23

Total inmate-on-inmate non-consensual sexual acts reported = 0

Total inmate-on-inmate non-consensual abusive sexual contacts reported = 1

of inmate-on-inmate non-consensual abusive sexual contacts substantiated = 1

Total inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment incidents reported = 1

of inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment incidents unsubstantiated = 1

Total staff sexual harassment allegations reported = 0

Total staff sexual misconduct allegations reported = 2
of staff sexual misconduct allegations unfounded = 2

Overall, the number of reported PREA complaints decreased from 11 in 2023 to 4 in 2024. All data was collected and reviewed in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of our sexual abuse prevention, detection and response policies, practices and training.

The facility continues to provide:

- Inmate Education
- A variety of Inmate reporting options
- Educational programming for Contractors and volunteers
- Inmate Programming and advocacy with assistance from Hope House of South Central Wisconsin
- PREA Screening
 - o At intake
 - o With Classification within the first 72 Hrs.
 - o With Classification within 30 Days
- Youthful Offender Housing
- Medical and Mental Health screening and services for inmates
- Staff bi-annual classroom training focusing on prevention, detection and response to sexual assault and sexual harassment

We have identified areas for improvement and have implemented the following corrective actions:

We had a DOC PREA Staff Site Visit - No issues noted.

We reviewed and discussed upgrades to the facility - No upgrades noted.

We reviewed the staffing plan - No issues noted.

Policies & Procedures/Staff Training - Facility policies and procedures continue to be reviewed and adjusted for clarity and to increase and maintain compliance.

PREA Audit

In 2022, we had a PREA audit conducted for our facility. By law, every correctional facility is required to have a PREA audit done within every 3-year audit cycle. This was the second PREA audit at our facility and we were found to be in compliance. We received several “exceeds standards” and no corrective action was needed.

We are preparing for the next audit, which is scheduled for April 2025.

**Annual report has been reviewed and approved by the Sheriff.