

Franklin County Sheriff's Office

Annual PREA Report 2024

Background of the Prison Rape Elimination Act:

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was signed into law on September 4, 2003 by President Bush. On May 7, 2012, the Justice Department released a final rule to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse in confinement facilities, in accordance with PREA.

This landmark rule sets national standards for four categories of facilities: adult prisons and jails, lockups, community confinement facilities and juvenile facilities.

Annual PREA Report:

In accordance with PREA standard 115.88 Data Review for Corrective Action, The Franklin County Sheriff's Office completes an annual report to assess the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response. Policies, procedures and training are examined to identify any problem areas and take corrective action on an ongoing basis and report its findings and corrective actions taken.

Franklin County Sheriff's Office Commitment:

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office is committed to zero tolerance prevention and elimination of sexual abuse perpetrated against inmates by staff or other inmates. Meeting the objectives of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 shall be a priority for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and an ongoing focus for staff at all levels. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office shall devise and implement a strategic plan to ensure a comprehensive approach toward confronting this issue. All intentional acts of sexually abusive behavior or intimacy between an inmate and a Franklin County Sheriff's Office employee, contractor or volunteer, or another inmate, regardless of consensual status, are prohibited, and the perpetrators shall be subject to administrative and criminal and/or disciplinary sanctions.

Specific material may be redacted from the report when it would present a clear and specific threat to safety and security, but will be indicated in the report the nature of any redacted materials.

A review of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Investigations, the following data has been compiled in accordance with the PREA standards:

2024 Reported Cases and Findings:

INCIDENT TYPE	ALLEGED	SUBSTANTIATED	UNSUBSTANTIATED	UNFOUNDED
Inmate on inmate sexual abuse	2			2
Inmate on inmate sexual harassment	2			2
Staff on inmate sexual abuse	1			1
Staff on inmate sexual harassment	1			1
2024 Total	6			6

2023 Reported Cases and Findings:

INCIDENT TYPE	ALLEGED	SUBSTANTIATED	UNSUBSTANTIATED	UNFOUNDED
Inmate on inmate sexual abuse	8		6	2
Inmate on inmate Sexual harassment	1			1
Staff on inmate sexual abuse	4			4
Staff on inmate sexual harassment	1	1		
2023 Total	14	1	6	7

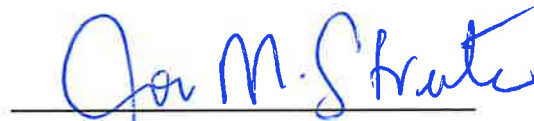
Corrective Action:

The Sheriff's Office will continue to be proactive in its PREA trainings, signage and education of staff and inmates in the "zero tolerance" policy. Staff will continue to strive as a whole agency to protect and ensure the safety and well-being of all inmates entrusted to the care and custody of the FCSO.

The FCSO has seen a statistical decrease in the number of reported sexual abuse and harassment cases from 2023 to 2024.

After reviewing the all the cases from year 2024 and 2023, the drop in reported cases of sexual harassment and abuse can be seen from 2023 to 2024. The FCSO reviewed cases, practices and policies on the last years review. Since that review, the practice of the FCSO changed to better capture more accurately reported incidents versus incidents of retaliation against other inmates and staff member.

Inmates at the FCSO continue to use sexual abuse or harassment allegations to try and remove unwanted inmates from a housing unit due to their own interpersonal conflicts. The FCSO investigators have been updated on proper investigation techniques as well as separating good faith reported incidents versus bad faith reported incidents, or intentionally misleading for the purpose of retaliation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lori M. Streeter", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sheriff Lori M. Streeter