

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA)
2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

Background

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003 to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment that occurs in confinement settings. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission developed national standards which apply to adult prisons and jails, juvenile facilities, lockups and community confinement facilities.

Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Zero-Tolerance Policy

The Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) has a zero tolerance towards all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment within Mecklenburg County Detention facilities and will prevent, detect and respond to any such activity. MCSO will immediately respond to allegations, fully investigate reported alleged incidents, pursue disciplinary action based upon the outcome of the investigations and in accordance with the PREA standards, and refer for prosecution those who perpetrate prohibited conduct.

MCSO has a designated agency-wide PREA Coordinator and PREA Compliance Managers for both of its facilities. MCSO has revised existing policies and established new policies in accordance with the PREA standards. Other efforts to comply with the PREA standards include, but not limited to:

- Annual training for staff, volunteers and contractors;
- Collaboration with the local Rape Crisis Center;
- Implementation of internal confidential reporting hotline;
- Implementation of external confidential reporting on website;
- Developed Emotional Confidential Support Pamphlets for inmate population;
- Conducted monthly inmate education training;
- Conducted Gender review Committee meetings
- Conducted monthly PREA Incident Review meetings on all substantiated and unsubstantiated cases;
- Attended updated PREA Conferences/Seminars; and
- Completed Department of Justice PREA Audit successfully.

PREA Statistics

MCSO collects data in accordance with §115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training. In subsequent years, the information collected for this report will be used to identify problem areas and take corrective action on an ongoing basis.

Survey of Sexual Violence, 2016

During 2016, there were a total of 24,890 new admissions into the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. Of the new admissions, 19,709 were males and 5,181 were female. The average daily population was 1,438 males and 347 females.

The information provided below is between January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

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Inmate-on-Inmate Allegations of Nonconsensual Sexual Acts	
Substantiated	0
Unsubstantiated	0
Unfounded	5
Investigation Ongoing	0
TOTAL	5

Inmate-on Inmate Allegations of Abusive Sexual Contact	
Substantiated	2
Unsubstantiated	1
Unfounded	1
Investigation Ongoing	0
TOTAL	4

Inmate-on-Inmate Allegations of Sexual Harassment	
Substantiated	14
Unsubstantiated	15
Unfounded	12
Investigation Ongoing	0
TOTAL	41

Staff-on-Inmate Allegations of Staff Sexual Misconduct	
Substantiated	0
Unsubstantiated	3
Unfounded	10
Investigation Ongoing	0
TOTAL	13

Staff-on-Inmate Allegations of Staff Sexual Harassment	
Substantiated	3
Unsubstantiated	4
Unfounded	4
Investigation Ongoing	0
TOTAL	11