

# Ward County Detention Center

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)  
Annual Report

2022

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The Prison Rape Elimination act requires that the Ward County Detention Center (WCDC) prepare an annual report on the effectiveness of its efforts to reduce sexual abuse while being housed at the WCDC. The following information details WCDC's compliance with the standards proscribed by the PREA Act. These standards are outlined in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations—28 C.F.R. Part 115.

In 2003, the Federal Government signed into law the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). This law established a set of standards designed to eliminate sexual abuse and sexual harassment experienced by individuals incarcerated in correctional facilities in our nation.

As a grade 1 correctional facility in North Dakota, The WCDC has adopted these standards in preventing, detecting, responding to, and eliminating acts of sexual abuse & sexual harassment in our facility. The WCDC has zero-tolerance for any form of sexual abuse & sexual harassment.

The WCDC and the Ward County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) investigate all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment and provide inmates with numerous methods of reporting:

- Verbally tell any staff member/contractor/volunteer
- Write any staff member/volunteer/contractor
- Have a third party make the report by contacting any WCDC or WCSO staff member in writing or verbally
- Contact a third party by writing or calling (inmates are provided this contact information)
- Call the Rape Crisis line which is accessible by any inmate phone

Any allegations of sexual abuse will be referred to law enforcement for investigative purposes. Any person found to engage in a criminal act will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Any staff member found to violate WCDC's policy regarding PREA will be subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination from employment.

The WCDC has taken a number of proactive steps to help ensure compliance with PREA standards.

#### **Summary of Actions or Achievements:**

In early 2016, the Ward County Detention Center completed its first PREA Audit gaining compliance. WCDC has a total capacity to hold up to 286 inmates. WCDC finished their third PREA Audit in 2022 with full compliance under the PREA standards.

**WCDC PREA STATISTICAL DATA FOR 2022**  
**§115.89 Data storage, publication and destruction**

**Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Harassment Allegations**

<b>Reported Allegations</b>	<b>8</b>
Substantiated Allegations	1
Unsubstantiated Allegations	1
Unfounded Allegations	6
On-going Investigations	0

**Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse Allegations**

<b>Reported Allegations</b>	<b>5</b>
Substantiated Allegations	0
Unsubstantiated Allegations	1
Unfounded Allegations	5
On-going Investigations	0

**Staff/Volunteer/Contractor-on-Inmate Sexual Harassment Allegations**

<b>Reported Allegations</b>	<b>4</b>
Substantiated Allegations	0
Unsubstantiated Allegations	0
Unfounded Allegations	4
On-going Investigations	0

**Staff/Volunteer/Contractor-on-Inmate Sexual Abuse Allegations**

<b>Reported Allegations</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Substantiated Allegations</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unsubstantiated Allegations</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Unfounded Allegations</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>On-going Investigations</b>	<b>0</b>

§115.63 Reporting to other confinement facilities:

(a) Upon receiving an allegation that an inmate was sexually abused while confined at another facility, the head of the facility that received the allegation shall notify the head of the facility or appropriate office of the agency where the alleged abuse occurred.

(b) Such notification shall be provided as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after receiving the allegation.

(c) The agency shall document that it has provided such notification.

<b>Reported allegations pursuant to §115.63 (a)</b>	<b>1</b>
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**Definitions:**

Substantiated Allegation: Allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

Unsubstantiated Allegation: Allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

Unfounded Allegation: Allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.