

Prison Rape and PREA

The United States Congress enacted the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) to address the problem of sexual abuse of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies. PREA calls for Federal, State, and local corrections systems to have a zero-tolerance policy regarding prison rape (as defined by PREA) in prisons, jails, police lock-ups, and other confinement facilities.

The Numbers

- Since 2005, allegations of sexual assault in prison have risen 39%.
- 9.6% of former state prisoners report being sexually victimized at least once in prison; 200,000 inmates a year.
- 9.5% of youth in state facilities have been sexual victimized.
- 5.3% of prisoners were sexually victimized by prison facility staff.
- 25% of prisoners were physically injured during the sexual assault.
- The rate of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization was 3 times higher for females (13.7%) than males (4.2%).
- 3.5% of male prisoners who identify as heterosexual were sexually victimized by another prisoner.
- 33% of male prisoners who identify as bisexual were sexually victimized by another prisoner.
- 39% of male prisoners who identify as homosexual were sexually victimized by another prisoner.