PREA standards were established and unanimously passed by Congress in 2003. The standards were developed to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape. PREA applies to all correctional and detention facilities, including federal, state and local jail, prisons, police lock-ups, private facilities, and immigration detention centers. The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for all issues involving sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates. All inmates shall be free from any form of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office continues to strive to keep all of the inmates free from all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

The following are statistics for the 2014 year. All allegations made by inmates were fully investigated and when necessary appropriate course of action was taken.

- Between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014, the Sheriff’s Office had 51 allegations of inmate-on-inmate NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS reported. Out of the 51 allegations made, 1 was substantiated, 27 were unsubstantiated, 19 were unfounded, and 4 are ongoing investigations at this time.
- Between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014, the Sheriff’s Office had 32 allegations of inmate-on-inmate ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONDUCT reported. Out of the 32 allegations made, 0 were substantiated, 13 were unsubstantiated, 16 were unfounded, and 3 are ongoing investigations at this time.
- Between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014, the Sheriff’s Office had 30 allegations of STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT reported. Out of the 30 allegations made, 1 was substantiated, 2 were unsubstantiated, 26 were unfounded, 1 is an ongoing investigation at this time, and 6 cases are inactive at this time.
- Between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014, the Sheriff’s Office had 26 allegations of inmate-on-inmate SEXUAL HARASSMENT reported. Out of the 26 allegations made, 1 was substantiated, 5 were unsubstantiated, 18 were unfounded and 2 are ongoing investigations at this time.
- Between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014, the Sheriff’s Office had 19 allegations of staff-on-inmate SEXUAL HARASSMENT reported. Out of the 19 allegations made, 2 were substantiated, 1 was unsubstantiated, and 16 were unfounded.
The following are statistics for the 2013 year. All allegations made by inmates were fully investigated and when necessary appropriate course of action was taken.

- Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, the Sheriff's Office had 24 allegations of inmate-on-inmate NONCONSENSUAL SEXUAL ACTS reported. Out of the 24 allegations made, 1 was substantiated, 5 were unsubstantiated, 9 were unfounded, 6 are ongoing investigations at this time, 4 cases are inactive at this time.
- Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, the Sheriff's Office had 21 allegations of inmate-on-inmate ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONDUCT reported. Out of the 21 allegations made, 0 were substantiated, 7 were unsubstantiated, 6 were unfounded, 5 are ongoing investigations at this time, and 2 cases are inactive at this time.
- Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, the Sheriff's Office had 44 allegations of STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT reported. Out of the 44 allegations made, 1 was substantiated, 15 were unsubstantiated, 20 were unfounded, 2 are ongoing investigations at this time, and 6 cases are inactive at this time.
- Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, the Sheriff's Office had 12 allegations of inmate-on-inmate SEXUAL HARASSMENT reported. Out of the 12 allegations made, 0 were substantiated, 5 were unsubstantiated, 5 were unfounded and 2 are ongoing investigations at this time.
- Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, the Sheriff's Office had 6 allegations of staff-on-inmate SEXUAL HARASSMENT reported. Out of the 6 allegations made, 0 were substantiated, 2 were unsubstantiated, 4 were unfounded and 0 are ongoing investigations at this time.
- Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, the Sheriff's Office had 9 allegations made by inmates were the perpetrator was UNKNOWN. Out of the 9 allegations made, 0 were substantiated, 1 unsubstantiated, 6 unfounded and 2 cases are inactive at this time.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office currently houses inmates in six of our facilities however we have extended our prevention, detection and responsive course of actions to safeguard our inmates from being victims of sexual abuse and harassment to other areas such as our Court Security Division, Inmate Laundry area and the Food Factory Division.

For the 2014 year, several changes have been made to assist the Office in continuing to be PREA compliant. A new video camera system has been installed in all of our jails. Television sets have been added inside of the holding tanks at Central Intake which display a PREA announcement in written format to the inmates while they wait to continue the booking process. The message informs inmates how to properly report a PREA allegation. All inmates continue to receive daily education on how to report a PREA incident through audio announcements, information found inside the Inmates Rules and Regulations, PREA postings inside of their housing units and PREA postings in high traffic areas throughout the facilities. The PREA education provided to inmates are both in English and Spanish.
Goals for Upcoming months:

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office will be developing a Sexual Abuse Response Team (SART). The team will be composed of Medical Staff, Detention Personnel, Jail Crimes Detectives and a victim advocate. Each SART member will be trained on how to appropriately respond to victims of sexual abuse in a jail setting and ensure that all appropriate steps are followed according to policy.

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office will also be reaching out to a local victim advocate organization that will be able to provide services to victims of sexual abuse inside of our jails. The Sheriff’s Office understands how important it is for the victims to have an advocate present during the investigative process to provide emotional support and help the victim overcome and recover from the traumatic event.

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office has received a grant from the Department of Justice to assist with different aspects of PREA. The grant is geared towards assisting the Office to obtain full compliance in all of the jails and continue to keep inmates free from all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.