



Issue Brief - 2007

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Overview

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) has implemented the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). This law was passed by Congress in 2003 to reduce the incidents of sexual violence, sexual coercion, and sexual solicitation by requiring corrections and law enforcement agencies to enhance education, investigation, protection, prevention of re-victimization and prosecution. The DOC has a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual assault and rape inside our institutions.

PREA applies to all federal, state, and local prisons, jails, police lock-ups, private facilities, and community settings such as residential facilities, housing adult and juvenile offenders as well as parole and probation supervision.

Implementation of PREA

Since 2004, DOC has been aggressive at implementing its PREA strategies. In the 2005-2007 biennium, PREA implementation was one of DOC's strategic initiatives. DOC's efforts include:

- Development of staff and inmate curriculum
- Annual staff training
- Use of PREA educational videos for inmates at intake
- Inmate training available in English and Spanish
- Creation of an Inspector General's Hotline
- Development of PREA materials for use by inmates
- Collection of data for Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Formation of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) in all DOC institutions
- Hiring of a PREA coordinator
- Distribution of informational posters posted in all facilities

- On-going newsletter articles for both staff and inmates
- Formation of a statewide PREA work group with other law enforcement and victims of sexual assault groups
- Integration of PREA into DOC rules, policies and training
- Training development by the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force for investigators, counselors and SART members.

Grant Monies

The department received a one million dollar discretionary grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for the "Right to be Safe in Prison" Project. With legislative approval, the department uses the grant money to complete and implement an automated tracking system for inmate misconduct, inmate grievances, incident reports and security threat management as outlined in the discretionary grant. The grant provides for the installation of security electronics in areas of limited visibility and supervision.

In an effort to continue to enhance education and awareness as well as to better reduce the occurrence of sexual assault and to prosecute the perpetrators, the department collaborates with both local and federal stakeholders: Stop Prisoner Rape, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, local law enforcement and the District Attorney's office.

To report information regarding staff or inmate misconduct, waste, fraud, abuse or any other serious issue pertaining to one of our institutions or another area within the DOC, call the *Inspector General's Hotline*:

- *Staff and Public*: (877) 678-4222
- *Inmate*: (503) 555-1234

**The mission of the
Oregon Department of Corrections
is to promote public safety by
holding offenders accountable for their
actions and reducing the risk of future
criminal behavior.**



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