

Oneida County Jail (2024) Annual PREA Report

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that was established in 2003 and applies to all Correctional facilities and Jails. It was put into effect in 2017 at the Oneida County Jail to help with the elimination, reduction, and prevention of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment in all correctional facilities.

Oneida County will make every reasonable effort to comply with the Prison Rape Eliminate Act (PREA) and all such misconduct shall be investigated immediately to determine the nature of the allegation and make a determination on the appropriate action to be taken.

In an effort to protect the inmates of the Oneida County Jail (OCJ) from sexual misconduct, there shall be no sexual activity between staff and inmates/detainees, nor between incarcerated/detained persons.

The Oneida County Jail has a zero tolerance policy pertaining to all sexual misconduct, including sexual abuse harassment. We are working continuously to implement new policies and procedures, PREA training requirements for staff and inmates, and developing standards for detection, prevention, and reduction of sexual misconduct. It is our goal to try to ensure that all sexual misconduct is reported and investigated accurately and completely.

It is the policy of the Oneida County Jail to respond and thoroughly investigate every allegation of sexual misconduct reported, and to do it in a timely manner. All cases will have an ending result of:

Substantiated Allegation: This means an allegation was investigated and determined to have occurred.

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

Unfounded Allegation: This means an allegation was investigated and was determined not to have occurred.

Non-PREA Reported as PREA: This means the PREA complaint reported did not meet the requirements of the PREA standards relative to the PREA law.

In (2024) the Oneida County Jail had (13) reported cases.

<u>Year 2024</u> <u>PREA CASES</u>	<u>Substantiated</u>	<u>Unsubstantiated</u>	<u>Unfounded</u>	<u>Ongoing</u> <u>Investigation</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Reported</u>
Staff on Inmate sexually Non abusive contact			3		3
Inmate/Inmate Sexual Abuse					
Inmate/Inmate Sexually Non-Abusive Contact	3	1	1		5
Inmate/Inmate Harassment		2			2
Inmate/Staff Sexual Harassment					
Staff/Inmate Harassment			3		3
Staff/Inmate Sexual Assault					
Non-PREA Reported as PREA					3

All data is collected and aggregated in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of our sexual prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training.

In effort to be more effective in the implementation , education and monitoring of the PREA requirements, Oneida County Jail has developed two independent teams who provide guidance, oversight and review of all PREA incidents and assisting staff with PREA related questions.

PREA Resource officers

We are currently have four PREA Resource Officers to assist facility staff with continued compliance to ensure that all the requirements of P.R.E.A. are being followed during the day to day operations.

Review Team:

In 2018, we developed a PREA review team. This team consists of members from our medical staff, administration, detective, and PREA team. We review cases as they occur. In our efforts to review the cases, we may see ways we can improve our responses to investigations, our policies/procedures, check our video monitoring systems and any other areas we may need to improve on. These reviews also help us to determine if any of the cases were motivated by gender issues, sexual orientation, religion, and ethnicity/race.

3rd Party Reporting:

In 2018, we also have posted on the Oneida County Sheriff's Department website,

Phone numbers for 3rd party reporting of PREA incidents. We continue to have information posted in each housing unit on the Kiosk system which has to be reviewed prior to and every thirty days after, allowing use of that equipment. Inmates have access to report a claim at any time except during times of lockdown while in the custody of the Oneida County Jail.