



## PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

American Behavioral Health Systems is dedicated to the safety of our clients and staff. We strive to meet and exceed the Federal PREA regulations set forth by the Department of Corrections. Both our clients and staff are continuously educated on all PREA standards and expectations.

ABHS conducts all Administrative Investigations for potential criminal charges and refers for prosecution individuals determined to have participated in such conduct. All potential criminal investigations are conducted by the geographically appropriate local policing agency. In the event there is an active criminal investigation, ABHS investigators will suspend their investigation to allow local authorities to conduct and complete their investigation. Upon completion of the criminal investigation ABHS will conduct their internal Administrative Investigation.

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## ***Purpose***

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires that each facility collect and review the data “...in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training” (Standard 115.88 a).

This overview is intended to:

- Identify problem areas and corrective action taken on an ongoing basis for each facility and the agency as a whole.
- Compare the current year’s data and corrective actions with those from prior years; and
- Assess the agency’s progress in addressing sexual abuse.

This report provides information for calendar year 2020.

## ***Background***

PREA was signed into federal law in September 2003 following unanimous support from both parties in Congress. American Behavioral Health Systems was an early adopter of the standards developed under PREA and the only residential treatment agency in the State of Washington who adopted the standards. Since its passage, the agency has been aggressive in implementing its PREA strategies.

The purpose of the act is to “provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in federal, state, local institutions and those agencies who are contracted with the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) and to provide information, resources, recommendations, and funding to protect individuals from prison rape” (Prison Rape Elimination Act, 2003). PREA seeks to establish a zero-tolerance policy regarding rape and sexual abuse in federal, state, county, city correctional systems and behavioral health treatment facilities contracted to DOC. PREA also mandated the publication of standards to ensure compliance and to improve prevention, detection, and response strategies in addressing sexual abuse and assault.

The final rules/standards were published in the federal register on June 20, 2012 and became effective August 20, 2012. Standards require annual audits of one-third of the facilities under contract with DOC.

## **Agency Achievements in 2021**

American Behavioral Health Systems (ABHS) has been a proud implementer of PREA. The agency proudly announces that our annual audits for 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 achieved 100% compliance with all federal standards.

ABHS implemented the following statewide processes in 2015 to reduce sexual abuse and meet federal standards:

- Provided comprehensive annual PREA training to all employees via an on-line two-hour module;
- Completed internal PREA assessments in 2021;
- Provided the PREA auditor with ABHS best practices to share with other state agencies.
- Due to Covid the agency could not complete a PREA Audit, all 3 agencies are scheduled during the summer of 2022.

## **Agency Sexual Abuse Data for 2021\***

Allegations of Client-to-Client Sexual Abuse and Staff-to-client Sexual Abuse\*\*

	Substantiated*		Unsubstantiated*		Unfounded*	
	Client-Client	Staff-Client	Client-Client	Staff-Client	Client-Client	Staff-Client
2018	3	7	3	4	0	0
2019	0	6	2	1	2	2
2020	0	3	2	1	1	2
2021	0	1	3	3	2	3

\*All data provided in this report are as of December 31, 2021.