



# MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JASON MYERS, SHERIFF

## Marion County Sheriff's Office- Institutions Division 2016 PREA Statistics

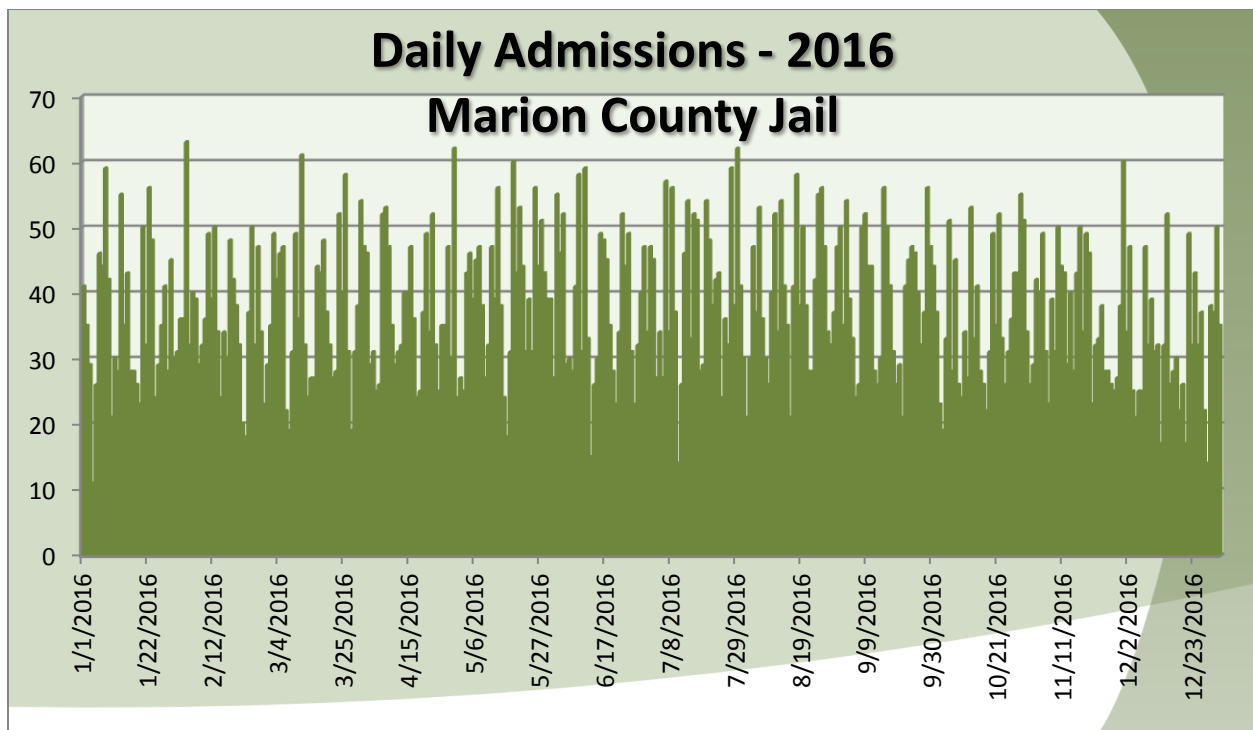
### Background

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2003. PREA was established to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment that occurs in confinement settings. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission developed national standards, which apply to adult prisons and jails, juvenile facilities, lockups and community confinement facilities.

### PREA Statistics

The Marion County Sheriff's Office collects data in accordance with §115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training. The information collected regarding PREA will be used to identify problem areas and to take corrective action on an ongoing basis.

During 2016, the Marion County Jail's (MCJ) average Daily population was (392).





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### Zero-Tolerance Policy

The Marion County Sheriff's Office mandates a zero tolerance for any incidence of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault of any inmate in the custody of the sheriff. All staff, volunteers, contractors, and inmates must abide by this and related policies, laws, and standards that help prevent, detect, reduce, and punish inmate sexual assault. The Sheriff's Office policies must provide prompt and effective intervention and investigation should an assault occur.

MCSO has a designated PREA Compliance Manager assigned to the Jail and another to the Transition Center. The Institutions Division has a PREA Coordinator, which oversee both the MCJ and MCTC. MCSO has revised existing policies and established new policies in accordance with the PREA standards. Other efforts to comply with the PREA standards include, but not limited to:

- Training for staff, volunteers and contractors;
- Collaboration with local Rape Crisis Centers;
- Implementation of internal confidential reporting hotline;
- Implementation of confidential support services hotline to local Rape Crisis Centers;
- Developed education material, provided to inmates, arrestees, and probations clients;
- Developed risk / victimization assessment during the initial intake screening process;
- Specialized Investigative training for assigned investigators

**Employee Training:** MCSO employees are educated on the importance of immediately notifying their chain of command when made aware of a PREA related incident(s). Employees have been trained on the correct procedure after discovery or receiving a report from a contractor, volunteer, or inmate. Employees have been trained on what their responsibilities are regarding evidence collection and storage. Employees were instructed on the correct procedure when dealing with offenders who are accused, involved or instigating the sexual harassment and the resulting disciplinary process if found guilty.



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### PREA Incident Reviews

The Marion County Sheriff's Office- PREA Unit reviews all reports of sexual abuse and assault incidents per PREA Standard 1- 1- 5.86. Under this standard, the Institutions Division must conduct a sexual abuse incident review at the conclusion of every sustained or not sustained sexual abuse investigation. An incident review is not conducted if the investigator determined the allegations to be unfounded. Sustained or Not Sustained case findings will ordinarily be reviewed within thirty, (30) days of the conclusion of the investigation.

The review team will include upper-level management officials, with input from line supervisors, investigators, and medical or mental health practitioners. The Institutions Division will implement the recommendations for improvement, or document its reasons for not doing so.

### Review Criteria:

1. Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicates a need to change policy or practice to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse.
2. Consider whether the alleged incident was motivated by race; ethnicity; gender identity; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex identification, status, or perceived status; or gang affiliation; or was motivated or otherwise caused by other group dynamics at the facility.
3. Examine the location where the allegation occurred to assess whether physical barriers in the area may enable abuse.
4. Assess the adequacy of staffing levels during different shifts.
5. Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented to supplement supervision by staff.
6. Prepare a report of its findings, including but not necessarily limited to determinations made pursuant to the above requirements and any recommendations for improvement and submit such report to the Division Commander and MCSO PREA Coordinator.

