

Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Prison Rape Elimination Act was signed in 2003. It's taken a decade for the federal government to establish guidelines and auditing criteria to grade a state's compliance.

In August 2013, the Department of Justice announced that all states will be required to operate on a three year audit cycle; requiring 1/3 of the state's prisons to be audited every year for compliance.

The New Mexico Correc-

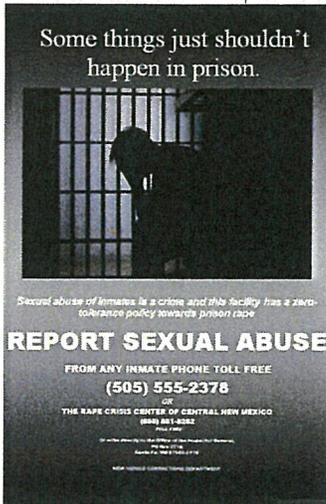
tions Department had already taken steps to ensure compliance. The department created a video all inmates watch when they arrive at prison or change prison facilities, that informs the inmate of his/her rights, what's appropriate and non-appropriate contact, how to ask for help, and what the process will entail.

NMCD also posted sexual abuse hotline numbers, established a PREA reporting phone number, hung posters in both Spanish and English to educate inmates about the

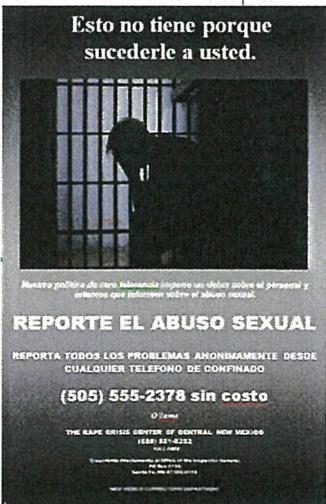
PREA law, and trained staff to recognize and respond to a PREA allegation.

In simple terms, when an allegation is made, the alleged aggressor is separated from the population along with the alleged victim. A sexual assault exam is performed, counselors are provided and a law enforcement agency is notified to file a police report.

Sexual abuse and assault is taken extremely seriously and the department has a zero-tolerance policy on this matter.



English and Spanish PREA Posters



The department entered into an agreement to create a circular audit process between 10 western states, designed to avoid quid pro quo between partnering states.

The Otero County Prison Facility was the first prison to undergo the PREA audit in Fall 2013. The prison was in compliance as was the Guadalupe County Correc-

tional Facility who was audited this spring. The Penitentiary of New Mexico was just assessed last week and we expect full compliance from that prison in the final report.

The Governor committed to the federal government that the state was in line with the law and that money allocated for the implementation of PREA compliance would continue to be used to ensure all New Mexico prisons meet or

exceed the standards set by the act.

The department has paid for training to ensure we have PREA certified auditors to ensure we can continue in our contract with the circle audit system to be assessed.

PREA Compliance

PREA Statistics

Year	Number of Referrals	Number Substantiated
2008	8	0
2009	17	4
2010	30	6
2011	23	3
2012	29	1

