PREA in Action Webinar Series

Keeping Vulnerable Populations Safe Under PREA: Alternative Strategies to the Use of Segregation in Prisons and Jails

April 21, 2015

Notice of Federal Funding and Federal Disclaimer – This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-RP-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
Welcome
  • Tom Talbot, PREA Management Office, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Overview of the guide
  • Allison Hastings, Vera Institute of Justice

How the guide can help with PREA compliance
  • Michela Bowman, National PREA Resource Center

Discussion of alternatives to segregation
  • Allison Hastings, Vera Institute of Justice

Q & A
  • Margaret diZerega, Vera Institute of Justice
Keeping Vulnerable Populations Safe under PREA: Alternative Strategies to the Use of Segregation in Prisons and Jails

Available at:

Purpose of the Guide

Protect people from abuse

Limit the use of isolation
Terminology

Disciplinary or punitive segregation
- Used to punish individuals in confinement for rule violations

Administrative segregation
- Used to remove people from the general facility population who are thought to pose a risk to security or safety

Protective custody
- Used to protect individuals believed to be at risk in the general facility population

Involuntary protective custody
- When individuals are placed in segregated housing against their will for the purpose of protecting them from harm
Overview of the Guide: Topics

- Introduction
- Brief Look at the Use of Segregated Housing and Protective Custody in the United States
- Why Does the Use of Segregation Matter?
- Managing People Who Screen at Risk for Sexual Abuse in General Population
- Managing Particularly High Risk Populations
  - Women
  - Youthful Inmates
  - LGBTI People
### Why Does the Use of Segregation Matter?

**Impacts of Isolation on Incarcerated Individuals**
- Creates or exacerbates serious mental health problems
- Leads to decreases in physical health and functioning
- May suppress reporting of sexual abuse

**Impacts of Isolation on Correctional Facilities**
- Costs 2-3 times as much to house an inmate in segregation as in general population
- Requires many staff
- Makes program and service delivery difficult
Related PREA Standards

115.41 Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness
115.42 Use of screening information
115.43 Protective custody
115.68 Post-allegation protective custody
115.14 Youthful inmates
Screening Standards

115.41 Screening for risk of victimization and abusiveness

• Agencies must assess all inmates for risk of being sexually abused or sexually abusive

115.42 Use of screening information

• Information gained during screening must be used to inform housing, bed, work, education, and program assignments

• Includes sections on housing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) inmates
Protective Custody Standards

115.43 Protective custody

• Individuals deemed at high risk for sexual abuse shall not be placed in involuntary segregated housing unless all available alternatives have been assessed and a determination made that there are no other means of separating them from likely abusers without temporary segregation.

115.68 Post-allegation protective custody

• The requirements of 115.43 apply to victims of sexual abuse that occurred while in confinement.
115.14 Youthful inmates

- A youthful inmate is a person younger than 18 years of age who is under adult court supervision and incarcerated or detained in an adult prison or jail.

- Adult facilities confining youthful inmates must not place these inmates in a housing unit where they will have sight, sound, or physical contact with adult inmates.
115.14 Youthful inmates (continued)

- Agencies shall make best efforts to avoid placing youthful inmates in isolation to comply with this provision. Absent exigent circumstances, agencies shall not deny youthful inmates daily large-muscle exercise and any legally required special education services to comply with this provision. Youthful inmates shall also have access to other programs and work opportunities to the extent possible.
Managing People Who Screen at Risk for Sexual Abuse in General Population

Key elements of any approach to housing vulnerable inmates in general population:

- Employ strong screening and re-screening processes
- Manage and deploy existing staff resources to maximize safety
- Decide housing placements on a case-by-case basis
Strategies for Managing People Who Screen at Risk for Sexual Abuse in General Population

- Incorporating PREA screening requirements into internal classification systems
  - Strong screening and re-screening
  - Housing matrices

- Using case management systems to manage vulnerable inmates
  - Identifying and tracking indicators of vulnerability
  - Intensive case management
Strategies for Managing People Who Screen at Risk for Sexual Abuse in General Population

- Open housing units in general population
  - Mix compatible populations
  - Provide in-unit congregate opportunities, services, and programming

- Mission specific housing
  - Housing should be targeted to special needs
  - Schedule activities on the unit
  - Handle violations on the unit whenever possible
Managing Particularly High Risk Populations

- **Women**
  - Tools and processes should reflect gender differences

- **Youthful inmates**
  - House youthful inmates in juvenile facilities until age 18
  - Create dedicated housing units when youthful inmates are housed in adult facilities
  - Provide supervised opportunities for youthful inmates in adult facilities to participate in congregate activities
Managing Particularly High Risk Populations

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) people

  - Conduct targeted screening as soon as possible
  - Consider transgender and intersex inmates’ own views of their safety
  - Provide increased monitoring and security as needed
  - Re-screen when necessary
Keys to Culture Change

- Recognizing that protecting sexually vulnerable inmates has a positive impact on overall facility safety and can be accomplished by using alternatives to segregation

- Creating a zero-tolerance culture that takes all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment seriously

- Training and educating staff, volunteers, and other individuals who interact with inmates
Keeping Vulnerable Populations Safe under PREA: Alternative Strategies to the Use of Segregation in Prisons and Jails

Available at:

Questions?

We will now take questions from our participants. Please send those to Margaret diZerega through the chat function or via email at mdizerega@vera.org, and we will ask them on your behalf.

A recording of this webinar will be available on the PREA Resource Center website in a few days.
Additional Resources

- For more information on the PREA Standards: http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/training-technical-assistance/prea-essentials

- For interpretive guidance on the PREA Standards: http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/faq

- For more information on some of the agencies discussed in this webinar: http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/training-technical-assistance/prea-in-action

  http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/training-and-technical-assistance/archived-webinars
For More Information

For more information about the National PREA Resource Center, visit www.prearesourcecenter.org.

To request assistance visit: http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/training-technical-assistance/request-for-assistance
Direct questions to: http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/about/contact-us

PRC Staff
Jenni Trovillion, Co-Director
Tara Graham, Targeted TTA
Marion Morgan, Auditor Training
Peg Ritchie, Field-Initiated TTA
Margaret Chiara, Coaching
Celia Johnson, Program Support

Michela Bowman, Co-Director
Scott Catey, Quality Improvement
Dave Gaspar, Field-Initiated TTA
Kathy Dennehy, Coaching
Sarah True, Program Support

For more information about the Vera Institute of Justice, visit www.vera.org.
Direct questions to contactvera2@vera.org.

Connect with Vera:

www.facebook.com/verainstitute
@verainstitute