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**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice

## PREA in Action Webinar Series

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

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# Webinar Agenda

## 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:

[http://  
www.prearesourcecenter.org/  
sites/default/files/library/  
keepingvulnerablepopulations  
afeunderpreaapril2015.pdf](http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/library/keepingvulnerablepopulationssafeunderpreaapril2015.pdf)

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# 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**

# Youthful Inmate Standard

## **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**

# Youthful Inmate Standard (continued)

## **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**

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# 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](mailto: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](http://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>

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