

SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT 2023

Background

The federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was established in 2003 for the protection of inmates against sexual assaults by other inmates or staff members while confined in adult and juvenile facilities or institutions. The goal is to prevent, detect, and respond to incidents of sexual assault and abuse of an inmate. Major provisions of PREA include the development of standards for detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of prison or jail rapes.

The Solano County Sheriff's Office has adopted a zero tolerance on issues pertaining to sexual abuse and sexual harassment involving staff and inmates. The Sheriff's Office is working continuously to implement policies, training requirements for staff and inmates, and developing standards for detection, prevention, reduction and punishment of sexual abuse and sexual harassment incidents.

Introduction

PREA standard §115.87 requires the Solano County Sheriff's Office to collect accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual abuse at facilities under its direct control using a standardized instrument and set of definitions. The Sheriff's Office continues to remain diligent in investigating all allegations of sexual abuse, staff sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment against offenders. Staff and offenders are educated on the department's zero tolerance policy and provided information on the multiple ways to report an allegation, to include third-party reporting.

DEFINITIONS:

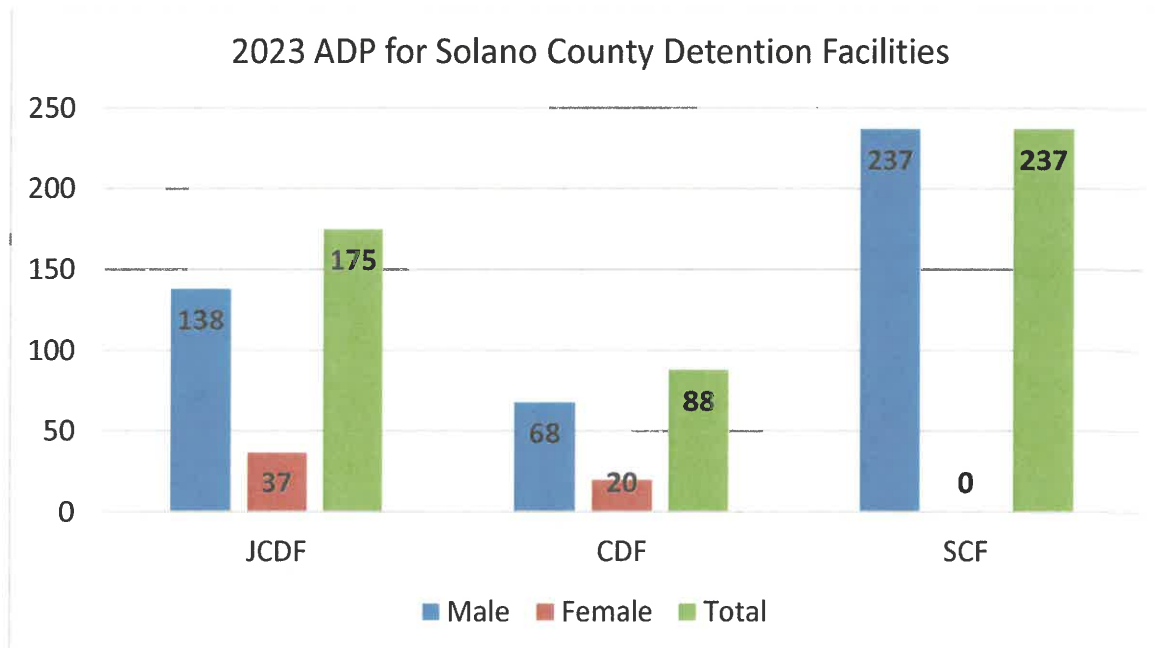
- Substantiated allegation – an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- Unsubstantiated allegation – an allegation that was investigated and insufficient evidence was obtained to determine if the allegation did or did not occur.
- Unfounded allegation – an allegation that was investigated and proven not to have occurred.
- Ongoing investigation – the investigation was initiated and is ongoing.

2023 Annual Statistics

In 2023, the Solano County Sheriff's Office began the audit of the Stanton Correctional Facility (SCF). During the audit, six PREA Standard corrective actions were identified and documented in the PREA Audit Interim Summary Report. All corrective actions were remedied, well within the 180-day corrective period.

The Average Daily Population (ADP) of inmates is an important number to consider, when examining the number of PREA allegations. Over the course of the year, the ADP for all three detention facilities was 500 inmates, comprising of 443 males and 57 females.

Below is a chart reflecting the breakdown of the average daily number of inmates by gender at each facility during the 2023 calendar year:



As seen in the chart above, the largest number of inmates on average were housed at the Stanton Correctional Facility (SCF) with an average daily population of 237 inmates. The Claybank Detention Facility (CDF) had an average daily population of 88 inmates and. JCDF can normally accommodate a larger inmate population, however several projects being completed at the facility has caused the closure of half the housing units. SCF only housed male inmates. Female inmates were housed at both JCDF and CDF.

In 2023, the Sheriff's Office received 46 reports by inmates alleging sexual abuse or harassment in Solano County Jail Facilities. Of the 46 allegations, 22 were reported at the Justice Center Detention Facility (JCDF), seven were from inmates at the Claybank Detention Facility (CDF), and seventeen were from inmates at the Stanton Correctional Facility (SCF). Of the 46 cases, 24 consisted of allegations against another inmate and

22 were allegations against staff. All personal identifying information is redacted from the Annual Report as publication of this information would present a clear and specific threat to the safety and security of the facility.

There was a total of three substantiated cases, two unsubstantiated cases, and 41 unfounded cases. Of the reported cases that were substantiated or unsubstantiated in 2023, none consisted of a criminal allegation.

Below is a breakdown of all the PREA cases by facility and their dispositions following a detailed investigation:

Justice Center Detention Facility

Cases	Type of Conduct	Disposition
1	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
2	Inmate Sexual Contact	Unfounded
3	Staff Sexual Harassment	Substantiated
4	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
5	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
6	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
7	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
8	Inmate Sexual Contact	Unfounded
9	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
10	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Substantiated
11	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
12	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unsubstantiated
13	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
14	Inmate Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
15	Inmate Sexual Contact	Unfounded
16	Inmate Sexual Contact	Unfounded
17	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
18	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
19	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
20	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
21	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
22	Inmate Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded

Claybank Detention Facility

Cases	Type of Conduct	Disposition
1	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
2	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
3	Inmate Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded

4	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
5	Inmate Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
6	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
7	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded

Stanton Correctional Facility

Cases	Type of conduct	Disposition
1	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
2	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
3	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
4	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
5	Inmate Sexual Contact	Unsubstantiated
6	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
7	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
8	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
9	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
10	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
11	Inmate Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
12	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
13	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
14	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
15	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Substantiated
16	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
17	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded

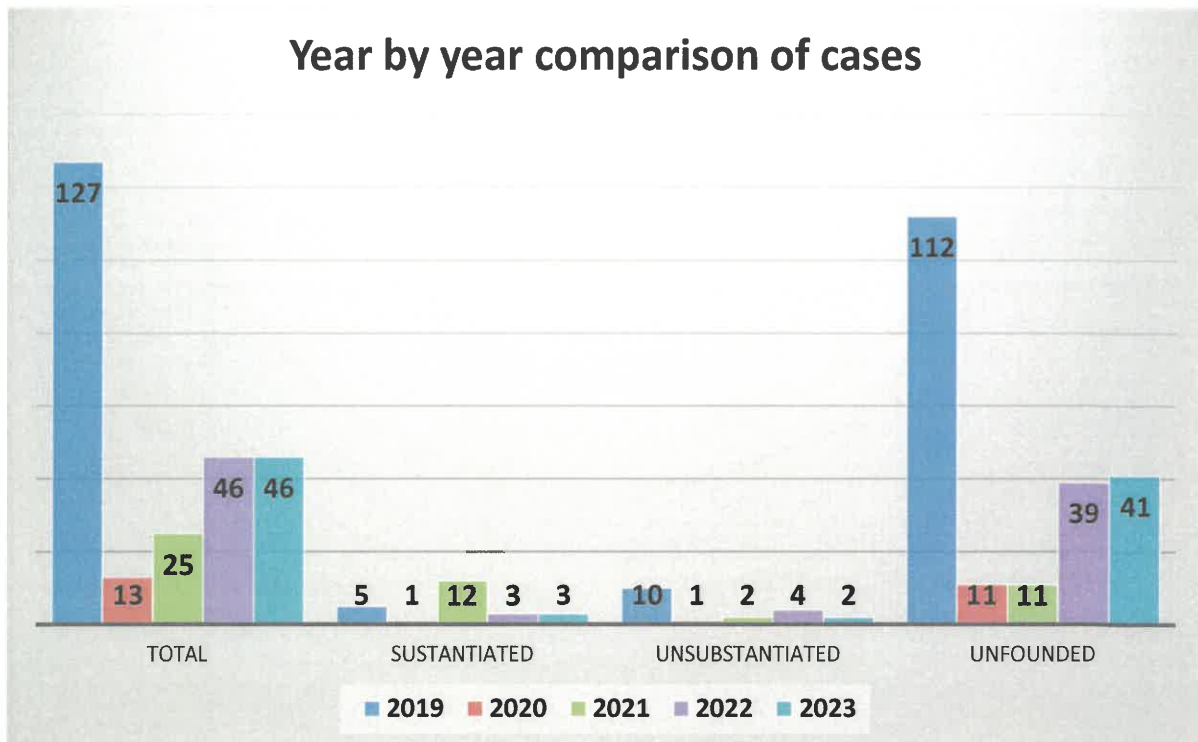
In each reported case, the inmates were separated. New classifications or housing restrictions are applied to inmates who cannot reside peacefully together. Cases that meet a criminal threshold are sent to the Solano County District Attorney for review. There have been no criminal cases which have resulted in charges from any allegations this year.

An incident review team convenes for all sexual abuse investigations unless the case was determined to be unfounded. The purpose of the review is to determine if there is a need to make any changes to our policy and practices to better detect, prevent, or respond to sexual abuse allegations. Incident reviews also look at the potential motivation of allegations such as race, gender identification, sexual preference, and gang affiliations.

In reviewing incidents from the year, it appears that the majority of the incidents occurred inside of the victim's cell. Title 15 stipulates that no video monitoring is allowed inside the inmates' cells. After each substantiated and unsubstantiated sexual assault incident, the area where the abuse occurred is looked at to assess if there are any

areas which enabled the abuse; so far, no enabling factors have been identified. Based on the aforementioned reviews no problem areas have been identified.

The following graph allows us to see a side by side comparison of reported cases for the past five years:



In comparing data year over year, it should be noted that 2019 marked a high reporting year, followed by a large drop over the next two years. In 2019 a single inmate filed over 94 grievances, none of which were substantiated. 2020 and 2021 show a substantial drop in allegations. This is in part due to the drop in inmates booked into Solano County Facilities during the COVID-19 outbreaks and state and local closures. During these closures, PREA Audits were still conducted annually and processes for reporting and policies were continued to be improved.

As COVID-19 protocols eased and bookings increased, levels of reporting returned to more comparable to pre-2019 numbers. It should be noted that although reported cases returned to previous levels, the number of substantiated and unsubstantiated cases have remained low.

Summary

The Solano County Sheriff's Office continues to bring awareness to inmates of their rights against sexual abuse in our detention facilities. Inmates are provided verbal and written instructions as to the resources they have available while incarcerated in the Solano County Jail at the time of booking. Each new arrival is given an Inmate Orientation Handbook that includes information on how to avoid sexual assault, what to do in case of assault, how to report sexual assault (including free, confidential telephone numbers), and the availability of counseling programs.

Informational PREA videos are shown on the televisions to educate inmates as to what resources they have at their disposal to report sexual victimization instances and how to get help. PREA instructional posters are displayed in each housing unit and all common areas throughout the facilities describing the resources that are at the inmates' disposal. The posters include telephone numbers and addresses for outside support agencies. Telephone calls are free, confidential, and are not monitored or recorded.

Security rounds are an important deterrent to potential perpetrators and the importance of this has been stressed to our staff. We are continuing the process of educating staff on PREA, to include their roles and responsibilities in preventing, detecting, and responding to sexual abuse in our facilities.

Reviews of our facilities, policies and staff responses and changes in the law are conducted on an ongoing basis. Corrective actions as a result of these reviews help bring the Solano County Sheriff's Office closer to our goal of zero incidents of sexual abuse or harassment within our detention facilities



Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner

JAN. 3, 2024