



SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE


Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner

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MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2022

TO: Sheriff Thomas A. Ferrara

FROM: Lieutenant Craig Collins 

SUBJECT: Prison Rape Elimination Act Annual Report 2021

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires an annual report of all sexual abuse and harassment incidents alleged to have occurred in custody facilities. This report must be submitted to the Sheriff and made available to the public through our website. The report shall include the current year's statistics and comparisons to previous years, as well as identify problem areas and any corrective actions made.

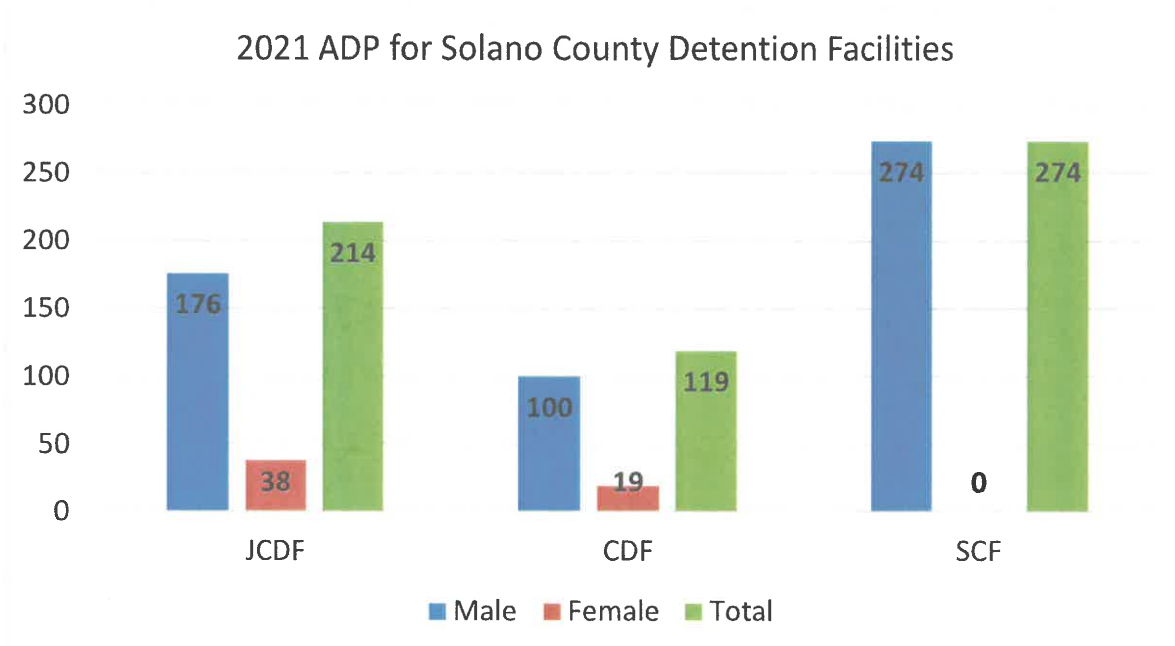
2021 marks the fifth year the Solano County Sheriff's Office has been fully PREA compliant. Each year one of our three detention facilities are audited by a certified PREA Auditor. Each audit is comprised of a physical plant inspection, policy review, classification review, review of staff training records, and random interviews with staff and inmates.

In August of 2021, the Sheriff's Office began the audit of the Claybank Detention Facility (CDF). During the audit, six PREA Standard deficiencies were identified and documented in the PREA Audit Interim Summary Report. The deficiencies were corrected, and CDF was found to be PREA compliant on October 19, 2021.

In 2021, the Sheriff's Office received 25 reports by inmates alleging sexual abuse or harassment. Of the 25 allegations, four were from inmates at the Justice Center Detention Facility (JCDF), two were from inmates at the Claybank Detention Facility (CDF), and 19 were from inmates at the Stanton Correctional Facility (SCF). Of the 25 cases, 14 consisted of allegations against another inmate and 11 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.

Dedicated to Community Service

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 calendar year, the average daily population for all three detention facilities was 607 inmates, comprising of 550 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 2021 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 274 inmates. The Claybank Detention Facility (CDF) had an average daily population of 119 inmates and the Justice Center Detention Facility (JCDF) had an average daily population of 214 inmates. 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. In 2021, SCF only housed male inmates. Female inmates were housed at both JCDF and CDF.

Each case that is investigated is closed with one of three dispositions: substantiated, unsubstantiated, and unfounded. The standard for determining if a case is substantiated is no higher than a preponderance of the evidence, which is well below the standard needed to file criminal charges. Unsubstantiated cases are established when there is not enough evidence to make a final determination whether the event occurred, and in unfounded cases, the investigation determined the event did not occur. In 2021, there was a total of 12 substantiated case, two unsubstantiated cases, and 11 unfounded cases.

Of the reported cases that were substantiated in 2021, none consisted of a grievance against staff. The nature of the substantiated complaints were a mix of sexual contact and sexual harassment. Below is a breakdown of all the PREA cases and their dispositions:

Justice Center Detention Facility

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

Claybank Detention Facility

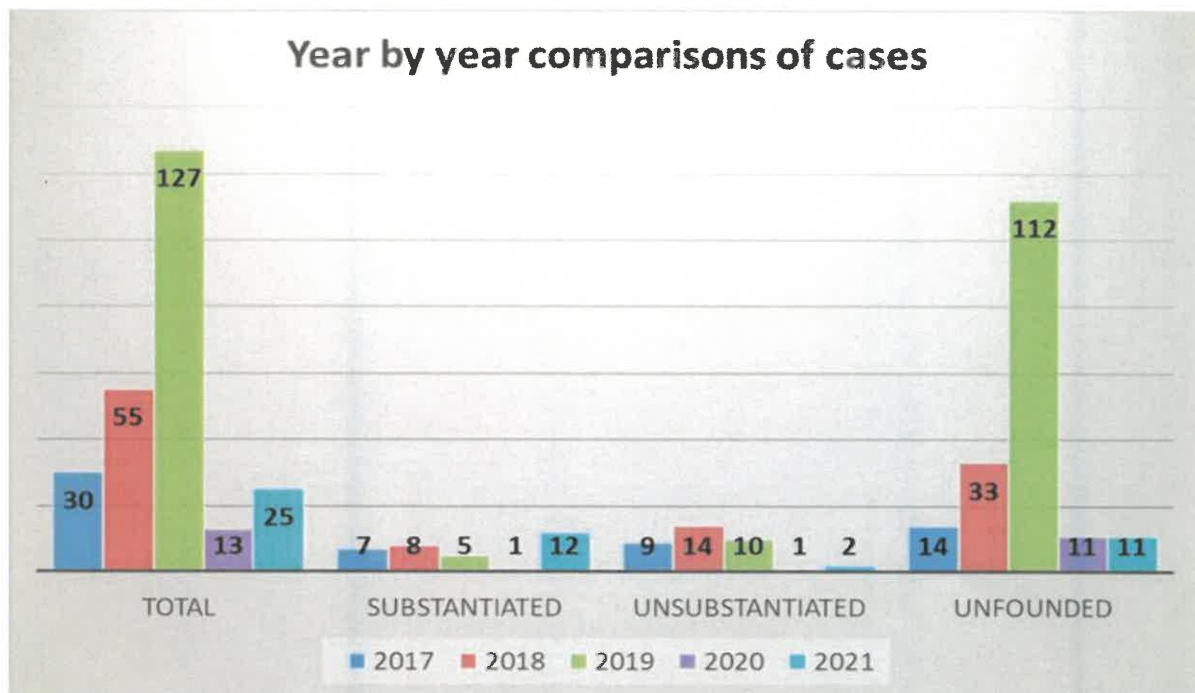
Cases	Type of Conduct	Disposition
1	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
2	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded

Stanton Correctional Facility

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

Of the 25 reported cases, 15 cases were criminally investigated and 12 were substantiated. In each case, the inmates were separated. New classifications or housing restrictions are applied to inmates who cannot reside peacefully together. At this time, no criminal cases have resulted in charges, but ten cases are currently being reviewed by the Solano County District Attorney's Office.

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



The reported cases in 2021 were higher than 2020, yet still lower than the amount reported in 2019 and previous years. It should be noted, the dramatic increase of reported cases in 2019 were attributed to a single inmate who filed over 94 grievances in 2019. None of those grievances were found to be substantiated.

The increase of reported and substantiated cases in 2021 is attributed to a late report of sexual contact, perpetrated by a single inmate at the Stanton Correctional Facility that went unreported until one inmate came forward in December 2021. Following the initial victim coming forward, and seeing the action taken by the Sheriff's Office in removing the offender and investigating the case, nine more inmates from SCF came forward with similar accounts.

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 like race, gender identification, sexual preference, and gang affiliations.

In 2021, two unsubstantiated cases and two substantiated cases were reviewed. One substantiated case dealt with inmate sexual contact with another inmate. This case occurred in area where inmates are allowed a higher level of privacy. As required by law, cameras and personnel have limited views of these private areas, which allows for

unwarranted actions to occur. One other substantiated case involved sexual harassment between inmates and took place in view of a camera. The remaining ten substantiated cases are scheduled for incident review in early 2022.

As part of our agency's pro-active efforts to remain PREA compliant, the Sheriff's Office spent a large portion of the year reviewing and updating departmental policies related to PREA. Training is also paramount, and every correctional officer will receive PREA Update training this year.

The Sheriff's Office continues to conduct annual audits of our detention facilities and reach compliance with Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act regulations. The Sheriff's Office goal for the 2022 calendar year is to continue to adhere to PREA Compliance Standards. We will continue the audit cycle with the Justice Center Detention Facility and continue to provide quality training and thorough responses to all reported incidents.

The Solano County Sheriff's Office will continue to make appropriate changes where necessary to ensure inmates are safe and secure, while maintaining a zero-tolerance policy for all issues of sexual abuse and sexual harassment.