



# Riverside Regional Jail

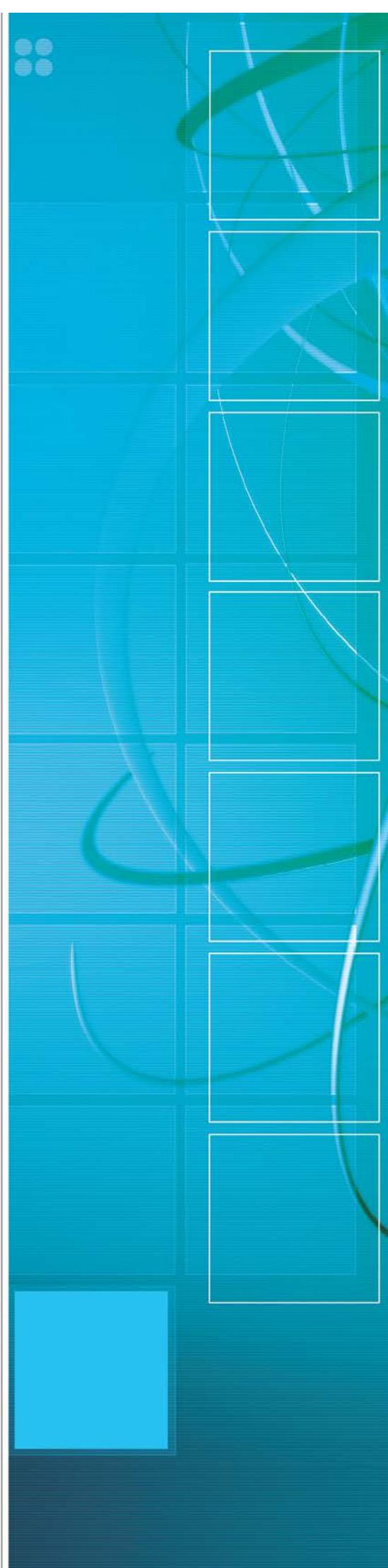
## Annual PREA Report FY2014

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 is a federal law established to support the elimination and prevention of sexual assault and sexual misconduct in correctional systems. PREA addresses both inmate-to-inmate sexual assault and staff-to-inmate sexual assault. The Riverside Regional Jail fully supports the guidelines set forth in this law and has **ZERO-TOLERANCE** for any and all incidents of sexual assault and sexual misconduct in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

The Riverside Regional Jail implements its “Zero-Tolerance” policies through a facility-wide systematic process that begins when inmates are initially admitted into the facility. When inmates enter our intake area they are met with a comprehensive educational process where their rights to be free from sexual abuse and harassment is explained in detail to them. From there an assessment is conducted on every inmate to determine their individual risk of victimization or predation using an objective measurement tool based on specific risk factors. This tool is utilized to make an individualized determination of housing and program assignments for each inmate.

Throughout the facility, inmates are exposed to education concerning reporting options through the use of the inmate handbook on kiosks in every inmate living area. In addition to this there are posters, pamphlets, and monthly inmate newsletters with information in regards to sexual abuse prevention and information concerning victim advocacy.

Inmates at the facility are housed in living units called housing pods. Each housing pod is grouped together in a pentagonal arrangement to create direct observation of all inmate corridors so as to minimize blind-spots. Video monitoring is utilized throughout the jail facility to enhance security and surveillance. The number and location of video cameras is reviewed no less frequently than every year by the Superintendent in conjunction with the facility PREA Coordinator to assess if the level of monitoring is adequate to protect the inmate population from sexual abuse and to ensure the safety of all staff and inmates.



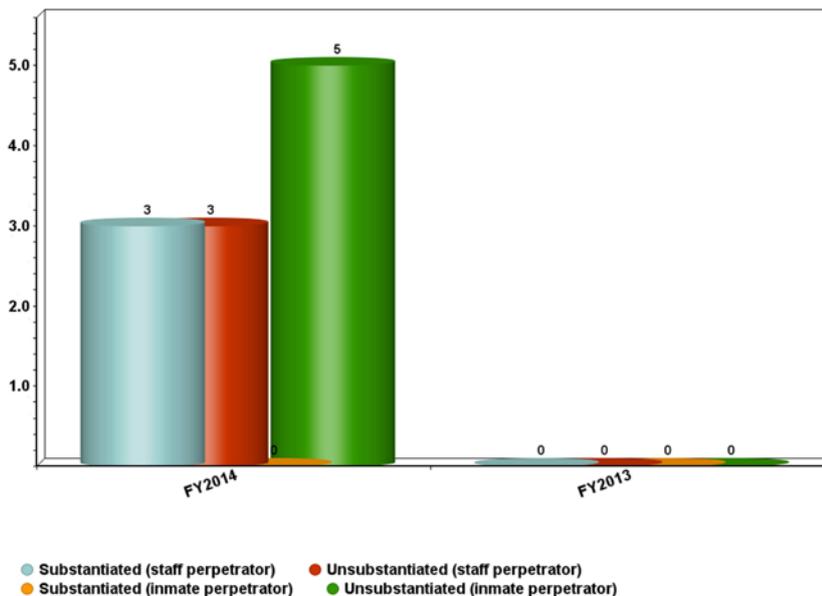


When it comes to sexual activity within the jail facility, Riverside Regional Jail policies and procedures are clear; **ALL SEXUAL ACTIVITY IS PROHIBITED.** Beyond those rules, forced or coerced sexual behavior is a criminal act that merits criminal prosecution. All substantiated incidents are reported to the local police and an investigation is conducted to ensure the perpetrator faces the full consequences of the law. The Riverside Regional Jail has an agreement with the Prince George County Police Department to ensure that all incidents of sexual assault are thoroughly investigated and referred for prosecution to the Prince George County Commonwealth Attorney.

In accordance with PREA, all investigations are assigned one of three possible determinations:

- **Substantiated** – *an allegation which was investigated and determined to have occurred*
- **Unfounded** – *an allegation which was investigated and determined not to have occurred*
- **Unsubstantiated** – *an allegation which produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination of a substantiated or unfounded claim*

In the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014, there were 3 substantiated allegations, and 8 unsubstantiated allegations of sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment. The chart below provides a comparison between fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2013.





Of the 3 substantiated allegations of sexual abuse, all involved incidents where a RRJ staff member was the alleged perpetrator. Due to the investigative efforts of RRJ's Office of Professional Review along with the Prince George County and City of Colonial Heights Police Departments, all 3 of these individuals are no longer employed with the organization, with one currently facing criminal charges. All 3 of these individuals were provided extensive education and training in regards to the Prison Rape Elimination Act and inappropriate behaviors to avoid with the inmate population. In spite of the best efforts of the facility to educate and warn personnel against these types of behaviors, these 3 former employees chose to engage in inappropriate and illegal acts in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act and the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Of the 8 unsubstantiated allegations of sexual abuse, 3 incidents alleged RRJ staff involvement, while 5 alleged inmate involvement. All 8 incidents were investigated promptly, thoroughly, and objectively yet did not produce evidence sufficient to make any type of definitive judgment.

In accordance with Prison Rape Elimination Act Standard § 115.86, members of the facility's Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) conducted sexual abuse incident reviews at the conclusion of investigations to consider whether specific facts arising in investigations necessitate a change in facility policy or practice. Other factors discussed include whether allegations or incidents were motivated by some form of bias, if there was sufficient staffing present to prevent abuse, or if there needs to be additional video monitoring deployed in the area.

In one of the 3 substantiated incidents, the assembled SART members recommended that new video monitoring be installed in an area where none was present. In addition, physical barriers were identified as being necessary due to the fact that the physical design of the area was used by the perpetrating staff member to facilitate a substantiated act of voyeurism. The two remaining substantiated incidents both occurred outside of the jail facility. As a result of both of those incidents new transportation procedures were initiated and staff members working in the assigned area of the two perpetrating staff members were given additional training.

