



Riverside Regional Jail

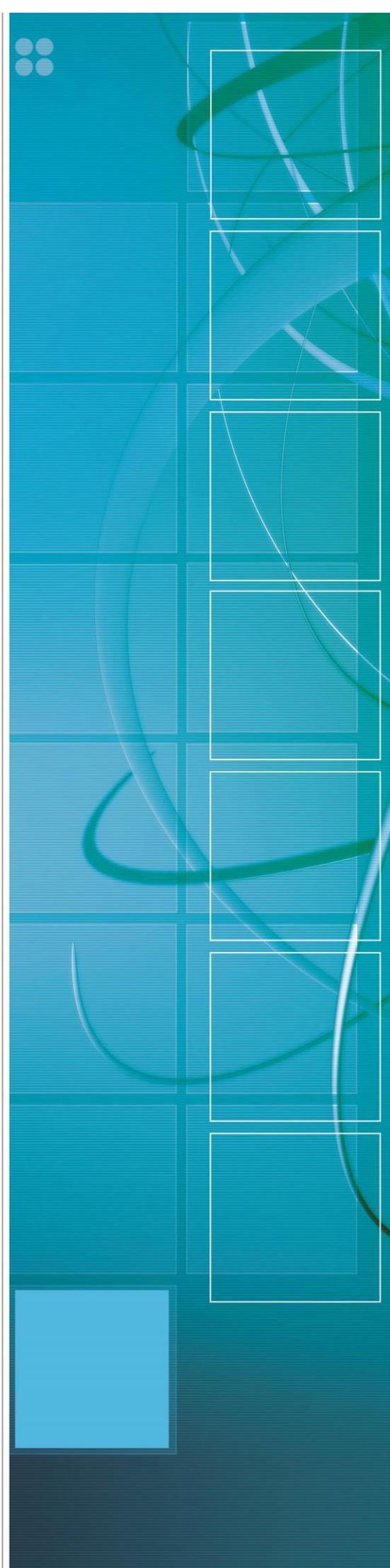
Annual PREA Report 2021

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 within the quarterly inmate newsletter 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 at the time of a critical incident review but no less than annually 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.



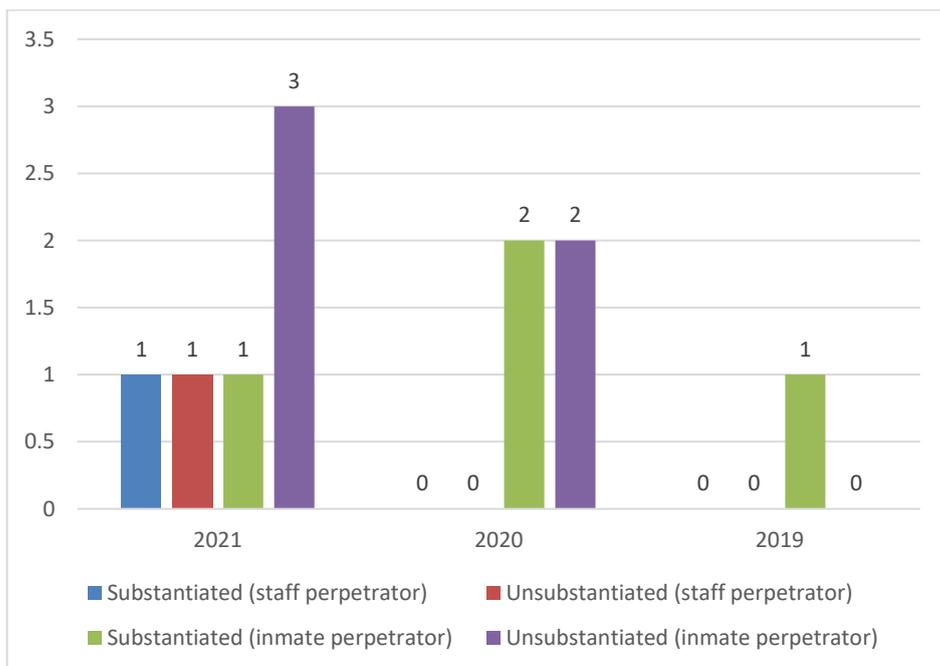


When it comes to sexual activity within the jail facility, Riverside Regional Jail policies and procedures are clear; **ALL SEXUAL ACTIVITY IS PROHIBITED**, and may be criminally prosecuted. All substantiated incidents are reported to the local police and an investigation is conducted to ensure the perpetrator faces the full consequences of the law. The Riverside Regional Jail has a memorandum of 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 year beginning January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2021, there were 2 substantiated allegations, and 4 unsubstantiated allegations of sexual misconduct and/or sexual harassment. The chart below provides a comparison between years 2021, 2020 and 2019.





The 2 substantiated allegations were of incidents of sexual misconduct, 1 incident involved inmate on inmate conduct and 1 involved staff and inmate conduct. The first allegation occurred within the inmate housing unit area where the subject inmate made sexual threats towards the complainant inmate. The second allegation also occurred inside the inmate housing area where the subject staff made inappropriate physical contact toward a non-complainant inmate. Through a complete and thorough investigation by the Office of Professional Review the allegations were substantiated. At the time the allegations were reported to staff, the accused inmate was relocated immediately, added to the complainant's keep separate list and alerts were added by Classification to the SVA (Sexual Victimization Assessment) and the SPA (Sexual Predation Assessment). If warranted a review of the inmate's classification level was conducted. In the case that involved staff, termination was the result.

The 4 unsubstantiated allegations of sexual abuse/misconduct involved 3 inmate on inmate conduct and 1 staff and inmate conduct. All incidents were investigated promptly, thoroughly, and objectively; the investigations 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 from the 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 the 2 substantiated incidents, the assembled SART members recommended continued monitoring of the alleged victims, ensuring that the inmate received mental health assessments. Neither of the substantiated incidents resulted in the SART members making a recommendation for a change in policy or practice, training, staffing or video monitoring.

Prepared by:

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April 7, 2022

