

Chesterfield County Jail

Annual PREA Report 2015



Prison Rape Elimination Act

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 Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office 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.



Introduction

On a daily basis every new committal to the Chesterfield County Jail is required to be interviewed regarding sexual abuse and on an annual basis, the Chesterfield County Jail collects this data on every sexual abuse allegation. This collection of information is compared to previous years' data and utilized by the Sheriff's Office Prison Rape Elimination Act Coordinator. Potential issues or areas of concern are evaluated for corrective responses in an effort to reduce victimization of sexual abuse. A review board consisting of the Jail Administrator, Medical Physician, Security Captain, and PREA Coordinator meet throughout the year to discuss changes in policy, equipment, monitoring, or staffing to ensure all resources are used to combat sexual abuse. The data collected is also available for use by the US Department of Justice for completion of the Survey of Sexual Violence (SSV).

This report has been approved by Major Ben Craft, Jail Administrator. All data in this report will be maintained on the website for at least ten years after the date of the initial collection.

In addition to this report, Riverside Regional Jail is contracted to hold inmates for the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office. They are PREA Compliant and their annual report is published on their website at: <http://rrjva.org>.

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Prevention

The structure of the Chesterfield County Jail consists of housing areas called pods and dorms. Each housing area is observed by a deputy in a control room that oversees the entire housing location. In addition to the designated control rooms, there are 112 cameras throughout the facility for monitoring the safety and security of the inmates. Staffing levels, video monitoring, and structural layouts are reviewed at least annually by the Jail Administrator in conjunction with the PREA Coordinator to assess adequacy in monitoring inmates for safety and security.



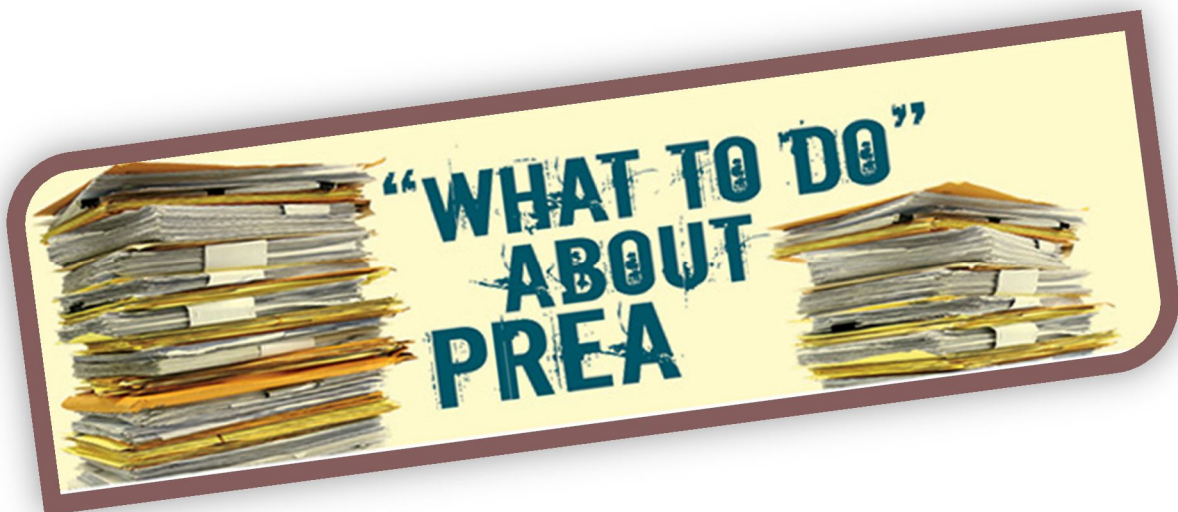
In addition to the level of supervision of incarcerated inmates, Objective Jail Classification is completed on all committals. OJC classifies offenders according to their security risk. Initial PREA screening is conducted during the inmate's jail processing to evaluate if there is a need for an alternative housing arrangement due to the offender being at risk to sexual abuse or a possible aggressor.

Education

Throughout the facility, educational resources provide inmates with the information needed to safely and effectively report instances of sexual abuse. Videos are provided to inmates on the importance of PREA and the prevention of sexual abuse. All inmates are educated on PREA upon committal to the facility. They are provided information on sexual abuse, harassment, and how to report, even if anonymously. Education on PREA is also available in the Inmate Handbook to include the following:

“Prisoner Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA):

*The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA, P.L. 108-79) was enacted by Congress to address the problem of sexual abuse of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies. The Chesterfield County Sheriff’s Office has a zero-tolerance policy for incidence of inmate sexual assault and rape. This applies to both inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse and staff sexual misconduct. Alert a member of the jail’s staff immediately if you feel you have been sexually assaulted during incarceration. They will contact the appropriate person to conduct an investigation. You may also fill out an inmate request form regarding a situation. Reports of sexual abuse can be made anonymously to an outside agency by dialing *1008# on any housing area phone. Your privacy will be protected to the fullest extent during any investigation.”*



Statistics

The Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office policy states: "It shall be the procedure of Chesterfield County Jail to have a zero tolerance policy with regard to sexual abuse, sexual threats, and staff voyeurism. All sexual conduct, including sexual contact, is prohibited. All allegations of sexual abuse, sexual threats, and sexual contact with or without consent or staff voyeurism will be promptly and thoroughly investigated."

Substantiated sexual assaults will be criminally charged and prosecuted. The Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office has an agreement with the Chesterfield County Police Department to ensure all incidents of sexual assault are thoroughly investigated and referred for prosecution.

In accordance with PREA, all investigations are assigned one of three 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.*

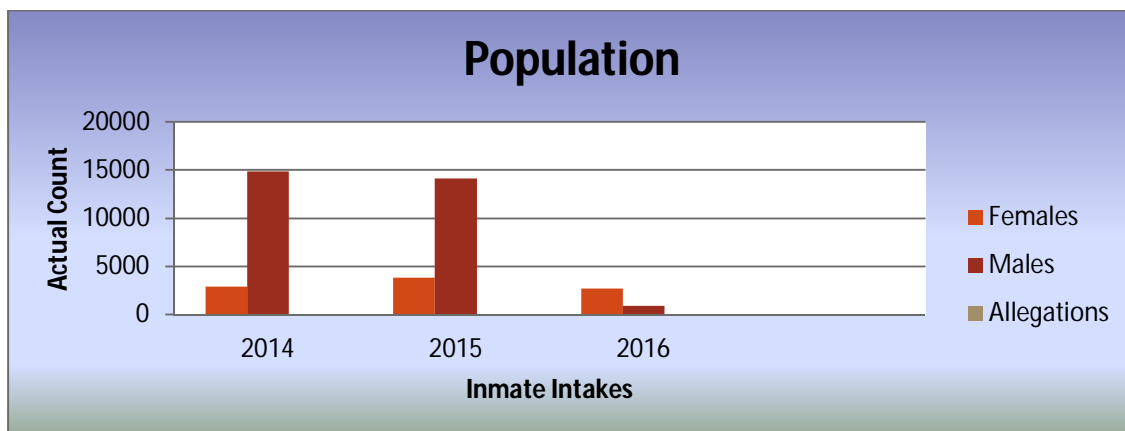
In the year of 2015, there were no substantiated allegations of Inmate-on-Inmate sexual assault or harassment reported. There was no data collected in 2014 to complete a comparison. There was 1 unsubstantiated allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate sexual harassment. There was 1 unsubstantiated allegation of staff sexual misconduct. There was 1 unsubstantiated allegation of staff sexual harassment.

The 1 unsubstantiated allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate sexual harassment was investigated promptly, thoroughly, and objectively. Due to the lack of evidence, the allegation was unsubstantiated. Both inmates were re-housed in separate locations and their files were marked to keep them separated.

The 2 unsubstantiated allegations by inmates against Staff were both investigated promptly, thoroughly, and objectively. Both allegations were lacking sufficient evidence to confirm the alleged incidents.

On all 3 investigations, a PREA Review Panel examined all evidence to ensure compliance with PREA standard 115.86. The sexual abuse incident reviews identified an improvement to policy and practice to include a more in depth PREA Screening process during initial commitment.

Reporting Data



*No data for PREA reporting was collected in 2014. Data is still being collected for 2016.