SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Scott R. Jones
Sheriff

2015 Year-End Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center PREA Report

In accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) §115.89 (b), the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department must make all aggregated sexual abuse data from facilities under its direct control readily available to the public annually through its website.

Additionally, per PREA §115.88, the Sheriff's Department shall review the data collected in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training, including by 1) identifying problem areas, 2) taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and 3) preparing an annual report of our findings and corrective actions for each facility as well as the agency as a whole. This report shall include a comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and shall provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual abuse. This report shall be approved by the agency head and shall also be made readily available to the public through the department's website.

In August of 2013, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department (SSD) began the implementation of PREA procedures. All correctional staff was required to view the staff training video provided by the PREA Resource Center, with refresher training required annually. A toll free hotline was established for inmates to confidentially report sexual assault or harassment, and reporting information was provided to inmates during the intake process and in the inmate handbooks.

Since the closure of the reporting period for 2014, SSD has also began posting PREA Information signs in housing units at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center, added PREA information in English and Spanish to inmate handbooks, and drafted an agreement with WEAVE, INC. to provide victim advocate services, including alternative confidential reporting options. The agreement is scheduled to be finalized in early 2016. Social workers have been hired in both jails that are currently enrolled in victim advocate training with WEAVE, Inc.

SSD participated in a PREA Auditor training exercise in November of 2015, in preparation for a PREA Compliance audit in 2016. A report of the auditor's findings is anticipated in January of 2016. SSD expects that these mock audit results will assist SSD management in identifying weaknesses in current training, education, reporting, data collection methods and protocol, providing a map to future improvements in the detection and prevention of PREA related incidents in our facilities.

In 2015, there were a total of six reports filed by inmates the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center alleging sexual abuse that fall within the scope of PREA, as detailed below:

Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center

REPORTED	VICTIM	ACCUSED	COMPLAINT	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
02/02/15	Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Battery	Cell	Unsubstantiated
02/26/15	Inmate	Inmate	Sodomy	Cell	Submitted to DA for prosecution
03/25/15	Detainee	Detainee	Sexual Assault	Pod	Unsubstantiated
06/11/15	Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Penetration W/Force	Restroom	Unsubstantiated
07/09/15	Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Battery	Dorm	Unsubstantiated
11/22/15	Inmate	Inmate	Sexual Assault	Outside Agency	Case Forwarded to Outside Agency

All personally identifying information of alleged victims, alleged suspects, and details of the alleged crime have been redacted from this report in the interest of the safety and the security of the inmates and the facility.

Per PREA §115.5 definitions of dispositions are:

- *Substantiated allegation:* means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- *Unsubstantiated allegation:* means an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.
- *Unfounded allegation:* means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

In comparison to last year's data, reports of sexual assault have increased. In 2015, The Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center had six reported incidents of sexual abuse meeting the PREA criteria, compared to only 3 incidents in 2014. One reported case occurred in a jurisdiction outside of Sacramento County, and the case was consequently forwarded to the appropriate agency. Similar to last year, all accusers were other inmates or detainees housed with the reported victims. Four of the cases were unsubstantiated, and one case was submitted to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

After reviewing all reports, it is concluded that all cases were investigated properly and in accordance with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department's policy and the PREA rule.

In reviewing these reports, inmates are typically victimized by other inmates and incidents primarily occur in cells and in the restrooms where the inmates have the greatest amount of privacy from security staff and surveillance cameras. In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 15, hourly checks are conducted in all housing units by security staff, which are sworn Sheriff's Deputies in both Sacramento County jails.

While many factors may have contributed to the rise in reported incidents from 2014 to 2015, the increase in inmate education and the implementation of multiple, easy-to-use reporting mechanisms may be factors. Even with the increase in reported incidents, Sacramento County's rate of sexual assaults in our jails is 0.5%, falling significantly lower than the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported national average in jails across America, estimated to be 3.2%[1] Such a significantly lower than average number may be indicative of continued under-reporting.

With the expectation that policy revision, increased staff and inmate education, improved detection, and improved investigation techniques will all come as a consequence of the Mock Audit results expected in January of 2016, it is reasonable to expect further increases in sexual harassment and sexual assault reports in next year's annual PREA statistics report.

[1] Beck, A.J. and Berzofsky, M. (2013). *Sexual victimization in prisons and jails reported by inmates, 2011-2012*. National Inmate Survey, p. 6. Retrieved from http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svpjri1112.pdf