



SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner

530 Union Avenue, Ste. 100, Fairfield, CA 94533

(707) 784-7000

MEMORANDUM

March 17, 2021

TO: Sheriff Thomas A. Ferrara

FROM: Lieutenant Bill Elbert

SUBJECT: Prison Rape Elimination Act Annual Report 2020

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.

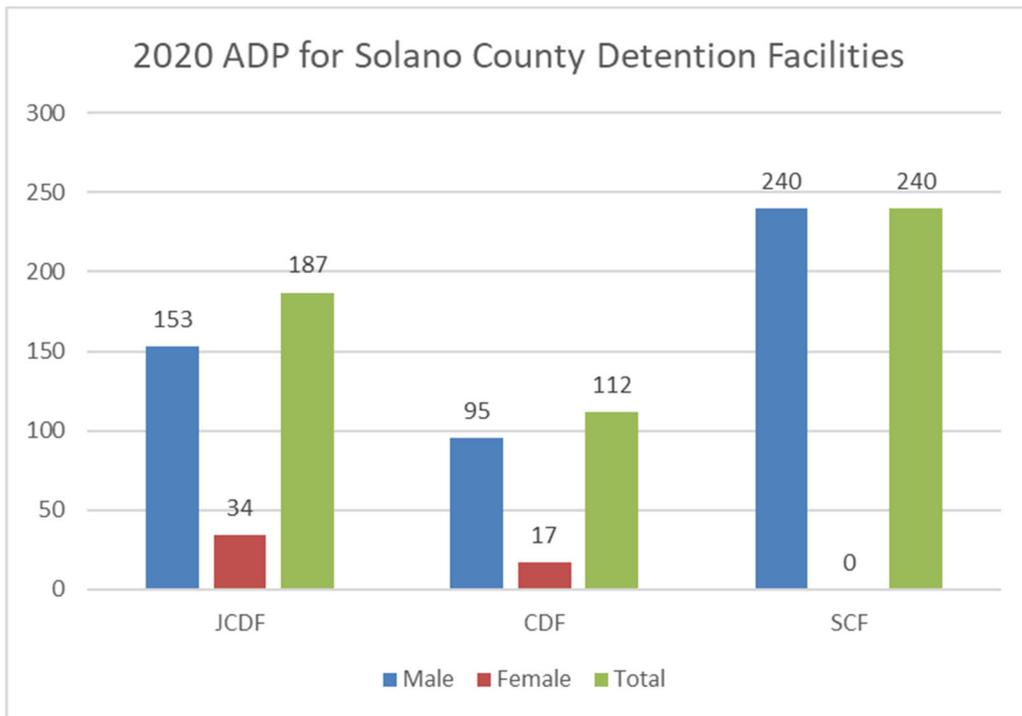
2020 marks the Sheriff's Office fourth year of being fully PREA compliant. This compliance process takes a full three years of inspections. Each year one of our three detention facilities is audited by a certified PREA Auditor. Each audit is comprised of a physical plant inspection, policy review, classification review, review of staff training records, and random interviews with staff and inmates.

In Mar 2018 and July 2019, the Claybank Detention Facility (CDF) and the Justice Center Detention Facility (JCDF), respectively, were audited and found in compliance with the federal PREA Standards.

In July of 2020, the Sheriff's Office began the audit of the Stanton Correctional Facility (SCF). During the audit, 7 corrective actions were identified by the auditor. Each corrective action was successfully addressed. SCF was found to be PREA compliant on Dec 1, 2020.

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 539 inmates, comprised of 488 males and 51 females. Below is a chart reflecting the breakdown of the average daily number of inmates by gender at each facility during the 2020 calendar year.

Dedicated to Community Service

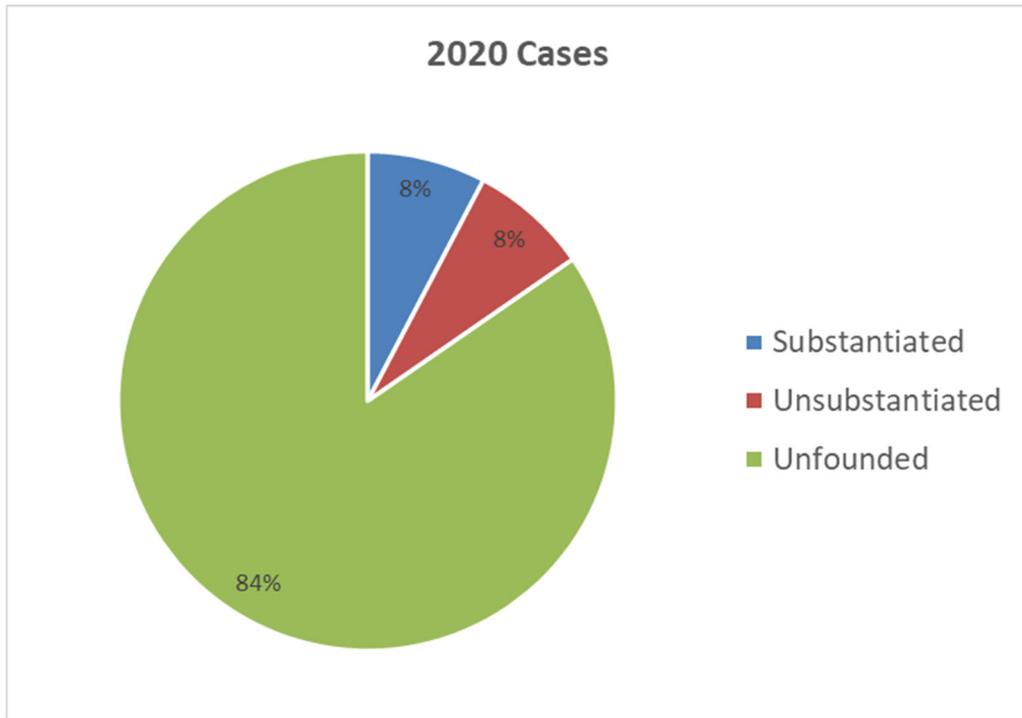


As seen in the chart above, the largest number of inmates on average were housed at the Stanton Correctional Facility (SCF) with an average daily population of 240 inmates. The Claybank Detention Facility (CDF) had an average daily population of 112 inmates and the Justice Center Detention Facility (JCDF) had an average daily population of 187 inmates. In 2020, SCF only housed male inmates. Female inmates were housed at both JCDF and CDF.

In 2020, there were 13 allegations reported by inmates alleging sexual abuse or harassment. Of the 13 reports, seven were from inmates at the Justice Center Detention Facility, three were from inmates at the Stanton Correctional Facility and three were from inmates at the Claybank Detention Facility. Of the 13 cases, six were reported with allegations against another inmate and seven were allegations against staff. One case was not related to an identified person. Five cases, which were determined to be criminal in nature, were referred to the District Attorney's Office for review; there were no criminal filings. 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.

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. There was a total of one substantiated case, one unsubstantiated case, and 11 unfounded cases in 2020.

The reported case that substantiated in 2020 did not consist of a grievance against staff. The nature of the substantiated complaint was a sexual-harassment case. Below is a breakdown of all the PREA case dispositions:



Justice Center Detention Facility

Case	Type of Conduct	Disposition
1	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Substantiated
2	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
3	Staff Sexual Misconduct	Unfounded
4	Inmate Sexual Contact	Unsubstantiated
5	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
6	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
7	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded

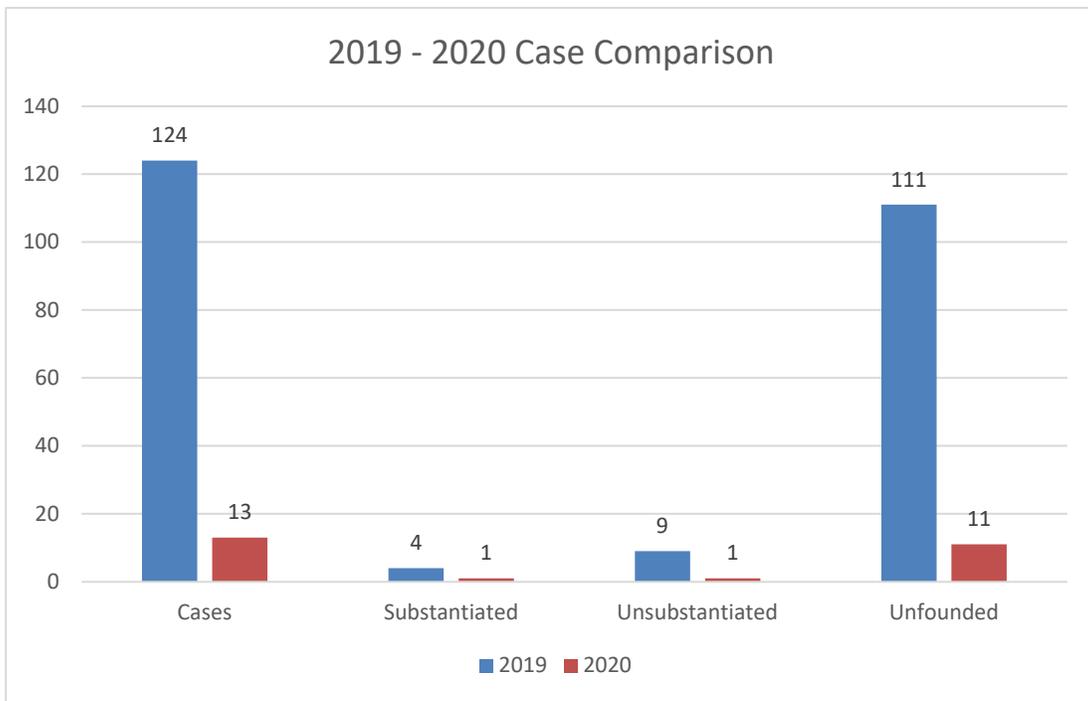
Claybank Detention Facility

Case	Type of Conduct	Disposition
1	Inmate Sexual Harassment	Unfounded
2	Inmate Sexual Act	Unfounded
3	Staff Sexual Harassment	Unfounded

Stanton Correctional Facility

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

As seen in the graph below, the reported cases in 2020 were far lower than the amount reported in 2019. The dramatic decrease of reported cases in 2020 were attributed to a single inmate who filed over 94 grievances in 2019. None of those grievances were found to be substantiated.



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. The one substantiated case dealt with inmates sexually harassing 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.

Five of the 13 cases were criminally investigated, but none were substantiated. In each case, the inmates were separated. New classifications or housing restrictions are applied to inmates who cannot reside peacefully together. To date, the PREA grievances from 2020 have not generated a criminal complaint from the District Attorney's Office.

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.

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 2021 calendar year is to continue to adhere to PREA Compliance Standards. In June 2021, we will continue the audit cycle with the Claybank Detention Facility.

