



Roanoke Sheriff's Office

Prison Rape Elimination (PREA) Annual Report Fiscal Year 2024



Date: July 26, 2024

The following information contains aggregated data collected during fiscal year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 in accordance with Sheriff's Operating Instructions (SOI) 3.33 –Prison Rape Elimination Act.

PREA Reporting

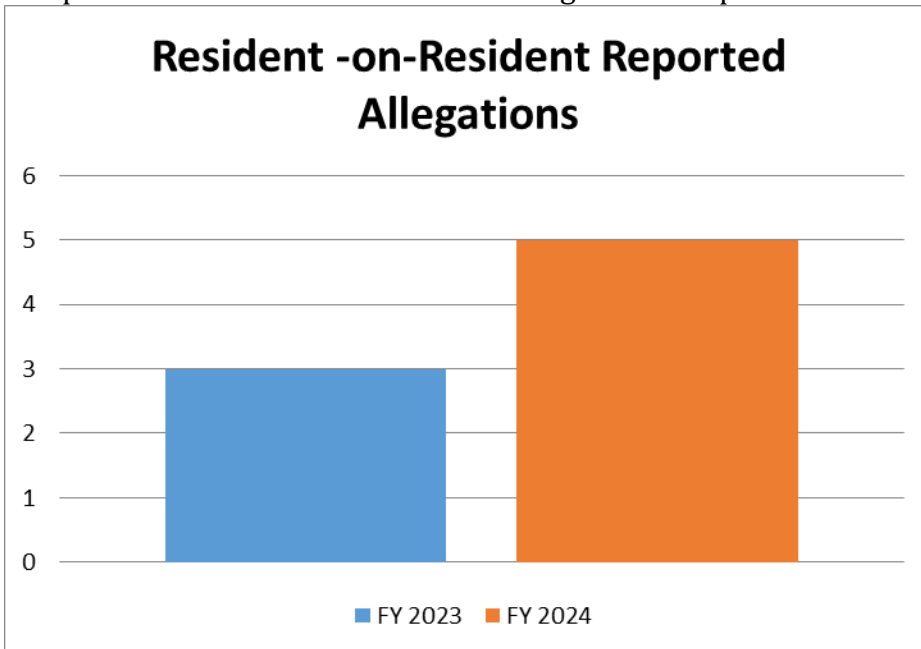
As of August 19, 2013, in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act, the agency began collecting data on all allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment, both resident-on-resident and staff-on-resident. According to SOI 3.33, any staff member, volunteer or contractor of the Sheriff's Office is mandated to report allegations of sexual misconduct.

Population

During this period, 4,798 residents were admitted to the Roanoke City Adult Detention Center. The average daily population for the past 12 months of this period was 340 residents, 303 male and 37 female.

Resident-on-Resident Allegations

There were 7 reported allegations of resident-on-resident acts of sexual misconduct in fiscal year 2023 as compared to 6 for FY2024. The following chart is a presentation of the reports from the facility:



Roanoke City Adult Detention Center

Sexual Acts Defined

Resident-on-resident Sexual Acts are categorized as Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment. Sexual abuse of a resident or resident by another resident, detainee, or resident includes any of the following acts, if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse:

- (1) Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
- (2) Contact between the mouth and penis, vulva, or anus;
- (3) Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument; and
- (4) Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contacting incidental to a physical altercation.

Sexual Harassment is defined as repeated or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one resident or detainee to another.

Investigative Findings

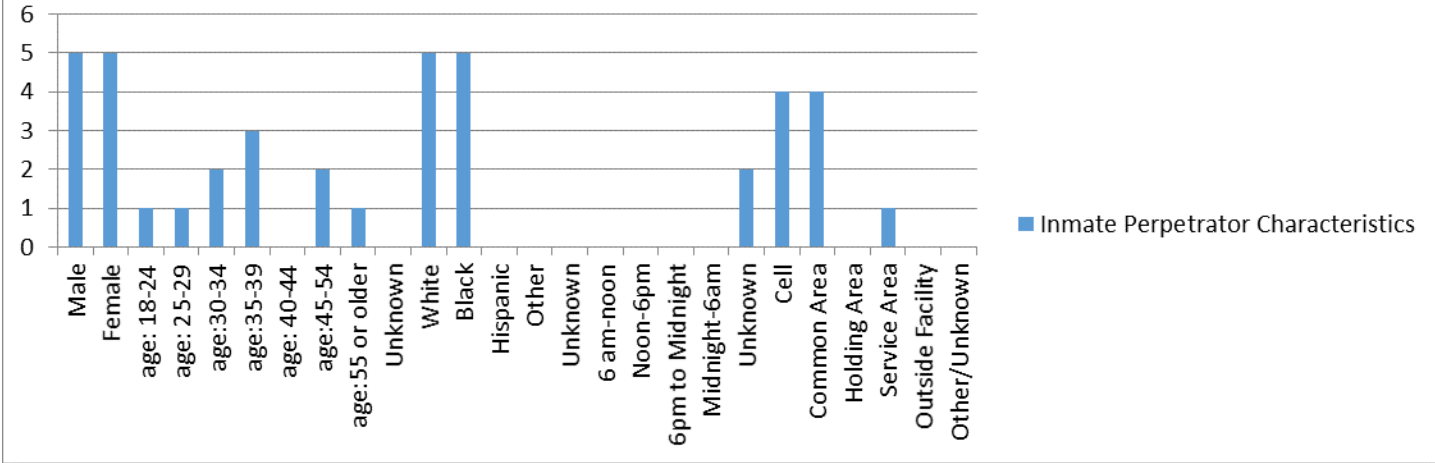
The following table is a breakdown of the dispositions of all reported allegations.

RESIDENT-ON-RESIDENT SEXUAL ACTS			
Sexual Assault / Abuse			
Unfounded	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Investigation on-going
0	0	0	0
Sexual Harassment			
Unfounded	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Investigation on-going
1	3	1	0

Demographic Information

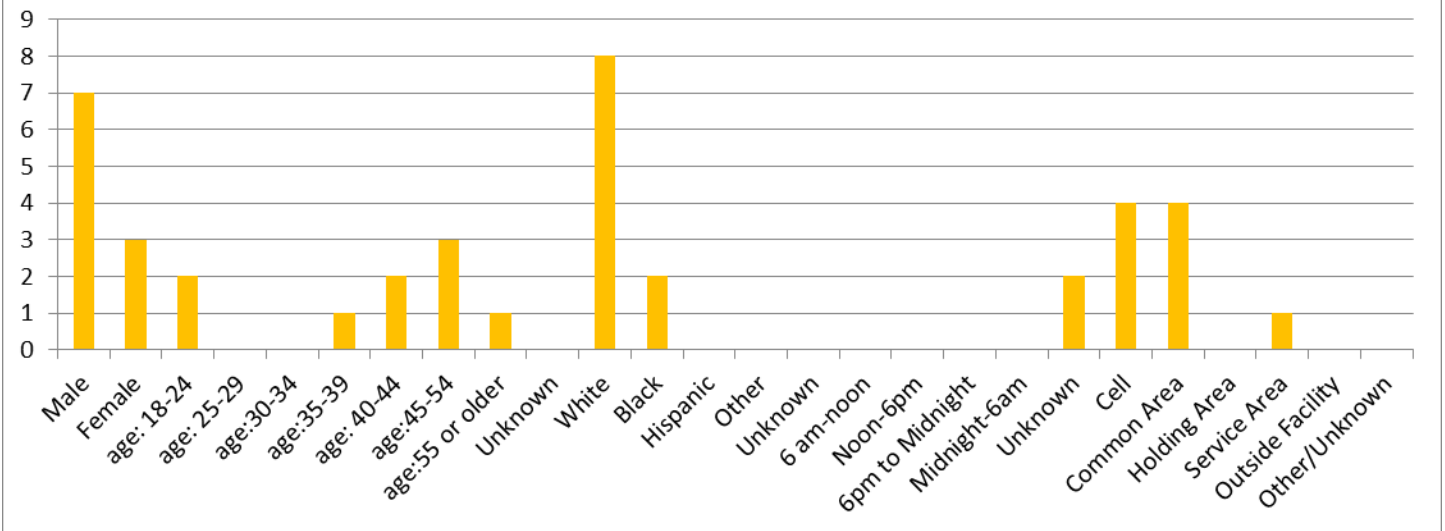
The following Resident Perpetrator Characteristics chart shows statistical information provided for substantiated resident-on-resident sexual acts. The chart highlights each resident's gender; age group; race; time of day and where the incident occurred.

Resident Perpetrator Characteristics



The following Resident Victim Characteristics chart shows statistical information provided by the substantiated resident-on-resident sexual acts. The chart highlights the victim resident’s gender; age group; race; time of day and where the incident occurred.

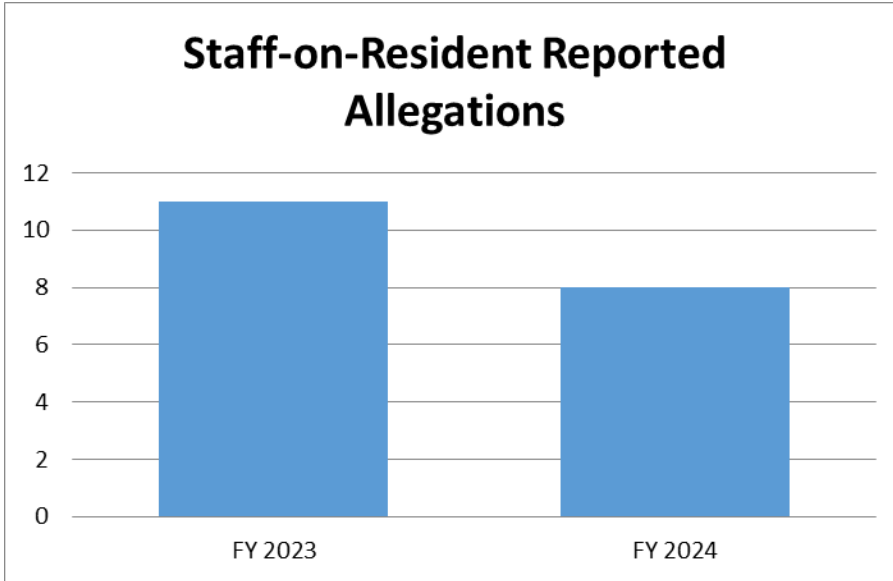
Victim Characteristics



Staff on Resident Allegations

There were no substantiated claims of sexual misconduct between staff and residents. All of the staff members named in an allegation were fully investigated in accordance with the zero tolerance policy. Of the eight allegations made against staff members all were determined to be unfounded except for one found to be unsubstantiated due to a lack of evidence. The majority of the allegations were the result of Deputies following Adult Detention Center policies under specific circumstances such as over-clothing searches and placing residents on suicide watch. In each of these instances it was found that the Deputies had followed all related policies and procedures and their actions were appropriate for the circumstances warranting them.

The following chart is a representation of the reports from the facility:



Sexual Acts Defined

Staff sexual misconduct is categorized in two categories; Staff Sexual Misconduct and Staff Sexual Harassment. Sexual misconduct includes but is not limited to, all sexual behavior, including voyeurism, directed toward a resident in the custody of the Roanoke City Sheriff’s Office. Sexual misconduct includes acts or attempts to commit acts of sexual contact, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment. Furthermore, sexual misconduct includes conversations or correspondence, which demonstrates or suggests a romantic or intimate relationship between a resident and a Sheriff’s Office employee or contractual employee, volunteer or any other individual in a position of authority over a resident. All sexual contact between these persons is defined as sexual misconduct regardless of consent. Sexual Contact shall include, but is not limited to; all forms of sexual contact as well as the intentional touching, either directly or through clothes.

Staff sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a resident or detainee by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to gender, sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body and or clothing, and or obscene language and or gestures.

Investigative Findings

The following table is a breakdown of the dispositions of the reported staff sexual misconduct allegations.

STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT			
Staff Sexual Misconduct			
Unfounded	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Investigation on-going
3	0	1	0
Staff Sexual Harassment			
Unfounded	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Investigation on-going
4	0	0	0

Training

In FY 2024, all staff completed refresher training regarding PREA and review the RSO policies regarding sexual misconduct. All new hires are required to undergo initial PREA training during the orientation process. Additionally, they are required to take PREA refresher courses as part of their yearly training requirements.

Currently, there are nineteen Specialized Investigators (115.34) that have personally completed PREA specific training as well as completed refresher training using an online training course provided by RELIAS.

Contractors and volunteers that may have contact with residents are educated on the facility's zero tolerance policy and how they may detect, prevent and respond to allegations of sexual misconduct (115.32). Every contractor or volunteer that may have contact with residents, is given an orientation about the zero-tolerance policy, how to report an allegation, and the consequences for violating the policy. Furthermore, contractors and volunteers are required to sign documentation that they understand their responsibility.

When new residents are booked into the facility, they receive education in written format and a video presentation that explains what PREA is and how to report any allegation or knowledge of sexual misconduct. Each resident is also given a handbook to keep that has all reporting and prevention information. Once classified every resident is provided a tablet on which they are required to read and acknowledge the PREA policies and procedures of the facility.

The following chart represents the facility's status of completion.

	Staff Training	Volunteer / Contractor Training	Resident Training
All Staff	100%	100%	100%
Investigative Staff	100%		

In accordance with PREA Standard 115.11, the Roanoke City Adult Detention Center employs a PREA Coordinator, to ensure compliance with PREA Standards.

FY 2024 Accomplishments

Completed physical and technology improvements, which included the following:

- Expanded Axon server connections for greater support of body cams.
- Axon in car camera install phase one completed.
- Continued upgrade to video security systems including:
 - Removing encoders and upgrading to IP cameras
 - Added restrictive housing cameras.
 - Added two new servers to the Detention Center.
 - Upgraded monitors and expanded views for greater surveillance.
- Upgrade to Viapath tablet to include a 1:1 ratio of tablets to residents.
- Supported medical updates to fiber internet
- Upgraded network to cat 6E cable throughout facility.

- Various radio upgrades and replacements.
- Improved security clearance systems put into place to manage building access.

Formalized community stakeholder partnerships:

- Conducted review and update of MOA with SARA-Roanoke, a non-profit advocacy organization, for support services.
- Conducted a review of existing support services with the Roanoke City Police Department by LOU and executed and worked closely with investigators on sexual assault reports occurring outside the facility, before intake at the Adult Detention Center; and
- Continued and enhanced volunteer and contractor training.

Continued staff training which included the following:

- New and existing staff completed PREA related educational courses as part of the basic academy as well as ongoing annual in-service which includes, a video on the expectations of professional conduct by staff, introduction to PREA, recognizing individuals in crisis and Cross Gender Searches.

Continued Resident Education, which included the following:

- PREA educational and awareness posters are located throughout the facility to inform residents as well as visitors about PREA and how to report;
- Continued with formal due process avenue to resolve PREA outcomes via the grievance process;
- Disseminated additional PREA information to each housing unit and recreation area.
- Continued with delivery of PREA educational information at time of intake, as well as video presentation and materials to residents at time of classification.
- Maintained resident access to third party reporting as well as educational and informational resources via Video and Phone system. Access to available information includes, but is not limited to, PREA, Resident Handbook and Community Corrections Programs.
- Continued use and integration of education and reporting with resident access to wireless tablets which allows anonymous communications with staff, access to educational information as well as the resident handbook and other source references.

Results:

Ongoing resident education as to what is and what is not sexual assault and sexual harassment, as well as how to report such concerns using the various available avenues, to include, anonymously and third party, has shown results as resident complaints are being received and responded to in a timely and appropriate manner.

External Review

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards became effective August 20, 2012. Certification and re-certification is dependent upon each agency's full compliance of PREA standards. Compliance is determined every 3-years by means of a thorough audit which is conducted by external experts, certified by the US Department of Justice, who have no association with the Roanoke City Sheriff's Office or Roanoke City Adult Detention Center. The purpose of PREA audits are to determine compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

During the month of August 2014, a routine Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit of the Roanoke City Adult Detention Center was conducted for initial certification. The Roanoke City Adult Detention Center was found to be fully compliant with federal PREA standards. The Roanoke City Adult Detention Center has continued to maintain full compliance through multiple audits.

The most recent 2023 PREA Audit began June 7, 2023. Documentation was transmitted to the Online Audit System ahead of the on-site audit for review. The audit consisted of a review of all PREA policies for the Roanoke City Sheriff's Office, a physical inspection of the Roanoke City Adult Detention Center, review of all documentation, and interviews with staff, contractors, volunteers, and residents. Again, the Roanoke City Adult Detention Center was found to be fully compliant with federal PREA standards and exceeded expectations on multiple standards.

During this time period, the Roanoke City Adult Detention Center underwent a 3-day, inspection conducted by the Virginia Department of Corrections from August 27-29, 2024. The onsite audit included inspection of our physical facility, records, procedures and interviews of both residents and staff and found the Roanoke City Adult Detention Center to be fully compliant.

Closely associated with the PREA program, three independent representatives of the American Correctional Association (ACA) audited our facility May 29-31, 2024 and found the Roanoke City Adult Detention Center fully compliant on all applicable standards, to include those related to and overlapping PREA standards. These routine audits of the Roanoke City Adult Detention Center consisted of a review of our facility, PREA policies, documentation, and interviews with staff, contractors, volunteers, and residents.

Recommendations

In accordance with SOI 3.33 and PREA Standard 115.13, the facility is to hold, no less than once a year, a meeting with the PREA Coordinator to assess, determine and document whether the staffing plan of the facility is adequate. This meeting occurs at the end of each calendar year and was held on December 18, 2023. The following is a summary of those recommendations for the 2024 Calendar year:

- Identify funding strategies to add additional cameras in each housing unit on the second, third and fourth floors of the Adult Detention Center.
- Identify funding strategies to add additional cameras in housing cells not currently covered by video surveillance.
- Continue replacement of encoders/analog cameras.
- Identify funding strategies to enhance communications by refurbishing and replacing communication equipment.
- Continue PREA training and education to new staff, volunteers and contractors coming onboard.
- Continue annual PREA refresher training for current staff.
- Send additional staff members to PREA and/or specialized investigation training, if the course is available in our area.
- Recruit and fill staff vacancies.
- Add BWC (Body Worn Cameras) to video security

