

VIRGINIA BEACH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

Prison Rape Elimination Act Annual Report



This report has been prepared in accordance with §115.87 in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training. In subsequent years, the information collected for this report will be used to identify problem areas and to take corrective action on an ongoing basis.

VIRGINIA BEACH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law that prohibits sexual misconduct in correctional settings such as prisons, jails, lockups, juvenile facilities, and Immigration Services/ICE detention facilities. Sexual misconduct under this law includes:

- Inmate-on-Inmate sexual assault and abuse
- Staff-on-Inmate sexual misconduct (sexual/inappropriate relationships with offenders)
- Inmate-on-Inmate and staff-on-inmate sexual harassment

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office (VBSO) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for Deputies and inmates. The VBSO has zero tolerance for sexual misconduct of any kind and will impose discipline for such misconduct, up to and including dismissal for staff or serious criminal and institutional charges for inmates who victimize other inmates. Incidents of sexual misconduct will be investigated and inmates will be prosecuted when applicable. The VBSO's policies regarding sexual misconduct apply to all inmates. They also apply to all employees, contractors, and volunteers.

This report summarizes the extensive effort by the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office to achieve compliance with The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

Policy Development

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office is actively reviewing and revising all policies and procedures related to PREA.

Training

All employees, volunteers, and contractors of the Sheriff's Office have received extensive training specific to PREA. Training included:

- PREA standards and zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment, deputy's responsibilities and inmate's rights.
- Appropriate Staff/Inmate relationships

Specialized Training

Specialized training specific to investigations of sexual abuse in confinement settings has been completed by:

- Criminal Intelligence Unit and Professional Standards office

Inmate Screening

A screening instrument has been developed to assist classification officers in collecting information needed to make appropriate housing decisions. The instrument helps us identify inmates who could be at risk for victimization.

Statistics

Allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate Non-Consensual Sexual Acts	
	7/1/14-6/30/15
Substantiated	3
Unsubstantiated	0
Unfounded	4
Investigation Ongoing	0
Total	7

Allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate Abusive Sexual Contacts	
	7/1/14-6/30/15
Substantiated	2
Unsubstantiated	2
Unfounded	4
Investigation Ongoing	0
Total	8

Allegation of Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Harassment	
	7/1/14-6/30/15
Substantiated	0
Unsubstantiated	3
Unfounded	3
Investigation Ongoing	0
Total	6

Allegation of Staff Sexual Misconduct	
	7/1/14-6/30/15
Substantiated	0
Unsubstantiated	0
Unfounded	1
Investigation Ongoing	0
Total	1

Allegation of Staff Sexual Harassment	
	7/1/14-6/30/15
Substantiated	0
Unsubstantiated	0
Unfounded	1
Investigation Ongoing	0
Total	1

Allegation of Staff Sexual Harassment at another facility	
	7/1/14-6/30/15
Substantiated	0
Unsubstantiated	0
Unfounded	1
Investigation Ongoing	0
Total	1

Analysis of Findings

There are no noted or required corrective actions taken for 2014-2015. The Virginia Beach Sheriff’s Office will continue to maintain a zero tolerance policy on sexual misconduct.

Problem Areas

There were no known problem areas found during the past year.

Corrective Action

Initial training has taken place and will continue for all staff, volunteers, contractors, and inmates. The Virginia Beach Sheriff’s Office maintains a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment and sexual misconduct.

Planned Efforts for 2016FY

Continued training efforts and continued use of sexual risk screening tools during the classification/medical screening process. As well as, continued compliance with PREA.

Summary

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office maintains a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual abuse. The Sheriff's Office will continue its efforts to comply with PREA.