

Burlington County Department of Corrections

PREA – Prison Rape Elimination Act

Compliance with PREA Standards

Mission

It is the mission of the Burlington County Department of Corrections that it shall act to maintain a zero tolerance policy in an effort to prevent, detect, respond, and reduce the sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates through inmate orientation, screening, assessment, classification, monitoring, counseling, and investigation of alleged sexual assault pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 15601 et seq. the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

Purpose

To establish a zero-tolerance standard for sexual abuse and sexual harassment within the Burlington County Department of Corrections while protecting the rights of inmates and offenders, regardless of gender or sexual preference, through the increased accountability of those Burlington County Department of Corrections personnel who fail to detect, prevent, reduce, and punish sexual abuse and sexual harassment occurring within the Burlington County Department of Corrections.

To establish and implement standards for the detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of sexual abuse and sexual harassment within the Burlington County Department of Corrections and to increase the data and information available on the incidence of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Further to analyze this information to improve the management and administration of the Burlington County Department of Corrections.

To provide training and education to all Burlington County Department of Corrections personnel responsible for the prevention, investigation, and punishment of sexual abuse and sexual harassment within the Burlington County Department of Corrections.

To increase the data and information available to assist the management and administration of the Burlington County Department of Corrections to reduce and eliminate the incidence of sexual abuse and sexual harassment at the Burlington County Correctional Facility.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 established the requirement for zero tolerance of acts of sexual abuse and sexual harassment in confinement facilities. The law also required the creation of compliance standards for the prevention, detection, reduction, and punishment of prison rape, with the goal of eliminating these acts. The Burlington County Department of Corrections is in full compliance with these standards and fully investigates each allegation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, regardless of the source, and refers appropriate cases to the Burlington County Prosecutors office for criminal investigation. This can only be achieved with a collaborative effort amongst the staff and offenders at the Burlington County Department of Corrections.

Below you will find information related to referring cases for investigation, methods for third parties to report allegations of sexual abuse and/or harassment on behalf of an inmate, and aggregated statistical data related to PREA incidents within the Burlington County Department of Corrections.

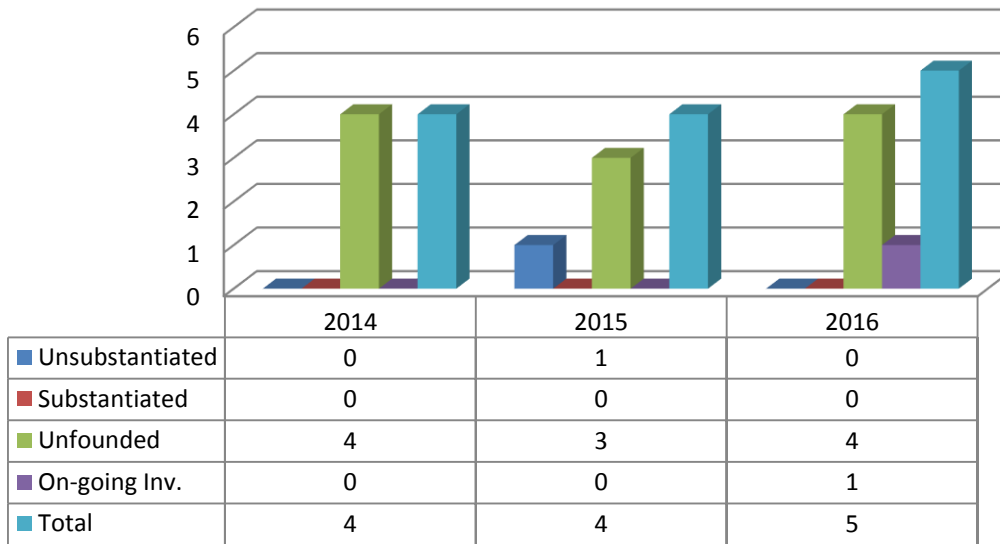
Definitions

- **Substantiated Allegation** – An allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- **Unsubstantiated Allegation** – An allegation that was investigated and insufficient evidence was obtained to determine if the allegation did or did not occur.
- **Unfounded Allegation** – An allegation that was investigated and proven not to have occurred.
- **Ongoing Investigation** – The investigation was initiated and is on-going.

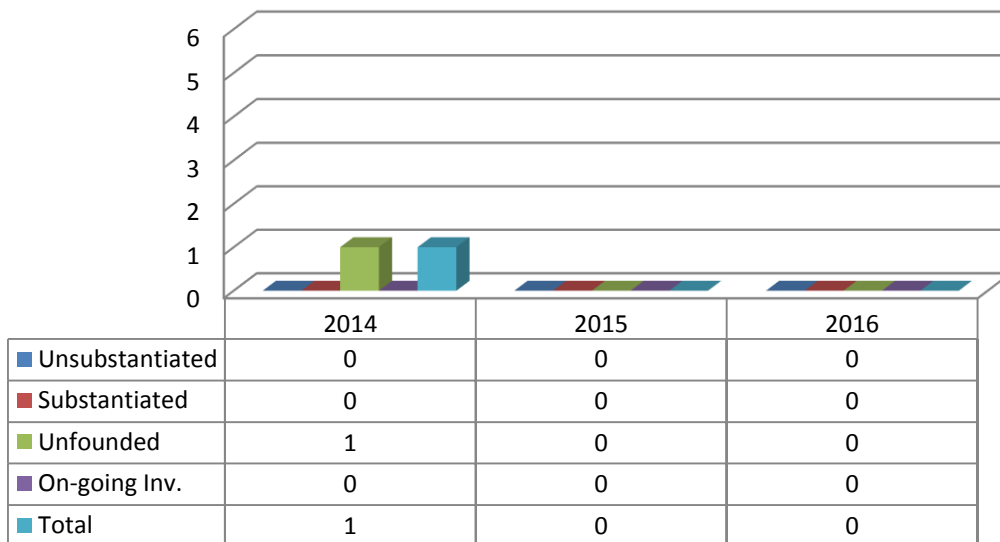
Statistics

The following are statistics of reported allegations within the Burlington County Department of Corrections, by category:

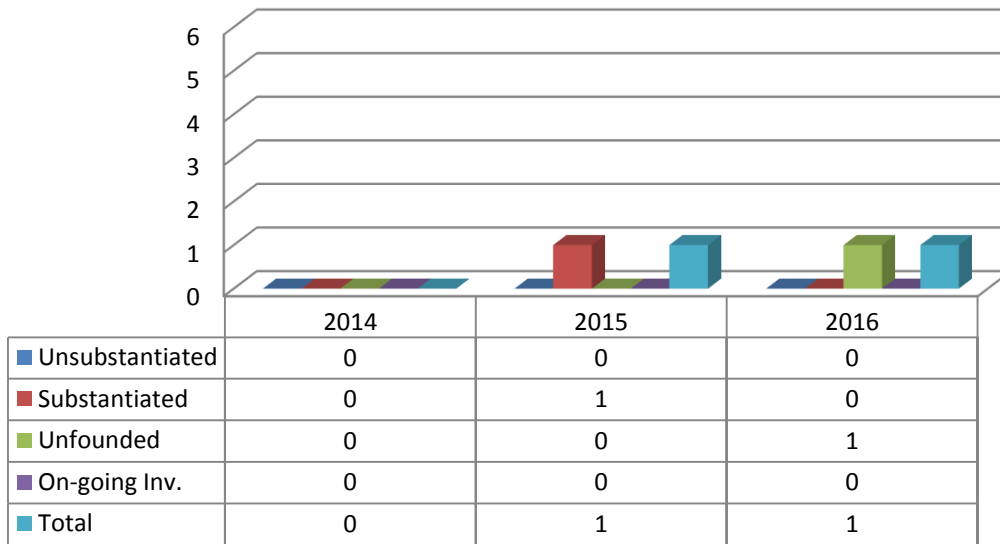
Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse



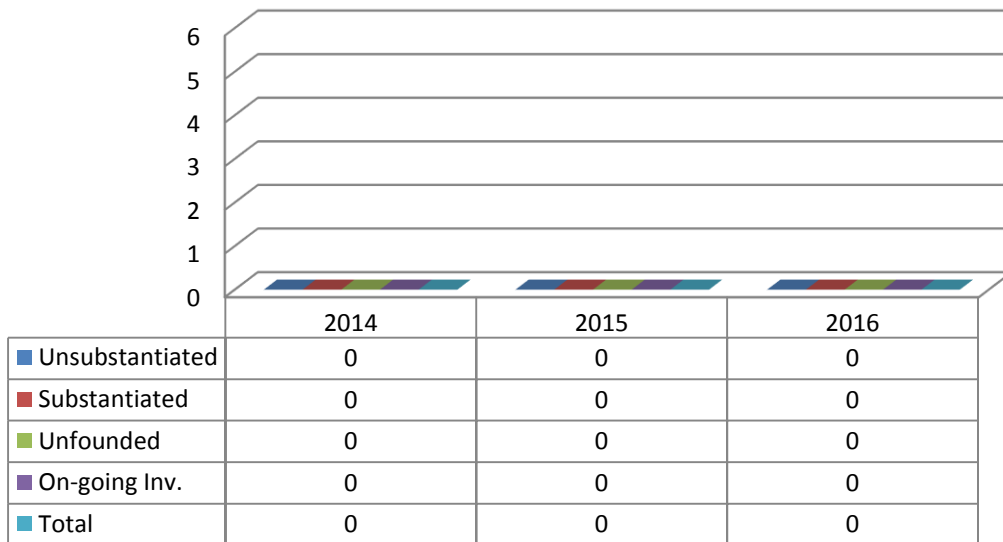
Staff on Inmate Sexual Abuse



Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment



Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment



Summary

There were 4 inmate-on- inmate sexual abuse incidents during 2014 and 2015, and 5 total incidences during 2016. Allegations of staff-on-inmate sexual abuse has decreased from 1 in 2014 to 0 presently. Inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment has increased from 0 to 1 since 2014 and currently still remains at 1 for 2016. There have been 0 allegations of staff-on-inmate sexual harassment since 2014.

Upon review of all the above cited incidents, the review team was able to determine several factors that may have contributed to the various incidents. Some of these factors included age, power and control, sexual identity or perceived sexual identity, a desire to influence housing assignments, and a desire to influence or encourage bail or release.

Since 2014 to the present there was not a substantial increase in the amount of reported sexual abuse and/or sexual harassment incidents. As training to inmates and staff continues to increase and the awareness of PREA becomes more prevalent throughout the facility there will continue to be an increase in reported incidents. This increased information being shared and discussed in our facility will allow inmates and staff to feel more confident in reporting allegations, thus changing the culture of the facility and helping staff to respond.

Conclusion

Burlington County Department of Corrections continues to progress in addressing sexual abuse by continually monitoring all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Each and every allegation is investigated by a personnel trained in conducting PREA investigations and thoroughly reviewed by Administration. If any problems or issues are identified they are immediately addressed. How these issues are addressed may include but are not limited to; modifications to existing policy, procedures, education, or training. In each case an assessment is also made regarding whether staffing levels, video monitoring equipment, or any physical limitations contributed to the incident and should be modified.

It is both the responsibility and personal mission of the Burlington County Department of Corrections to enhance public safety by providing a safe and secure correctional facility through a collaborative effort between the administration, staff, and inmates of the Burlington County Department of Corrections.