



ANNUAL PREA REPORT

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 with unanimous support from both parties in Congress. The purpose of the act was to “provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State and local institutions and to provide information, resources, recommendations and funding to protect individuals from prison rape” (Prison Rape Elimination Act, 2003). In addition to creating a mandate for significant research from the Bureau of Justice Statistics and through the National Institute of Justice, funding through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Corrections supported major efforts in many state correctional, juvenile detention, community corrections, including RRCs and jail systems.

The act also created the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission and charged the commission with developing draft standards for the elimination of prison rape. Those standards were published in June 2009, and were turned over to the Department of Justice for review and passage as a final rule. That final rule became effective August 20, 2012.

As a contractor with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, all Residential Reentry Centers were required to be PREA audited and maintain all PREA standards beginning 2014. BSS’s first PREA audit of each facility occurred in 2014 and has been audited in 2017 and 2019 and 2021, 2023 and 2024.

BSS is committed to the health, safety and welfare of all residents residing in our Residential Reentry Centers and to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards. BSS strives to maintain compliance with PREA standards for Community Confinement Standards and make improvements to existing policies, practices, education and training, as needed.

BSS has a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of our residents. We are committed to the prevention, detection of such conduct. We immediately respond to all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, pursue appropriate disciplinary action and refer for investigation and prosecution for those who perpetrate criminal conduct.

This report has been approved by Chris Lindholm, BSS President/COO and is available on our website, www.behavioralsystemssouthwest.com.

This report covers the reporting period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The PREA, Prison Rape Elimination Act requires all agencies which are responsible for the operation of facilities that confine offenders, detainees, or residents, such as Behavioral Systems Southwest, Inc. (BSS) to prepare an annual report of findings from a review of aggregated sexual abuse data, as well as our assessment of our progress in addressing sexual abuse. (115.287 and 115.288)

This annual report can essentially determine trends or areas of concern in our efforts to improve our agency’s goal: Sexual assault/harassment prevention, detection, response policies and training, including: (a) identifying problem areas; (b) taking corrective action on an ongoing basis. By doing so, BSS can offer our residents a safe and secure environment; one free from sexual abuse/harassment. (115.288 (a))

Behavioral Systems Southwest, Inc. Vinewood and Rubidoux had their PREA audits in 2024 and Phoenix, Florence and Orion in 2023. Further, BSS has remained in compliance with all PREA standards during the reporting year.

The 2024 report shows data from 2018 through 2023, data necessary to answer all questions from the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence (SSV) conducted by the Department of Justice (115.287c-1). For all prior reports and charts, go to www.behavioralsystemssouthwest.com, click on Newsletters and click on PREA.

Based on the data collection form, SSV, there are several PREA incident categories. Sexual abuse is disaggregated into three categories of resident-on-resident sexual victimization. The categories are:

- **Nonconsensual Sexual Acts**
 - Sexual contact of any person without their consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse where there is:
 - Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight
 - Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus
 - Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by a hand, finger, object, or other instrument.
- **Abusive Sexual Contact**
 - Sexual contact of any person without his or her consent, or of a person who is unable to consent or refuse and:
 - Intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person.
 - EXCLUDE incidents in which the contact was incidental to a physical altercation.
- **Sexual Harassment**
 - Repeated and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal comments, gestures, or actions of a derogatory or offensive sexual nature by one person directed toward another.

Allegations are identified in four categories:

- **Substantiated**
 - Substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- **Unsubstantiated**
 - 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**
 - Unfounded allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.
- **Investigation ongoing**
 - Ongoing investigation simply means that the police are continuing to investigate to figure out what happened and who if anybody to charge. They want to gather as much evidence as they can before they charge anyone.

Further, sexual abuse is also disaggregated into two categories of staff-on-resident abuse. Again, the categories are:

- **Staff Sexual Misconduct**
 - Any behavior or act of a sexual nature directed toward a person by an employee, volunteer, contractor, official visitor or other agency representative (exclude family, friends or other visitors). Sexual relationships of a romantic nature between staff and resident are included in this definition. Consensual or nonconsensual sexual acts include:
 - Completed, attempted, threatened, or requested sexual acts.
 - Occurrences of indecent exposure, invasion of privacy.
 - Staff voyeurism for reasons unrelated to official duties or for sexual gratification.
 - Intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks that is unrelated to official duties or with the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire.
- **Staff Sexual Harassment**
 - Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to a person by an employee, volunteer, Contractor, official visitor, or other agency representative (exclude family, friends, or other visitors). Which includes:
 - Repeated profane or obscene language or gestures.
 - Demeaning references to gender; or sexually suggestive or derogatory comments about body or clothing.

For the year 2023, there were:

- One allegation of abusive sexual contact, offender to staff, which was substantiated.
- One allegation of staff sexual misconduct which is still under investigation by OIA/FBI.
- Three allegations of sexual harassment, one which was unsubstantiated and two which were substantiated.

For the year 2024, there were:

- Five allegations of staff sexual harassment, all of which were unsubstantiated.
- One allegation of sexual harassment, resident-to-resident, which was substantiated.

Rubidoux Non-consensual Sexual Abuse

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Abusive Sexual Contact

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Staff Sexual Misconduct

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Staff Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Phoenix Non-consensual Sexual Abuse

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Abusive Sexual Contact

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Staff Sexual Misconduct

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Staff Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Orion **Non-consensual Sexual Abuse**

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Abusive Sexual Contact

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	3	2	1
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Staff Sexual Misconduct

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Staff Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Florence Non-consensual Sexual Abuse

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Abusive Sexual Contact

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Staff Sexual Misconduct

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Staff Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Vinewood Non-consensual Sexual Abuse

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Abusive Sexual Contact

Year	2018	20219	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Staff Sexual Misconduct

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Staff Sexual Harassment

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unsub	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
Unf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Legend:

Sub:	Substantiated
Unsub:	Unsubstantiated
Unf:	Unfounded
I-O:	Investigation Ongoing

BSS attributes the overall low incidents of PREA issues to the following factors:

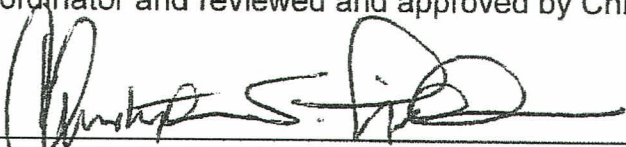
1. BSS conducts PREA training no less than four times per year, which maintains PREA requirements and standards in the forefront for staff. All Staff received quarterly refresher PREA training to ensure that all staff understand all the tenets of PREA as they apply to BSS RRC facilities.
2. All staff and residents watch PREA training videos, receive and read BSS training material. Residents are tested on the material to ensure understanding.
3. PREA boards are posted throughout each facility which identifies all relevant PREA information, including but not limited to 3rd party reporting.
4. Staff trainers provide PREA education/training with the residents during intake, orientation and during their first 10 days of program in group.
5. Although our incidents of allegations are typically low given the residential reentry center environment in general, discussing PREA with all residents upon intake, during orientation and group allows the residents to understand that PREA is a priority, taken seriously by BSS staff and management team.

As required by PREA standard 115.288(b), "the annual report includes a comparison of the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years.

- There was corrective action from 2021, at the Vinewood RRC, as the staff who was accused of failing to announce himself in the female room. Although the harassment allegation was unsubstantiated based on video surveillance footage, staff was retrained on announcing himself in female housing.
- There was no staff corrective action to be taken in 2022. The three sexual harassment issues that occurred back-to-back, at Orion, were between resident and resident and the perpetrator was removed from the facility.
- There was corrective action taken in 2023 with regards to the staff sexual misconduct. Procedures were modified to ensure greater accountability of staff following PREA staffing requirements. Additional training on the use of the surveillance camera system occurred, as well.
- There was no corrective action taken in 2024 with regards to the six sexual harassment issues at Orion (1), Hollywood (1), Florence (1) or Vinewood (3) as all allegations of sexual harassment were found to be unsubstantiated. However, there was one sexual harassment issue at Orion that was substantiated, between resident and resident, and the perpetrator was removed from the facility.
- There was an increase in sexual harassment claims in 2024; 5 total, up from 3 in 2023. With regards to harassment issues, staff were reminded that residents may perceive the pat down processes and UA processes as uncomfortable or in violation of PREA and therefore, staff are to clearly go over the processes for pat downs and UAs with all residents prior to them experiencing the procedures so they know what to expect.

In conclusion, BSS is committed to providing environments that are free from sexual abuse/harassment, of any kind. BSS proudly has a zero tolerance policy for all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of staff and residents in our programs. BSS will ensure that the prevention of any sexual abuse or sexual harassment is a priority.

This report was prepared by Bari Caine-Lomberto, Executive Vice President and agency-wide PREA Coordinator and reviewed and approved by Christopher Lindholm, President/COO.



Chris Lindholm, President/COO

1/29/25

Date