



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
*Ian Parkinson Sheriff-Coroner*

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# 2024 PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) ANNUAL REPORT

## **BACKGROUND**

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 to protect inmates from sexual harassment and/or assaults from other inmates and/or staff members. The goal of PREA is to prevent, detect, investigate any incidents of sexual assault, harassment, or misconduct. For further information, you can visit [Homepage | PREA \(prearesourcecenter.org\)](#).

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office has a **zero-tolerance** policy regarding sexual harassment, assault, or misconduct directed toward inmates; either from other inmates and/or staff members.

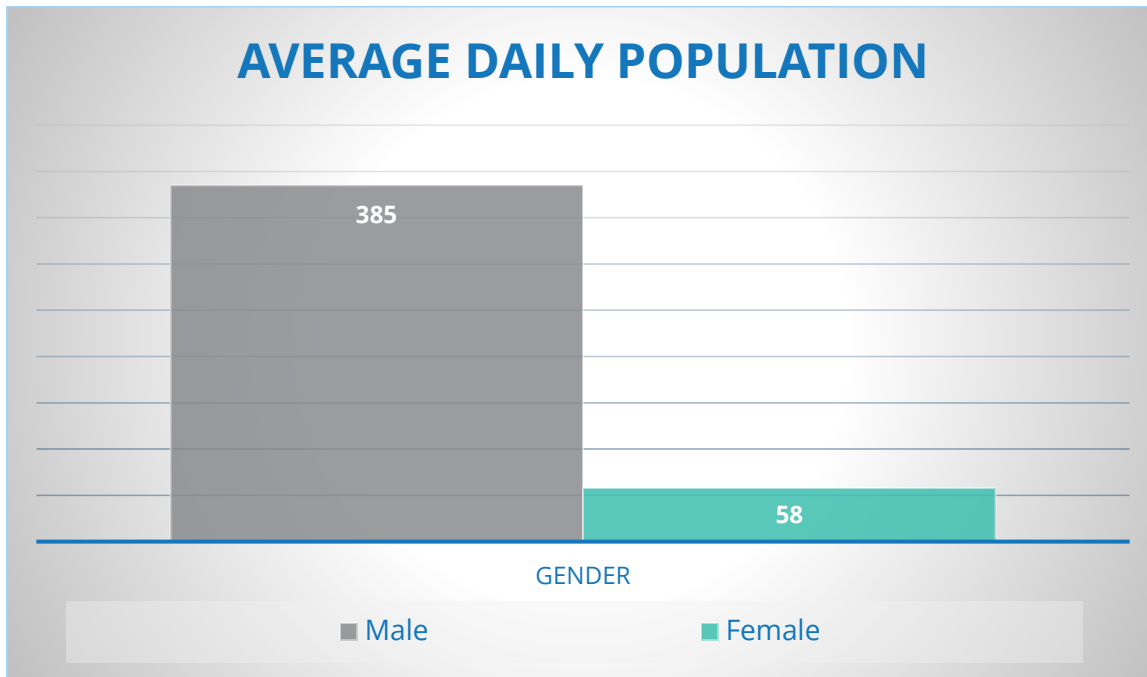
All staff members who encounter inmates; including Correctional Deputies, civilian employees, volunteers, and contractors, are provided PREA training prior to having unsupervised contact with inmates. This training emphasizes our zero-tolerance policy, prevention, and detection with regards to sexual harassment and/or abuse. Correctional Sergeants receive additional training in investigating PREA allegations. Correctional Deputies receive PREA training every two years to refresh and reiterate the importance of PREA guidelines and update them on any changes in PREA guidelines.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- Substantiated- an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.
- Unsubstantiated- an allegation that was investigated and insufficient evidence was obtained to determine if the allegation did or did not occur.
- Unfounded- an allegation that was investigated and proven not to have occurred.
- Ongoing Investigation- The investigation was initiated and ongoing.

## **2024 Annual Statistics**

The Average Daily Population (ADP) of inmates is an important number to consider when reviewing the number of PREA allegations. Over the course of 2024 the Average Daily Population by gender is reflected in the chart below.



The San Luis Obispo County Jail houses both male and female inmates. The San Luis Obispo County Honor Farm houses male and female inmates in two separated facilities located within the Honor Farm Complex. In 2024 the Sheriff's Office received a total of 24 PREA allegations. Of the 24 allegations 11 were against other inmates and 13 were against staff. Below is a breakdown of cases by facility and their disposition following a detailed investigation.

### **SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY JAIL**

| CASES | TYPE OF CONDUCT          | DISPOSITION     |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1     | Inmate Nonconsensual Act | Unsubstantiated |
| 2     | Staff Sexual Harassment  | Unsubstantiated |
| 3     | Staff Sexual Harassment  | Unfounded       |
| 4     | Staff Sexual Harassment  | Unfounded       |

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|    |                          |                 |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 5  | Staff Sexual Harassment  | Unfounded       |
| 6  | Staff Misconduct         | Unfounded       |
| 7  | Staff Sexual Harassment  | Unsubstantiated |
| 8  | Staff Sexual Misconduct  | Unfounded       |
| 9  | Inmate Sexual Abuse      | Unfounded       |
| 10 | Staff Misconduct         | Unfounded       |
| 11 | Staff Misconduct         | Unfounded       |
| 12 | Inmate Sexual Abuse      | Unfounded       |
| 13 | Staff Misconduct         | Unfounded       |
| 14 | Staff Misconduct         | Unfounded       |
| 15 | Inmate Sexual Harassment | Substantiated   |
| 16 | Staff Misconduct         | Unfounded       |
| 17 | Staff Misconduct         | Unfounded       |
| 18 | Staff Sexual Harassment  | Unfounded       |
| 19 | Inmate Sexual Abuse      | Unsubstantiated |
| 20 | Inmate Sexual Abuse      | Unfounded       |
| 21 | Inmate Sexual Harassment | Unsubstantiated |
| 22 | Inmate Nonconsensual Act | Unfounded       |
| 23 | Inmate Sexual Harassment | Unsubstantiated |
| 24 | Inmate Sexual Harassment | Unfounded       |

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HONOR FARM**

| CASES | TYPE OF CONDUCT | DISPOSITION |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|
| 0     | N/A             | N/A         |

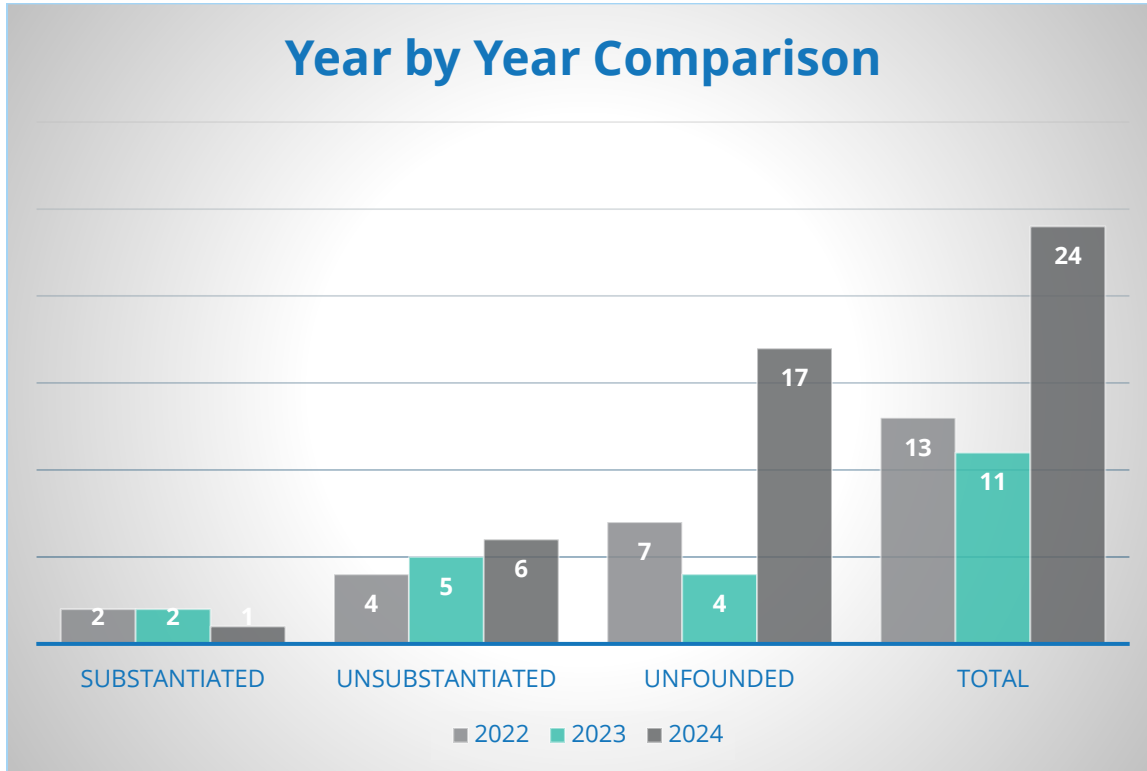
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A three-year comparison of total number of cases and the number of cases each year that are substantiated, unsubstantiated, unfounded is below.



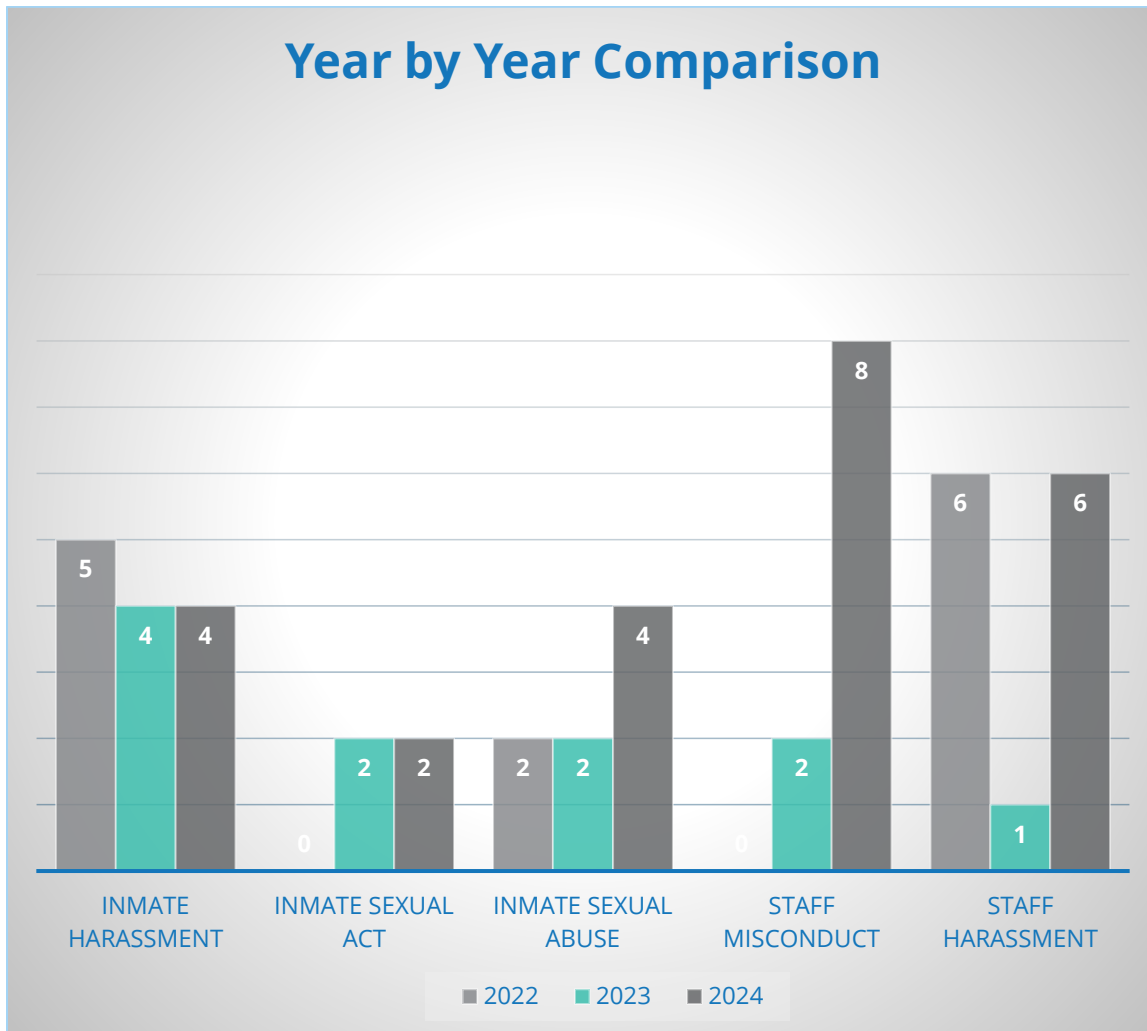
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A three-year comparison of various PREA allegations within both facilities.



Reviewing the data from the previous three years indicates the number of cases has gone up. The total number of PREA Investigations in 2024 was 24, an increase of 13 from the previous year. While these numbers show a dramatic increase in the total number of investigations, there was only one substantiated investigation in 2024. Unsubstantiated investigations increased by one from 2023. The largest increase was in the total number of unfounded investigations, which went from 4 cases in 2023 to 17 in 2024.

The increase in investigations initiated could be attributed to an increased averaged daily population from previous years. In addition, in 2024 the jail started issuing each incarcerated person an electronic tablet. Not only are

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these tablets for educational and entertainment purposes, but they also allow incarcerated persons immediate access to electronic request slips. These slips are one of the multiple ways incarcerated persons are able to report a PREA violation.

Within both facilities body worn cameras are utilized and routine audits are conducted to ensure the Sheriff's Office employees conduct themselves in the most professional manner to represent our community.

## **FUTURE**

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office will continue to be diligent in education, prevention, and investigation of any PREA complaint. All investigations will continue to be reviewed to evaluate if corrective measures are warranted to provide the safest custody environment possible for staff and inmates.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Parkinson', written over a horizontal line.

Ian S. Parkinson, Sheriff-Coroner