

## *The Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center*

*Kenneth Hollis, PREA Coordinator*

*The Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center is committed to meeting the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 and thereby enhancing the safety and security of ELTAC residents.*

*This report is a summary of the agency's efforts in PREA compliance. The examination of aggregated agency data underscores the ELTAC's dedication to improving the effectiveness of sexual misconduct detection, prevention and response.*

*August 8, 2016*

# Prison Rape Elimination Act:

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## Purpose

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) requires that, as a juvenile detention facility, we collect accurate, uniform data for every allegation of sexual misconduct using a standardized instrument and set of definitions. This information must be aggregated annually, reviewed by the Superintendent of the Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center (ELTAC), and made available to the public through our website.

This document serves as an annual review to assess and improve the effectiveness of sexual misconduct prevention, detection and response; also, policies, practices and training in the Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center (ELTAC), pursuant to §115.387 and §115.388 of the national PREA standards. Therein, the Center is required to:

1. Review and aggregate incident-based sexual misconduct data annually to improve the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention, detection and response as well as policies, practices, and training to include:
  - a. Identifying problem areas;
  - b. Taking corrective action on an ongoing basis; and
  - c. Preparing an annual report of its findings
2. Compare the current year's data and corrective actions with those from prior years and provide an assessment of the agency's progress in addressing sexual misconduct.
3. Publish an annual report on the ELTAC website of its findings and corrective actions for the agency as a whole.

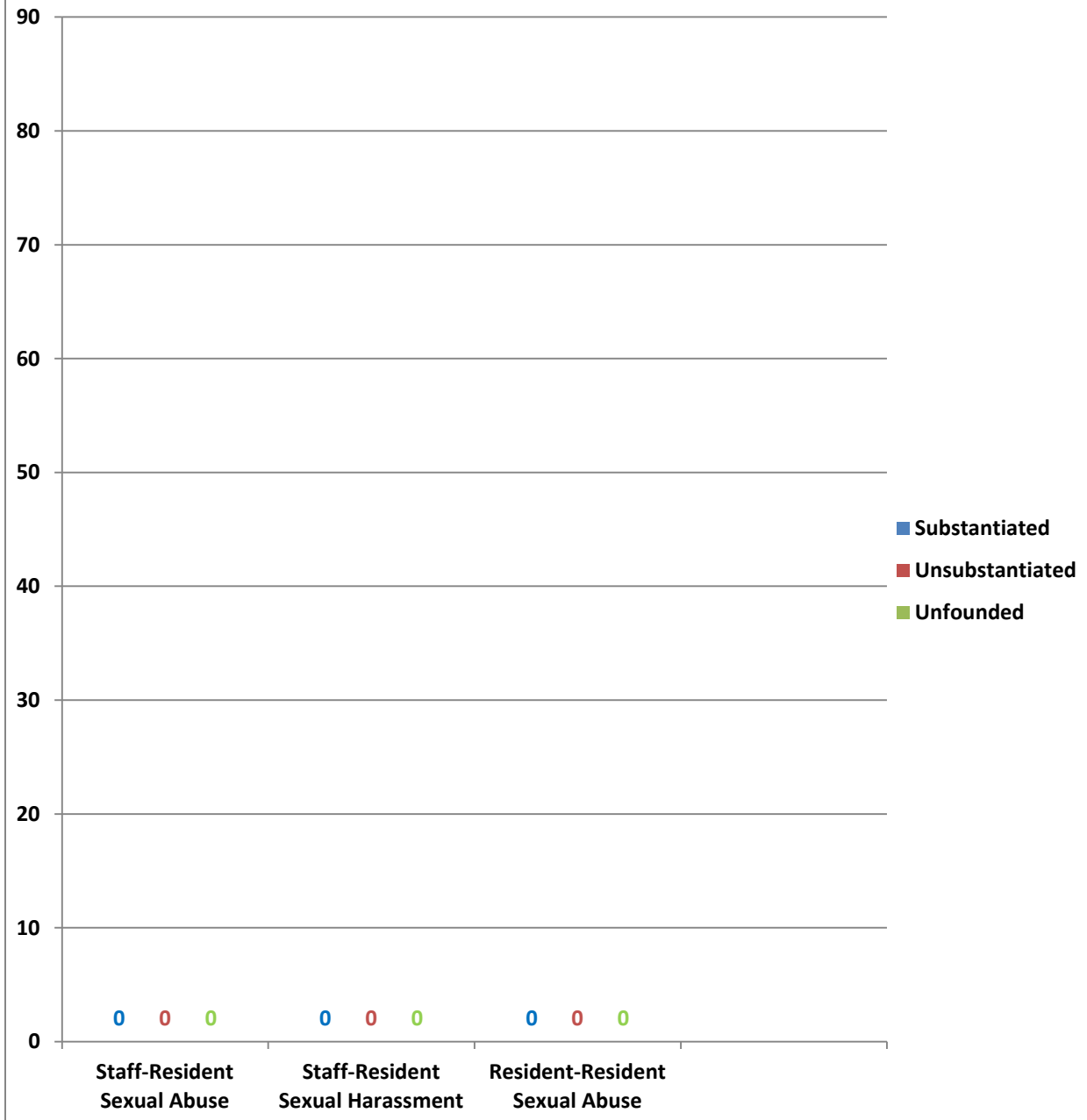
## Aggregated Data

ELTAC collects data from referrals for investigation of sexual abuse and sexual harassment, resident-on-resident sexual abuse and staff-on-resident sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The data in this section contains aggregated data from April 15, 2015, to April 16, 2016.

All allegations are entered and tracked through a secure database. The following graph depicts a breakdown of April 2015 – April 2016 sexual abuse and sexual harassment data from ELTAC; included are all allegations of staff-on-resident sexual abuse and sexual harassment, and all allegations of resident-on-resident sexual abuse.

# Prison Rape Elimination Act:

## Prison Rape Elimination Act 2015/2016 PREA Case Breakdown



# Prison Rape Elimination Act:

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## **FINDINGS**

We had zero allegations of sexual abuse or harassment between staff-resident and zero allegations of sexual abuse between resident-resident for the aforementioned reporting dates. We at ELTAC have had a long history and reputation for a standing Zero Tolerance policy for sexual abuse and sexual harassment. Our staff is trained extensively in child abuse and neglect reporting, maintaining appropriate relationships, behavior management, ethical issues and more to ensure this standard is continuously met.

It is worth noting, as cited in the “Department of Justice National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape Executive Summary”:

*“An increase in incidents reported to facility administrators might reflect increased abuse, or it might just reflect inmates’ increased willingness to report abuse, due to the facility’s success at assuring inmates that reporting will yield positive outcomes and not result in retaliation. Likewise, an increase in substantiated incidents could mean either that a facility is failing to protect inmates, or else simply that it has improved its effectiveness at investigating allegations. For these reasons, the standards generally aim to inculcate policies and procedures that will reduce and ameliorate bad outcomes, recognizing that one possible consequence of improved performance is that evidence of more incidents will come to light.”*

## **Problem Areas**

Upon aggregating the data of April 2015 – April 2016, no disproportionate breakdown of reports at ELTAC was noted.

Consequently, a focus on general program safety and effectively implementing PREA culture successfully yielded a more positive approach to ELTAC PREA enhancement efforts throughout the year.

## **PREA Implementation Action Plans**

Through the accreditation process, it was determined that Edmund L. Thomas Adolescent Center was PREA-compliant as of April 2015. The ELTAC continues to implement best practices and the requirements of the PREA standards to address allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of residents. Leadership of the ELTAC is dedicated to ongoing monitoring and corrective action to maintain full PREA compliance and most importantly to maximize and maintain the safety of our residents. Creating culture change is a long and arduous process. As an agency, the ELTAC is steadily and continually making progress toward systemic change that fully integrates the intent of the PREA standards and the highest level of safety.

# Prison Rape Elimination Act:

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The following are PREA Implementation Plans completed at the agency level:

- Revised many policies to enhance PREA policy and practice
- Enhanced education for staff and residents
- Implemented specialized training required of specialized staff
- Developed and implemented an objective screening tool
- Enhanced data collection and aggregation
- Implemented Sexual Abuse Response Teams (SART)

## April 2016-2017 Initiatives

- Assess need for deployment of additional video surveillance and apply for grant funding
- The PREA Coordinator will continue to utilize the PREA Resource Center to keep abreast of standards, updates and PREA-related materials
- Improve PREA training efforts

## Summary

The ELTAC is committed to continual and progressive culture change. The ELTAC continues to implement the requirements of the PREA standards and make adjustments on an ongoing basis. In doing so, the ELTAC is eager to raise the bar in the confidence and integrity of our system.

Gerald T. Battle

August 17, 2016

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Gerald T. Battle, Superintendent of ELTAC

Date

Kenneth Hollis

August 17, 2016

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Kenneth Hollis, Assistant Director and  
PREA Coordinator of ELTAC

Date