



BRIAN M. CHISM  
SHERIFF

# Office of the Sheriff

BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

BOLIVIA 910-253-2777  
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## Brunswick County Detention Center

### Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) – Annual Report for 2025

The Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 was established to address the sexual abuse and sexual harassment of offenders in confinement settings. On August 20, 2012, the PREA Standards Final Rule, to help prevent, detect and respond to sexual violence, staff sexual misconduct and sexual harassment behind bars was released prompting the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), Brunswick County Detention Center (BCDC) to start the implementation of PREA standards.

BCDC PREA policy establishes a ZERO tolerance for sexual abuse, staff sexual misconduct and sexual harassment and provides guidelines for the prevention, detection, response, investigation and sexual harassment against offenders. Staff and offenders are educated on the department's ZERO tolerance policy and provided information on multiple ways to report an allegation to include third-party reporting.

### 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 continuous.

Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by another inmate, detainee or resident includes any of the following acts, if the victim does not consent, is coerced into such act by overt or implied threats of violence, or is unable to consent or refuse:

1. Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
2. Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva or anus;
3. Penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person, however slight, by hand, finger, object, or other instrument; and
4. Any other intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks of another person, excluding contact incidental to a physical altercation.



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## DEFINITIONS CONT'D:

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 inmate, detainee, or resident directed toward another.

Staff Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse of an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer includes any of the following acts, with or without consent of the inmate, detainee or resident:

1. Contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, including penetration, however slight;
2. Contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva or anus;
3. Contact between the mouth and any body part where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
4. Penetration of the anal or genital opening, however slight, by the hand, finger, object, or other instrument, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
5. Any other intentional contact, either directly or through the clothing, of or with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or the buttocks, that is unrelated to official duties or where the staff member, contractor, or volunteer has the intent to abuse, arouse, or gratify sexual desire;
6. Any attempt, threat, or request by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer to engage in the activities described in paragraphs 1-5 of this section;
7. Any display by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer of his or her uncovered genitalia, buttocks, or breast in the presence of an inmate, detainee or resident, and;
8. Voyeurism by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer.

Staff Sexual Harassment: Repeated verbal comments or gestures of a sexual nature to an inmate, detainee, or resident by a staff member, contractor, or volunteer, including demeaning references to sex, sexually suggestive, or derogatory comments about body or clothing or obscene language or gestures.



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## STATISTICS:

The following are statistics of reported allegations within BCDC by category:

- Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse

|                       | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Substantiated         | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Unsubstantiated       | 0    | 1    | 2    |
| Unfounded             | 0    | 1    | 1    |
| Ongoing Investigation | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Total                 | 0    | 2    | 3    |

- Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment

|                       | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Substantiated         | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Unsubstantiated       | 1    | 2    | 4    |
| Unfounded             | 1    | 1    | 1    |
| Ongoing Investigation | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Total                 | 2    | 3    | 5    |



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- Staff on Inmate Sexual Abuse

|                       | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Substantiated         | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Unsubstantiated       | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Unfounded             | 0    | 0    | 1    |
| Ongoing Investigation | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Total                 | 0    | 0    | 1    |

- Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment

|                       | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| Substantiated         | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Unsubstantiated       | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Unfounded             | 0    | 1    | 0    |
| Ongoing Investigation | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Total                 | 0    | 1    | 0    |

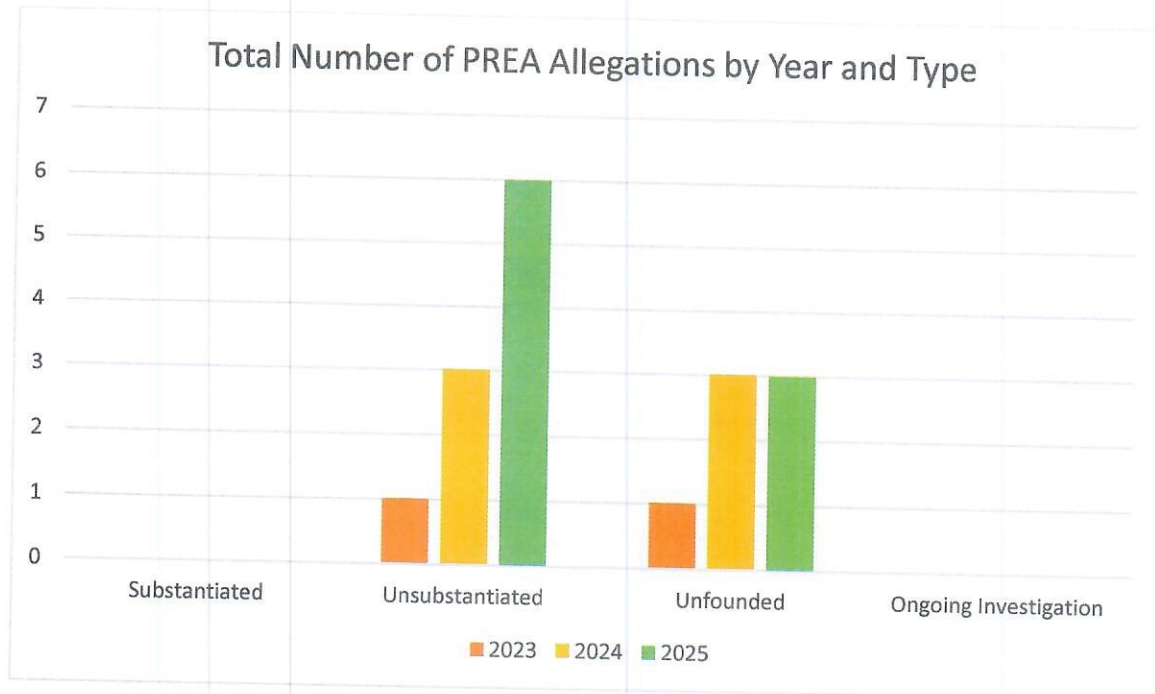


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## SUMMARY:

The total number of allegations did increase slightly from 2024 to 2025. BCDC saw the average daily population increase from 223 in 2024 to 250 in 2025. Although the number did slightly increase, we remained at zero for substantiated cases for all three years. Additional PREA education has been added to the inmate tablets, and the PREA Coordinator required staff, including volunteers, contractors and investigators, to complete additional refresher training.

Although BCDC saw a slight increase in Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment, we remain committed to reinforcing the rules, procedures and expectations of the facility and PREA.

In 2025, BCDC had no substantiated allegations of Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment, abuse or misconduct involving staff.

Some of the changes BCDC has implemented during the previous calendar year include:

- Staff received additional specialized training on how to conduct sexual abuse investigations
- Contract staff received additional specialized training on behavioral health care.



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- Staff will continue to reassess those incarcerated 30 days and offer medical and mental health services
- Staff will continue to receive additional education and training throughout the year in reference to Sexual Harassment and PREA concerns.
- Reiterated the importance of doing opposite gender announcements and implemented new procedures for documenting the announcements.
- New procedures are in place for doing unannounced supervisor rounds
- New procedures are in place for 30-day PREA reassessments.
- Dayroom showers and toilet areas are in the process of being redesigned to better comply with standards

BCDC continues to progress in addressing sexual abuse by continually monitoring all allegations of sexual abuse, staff sexual misconduct and sexual harassment. Each allegation is investigated by trained investigators, reviewed by command staff and followed-up by trained Medical and Mental Health providers. If any issues or trends are identified, they are immediately addressed by our Incident Review Team. Some modifications may include existing policy, procedures, education, or training.

Report approved for posting.

Michael Fowler  
Chief Jail Administrator  
Brunswick County Detention Center

Date: 08/24/2026