



Leon County Sheriff's Office  
Leon County Detention Facility  
2017  
Prison Rape Elimination Act  
Annual Report



## 2017 Annual PREA Report History

The Prison Rape Elimination Act was enacted by Congress in 2003 to address the problem of sexual abuse of incarcerated persons in the custody of United States correctional facilities. The Bureau of Justice created the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission and charged it with developing draft standards for the elimination of prison rape.

Those standards were published in June of 2009. The standards were given to the Department of Justice for review and passage and were finalized on August 20, 2012.



## 2017 Annual PREA Report

The Leon County Sheriff's Office started addressing the issues of PREA when in early 2006 Jail SOP 450.K15 Inmate Sexual Abuse and Harassment was added to the Standard Operating Procedures Manual. The addition of this SOP started the adoption of the current zero tolerance policy on issues pertaining to inmate sexual abuse or harassment. In July of 2011, the Leon County Sheriff's Office began training the staff on the PREA standards. Numerous changes have been made over the years that have led to better training for all staff, inmates, volunteers, and contractors towards the goal of elimination of incidents within the Leon County Detention Facility.



## 2017 Annual PREA Report

In early 2013, the Leon County Sheriff's Office started implementing the 43 PREA standards that apply to adult jails and prisons. Additional training was implemented for staff and training for inmates was established. The Leon County Sheriff's Office appointed the first agency wide PREA Coordinator in 2014 and in September of 2015, the current PREA Coordinator assumed the duties. Sheriff Walt McNeil and Chief Kim Petersen recognize the importance of the Leon County Sheriff's Office continuing to be PREA compliant in order to make the Leon County Detention Facility an even safer place for staff and inmates alike. The Leon County Detention Facility passed our PREA Audit on 03/24/2016. The facility received 5 exceeds standards, 35 meets standards and 3 exemptions during the audit. The Leon County Detention Facility is only the 14<sup>th</sup> jail in the state to become PREA compliant.



# 2017 Annual PREA Report

## Definitions

**Substantiated Allegation :** an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred

**Unsubstantiated Allegation:** 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 Allegation:** an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.



## 2017 Annual PREA Report

### Analysis/Corrective Action:

Even though the Leon County Sheriff's Office received full compliance with all PREA standards, the work is not done. The facility staff will continue to get even better training and the facility will be getting more and even better video monitoring equipment all designed to enhance our existing monitoring capabilities. The two remaining cases from 2016 of inmate on inmate sexual abuse and staff on inmate sexual abuse were both determined to be unsubstantiated due to a lack of physical evidence.



## 2017 Annual PREA Report

During administrative investigations, the Leon County Sheriff's Office imposes a standard of a preponderance of evidence (51%) standard of proof when determining whether allegations of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are substantiated in accordance with PREA standard 115.72.



# **LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

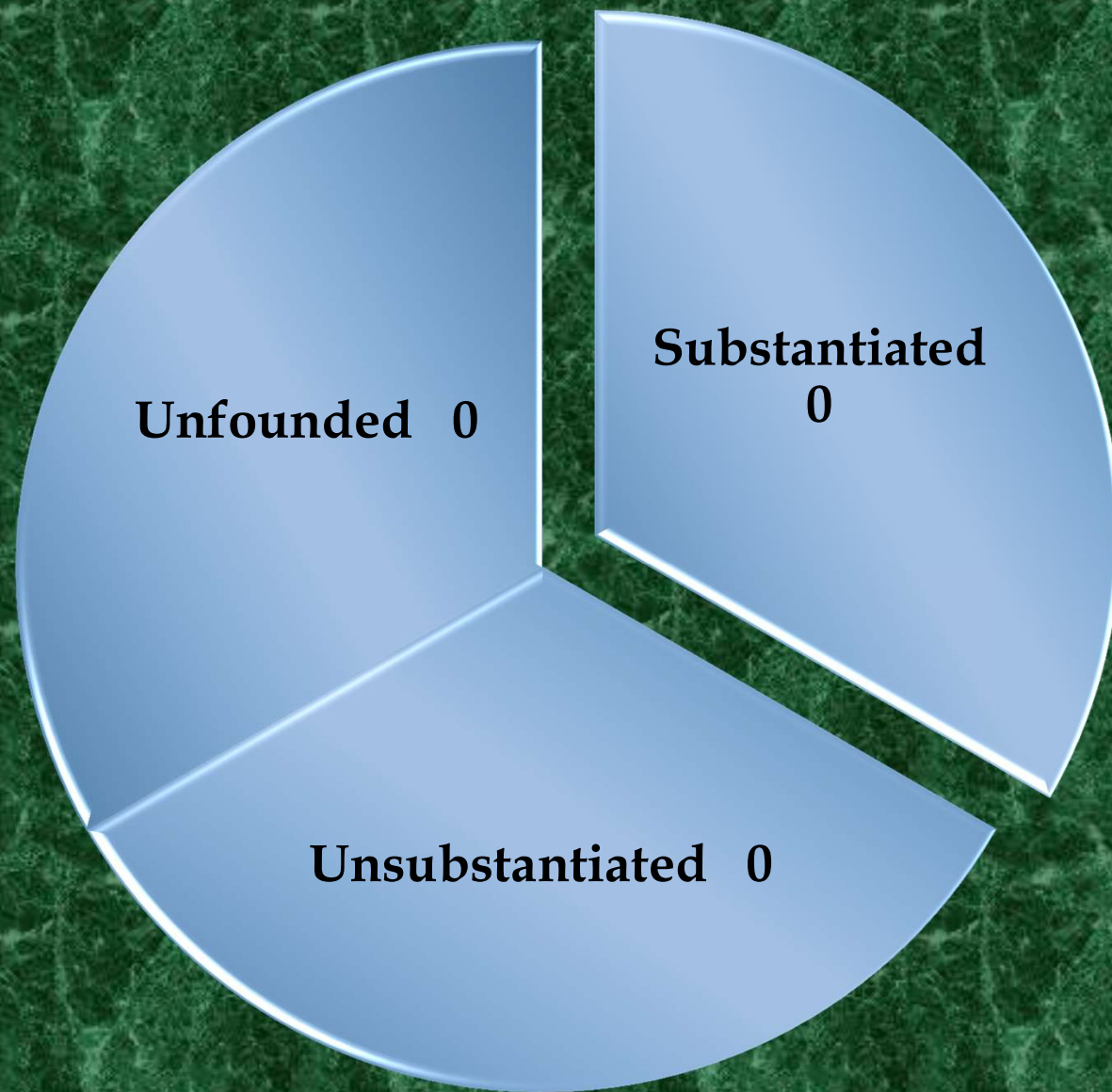
**Reported PREA Incidents 2017  
(Staff on Inmate Sexual Assault)  
0 Cases Reported**



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

There were no reported cases of Staff on Inmate Sexual Abuse reported in 2017.



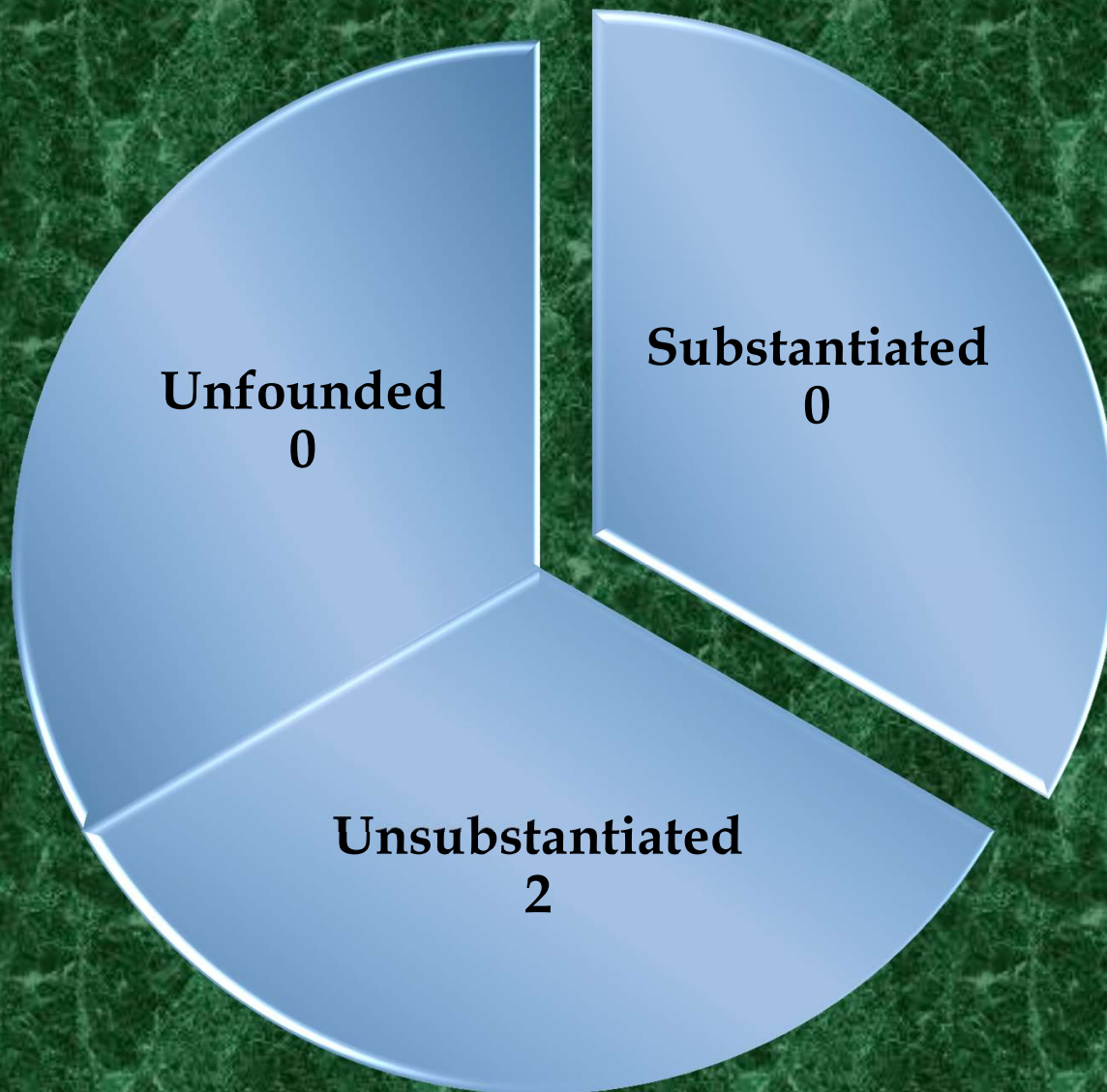




# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Reported PREA Incidents 2017  
(Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment)  
2 Cases Reported







# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

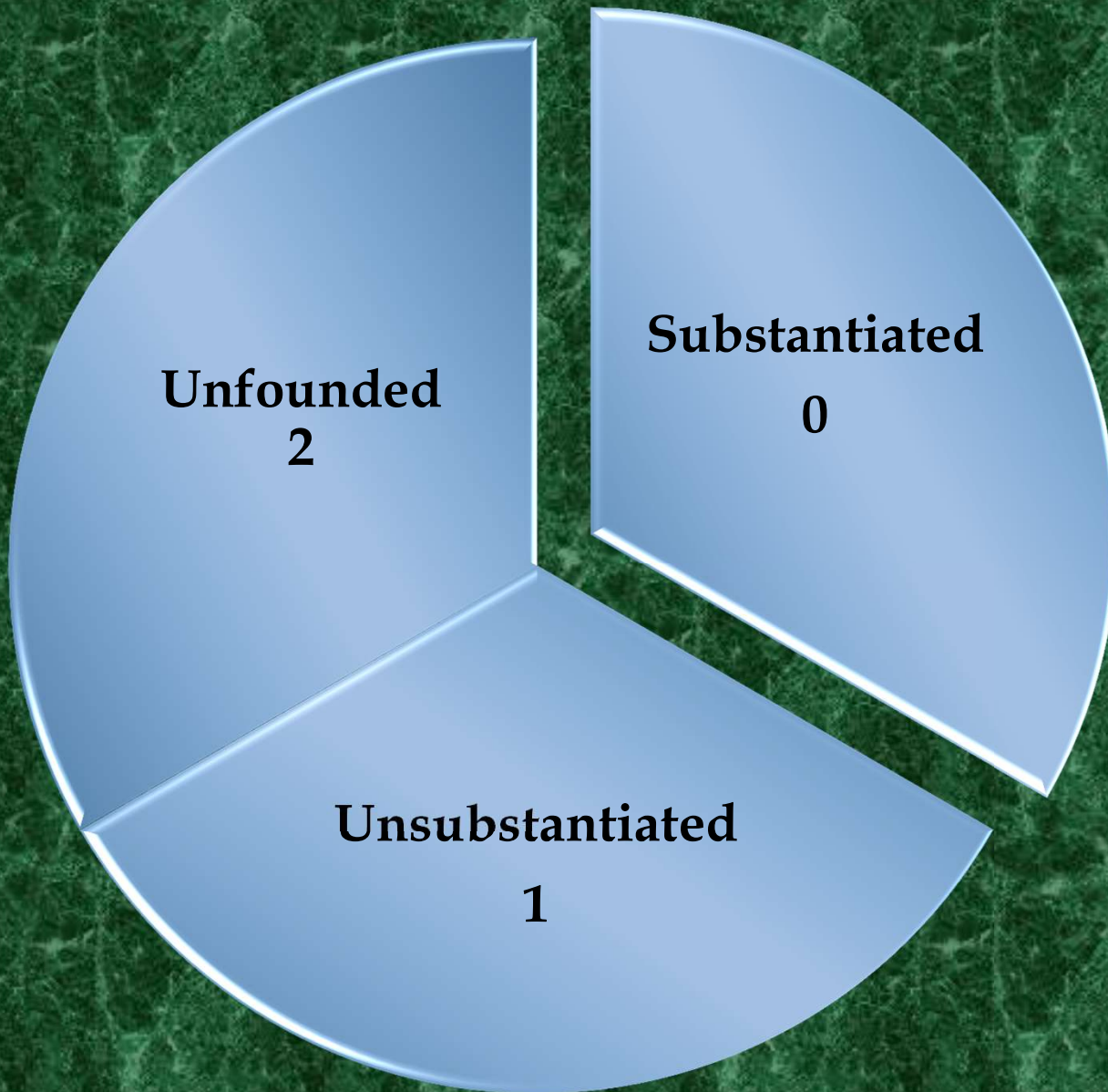
In both cases of reported Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment in 2017, there was not enough evidence that the incident occurred and both cases were determined to be unsubstantiated. In one case, the investigation was forwarded to the Office of Professional Standards for review.



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Reported PREA Incidents 2017  
(Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse)  
3 Cases Reported







# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

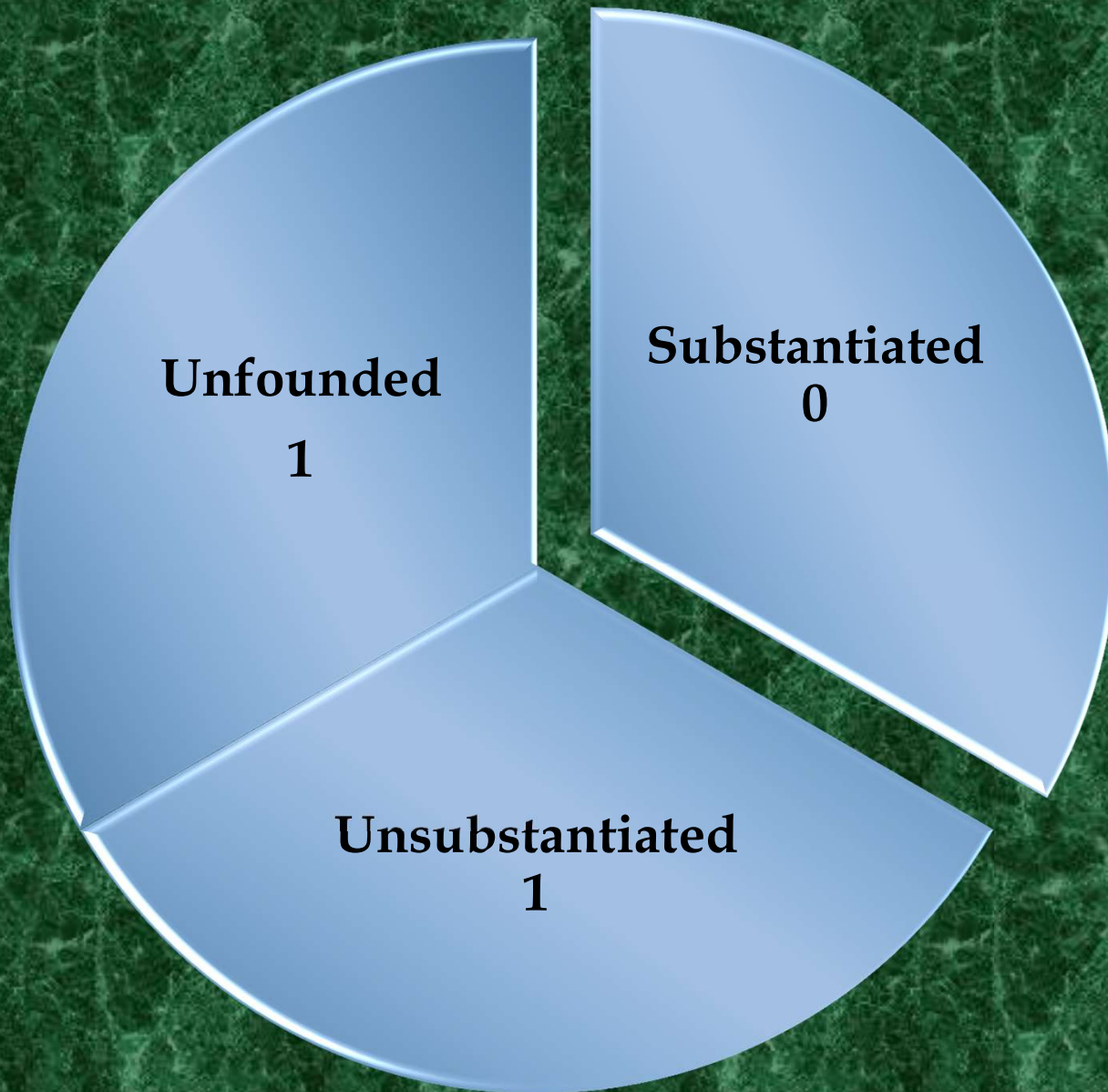
A total of three (3) cases of Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse were received in 2017. In two (2) of the cases, the incidents were determined to be unfounded due to no evidence found to support the complaint. The final case was determined to be unsubstantiated due to the evidence presented did not prove or disprove the incident occurred.



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Reported PREA Incidents 2017  
(Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment)  
2 Cases Reported







# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

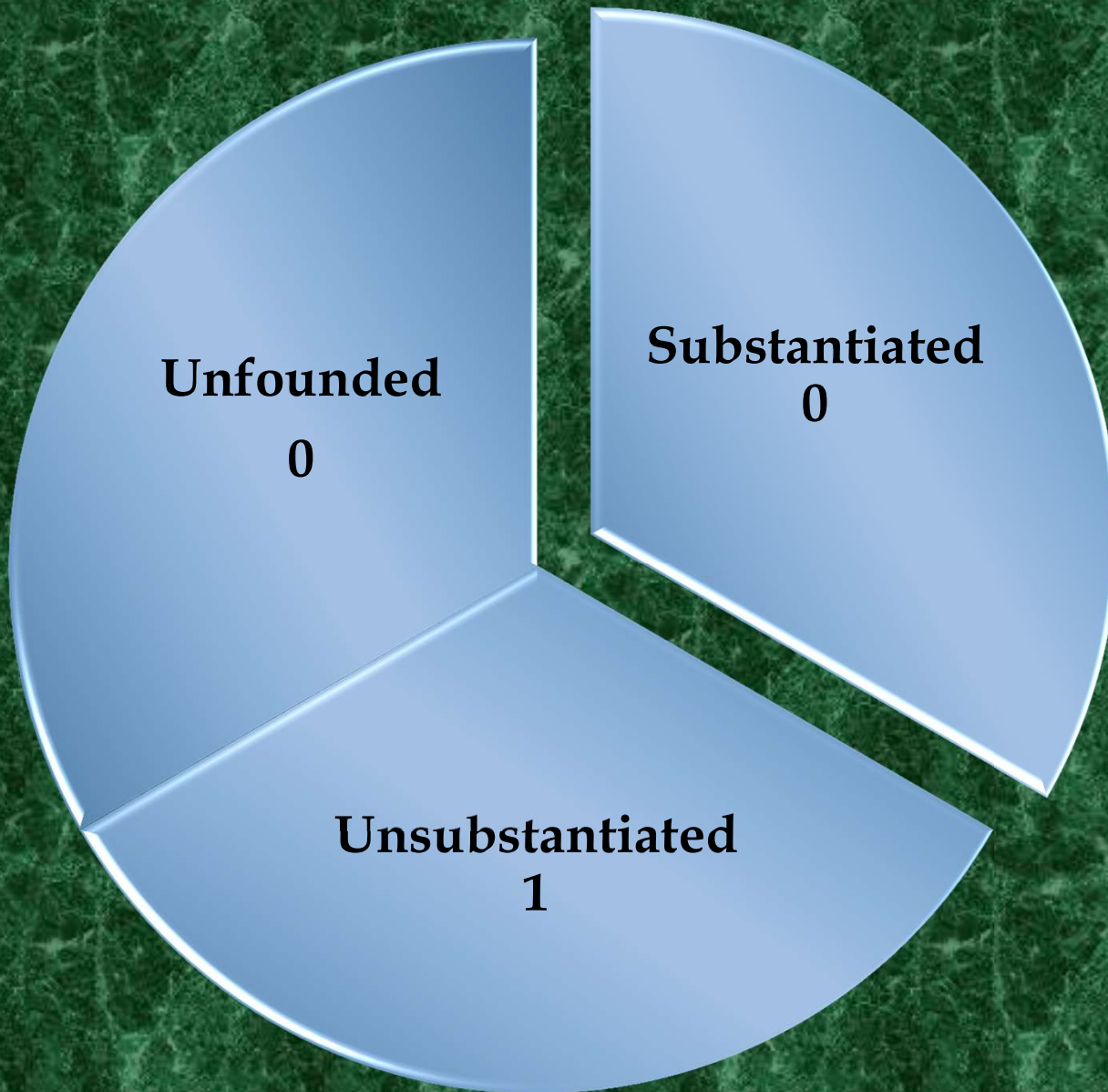
There were a total of two (2) reported cases of Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment in 2017. One (1) case was determined to be unfounded due to the alleged victim withdrawing his complaint. The other case was determined to be unsubstantiated due to there not being enough evidence to support the complaint.



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Reported PREA Incidents 2017  
(Staff on Inmate Voyeurism)  
1 Case Reported







# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

There was one (1) reported case of Staff on Inmate Voyeurism reported in 2017. The case was determined to be unsubstantiated due to the incident occurring due to the complainant being ordered to exit the shower due to another incident occurring in the pod several times and refusing to comply. This action caused the incident to occur and therefore created the complaint. Additional training was provided to staff in regards to this type of incident.



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Reported PREA Incidents  
2017  
(Investigated Allegations)



Administrative 8

Criminal 0



## 2017 Annual PREA Report

There was a significant decrease in the number of cases in 2017 over 2016. This decrease is expected due to an increase in reports during an audit year. The department of Justice recognizes there is usually an increase in reported incidents during the year of a PREA audit. Increased security and staff awareness also contributes to the decrease.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office also investigates all cases reported, regardless of whether they fit the standards set by PREA. This allows the Sheriff's Office to truly ensure that we have a zero tolerance for any type of sexually based incidents in the Leon County Detention Facility. There was a case reported during the booking process of sexual assault allegedly committed by an officer of another agency. This report was documented and forwarded to the other agency for action even though it is not necessarily required by the PREA standards.



## 2017 Annual PREA Report

PREA Standard 115.88 data review for corrective action states the agency's report shall be approved by the agency head and made readily available to the public through its website or, if it does not have one, through other means.

In 2017, there were no substantiated cases of sexual abuse or sexual harassment in the Leon County Detention Facility. There were no cases that needed administrative review per the PREA standards but each case was looked at and in one case, an administrative review was conducted because of the unusual circumstances of the case. The Leon County Detention Facility is in the process of hiring several new staff and the PREA Coordinator, with the assistance of both the staff and administration, continue to make the Leon County Detention Facility even safer for both staff and inmates.