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Sheriff asks FBI to investigate jail allegations

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT ANGELES, Wash. -- The Clallam County sheriff has asked the FBI to investigate allegations of sexual misconduct involving county jail staff and inmates.

Sheriff Bill Benedict tells the Peninsula Daily News he expects FBI investigators to arrive in the next few days.

Jail Superintendent Ron Sukert has defended his staff against a Bureau of Justice Statistics report that ranked the jail the third-highest among 286 U.S. jails for instances of inmate-reported sexual misconduct by staff.

The report found that 6.1 percent of the 75 inmates surveyed said they were sexually assaulted by staff, and 4.4 percent said they were victimized by other inmates.

The sheriff oversees the jail. He says he has serious questions about the survey's methodology. But he adds he takes it seriously enough to call in the FBI.

Information from: Peninsula Daily News, <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com>