

DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS - COALINGA24511 West Jayne Avenue
Coalinga CA, 93210

Department of State Hospitals – Coalinga Facility Fact Sheet



History: The Department of State Hospitals- Coalinga is California’s newest state mental health hospital and is located at the edge of the Coastal Mountain Range in the heart of California in the city of Coalinga. The city of Coalinga is ten miles west of Interstate 5. It is halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco and sixty miles southwest of Fresno.

DSH - Coalinga is a “Maximum Security Psychiatric Hospital,” which means patients are not allowed outside the secured perimeter of the hospital for work crew purposes. DSH-Coalinga began treating forensically committed patients, mostly sexually violent predators who were transferred from DSH- Atascadero, in early September 2005.

Patient Population

Total Licensed Bed Capacity: 1,500

Current Patient Census (as of January 2013): 1,050

- Sexually Violent Predator patients(Civil commitments-Section 6602/6604 Welfare and Institution Code): 900
- Mentally ill prisoners transferred from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: 50
- Mentally Disordered Offenders (Civil commitments PC 2972): 100

(For a description of commitment types at DSH facilities, please see the handout “State Hospital Population Commitment Codes,” from the DSH 2013-14 November Estimate.)

Hospital Staff: Approximately 1,500 staff work at DSH - Coalinga, including psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, rehabilitation therapists, psychiatric technicians, hospital police, and other clinical and administrative staff with an additional 500 positions to achieve full staffing.

Union Representation: DSH – Coalinga staff are represented by the following employee union organizations:

- Service Employees International Union (SEIU): 529
- California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA): 203
- International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE): 74
- Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD): 15
- California Association of Psychiatric Technicians (CAPT): 509
- American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSMCE): 167

Treatment Services and Programs

DSH - Coalinga Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP) incorporates components of the Self-Regulation and the Better Lives Models to comply with Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model for sexual offender assessment and rehabilitation. The fundamental goal of the program is to prevent victimization and recurrence of sexual offending. The treatment program consists of the following four modules: Treatment Readiness, Self-Regulation/Building A Better Life, Discharge Readiness, and Liberty Conditional Release Program.

The Treatment Readiness Module is designed to motivate and engage patients in treatment, and perhaps more importantly, provide patients with guidelines for maximizing their probability of success. The Self-Regulation/Building a Better Life Module consists of psychoeducational and process groups that address dynamic risk factors, offense progression pathways, problem solving skills, common life goals, as well as emotional-cognitive-behavioral self-regulation skills. The Discharge Readiness targets community reintegration needs for all patients, whether released through conditional or unconditional means. The Liberty Conditional Release Program (CONREP) has the responsibility for the supervision and treatment of conditionally released SVP patients court-ordered into the community. CONREP's primary objective is to balance community safety with opportunities for sexually violent predators (SVP) patients to successfully and safely integrate into their community.

Treatment progress is assessed in a variety of ways such as changes in risk factors, demonstration of skills taught in groups into daily living, use of empirically validated progress scales, and completion of treatment objectives. Ancillary measures include penile plethysmography (PPG) and polygraph assessment. The program also provides some educational opportunities, vocational services, and recreational activities. Patients with intellectual disabilities or severe psychiatric disorders participate in a program that is adapted for their treatment needs.