

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

The Mahoning County Sheriff's Office has established a "Zero Tolerance" for inmate sexual assault/abuse and will make every effort to provide all inmates with a safe, humane and secure environment, free from the threat of sexual assault/abuse and staff sexual misconduct/harassment.

Reporting

Inmates experiencing incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment are provided multiple means of making a report. To allow for the quickest response, inmates are encouraged to verbally report to any staff member immediately. Inmates may file written grievances by submitting an Inmate Request Form (kite), or by mailing a letter to the Sheriff at 110 Fifth Ave.; Youngstown, Ohio 44503.

Outside parties may report incidents of sexual abuse or sexual harassment of an inmate confined in the Mahoning County Jail by contacting the Detective Division at 330-480-5012, Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm. You may also call the Mahoning County Victim/Witness Office at 330-740-2082, Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 4:00pm.

Hiring and Promotion Decisions

The agency shall not hire or promote anyone who may have contact with inmates, and shall not enlist the services of any contractor who may have contact with inmates, who—

- Has engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, juvenile facility, or other institution (as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1997)

- Has been convicted of engaging or attempting to engage in sexual activity in the community facilitated by force, overt or implied threats of force, or coercion, or if the victim did not consent or was unable to consent or refuse
- Has been civilly or administratively adjudicated to have engaged in the activity described above

Data Collection

The Mahoning County Sheriff's Department collects accurate, uniform data on every report of sexual abuse occurring in the Mahoning County Jail for the board and care of county inmates. The data collected is used, in part, to complete the annual Survey of Sexual Violence that is forwarded to the USDOJ. In compliance with Section 115.389 of the PREA Standards, the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office will make all aggregated sexual abuse data readily available to the public at least annually.

PREA Year End Report 2020

The Mahoning County Sheriff's Office became PREA certified in 2016. The MCSO was audited again in July of 2019 and remains PREA compliant. On October 26, 2020 the PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Staffing Plan was updated to reflect changes made at the Mahoning County Jail. All new corrections staff were trained in PREA and all current employees were required to take ongoing annual PREA training. New PREA counselors were hired to see all victims, as well as, aggressors of PREA incidents. A total of 36 investigations were PREA related in the 2020 year. Four of those investigations were substantiated and two were unsubstantiated and 28 were unfounded as indicated by the chart below. Although several inmates were written up for sexual proposals or gestures, and indecent exposure towards staff, no staff members filed PREA complaints against an inmate. It should be noted that 16 (44%) of the PREA investigations were claims made by the same three mental health inmates. All claims made are investigated.

	Allegations	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Ongoing Investigations	Sub- Total Results
Inmate on Inmate sexual assault or abuse	2	0	2	0	0	2
Staff on inmate sexual misconduct	4	0	0	4	0	4
Inmate on staff sexual assault or abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate on inmate sexual harassment	21	4	1	16	0	21
Staff on inmate sexual harassment	9	0	1	8	0	9
Inmate on staff sexual harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	36	4	4	28	0	36