

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

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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.

2023 PREA yearend report:

The Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 was established to address the sexual abuse and sexual harassment of inmates in confinement settings. The Mahoning County Jail PREA policy establishes zero tolerance for sexual abuse, staff sexual misconduct and sexual harassment and provides guidelines for the prevention, detection, response, investigation and tracking of allegations against facility inmates. Mahoning County Sheriff's Office continues to remain diligent in investigating all allegations of sexual abuse, staff sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment against inmates. Staff and inmates are educated on the Facility's zero tolerance policy and provided information on the multiple ways to report an allegation, to include third-party reporting. PREA standards require the facility to be audited every 3 years. In August of 2022, the Mahoning County Jail received its third audit for PREA compliance. Updates include cameras added to areas for safety and every 30 days comprehensive education video for inmates.

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.

Ongoing Investigation – means evidence is still being gathered, processed or evaluated and a final determination has not yet been made.

Annual Report of Sexual Violence for the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office Jail for 2023

	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Ongoing Investigations	Sub- Total Results
Inmate on Inmate sexual assault or abuse	1				1
Staff on inmate sexual misconduct			2	1	3
Inmate on inmate sexual harassment			7		7
Staff on inmate sexual harassment			1		1
Totals	1		10	1	12