



Delaware County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Jeffrey C. Balzer

~ Protecting People, Their Property, and Their Rights ~

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2024 Sexual Abuse Prevention Program Annual Report

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) annually reviews uniform data on how many allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment are made at its Jail, the type of allegation made, and how the allegations were resolved. Pursuant to 28 CFR 115.88, this data is collected and aggregated in order to assess and improve the effectiveness of its sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response policies, practices and training.

This report provides a summary of the sexual incident report data collected in 2024, summarizes problems identified and corrective actions completed, changes made to improve compliance with PREA standards, and identifies continued needs for compliance for the DCSO.

Sexual Harassment includes requests for sexual favors and sexual comments or gestures of a sexual or derogatory nature. Sexual Harassment by staff, contractor or volunteer also includes comments about body, dress, or orientation.

Sexual Abuse includes any sexual contact under or over the clothing of breasts, buttocks, upper thighs or genitalia. Sexual Abuse by a staff member, contract or volunteer also includes voyeurism, an invasion of privacy while showering or performing bodily functions.

Summary of sexual incident allegations received in 2024:

	Reported	Substantiated	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded
Staff on Inmate Sexual Harassment	2	1	0	1
Staff on Inmate Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0
Inmate on Inmate Sexual Harassment	4	1	0	3
Inmate on Inmate Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	0

In adherence to the DCSO's zero-tolerance policy on sexual harassment and sexual abuse, all allegations are initially reviewed to determine whether they meet the criteria for an administrative or criminal investigation based on PREA definitions. The jail received five allegations that met PREA definitions, resulting in administrative investigations. The inmate perpetrator of the substantiated allegation received administrative discipline for their comments. The staff perpetrator of the substantiated allegation was a contractor who underwent remedial training and was placed on probationary status for their conduct.

Jail staff received ten additional allegations of misconduct against staff or other inmates. Upon initial review, these allegations did not meet PREA's definitions of sexual harassment or sexual



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abuse. However, these complaints do reflect a positive reporting culture and demonstrate inmates' trust in staff's prompt response.

Compared to previous years, the number of allegations received in 2024 that met PREA definitions has decreased. Complaints against other inmates are more prevalent than those against staff. Corrections officers and supervisors respond quickly and appropriately to allegations of sexual misconduct. Additionally, some inmates use PREA as a means to manipulate housing assignments and avoid more serious confrontations.

The following progressive actions were taken in regards to PREA in 2024:


- Monthly PREA meetings were implemented with multidisciplinary representation from frontline staff, supervisors, medical and mental health.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Helpline of Delaware's Sexual Assault Response Network was renewed through June of 2025. Helpline experienced staffing turnover and new staff received training and education related to PREA and their role in the partnership with the jail.

Helpline of Delaware hired a new associate director to oversee their Sexual Assault Response Network. Additional education of the PREA standards and requirements accompanied the MOU renewal process with Helpline due to staff turnover. Helpline also collaborated with jail staff to ensure their advocates receive essential training related to interactions with incarcerated survivors. Phone records indicate the confidential, toll-free hotline for support services is used by inmates on a routine basis, without identifying any inmates who have used this hotline.

DCSO will continue its commitment to maintaining and improving processes to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment in the Delaware County Jail. In 2025, all jail staff will receive refresher training on topics related to PREA during annual In-Service as required by PREA standards. The MOU with Westerville Division of Police (WPD) as the outside reporting entity is set to expire in December of 2025. Jail leadership will seek to renew the existing MOU for an additional three-year period as WPD has routinely shown to be an effective partner in the Jail's PREA efforts.

Prepared by: 
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2/13/25
Date

Approved by: 
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02/14/2025
Date

