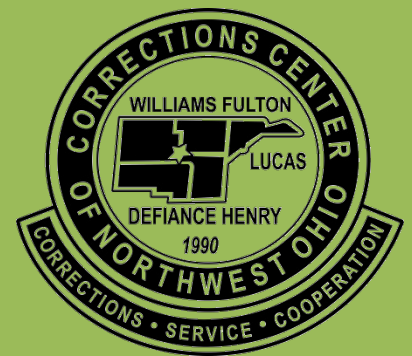


# PREA Annual Report

# 2023



Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio

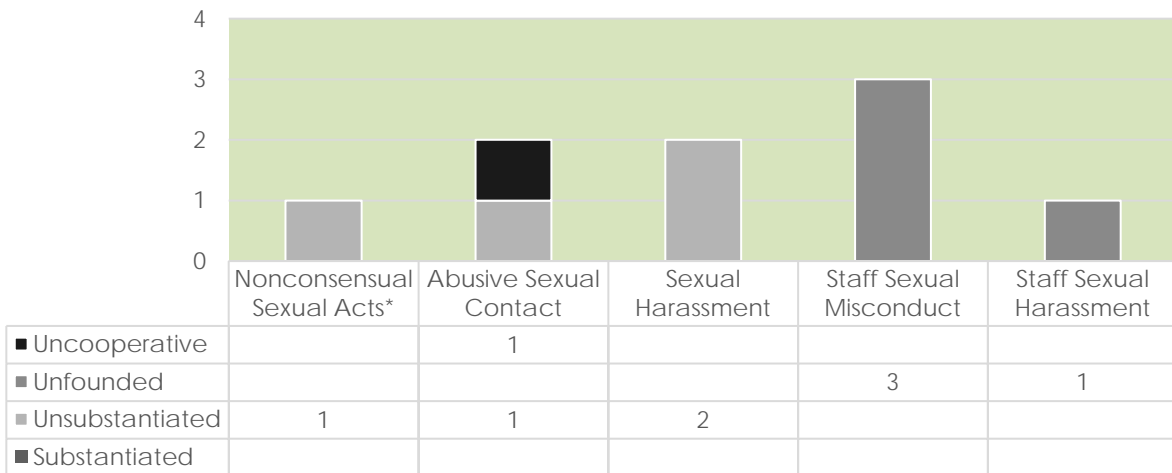
## INTRODUCTION

In 2003, Congress passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act under the presidency of George W. Bush. Years of extensive research, analysis, and collaboration developed into the PREA standards set forth to implement change into prison and jail systems across the country. The Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio, more commonly known as CCNO, has been a proponent of this movement since its introduction. PREA §115.88 calls each agency to assess their internal processes regarding sexual abuse prevention, detection, and response. Essentially, it is up to each correctional operation to ensure their policies are effective in deterring and responding to instances of sexual abuse if and/or when they happen. Outlined in this report is CCNO’s self-assessment on how to increase our effectiveness related to correctional sexual abuse.

## DATA

Attached to this report, and also available on CCNO’s website, are the PREA-related allegations and the outcomes of each investigation. CCNO saw a total of nine (9) reports in 2023: one (1) inmate non-consensual sexual act, two (2) inmate abusive sexual contact, two (2) inmate sexual harassment, three (3) staff sexual misconduct, and one (1) staff sexual harassment. Although sexual harassment is included in the table, the focus of the annual report is on sexual abuse. As noted, there were six (6) sexual abuse allegations in 2023, which is up three (3) reports from 2022. Through investigations, it was found that three were unfounded, two were unsubstantiated, and one was closed due to the inmate being uncooperative with the investigation. The type of sexual abuse alleged more commonly involved inappropriate touching or voyeurism as opposed to non-consensual sexual acts, or rape as most easily understood.

**2023 PREA Allegations by Type Reported & Investigation Outcome**



The facility has undergone several surveillance upgrades to increase security throughout the years, and the use as well as review capability of the cameras has proven highly effective in deterring, detecting, and investigating PREA allegations. Security surveillance is consistently assessed for necessary additions at CCNO.

## **CORRECTIVE ACTION**

After any sexual abuse investigation that is found to be either substantiated or unsubstantiated, PREA standards require an incident review meeting to discuss any corrective measures. A thorough evaluation of several aspects of each incident is conducted during these meetings. Upper-level management as well as representatives from key departments are present to provide insight in their respective areas regarding each investigation.

In 2023, the only recommended corrective measure was regarding C Unit. CCNO was awarded grant money for a capital improvement project that would renovate the cells in C Unit to be upgraded with electromagnetic locks. This change will make it more difficult for inmate's to be in another's cell; therefore, preventing some possible sexual abuse situations from occurring. Additionally, the decision was made to close C Unit on 12/21/23 with the goal of keeping the unit closed until the renovations have been completed.

## **CONCLUSION**

The data reviewed for 2023 was of typical substance for CCNO historically. The number of allegations had increased by three from the prior year and the investigations concluded that CCNO was compliant in response. Trends for reporting are difficult to predict, and 2023 data may not be indicative of what will emerge in 2024.

Despite the difficulty in predicting future trends, we can see that there has been significant reduction in allegations since 2018. Mechanisms for consistency in responding, retaliation monitoring, and documenting that had been implemented continue to prove helpful throughout 2023. Continued and increased training for staff and contractors is recognized as a successful deterrent for sexual abuse and harassment as well as furthering education on detection and response to PREA-related events. CCNO is committed to perpetual evaluation of our processes in order to assess weaknesses, make improvements, and implement necessary changes to remain compliant with PREA standards.

**SIGNATURE**

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