



Substantiated Incidents of Sexual Victimization Reported by Juvenile Justice Authorities, 2013–2018

SUMMARY NCJ 305192

MARCH 2023

Administrators in state juvenile systems and locally and privately operated juvenile facilities reported 1,263 substantiated incidents of sexual victimization perpetrated by youth and 499 perpetrated by staff over a 6-year period of 2013–18. Substantiated incidents involved allegations that were investigated and determined to have occurred based on a preponderance of the evidence. These incidents could have had multiple victims or multiple perpetrators, which could result in more persons involved than the total number of incidents.

Youth-on-youth victimization

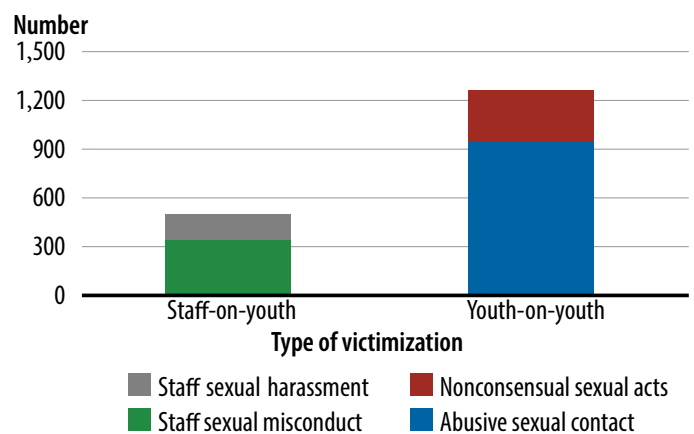
In all, there were nearly three times as many substantiated incidents of youth-on-youth abusive sexual contact (952) as nonconsensual sexual acts (312). About 19% of nonconsensual sexual acts and 7% of abusive sexual contacts occurred in the victim’s cell or room. Nonconsensual sexual acts (49%) were less often reported by the victim than abusive sexual contacts (63%) but were more often reported by another nonvictim youth (23% compared to 13%).

There were three times as many victims of abusive sexual contact (1,054) as victims of nonconsensual sexual acts (358). About 63% of victims and 73% of perpetrators of youth-on-youth sexual victimization were male. Victims received counseling or mental health treatment following 58% of nonconsensual sexual acts and 45% of abusive sexual contacts.

Staff-on-youth victimization

Regarding facility staff, two-thirds (68%) of staff-on-youth sexual victimization incidents involved sexual misconduct and a third (32%) involved sexual harassment. Nearly 40% of staff sexual misconduct incidents occurred in the victim’s cell or room (19%) or in a program area such as a commissary, cafeteria, or workshop (19%). Sixty-three percent of staff sexual harassment incidents were reported by the victim, compared to 47% of staff sexual misconduct incidents.

Number of substantiated incidents of youth sexual victimization, by type of victimization, 2013–18



Note: Excludes youth-on-youth sexual harassment.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Sexual Victimization, 2013–18.

In incidents of staff-perpetrated sexual victimization, there were 657 victims and 511 perpetrators. Female staff were 29% of the perpetrators of sexual harassment and 61% of sexual misconduct perpetrators. Staff perpetrators of sexual harassment were reprimanded or disciplined in 40% of incidents and discharged, terminated, or denied contract renewal in 32%. Legal action occurred in 42% of incidents of staff sexual misconduct.

Youth-on-youth sexual harassment

During 2013–18, there were 1,814 incidents of youth-on-youth sexual harassment, which were presented separately in the report, representing 2,170 victims and 2,047 perpetrators. A loss of privileges was the most-reported sanction for youth perpetrators of sexual harassment (57%).

The full report (*Substantiated Incidents of Sexual Victimization Reported by Juvenile Justice Authorities, 2013–2018*, NCJ 305192), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.