



Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2019–2020 – Statistical Tables

SUMMARY NCJ 308553

JUNE 2024

In 2020, correctional administrators reported 36,264 allegations of sexual victimization in prisons, jails, and other adult correctional facilities. Of these, 2,351 were substantiated after investigation, the lowest number since 2014. The number of allegations rose 121% from 2013 to 2016, after the 2012 release of the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape. The number remained relatively stable from 2016 to 2020, ranging from 35,206 allegations in 2017 to 38,132 in 2019.

Detailed information about substantiated incidents of sexual victimization is presented as aggregated estimates for 2019 and 2020, so the estimates below reflect both years.

Inmate-on-inmate substantiated incidents

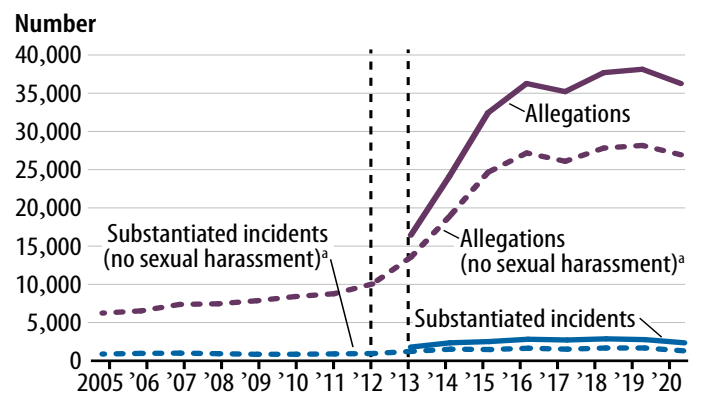
There were 3,684 substantiated incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization during 2019–20, including 659 incidents of nonconsensual sexual acts, 893 of abusive sexual contact, and 2,132 of sexual harassment. In substantiated inmate-perpetrated incidents, 81% of nonconsensual sexual acts perpetrators, 67% of abusive sexual contact perpetrators, and 78% of sexual harassment perpetrators were male. Females accounted for 22% of nonconsensual sexual acts victims, 35% of abusive sexual contact victims, and 24% of sexual harassment victims.

Victims were provided counseling or mental health treatment in 34% of substantiated inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization incidents in jails and 52% of those in prisons.

Staff-on-inmate substantiated incidents

There were 1,408 substantiated incidents of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization during 2019–20, including 984 incidents of sexual misconduct and 424 of sexual harassment. In substantiated staff-on-inmate sexual victimization incidents, 67% of sexual misconduct perpetrators and 31% of sexual harassment perpetrators

Allegations and substantiated incidents of sexual victimization in adult correctional facilities, 2005–2020



Note: Data may have been revised from previously published statistics. The National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape were released in 2012, and the Survey of Sexual Victimization started collecting inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment data in 2013.

^aExcludes inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Sexual Victimization, 2005–2020.

were female. Males made up 73% of sexual misconduct victims and 64% of sexual harassment victims.

Legal action was taken against the perpetrator of staff sexual misconduct in 53% of incidents in jails and 45% of incidents in prisons.

Data source

Findings are based on the Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV), which the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) has conducted annually since 2004. The SSV is among the data collections that BJS conducts to meet the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

The full report (*Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2019–2020 – Statistical Tables*, NCJ 308553, BJS, June 2024), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.