

Sexual Violence Reported by Juvenile Correctional Authorities, 2005-2006

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) with the Governments Division of the U.S. Census Bureau conducted a survey on the incidence and prevalence of sexual violence within juvenile correctional facilities between 2005 and 2006. The following is a summary of the report. The complete publication may be retrieved at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=1218>

Survey Description

- Sample includes at least 10% of juvenile correctional facilities
- Provides a brief understanding of what correctional officials know, how information is recorded when an allegation is made, where and when incidents occur, and how officials respond to allegations
- Measured number of reported incidents of youth-on-youth sexual violence and staff-on-youth sexual misconduct and harassment
- Data collected on substantiated incidents included; characteristics of victim and perpetrator, type of force or coercion, victim injuries, and the consequences for the victim or perpetrator

Survey Definitions

- Youth-on-youth sexual violence defined as nonconsensual sexual acts, the most violent forms of sexual assault
- Youth-on-youth abusive sexual contacts defined as, less serious but unwanted sexual contacts
- Staff-on-youth sexual misconduct defined as, any act of a sexual nature
- Staff-on-youth sexual harassment defined as, repeated verbal statements of a sexual nature
- Substantiated defined as, determined to have occurred
- Unsubstantiated defined as, evidence insufficient to make final determination that they occurred
- Unfounded defined as, determined to not have occurred
- Investigation ongoing defined as, final determination had not been made at the time of data collection

Substantiated incidents across all state juvenile systems

- Between 2005 and 2006, there were 732 substantiated incidents of youth sexual violence in juvenile facilities
- 1 in 5 allegations of sexual violence were found to be substantiated
- Substantiated incidents of sexual violence were higher in juvenile facilities than in the adult prisons and jails
- Youth-on-youth sexual violence accounted for almost two-thirds of substantiated incidents
- Sexual misconduct accounted for 28% of incidents involving staff
- Approximately two-thirds of victims of sexual violence were male
- Victims of staff sexual violence were more likely to be female and usually 16 or 17 years old
- 33% of victims of sexual violence were black and 11% Hispanic

Perpetrator Characteristics

Youth-on-youth incidents were based on a sample of 432 perpetrators

- 78% were male
- 47% were between the ages of 16 & 17
- 40% were white

Staff-on-youth incidents were based on a sample 249 perpetrators

- 44% were between the ages of 25-29
- 37% were white
- 94% were full or part-time employees

- 53% were supervision staff
- 38% had been employed at facility for 1 to 5 years

Impact on victims & perpetrators

- 1 in 8 of victims received physical injuries in youth-on-youth violence
- 1 in 5 victims of staff-on-youth violence in local or private facilities were tested for HIV/AIDS or another STD
- Two-thirds of victims in staff-on-youth violence in state facilities did not receive any medical follow-up
- 99% of staff perpetrators lost their job in local or private facilities
- 75% of staff perpetrators in state system lost their job

Arizona Specific Data

- Between 2005 & 2006 the Arizona sample consisted of 569 youth held in juvenile facilities
- 13 reported allegations of youth-on-youth nonconsensual sexual acts, 1 was considered substantiated and 12 were unfounded
- 8 reported allegations of youth-on-youth abusive sexual contacts
- 5 allegations of reported staff sexual misconduct with youth
- 3 reported allegations of staff sexual harassment of youth
- Between 2005 and 2006 allegations of staff sexual misconduct with youth reported in locally operated facilities included; 2 at Maricopa County Juvenile Court Center in Phoenix, 3 in Mohave County
- All but one of the allegations of staff sexual misconduct in the above facilities were substantiated

For specific results refer to Table 1 or Appendix Tables 1a through 5d in the full report.