

Summary of Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2011-12

Created on 6/18/13

This summary is based on the Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2011-12 report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The summary highlighted findings that may be useful to the Arizona Department of Health Program Manager and funded contractors for the Sexual Violence Prevention & Education Program. Findings specific to facilities in Arizona are located at the end of this summary. The full report is available from

<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svpjri1112.pdf>.

Survey Description

Between February 2012 and September 2012 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) completed the second National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC-2) in 233 state-owned or operated juvenile facilities and 53 locally or privately operated facilities that held adjudicated youth under state contract. The NSYC-2 is a part of the National Prison Rape Statistics Program and the Bureau of Justice Statistics is required to do a comprehensive review and analysis of the incidents and effects of prison rape annually. The NSYC-2 survey consisted of an audio computer assisted self-interview (ACASI) in which youth used a touchscreen to interact with a computerized questionnaire and followed audio instructions delivered via headphones. The NSYC-2 used self-administered procedures to ensure the confidentiality of reporting youth and to encourage fuller reporting of victimization. The survey used audio technology to provide assistance to youth with varying levels of literacy and language skills. Approximately 99% of the interviews were conducted in English, and 1% in Spanish.

The findings of the survey represented the total population of 22,944 adjudicated youth in the United States of which 9,703 participated in an audio computer-assisted self-interview survey. Of the youth who participated 8,707 completed a survey on sexual victimization and 996 completed a survey on drug and alcohol use and treatment. At least 1 facility from each state and the District of Columbia participated. Only facilities that held adjudicated youth for a minimum of 90 days were included. Youth were asked about sexual activities in which they were involved in during the past 12 months or since admission to facility, if less than 12 months.

General Findings

- 2.5% reported an incident involving another youth.
- 7.7% reported sexual victimization by facility staff.
- 13 of the 233 facilities were considered to have high rates of victimization (based on rate of at least 35% higher than average rate among facilities).
- 2 facilities had victimization rates of 30% or greater.
- About 1 in 5 (20.3%) victims of staff sexual misconduct reported experiencing physical force or threat of force.
- When youth were asked who initiated sexual contact, 36.4% reported that the facility staff always made the first move, 17.4% reported that they always made the first move.

Facility Characteristics Associated with Sexual Violence

- Rates of sexual misconduct by staff were higher in state operated facilities (8.2%) than non-state facilities (4.5%).
- Female-only facilities reported the highest rates of youth-on-youth victimization (5.7%).
- Male-only facilities reported the highest rates of staff sexual misconduct (8.2%).
- Reports of staff-on-youth sexual victimization increased with length of time spent in facility.

Youth Characteristics Associated with Sexual Violence

- White youth (4.0%) were more likely than black or Hispanic youth to report sexual victimization by another youth.
- Black youth (9.6%) reported higher rates of sexual victimization by facility staff than white (6.4%) or Hispanic (6.4%) youth.
- Youth with a sexual orientation other than heterosexual (10.3%) reported higher rates of sexual victimization by other youth when compared to heterosexual counterparts (1.5%).
- Youth who experienced any prior sexual assault (17.4%) were twice as likely to report sexual victimization in current facility compared to those with no prior history (8.2%).
- Youth who experienced prior sexual assault in another correctional facility were more likely to report being victimized at current facility (52.3%).

Gender Specific Findings

- Male youth (8.2%) were more likely to report sexual activity with facility staff than females (2.8%)
- Female youth (5.4%) were more likely to report forced sexual activity committed by another youth compared to males (2.2%)

Youth-on-Youth Victimization

- 69.6% of youth reported more than one incident
- 37.2% of youth reported being victimized by more than one perpetrator
- 67.7% of youth reported physical force or threat of force
- 25.2% of youth reported being offered favors or protection

Staff-on-Youth Misconduct & Victimization

- 85.9% of youth reported being victimized more than once by staff
- 32% of youth reported being victimized by more than one staff member
- 21.5% were given drugs or alcohol to engage in sexual acts or contact
- 80.9% reported at least one incident occurred in a common area

Findings for Arizona Facilities

Two facilities in Arizona were included in the report: Adobe Mountain School, and Black Canyon School. **The percentages reported below reflect weighted percentages, which were used when the youth in custody had been at the facility for less than 12 months.** For more information or to see how Arizona facilities compared to facilities in other states and the District of Columbia see the Appendix tables in the full report, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svjfry12.pdf>.

Table 1. Characteristics of juvenile facilities participating in the NYSC-2

Facility	Number of Sampled Youth
Total Participants	222
Adobe Mountain School	160
Black Canyon School	62

* Note. From Appendix Table 1. National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2011-12.

Table 2. Percent of youth reporting sexual victimization by facility

Facility	Percent of youth reporting sexual victimization
Total facilities	7.15
Adobe Mountain School	10.1
Black Canyon School	4.2

* Note. From Appendix Table 2. National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2011-12.

Table 3. Percent of youth reporting sexual victimization by another youth, by type of incident and facility

Facility	All youth-on-youth	Nonconsensual sexual acts
Total facilities	4.5	4.0
Adobe Mountain School	7.0	6.0
Black Canyon School	2.0	2.0

*Note. From Appendix Table 3. National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2011-12.

Table 4. Percent of youth reporting staff sexual misconduct, by type of incident and facility

Facility	All staff sexual misconduct	Sexual acts excluding touching
Total facilities	2.55	1.0
Adobe Mountain School	3.0	2.0
Black Canyon School	2.1	0.0

* Note. From Appendix Table 4. National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2011-12.