

Facts and Stats: Prison Rape

Overview

1. In 2011, correctional administrators reported 8,763 allegations of sexual victimization in prisons, jails, and other adult correctional facilities. About half (51%) involved allegations of nonconsensual sexual acts or abusive sexual contacts of inmates with other inmates, and half (49%) involved staff sexual misconduct or sexual harassment directed toward inmates.¹
2. In 2011, 8,763 allegations of sexual victimization in prisons, jails, and other facilities were reported, a statistically significant increase over the 8,404 allegations reported in 2010 and 7,855 in 2009.²
3. Total allegations of sexual victimization rose significantly between 2005 (6,241) and 2011 (8,763).³
4. State prison administrators reported 537 substantiated incidents of sexual victimization in 2011, up 17% from 459 substantiated incidents reported in 2005.⁴
5. About 44% of victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization experienced physical force or threat of force.⁵
6. Between 2009 and 2011, females represented about 7% of all state and federal prison inmates, but accounted for 22% of inmate-on-inmate victims and 33% of staff-on-inmate victims.⁶
7. Since 2005, the number of total allegations of sexual victimization reported has increased: 6,241 in 2005; 6,528 in 2006; 7,374 in 2007; 7,457 in 2008; 7,855 in 2009; 8,404 in 2010; and 8,763 in 2011.⁷
8. According to the National Inmate Survey of 2011-12, the number of adult inmates that reported sexual victimization in prisons reached 57,900, or 4% of the total number of

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice. 2014. *Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2009-11*.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

inmates. For jails, the reported number of adult inmates stood at 22,700, or 3.2% of the total number of inmates.⁸

9. The number of staff sexual misconduct incidences reported by adult inmates in prisons was 34,100 victims, or 2.4% of the total number of inmates. There were 13,200 victims reported for jails, or 1.8% of the total number of inmates.⁹
10. During 2004, an estimated 8,210 allegations of sexual violence were reported by correctional authorities – the equivalent of 3.2 allegations per 1,000 inmates and youths incarcerated in 2004.¹⁰
11. In 2015, correctional administration reported 24,661 allegations of sexual victimization in prisons, jails, and other adult correctional facilities. More than half (58%) involved in sexual victimization by staff toward inmates, and the remainder (42%) involved in sexual victimization by inmates toward other inmates.¹¹
12. Of the 24,661 allegations of sexual victimization in 2015, a total of 1,473 (6%) were substantiated and 2,733 (11%) were under investigation during data collection.¹²
13. Sexual victimizations reported in 2015 (24,661) was an increase from the 18,891 allegations reported in 2014, and almost triple the number reported in 2011 (8,768).¹³
14. After implementation of the national standards, allegations of staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct increased from 2,800 in 2011 to 8,151 in 2015 (up 191%).¹⁴
15. During the 3-year aggregated period of 2013-2015, an estimated 15,875 allegations of inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment were made.¹⁵
16. An estimated 6.3% of federal prison inmates with serious psychological distress reported to have been sexually victimized by another inmate, in comparison to 0.7% of inmates with no serious mental illnesses.¹⁶

⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice. 2013. *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011-12*.

⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice. 2013. *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011-12*.

¹⁰ Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2004. *Sexual Violence Reported by Correctional Authorities*.

¹¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2018. *Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2012-2015*

¹² Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2018. *Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2012-2015*

¹³ Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2018. *Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2012-2015*

¹⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2018. *Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2012-2015*

¹⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2018. *Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2012-2015*

¹⁶ Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice. 2013. *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates*. <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4654>

Illinois

17. In Illinois, Division 11 in Cook County reported 272 respondents in the National Inmate Survey's 2011-2012 report on facilities with high rates of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization. That is a 76% response rate for the number of respondents to the sexual victimization survey.¹⁷
18. Surveyed at a male prison in Illinois, the Danville Correctional Center recorded 205 respondents in the NIS sexual victimization survey, with a 70% response rate within the group and a .5% response within the entire facility. When surveyed at a female prison in Illinois, the Decatur Correctional Center recorded 157 respondents in the NIS sexual victimization survey, with a 65% response rate within the group and a 1.1% response within the entire facility.¹⁸
19. In 2011, 48,427 federal and state prisoners were in custody by December 31, 2011 in the state of Illinois. There were 25 alleged reports of inmate-on-inmate nonconsensual sexual acts, 7 alleged reports of inmate-on-inmate abusive sexual contact, 18 alleged reports of staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct, and there were no alleged reports for staff-on-inmate sexual harassment.¹⁹
20. Four Illinois facilities were surveyed for allegations of sexual victimization in 2011, and in the Cook County jurisdiction, with an average daily population of 9,974 inmates, there were 20 alleged reports of inmate-on-inmate nonconsensual acts, 5 alleged reports of inmate-on-inmate abusive sexual contact, 3 alleged reports of staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct, and no alleged reports for staff-on-inmate sexual harassment.²⁰
21. In the Kane County jurisdiction, with an average daily population of 618 inmates, there was ever only one alleged report of inmate-on-inmate abusive sexual contact in 2011. In the Kankakee County jurisdiction, with an average daily population of 650 inmates, there was one alleged report of inmate-on-inmate nonconsensual sexual acts and one alleged report of staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct. In the Logan County jurisdiction, with an average daily population of 31 inmates, there was only one alleged report of inmate-on-inmate nonconsensual sexual acts.²¹

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice. 2014. *Survey of Sexual Violence in Adult Correctional Facilities, 2009-11 – Statistical Tables*.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.