

Prison Rape

The Numbers

- In 2023-24, 4% of adult prison inmates report experiencing sexual victimization
- In 2020, correction administrators reported 36,264 allegations of sexual victimization
- Between 2013-2020 the number of reported sexual abuse incidents in prisons and jails increased from 13,500 to 36,264
- 9.5% of youth in state facilities have been sexually victimized.
- 25% of male survivors report to authorities
- 10% of female survivors report to authorities
- 60% of survivors report being assaulted by prison staff
- LGBTQ prisoners are more than 10 times more likely to be abused

The United States Congress enacted the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) to address the problem of sexual abuse of persons in the custody of U.S. correctional agencies. PREA calls for Federal, State, and local corrections systems to have a zero-tolerance policy regarding prison rape (as defined by PREA) in prisons, jails, police lock-ups, and other confinement facilities.
