



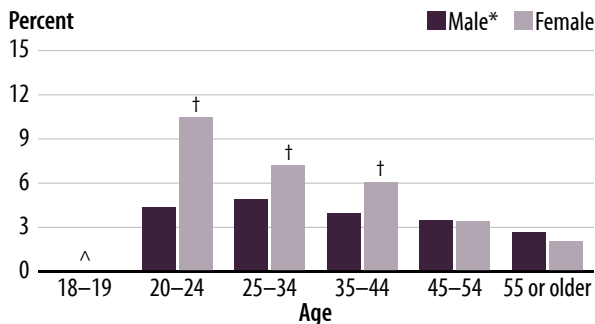
Characteristics of Sexual Victimization in Prisons Reported by Inmates, 2023–24 – Statistical Tables

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In 2023–24, 10.5% of female prison inmates ages 20 to 24 reported being sexually victimized during the prior 12 months (or since admission to the facility if the date of admission was less than 12 months prior), a percentage more than twice that of male inmates ages 20 to 24 (4.4%) (**figure 1**). Female inmates ages 25 to 34 (7.2%) and 35 to 44 (6.1%) also reported sexual victimization in larger percentages than male inmates in the same age groups (4.9% ages 25 to 34 and 4.0% ages 35 to 44).¹

¹See *Methodology* for discussion of significance testing and standard errors.

FIGURE 1
Percent of prison inmates reporting sexual victimization, by inmate sex and age, 2023–24



Note: Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See table 1.2 for estimates and appendix table 2 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

Highlights

- Among female inmates, a larger percentage of black inmates (5.6%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization than white inmates (2.9%), but among male inmates, a larger percentage of white inmates (2.9%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization than black inmates (1.1%) (**table 1.2**).
- A smaller percentage of female inmates (4.1%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization in 2023–24 than 2011–12 (6.9%), but a larger percentage of male inmates (2.2%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization in 2023–24 than 2011–12 (1.7%) (**table 1.4**).
- A greater percentage of inmates who were serving in the U.S. Armed Forces at the time of the survey reported sexual victimization of any type (15.2%), inmate-on-inmate victimization (10.3%), or staff-on-inmate victimization (9.4%) than inmates who had never served (**table 1.6**).
- Thirty-one percent of inmates who reported prior sexual victimization in another facility also reported sexual victimization in their current facility (**table 1.7**).
- After the most recent incident, more than 1 in 3 victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that the perpetrator threatened to hurt the victim to keep it a secret, said they would blame it on the victim if the victim told anyone, or had some type of sexual contact with the victim again (**table 2.2**).
- In nearly half of incidents, inmates who reported their most recent incident of staff-on-inmate victimization were written up (**table 2.5**).

This report presents findings from the fourth National Inmate Survey (NIS-4) in state and federal prisons, conducted from March 2023 to March 2024, and describes characteristics of victims, perpetrators, and incidents related to inmate-reported sexual victimization in prisons. This report accompanies *Sexual Victimization in Prisons Reported by Inmates, 2023–24* ² (NCJ 310544, BJS, December 2025), which provides national and facility-level estimates of sexual victimization in prisons.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA; P.L. 108–79) requires the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to carry out a comprehensive statistical review and analysis

of the incidence and effects of prison rape. The NIS is part of BJS’s National Prison Rape Statistics Program, which collects allegations of sexual victimization directly from victims—through surveys of inmates in prisons and jails and youth held in juvenile facilities—and information on reported sexual victimization from administrative records.

This report will be followed by an additional report using NIS-4 data on facility characteristics of prisons related to inmate-reported sexual victimization. NIS-4 data from local jails were collected separately from these data and will be reported separately.

Terms and definitions

The Bureau of Justice Statistics’ National Prison Rape Statistics Program uses uniform definitions for each sexual act or activity. Each sexual act or activity is classified by the alleged perpetrator(s) who carried out the incident (i.e., inmate or staff) and the type of act or activity.

Sexual victimization reported by inmates involves any forced or coerced sexual acts or activity with another inmate and any sexual acts or activity with facility staff.²

■ **Inmate-on-inmate** sexual victimization involving force or coercion includes:

- *Forced or coerced sexual acts*—unwanted contacts with another inmate that involved anal or vaginal penetration, oral sex, handjobs, or other sexual acts.

- *Other forced or coerced sexual activity*—unwanted contacts with another inmate that involved touching of the buttocks, thigh, penis, breasts, or vagina in a sexual way that does not meet the description of forced or coerced sexual acts.

■ **Staff-on-inmate** sexual victimization includes:

- *Sexual acts*—any contacts with staff that involved anal or vaginal penetration, oral sex, handjobs, or other sexual acts.
- *Other sexual activity*—any contacts with staff that involved touching of the buttocks, thigh, penis, breasts, or vagina in a sexual way that does not meet the description of sexual acts.

²The National Inmate Survey does not distinguish between completed and attempted sexual victimization, and it does not measure sexual harassment by either inmates or staff.

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Section 1. Sexual victimization in the past year

Tables in this section feature demographics and characteristics of inmates who reported having been sexually victimized in the 12 months prior to the survey or since admission to the facility, if the date of admission was less than 12 months prior. This section also includes information on the number of incidents experienced, when the first incident occurred, whether the victim was physically injured in any of the incidents, and characteristics of staff perpetrators.

Key findings

- In 2023–24, a higher percentage of female inmates reported sexual victimization of any type (5.7%) or inmate-on-inmate victimization (4.1%) than male inmates (4.0% any victimization and 2.2% inmate-on-inmate) (**table 1.1**).
- A larger percentage of white inmates (2.9%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization than black inmates (1.3%), but a larger percentage of black inmates (2.8%) reported staff-on-inmate victimization than white inmates (1.3%).
- Larger percentages of multiracial (3.3%) and Hispanic (2.0%) inmates reported staff-on-inmate victimization than white inmates (1.3%).
- A smaller percentage of inmates who reported their race/ethnicity as white either alone or in combination with other races or ethnicities (1.6%) reported staff-on-inmate victimization than inmates who identified their race either alone or in combination as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (4.1%), black (3.1%), Asian (3.0%), or American Indian or Alaska Native (2.9%).
- A larger percentage of inmates ages 25 to 34 reported any sexual victimization (5.1%) or staff-on-inmate victimization (2.8%) than inmates in any of the older age groups.
- Bisexual inmates (10.1%), gay or lesbian inmates (13.6%), and other non-heterosexual inmates (12.8%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization at a percentage more than seven times greater than heterosexual inmates (1.4%).
- Among male inmates, a smaller percentage of white inmates (1.3%) reported staff-on-inmate victimization than multiracial inmates (3.3%), black inmates (2.8%), or Hispanic inmates (1.9%) (**table 1.2**).
- Among male inmates, a larger percentage of white inmates (2.9%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization than black inmates (1.1%), but among female inmates, a larger percentage of black inmates (5.6%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization than white inmates (2.9%).
- A smaller percentage of white female inmates (1.0%) reported staff-on-inmate victimization than female inmates of any other racial or ethnic group.
- A larger percentage of male inmates ages 25 to 34 (2.7%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization than male inmates ages 20 to 24 (1.2%).
- More than 1 in 10 female inmates ages 20 to 24 reported any sexual victimization.
- Among male inmates, the percentage reporting inmate-on-inmate victimization was 14 times greater among gay inmates (18.2%) than heterosexual inmates (1.3%); the percentage reporting staff-on-inmate victimization in the two groups was not statistically different.
- A smaller percentage of female heterosexual inmates (4.1%) reported any sexual victimization than female gay or lesbian inmates (7.6%), bisexual inmates (8.1%), and other non-heterosexual inmates (20.1%).
- A larger percentage of inmates held for a violent sexual offense (4.3%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization than inmates held for any other type of offense (**table 1.3**).
- A smaller percentage of inmates whose sentence length was 1 to 5 years (1.3%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization than inmates in longer sentence groups.
- A larger percentage of inmates who had been in their current facility for 6 months to 1 year (4.4%), 1 to 2 years (4.7%), and 2 years or more (4.6%) reported any sexual victimization than inmates who had been in their current facility for less than 1 month (2.3%).

- A larger percentage of male inmates reported inmate-on-inmate victimization in 2023–24 (2.2%) than 2011–12 (1.7%), but a smaller percentage of female inmates reported inmate-on-inmate victimization in 2023–24 (4.1%) than 2011–12 (6.9%) (**table 1.4**).
- The percentage of inmates reporting staff-on-inmate victimization did not change significantly from 2011–12 to 2023–24 when examined by sex, race/ethnicity, or sentence length.
- A smaller percentage of inmates whose sentence length was 1 to 5 years reported inmate-on-inmate victimization (1.3%) in 2023–24 than 2011–12 (1.8%).
- For every disability and mental health condition measured, a larger percentage of inmates with the disability or condition reported inmate-on-inmate or staff-on-inmate victimization than inmates without the condition (**table 1.5**).
- More than 1 in 10 inmates with autism or Asperger’s (12.3%) or who have difficulty doing activities on their own due to a physical, mental, or emotional problem (10.3%) reported any sexual victimization.
- A larger percentage of inmates identified with serious psychological distress reported inmate-on-inmate (6.5%) or staff-on-inmate victimization (5.6%) than inmates with no indicated mental health problem (0.8% inmate-on-inmate and 0.8% staff-on-inmate).
- A smaller percentage of inmates who had not completed high school (4.3%) reported any sexual victimization than those with a college degree or more (5.9%), but a larger percentage than those who graduated high school (3.1%) (**table 1.6**).
- The percentage of inmates who were serving in the U.S. Armed Forces at the time of the survey (15.2%) reporting any sexual victimization was four times greater than inmates who had never served (3.8%).
- A larger percentage of inmates who had been arrested one time (3.2%) reported inmate-on-inmate victimization than inmates who had been arrested more often (**table 1.7**).
- Nearly one-third of inmates (30.6%) who reported prior sexual victimization in another facility also reported sexual victimization in their current facility.
- Sexual victimization was reported by a larger percentage of inmates who, due to a problem with emotions, nerves, or mental health, had stayed overnight in a hospital or other treatment facility, taken prescription medicine, or received counseling or therapy than by inmates without these histories.
- One in ten inmates who had spent 30 days or more in restrictive housing reported any sexual victimization (**table 1.8**).
- The percentages of inmates with a low perception of facility staff reporting inmate-on-inmate victimization (3.8%) or staff-on-inmate victimization (4.7%) were greater than those of inmates with a high perception of facility staff (1.2% inmate-on-inmate and 0.7% staff-on-inmate).
- A smaller percentage of inmates with a high level of social ties at their facility (1.7%) reported staff-on-inmate victimization than inmates with a low level of social ties at their facility (2.8%).
- The percentage of male victims (22.7%) of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization who reported experiencing more than 10 incidents was more than double that of female victims (9.2%) (**table 1.9**).
- A larger percentage of male victims reported that they experienced their first inmate-on-inmate (15.3%) or staff-on-inmate sexual victimization (12.7%) during their first 24 hours in the facility than female victims (5.7% inmate-on-inmate and 3.9% staff-on-inmate).
- Among inmates reporting inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization, a larger percentage of males (25.8%) reported receiving physical injuries than females (19.5%).
- More than 6 in 10 male victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that some or all of the perpetrators were female.

TABLE 1.1**Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate demographic characteristics, 2023–24**

Inmate demographic characteristic	Number of inmates ^a	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization ^b	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Sex ^c				
Male*	1,117,800	4.0%	2.2%	2.2%
Female	86,700	5.7 †	4.1 †	2.3
Race/ethnicity				
White ^{d*}	357,200	3.9%	2.9%	1.3%
Black ^d	367,900	3.6	1.3 †	2.8 †
Hispanic	292,300	3.9	2.4	2.0 †
American Indian/Alaska Native ^d	19,300	3.0	1.5 †	1.8
Asian ^d	7,000	4.7	2.9	^
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ^d	4,000	^	^	^
Multiracial ^d	133,300	6.2 †	3.5	3.3 †
Race/ethnicity alone or in combination ^e				
White alone or in combination*	562,000	4.4%	3.2%	1.6%
Black alone or in combination	479,300	4.1	1.6 †	3.1 †
Hispanic alone or in combination	292,300	3.9	2.4 ‡	2.0
American Indian/Alaska Native alone or in combination	163,700	5.8 †	3.7	2.9 †
Asian alone or in combination	33,800	5.5	3.2	3.0 ‡
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination	37,900	6.4	3.0	4.1 †
Age				
18–19	4,900	^	^	^
20–24	68,000	4.8%	1.5% †	3.3%
25–34*	327,700	5.1	2.9	2.8
35–44	362,400	4.2 †	2.5	2.1 †
45–54	240,000	3.5 †	2.1 ‡	1.8 †
55 or older	201,600	2.7 †	1.6 †	1.4 †
Sexual orientation				
Heterosexual*	1,064,100	3.0%	1.4%	1.9%
Bisexual	63,000	13.1 †	10.1 †	4.7 †
Gay/lesbian	19,800	16.4 †	13.6 †	3.1
Other	26,300	16.9 †	12.8 †	7.8 †
Personal identity ^c				
Man	1,092,200	3.5% †	1.8% †	2.1% †
Woman	83,300	5.2 †	3.8 †	2.0 †
Other ^{f*}	15,600	32.2	27.9	7.6

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 1 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

^aEstimates of the number of inmates nationwide are based on weighted data and rounded to the nearest 100.

^bDetails may not sum to totals because inmates could report multiple types of victimization.

^cSee *Methodology*.

^dExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

^eCombines all individuals belonging to a particular racial or ethnic group (whether alone or in combination with another racial or ethnic group). For example, a respondent who reported being both white and black would fall into both the “White alone or in combination” category and the “Black alone or in combination” category. The number of inmates across the categories sums to greater than the total number of inmates because the response categories are not mutually exclusive.

^fIndividuals whose personal identity is different from their sex. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 1.2

Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident, inmate sex, and selected inmate demographic characteristics, 2023–24

Inmate demographic characteristic	Number of male inmates ^a	Percent of male prison inmates reporting:			Number of female inmates ^a	Percent of female prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization ^b	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate		Any sexual victimization ^b	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Race/ethnicity								
White ^{c*}	317,600	4.0%	2.9%	1.3%	39,600	3.6%	2.9%	1.0%
Black ^c	353,300	3.4	1.1 †	2.8 †	14,500	7.4 †	5.6 †	2.9 †
Hispanic	275,200	3.7	2.3	1.9 †	17,000	6.4 †	3.8	3.6 †
Multiracial ^c	121,600	6.0 †	3.3	3.3 †	11,700	8.7 †	6.6 †	3.1 †
Other ^{c,d}	27,400	2.8	1.4 †	1.6	3,000	6.7	4.2	2.6 ‡
Age								
18–19	4,700	^	^	^	200	^	^	^
20–24	63,700	4.4%	1.2% †	3.2%	4,300	10.5% †	6.4%	4.6% ‡
25–34*	301,400	4.9	2.7	2.8	26,300	7.2	5.3	3.0
35–44	331,900	4.0 ‡	2.4	2.1 ‡	30,500	6.1	4.4	2.4
45–54	224,100	3.5 †	2.1	1.9 †	16,000	3.4 †	2.4 †	1.3 †
55 or older	192,100	2.7 †	1.6 †	1.4 †	9,500	2.1 †	1.7 †	0.6 †
Sexual orientation								
Heterosexual*	1,007,700	3.0%	1.3%	1.9%	56,400	4.1%	3.0%	1.6%
Bisexual	43,900	15.3 †	11.8 †	5.3 †	19,100	8.1 †	6.0 †	3.3 †
Gay/lesbian	12,900	21.1 †	18.2 †	2.9	6,800	7.6 †	4.9 ‡	3.5 †
Other	24,300	16.6 †	12.9 †	7.6 †	2,000	20.1 †	11.3 †	10.0 †
Personal Identity^e								
Same as sex*	1,092,200	3.5%	1.8%	2.1%	83,300	5.2%	3.8%	2.0%
Different from sex ^f	13,200	34.8 †	31.1 †	7.3 †	2,400	17.7 †	10.0 †	9.6 †

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

^aEstimates of the number of inmates nationwide are based on weighted data and rounded to the nearest 100.

^bDetails may not sum to totals because inmates could report multiple types of victimization.

^cExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

^dIncludes American Indian or Alaska Native inmates, Asian inmates, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander inmates.

^eSee *Methodology*.

^fIndividuals whose personal identity is different from their sex. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 1.3**Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate offense details, 2023–24**

Inmate offense detail	Number of inmates ^a	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization ^b	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Most serious offense				
Violent sexual offense*	223,000	5.4%	4.3%	1.5%
Other violent offense	396,400	4.8	2.3 †	3.1 †
Property offense	148,700	4.0 †	2.2 †	2.3 ‡
Drug offense	203,500	2.3 †	1.0 †	1.5
Probation/parole/procedural violation	70,400	3.9 ‡	2.3 †	2.1
Other offense	86,400	2.3 †	1.5 †	1.1
Sentence length				
Less than 1 year	32,900	2.1%	1.1%	1.1%
1 year to 5 years*	229,100	2.5	1.3	1.4
5 years to 10 years	221,200	3.7 †	2.0 †	1.9
10 years to 20 years	234,800	3.9 †	2.1 †	2.2 †
20 years or more	250,100	4.7 †	3.0 †	2.3 †
Life/death	155,100	5.7 †	3.6 †	3.0 †
Time in current facility				
Less than 1 month*	72,900	2.3%	1.1%	1.5%
1 month to 6 months	283,700	3.1	1.7 ‡	1.5
6 months to 1 year	196,900	4.4 †	2.4 †	2.4 †
1 year to 2 years	202,600	4.7 †	2.7 †	2.6 †
2 years or more	418,200	4.6 †	2.8 †	2.4 †

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 3 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^aEstimates of the number of inmates nationwide are based on weighted data and rounded to the nearest 100.

^bDetails may not sum to totals because inmates could report multiple types of victimization.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 1.4

Sexual victimization in prisons across inmate surveys, by type of incident and inmate characteristics, 2011–12 and 2023–24

Inmate characteristic	Percent of prison inmates reporting inmate-on-inmate victimization		Percent of prison inmates reporting staff-on-inmate victimization ^a	
	NIS-3 (2011–12)	NIS-4 (2023–24)*	NIS-3 (2011–12)	NIS-4 (2023–24)*
Sex				
Male	1.7% †	2.2%	2.4%	2.2%
Female	6.9 †	4.1	2.3	2.3
Race/ethnicity				
White ^b	2.9%	2.9%	1.6%	1.3%
Black ^b	1.3	1.3	2.6	2.8
Hispanic	1.6 †	2.4	2.2	2.0
Multiracial ^b	4.0	3.5	3.9	3.3
Other ^{b,c}	1.7	1.7	2.6	1.7
Age				
18–19	1.6%	^	2.4%	^
20–24	2.2	1.5%	3.5	3.3%
25–34	2.3 ‡	2.9	2.9	2.8
35–44	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.2
45–54	2.0	2.1	1.7	1.8
55 or older	1.1 ‡	1.6	0.8 ‡	1.4
Most serious offense				
Violent sexual offense	3.7%	4.3%	2.1% ‡	1.5%
Other violent offense	2.3	2.3	3.4	3.1
Property offense	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.3
Drug offense	0.7	1.0	1.1 ‡	1.5
Other offense	1.7	1.9	2.1	1.6
Sentence length				
Less than 1 year	1.5%	1.1%	1.6%	1.1%
1 year to 5 years ^d	1.8 †	1.3	1.3	1.4
5 years to 10 years ^e	1.6	2.0	2.2	1.9
10 years to 20 years ^f	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.2
20 years or more	2.2	3.0	2.5	2.3
Life/death	2.7	3.6	3.2	3.0
Time in current facility				
Less than 1 month	1.4%	1.1%	0.8% ‡	1.5%
1 month to 6 months	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.5
6 months to 1 year	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.4
1 year to 2 years	2.1	2.7	2.6	2.6
2 years or more	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.4

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

^aCalled “staff sexual misconduct” in NIS-3 reports.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black persons).

^cIncludes American Indian or Alaska Native inmates, Asian inmates, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander inmates.

^dCalled “1–4 years” in NIS-3, but sentence length grouping is unchanged.

^eCalled “5–9 years” in NIS-3, but sentence length grouping is unchanged.

^fCalled “10–19 years” in NIS-3, but sentence length grouping is unchanged.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2011–12 and 2023–24.

TABLE 1.5**Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and reported disability or mental health status, 2023–24**

Disability or mental health status	Number of inmates ^a	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization ^b	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Disability				
Any reported disability				
No*	677,200	2.2%	1.1%	1.3%
Yes	500,600	6.3 †	3.9 †	3.1 †
Deaf/serious difficulty hearing				
No*	1,058,300	3.6%	2.1%	1.9%
Yes	105,200	6.7 †	4.1 †	3.7 †
Blind/serious difficulty seeing				
No*	1,033,900	3.5%	2.1%	1.8%
Yes	134,900	6.8 †	3.9 †	3.9 †
Serious difficulty walking/climbing stairs				
No*	1,018,300	3.6%	2.1%	1.9%
Yes	148,900	6.0 †	3.7 †	2.9 †
Difficulty dressing/bathing				
No*	1,122,900	3.6%	2.1%	1.9%
Yes	47,900	9.6 †	6.1 †	5.3 †
Serious difficulty concentrating/remembering/ making decisions due to physical/mental/ emotional problem				
No*	812,300	2.6%	1.2%	1.6%
Yes	330,900	7.1 †	4.9 †	3.1 †
Difficulty doing activities on own due to physical/mental/emotional problem				
No*	1,027,600	3.0%	1.7%	1.6%
Yes	133,900	10.3 †	6.8 †	4.8 †
Mental health condition				
Any reported mental health condition				
No*	434,900	1.6%	0.8%	1.0%
Yes	743,400	5.3 †	3.2 †	2.7 †
Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD)				
No*	783,600	3.0%	1.8%	1.6%
Yes	372,400	5.6 †	3.3 †	2.9 †
Dyslexia				
No*	1,074,100	3.6%	2.2%	1.9%
Yes	82,900	6.6 †	3.9 †	3.5 †
Learning disability				
No*	890,600	3.3%	1.9%	1.8%
Yes	269,400	5.8 †	3.6 †	2.8 †
Autism/Asperger's				
No*	1,127,100	3.6%	2.1%	1.9%
Yes	26,800	12.3 †	8.4 †	4.8 †
Depression/another mood disorder				
No*	716,300	2.2%	1.1%	1.3%
Yes	444,600	6.8 †	4.3 †	3.2 †
Schizophrenia/another psychotic disorder				
No*	1,018,900	3.3%	1.9%	1.7%
Yes	132,700	8.9 †	5.0 †	4.9 †
Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)				
No*	771,700	2.7%	1.6%	1.4%
Yes	375,000	6.6 †	4.0 †	3.4 †

Continued on next page

TABLE 1.5 (continued)**Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and reported disability or mental health status, 2023–24**

Disability or mental health status	Number of inmates ^a	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization ^b	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Another anxiety disorder				
No*	826,400	2.9%	1.6%	1.6%
Yes	323,100	6.5 †	4.1 †	3.2 †
Personality disorder				
No*	953,300	3.2%	1.8%	1.7%
Yes	191,500	7.5 †	4.9 †	3.8 †
Other mental/emotional condition				
No*	934,400	3.0%	1.7%	1.7%
Yes	193,700	8.0 †	5.2 †	3.7 †
Results of mental health screener^c				
No indicated mental health problem*	677,300	1.4%	0.8%	0.8%
Anxiety disorder	232,700	4.1 †	2.4 †	1.9 †
Serious psychological distress	239,400	10.7 †	6.5 †	5.6 †

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 5 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aEstimates of the number of inmates nationwide are based on weighted data and rounded to the nearest 100.

^bDetails may not sum to totals because inmates could report multiple types of victimization.

^cBased on the Kessler-6 (K6) scale, a six-item scale designed to provide rapid assessment of the prevalence of serious psychological distress (SPD) in population surveys. The K6 has been recognized as a broad screener rather than a specific screener for any one mental disorder. Studies have shown that K6-scale outcomes are consistent with blinded clinical diagnoses of SPD in general-population samples. K6 scores from 0 to 7 indicate no mental health problem, scores from 8 to 12 indicate an anxiety disorder, and scores of 13 to 24 indicate SPD. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 1.6**Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate social characteristics, 2023–24**

Inmate social characteristic	Number of inmates ^a	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization ^b	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Education				
Less than high school*	296,800	4.3%	2.1%	2.6%
High school graduate	493,700	3.1 †	1.8	1.6 †
Some college	284,500	4.7	2.9 †	2.3
College degree or more	121,000	5.9 †	3.8 †	3.1
Marital status				
Married*	182,500	3.7%	2.0%	2.0%
Widowed	34,300	3.2	2.0	2.2
Divorced	234,700	2.9	2.0	1.2 †
Separated	78,800	3.8	2.4	2.3
Never married	630,800	4.6 ‡	2.6	2.5
Ever served in U.S. Armed Forces				
No*	1,093,000	3.8%	2.1%	2.1%
Yes but not currently serving	89,100	5.2 ‡	4.1 †	2.7
Yes and currently serving	3,200	15.2 †	10.3 †	9.4 †
Type of military discharge^c				
Honorable*	46,200	4.6%	3.8%	2.3%
General under honorable conditions	18,700	4.6	3.8	2.0
Other than honorable/bad conduct/dishonorable	17,900	5.0	3.1	2.3
Some other type of discharge	3,500	3.0	^	^

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

^aEstimates of the number of inmates nationwide are based on weighted data and rounded to the nearest 100.

^bDetails may not sum to totals because inmates could report multiple types of victimization.

^cItem asked only of respondents who reported they had ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces but were not currently serving.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 1.7**Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate personal history, 2023–24**

Inmate personal history	Number of inmates ^a	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization ^b	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Age first time arrested/taken into custody				
15 or younger	395,600	4.6%	2.2%	2.8%
16–18*	322,600	4.1	2.4	2.3
19–24	229,100	3.9	2.4	1.9
25 or older	228,100	3.3 ‡	2.4	1.3 †
Number of times arrested				
1 time*	202,000	4.9%	3.2%	2.2%
2–3 times	328,900	4.3	2.3 ‡	2.4
4–10 times	396,400	3.7 †	2.2 †	1.8
11 or more times	209,800	3.8 ‡	2.0 †	2.3
Sexual victimization in lifetime prior to entering current facility				
No prior sexual victimization*	982,000	2.0%	0.8%	1.3%
Prior sexual victimization but not in another facility	152,700	9.5 †	6.4 †	4.4 †
Prior sexual victimization in another facility	46,600	30.6 †	22.6 †	13.0 †
Because of a problem with emotions/nerves/mental health, had:				
Ever stayed overnight in hospital/other facility				
No*	888,000	2.8%	1.5%	1.6%
Yes	276,600	7.2 †	4.7 †	3.5 †
Ever taken prescription medicine				
No*	615,500	1.7%	0.7%	1.1%
Yes	548,000	6.3 †	4.1 †	2.9 †
Ever received counseling/therapy from a trained professional				
No*	647,800	2.1%	0.9%	1.3%
Yes	511,500	6.0 †	4.0 †	2.8 †

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^aEstimates of the number of inmates nationwide are based on weighted data and rounded to the nearest 100.

^bDetails may not sum to totals because inmates could report multiple types of victimization.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 1.8**Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate experience in current facility, 2023–24**

Inmate experience	Number of inmates ^a	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization ^b	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Time spent in restrictive housing				
None*	886,300	2.5%	1.7%	1.1%
1 day or less	15,700	4.5	1.9	2.7
2–6 days	28,900	9.0 †	5.4 †	4.8 †
7–13 days	36,400	6.7 †	4.0 †	3.4 †
14–29 days	46,800	6.8 †	3.4 †	4.3 †
30 days or more	132,600	9.5 †	4.6 †	6.3 †
Perception of staff at facility ^c				
Low*	337,200	7.6%	3.8%	4.7%
Medium	236,100	3.9 †	2.8 †	1.5 †
High	229,600	1.7 †	1.2 †	0.7 †
Social ties at facility ^d				
Low*	230,100	4.4%	2.1%	2.8%
Medium	264,800	4.8	2.7	2.7
High	277,200	3.9	2.6	1.7 †

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aEstimates of the number of inmates nationwide are based on weighted data and rounded to the nearest 100.

^bDetails may not sum to totals because inmates could report multiple types of victimization.

^cInmates were asked nine questions about facility staff. See *Methodology*.

^dInmates were asked five questions about social ties with other inmates and facility staff. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 1.9

Circumstances surrounding incidents of sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident, inmate sex, and victim experiences, 2023–24

Victim experience	Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization:			Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting*	Percent of females reporting	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting*	Percent of females reporting
Number of incidents						
1	19.1%	18.8%	20.9%	21.0%	21.0%	21.9%
2	20.8	19.0	32.0 †	27.5	28.1	21.4
3–5	20.9	20.1	25.8	21.3	20.7	27.5 ‡
6–10	18.3	19.3	12.2 †	10.8	10.4	15.4 ‡
More than 10	20.9	22.7	9.2 †	19.4	20.0	13.8 ‡
When victimization first happened^a						
During first 24 hours	14.5%	15.3%	5.7% †	11.8%	12.7%	3.9% †
During first 3 days (but not first 24 hours)	12.5	13.5	^	5.8	6.0	3.5
During first 30 days (but not first 3 days)	25.2	26.0	16.4 ‡	16.6	16.0	22.1
During first 6 months (but not first 30 days)	20.5	19.8	27.7	22.6	22.2	26.2
During first year (but not first 6 months)	11.0	10.9	11.5	18.4	18.2	20.9
After first year	16.3	14.4	36.8 †	24.8	25.0	23.4
Victim physically injured^b						
Yes	25.0%	25.8%	19.5% †	19.9%	20.1%	17.3%
No	75.0	74.2	80.5 †	80.1	79.9	82.7
Sex of staff^b						
Male facility staff	~	~	~	39.8%	38.1%	59.4% †
Female facility staff	~	~	~	44.7	46.8	20.2 †
Both male and female facility staff	~	~	~	15.5	15.1	20.4
Type of staff^{b,c}						
Correctional officers	~	~	~	79.9%	80.0%	78.6%
Other staff working in the facility	~	~	~	27.0	27.4	22.6
Volunteers in the facility	~	~	~	11.9	12.4	5.9 †

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

~Not applicable.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

^aBased on when the inmate first arrived at the facility on the current admission.

^bItem covers all incidents in the past 12 months or since admission to the facility if the inmate had been in the facility for less than 12 months.

^cDetails do not sum to 100% because some inmates selected multiple types of staff.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

Section 2. Most recent incidents of sexual victimization

Tables in this section include incident and perpetrator characteristics for the most recent incident of sexual victimization. All inmates were asked about sexual victimization in the 12 months prior to the survey or since admission to the facility if the date of admission was less than 12 months prior. Those respondents who indicated at least one sexual victimization were then asked additional follow-up questions about the most recent incident.

- A larger percentage of male victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization thought the most recent incident happened because of their age (34.7%), race or ethnicity (33.9%), or religion (7.9%) than female victims (20.9% age, 17.4% race or ethnicity, and 3.2% religion) (**table 2.1**).
- The percentage of male victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization who reported being given a bribe (28.8%), offered protection from other inmates (24.2%), or threatened with a weapon (23.2%) in the most recent incident was more than double that of female victims (14.0% bribed, 10.6% offered protection, and 8.7% threatened).
- Eighteen percent of victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization reported being physically injured in the most recent incident.
- More than one-quarter (27.7%) of victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization reported the most recent incident to someone. Of those victims who reported the incident, 23.0% reported it to a correctional officer and 17.0% reported it to administrative staff (**table 2.2**).
- After the most recent incidents of inmate-on-inmate victimization, more than 3 in 10 victims reported that the perpetrator threatened to hurt the victim to keep it a secret, said they would blame it on the victim if the victim told anyone, had some type of sexual contact with the victim again, or gave the victim gifts or money to keep it a secret.
- More than twice the percentage of male victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that, after the most recent incident, the perpetrator threatened to hurt the victim to keep it a secret (39.2%) or threatened to harm the victim's family (14.8%) than female victims (17.7% victim threatened and 4.2% victim's family threatened).
- After the most recent incident, a majority of victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization said they kept to themselves more (76.3%), avoided certain inmates (73.9%), stayed in their own cell or housing area more (67.3%), or avoided certain areas of the facility (60.5%).
- A larger percentage of male victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that, after the most recent incident, they worked out to bulk up (30.8%) or carried a weapon (18.5%) than female victims (17.0% bulked up and 9.1% carried a weapon).
- A larger percentage of female victims (91.5%) of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that the most recent incident involved a single perpetrator than male victims (83.0%) (**table 2.3**).
- More than three-quarters (79.5%) of victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that the most recent incident involved one or more male perpetrators.
- Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization, 61.4% reported the most recent incident involved one or more black perpetrators, 37.2% involved white perpetrators, and 19.7% involved Hispanic perpetrators.
- Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization who reported the most recent incident, 4.9% said the perpetrator(s) was charged with a crime and 21.6% reported the perpetrator(s) was written up.
- Half the victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that prior to the most recent incident the staff person talked about sex, joked about sex, or shared sexual stories with the victim (**table 2.4**).
- A larger percentage of female victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported being persuaded or talked into the most recent incident (47.8%) or given a bribe (33.8%) than male victims (31.7% persuaded and 19.7% bribed).
- A smaller percentage of female victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported being threatened with harm (19.0%) or a weapon (6.6%) in the most recent incident than male victims (31.4% threatened with harm and 14.0% with a weapon).
- Eighteen percent of victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported being physically injured in the most recent incident.

- About one-third (33.8%) of victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported their most recent incident to someone. Of those victims who reported the incident, 23.3% reported it to administrative staff, 20.9% to another inmate, and 19.2% to a family member or friend (**table 2.5**).
- Inmates who reported their most recent incident of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization to someone were sometimes punished: 48.3% were written up and 19.0% were given a higher level of custody within the facility.
- About 3 in 10 victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that after the most recent incident the perpetrator had some type of sexual contact with the victim again (31.3%) or said they would blame it on the victim if they told anyone (28.3%).
- A larger percentage of male victims (24.0%) of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that, after the most recent incident, the perpetrator threatened to hurt them to keep it a secret than female victims (13.7%), but a larger percentage of female victims (34.1%) said the perpetrator gave them gifts or money to keep it a secret than male victims (20.7%).
- More than half of victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that, after the most recent incident, they kept to themselves more (54.1%) or avoided certain staff (51.3%).
- About 7 in 10 (71.4%) victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization reported that the most recent incident involved a single perpetrator (**table 2.6**).
- A larger percentage of male victims (44.7%) of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization than female victims (16.5%) reported that the most recent incident involved only female perpetrators, while a larger percentage of female victims (69.8%) than male victims (47.7%) reported that the incident involved only male perpetrators.
- Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization, 65.8% reported the most recent incident involved one or more white perpetrators, 29.7% involved black perpetrators, and 18.7% involved Hispanic perpetrators.
- Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization who reported the most recent incident, 5.6% said the perpetrator(s) was fired and 4.0% reported the perpetrator(s) was charged with a crime.
- Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization who reported the most recent incident to someone, a larger percentage of female victims (43.6%) than male victims (19.8%) reported that the perpetrator received any of a list of sanctions.

TABLE 2.1

Incident characteristics in most recent incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24

Incident characteristic	Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting*	Percent of females reporting
Victim thinks incident happened because of their:			
Race/ethnicity	31.8%	33.9%	17.4% †
Age	33.0	34.7	20.9†
Religion	7.3	7.9	3.2†
Gang affiliation	6.7	6.5	7.5
Personal identity ^a	80.1	80.1	79.4
Sexual orientation ^b	85.8	88.1	72.2†
Type of pressure/force			
Persuaded/talked into it	54.3%	55.5%	46.3% †
Given a bribe	26.9	28.8	14.0†
Blackmailed	25.2	26.2	18.7
Given drugs/alcohol to get victim high/drunken	29.5	31.2	17.7†
Offered protection from other inmates	22.4	24.2	10.6†
Trying to pay off/settle a debt that victim owed	16.2	17.1	10.0
Threatened with harm	36.8	39.1	21.1†
Physically held down/restrained	23.9	24.8	17.1†
Physically harmed/injured	18.2	18.9	13.3
Threatened with a weapon	21.4	23.2	8.7†
Victim physically injured			
Yes	17.9%	18.2%	15.9%
No	82.1	81.8	84.1

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding or because inmates could select multiple characteristics. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^aAmong victims whose personal identity is different from their sex. See *Methodology*.

^bAmong victims who reported identifying as something other than heterosexual.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 2.2**Post-incident actions in most recent incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24**

Post-incident action	Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting*	Percent of females reporting
Victim reported incident			
Yes	27.7%	27.9%	26.4%
To a correctional officer	23.0	23.4	20.6
To an administrative staff person	17.0	17.2	15.8
To a medical/healthcare staff person	14.4	14.8	12.2
To an instructor/teacher	3.1	3.1	2.8
To a counselor/other mental health care provider	14.4	14.7	12.4
To a chaplain/other religious official	2.4	2.5	^
To a volunteer	2.9	3.0	^
To some other type of facility staff person	12.3	12.8	8.7
To a telephone hotline	4.6	4.6	4.5
To another inmate	12.4	11.7	17.1 ‡
To a family member/friend	8.9	8.3	12.9 ‡
No	72.3	72.1	73.6
Treatment of victim after reporting incident			
Moved to administrative segregation/other protective housing	32.6%	31.0%	44.6%
Placed in a medical unit/ward/hospital	18.1	18.3	16.5
Confined to their own cell/room/housing area	31.5	32.7	23.3
Given a higher level of custody within the facility	10.1	9.7	12.7
Offered a transfer to another facility	7.9	8.5	^
Written up	29.7	30.3	25.5
Contact with perpetrator after incident			
Gave victim gifts/money to keep it secret	31.6%	33.6%	19.0% †
Threatened to hurt victim to keep it secret	36.3	39.2	17.7 †
Said they would blame it on victim if victim told anyone	35.2	36.3	27.6 †
Said they would stop spending time with victim if victim told anyone	11.3	10.8	14.7
Had some type of sexual contact with victim again	34.9	36.3	25.9 †
Ignored victim/stayed away from victim	24.9	24.4	28.0
Threatened to harm victim's family	13.4	14.8	4.2 †
Hurt victim/beat victim up	23.1	23.7	19.4
Victim's actions after the incident			
Joined a gang	4.7%	5.2%	^
Carried a weapon	17.3	18.5	9.1% †
Fought more	17.9	17.9	18.2
Worked out in order to bulk up	29.0	30.8	17.0 †
Avoided certain areas	60.5	61.1	56.2
Kept to self more	76.3	76.5	74.9
Stayed in their own cell/housing area more	67.3	67.0	69.2
Joined a religious group	18.4	18.2	19.8
Avoided certain inmates	73.9	74.5	69.9
Requested protective custody	15.9	16.2	13.8
Requested transfer to another facility	20.9	21.7	15.7
Requested a different housing unit/pod/dormitory	35.5	34.5	43.0 ‡
Contacted someone on the outside for help	23.1	23.2	22.0
Tried to stay near facility staff	25.5	25.9	22.3
Paid another inmate for protection	10.9	11.3	7.6

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding or because inmates could select multiple actions. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 11 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 2.3

Perpetrator characteristics in most recent incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24

Perpetrator characteristic	Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting*	Percent of females reporting
Multiple perpetrators involved in incident			
Yes	15.9%	17.0%	8.5% †
No	84.1	83.0	91.5 †
Perceived identity of perpetrator(s)			
Male	79.5%	90.9%	6.9% †
Female	12.1	^	86.6
Transgender	10.9	10.8	11.5
Race/ethnicity of perpetrator(s)			
White	37.2%	37.0%	38.4%
Black	61.4	62.0	57.5
Hispanic	19.7	20.1	17.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	8.1	7.8	10.4
Asian	1.3	1.2	^
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3.3	3.0	5.2
Treatment of perpetrator(s) after victim reported incident			
Moved to administrative segregation/other protective housing	37.0%	38.4%	28.0%
Placed in a medical unit/ward/hospital	5.9	^	^
Confined to their own cell/room/housing area	20.9	21.3	18.5
Given a higher level of custody	10.5	10.6	^
Transferred to another facility	18.8	21.1	^
Written up	21.6	22.5	16.0
Lost privileges	14.8	14.0	19.9
Charged with a crime	4.9	^	^
Any of the above sanctions	54.4	56.5	40.3 †

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding or because inmates could select multiple characteristics. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 12 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 2.4

Incident characteristics in most recent incidents of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24

Incident characteristic	Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting*	Percent of females reporting
Victim thinks incident happened because of their:			
Race/ethnicity	39.3%	39.9%	33.3%
Age	27.5	27.1	32.2
Religion	15.1	15.3	12.6
Gang affiliation	15.1	15.5	10.4
Personal identity ^a	64.7	71.6	27.7†
Sexual orientation ^b	59.6	62.7	49.1
Prior contact/relationship between victim and staff			
Staff told inmate about personal life outside of work	46.6%	44.7%	68.9% †
Staff gave inmate pictures	14.2	14.6	9.3
Staff wrote letters to inmate	21.5	21.5	22.1
Staff offered inmate drugs/cigarettes/alcohol/other items not allowed in facility	27.7	27.0	35.9 ‡
Staff gave inmate money	18.5	17.6	27.7 †
Staff did things to get inmate out of trouble	28.5	27.9	35.2
Staff spent time alone with inmate asking not to tell anyone about it	41.6	40.8	50.8
Staff told inmate that they had special feelings/was in love with inmate	31.9	31.0	42.2 ‡
Staff talked about sex/joked about sex/shared sexual stories with inmate	50.2	49.0	65.0 †
Type of pressure/force			
Persuaded/talked into it	33.0%	31.7%	47.8% †
Given a bribe	20.8	19.7	33.8 †
Blackmailed	22.3	22.5	20.5
Given drugs/alcohol to get victim high/drunken	15.4	15.1	19.4
Offered protection from other inmates	9.1	9.0	10.3
Trying to pay off/settle a debt that victim owed	5.0	4.9	6.5
Threatened with harm	30.4	31.4	19.0 †
Physically held down/restrained	16.8	17.0	14.7
Physically harmed/injured	16.2	16.5	12.8
Threatened with a weapon	13.4	14.0	6.6 †
Told that victim's family would be deported	2.8	2.6	5.6
Told that victim would lose visitation privileges	14.6	14.6	15.4
Victim physically injured			
Yes	18.0%	18.6%	10.5% ‡
No	82.0	81.4	89.5 ‡

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding or because inmates could select multiple characteristics. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 13 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^aAmong victims whose personal identity is different from their sex. See *Methodology*.

^bAmong victims who reported identifying as something other than heterosexual.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 2.5**Post-incident actions in most recent incidents of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24**

Post-incident action	Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting*	Percent of females reporting
Victim reported incident			
Yes	33.8%	34.3%	28.4%
To a correctional officer	18.0	17.9	19.4
To an administrative staff person	23.3	23.4	21.5
To a medical/healthcare staff person	12.7	12.5	14.8
To an instructor/teacher	3.0	2.7	6.5 †
To a counselor/other mental health care provider	17.8	17.9	17.1
To a chaplain/other religious official	4.5	4.4	5.7
To a volunteer	4.4	4.3	6.0
To some other type of facility staff person	14.5	14.6	13.4
To a telephone hotline	10.6	10.5	12.1
To another inmate	20.9	20.8	21.7
To a family member or friend	19.2	19.2	19.0
No	66.2	65.7	71.6
Treatment of victim after reporting incident			
Moved to administrative segregation/other protective housing	27.8%	28.2%	23.1%
Placed in a medical unit/ward/hospital	7.0	7.0	6.4
Confined to their own cell/room/housing area	28.7	28.9	25.8
Given a higher level of custody within the facility	19.0	19.6	9.8 ‡
Offered a transfer to another facility	12.5	12.5	^
Written up	48.3	49.2	35.7
Contact with staff after incident			
Gave victim gifts/money to keep it secret	21.7%	20.7%	34.1% †
Threatened to hurt victim to keep it secret	23.3	24.0	13.7 †
Said they would blame it on victim if victim told anyone	28.3	28.0	31.8
Said they would stop spending time with victim if victim told anyone	18.0	18.2	15.0
Had sexual contact with victim again	31.3	31.2	32.4
Ignored victim/stayed away from victim	25.6	25.5	26.3
Victim's actions after the incident			
Joined a gang	6.6%	6.9%	^
Carried a weapon	12.4	12.4	11.9%
Fought more	12.8	12.9	11.5
Worked out in order to bulk up	24.7	26.0	9.0 †
Tried to make themselves look less attractive	23.7	23.7	23.3
Avoided certain areas	41.1	40.1	53.5 †
Kept to self more	54.1	53.6	60.1
Stayed in own cell/housing area more	49.0	48.6	52.6
Joined a religious group	15.1	14.5	21.8
Avoided certain staff	51.3	50.9	56.9
Requested protective custody	12.1	12.2	10.7
Requested transfer to another facility	32.2	33.1	20.8 †

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding or because inmates could select multiple actions. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 14 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

TABLE 2.6

Perpetrator characteristics in most recent incidents of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24

Perpetrator characteristic	Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting*	Percent of females reporting
Multiple staff perpetrators involved in incident			
Yes	28.6%	29.2%	20.6%
No	71.4	70.8	79.4
Sex of staff			
Male(s) only	49.6%	47.7%	69.8% †
Female(s) only	42.2	44.7	16.5 †
Both male(s) and female(s)	8.1	7.6	13.8 ‡
Race/ethnicity of staff			
White	65.8%	66.6%	56.0%
Black	29.7	28.3	45.3 †
Hispanic	18.7	18.6	20.0
American Indian/Alaska Native	6.9	6.6	10.3
Asian	6.2	6.4	^
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	5.7	5.6	7.3
Type of staff			
Correctional officer(s)	78.1%	78.1%	77.8%
Other staff person(s) working in the facility	23.1	22.7	27.7
Volunteer(s) in the facility	16.3	16.1	18.6
Treatment of staff after victim reported incident			
Fired	5.6%	^	20.3%
Transferred to another facility	6.8	^	20.2
Transferred to different job at this facility	11.3	11.5%	^
Charged with a crime	4.0	^	^
Suspended for a period of time	7.3	^	25.2
Punished/disciplined in some other way	9.6	9.2	^
Any of the above sanctions	21.4	19.8	43.6 †

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about the type of incident. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding or because inmates could select multiple characteristics. Estimates are based on nonmissing records. See appendix table 15 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^Fewer than six cases. Estimate suppressed to avoid disclosing data for individual cases.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

Methodology

The National Inmate Survey, 2023–24 (NIS-4) was conducted in 177 state and federal prisons from March 2023 to March 2024.³ The data were collected by RTI International under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

The NIS administered two questionnaires to inmates: (1) 95% of inmates received the main survey about sexual victimization in prisons and (2) 5% received an alternative survey that included questions about activities within the facility, visitors and outside contact, facility climate, and childhood experiences. To protect the confidentiality of all participating inmates, the questionnaires were randomly assigned so that, at the time of the interview, the content of the survey remained unknown to facility staff, survey interviewers, and other inmates.

The interviews, which averaged 35 minutes in length, used computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) and audio computer-assisted self-interviewing (ACASI) data collection methods. For about the first 2 minutes, survey interviewers conducted a personal interview using CAPI to obtain background information and date of admission to the facility. For the remainder of the interview, respondents interacted with a computer-administered questionnaire using a touchscreen and synchronized audio instructions delivered via headphones. Respondents completed the ACASI portion of the interview privately. ACASI administration helped elicit more candid responses on sensitive subjects and behaviors, reduced literacy issues, and protected respondents' privacy. While underreporting of behaviors may exist, the relative extent of it is unknown.

A shorter, paper questionnaire was made available for inmates who were unable to come to the private interviewing room or interact with the computer. Completed paper forms were collected from 241 prison inmates (0.9% of survey respondents). Most of these inmates were housed in administrative or disciplinary segregation or were considered by the facility too violent to be interviewed.

³For more information about the NIS, see <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/national-inmate-survey-nis>.

Before the interview, inmates were informed verbally and in writing that participation was voluntary and that all information provided would be held in confidence. Interviews were conducted in either English (97.9%) or Spanish (2.1%).

Sampling of facilities

The frame of prison facilities for the NIS-4 was based on the BJS 2016 Survey of Prison Inmates and supplemented with additional research and outreach to state departments of corrections (DOCs) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) to (1) confirm the list of facilities and (2) provide basic population information (number of male inmates and number of female inmates). The NIS-4 was restricted to confinement facilities—institutions in which fewer than 50% of the inmates were regularly permitted to leave, unaccompanied by staff, for work, study, or treatment. Such facilities included prisons, penitentiaries, prison hospitals, prison farms, boot camps, and centers for reception, classification, or alcohol and drug treatment. The NIS-4 excluded community-based facilities, such as halfway houses, group homes, and work release centers. The final eligible universe consisted of 1,138 state prisons containing 1,182,587 inmates and 202 federal prisons containing 168,016 inmates.

State and federal prisons were sequentially sampled with probabilities of selection proportionate to size (as measured by the number of inmates held based on DOC and FBOP responses during the frame construction process). Facilities on the sampling frame were stratified by sex of inmates housed and whether the facility was operated by a state DOC or the FBOP:

- Among facilities that housed males, the measure of size for facilities was set at the estimated total population enumerated on the frame.
- Among facilities with an inmate population that was greater than 50% female, the measure of size was set to five times their estimated total population on the frame.

The sample was allocated to each stratum proportionally to the total measure of size within each stratum. Within each stratum, facilities in the sampling frame were first sorted by region, state, and public or private operation. Facilities were sampled to ensure that at least one facility in each state was selected. Federal facilities were grouped together and treated like a state for sampling purposes. The remaining facilities were selected from each region with probabilities proportionate to size. This led to an initial sample of 240 prisons: 160 male, state-operated facilities; 59 female, state-operated facilities; 16 male, FBOP-operated facilities; and 5 female, FBOP-operated facilities.⁴

The sample was further split into a main and reserve sample. The reserve sample was selected through a systematic sample from within each stratum (states with only one facility selected were included in the main sample with certainty; all other states had at least one facility selected through the systematic sample). The main sample consisted of 170 facilities and the reserve sample consisted of 70 facilities.

Of the 240 prisons selected for the NIS-4, 12 were determined to be ineligible (9 had closed, 1 facility was sampled as a female facility but housed only males by the time of data collection, 1 exclusively housed inmates for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and 1 housed mostly inmates unable to consent to interviews due to severe mental illness). Because of resource constraints, 39 facilities in the reserve sample were excluded from data collection and considered ineligible.

The four sampled facilities in Tennessee were not surveyed because the Tennessee DOC refused to participate in the NIS-4: Bledsoe County Correctional Complex, Hardeman County Correctional Facility, Northwest Correctional Complex, and West Tennessee State Penitentiary.

Due to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's concerns around burden, eight California prisons also were excluded from data collection: California Institution for Men; Delano Modified Community Correctional Facility; High Desert State Prison; Ironwood State Prison; North Kern

State Prison; Pelican Bay State Prison; Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, Corcoran; and Valley State Prison.

The remaining 177 prison facilities all participated fully in the NIS-4. The final facility-level response rate was 93.7% (177 participating facilities of the 189 eligible).

Sampling of inmates

Within each sampled prison, the universe for inmate sampling consisted of all inmates age 16 or older held in the facility during the assigned week of data collection for the facility. A roster of inmates was obtained just prior to the start of data collection at each facility. Inmates age 15 or younger were considered ineligible for the NIS-4 and deleted from the roster.

The number of inmates sampled in each facility varied based on six criteria:

- an expected sexual victimization prevalence rate of 4%
- a desired level of precision based on a standard error of 1.75%
- a projected 70% response rate among selected inmates
- a 5% chance among participating inmates of not receiving the sexual victimization questionnaire
- an adjustment factor of 1.9 to account for the complex survey design
- the size of the facility.

Each eligible inmate was assigned a random number and sorted in ascending order. Inmates were selected from the list up to the expected number of inmates determined by the sampling criteria. No special consideration was made for inmates age 16 or 17. If present, inmates age 16 or 17 had the same probability of selection as inmates age 18 or older.

A total of 55,494 prison inmates were selected. After selection, 2,563 ineligible inmates were excluded: 1,876 (3.4%) were released or transferred to another facility before interviewing began, 534 (1.0%) were mentally or physically unable to be interviewed, 45 (0.1%) were on unsupervised work release, 6 (<0.1%) were selected in error (i.e., an inmate was incorrectly listed on the facility roster), 5 (<0.1%) were age 15 or younger or their age could not be obtained during the interview process, and 97 (0.2%) were ineligible for other reasons. Of all sampled inmates, 52,931 were eligible for the survey.

⁴In this report, facilities that house both females and males are identified as a female or male facility based on whichever sex makes up the majority of inmates housed (i.e., if the percentage of inmates housed is 50% or greater male, then the facility is designated a male facility, while if more than 50% of the inmates are female, then the facility is designated a female facility). For prior iterations of the NIS, the sex of the facility was defined as female if all inmates housed at the facility were female and male if the population housed was mixed or all male.

Inmate response rate

Of the 52,931 eligible sampled inmates, 39.6% refused to participate in the survey, 2.4% were not interviewed due to survey logistics (e.g., language barriers, releases, and transfers to another facility after interviewing began), 1.9% were not available to be interviewed (e.g., in court, in medical segregation, determined by the facility to be too violent to be interviewed, or restricted from participation by another legal jurisdiction), and 0.3% were nonrespondents for any other reason.

The final inmate-level response rate was 55.8% (29,536 participating inmates). Separate response rates were calculated for each participating facility. An initial response rate for each facility was calculated by dividing the number of inmates who participated in the NIS-4 by the number of eligible inmates sampled at the facility. The final response rate was then multiplied by 100.

Checking of interviews for inconsistent response patterns

Once data collection was completed, individual response patterns were assessed to identify incomplete interviews. In 321 interviews, the inmate failed to complete enough questions for the interview to be considered completed. These interviews were excluded from the calculations of sexual victimization. The amount of time the interview took was also reviewed. Inmates whose average time for the sexual victimization items was less than 3 seconds per item and inmates who reported victimization but had an overall interview length of less than 12 minutes for English respondents and less than 15 minutes for Spanish respondents had their data removed. The average interview length was 35 minutes for English respondents and 48 minutes for Spanish respondents.⁵

Interviews were also examined for inconsistent response patterns in questions about inmate characteristics (e.g., education, age, ever served in armed forces) and items related to victimization (e.g., reporting of victimization, response to interview debriefing questions). Comparisons were made between responses to initial questions and detailed follow-up questions. Inconsistencies were identified as unlikely, highly unlikely, or extremely unlikely to be accurate.

For the ACASI questionnaire, 16 inconsistencies were flagged: 9 were deemed unlikely, 6 were deemed highly unlikely, and 1 was deemed extremely unlikely.

⁵Sixty-four interviews (0.2% of respondents) had interview times exceeding 8 hours, indicating the timer did not function as intended. These interviews were excluded from this calculation.

An example of an unlikely flag is when a 16- to 17-year-old reported having served in the U.S. Armed Forces. An example of a highly unlikely flag is when a respondent indicated that the first time a victimization occurred was before admission to the facility. The extremely unlikely flag is that the inmate responded yes to 15 of the 17 sex-specific staff-on-inmate and inmate-on-inmate victimization items. The inmate's data were removed if the extremely unlikely flag and at least one highly unlikely flag were triggered or if the extremely unlikely flag and four or more unlikely flags were triggered. In addition, if the extremely unlikely flag was triggered and the inmate reported that the responses provided in the interview were not very accurate, the inmate's data were removed.

Overall, the results revealed very high levels of consistency in survey responses. Of 27,615 respondents to the sexual victimization survey, 60 inmates were removed because they failed at least one of the quality control criteria. Altogether, 98.7% (29,155) of participating inmates provided usable sexual victimization (27,555) or alternative survey data (1,600).

Surveys included in analysis

As noted above, 16- and 17-year-olds were eligible for the survey. In participating facilities, there were 86 16- to 17-year-olds rostered and 18 sampled in facilities providing date of birth. Additional 16- to 17-year-olds may have been rostered and sampled in facilities that did not provide date of birth on the facility roster. Data collection resulted in 14 completed sexual victimization surveys by 16- to 17-year-olds. No alternative surveys were completed by 16- to 17-year-olds. Due to concerns about the representativeness of the facilities that housed 16- to 17-year-olds, completeness of the rosters, and small sample size, these cases were removed from analyses in this report. Therefore, all analyses are based on completed sexual victimization surveys among adult participants (27,541).

Weighting and nonresponse adjustments

Responses from interviewed inmates were weighted to provide national-level estimates. Because the NIS relies on a sample, weights are designed to adjust to known population totals and to compensate for survey nonresponse and other aspects of the complex sample design.

The national-level base weight was equal to the simple inverse of the facility's first-stage probability of selection. Twenty-four facilities were selected with certainty. First-stage ratio adjustments accounting for facility subsampling and nonresponse were performed within sampling strata.⁶ The subsample-adjusted first-stage weight is the product of the facility base weight and the subsampling adjustment. The nonresponse adjustment was computed (within weighting classes) as the sum of the subsample-adjusted weights for the subsampled units divided by the sum of the subsample-adjusted weights for all responding units. The final first-stage weights for each sampled facility were the product of the subsample-adjusted weight and this ratio.

Replicates for national estimates were created using the paired jackknife (JK2) method. Cooperating noncertainty facilities were paired (or a set of three was created if necessary) separately within each sampling stratum. Within each pair or set of three (triplets), one prison was randomly assigned to be given a weight of 0, and the other prison had its weight set to twice the base weight (for pairs) or 1.5 times the base weight (for triplets). One set of replicate weights was created for each pair or set of three prisons. Facility-level nonresponse adjustments were then performed for the full-sample and replicate weights, using stratum as the nonresponse cell.

In the second stage of weighting, the nonresponse-adjusted first-stage national weight was first applied to each inmate in a facility. Before creating the national second-stage base weight, the replicates were further adjusted to account for the 24 certainty facilities, where inmate selection was their first stage of sample selection. For these facilities, the first 74 facility-level replicate weights were equal to the full-sample weight. To account for the sampling that occurred in each facility, an additional 24 replicates were created, one for each of the certainty prisons, using the JK2 method. For each of the additional 24 replicate weights, a random half of the inmates in a certainty facility had their weight set to 0 for this replicate, and the other half's replicate weight was set to equal twice the base weight. For the noncertainty facilities, where replication was done earlier, their 75th to 98th replicates were set equal to the full-sample weight to account for the additional replicates. The national second-stage weight was then created. This weight was computed and is equal to the first-stage weights (full and replicates) divided by an inmate's selection probability.

⁶Except in California, which had its own subsampling adjustment equal to the number of sampled prisons divided by the number of subsampled prisons.

The inmate-level weighting adjustment accounted for both selection into the sexual victimization survey and survey nonresponse. This adjustment was performed by adjusting the weights of the inmates sampled into the core survey by a factor of 1/.95, to account for the 5% subsample into the alternative survey. Next, an inmate-level nonresponse adjustment was performed. Nonresponse adjustment cells were created using facility type (state or federal), region, respondent age, length of sentence, and length of time since admission. These cells were used to produce the inmate-level nonresponse-adjusted weights. The final step in the creation of the core survey weights was a calibration adjustment made to national control totals. These adjustments were done according to a raking process that raked the inmate to prison-frame control totals.

Raking was performed separately for females and males. All raking dimensions were done within sex and consisted of cells determined by Census region, length of sentence, and facility type. Each raking cell also had a minimum sample size of 30. The raked weights were checked to see whether the raking process created extreme weights. Any weights larger than 5 times the median weight or smaller than 1/3.5 times the median weight within each trimming cell were trimmed back to those levels using a raking and trimming algorithm (the weights are trimmed back and then re-raked to the control totals). Trimming cells were based on prison size, whether it was a majority-female prison or not, and sex. The minimum trimming cell size was 10. The replicate weights were also raked to their control totals in the same manner.

Testing statistical significance

When estimates are derived from a sample, caution must be used when comparing one estimate to another or when comparing estimates over time. Although one estimate may be larger than another, estimates based on a sample have some degree of sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate depends on several factors, including response rates, the amount of variation in the responses, and the size of the sample. Other, non-measured factors may introduce errors unrelated to sampling and not be accounted for in the estimates, for example: changes in the sampling frame, changes in the composition of prison populations, restrictions on inmate movement within a facility, and the effects of the Prison Rape Elimination Act Standards on facilities.

One measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate is the standard error. Standard errors for measures of sexual victimization are presented in appendix tables 1 through 15. Generally, an estimate with a smaller standard error provides a more reliable approximation of the true value than an estimate with a larger standard error. Standard errors can be used to construct confidence intervals around the survey estimates (e.g., numbers, percentages, and rates) and to test for significant differences between estimates.

For example, the 95% confidence interval around the percentage of inmates who reported sexual victimization by another inmate was approximately $2.3\% \pm 1.96 \times 0.17\%$ (or 2.0% to 2.6%). In other words, if BJS used the same sampling method to select different samples and computed an interval estimate for each sample, it would expect the true (but unknown) percentage to fall within the interval estimates 95% of the time.

BJS conducted tests to determine whether differences in estimated percentages in this report were statistically significant once sampling error was considered. The primary test procedure was the Student's t-statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates. To compare means for overlapping samples and not violate assumptions of independence in "Race/ethnicity alone or in combination," for each replicate weight BJS first created an estimate of the difference between the overlapping categories, then computed the variance of this estimated difference. All differences discussed in this report are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level, unless noted otherwise. Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed in this report.

Adjusting for item nonresponse

BJS imputed missing values for sex for 132 inmates (0.5% of respondents) from the facility rosters used for inmate sampling.

For number of incidents of sexual victimization, respondents were asked if specific behaviors *ever* happened, and, if so, respondents were asked how many times they happened, with four options: (1) 1 time, (2) 2 times, (3) 3 to 10 times, or (4) 11 times or more. If the respondent selected options 3 or 4, they were presented with follow-up questions to either select or write the specific number of times. BJS imputed answers for respondents who were routed to those questions but did not answer them, using 5 incidents for blank values in option 3 (3 to 10 times) and 12 incidents for blank values in option 4 (11 times or more). A total of 135 respondents (10.7% of respondents reporting victimization) had 1 or more items on number of incidents imputed.

Definitions and measures of race and ethnicity

In the NIS-4, BJS uses the race and ethnicity categories specified by the Office of Management and Budget's 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. The standards include five minimum categories of race (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, black, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and white) and two categories of ethnicity (Hispanic and not Hispanic) for purposes of data collection.

The "Race/ethnicity" characteristic in the tables presents data for (1) respondents reporting *one* of the race categories alone or reporting Hispanic origin and (2) a combination of all other respondents reporting *multiple* races into an aggregated Multiracial category. The percentages in this approach sum to 100% because the response categories are mutually exclusive, but data for some racial groups may be obscured (e.g., more than half the population who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native are assigned to the multiracial group).

To address this, these tables also include "Race/ethnicity alone or in combination." This approach combines all individuals belonging to a particular racial or ethnic group (whether alone or in combination with another racial or ethnic group). For example, a respondent who reported being both white and black would fall into both the "White alone or in combination" category and the "Black alone or in combination" category. The number of inmates across the categories sums to greater than the total number of inmates because the response categories are not mutually exclusive.

Measurement of sex and personal identity

The NIS-4 used a two-step approach to ask questions about sex and current personal identity. Responses to these questions were used to determine if an individual's personal identity is different from their sex or the same as their sex.

The ACASI questionnaire also used a confirmation question to check for potential coding errors in the program and responses where the respondent's current personal identity was different from their sex. If the respondent indicated that an error was made in recording their responses to either sex or current personal identity, they were presented those questions again to record correct responses.

Responses to sex and current personal identity were combined into a single measure of personal identity.⁷

Development of the K6

Developed by Kessler and colleagues, the Kessler-6 (K6) is a six-item scale designed to provide rapid assessment of the prevalence of serious psychological distress (SPD) in population surveys.⁸ The K6 consists of six questions that ask inmates to report how often during the past 30 days they had felt:

- nervous
- hopeless
- restless or fidgety
- so depressed that nothing could cheer them up
- everything was an effort
- worthless.

The response options were (1) all of the time, (2) most of the time, (3) some of the time, (4) a little of the time, and (5) none of the time. Following Kessler, the responses were coded from 4 to 0, with 4 assigned to “all of the time” and 0 assigned to “none of the time.” A summary scale combining the responses from all six items was then produced with a range of 0 to 24. The summary score was then reduced to three categories: 0 to 7 indicated no mental illness, 8 to 12 indicated an anxiety-mood disorder, and 13 to 24 indicated SPD.

The K6 has been recognized as a broad screener rather than a specific screener for any one mental disorder. Kessler and others have shown that the K6 outcomes are consistent with blinded clinical diagnoses of SPD in general population samples. Moreover, their statistical analyses of alternative scoring rules for the six items have shown the unweighted sum (based on codes 0 to 4, with a total sum ranging from 0 to 24) to be virtually identical to sums using other weighting schemes. The K6 is used under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 to

determine risk related to SPD and the incidence of sexual victimization. More-specific screening scales would be needed to determine whether sexual victimization was associated with particular mental disorders.

SPD status was determined by the sum of the responses to the K6 items. Since some inmates did not respond to all six items, inclusion and imputation criteria were developed. Only respondents who answered at least four of the K6 items were included in the estimates of SPD status.

A missing K6 item was imputed in a nearest neighbor approach (i.e., the donor value for the imputed value was the nearest previous nonmissing K6 response). If the nearest K6 item was missing, then the value from the first nonmissing response preceding the missing item was used as the donor. For example, if item 2 was not answered, but item 1 was answered, then the value from the first K6 item was used as the value for the selected K6 item. If the first K6 item was missing, then the first nonmissing value that followed was used as the donor. Because only respondents who answered at least four of the K6 items were included in the analysis, the donor response was never more than two items away from the item with the missing response.

Among the 27,541 respondents, 26,415 (95.9%) answered four or more items and were included in the estimates of SPD status. Of the included prison inmates, 1,805 (6.8%) had one or two items imputed.

Measuring inmate opinions on facility staff and social ties

The NIS-4 included nine questions that asked inmates whether they agreed or disagreed that staff at the facility:

- are generally fair
- do their best to make this facility safe and secure
- try to meet the needs of the inmates
- break up fights quickly
- use physical force only when necessary
- let inmates know what is expected of them
- generally treat inmates with respect
- follow facility rules when handling inmate complaints and grievances
- often write up inmates who don't deserve it.

⁷For this report, persons were identified as transgender if their responses to sex differed from their current personal identity, unless they reported their current identity as “None of these.” Those who reported “None of these” (152 respondents, 0.6%) were excluded from estimates on personal identity because the NIS does not collect write-in responses for this response category that would support classifying these individuals into the appropriate response category.

⁸Kessler, R. C., Barker, P. R., Colpe, L. J., Epstein, J. F., Gfroerer, J. C., Hiripi, E., Howes, M. J., Normand, S. L., Manderscheid, R. W., Walters, E. E., & Zaslavsky, A. M. (2003). Screening for serious mental illness in the general population. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 60(2), 184–189. <https://doi.org/10.1001/archpsyc.60.2.184> Ⓞ

For eight of the items, “agree” responses were coded as 1 and “disagree” as 0. The last item was coded in reverse order. The nine items were checked for reliability and generated a Cronbach’s alpha of 0.876.⁹ The response codes were summed to create an overall rating on opinion of facility staff for each inmate. Only the 18,284 respondents (66.4%) who answered all nine of the facility staff opinion items were included in the estimates.

Inmate social tie ratings were based on five questions:

- Are there inmates in this facility who you think of as your friends?
- Are there inmates in this facility who you can talk to about your personal problems?
- Are there inmates in this facility who would protect you if another inmate was trying to hurt you?
- Are there correctional officers or other staff at this facility who you can talk to about your problems?
- Are there correctional officers or other staff at this facility who would protect you if another inmate was trying to hurt you?

“Yes” responses were coded as 1 and “no” as 0. The five items were checked for reliability and generated a Cronbach’s alpha of 0.791. The response codes were summed to create a rating on social ties for each inmate. Only the 17,662 respondents (64.1%) who answered all five of the items on social ties were included in the estimates.

Exposure period

To calculate comparative rates of sexual victimization, respondents were asked to provide their most recent date of admission to the current facility. If the date of admission was at least 12 months prior to the date of the interview, inmates were asked questions related to their experiences during the past 12 months. If the admission date was less than 12 months prior to the interview, inmates were asked about their experiences since they arrived at the facility.

The average period of time measured by the sexual victimization survey was 8.9 months for federal prisoners and 8.6 months for state prisoners.

⁹Streiner, D. L. (2003). Starting at the beginning: An introduction to coefficient alpha and internal consistency. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 80(1), 99–103. https://doi.org/10.1207/S15327752JPA8001_18

Measuring sexual victimization

The NIS-4 sexual victimization survey relied on inmates reporting their own experiences rather than third-party reporting. Questions related to inmate-on-inmate sexual activity were asked separately from questions related to staff-on-inmate sexual activity.

The ACASI survey began with a series of questions that screened for specific sexual activities without restriction, including both wanted and unwanted sex and sexual contacts with other inmates. To fully measure all sexual activities, questions related to the touching of body parts in a sexual way were followed by questions related to manual stimulation and questions related to acts involving oral, anal, and vaginal sex. The nature of coercion (including use of physical force, pressure, and other forms of coercion) was measured for each type of reported sexual activity.

ACASI survey items related to staff-on-inmate sexual victimization were asked in a different order. Inmates were first asked about being pressured or being made to feel they had to have sex or sexual contact with the staff and then asked about being physically forced. In addition, inmates were asked if any facility staff had offered favors or special privileges in exchange for sex. Finally, inmates were asked if they willingly had sex or sexual contact with staff. All reports of sex or sexual contact between an inmate and facility staff, regardless of the level of coercion, were classified as staff-on-inmate sexual victimization.

The ACASI survey included additional questions related to both inmate-on-inmate and staff-on-inmate sexual victimization. These questions, known as latent class measures, were included to assess the reliability of the survey questionnaire. After being asked detailed questions, all inmates were asked a series of general questions to determine if they had experienced any type of unwanted sex or sexual contact with another inmate or had any sex or sexual contact with staff.

The entire ACASI questionnaire and a shorter paper and pencil interviewing form are available under [Questionnaires](#) on the NIS data collection page of the BJS website.

APPENDIX TABLE 1

Standard errors for table 1.1: Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate demographic characteristics, 2023–24

Inmate demographic characteristic	Number of inmates	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Sex				
Male	872	0.28%	0.18%	0.19%
Female	284	0.42	0.33	0.22
Race/ethnicity				
White	15,050	0.34%	0.31%	0.13%
Black	13,869	0.34	0.20	0.28
Hispanic	18,485	0.39	0.30	0.24
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,132	0.72	0.44	0.69
Asian	1,032	2.25	1.60	..
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	987	..	..	..
Multiracial	4,380	0.62	0.40	0.48
Race/ethnicity alone or in combination				
White alone or in combination	16,341	0.31%	0.26%	0.14%
Black alone or in combination	16,306	0.37	0.18	0.32
Hispanic alone or in combination	18,485	0.39	0.30	0.24
American Indian/Alaska Native alone or in combination	4,795	0.53	0.39	0.40
Asian alone or in combination	2,190	1.10	0.68	0.78
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination	2,690	1.35	0.67	1.05
Age				
18–19	1,018	..	..	..
20–24	3,161	0.73%	0.28%	0.63%
25–34	8,049	0.33	0.27	0.24
35–44	4,389	0.32	0.22	0.21
45–54	4,785	0.37	0.29	0.25
55 or older	8,862	0.37	0.26	0.23
Sexual orientation				
Heterosexual	4,294	0.23%	0.13%	0.17%
Bisexual	2,461	1.05	0.96	0.69
Gay/lesbian	1,003	1.89	1.80	0.87
Other	1,430	2.00	1.60	1.27
Personal identity				
Man	1,739	0.25%	0.16%	0.18%
Woman	265	0.41	0.33	0.20
Other	1,348	2.31	2.13	1.45

..Not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 2

Standard errors for table 1.2: Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident, inmate sex, and selected inmate demographic characteristics, 2023–24

Inmate demographic characteristic	Number of male inmates	Percent of male prison inmates reporting:			Number of female inmates	Percent of female prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate		Any sexual victimization	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Race/ethnicity								
White	14,959	0.38%	0.35%	0.15%	1,092	0.40%	0.37%	0.16%
Black	13,852	0.36	0.21	0.29	974	0.64	0.45	0.54
Hispanic	18,455	0.41	0.31	0.25	677	0.85	0.58	0.70
Multiracial	4,413	0.66	0.42	0.52	517	1.13	1.05	0.50
Other	1,795	0.72	0.50	0.66	706	1.95	1.68	0.86
Age								
18–19	1,017	..	..	..	38	..	..	..
20–24	3,086	0.77%	0.29%	0.67%	432	1.31%	0.98%	0.83%
25–34	7,933	0.36	0.29	0.26	811	0.64	0.55	0.36
35–44	4,309	0.34	0.24	0.23	436	0.61	0.44	0.43
45–54	4,683	0.39	0.31	0.27	703	0.56	0.47	0.26
55 or older	8,810	0.39	0.27	0.24	704	0.43	0.37	0.15
Sexual orientation								
Heterosexual	4,054	0.24%	0.14%	0.18%	1,505	0.41%	0.42%	0.19%
Bisexual	2,265	1.46	1.32	0.99	1,055	0.76	0.58	0.40
Gay/lesbian	954	2.71	2.60	1.24	435	1.18	0.91	0.85
Other	1,410	2.13	1.73	1.32	264	4.46	2.62	3.86
Personal Identity								
Same as sex	1,739	0.25%	0.16%	0.18%	265	0.41%	0.33%	0.20%
Different from sex	1,339	2.42	2.33	1.57	218	3.73	1.53	3.80

..Not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 3

Standard errors for table 1.3: Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate offense details, 2023–24

Inmate offense detail	Number of inmates	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Most serious offense				
Violent sexual offense	14,814	0.57%	0.45%	0.24%
Other violent offense	15,238	0.35	0.23	0.27
Property offense	5,331	0.42	0.31	0.35
Drug offense	7,439	0.23	0.14	0.19
Probation/parole/procedural violation	5,035	0.63	0.47	0.48
Other offense	4,924	0.35	0.29	0.24
Sentence length				
Less than 1 year	3,234	0.42%	0.37%	0.36%
1 year to 5 years	11,700	0.31	0.19	0.22
5 years to 10 years	8,381	0.38	0.23	0.33
10 years to 20 years	7,106	0.32	0.21	0.25
20 years or more	11,816	0.42	0.38	0.24
Life/death	15,405	0.64	0.49	0.41
Time in current facility				
Less than 1 month	9,339	0.41%	0.29%	0.28%
1 month to 6 months	10,885	0.30	0.22	0.21
6 months to 1 year	7,593	0.39	0.28	0.33
1 year to 2 years	6,475	0.49	0.35	0.37
2 years or more	20,043	0.34	0.24	0.20

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 4

Standard errors for table 1.4: Sexual victimization in prisons across inmate surveys, by type of incident and inmate characteristics, 2011–12 and 2023–24

Inmate demographic characteristic	Percent of prison inmates reporting inmate-on-inmate victimization		Percent of prison inmates reporting staff-on-inmate victimization	
	NIS-3 (2011–12)	NIS-4 (2023–24)	NIS-3 (2011–12)	NIS-4 (2023–24)
Sex				
Male	0.13%	0.18%	0.23%	0.19%
Female	0.70	0.33	0.26	0.22
Race/ethnicity				
White	0.27%	0.31%	0.19%	0.13%
Black	0.15	0.20	0.23	0.28
Hispanic	0.24	0.30	0.36	0.24
Multiracial	0.50	0.40	0.58	0.48
Other	0.42	0.47	0.68	0.60
Age				
18–19	0.68%	..	0.60%	..
20–24	0.30	0.28%	0.43	0.63%
25–34	0.21	0.27	0.28	0.24
35–44	0.24	0.22	0.37	0.21
45–54	0.26	0.29	0.22	0.25
55 or older	0.19	0.26	0.18	0.23
Most serious offense				
Violent sexual offense	0.42%	0.45%	0.26%	0.24%
Other violent offense	0.25	0.23	0.24	0.27
Property offense	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.35
Drug offense	0.12	0.14	0.22	0.19
Other offense	0.38	0.28	0.53	0.27
Sentence length				
Less than 1 year	0.42%	0.37%	0.45%	0.36%
1 year to 5 years	0.19	0.19	0.14	0.22
5 years to 10 years	0.20	0.23	0.26	0.33
10 years to 20 years	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.25
20 years or more	0.38	0.38	0.39	0.24
Life/death	0.43	0.49	0.38	0.41
Time in current facility				
Less than 1 month	0.39%	0.29%	0.22%	0.28%
1 month to 6 months	0.21	0.22	0.19	0.21
6 months to 1 year	0.22	0.28	0.35	0.33
1 year to 2 years	0.22	0.35	0.35	0.37
2 years or more	0.29	0.24	0.25	0.20

..Not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2011–12 and 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 5

Standard errors for table 1.5: Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and reported disability or mental health status, 2023–24

Disability or mental health status	Number of inmates	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Disability				
Any reported disability				
No	8,292	0.18%	0.12%	0.14%
Yes	8,039	0.43	0.30	0.26
Deaf/serious difficulty hearing				
No	4,367	0.24%	0.16%	0.17%
Yes	3,674	0.71	0.49	0.46
Blind/serious difficulty seeing				
No	5,482	0.22%	0.16%	0.15%
Yes	4,204	0.68	0.46	0.51
Serious difficulty walking/climbing stairs				
No	7,438	0.23%	0.16%	0.17%
Yes	6,966	0.60	0.47	0.38
Difficulty dressing/bathing				
No	4,643	0.23%	0.16%	0.16%
Yes	3,377	1.14	1.01	0.77
Serious difficulty concentrating/remembering/ making decisions due to physical/mental/ emotional problem				
No	7,395	0.18%	0.12%	0.13%
Yes	6,541	0.47	0.37	0.29
Difficulty doing activities on own due to physical/mental/emotional problem				
No	5,590	0.19%	0.13%	0.15%
Yes	4,591	0.90	0.69	0.52
Mental health condition				
Any reported mental health condition				
No	8,930	0.20%	0.13%	0.14%
Yes	9,273	0.32	0.24	0.22
Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD)				
No	7,941	0.23%	0.17%	0.14%
Yes	8,222	0.37	0.28	0.31
Dyslexia				
No	3,487	0.23%	0.17%	0.15%
Yes	2,495	0.69	0.49	0.57
Learning disability				
No	5,507	0.21%	0.15%	0.14%
Yes	5,411	0.44	0.33	0.30
Autism/Asperger's				
No	3,297	0.24%	0.16%	0.16%
Yes	1,242	1.41	1.28	1.03
Depression/another mood disorder				
No	8,972	0.18%	0.12%	0.14%
Yes	9,562	0.40	0.31	0.26
Schizophrenia/another psychotic disorder				
No	5,250	0.21%	0.14%	0.14%
Yes	4,993	0.68	0.52	0.54
Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)				
No	8,006	0.20%	0.14%	0.14%
Yes	8,362	0.44	0.32	0.28

Continued on next page

APPENDIX TABLE 5 (continued)

Standard errors for table 1.5: Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and reported disability or mental health status, 2023–24

Disability or mental health status	Number of inmates	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Another anxiety disorder				
No	7,766	0.22%	0.14%	0.15%
Yes	7,700	0.44	0.36	0.27
Personality disorder				
No	6,033	0.22%	0.15%	0.15%
Yes	5,725	0.52	0.45	0.34
Other mental/emotional condition				
No	5,270	0.22%	0.15%	0.14%
Yes	4,164	0.54	0.44	0.34
Results of mental health screener				
No indicated mental health problem	10,416	0.13%	0.09%	0.10%
Anxiety disorder	4,577	0.36	0.24	0.25
Serious psychological distress	8,066	0.66	0.48	0.49

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 6

Standard errors for table 1.6: Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate social characteristics, 2023–24

Inmate social characteristic	Number of inmates	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Education				
Less than high school	9,983	0.49%	0.27%	0.42%
High school graduate	7,194	0.23	0.17	0.15
Some college	5,452	0.36	0.28	0.22
College degree or more	4,826	0.48	0.35	0.39
Marital status				
Married	5,655	0.42%	0.30%	0.29%
Widowed	1,337	0.71	0.52	0.65
Divorced	6,429	0.31	0.26	0.15
Separated	2,749	0.49	0.45	0.35
Never married	8,937	0.31	0.22	0.22
Ever served in U.S. Armed Forces				
No	3,745	0.25%	0.16%	0.18%
Yes but not currently serving	3,533	0.67	0.56	0.46
Yes and currently serving	438	4.01	3.34	3.42
Type of military discharge				
Honorable	2,404	0.93%	0.79%	0.59%
General under honorable conditions	1,140	1.15	1.09	0.79
Other than honorable/bad conduct/dishonorable	1,017	1.11	0.96	0.79
Some other type of discharge	413	1.51	..	..

..Not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 7**Standard errors for table 1.7: Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate personal history, 2023–24**

Inmate personal history	Number of inmates	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Age first time arrested/taken into custody				
15 or younger	10,523	0.34%	0.20%	0.29%
16–18	6,981	0.32	0.25	0.22
19–24	4,560	0.34	0.27	0.20
25 or older	9,045	0.32	0.26	0.21
Number of times arrested				
1 time	8,358	0.47%	0.37%	0.26%
2–3 times	5,691	0.41	0.28	0.29
4–10 times	7,362	0.34	0.24	0.22
11 or more times	7,356	0.37	0.27	0.29
Sexual victimization in lifetime prior to entering current facility				
No prior sexual victimization	4,970	0.15%	0.09%	0.11%
Prior sexual victimization but not in another facility	3,313	0.67	0.49	0.46
Prior sexual victimization in another facility	2,733	2.17	1.77	1.36
Because of a problem with emotions/nerves/mental health, had:				
Ever stayed overnight in hospital/other facility				
No	7,839	0.19%	0.13%	0.12%
Yes	7,531	0.54	0.40	0.42
Ever taken prescription medicine				
No	11,138	0.14%	0.08%	0.11%
Yes	11,655	0.40	0.29	0.28
Ever received counseling/therapy from a trained professional				
No	9,460	0.17%	0.11%	0.13%
Yes	9,970	0.38	0.28	0.27

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 8**Standard errors for table 1.8: Sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident and inmate experience in current facility, 2023–24**

Inmate experience	Number of inmates	Percent of prison inmates reporting:		
		Any sexual victimization	Inmate-on-inmate	Staff-on-inmate
Time spent in restrictive housing				
None	14,305	0.19%	0.13%	0.11%
1 day or less	1,372	1.43	0.71	1.27
2–6 days	2,069	1.34	1.03	1.10
7–13 days	2,429	0.95	0.69	0.67
14–29 days	3,083	0.82	0.54	0.58
30 days or more	11,556	0.62	0.54	0.59
Perception of staff at facility				
Low	12,861	0.51%	0.36%	0.38%
Medium	4,766	0.35	0.29	0.21
High	8,019	0.20	0.16	0.15
Social ties at facility				
Low	7,651	0.50%	0.28%	0.37%
Medium	4,944	0.36	0.26	0.26
High	8,709	0.32	0.26	0.20

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 9

Standard errors for table 1.9: Circumstances surrounding incidents of sexual victimization in prisons, by type of incident, inmate sex, and victim experiences, 2023–24

Victim experience	Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization:			Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting	Percent of females reporting	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting	Percent of females reporting
Number of incidents						
1	1.52%	1.74%	2.83%	2.19%	2.35%	4.32%
2	2.00	2.23	3.02	2.62	2.84	3.43
3–5	2.31	2.61	3.40	2.02	2.17	3.12
6–10	1.80	2.08	1.74	1.34	1.45	2.42
More than 10	1.74	1.89	1.50	2.18	2.39	2.65
When victimization first happened						
During first 24 hours	2.31%	2.48%	2.38%	2.07%	2.31%	1.54%
During first 3 days (but not first 24 hours)	2.73	2.98	..	1.43	1.58	1.39
During first 30 days (but not first 3 days)	2.93	3.17	4.52	1.93	2.06	4.60
During first 6 months (but not first 30 days)	2.69	2.88	7.63	3.41	3.80	3.20
During first year (but not first 6 months)	2.35	2.55	3.86	2.08	2.25	4.37
After first year	2.52	2.65	6.36	2.86	3.19	4.84
Victim physically injured						
Yes	2.01%	2.22%	2.22%	2.07%	2.20%	4.17%
No	2.01	2.22	2.22	2.07	2.20	4.17
Sex of staff						
Male facility staff	~	~	~	2.62%	2.84%	5.81%
Female facility staff	~	~	~	3.08	3.31	5.91
Both male and female facility staff	~	~	~	1.78	1.93	4.58
Type of staff						
Correctional officers	~	~	~	2.56%	2.80%	5.84%
Other staff working in the facility	~	~	~	2.47	2.63	5.54
Volunteers in the facility	~	~	~	1.65	1.80	2.50

..Not calculated.

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 10**Standard errors for table 2.1: Incident characteristics in most recent incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24**

Incident characteristic	Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting	Percent of females reporting
Victim thinks incident happened because of their:			
Race/ethnicity	3.06%	3.43%	2.75%
Age	2.51	2.81	2.52
Religion	1.02	1.17	1.28
Gang affiliation	1.18	1.36	1.90
Personal identity	5.46	5.79	7.32
Sexual orientation	3.13	3.54	5.41
Type of pressure/force			
Persuaded/talked into it	2.00%	2.29%	3.22%
Given a bribe	2.16	2.46	1.74
Blackmailed	2.25	2.57	4.35
Given drugs/alcohol to get victim high/drun	2.59	2.86	2.28
Offered protection from other inmates	1.96	2.14	1.63
Trying to pay off/settle a debt that victim owed	2.02	2.30	4.14
Threatened with harm	2.64	2.85	2.32
Physically held down/restrained	1.75	1.92	2.72
Physically harmed/injured	2.13	2.41	2.81
Threatened with a weapon	2.47	2.70	2.70
Victim physically injured			
Yes	2.35%	2.64%	3.13%
No	2.35	2.64	3.13

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 11

Standard errors for table 2.2: Post-incident actions in most recent incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24

Post-incident action	Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting	Percent of females reporting
Victim reported incident			
Yes	2.90%	3.27%	3.54%
To a correctional officer	2.56	2.87	3.02
To an administrative staff person	1.98	2.22	2.75
To a medical/healthcare staff person	2.09	2.36	2.78
To an instructor/teacher	0.92	1.04	1.11
To a counselor/other mental health care provider	2.18	2.48	1.95
To a chaplain/other religious official	0.80	0.91	..
To a volunteer	0.78	0.89	..
To some other type of facility staff person	2.00	2.26	1.97
To a telephone hotline	1.27	1.46	1.47
To another inmate	1.54	1.76	2.54
To a family member/friend	1.17	1.31	2.20
No	2.90	3.27	3.54
Treatment of victim after reporting incident			
Moved to administrative segregation/other protective housing	6.02%	6.68%	7.49%
Placed in a medical unit/ward/hospital	4.17	4.57	7.82
Confined to their own cell/room/housing area	4.39	4.98	3.72
Given a higher level of custody within the facility	2.72	3.05	4.51
Offered a transfer to another facility	2.85	3.27	..
Written up	4.49	5.08	4.64
Contact with perpetrator after incident			
Gave victim gifts/money to keep it secret	2.51%	2.91%	2.47%
Threatened to hurt victim to keep it secret	3.16	3.51	2.58
Said they would blame it on victim if victim told anyone	2.33	2.66	2.64
Said they would stop spending time with victim if victim told anyone	1.87	2.13	3.88
Had some type of sexual contact with victim again	2.76	3.15	2.90
Ignored victim/stayed away from victim	2.24	2.46	3.99
Threatened to harm victim's family	1.84	2.08	1.51
Hurt victim/beat victim up	2.62	2.93	3.19
Victim's actions after the incident			
Joined a gang	1.15%	1.29%	..
Carried a weapon	2.59	2.90	1.89%
Fought more	2.58	2.93	2.52
Worked out in order to bulk up	2.87	3.20	3.86
Avoided certain areas	2.19	2.49	3.80
Kept to self more	1.99	2.23	3.12
Stayed in their own cell/housing area more	2.29	2.66	3.64
Joined a religious group	2.35	2.60	3.75
Avoided certain inmates	1.98	2.28	2.77
Requested protective custody	1.99	2.23	2.98
Requested transfer to another facility	2.55	2.82	3.22
Requested a different housing unit/pod/dormitory	2.60	3.05	3.54
Contacted someone on the outside for help	2.13	2.38	2.68
Tried to stay near facility staff	2.33	2.63	2.48
Paid another inmate for protection	1.66	1.87	1.71

..Not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 12**Standard errors for table 2.3: Perpetrator characteristics in most recent incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24**

Perpetrator characteristic	Among victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting	Percent of females reporting
Multiple perpetrators involved in incident			
Yes	1.51%	1.72%	1.81%
No	1.51	1.72	1.81
Perceived identity of perpetrator(s)			
Male	1.90%	1.57%	4.05%
Female	1.31	..	4.06
Transgender	1.52	1.77	1.52
Race/ethnicity of perpetrator(s)			
White	3.47%	3.97%	4.59%
Black	3.40	3.90	4.74
Hispanic	2.45	2.89	2.22
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.67	1.76	5.07
Asian	0.42	0.47	..
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.87	0.96	1.71
Treatment of perpetrator(s) after victim reported incident			
Moved to administrative segregation/other protective housing	4.75%	5.42%	4.68%
Placed in a medical unit/ward/hospital	2.56	..	..
Confined to their own cell/room/housing area	5.13	5.84	5.68
Given a higher level of custody	2.94	3.33	..
Transferred to another facility	3.92	4.55	..
Written up	4.37	4.99	4.75
Lost privileges	4.00	4.51	5.11
Charged with a crime	2.44	..	..
Any of the above sanctions	4.65	5.25	5.25

..Not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 13

Standard errors for table 2.4: Incident characteristics in most recent incidents of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24

Incident characteristic	Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting	Percent of females reporting
Victim thinks incident happened because of their:			
Race/ethnicity	3.13%	3.34%	4.02%
Age	2.59	2.78	4.18
Religion	2.01	2.14	3.54
Personal affiliation	2.36	2.54	3.61
Personal identity	9.33	9.57	11.57
Sexual orientation	7.98	10.20	6.25
Prior contact/relationship between victim and staff			
Staff told inmate about personal life outside of work	3.26%	3.52%	4.91%
Staff gave inmate pictures	1.75	1.89	3.06
Staff wrote letters to inmate	2.16	2.33	3.51
Staff offered inmate drugs/cigarettes/alcohol/other items not allowed in facility	2.31	2.50	4.38
Staff gave inmate money	2.03	2.22	4.19
Staff did things to get inmate out of trouble	2.19	2.36	5.55
Staff spent time alone with inmate asking not to tell anyone about it	2.94	3.15	6.64
Staff told inmate that they had special feelings/was in love with inmate	2.50	2.70	5.40
Staff talked about sex/joked about sex/shared sexual stories with inmate	2.87	3.14	5.21
Type of pressure/force			
Persuaded/talked into it	2.28%	2.43%	5.19%
Given a bribe	2.03	2.16	3.44
Blackmailed	2.53	2.72	3.34
Given drugs/alcohol to get victim high/drunken	1.55	1.64	3.28
Offered protection from other inmates	1.45	1.56	2.69
Trying to pay off/settle a debt that victim owed	1.23	1.34	2.52
Threatened with harm	2.70	2.85	3.49
Physically held down/restrained	2.78	2.99	2.94
Physically harmed/injured	2.54	2.68	2.94
Threatened with a weapon	2.05	2.19	2.72
Told that victim's family would be deported	0.76	0.79	2.43
Told that victim would lose visitation privileges	1.49	1.57	3.64
Victim physically injured			
Yes	2.34%	2.48%	3.51%
No	2.34	2.48	3.51

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 14

Standard errors for table 2.5: Post-incident actions in most recent incidents of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24

Post-incident action	Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting	Percent of females reporting
Victim reported incident			
Yes	3.06%	3.27%	4.18%
To a correctional officer	2.36	2.53	3.85
To an administrative staff person	2.55	2.73	3.53
To a medical/healthcare staff person	1.86	1.98	2.96
To an instructor/teacher	0.88	0.95	1.56
To a counselor/other mental health care provider	2.10	2.24	4.17
To a chaplain/other religious official	1.05	1.11	2.39
To a volunteer	1.16	1.23	2.17
To some other type of facility staff person	2.03	2.18	2.96
To a telephone hotline	1.89	2.03	3.02
To another inmate	2.24	2.42	3.44
To a family member or friend	2.36	2.54	3.10
No	3.06	3.27	4.18
Treatment of victim after reporting incident			
Moved to administrative segregation/other protective housing	4.18%	4.46%	6.80%
Placed in a medical unit/ward/hospital	2.57	2.74	2.88
Confined to their own cell/room/housing area	4.44	4.73	9.18
Given a higher level of custody within the facility	3.78	4.02	4.38
Offered a transfer to another facility	3.87	4.13	..
Written up	4.36	4.60	9.83
Contact with staff after incident			
Gave victim gifts/money to keep it secret	2.37%	2.57%	5.14%
Threatened to hurt victim to keep it secret	3.49	3.72	3.29
Said they would blame it on victim if victim told anyone	2.47	2.63	4.09
Said they would stop spending time with victim if victim told anyone	1.78	1.89	3.23
Had sexual contact with victim again	2.79	3.00	4.19
Ignored victim/stayed away from victim	2.41	2.58	4.12
Victim's actions after the incident			
Joined a gang	1.10%	1.17%	..
Carried a weapon	1.89	2.02	3.07%
Fought more	1.55	1.66	2.75
Worked out in order to bulk up	2.61	2.76	2.34
Tried to make themselves look less attractive	1.92	2.06	3.63
Avoided certain areas	3.20	3.46	4.73
Kept to self more	2.69	2.86	5.70
Stayed in own cell/housing area more	2.91	3.04	8.47
Joined a religious group	1.67	1.80	4.29
Avoided certain staff	2.86	3.05	5.42
Requested protective custody	1.70	1.81	2.95
Requested transfer to another facility	3.36	3.58	3.42

..Not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

APPENDIX TABLE 15**Standard errors for table 2.6: Perpetrator characteristics in most recent incidents of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization in prisons, by inmate sex, 2023–24**

Perpetrator characteristic	Among victims of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization:		
	Percent reporting	Percent of males reporting	Percent of females reporting
Multiple staff perpetrators involved in incident			
Yes	2.84%	2.99%	5.01%
No	2.84	2.99	5.01
Sex of staff			
Male(s) only	3.62%	3.94%	4.36%
Female(s) only	3.78	4.11	4.92
Both male(s) and female(s)	1.51	1.62	3.05
Race/ethnicity of staff			
White	4.14%	4.49%	5.21%
Black	3.99	4.21	4.08
Hispanic	3.07	3.31	4.75
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.50	1.56	4.28
Asian	1.42	1.53	..
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1.32	1.40	3.61
Type of staff			
Correctional officer(s)	2.19%	2.33%	5.23%
Other staff person(s) working in the facility	2.13	2.28	3.77
Volunteer(s) in the facility	2.02	2.17	3.27
Treatment of staff after victim reported incident			
Fired	1.92%	..	6.58%
Transferred to another facility	2.51	..	6.77
Transferred to different job at this facility	3.09	3.28%	..
Charged with a crime	1.64	..	..
Suspended for a period of time	2.37	..	10.04
Punished/disciplined in some other way	3.12	3.30	..
Any of the above sanctions	3.49	3.69	6.58

..Not calculated.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Inmate Survey, 2023–24.

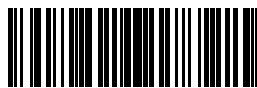


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