



PREA Data Collection Activities, 2025

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA; P.L. 108–79) requires the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to carry out, for each calendar year, a comprehensive statistical review and analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape. PREA further specifies, “The review and analysis...shall be based on a random sample, or other scientifically appropriate sample, of not less than 10 percent of all Federal, State, and county prisons, and a representative sample of municipal prisons.”

The act requires the Attorney General to submit—no later than June 30 of each year—a report that lists institutions in the sample and ranks them according to incidence of prison rape. To implement requirements under PREA, BJS developed a data collection strategy involving multiple measures and modes. The components of this strategy are described below.

For more information about data collections related to PREA, see BJS’s PREA webpage at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/topics/corrections/prea> .

DATA COLLECTIONS AND DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES DURING 2025

The Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV), conducted annually by BJS since 2004, is an establishment survey of adult correctional and juvenile justice facilities in the United States. The SSV gathers information on allegations and substantiated incidents of sexual victimization reported to authorities that occur within each calendar year. BJS uses uniform definitions to classify each recorded sexual victimization by the type of act and whether the perpetrator was another prisoner or jail inmate, a youth in the facility, or facility staff.

BJS administers the SSV to a sample of at least 10% of all facilities covered under PREA. The survey is administered to all federal and state prisons; all private jails; all facilities operated by the U.S. military and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and representative samples of public jail jurisdictions, private prisons, and jails holding adults in Indian country. In addition, the survey is administered to all state juvenile systems, all juvenile facilities in Indian country, and a representative sample of locally and privately operated juvenile facilities.

Data collection for the 2023 reference year was initiated in fall 2024 and completed in spring 2025. As in previous collections, administrators completed the forms via PDF or a web-based interface. The response rates for

the Federal Bureau of Prisons, state prison systems, and state juvenile justice systems were 100%, while 92% of sampled local jails, 93% of juvenile justice facilities, and 97% of other adult correctional facilities responded to the survey. The overall response rate to the 2023 data collection was 93%, down from the 94% response rate in 2022. Data collection for the 2024 reference year began in fall 2025.

During 2025, BJS prepared two reports for publication based on SSV data: *Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2021–22 – Statistical Tables* and *Sexual Victimization Reported by Juvenile Justice Authorities, 2019–2022 – Statistical Tables*. These reports will include annual estimates on the total numbers and rates of sexual victimization allegations and substantiated incidents reported by authorities, as well as estimates of the characteristics of substantiated incidents. Both reports are planned for release in early 2026.

The **National Inmate Survey (NIS)** gathers data on sexual victimization in adult prison and local jail facilities as reported by state prisoners and local jail inmates. BJS uses these data to generate statistics on the incidence of prison rape, identify facilities with high and low incidence rates, and identify common characteristics of victims, perpetrators, and facilities. BJS administers

the NIS to a sample of at least 10% of correctional facilities, with a minimum of one facility in each state.

BJS conducted the first NIS (NIS-1) in 2007, followed by the NIS-2 during 2008–09 and the NIS-3 during 2011–12. The NIS-4 Jails was conducted from February 2023 to February 2024 and included more than 20,000 inmates from 250 local jail facilities. The NIS-4 Prisons was conducted from March 2023 to March 2024 and included more than 25,000 inmates from 177 state and federal prisons. The survey used audio computer-assisted self-interview (ACASI) technology with a touchscreen-enabled laptop to maximize prisoner and jail inmate confidentiality. It also used a simultaneous audio to minimize potential literacy issues.

During 2025, BJS published two reports covering data from NIS-4: *Sexual Victimization in Local Jails Reported by Inmates, 2023–24* (NCJ 309852, BJS, December 2025) and *Sexual Victimization in Prisons Reported by Inmates, 2023–24* (NCJ 310544, BJS, December 2025). These reports present national estimates of sexual victimization, provide trend data from 2011–12 to 2023–24, and fulfill the requirement under PREA to provide lists of jails and prisons according to their prevalence of sexual victimization.

REPORTS RELEASED IN 2025

- *Sexual Victimization in Local Jails Reported by Inmates, 2023–24* (NCJ 309852, BJS, December 2025)
- *Sexual Victimization in Prisons Reported by Inmates, 2023–24* (NCJ 310544, BJS, December 2025)

BJS is planning additional NIS-4 reports for both jails and prisons that will examine victim, perpetrator, and incident characteristics of sexual victimization and facility characteristics related to inmate-reported sexual victimization. These reports are expected to release in 2026.

The **National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC)** gathers data on sexual victimization in juvenile facilities as reported by youth in the facilities. BJS uses these data to generate statistics on the incidence of sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, identify facilities with high and low incidence rates, and identify common characteristics of victims, perpetrators, and facilities. BJS conducts NSYC in 10% of juvenile facilities nationwide, with a minimum of one facility in each state.

BJS has conducted NSYC three times. The first NSYC was conducted from June 2008 to April 2009 and included more than 9,000 youth from 195 juvenile justice facilities. The second NSYC was conducted from February 2012 to September 2012 and included more than 8,700 youth from 326 facilities. The third NSYC was conducted from March 2018 to December 2018 and included more than 6,000 youth from 327 facilities. BJS did not conduct any activities related to NSYC in 2025.

PREVIOUSLY RELEASED REPORTS

Visit the Search Publications page on the BJS website at <http://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/list> for previously published reports in the following series:

- PREA Data Collection Activities
- PREA Publications



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Kevin M. Scott, PhD, is the acting director.

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