



# Substantiated Incidents of Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2016–2018

SUMMARY | NCJ 304834

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For the 3-year aggregate period of 2016–18, adult correctional authorities reported 2,666 substantiated incidents of inmate sexual victimization by another inmate and 2,229 by staff. Most (62% or 1,643) inmate-on-inmate incidents involved abusive sexual contact, whereas most (69% or 1,549) staff-on-inmate incidents involved staff sexual misconduct.

## Inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization

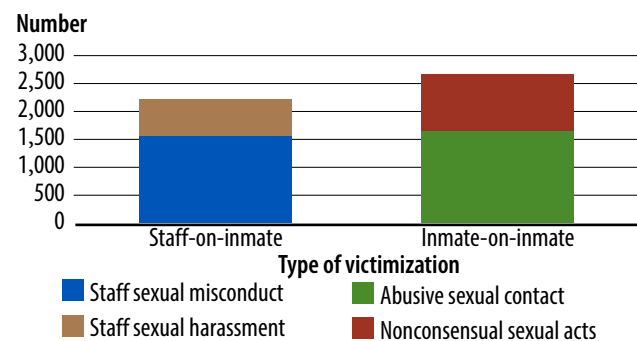
During 2016–18, there were 1,023 inmate-on-inmate substantiated incidents of nonconsensual sexual acts and 1,643 substantiated incidents of abusive sexual contact. Generally, inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization involves nonconsensual sexual acts or abusive contact with a victim without his or her consent or with a victim who cannot consent or refuse.

Half of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization incidents occurred in an area not under video surveillance. The victim was given a medical examination in 61% of nonconsensual sexual acts and in 36% of abusive sexual contacts. The victim was provided counseling or mental health treatment in 64% of nonconsensual sexual acts and 50% of abusive sexual contacts. Half (49%) of nonconsensual sexual acts resulted in some form of legal action for the perpetrator.

## Staff-on-inmate sexual victimization

Staff-on-inmate sexual victimization in adult correctional facilities includes sexual misconduct or sexual harassment perpetrated by correctional staff. There were 1,598 perpetrators of staff sexual misconduct and 716 perpetrators of staff sexual harassment. Two-thirds (67%) of staff sexual misconduct perpetrators were female and a third (33%) was male. The distribution by sex for staff perpetrators of sexual harassment was the opposite: 69% male and 31% female.

## Number of substantiated incidents of sexual victimization, by type of victimization, 2016–18



Note: Excludes inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Sexual Victimization, 2016–18.

While most (99%) staff-on-inmate sexual victimizations did not result in physical injury to the victim, the victim received a medical examination in 10% of staff sexual harassment incidents and in 26% of staff sexual misconduct incidents. Legal action against the staff perpetrator occurred in 38% of sexual misconduct incidents and in less than 5% of sexual harassment incidents.

## Inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment

During 2016–18, there were 3,642 incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment in adult correctional facilities. A total of 4,324 inmates were sexually harassed by another inmate, and 3,908 inmates perpetrated sexual harassment. About 66% of victims were male, 31% were female, and 3% were transgender or intersex.

The full report (*Substantiated Incidents of Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2016–2018*, NCJ 304834), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at [bjs.ojp.gov](https://bjs.ojp.gov).