



Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018

SUMMARY | NCJ 253042

DECEMBER 2019

In 2018, an estimated 7.1% of youth in juvenile correctional facilities reported being sexually victimized during the prior 12 months, down from 9.5% in 2012. From 2012 to 2018, the percentage of youth who reported forced or coerced sexual victimization involving another youth declined from 2.5% to 1.9%, and the percentage of youth who reported sexual misconduct by facility staff declined from 7.7% to 5.8%.

In all, 4.0% of youth in juvenile facilities reported experiencing sexual victimization involving force or coercion, split about evenly between victimization by youth (1.9% of all youth in juvenile facilities) and victimization by staff (2.1%).

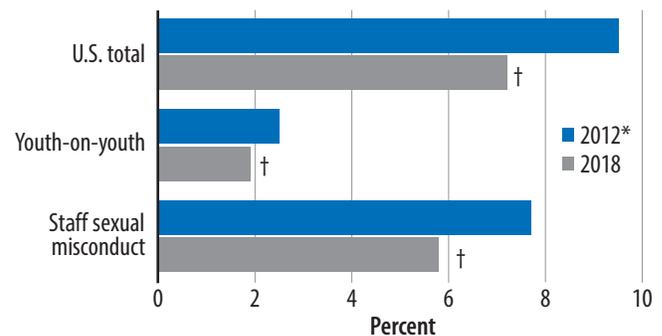
Youth-on-youth sexual victimization

Among the 1.9% of youth in juvenile facilities who reported sexual victimization involving force or coercion by another youth, about two-thirds (1.2% of all youth in juvenile facilities) reported that the victimization involved sexual acts—sexual activity involving touching or penetrating of sexual body parts. An estimated 0.5% reported that the victimization involved other sexual activity, such as kissing, looking at private body parts, or being shown something sexual. About 0.2% reported a youth-on-youth victimization but did not provide information about the type of activity.

Staff-on-youth sexual victimization

Among the 5.8% of youth in juvenile facilities who reported sexual victimization by facility staff, about one-third (2.1% of all youth in juvenile facilities) reported that the staff sexual misconduct involved force or coercion, while about two-thirds (3.9%) did not include a report of force or coercion. Most staff sexual misconduct reported by youth involved sexual acts—sexual activity that involved touching or penetrating of sexual body parts.

Percent of youth in juvenile facilities reporting sexual victimization, 2012 and 2018



Note: Based on 6,049 interviews of youth in 2018 and 8,707 interviews of youth in 2012. Details may not sum to totals due to youth reporting multiple types of victimization.

*Comparison group.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2012 and 2018.

Sexual victimization by sex of victims

In 2018, female youth (4.7%) in juvenile facilities were more likely than male youth (1.6%) to report youth-on-youth sexual victimization. Male youth (6.1%) were more likely than female youth (2.9%) to report staff sexual misconduct. About two-thirds of the male youth who reported staff sexual misconduct did not include a report of force or coercion (4.1%).

Facility- and state-level estimates

Out of the 113 facilities that had enough interviews of eligible sampled youth to qualify for facility-level rankings, 12 were identified as high-rate and 14 as low-rate. Among states that were eligible for state-level estimates and had at least a 50% response rate among eligible sampled youth, the rate of sexual victimization reported by youth ranged from 0.0% to 12.3%.

The full report (*Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018*, NCJ 253042), related documents, and additional information about BJS are available at www.bjs.gov.