



Bureau of Justice Statistics

# BJA's National Prison Rape Statistics Program Findings from 2018 National Survey of Youth in Custody

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# Presentation Agenda

1. Prison Rape Background: History and the Role of BJS

2. National Survey of Youth in Custody: Findings and Updates from the Latest Survey

3. Next Steps and Closing



# **Prison Rape Background**

## History and the Role of BJS

# What is prison rape?

It isn't just prisons

It includes a range of acts

It isn't just inmate-on-inmate



# Prison rape is rape

Leaves lasting trauma

Spreads infectious diseases

Violates Eighth Amendment

Increases tensions in prisons



# Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003

*To provide for the analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, State, and local institutions and to provide information, resources, recommendations and funding to protect individuals from prison rape.*



# PREA included roles for multiple stakeholders

Bureau of Justice Assistance and National Institute of Corrections provide technical assistance and grant funding

National Prison Rape Reduction Commission studied prison rape and drafted PREA Standards

Review Panel on Prison Rape carries out public hearings with high- and low-rate facilities



# What is BJS's role in PREA?

Generate annual statistics on the incidence of prison rape

Identify facilities with high- and low-incidence rates

Identify common characteristics of victims, perpetrators, and facilities

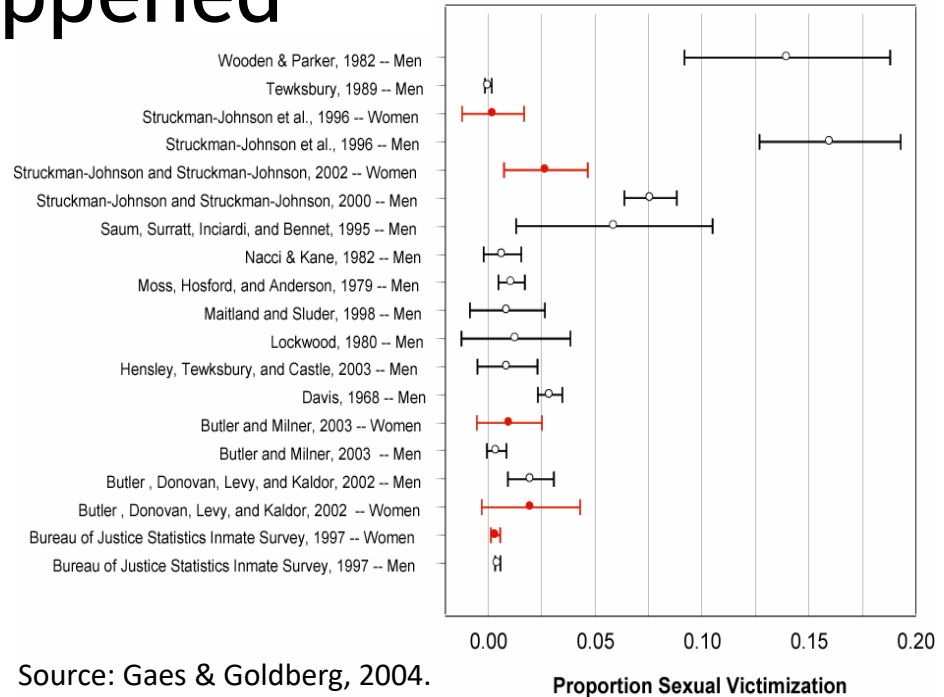




# Before PREA, researchers disagreed on how often prison rape happened

Early research on the prevalence of prison rape showed inconsistency

2004 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) meta-analysis



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# BJS designed PREA studies to address past methodological shortcomings

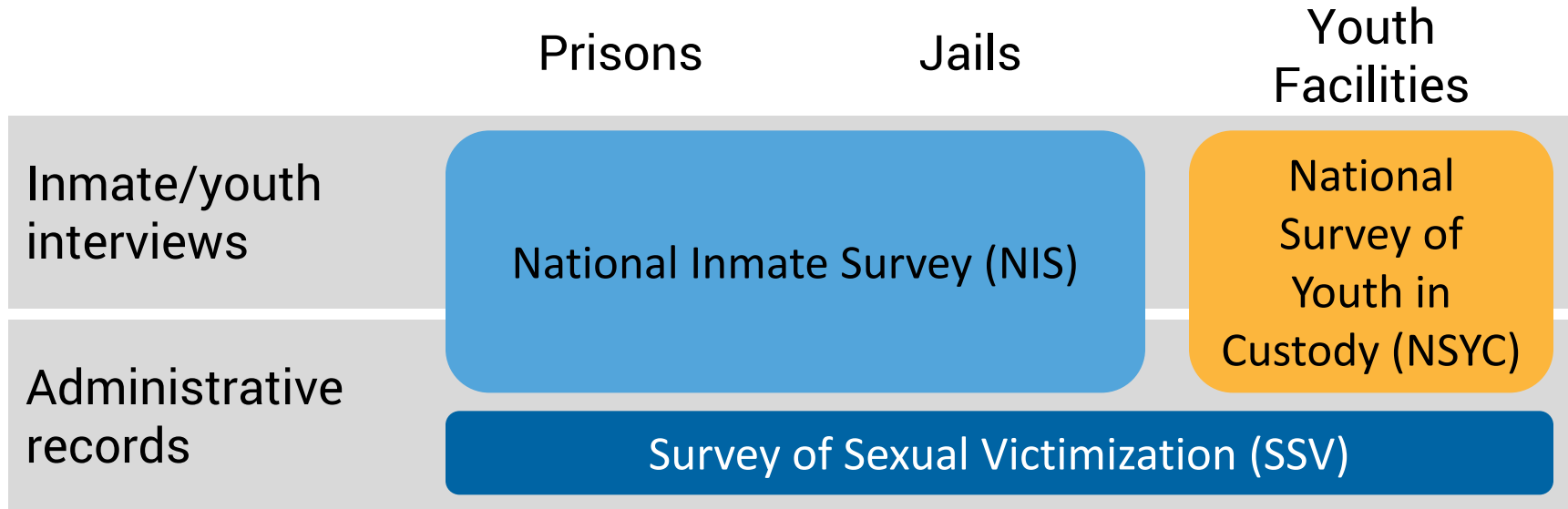
Large samples representative of facilities and nation

Questions developed using expert feedback and cognitive testing

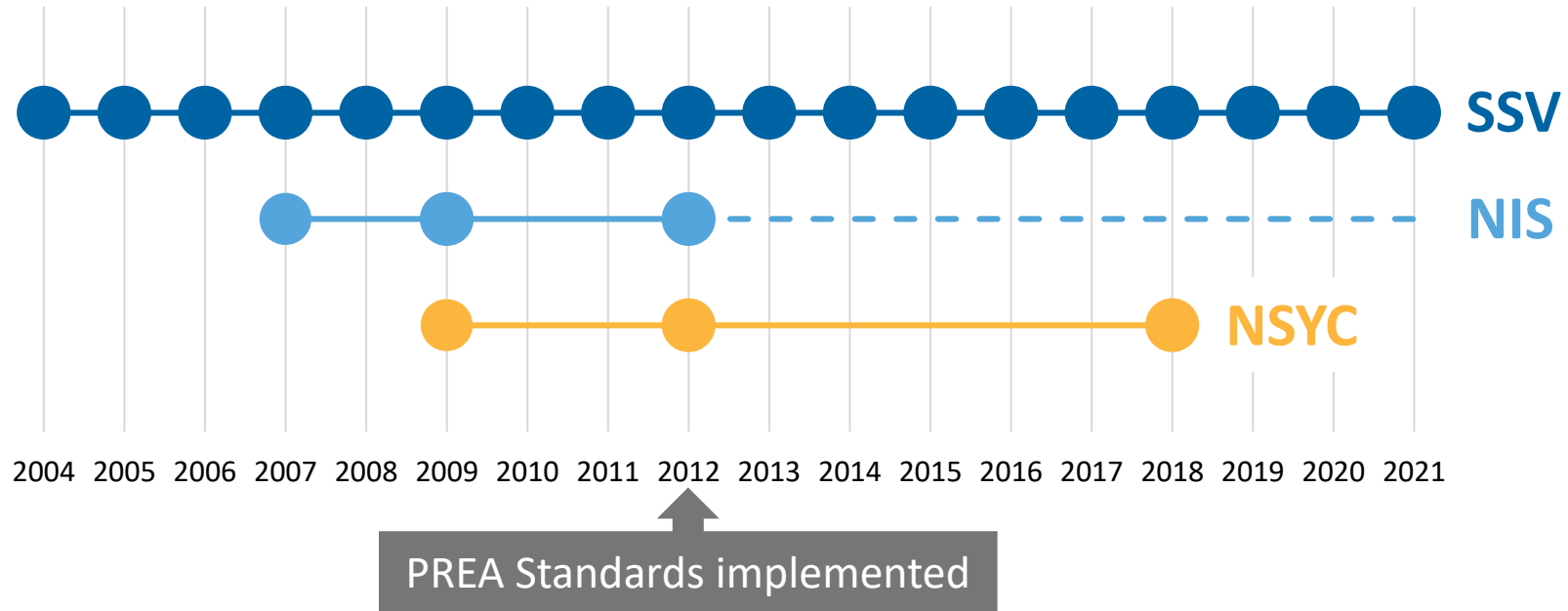
Touch-screen Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interviewing (ACASI) instrument in English and Spanish



# BJS measures prison rape through several methods



# BJS has collected PREA data annually since 2004



# **National Survey of Youth in Custody**

Findings and Updates  
from the Latest Survey

# The National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC) fulfills the requirements of PREA in juvenile facilities

Data collected directly from youth in a private setting using a self-administered survey

BJS conducted the NSYC in 2008-09, 2012, and 2018



# These data come primarily from NSYC-3

Conducted in 327 facilities that housed juveniles

Sexual victimization survey completed by 6,049 youth

Two-part survey asks about:

1. Sexual victimization in the 12 months prior to the survey
2. The most recent incident from the highest-ranked seriousness category

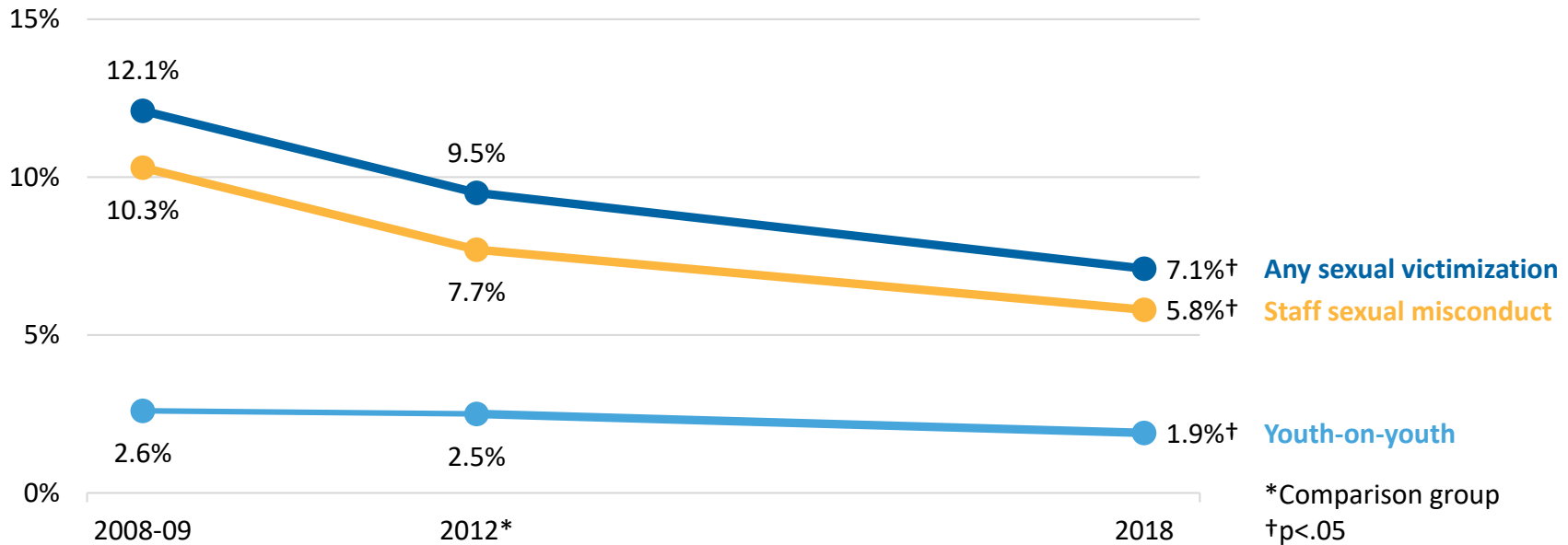


# OVERALL ESTIMATES OF SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION





# The percent of youth reporting sexual victimization has decreased each survey

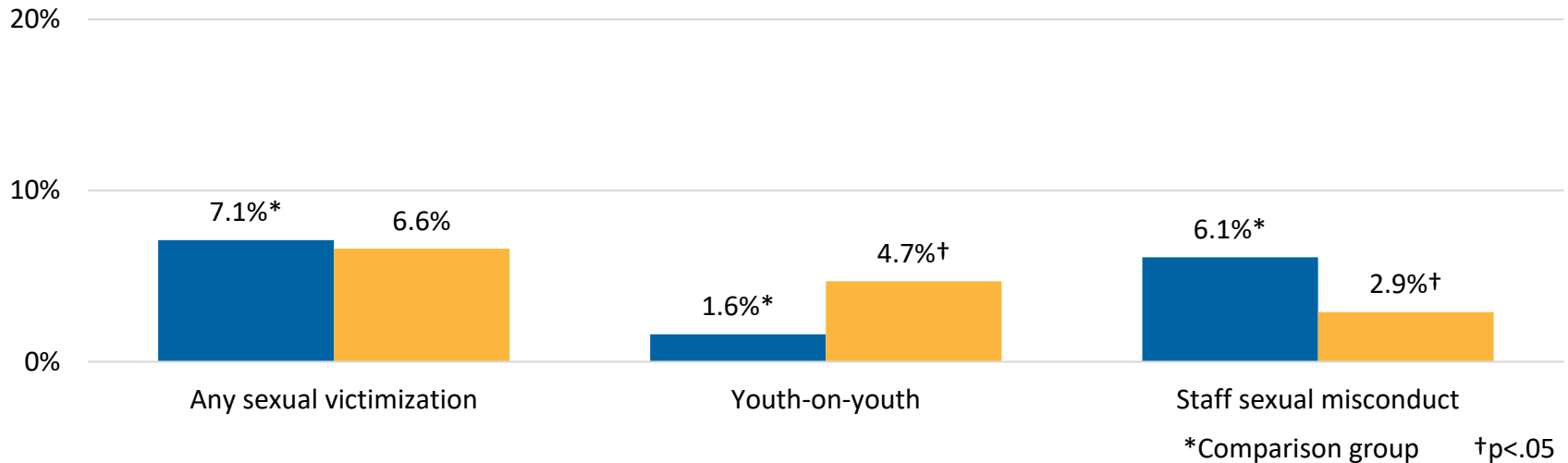


# YOUTH CHARACTERISTICS

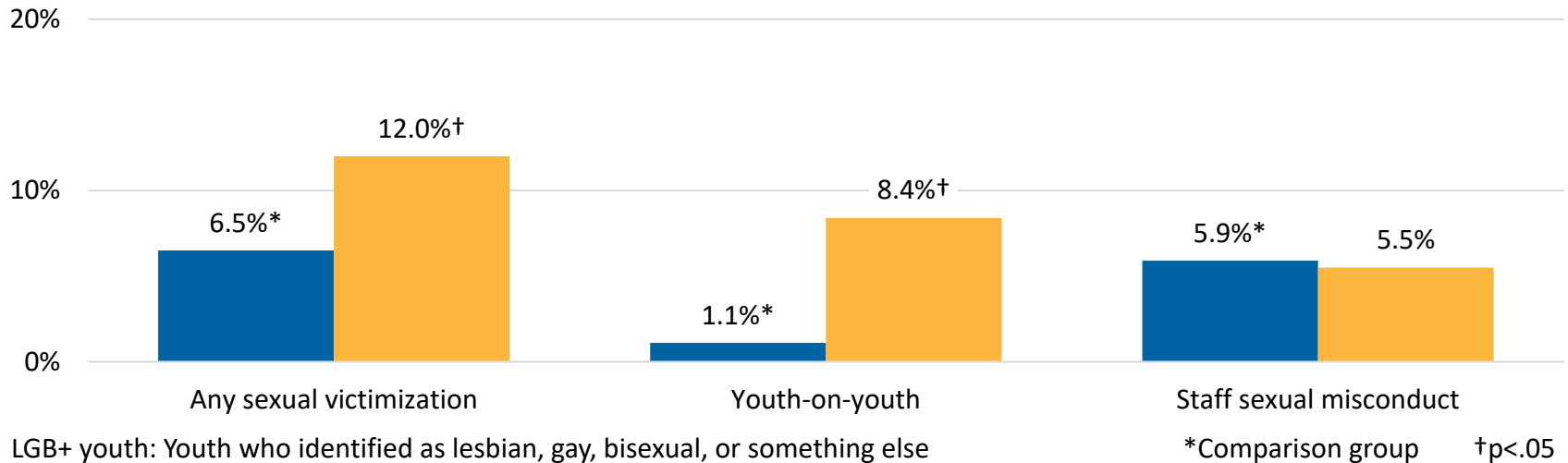


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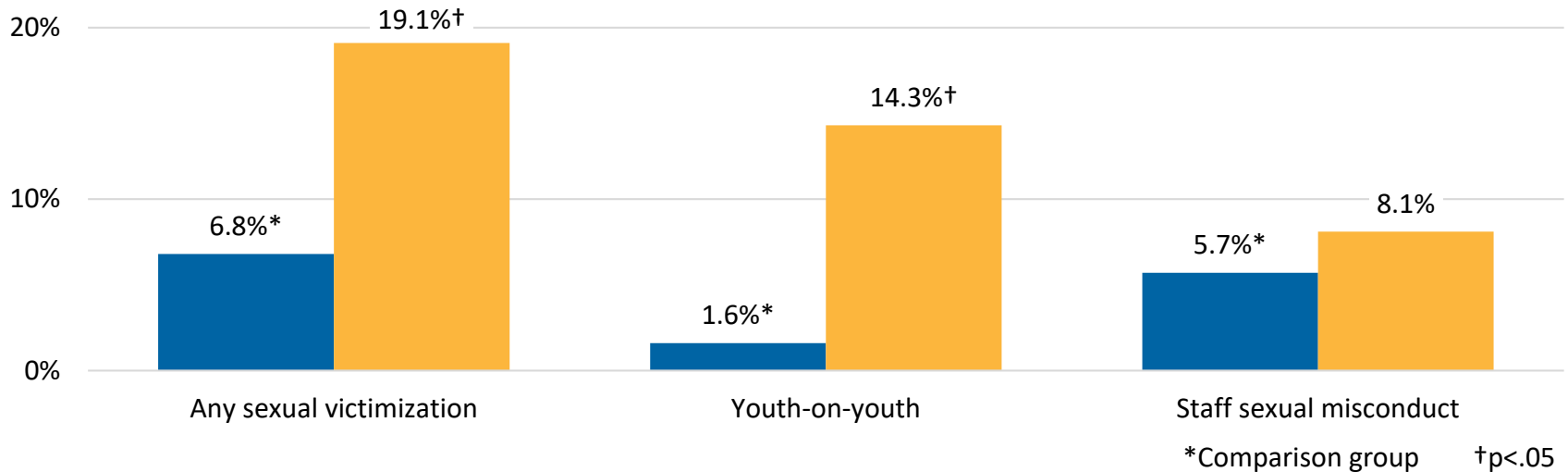
# More **male youth** report staff sexual misconduct while **female youth** report more youth-on-youth sexual victimization



# LGB+ youth report much more youth-on-youth sexual victimization than heterosexual youth



# Nearly nine times as many **transgender youth** report youth-on-youth sexual victimization than **cisgender youth**



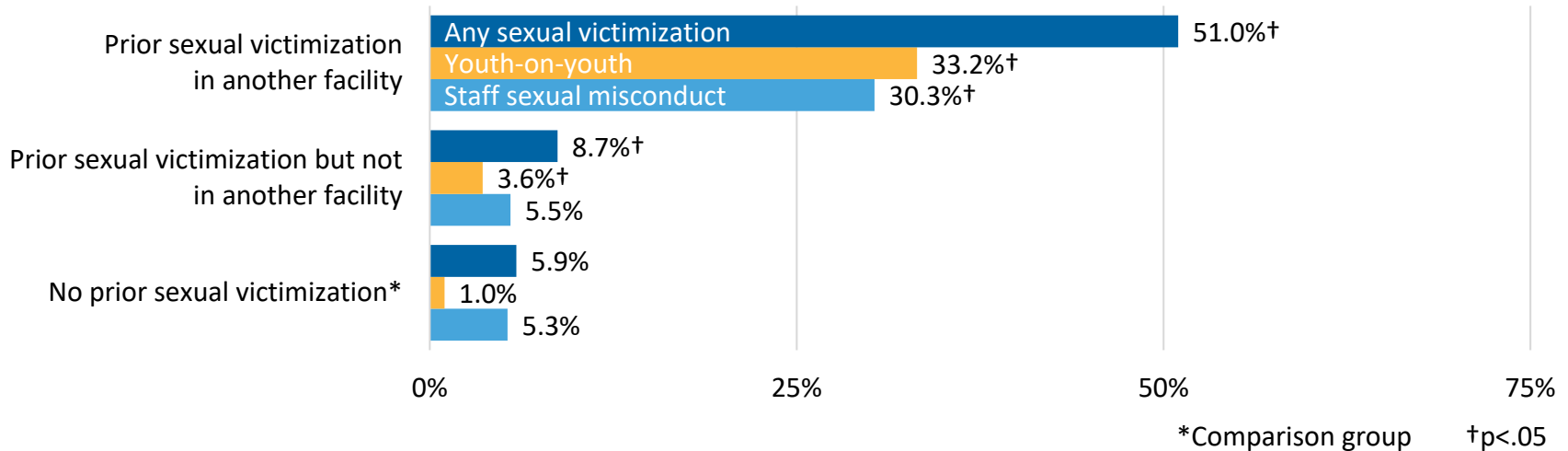
# Youth with a reported disability or mental-health condition report **higher rates of sexual victimization** than those without

| Percent of youth reporting—         | Disability     |                    | Mental-health condition |                    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|                                     | With condition | Without condition* | With condition          | Without condition* |
| Youth-on-youth sexual victimization | 2.6%†          | 1.2%               | 2.1%                    | 0.8%               |
| Staff sexual misconduct             | 6.9%†          | 4.4%               | 5.9%†                   | 4.0%               |

\*Comparison group †p<.05



# Youth with prior sexual victimization in another facility were most likely to report all types of sexual victimization

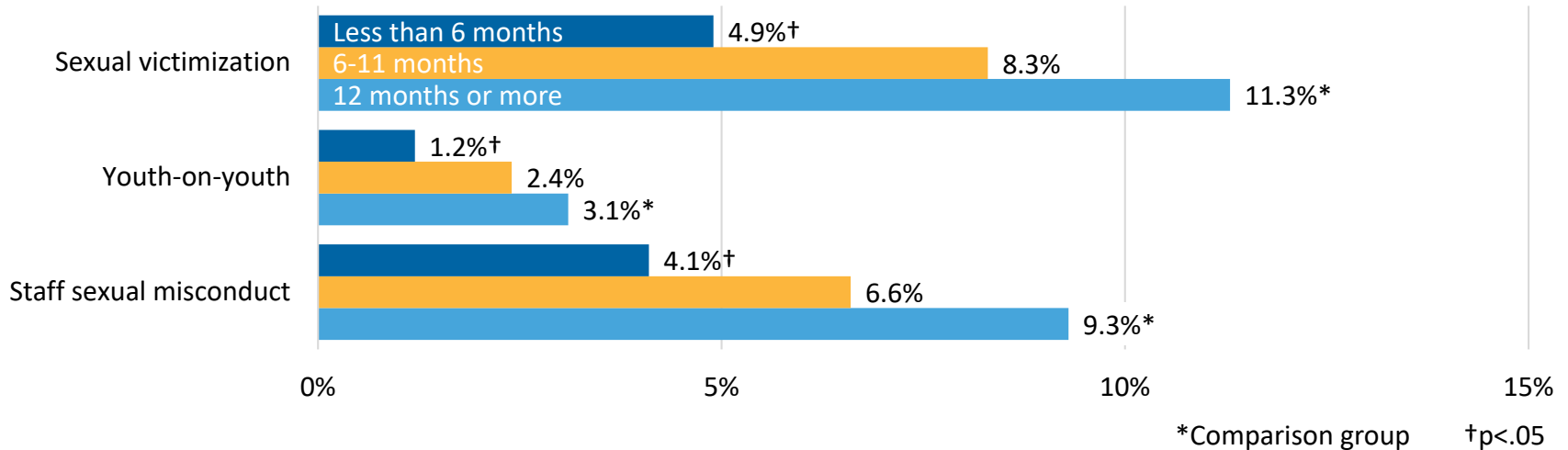


# TIMING OF SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION

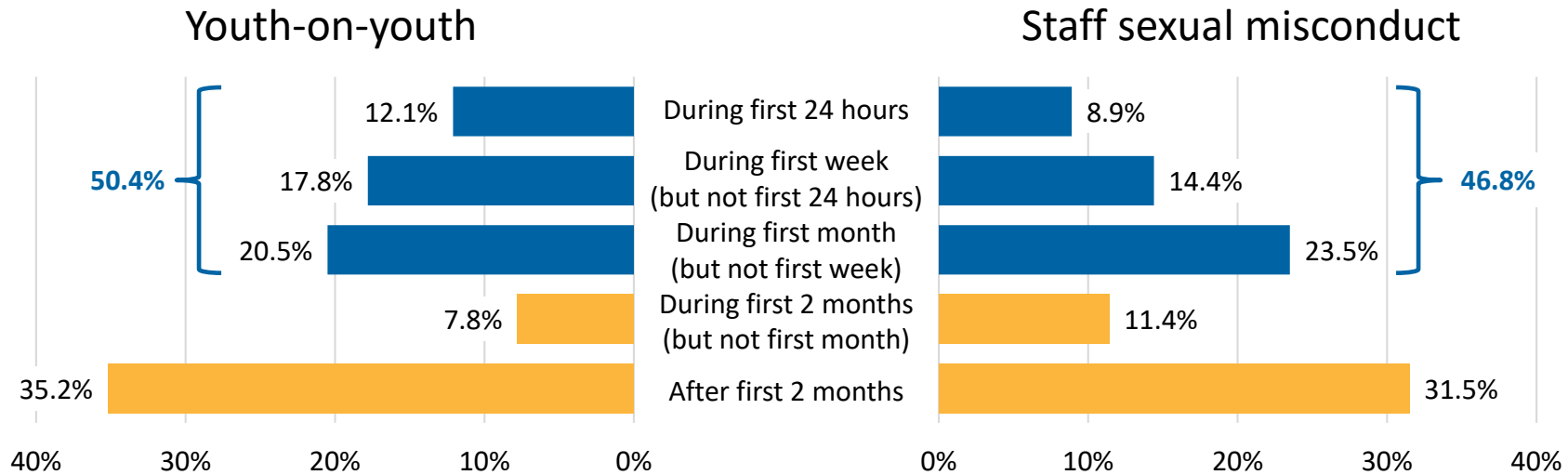




# Youth who have spent **12 months or more** in current facility report more victimization than youth with **less than 6 months**



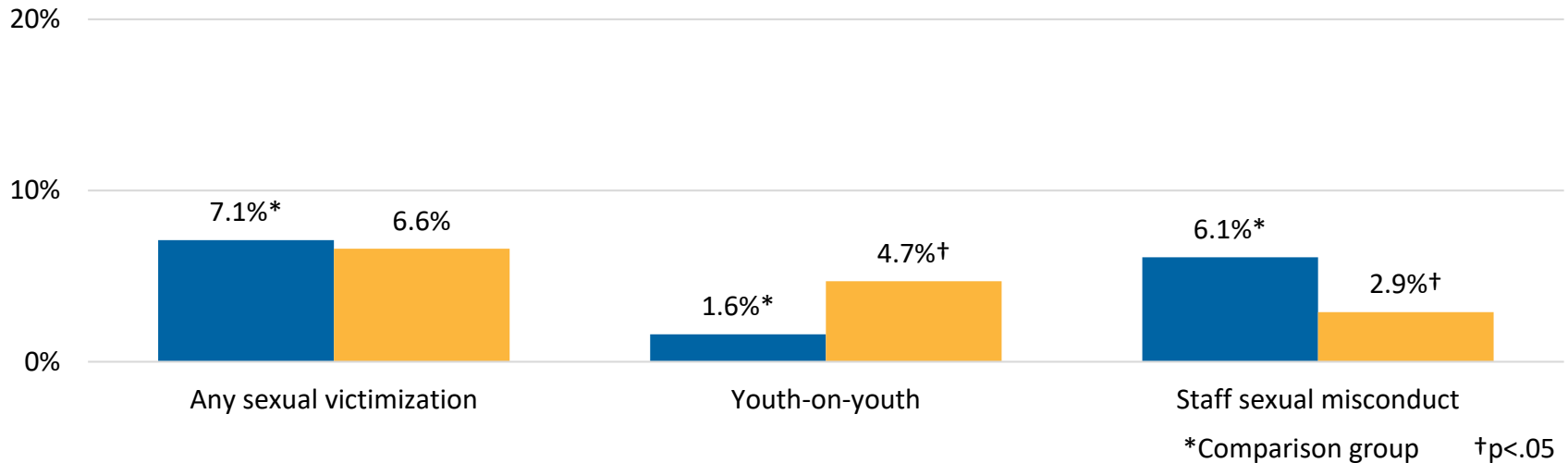
# About half of youth victims reported that they experienced their first victimization during their **first month in the facility**



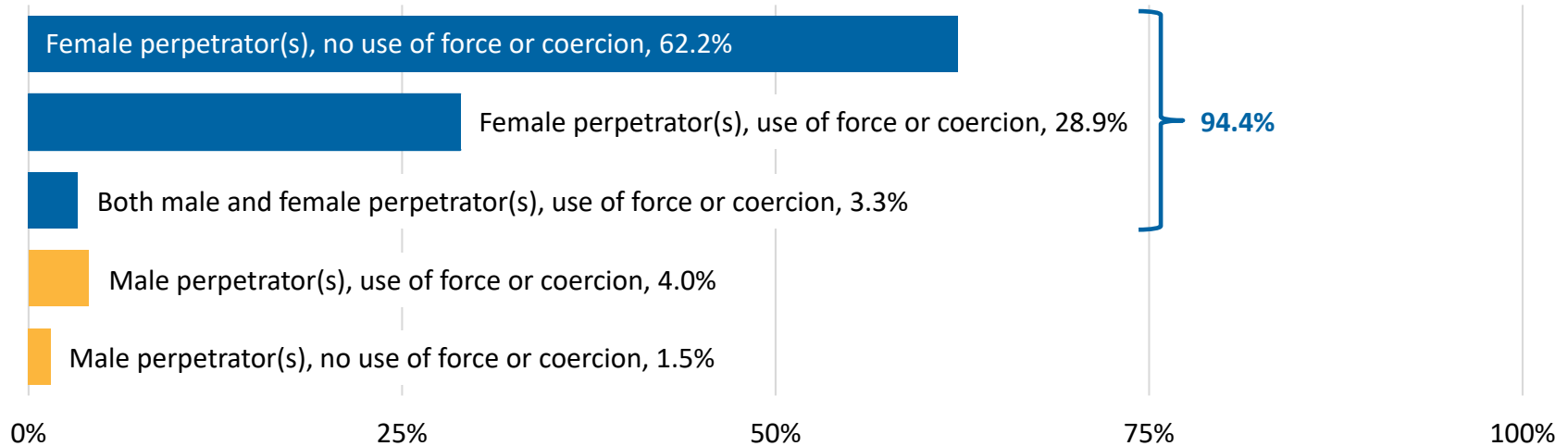
# STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT



# More **male youth** report staff sexual misconduct while **female youth** report more youth-on-youth sexual victimization



# Female staff were perpetrator(s) in over 9 out of 10 most-serious incidents of staff sexual misconduct



# Percent of victims of staff sexual misconduct reporting prior contact/relationship with staff—

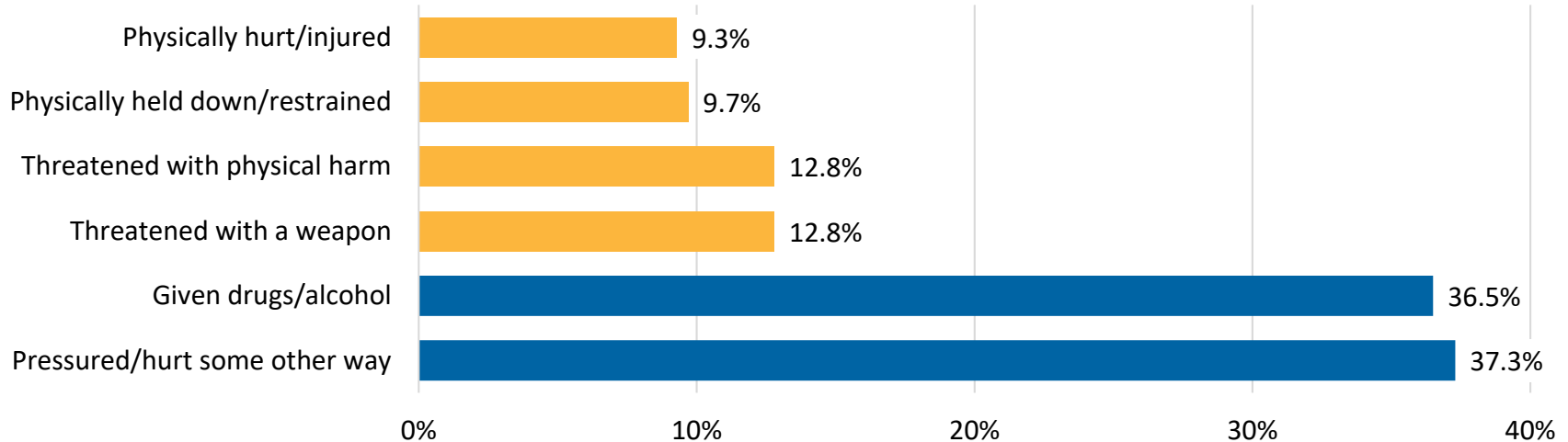
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|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Staff talked about sex, joked about sex, or shared sexual stories with youth         | 81.9% |
| Staff told youth about personal life outside of work                                 | 76.6% |
| Staff told youth that they felt emotionally close or had special feelings            | 74.4% |
| Staff spent time alone with youth asking not to tell anyone about it                 | 59.0% |
| Staff gave youth money/other special gifts   | 54.8% |
| Staff did something else to get youth out of trouble or make things easier for youth | 54.3% |
| Staff gave youth pictures or wrote letters   | 49.1% |
| Staff offered youth drugs/cigarettes/alcohol/other items not allowed in facility     | 42.7% |
| Staff offered youth protection from other youth                                      | 16.6% |

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# In most-serious incidents of staff sexual misconduct using force or coercion, staff most often used **non-physical pressure**



# Nearly all youth who reported staff sexual misconduct reported **no physical injuries**

Staff sexual misconduct

96.9%

Youth-on-youth

68.0%





# Closing and Next Steps

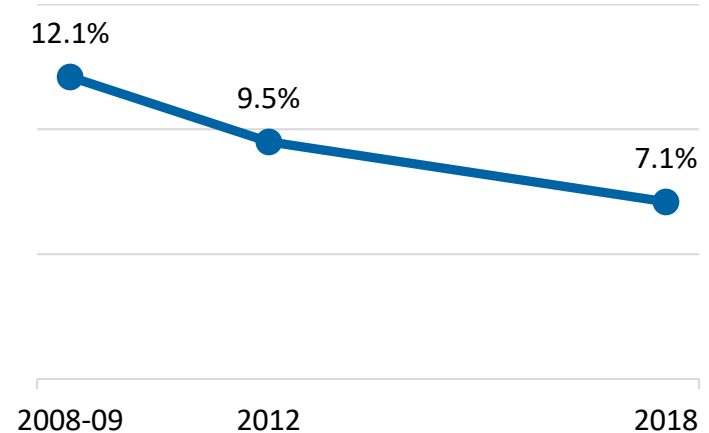
# BJS PREA findings have had direct impacts on the field

Included in correctional trainings on prison rape

Used in state special investigations

Informed the creation of the PREA standards

## Youth reported victimization is decreasing



# What's next for NSYC?

Report on facility characteristics of sexual victimization

Report on alcohol and drug use patterns of youth in juvenile facilities



# Recent NSYC Reports

- Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/sexual-victimization-reported-youth-juvenile-facilities-2018>
- Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018 - Supplemental Tables: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/sexual-victimization-reported-youth-juvenile-facilities-2018-supplemental>
- Victim, Perpetrator, and Incident Characteristics of Sexual Victimization of Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018 - Statistical Tables: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/victim-perpetrator-and-incident-characteristics-sexual-victimization-youth>



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