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National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2018

Facility Characteristics of Sexual Victimization of Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018 – Statistical Tables

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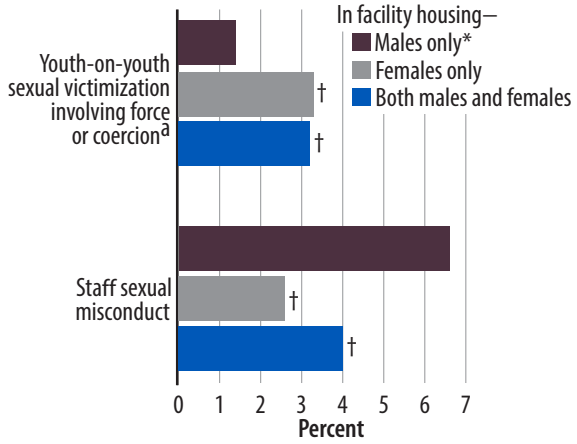
In 2018, about 7.5% of youth in juvenile justice facilities housing only males reported any sexual victimization, as did 4.9% of youth in facilities housing only females and 6.3% in facilities housing both males and females. Youth in female-only facilities (3.3%) or mixed-gender facilities (3.2%) reported youth-on-youth sexual victimization with force or coercion more than twice as often as youth in male-only facilities (1.4%) **(figure 1)**. Youth in male-only facilities were more likely to report staff sexual misconduct (6.6%) than youth in female-only (2.6%) or mixed-gender (4.0%) facilities.

FIGURE 1
Youth reporting sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by sex of youth housed in facility, 2018



Note: See table 2.1 for estimates and standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.
[a]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2018.

This report describes characteristics of juvenile justice facilities related to youth-reported sexual victimization. These tables supplement the full report *Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in*

Highlights

In 2018—

- All juvenile facilities reported using criminal record or history checks to screen potential new hires of frontline staff (those responsible for supervision and direct care of youth), while about three-quarters (76%) conducted domestic violence or civil protective order checks and two-thirds (68%) conducted drug use tests.
- A larger percentage of youth held in facilities with 51 to 100 (6.6%) or 101 or more youth (7.4%) reported sexual victimization than youth held in facilities with 10 to 25 youth (3.8%).
- Facilities where a majority of youth reported the presence of gang activity had youth reporting any sexual victimization (8.5%) at about 17 times the rate of facilities where no youth reported gang activity (0.5%).
- In facilities where half or fewer youth reported having their own room, the percentage who reported any sexual victimization (7.3%) was twice that reported by youth in facilities where all youth reported having their own room (3.1%).

Juvenile Facilities, 2018 (NCJ 253042, BJS, December 2019), which provides national estimates of sexual victimization in juvenile facilities.[1,2]

Data are from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) 2018 National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC-3), conducted from March to December 2018. These tables include data from two components of the NSYC-3: the facility questionnaire and the youth sexual victimization survey.

A total of 323 facilities that housed juveniles completed the facility questionnaire, including 216 state-owned or -operated facilities and 107 locally or privately operated facilities holding state-placed youth under contract. BJS used this questionnaire to collect information from designated juvenile justice facility administrators on facility characteristics, staff, and procedures responsive to the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA; P.L. 108–79).

Across sampled facilities, 6,049 youth completed the youth sexual victimization survey. The survey included a series of questions about sexual activity within their facility. Based on responses to these questions, BJS developed measures of youth victimization to characterize information about incidents of sexual contact and victimization. (See *Methodology*.)

The NSYC is part of BJS's National Prison Rape Statistics Program and collects data on sexual victimization as required by PREA.

[1]For the full report, see https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/svryjf18.pdf.
[2]For related supplemental and statistical tables, see https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/svryjf18st.pdf and https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/vpicsvyjf18st.pdf.

Organization of the statistical tables

The statistical tables are organized into three sections. The information in these tables was provided by facility administrators in the facility questionnaire and youth in juvenile facilities in the youth sexual victimization survey.

Section 1 includes facility-reported information on personnel screening of potential new hires in juvenile facilities, general and PREA-related staff training, how youth receive information that sexual activity is not allowed in the facility, and methods for youth to report a complaint against staff.

Section 2 includes youth-reported sexual victimization rates by facility-reported characteristics of juvenile facilities. Surveyed youth provided information on sexual victimization they experienced in their facility. Juvenile facilities provided information on their organizational structure, characteristics of youth and frontline staff in the facility, and staff turnover and vacant positions.

Section 3 includes sexual victimization rates by facility characteristics, as reported by youth in juvenile facilities. In addition to questions about victimization, youth were asked about their demographics and PREA education. Youth were also asked about topics including facility atmosphere, their opinions on what happens at the facility, and their perceptions of the fairness of facility staff.

Terms and definitions

Force or coercion includes—

- physical force or threat of force
- other forms of pressure or coercion, such as threatening to get the youth in trouble; giving the youth money, favors, protection, or other special treatment; or repeatedly asking the youth to engage in sexual activity.

Sexual victimization reported by youth involves any forced or coerced sexual activity with another youth and any sexual activity with facility staff.[3]

- Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion includes—
  - forced or coerced sexual acts
    - contact between the penis and the vagina or anus
    - penetration of the anal or vaginal opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object
    - contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus
    - rubbing of another person's penis or vagina with a hand.
  - other forced or coerced sexual activity that did not meet the description of sexual acts above
    - kissing on the lips
    - kissing another body part, not including those listed under sexual acts above
    - being shown something sexual, such as pictures or a movie
    - other sexual activity, whether or not it involved touching.
- Staff sexual misconduct that either did or did not involve force or coercion includes—
  - sexual acts
    - contact between the penis and the vagina or anus
    - penetration of the anal or vaginal opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object
    - contact between the mouth and the penis, vagina, or anus
    - rubbing of another person's penis or vagina with a hand.
  - other sexual activity that did not meet the description of sexual acts above
    - kissing on the lips
    - kissing another body part, not including those listed under sexual acts above
    - being shown something sexual, such as pictures or a movie
    - other sexual activity, whether or not it involved touching.

[3]The NSYC does not distinguish between completed and attempted sexual victimization.

Section 1: Facility-reported practices related to staff and youth

Section 2: Sexual victimization by facility-reported characteristics

Section 3: Sexual victimization by youth-reported facility characteristics

Section 1: Facility-reported practices related to staff and youth

Key findings

- About 61% of state-operated and 83% of non-state-operated juvenile facilities used drug tests when screening potential new hires of frontline staff **(table 1.1)**.
- In 2018, most juvenile facilities required their frontline staff to be trained in conflict de-escalation and communication with youth (100%), staff boundaries (>99%), managing mentally disordered youth (92%), cross-gender supervision (89%), and responsiveness to youth identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (89%) **(table 1.2)**.
- About one-third of facilities (36%) required 8 hours or more of PREA-related training for new hires of frontline staff in their first year, while approximately one-quarter of facilities (24%) required 2 hours or less.
- Forty-three percent of facilities required new hires of frontline staff to complete PREA-related training before starting in their position, and about one-quarter (24%) required the training within the new hires' first week.
- While nearly all facilities (99%) reported that youth learned from facility staff that sexual activity is not allowed, most facilities reported using at least one other method, including a handbook with facility rules (97%), posters or signs (84%), or a brochure, flier, or pamphlet (80%) **(table 1.3)**.

TABLE 1.1
Screening for potential new hires of frontline staff in juvenile facilities, by type of facility, 2018

Screening for potential new hires of frontline staff	All facilities	State-operated facilities	Non-state-operated facilities[a]
Criminal record/history check	100%	100%	100%
Child abuse/sex offender registry check	96.0	98.6	90.7
Domestic violence/civil protective order check	75.5	78.7	69.2
Drug use test	68.1	60.6	83.2

Note: Details do not sum to totals because respondents could report multiple types of screening. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. Frontline staff include employees responsible for supervision and direct care of youth in the facility.

[a]Refers to locally and privately operated juvenile facilities that met the same criteria as state facilities and had the additional criteria of having one or more adjudicated youth placed by the state. See *Methodology*.

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

TABLE 1.2
General and PREA-related training required for frontline staff in juvenile facilities, by type of facility, 2018

Frontline staff training	All facilities	State-operated facilities	Non-state-operated facilities[a]
General training required[b]			
Conflict de-escalation and communication with youth	100%	100%	100%
Staff boundaries	99.7	100	99.1
Managing mentally disordered youth	91.6	92.6	89.6
Cross-gender supervision	89.4	91.7	84.9
LGBT responsiveness[c]	89.1	92.1	83.0
Gang management/identification/prevention	75.4	76.3	73.6
PREA-related training hours required for new hires in first year			
2 hours or less	23.7%	21.4%	28.6%
3–7	40.3	44.3	31.6
8 or more	36.0	34.3	39.8
Time frame for new hires to complete PREA-related training[d]			
Preservice (prior to starting position)	42.9%	41.4%	45.9%
Within first week of starting position	23.7	24.8	21.4
Between 1 week and 1 month of starting position	16.9	17.1	16.3
After first month of starting position	16.6	16.7	16.3

Note: Percentages are based on nonmissing records. Frontline staff include employees responsible for supervision and direct care of youth in the facility.

[a]Refers to locally and privately operated juvenile facilities that met the same criteria as state facilities and had the additional criteria of having one or more adjudicated youth placed by the state. See *Methodology*.

[b]Includes required training programs for new hires and refresher training for current staff that may or may not cover information related to the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). Details do not sum to totals because respondents could report multiple types of general training.

[c]LGBT denotes lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

[d]Details do not sum to totals due to rounding.

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

TABLE 1.3
PREA education and grievance processes for youth in juvenile facilities, by type of facility, 2018

Youth PREA education and grievance process	All facilities	State-operated facilities	Non-state-operated facilities[a]
How youth received information that sexual activity is not allowed in the facility			
Facility staff	99.1%	98.6%	100%
Handbook with facility rules	97.2	97.2	97.2
Posters/signs	83.9	90.3	71.0
Brochure/flier/pamphlet	80.2	84.3	72.0
Video	52.0	56.5	43.0
Something else	21.1	19.0	25.2
Methods for youth to report a complaint against staff			
Make a report/talk to a staff member or administrator	100%	100%	100%
Report by phone/hotline	94.7	94.4	95.3
Talk to someone outside the facility	95.0	94.9	95.3
Talk to someone who visits from outside the facility	96.0	96.3	95.3
Some other way	89.2	92.6	82.2

Note: Details do not sum to totals because respondents could report multiple methods. Percentages are based on nonmissing records. PREA denotes the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003.

[a]Refers to locally and privately operated juvenile facilities that met the same criteria as state facilities and had the additional criteria of having one or more adjudicated youth placed by the state. See *Methodology*.

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

Section 2: Sexual victimization by facility-reported characteristics

Key findings

- An estimated 1.3% of youth in residential treatment facilities reported youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion in 2018, and 4.7% reported staff sexual misconduct **(table 2.1)**.
- About 7.3% of youth in state-operated juvenile facilities and 6.5% of youth in non-state-operated facilities reported any sexual victimization.
- A smaller percentage of youth reported staff sexual misconduct (4.2%) and any sexual victimization (4.9%) in facilities with high rates of turnover in their custody population than youth in facilities with low youth turnover (6.8% staff sexual misconduct and 8.5% any sexual victimization) **(table 2.2)**.
- In facilities housing any males, a larger percentage of youth reported staff sexual misconduct in facilities where a majority of staff were female (6.7%) than facilities where one-fourth or fewer staff were female (4.8%) **(table 2.3)**.
- In 2018, a higher rate of youth in facilities where 10% or more frontline staff positions were vacant or unfilled reported staff sexual misconduct (6.6%) and any sexual victimization (7.9%) than youth in facilities where less than 10% of such positions were vacant (4.3% staff sexual misconduct and 5.5% any sexual victimization) **(table 2.4)**.

TABLE 2.1
Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by type of incident and facility organizational structure, 2018

Facility organizational structure	Percent of youth reporting—			Standard error		
	Sexual victimization[a]	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion[b]	Staff sexual misconduct	Sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion	Staff sexual misconduct
Primary function						
Detention	7.3%	1.5%	6.5%	0.94%	0.51%	0.83%
Training/long-term secure	7.8	2.2	6.2	0.58	0.23	0.57
Community-based program	2.7	0.2	2.5	1.13	0.20	1.10
Residential treatment*	5.5	1.3	4.7	0.94	0.55	0.77
Camp/reception/other	10.5	4.2	8.1	3.69	2.53	3.39
Operating agency						
State*	7.3%	1.9%	6.0%	0.45%	0.20%	0.46%
Non-state[c]	6.5	2.0	5.1	0.78	0.47	0.67
Percent of rated capacity[d]						
Less than 50%	9.3%	2.9%	7.9%	1.68%	0.85%	1.63%
50% to less than 75%	5.6	1.7	4.4 †	0.78	0.34	0.73
75% to less than 100%	6.4	1.6	5.1	0.60	0.32	0.55
100% or more*	7.7	1.5	6.7	0.92	0.29	0.90
Sex of youth housed						
Males only*	7.5%	1.4%	6.6%	0.51%	0.21%	0.49%
Females only	4.9	3.3 †	2.6 †	1.00	0.85	0.72
Both males and females	6.3	3.2 †	4.0 †	0.78	0.55	0.66

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about types of incidents. Estimates exclude five facilities missing youth-specific data.

*Comparison group.

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

[a]Estimates may not sum to totals because youth could report both youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion and staff sexual misconduct.

[b]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.

[c]Refers to locally and privately operated juvenile facilities in states where a significant number of state-adjudicated youth were held in these facilities. Does not reflect local and contract facilities that hold state-adjudicated youth in other states. See *Methodology*.

[d]Calculated by dividing the sum of standard and makeshift beds assigned to youth by the facility's rated capacity (the maximum number of standard beds in the facility as set by a rating official). Estimates exclude an additional four facilities missing facility-specific data.

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

TABLE 2.2
Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by type of incident and selected facility characteristics, 2018

Selected facility characteristics	Percent of youth reporting— Sexual victimization[a]	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion[b]	Staff sexual misconduct	Standard error Sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion	Staff sexual misconduct
Adjudicated youth in custody						
1–9	0%	0%	0%	:	:	:
10–25*	4.5	1.3	3.8	0.73%	0.40%	0.73%
26–50	5.4	1.7	4.3	0.79	0.41	0.74
51–100	7.6 †	1.8	6.6 †	1.00	0.41	0.95
101 or more	9.3 †	2.4	7.4 †	0.81	0.36	0.76
Average exposure time of surveyed youth[c]						
Less than 5 months*	4.2%	1.1%	3.5%	0.47%	0.22%	0.47%
5–6 months	7.2 †	2.5 †	5.6 †	0.72	0.39	0.66
7–12 months	9.0 †	2.0 †	7.6 †	0.88	0.35	0.81
Youth turnover rate[d]						
Less than 2.5*	8.5%	2.4%	6.8%	0.82%	0.37%	0.75%
2.5–4	7.2	2.0	5.8	0.69	0.34	0.59
More than 4	4.9 †	1.2	4.2 †	0.75	0.42	0.70
Youth-to-frontline-staff ratio[e]						
More frontline staff than youth*	6.9%	1.4%	6.1%	0.63%	0.28%	0.63%
As many or fewer frontline staff than youth	7.0	2.1	5.4	0.56	0.28	0.51

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about types of incidents. Estimates exclude five facilities missing youth-specific data.

*Comparison group.

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

:Not calculated.

[a]Estimates may not sum to totals because youth could report both youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion and staff sexual misconduct.

[b]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.

[c]The time from the admission date (based on administrative data) to the survey date, up to a maximum of 12 months. If youth were admitted to the facility more than 12 months prior to the survey, they were asked only about their experiences in the last 12 months. Estimates exclude an additional four facilities missing facility-specific data.

[d]Calculated by dividing the number of admissions and releases in the last 12 months by the number of youth held the Wednesday prior to the youth data collection visit. For example, if a facility admitted 50 and released 50 youth during the 12-month period and held 50 on the referenced Wednesday, then the turnover rate was (50 + 50) ÷ 50, or 2. Estimates exclude an additional four facilities missing facility-specific data.

[e]Frontline staff include employees responsible for supervision and direct care of youth in the facility.

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

TABLE 2.3

Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by type of incident and selected frontline staff characteristics, 2018

Selected frontline staff characteristics	Percent of youth reporting— Sexual victimization[a]	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion[b]	Staff sexual misconduct	Standard error Sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion	Staff sexual misconduct
Percent of staff younger than age 30						
0%–25%*	7.9%	1.8%	6.6%	0.63%	0.29%	0.61%
26%–50%	6.3	2.2	4.8	0.76	0.38	0.66
51%–100%	6.5	2.4	5.0	1.31	0.83	1.22
Percent of staff with less than 3 years' experience						
0%–25%*	7.3%	3.0%	5.1%	1.17%	0.94%	0.95%
26%–50%	7.4	1.8	6.2	0.63	0.25	0.62
51%–75%	6.1	1.2 †	5.4	0.71	0.24	0.71
76%–100%	8.5	3.2	6.1	1.62	0.81	1.47
In facilities housing males only/both males and females—						
Percent of staff who were female						
0%–25%*	6.4%	2.2%	4.8%	0.67%	0.38%	0.64%
26%–50%	6.9	1.4	5.9	0.78	0.27	0.75
51%–100%	7.8	1.7	6.7 †	0.70	0.37	0.63
Percent of staff who were female in facilities with 25% or more staff younger than age 30						
0%–50%*	5.2	1.8	4.1	0.68	0.31	0.62
51%–100%	9.6 †	2.0	8.2 †	1.43	0.76	1.29
Percent of staff who were female in facilities with less than 25% of staff younger than age 30						
0%–50%*	8.0	1.8	6.5	0.89	0.38	0.89
51%–100%	7.3	1.8	6.2	0.90	0.43	0.83

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about types of incidents. Estimates exclude five facilities missing youth-specific data and four facilities missing facility-specific data.

*Comparison group.

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

[a]Estimates may not sum to totals because youth could report both youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion and staff sexual misconduct.

[b]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.

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

TABLE 2.4

Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by type of incident and facility staff turnover and vacancies, 2018

Facility staff turnover and vacancies	Percent of youth reporting—			Standard error		
	Sexual victimization[a]	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion[b]	Staff sexual misconduct	Sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion	Staff sexual misconduct
Net change in number of paid staff in the last 12 months						
Increased	6.7%	2.1%	5.1%	0.56%	0.37%	0.49%
Decreased	7.8	1.8	6.8	0.74	0.27	0.72
Stayed the same*	5.4	1.5	4.4	0.95	0.46	0.92
Frontline staff positions that were vacant/unfilled						
Less than 10%*	5.5%	1.5%	4.3%	0.61%	0.32%	0.48%
10% or more	7.9 †	2.1	6.6 †	0.55	0.25	0.52

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about types of incidents. Estimates exclude five facilities missing youth-specific data and four facilities missing facility-specific data.

*Comparison group.

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

[a]Estimates may not sum to totals because youth could report both youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion and staff sexual misconduct.

[b]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.

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

Section 3: Sexual victimization by youth-reported facility characteristics

Key findings

- In 2018, about 4.7% of youth reported any sexual victimization in facilities where all youth said they learned sexual abuse and harassment are not allowed, roughly half the rate (8.7%) in facilities where some youth did not report such PREA education **(table 3.1)**.
- Smaller shares of youth reported any sexual victimization (2.5%), youth-on-youth victimization (0.5%), and staff sexual misconduct (2.0%) in facilities where all responding youth reported receiving PREA education from facility staff than youth in facilities where some youth did not report learning this way (7.9%, 2.1%, and 6.4%).
- In 2018, 11.6% of youth reported any sexual victimization in facilities where youth perceived facility policies as having a low level of fairness on average, higher than in facilities that youth perceived as having a medium (5.1%) or high level of fairness (2.8%) **(table 3.2)**.
- About five times the percentage of youth reported staff sexual misconduct in facilities where youth on average had a low perception of staff (8.5%) as in facilities where youth had a high perception of staff (1.5%) in 2018 **(table 3.3)**.
- Nearly twice the percentage of youth in facilities where youth had a low perception of staff on average (9.7%) reported any sexual victimization than youth in facilities with a high perception of staff (5.0%).
- A larger percentage of youth reported any sexual victimization (7.9%), youth-on-youth sexual victimization (2.1%), and staff sexual misconduct (6.5%) in facilities where a majority of youth reported the presence of nonsexual violence than in facilities where half of or fewer youth reported nonsexual violence (3.2% any sexual victimization, 0.7% youth-on-youth sexual victimization, and 2.7% staff sexual misconduct) **(table 3.4)**.
- In 2018, about half the percentage of youth reported any sexual victimization (3.6%) and staff sexual misconduct (2.9%) in facilities where the average age of youth was less than 16 as in facilities where the average age was 16 to 17 (7.8% any sexual victimization and 6.3% staff sexual misconduct) or 18 or older (7.4% and 6.3%) **(table 3.5)**.
- About twice the share of youth reported any sexual victimization in facilities where more than half of youth reported having a disability (10.1%) as in facilities where half of or fewer youth reported having a disability (5.9%).

TABLE 3.1

Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by type of incident and youth-reported PREA education in facility, 2018

Youth-reported PREA education	Percent of youth reporting—			Standard error		
	Sexual victimization[a]	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion[b]	Staff sexual misconduct	Sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion	Staff sexual misconduct
Percent of youth who learned that all forms of sexual abuse/harassment are not allowed in the facility						
Less than 100%*	8.7%	2.5%	7.2%	0.48%	0.26%	0.45%
100%	4.7 †	1.0 †	3.8 †	0.77	0.26	0.75
Percent of youth who learned that all forms of sexual abuse/harassment are not allowed in the facility from—						
Facility staff						
Less than 100%*	7.9%	2.1%	6.4	0.46%	0.22%	0.43%
100%	2.5 †	0.5 †	2.0 †	1.04	0.19	0.99
Handbook with facility rules						
0%–50%*	10.1	2.5	9.0	1.78	0.90	1.69
51%–100%	6.7 †	1.8	5.4 †	0.42	0.20	0.39
Other paper materials/video						
Less than 100%*	8.1	2.3	6.5	0.45	0.23	0.42
100%	4.3 †	0.8 †	3.7 †	0.91	0.21	0.89
Average number of ways that youth learned[c]						
0–2 ways*	8.6%	2.2%	7.2%	1.37%	0.68%	1.23%
3	7.4	1.9	6.2	0.74	0.41	0.72
4	7.1	2.1	5.5	0.53	0.28	0.51
5–6	4.6	0.8	4.1	1.56	0.32	1.46

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about types of incidents.

*Comparison group.

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

[a]Estimates may not sum to totals because youth could report both youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion and staff sexual misconduct.

[b]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.

[c]Youth were asked about six methods of learning: "from facility staff," "poster or sign," "brochure, flyer or pamphlet," "handbook with facility rules," "video," or "something else."

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

TABLE 3.2

Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by type of incident and youth perceptions of facility policies and fairness, 2018

Youth perception of facility policies/fairness	Percent of youth reporting—			Standard error		
	Sexual victimization[a]	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion[b]	Staff sexual misconduct	Sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion	Staff sexual misconduct
Average perception of fairness at facility[c]						
Low*	11.6%	2.9%	9.7%	0.88%	0.41%	0.85%
Medium	5.1 †	1.4 †	4.1 †	0.48	0.23	0.42
High	2.8 †	1.7	1.3 †	1.01	0.81	0.69
Percent of youth reporting that most or all staff—						
Explain facility rules clearly						
0%–50%*	9.2%	2.2%	7.8%	0.73%	0.32%	0.69%
51%–100%	5.1 †	1.6	4.0 †	0.49	0.29	0.42
Use physical force when they don't really need to						
0%–50%*	6.8	1.9	5.6	0.42	0.19	0.39
51%–100%	13.4 †	1.8	12.2 †	2.11	0.83	2.03
Give fair punishments						
0%–50%*	8.1	1.9	6.9	0.53	0.22	0.50
51%–100%	4.8 †	1.9	3.4 †	0.59	0.46	0.47
Are disrespectful						
0%–50%*	5.9	1.7	4.7	0.45	0.21	0.42
51%–100%	12.3 †	2.8	10.4 †	1.12	0.42	1.07
Give youth the chance to tell their side before making decisions						
0%–50%*	7.6	1.9	6.4	0.47	0.21	0.45
51%–100%	4.6 †	1.8 †	3.1 †	0.70	0.50	0.57
Act honestly						
0%–50%*	9.0	2.2	7.7	0.57	0.26	0.56
51%–100%	4.2 †	1.5	3.0 †	0.55	0.32	0.49
Punish youth even when they don't do anything wrong						
0%–50%*	6.5	1.8	5.3	0.42	0.19	0.38
51%–100%	12.7 †	3.1	10.5 †	1.98	0.65	1.97
Keep their personal opinions about youth out of it when making decisions						
0%–50%*	8.0	2.0	6.9	0.46	0.21	0.45
51%–100%	3.4 †	1.7 †	1.8 †	0.86	0.57	0.65
Explain their decisions						
0%–50%*	7.9	1.9	6.7	0.45	0.22	0.43
51%–100%	4.4 †	1.8	2.9 †	0.88	0.54	0.73

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about types of incidents.

*Comparison group.

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

[a]Estimates may not sum to totals because youth could report both youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion and staff sexual misconduct.

[b]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.

[c]Youth were asked nine questions about what happens at the facility and their perceptions of fairness. See *Methodology*.

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

TABLE 3.3
Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by type of incident and youth perceptions of facility staff, 2018

Youth perception of facility staff	Percent of youth reporting— Sexual victimization[a]	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion[b]	Staff sexual misconduct	Standard error Sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion	Staff sexual misconduct
Average perception of staff[c]						
Low*	9.7%	2.1%	8.5%	0.64%	0.26%	0.62%
Medium	3.8 †	1.2 †	2.9 †	0.44	0.26	0.39
High	5.0 †	3.6	1.5 †	1.40	1.25	0.61
Percent of youth reporting that most or all staff—						
Genuinely care about the youth in this facility						
0%–50%*	8.9%	2.0%	7.6%	0.56%	0.24%	0.55%
51%–100%	3.8 †	1.7	2.5 †	0.49	0.39	0.36
Act in ways that make things safer in this facility						
0%–50%*	9.9	2.3	8.6	0.66	0.28	0.63
51%–100%	4.1 †	1.5	2.9 †	0.41	0.28	0.35
Are able to control what goes on in this facility						
0%–50%*	8.8	2.1	7.4	0.52	0.23	0.51
51%–100%	2.9 †	1.3	1.7 †	0.54	0.36	0.42

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about types of incidents.

*Comparison group.

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

[a]Estimates may not sum to totals because youth could report both youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion and staff sexual misconduct.

[b]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.

[c]Youth were asked three questions about facility staff. See *Methodology*.

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

TABLE 3.4

Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by type of incident and youth-reported facility atmosphere and living conditions, 2018

Youth-reported facility atmosphere/ living conditions	Percent of youth reporting— Sexual victimization[a]	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion[b]	Staff sexual misconduct	Standard error Sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion	Staff sexual misconduct
Percent of youth reporting one or more staff grooming behaviors[c]						
0%–50%*	5.5%	1.3%	4.6%	0.66%	0.30%	0.65%
51%–100%	7.6 †	2.1	6.2	0.48	0.24	0.45
Percent of youth reporting gang activity in facility						
0%	0.5% †	0.5%	0%	0.36%	0.36%	:
1%–50%*	5.3	2.0	3.6	0.61	0.42	0.50%
51%–100%	8.5 †	1.9	7.3 †	0.57	0.23	0.57
Percent of youth reporting nonsexual violence in facility[d]						
0%–50%*	3.2%	0.7%	2.7%	0.61%	0.25%	0.58%
51%–100%	7.9 †	2.1 †	6.5 †	0.49	0.22	0.47
Percent of youth reporting they had their own room						
0%–50%*	7.3%	1.8%	6.2%	0.49%	0.25%	0.49%
51%–99%	7.6	2.3	5.7	0.94	0.49	0.80
100%	3.1 †	1.1	2.2	1.16	0.39	1.09

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about types of incidents.

*Comparison group.

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

:Not calculated.

[a]Estimates may not sum to totals because youth could report both youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion and staff sexual misconduct.

[b]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.

[c]Youth were asked whether staff told them about their personal life outside of work; gave them pictures or wrote letters; offered them drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, or other items not allowed in the facility; gave them money or other special gifts; offered them protection from other youth; did something else to get them out of trouble or make things easier for them; spent time alone with them and asked them not to tell anyone about it; told them that they felt emotionally close or had special feelings; talked about sex, joked about sex, or shared sexual stories with them; or contacted them in other ways when not at the facility.

[d]Youth were asked whether they worried about being or were hit, punched, or assaulted by another youth in the facility or by staff; were written up or charged with physically fighting another youth in the facility or staff; were physically hurt by staff on purpose; or were written up or charged with threatening staff.

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

TABLE 3.5
Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, by type of incident and selected youth characteristics, 2018

Selected youth characteristics	Percent of youth reporting— Sexual victimization[a]	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion[b]	Staff sexual misconduct	Standard error Sexual victimization	Youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion	Staff sexual misconduct
Average age						
Younger than 16*	3.6%	0.8%	2.9%	0.72%	0.26%	0.65%
16–17	7.8 †	2.3 †	6.3 †	0.54	0.27	0.49
18 or older	7.4 †	1.3	6.3 †	0.98	0.55	0.90
Percent of youth reporting one or more disabilities[c]						
0%–50%*	5.9%	1.6%	5.0%	0.39%	0.23%	0.35%
51%–100%	10.1 †	2.7 †	7.9 †	1.13	0.38	1.10
Percent of youth reporting one or more mental health conditions[d]						
0%–75%*	6.3%	1.2%	5.7%	0.53%	0.29%	0.53%
76%–100%	7.7	2.5 †	5.9	0.62	0.31	0.57
Percent of youth reporting serious psychological distress[e]						
0%–25%*	5.8%	1.5%	5.0%	0.49%	0.26%	0.46%
26–100%	9.1 †	2.6 †	7.1 †	0.76	0.35	0.70

Note: See *Terms and definitions* for information about types of incidents.

*Comparison group.

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

[a]Estimates may not sum to totals because youth could report both youth-on-youth sexual victimization involving force or coercion and staff sexual misconduct.

[b]Excludes acts with no report of force or coercion. Called "youth-on-youth" in prior reports.

[c]Includes serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions due to a physical, mental, or emotional problem; deafness or serious difficulty hearing; blindness or serious difficulty seeing; serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs; and difficulty dressing or bathing.

[d]Includes attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADD/ADHD), dyslexia, learning disability, autism or Asperger's, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), another anxiety disorder, and other mental or emotional conditions.

[e]Based 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 or higher indicate SPD.

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

Methodology

Sampling of facilities

The National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2018 (NSYC-3) included facilities owned or operated by state juvenile justice authorities and locally or privately operated juvenile facilities contracting with states to hold adjudicated youth. Only facilities that housed youth for at least 90 days, had a juvenile residential population of more than 25% adjudicated youth, and held at least 10 adjudicated youth at the time of the survey were eligible for the NSYC-3. The resulting survey universe included all adjudicated youth in eligible state-owned or -operated facilities and all state-placed adjudicated youth in eligible locally and privately operated facilities. Westat served as the NSYC-3 data collection agent for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) under a cooperative agreement (award number 2016-RP-BX-K002).

BJS based the initial list of juvenile residential facilities on information from the 2015 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. In the first stage, 453 facilities (314 state and 139 contract) met the eligibility criteria for the NSYC-3. Locally or privately operated facilities that held no youth under state contract were excluded from the sample frame. All youth in locally or privately operated contract facilities were included if at least one youth was placed in the facility by the state. As the sample frame of facilities was further refined, BJS identified 33 additional contract facilities that were holding state-placed adjudicated youth and added them to the sample, for a total of 486 facilities in the frame.

Subsequent research on the sample frame of facilities found 148 of the 486 facilities to be out of scope. Facilities were designated out of scope if they—

- were closed or scheduled to close before the data collection (33 facilities)
- did not house youth for more than 90 days or had an average length of stay of less than 30 days (35)
- did not house state-placed youth (42) or adjudicated youth (11)
- merged with another enrolled facility (7) or were a duplicate of another enrolled facility (3)
- did not house at least 10 adjudicated youth (2)
- were no longer a juvenile corrections facility (2)
- were not selected in a subsample (13).

All eligible state-owned or -operated facilities in the survey universe were selected with certainty, as were contract facilities holding 20 or more adjudicated youth. In seven states (Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Oregon, and South Carolina), 30 contract facilities held between 10 to 19 adjudicated youth. Seventeen of those 30 contract facilities were subsampled with equal probability of selection in each state.

Of the remaining 338 eligible juvenile facilities, 6 lacked consent for a sufficient number of youth to permit data collection (see *Sampling of youth*). This resulted in a final sample of 332 participating facilities. The NSYC-3 youth survey data collection was ultimately conducted in 327 facilities, each of which yielded at least one usable sexual victimization survey. Five facilities were excluded from the youth-level data file because data on sexual victimization were not collected or could not be used. Similarly, of the 332 facilities visited, 4 facilities did not complete the facility questionnaire, resulting in 328 facilities in the facility-level data file. The final facility-level response rate was 98.2% (332 participating facilities of 338 eligible), with 327 providing youth-level data, 328 providing facility-level data, and 323 providing both youth- and facility-level data.

Sampling of youth

Administrators in each state, county, and private facility determined the type of consent required for youth to participate. Youth who had reached the legal age of consent did not need permission from a parent or guardian. For youth under the legal age of consent, administrators in 129 facilities provided in loco parentis (ILP) consent. In 48 facilities, administrators provided parents with an opportunity to withhold consent; administrators in these facilities provided ILP consent for youth where the parent did not refuse consent (passive consent). In 150 facilities, administrators required that consent be obtained directly from the parents or guardians (PGC) of youth under the legal age of consent. In all facilities, youth also had to provide direct assent to participate in the interview.

Five weeks before data collection, the NSYC-3 project team requested that administrators in ILP facilities provide a roster of all adjudicated youth assigned a bed.

In PGC facilities and facilities that employed both PGC and ILP based on the age of the youth, the project team requested rosters 9 weeks prior to data collection. The initial rosters were updated to reflect any additional youth admitted or discharged before the first day of data collection. Youth were randomly sampled from the initial and updated rosters.

Prior to data collection, field staff assessed the interviewing capacity at each facility. Capacity was based on the number of days, interviewing rooms, and available interviewers. In four large facilities, the youth were randomly subsampled so the number of sampled youth did not exceed interviewing capacity.

The final NSYC-3 universe represented 12,750 adjudicated youth held in state-owned or -operated juvenile facilities or placed in locally or privately operated juvenile facilities that met the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the sample. After subsampling, the final sample of youth was 12,362. A total of 6,910 youth participated in the survey, with 6,211 youth completing the sexual victimization survey and 699 completing an alternative survey on topics such as living conditions in the facility, mental health, drug and alcohol use, and education.

BJS conducted a data-quality review of the 6,211 completed sexual victimization surveys. The review identified 162 surveys that either did not provide sufficient information to determine whether a sexual victimization had occurred (63) or provided extreme or inconsistent responses (99). Excluding these 162 responses, 6,049 survey responses from adjudicated youth held in eligible facilities were used to generate estimates of sexual victimization.

Facility questionnaire

The facility questionnaire collected in-depth information on each sampled facility via a self-administered online questionnaire. A paper-based questionnaire was provided on request. The questionnaire was completed by a designated administrator at the facility, most often the facility coordinator. Topics included the number of facility staff by race or ethnicity, job category, age, and length of service; staff turnover or vacant positions; personnel screening; staff training; the number of youth, admissions, and discharges; residential capacity (number of beds), occupancy, and crowding; youth disabilities; the grievance process; special housing; and youth education on the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-79). A link to the online instrument and an electronic (PDF) version of the questionnaire were sent to the facility, with instructions based on the facility's status on the Wednesday prior to the youth data collection visit. Facility administrators had the option of printing the questionnaire so that sections could be completed by different designees within the facility or agency.

Weighting and estimation procedures

To generate facility estimates, each youth was assigned an initial weight corresponding to the inverse of the probability of selection within each facility. A series of adjustments was applied to the initial weight to compensate for any subsampling or nonresponse.

Subsampling of youth within a facility occurred for two reasons. First, in four facilities where the number of youth who consented to be interviewed was larger than the facility's interviewing capacity, a random subsample was excluded from the survey. Second, in every facility, a random subsample was selected to complete the alternative survey. In both circumstances, the weights of subsampled youth were distributed to the sampled youth using their subsampling probabilities.

Nonresponse adjustments were made at two points in the weighting process: to account for youth for whom PGC was required but could not be obtained and to adjust for nonresponse among youth with consent to be interviewed. The following steps were taken to construct the nonresponse adjustments:

1. Initial adjustments were determined by creating groups of similar youth based on their most serious offense, race or ethnicity, age, sex, and the number of days they were housed in the facility.

2. Adjustment groups required a minimum of 10 responding youth. In many facilities, this minimum requirement resulted in no nonresponse adjustment because the facility had too few total interviews (i.e., fewer than 20) to create more than one group, or the difference between responding and nonresponding youth was not statistically significant. In facilities where significant differences were observed, two or three nonresponse groups were usually created.

3. Within-facility weights were modified to reduce undue influence from a relatively small number of respondents with large sample weights. If the largest respondent weight was more than four times the smallest weight in the same facility, the largest weights were adjusted so the large-to-small

ratio within the facility would not exceed four. The difference in weighted counts was distributed to the remaining youth.

Standard errors and confidence intervals

Survey estimates are subject to sampling error. Standard errors for selected measures of sexual victimization are presented in tables that provide national-level estimates. 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 youth who reported sexual victimization by another youth is approximately 1.9% ± (1.96 × 0.2%) (or 1.6% to 2.3%). Based on similarly conducted samples, 95% of the intervals would be expected to contain the true (but unknown) percentage.

Analysis

This report examines victimization rates by selected facility-level characteristics as reported by the facility administrators. It also examines youth-level characteristics aggregated up to the facility level. Specifically, the tables show facility-reported information on personnel screening, staff training, youth education, the youth grievance process, and sexual victimization by youth- and facility-reported characteristics.

Some of these characteristics are taken from the facility questionnaires. Other facility characteristics were generated by aggregating youth-level responses within each facility (for example, table 2.1, which displays victimization rates for state-operated facilities, computes the rates by aggregating across all youth who reside in a state-operated facility). Prior to conducting analysis for this report, facility questionnaire data was reviewed for item-level inconsistencies and missing data. This data quality review led to the exclusion of some facilities from analyses related to facility capacity, youth turnover, and vacancies for frontline staff positions.

Estimates of victimization are based on reports from youth who were surveyed in each responding facility. These reports were then aggregated by the different characteristics displayed in the tables.

Measuring youth opinions about the facility staff and atmosphere

The NSYC-3 included nine Likert-scale items that measured youth opinions about what happens at the facility and perceptions of fairness:

B010. How many staff explain facility rules clearly?

B020. How many staff use physical force when they don't really need to?

B030. How many staff give fair punishments?

B040. How many staff are disrespectful?

B050. How many staff give you the chance to tell their side before making decisions?

B060. How many staff act honestly?

B070. How many staff punish youth even when they don't do anything wrong?

B080. How many staff keep their personal opinions about youth out of it when making decisions?

B090. How many staff explain their decisions?

The nine items were checked for reliability and generated a Cronbach's alpha[4] of 0.894. For items B010, B030, B050, B060, B080, and B090, "None of the staff" responses were coded as 0, "Few of the staff" as 1, "Most of the staff" as 2, and "All of the staff" as 3. For items B020, B040, and B070, responses were coded in reverse order. The response codes were summed to create an overall rating for each youth. A rating for each facility was then created by taking the average of all individual youth ratings in the facility.

Youth opinions on facility staff were based on three Likert-scale items:

B100. How many staff seem to genuinely care about youth?

B110. How many staff act in ways that make things safer in this facility?

B120. How many staff are able to control what goes on in this facility?

The three items were checked for reliability and generated a Cronbach's alpha of 0.813. "None of the staff" responses were coded as 0, "Few of the staff" as 1, "Most of the staff" as 2, and "All of the staff" as 3. The response codes were summed to create a rating for each youth. A rating for each facility was then created by taking the average of all individual youth ratings in the facility.

[4]Streiner D. (2003) Starting at the beginning: an introduction to coefficient alpha and internal consistency. Journal of personality assessment, 80, 99-103.

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. Alexis R. Piquero, PhD, is the director.

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