Data Collection

Data Collection

Standard 115.387 specifies requirements for **agencies** to collect and retain data related to **sexual abuse**. The standard requires **agencies** to collect accurate, uniform data for every allegation of **sexual abuse** at all **facilities** under its direct control, and at every private **facility** with which it contracts for the confinement of **residents**. These data must be aggregated at least annually, and are required to include, at a minimum, the data necessary to answer all questions on the most recent version of the Survey of Sexual Violence conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The standard also requires **agencies** to provide all such data from the previous calendar year to the DOJ upon request.

The DOJ specifies that the required data collection for allegations which are **unsubstantiated** is minimal, as the most recent version of the BJA Survey of Sexual Violence requires only the number of each type of allegation, divided into **sexual abuse** and **sexual harassment**, for incidents that are **unsubstantiated**, **unfounded**, or subject to an ongoing investigation (pp. 156-7).

Data Review for Corrective Action

Standard 115.388 requires **agencies** to review their data and use them to assess and improve the effectiveness of their **sexual abuse** prevention, detection, and response policies, practices, and training by identifying problem areas, taking ongoing corrective action, and preparing an annual report. The **agency's** annual report should: (1) compare the current year's data and corrective action with prior years'; (2) assess the **agency's** progress in addressing **sexual abuse**; and (3) be approved by the **agency head** and made available to the public through a website or some other means.

The DOJ suggests that **agencies** without a website consider submitting the report to a legislative body as another way to make the report available to the public (pp. 159-60).

Data Storage, Publication, and Destruction

Standard 115.389 requires **agencies** to securely retain the data collected pursuant to Standard 115.387 for at least 10 years, or longer if required by state statute. Additionally, the **agency** is required to make the data readily available to the public at least annually through a website or through other means, after removing all personal identifiers from the data.

The DOJ clarifies that this standard refers to statistical data collection rather than other types of reports (p. 161).

Resources

- Bureau of Justice Statistics. Form SSV-5 – Survey of Sexual Violence 2009 – State Juvenile Systems Form (also available at http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov)
- Bureau of Justice Statistics. Form SSV-6 – Survey of Sexual Violence 2009 – Locally or Privately-Operated Juvenile Facilities Summary Form (also available at http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov)
- Bureau of Justice Statistics. Form SSV-IJ – Survey of Sexual Violence 2009 – Juvenile Incident Form (also available at http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov)
- Vera Institute of Justice. Juvenile Justice Data Improvements Project. (http://www.vera.org/project/juvenile-justice-data-improvements-project)