

Juvenile correctional administrators reported 865 allegations of sexual victimization in state facilities and 613 in local and private facilities during 2014. This was a significant increase in the 735 allegations in state facilities and 382 in local and private facilities reported the previous year. The rate has more than doubled in the past 6 years, from 19 per 1,000 youth held in state juvenile facilities in 2005 to 47 per 1,000 in 2012. Based on 2-year rolling averages, the rate in local and private facilities was 14 per 1,000 youth in 2012, up from 7 in 2010.

### About the allegations

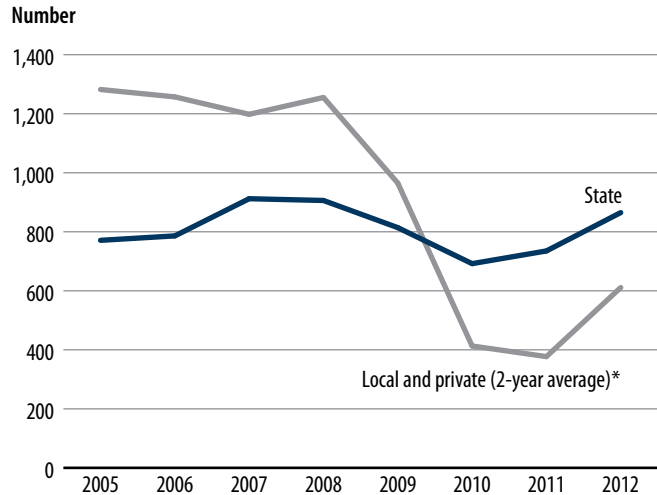
Between 2007 and 2012, juvenile correctional authorities reported nearly 9,500 allegations of sexual victimization in state systems, facilities in Indian country, and locally or privately operated facilities. More than half the allegations (55%) involved youth-on-youth sexual victimization, and the remainder involved staff-on-youth incidents. Upon investigation, 1,686 of the allegations were substantiated, representing 25% of youth-on-youth allegations and 10% of staff-on-youth allegations. The majority of sexual victimization allegations were unsubstantiated (i.e., the evidence was insufficient to determine whether the alleged incident occurred), including 53% of youth-on-youth and 49% of staff-on-youth allegations. Based on substantiated incidents between 2007 and 2012, juveniles were victimized more often in state systems (5.9 per 1,000 youth) than in locally or privately operated facilities (2.3 per 1,000).

Across all facilities, about three-quarters (76%) of substantiated incidents involved youth-on-youth sexual victimization. Less than a fifth (18%) were nonconsensual sexual acts between youth, involving force or the threat of force and penetration. More than a third (35%) were abusive sexual contacts, involving unwanted touching, and a fifth (20%) were determined to be voluntary; however, youth could not legally consent.

### Who were the victims?

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the youth-on-youth victims in state systems and three-quarters (74%) of those in local or private facilities were male. More than half (55%) of all victims were white, although whites made up about a third of all detained youth (33% in state systems and 32% in all other facilities). Almost half of victims (47%) were age 15 or younger, though less than a third (30%) of detained youth were in that age group.

### National estimates of allegations of sexual victimization in state juvenile systems and local or private juvenile correctional facilities, 2005–2012



\*Estimates based on 2-year moving averages, except for 2005. Includes Indian country facilities.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Sexual Violence, 2005–2012.

### Staff sexual victimization

Sixty-four percent of perpetrators of staff sexual misconduct and 31% of perpetrators of staff sexual harassment were female. Authorities found that nearly two-third (64%) of substantiated incidents of staff sexual misconduct between youth and staff “appeared to be willing,” although the contact was considered an abuse of power, involved an unknown level of coercion, and was illegal. More than two-thirds of victims (69%) in all incidents were male, nearly half (49%) were white, and more than three-quarters (77%) were age 16 or older. The majority of staff sexual victimizations were discovered because either the victim (46%) or another youth (17%) reported the incident to correctional authorities. Most perpetrators of staff sexual misconduct lost their job (92%) or faced legal action (51%). Half of the staff involved in sexual harassment lost their job (49%) and half (51%) received a reprimand, discipline, demotion, or transfer.

The full companion reports (*Sexual Victimization Reported by Juvenile Correctional Authorities, 2007–12*, NCJ 249145, and *Survey of Sexual Violence in Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2007–12 - Statistical Tables*, NCJ 249143), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

