

Correctional administrators reported 24,661 allegations of sexual victimization in prisons, jails, and other adult correctional facilities in 2015. Of these, an estimated 1,473 allegations were substantiated (determined to have occurred). More than half (58%) of substantiated incidents of sexual victimization in 2015 were perpetrated by inmates, while 42% were perpetrated by staff members.

Trends

The number of allegations in 2015 nearly tripled the 8,768 allegations in 2011, coinciding with the implementation of the National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape. Allegations of staff-on-inmate sexual victimization increased more than inmate-on-inmate victimization and accounted for 63% of the total increase.

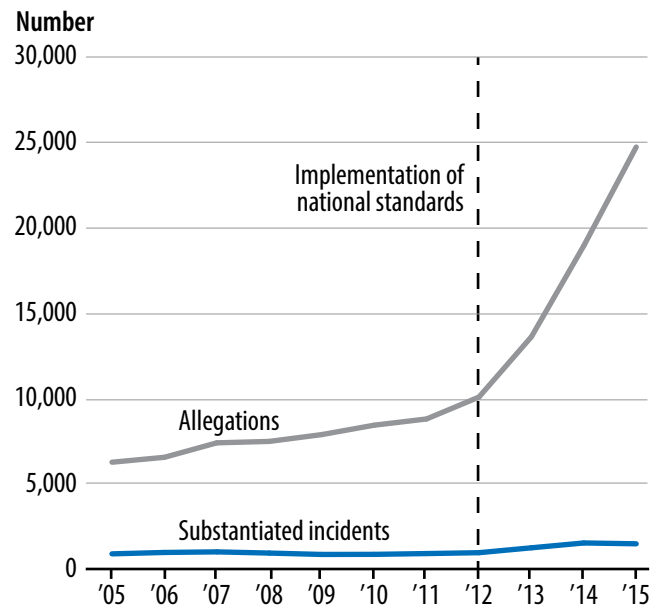
Allegations of staff-on-inmate sexual misconduct increased 191% from 2,800 in 2011 to 8,151 in 2015. The number of allegations in prisons increased from 6,660 in 2011 to 18,666 in 2015 (up 180%). The number of allegations in jails increased from 2,047 in 2011 to 5,809 in 2015 (up 184%).

Substantiated incidents

Of the 67,168 allegations of sexual victimization reported during 2012-15, correctional administrators completed investigations for 61,316 and found 5,187 (8%) to be substantiated. The number of substantiated incidents of sexual victimization increased from 2012 to 2014, but then leveled off.

The number of substantiated incidents in 2015 (1,473) was down from 2014 (1,522). However, it was a 63% increase from the 902 substantiated incidents in 2011.

National estimates of allegations and substantiated incidents of sexual victimization in adult correctional facilities, 2005-15



Note: Excludes inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of Sexual Victimization, 2005-15.

Other key findings

Inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment was first measured in the Survey of Sexual Victimization in 2013. During 2013-15, an estimated 15,875 allegations of inmate-on-inmate sexual harassment were made. Of those allegations, 16% (2,426) were substantiated based on completed investigations.

The full report (*Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2012-15*, NCJ 251146), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.