

## **Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2008-09**

This summary is based on the Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2008-09 report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The summary highlighted findings that may be useful to the Arizona Department of Health Program Manager and funded contractors for the Sexual Violence Prevention & Education Program. Findings specific to facilities in Arizona are located at the end of the summary.

Beck, A. J., Harrison, P. M., & Guerino, P. (2010). Sexual victimization in juvenile facilities reported by youth, 2008-09. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Special Report. U.S. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Available from <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/svifry09.pdf> Retrieved from Internet on January 15, 2010.

### **Survey Description**

Between June 2008 and April 2009 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) completed the first National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC). The NSYC is a part of the National Prison Rape Statistics Program and the Bureau of Justice Statistics is required to do a comprehensive review and analysis of the incidents and effects of prison rape annually.

The findings of the survey represented 26,550 adjudicated youth in the United States of which 10,263 participated in an audio computer-assisted self-interview survey. Of the youth who participated 9,198 completed a survey on sexual victimization and 1,065 completed a survey on drug and alcohol use and treatment. At least 1 facility from each state and the District of Columbia participated. Participating facilities included 166 state-owned and/or operated and 29 locally or privately operated juvenile facilities. Only facilities that held adjudicated youth for a minimum of 90 days were included. Youth were asked about sexual activities in which they were involved in during the past 12 months or since admission to facility, if less than 12 months.

### **General Findings**

- 2.6% reported an incident involving another youth
- 10.3% reported sexual victimization by facility staff
- 13 of the 195 facilities were considered to have high rates of victimization (based on rate of at least 35% higher than average rate among facilities)
- 6 facilities had victimization rates of 30% or greater
- 11 of the high rate facilities had rates of sexual misconduct (no force reported) that were twice the national average (6.4%)

## **Facility Characteristics Associated with Sexual Violence**

- Rates of sexual misconduct by staff was higher in state operated facilities (10.9%) than non-state facilities (7.9%)
- Female-only facilities reported the highest rates of youth-on-youth victimization
- Male-only facilities reported the highest rates of staff sexual misconduct
- Reports of staff-on-youth sexual victimization increased with length of time spent in facility

## **Youth Characteristics Associated with Sexual Violence**

- Males (10.8%) were more likely to report sexual activity with facility staff than females (4.7%)
- Females (9.1%) were more likely to report forced sexual activity with other youth than males (2%)
- White youth (4.4%) were more likely than black or Hispanic youth to report sexual victimization by another youth
- Black youth (11.9%) reported higher rates of sexual victimization by facility staff than white or Hispanic youth
- Youth with a sexual orientation other than heterosexual (12.5%) reported higher rates of sexual victimization by other youth
- Youth who experienced prior sexual assault (24.1%) were twice as likely to report sexual victimization in current facility
- Youth who experienced prior sexual assault in another correctional facility were more likely to report being victimized at current facility (65%)

## **Youth-on-Youth Victimization**

- 81% of youth reported more than one incident
- 32% of youth reported being victimized more than 10 times
- 43% of youth reported being victimized by more than one perpetrator
- 46% of youth reported physical force or threat of force
- 30% of youth reported being offered favors or protection
- 17% were given alcohol or drugs to engage in sexual acts or contact
- 19.6% were physically injured as a result of victimization

## **Staff-on-Youth Misconduct & Victimization**

- 88% of youth reported being victimized more than once by staff
- 27% of youth reported being victimized more than 10 times
- 33% of youth reported being victimized by more than one staff member
- 95% of youth reported being victimized by female staff (42% of staff in state juvenile facilities were female in 2008)
- 14% of youth reported physical force or threat of force by staff
- 18% were given drugs or alcohol to engage in sexual acts or contact
- 80% reported at least one incident occurred in a common area

## Findings for Arizona Facilities

Three facilities in Arizona were included in the report: Adobe Mountain School, Catalina Mountain School, and Southwest Regional Juvenile Complex, Eagle Point. **The percentages reported below reflect weighted percentages.** For more information or to see how Arizona facilities compared to facilities in other states and the District of Columbia see the Appendix tables in the full report <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/svifry09.pdf>.

Table 1. Percent of youth reporting sexual victimization by facility

Facility	Percent of youth reporting sexual victimization
<b>Total facilities</b>	<b>12.1</b>
Adobe Mountain School	16.9
Catalina Mountain School	23.8
Southwest Regional Juvenile Complex, Eagle Point	23.5

\* Note. From Appendix Table 2. National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008-09.

Table 2. Percent of youth reporting sexual victimization by another youth, by type of incident and facility

Facility	All youth-on-youth	Nonconsensual sexual acts
<b>Total facilities</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Adobe Mountain School	5.6	2.9
Catalina Mountain School	4.8	4.8
Southwest Regional Juvenile Complex, Eagle Point	0.0	0.0

\*Note. From Appendix Table 3. National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008-09.

Table 3. Percent of youth reporting staff sexual misconduct, by type of incident and facility

Facility	All staff sexual misconduct	Sexual acts excluding touching
<b>Total facilities</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Adobe Mountain School	14.0	14.0
Catalina Mountain School	19.0	19.0
Southwest Regional Juvenile Complex, Eagle Point	23.5	23.5

\* Note. From Appendix Table 4. National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008-09.

Table 4. Percent of youth reporting staff sexual misconduct excluding touching, by use of force and facility

Facility	Force reported	No report of force
<b>Total facilities</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Adobe Mountain School	11.2	5.6
Catalina Mountain School	4.8	14.3
Southwest Regional Juvenile Complex, Eagle Point	5.9	17.6

\* Note. From Appendix Table 4. National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008-09.