

## Summary of Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2009-11

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This summary is based on data gathered from the Survey of Sexual Violence (SSV), a report and data collection that have been conducted annually since 2004. The SSV is conducted, in part because of mandates in the 2003 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). 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. The full report can be retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svraca0911.pdf>.<sup>1</sup>

### Background

The 2009, 2010, and 2011 SSV surveys included all federal and state prisons, facilities operated by the U.S. military and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), and a representative sample of jail jurisdictions, privately operated jails and prisons, and jails holding adults in Indian country. The BJS then analyzes the substantiated and unsubstantiated sexual assault data<sup>2</sup> that was collected. In total, data were collected from facilities containing 1.99 million inmates in 2009, 1.98 million inmates in 2010, and 1.97 million inmates in 2011.

### General Findings of Sexual Victimization in Prisons & Jails from 2009 to 2011

- In each year between 2009 and 2011, the rates of alleged sexual victimization were consistently higher in prisons than in jails.
- Correctional administrators reported 8,763 allegations of sexual victimization in 2011, a statistically significant increase over the 8,404 allegations reported in 2010 and 7,855 in 2009.
- In 2011, 902 allegations of sexual victimization (10%) were substantiated (i.e., determined to have occurred upon investigation).
- Between 2009 and 2011, females represented about 7% of all state and federal prison inmates, but accounted for 22% of inmate-on-inmate victims and 33% of staff-on-inmate victims.

### Inmate-on-Inmate Victimization

- Perpetrators of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization in local jails were more likely to be age 24 or younger (28%) than perpetrators in prisons (18%).
- Perpetrators in prisons (26%) are more likely than perpetrators in jail (14%) to be 45 or older.
- Approximately 18% of substantiated incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization involved physical injury; 7% resulted in a major injury.
- About 52% of substantiated incidents of sexual victimization in 2011 involved only inmates.

### Staff Sexual Misconduct

- In 2011, about 32% of reported allegations of sexual victimization involved staff sexual misconduct and 17% involved staff sexual harassment.
- Females represent only 13% of inmates in local jails, but represent 67% of all victims of staff-on-inmate victimizations.
- In 2011, 48% of substantiated incidents involved staff with inmates.

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<sup>1</sup> All of the detailed survey report and data can be found in *Survey of Sexual Violence in Adult Correctional Facilities, 2009–11-Statistical Tables* (NCJ 244227).

<sup>2</sup> To define sexual victimization under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, BJS uses uniform definitions that classify each sexual act by the perpetrator who carried it out (i.e., inmate or staff) and the type of act.