

New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report - 2016

NJ Juvenile Justice Commission's (NJJJC) increased educational efforts related to PREA have led to an increased awareness by NJJJC residents and staff, leading to greater reporting and accountability. The NJJJC continues its efforts to implement best practices and promote zero tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment of its residents.

The rate of allegations of sexual abuse for the average daily population of 372 residents is 12.4 percent. The NJJJC thoroughly investigated each alleged incident reported in 2016.

While the NJJJC's rate of reported incidents for 2016 is 12.4, there was only one substantiated case of sexual abuse during that year. Specifically:

- In 2016, forty-six (46) instances of alleged sexual abuse were documented with one (1) substantiated case.¹

The above numbers are also reflected in NJJJC's Survey of Sexual Violence which the agency completes each year for the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The NJJJC publishes this annual report regarding PREA-related (Prison Rape Elimination Act) incidents and, where necessary, continues to improve the agency's prevention, detection and response efforts. Enhanced emphasis on the agency's zero tolerance of resident sexual abuse has reinforced prompt reporting. The NJJJC regularly conducts sexual abuse/assault incident reviews to determine if changes to or improvements in environmental, procedural, staffing and monitoring technology factors are necessary.

¹ In the substantiated case between two NJJJC residents, immediate corrective action was taken to address this issue, including, but not limited to separation of the residents and appropriate counseling services.