

New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report - 2018

The NJ Juvenile Justice Commission (NJ JJC) continues its efforts to implement best practices and promote zero tolerance for sexual abuse and sexual harassment of its residents. Significant education related to PREA has led to a higher awareness by NJ JJC residents and staff, leading to greater reporting and accountability.

In 2018, the average daily population of residents within the NJ JJC was 334. The rate of reported allegations of sexual abuse was 12.57 percent. The NJ JJC thoroughly investigated each alleged incident reported in 2018. There was one substantiated case of sexual abuse.

Specifically:

- In 2018, forty-two (42) instances of alleged sexual abuse were documented with forty unfounded¹ cases, one substantiated case² and one unsubstantiated case³.

¹ An unfounded allegation is an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred. An unsubstantiated allegation is an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred. A substantiated allegation is an allegation that was investigated and sufficient evidence was put forth to support finding that the abuse occurred.

² In the substantiated case between a staff member and resident, immediate corrective action was taken to address the issue, which included, but was not limited to, immediate suspension of the staff member and removal from employment subject to further disciplinary action.

³ In the unsubstantiated case between two residents, immediate corrective action was taken to address the issue, which included, but was not limited to, separating the residents and providing appropriate counselling services.

The information contained here is also reflected in NJ JJC's Survey of Sexual Violence which the agency completes each year for the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The NJ JJC publishes this annual report regarding PREA-related 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 NJ JJC regularly conducts sexual abuse/assault incident reviews to determine if changes to or improvements in environmental, procedural, staffing, and monitoring technology are necessary.