

New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Annual Report - 2019

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 2019, the average daily population of residents within the NJ JJC was 311. The rate of reported allegations of sexual abuse was 12.22 percent.¹ The NJ JJC thoroughly investigated each alleged incident reported in 2019. There was one substantiated case of sexual abuse.

Specifically:

- In 2019, thirty-eight (38) instances of alleged sexual abuse were reported and documented. Thirty-seven (37) of those cases were unfounded,² one (1) was substantiated,³ and 0 were unsubstantiated.⁴ In the substantiated case, which was between a resident and another resident, immediate corrective action was taken to address the issue, which included, among other things, the

¹ This rate is calculated as follows: $[38 \text{ (Number of alleged sexual abuse cases)} / 311 \text{ (average daily Population)}] * 100 = 12.22\%$ (which is slightly lower than the 12.57 rate for 2018).

² An unfounded allegation is an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

³ A substantiated allegation is an allegation that was investigated and sufficient evidence was put forth to support finding that the abuse occurred.

⁴ 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.

immediate transfer of the resident who committed the act to another program and the provision of 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.