

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
2020 PREA ANNUAL REPORT**

The New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (JJJ) submits the following report to satisfy its obligations under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) for incidents occurring during calendar year 2020.

Summary of 2020 Findings

The JJC continues its efforts to implement best practices and promote zero tolerance for sexual victimization of its residents. Significant education related to PREA has led to a higher awareness by JJC residents and staff, leading to greater reporting and accountability.

In 2020, the average daily population of residents within the JJC was 250, and over the course of the year, the JJC served 470 youth. During 2020, there were 40 allegations of sexual abuse reported. This translates into a rate of 8.5 allegations per 100 youth served over the year. This is an increase over 2019, when the rate was 6.6. The JJC investigated each alleged incident reported in 2020 in accordance with Department of Justice (DOJ) PREA Standards, 28 C.F.R. 115.371, and applicable New Jersey laws and rules. Of those investigations, there were two substantiated cases of sexual abuse.

Findings

- In 2020, 40 instances of alleged sexual abuse were reported and documented.
- Of those 40, 37 of those cases were unfounded,¹ two were substantiated,² and one was unsubstantiated³ as defined in the National PREA Juvenile Facility Standards 28 C.F.R. Part 115 and the JJC PREA Policy, https://nj.gov/oag/jjc/pdf/PREA_Prison-Rape-Elimination_policy.pdf
- Substantiated cases
 - One substantiated case was between two residents. The JJC undertook immediate corrective action to address the issue, which included, among other things, the immediate separation of the residents and providing counseling services to them.

¹ An unfounded allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined not to have occurred.

² A substantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and determined to have occurred.

³ An unsubstantiated allegation means an allegation that was investigated and the investigation produced insufficient evidence to make a final determination as to whether or not the event occurred.

- The other substantiated case involved a staff member and a resident, and was identified administratively and not directly by the resident. In accordance with JJC policy and PREA guidelines, the case was referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The staff member resigned at the onset of the investigation, but both the JJC's investigation and the resignation will remain part of the individual's official employment record and be available to other law enforcement agencies. Appropriate services were made available to the resident.

Federal Reporting

The information contained here is also reflected in the JJC's Survey of Sexual Victimization which the agency completes each year for the Bureau of Justice Statistics within the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ongoing System Review

The JJC publishes this annual report regarding PREA-related incidents and continues to improve the agency's prevention, detection, and response efforts on an on-going basis, regularly conducting sexual abuse incident reviews to determine if changes to or improvements in environmental, procedural, staffing, and monitoring technology are appropriate.