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## Eliminating Prison Rape Among Juveniles

In 2018, an estimated 7.1 percent of youth in juvenile correctional facilities reported being sexually victimized during the prior 12 months, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.<sup>1</sup> The estimate reflects a decrease from the 9.5 percent of youth who reported being sexually victimized in juvenile facilities during 2012. Although this decrease is encouraging, even a single juvenile who experiences sexual abuse in confinement is one too many.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) works with the states and territories to ensure their compliance with the **Prison Rape Elimination Act** (PREA) and to protect youth in juvenile facilities.

Enacted in 2003, PREA calls for federal resources, funding, and recommendations to address prison rape in federal, state, and local institutions. The Act also requires correctional facilities to analyze the incidence of prison rape to prevent, detect, and respond to the issue. To further protect youth, the **PREA Juvenile Facility Standards** outline steps to prevent sexual harassment and abuse in juvenile facilities. The standards also provide details about services for victims, investigation procedures, staff training, and auditing compliance.

### Program

#### Prison Rape Elimination Act Program

Funding under this program supports PREA-related compliance efforts in state-run juvenile correctional facilities.

OJJDP awards **formula grants** to states to support their efforts to prevent delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect youth from harm. The Office assesses a 5-percent penalty against a state's formula grant funding each year it fails to comply with the PREA requirements. **OJJDP reallocates these funds** to help states achieve compliance with the Act. States may use the funds to assist victims and cover the costs of activities to bring facilities into compliance, such as auditing the facilities, training staff, and purchasing cameras and other security equipment. In 2019, 20 states received OJJDP funding to help their juvenile facilities comply with PREA.

### For More Information

Access more information about OJJDP's PREA program at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/programs/prea>.

Additional PREA-related resources are available from the Department of Justice at [www.ojp.gov/program/programs/prisonrapeelimination](http://www.ojp.gov/program/programs/prisonrapeelimination).

<sup>1</sup> Smith, E.L., and Stroop, J. 2019. *Sexual Victimization Reported by Youth in Juvenile Facilities, 2018*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

### Funding

Between fiscal years 2017 and 2019, OJJDP awarded more than \$808,000 to help states fully comply with PREA.

- ▶ **Fiscal Year 2019—\$319,896**
- ▶ **Fiscal Year 2018—\$236,405**
- ▶ **Fiscal Year 2017—\$252,090**

### From the Field

In fiscal year 2019, OJJDP awarded more than \$90,000 in PREA funding to the State of California.

The award funded educational initiatives for corrections staff in the state. This included training for 326 staff members in 4 juvenile facilities on issues pertaining to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. **Research has shown** that this population faces a higher risk of sexual victimization in confinement.

The state used part of the award to develop first responder guides to help staff preserve evidence correctly following a crime. California also completed facility upgrades with the funding. The state installed video monitoring systems at two large facilities and provided additional barriers and privacy devices in showers and bathrooms at two juvenile facilities.



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