

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
2023 PREA ANNUAL REPORT**

The New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) submits the following report to satisfy its obligations under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) for alleged incidents occurring during calendar year 2023.

Summary of Findings

The JJC continues its efforts to implement best practices and promote zero tolerance for sexual victimization of its residents and to minimize instances of sexual abuse in its residential facilities.

On any given day in 2023, the JJC’s average daily population was 222 residents. Over the course of the calendar year, the JJC served 400 youth. During 2023, there were eight allegations of sexual abuse reported, resulting in a rate of 2.00 allegations per 100 youth. The JJC investigated each alleged incident reported in 2023 in accordance with U.S. Department of Justice PREA Standards, 28 C.F.R. 115.371, and applicable New Jersey laws and rules. Of the eight allegations investigated, seven were determined to be unfounded and one was unsubstantiated; no allegations were substantiated.¹

In comparison, in 2022 the JJC served 324 youth during the calendar year and reported 18 alleged incidents of abuse, resulting in a rate of 5.55 allegations per 100 youth. Of these cases, the JJC determined that all 18 of the cases were unfounded.

Year	Reports of Sexual Abuse	Unfounded	Unsubstantiated	Substantiated
2023	8	7	1	0
2022	18	18	0	0

Federal Reporting

The information contained in this report 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.

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 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.

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 ongoing basis. The JJC regularly conducts sexual abuse incident reviews to determine if changes to or improvements in environmental, procedural, staffing, and/or monitoring technology are appropriate. The JJC continues efforts to improve privacy for youth and increase surveillance capabilities. This includes, for example, completing shower renovations that provide increased privacy for youth and upgrading and/or installing cameras to enhance supervision. The JJC will continue to request capital budget funds to support ongoing efforts to ensure state-of-the-art camera systems exist throughout JJC facilities.