

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
2021 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 incidents occurring during calendar year 2021.

**Summary of 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 2021, the average daily population of residents within the JJC was 168, and over the course of the calendar year, the JJC served 328 youth. During 2021, there were 35 allegations of sexual abuse reported, resulting in a rate of 10.67 allegations per 100 youth. The JJC investigated each alleged incident reported in 2021 in accordance with U.S. Department of Justice PREA Standards, 28 C.F.R. 115.371, and applicable New Jersey laws and rules. Of those investigations, there was one substantiated case of sexual abuse.

In comparison, in 2020 the JJC served 470 youth during the calendar year and reported 40 alleged incidents of abuse, resulting in a rate of 8.5 allegations per 100 youth. Thirty-seven (37) of these cases were determined to be unfounded, one was unsubstantiated, and two were substantiated.

Year	Reports of Sexual Abuse	Unfounded	Unsubstantiated	Substantiated
2021	35	34	0	1
2020	40	37	1	2

**2021 Findings<sup>1</sup>**

- In 2021, 35 instances of alleged sexual abuse were reported and documented.
- Of those 35, 34 of those cases were unfounded and one was substantiated as defined in the National PREA Juvenile Facility Standards 28 C.F.R. Part 115 and

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

the JJC PREA Policy, [https://nj.gov/oag/jjc/pdf/PREA\\_Prison-Rape-Elimination\\_policy.pdf](https://nj.gov/oag/jjc/pdf/PREA_Prison-Rape-Elimination_policy.pdf)

- The one substantiated incident took place at a residential community home between two residents. The incident involved one resident touching the clothed buttocks of another resident. The JJC undertook immediate corrective action to address the issue, including counseling the residents and notifying the residents' guardians.

## **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 ongoing basis, regularly conducting sexual abuse incident reviews to determine if changes to or improvements in environmental, procedural, staffing, and/or monitoring technology are appropriate. Over the past two years, a number of JJC facilities have made physical plant changes that have improved privacy for youth and increased surveillance capabilities. This includes, for example, installing shower partitions to provide privacy 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.