



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Washington, DC 20531

October 28, 2020

Mr. Joseph O'Leary
Director
Oregon Youth Authority
530 Center Street NE, Suite 500
Salem, OR 97301-3765

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

This responds to your letter dated July 31, 2020, regarding the 2018 National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC), conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). I understand the concerns you shared, and assure you that I am committed to meeting the data-collection and reporting requirements mandated by PREA and to assisting the juvenile justice community in addressing PREA-related matters.

In accordance with Section 4 of PREA, the NSYC is designed to produce estimates that are nationally representative, while also allowing for ranking facilities according to the incidence of prison rape and identifying those facilities in the representative sample that appear to have been successful in deterring prison rape. The law also stipulates that we protect the confidentiality of the respondents. All of these directives prohibit BJS from providing detailed estimates of sexual victimization at the facility level or from sharing information with facilities on the identity of participants who reported sexual victimizations.

Additionally, in accordance with the Institutional Review Board's approved research protocols, the NSYC is designed to be anonymous. The interviewers do not know identifying details about what the youth are reporting in the survey. Neither our data-collection agents nor BJS staff have any information about allegations of sexual victimization reported within the sampled facilities until data collection has been completed in all facilities and the data have been examined for data quality and adjusted for non-response.

The NSYC provides information that is often unknown to facility administrators. The value of the survey is that it collects such information by ensuring confidentiality, eliminating fears of reprisal for reporting, and reducing the impact of codes of silence that may exist. The survey may not produce the same results obtained using different methods under different circumstances.

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We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact Amy Lauger, BJS Institutional Research and Special Projects Unit Chief, at (202) 307-0711 or amy.lauger@usdoj.gov, if you need additional assistance regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey H. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffrey H. Anderson
Director