

Invisible Men:
How to Work with Prisoner Rape Survivors

September 3, 2015
National Sexual Assault Conference

JUST DETENTION
INTERNATIONAL
RAPE IS NOT PART OF THE PENALTY

Photo Credit: William Hotz/Baltimore Sun



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Just Detention International

JDI is a health and human rights organization that seeks to end sexual violence in all forms of detention.

Core goals:

1. Hold government officials accountable
2. Change public attitudes about sexual violence behind bars
3. Ensure survivors get the help they need





Special Thanks

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The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this session are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.





**What brings you to
this workshop?**



Objectives

1. Understanding of the dynamics of sexual violence in men's detention facilities
2. Increase awareness and understanding of the needs of male survivors in detention
3. Learn best practices for ensuring safety and promoting healing and for these men and boys



Session Agenda

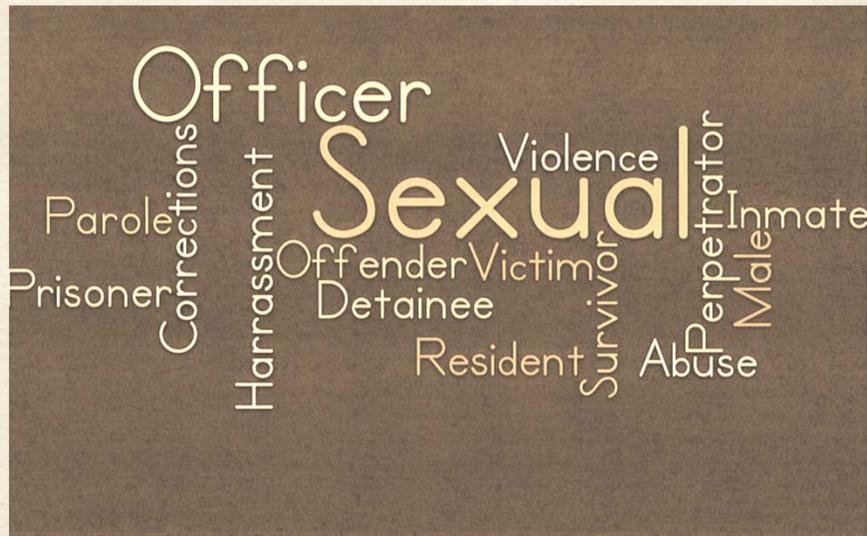
- I. Terms and Definitions
- II. Demographics, Prevalence and Dynamics
- III. Impact
- IV. Types of Services
- V. Stories from an Advocate



Adrian, a survivor of sexual abuse in a men's prison



Understanding the Language



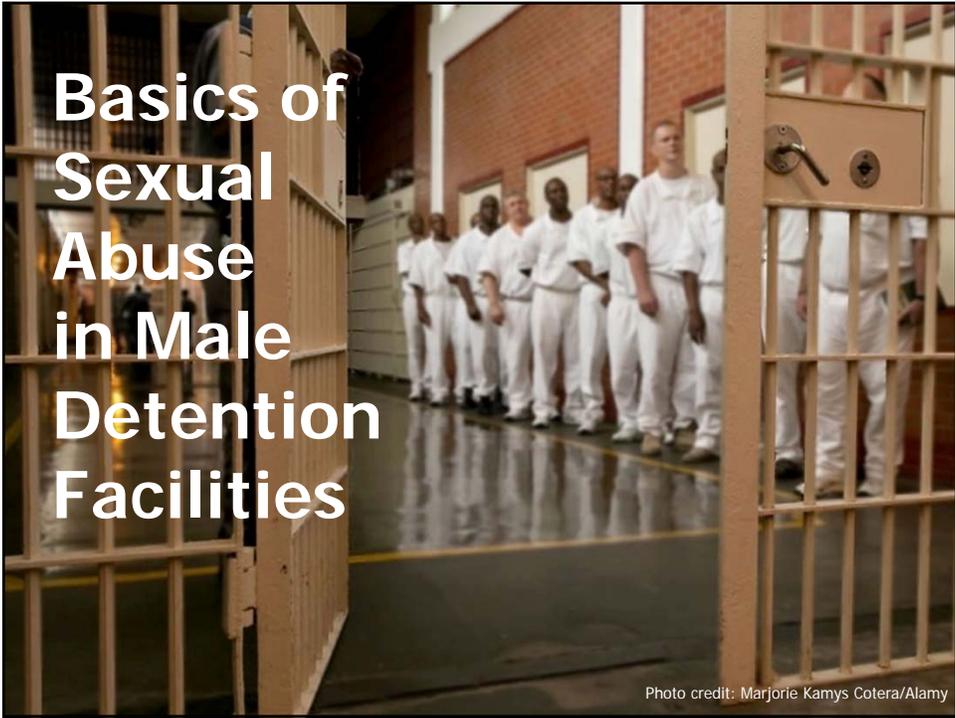
Prison Rape Elimination Act

- What is PREA?
 - Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment
- How does PREA apply to you?



Photo credit: Elaine Thompson, AP





**OVER 2.3 MILLION ADULTS
AND 70,000 YOUTH
are incarcerated in U.S. prisons,
jails, and youth detention facilities**

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

More than 90% of all prisoners in the U.S. are male

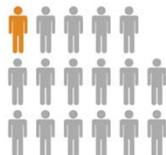


LIFETIME LIKELIHOOD OF IMPRISONMENT

1 IN 9 OF ALL MEN



1 IN 17
WHITE MEN



1 IN 6
LATINO MEN



1 IN 3
BLACK MEN

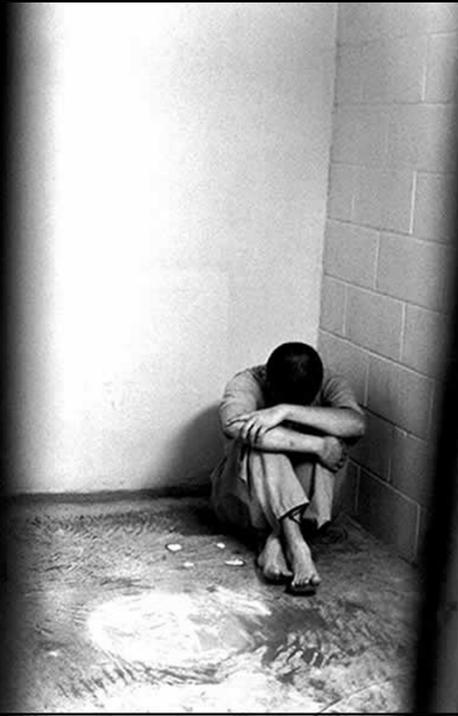


Source: Glaze & Herberman (2013), *Correctional Populations in the United States, 2012*.
Original design concept by The Sentencing Project. © Just Detention International

86%

of youth in residential placement are male

Source: National Center for Juvenile Justice (2013). *Easy access to the census of juveniles in residential placement 1997-2011*, (online tool). Data from 2011. Photo Credit: Steve Liss, Open Society Foundation



1 IN 11 former inmates in men's state prisons reported being sexually abused behind bars

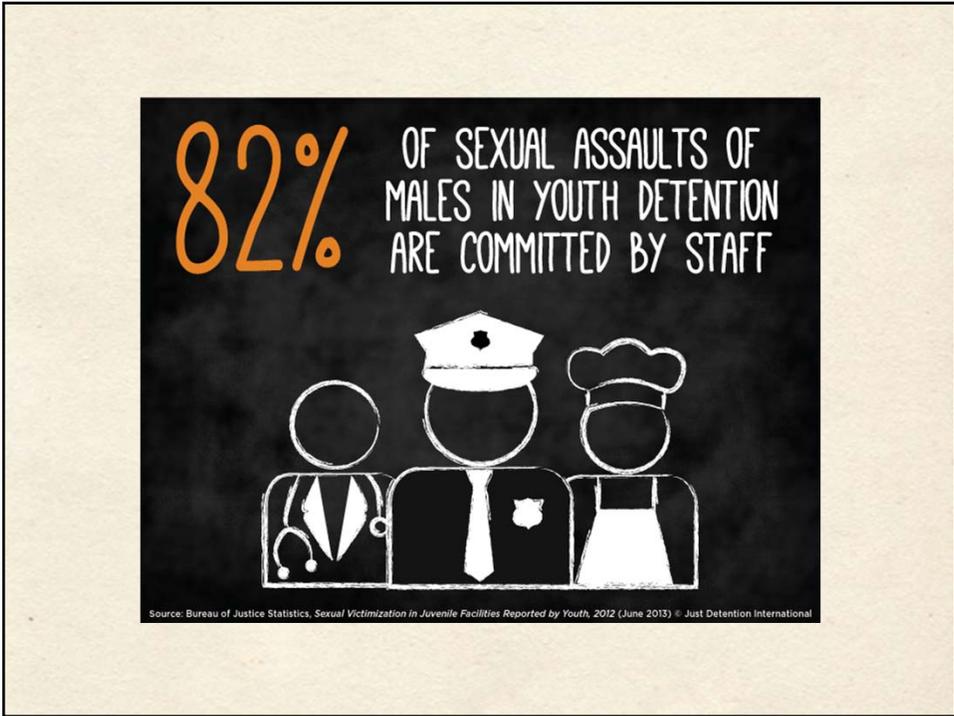
Source: Beck, Berzofsky, Caspar, & Krebs (2013). *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and jails reported by Inmates, 2011-2012*. © Just Detention International. (Approximately 11.4% of former inmates of men's state prisons reported one or more incidents of sexual abuse during their most recent period of incarceration.)



**STUDY SHOWS NEARLY EQUAL
RATES OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY
STAFF AND OTHER INMATES**



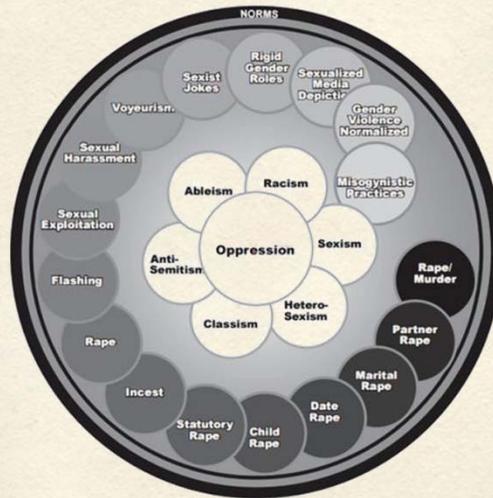
Source: Beck, Berzofsky, Caspar, & Krebs (2013), *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and jails reported by inmates, 2011-2012*. © Just Detention International.



Likely Targets

- Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender
 - Mentally ill
 - Survivors of previous trauma
 - First-Timers
 - Young
 - Small in stature
 - Minorities
 - Physically disabled
- 

Sexual Violence Spectrum



Guy, L. (2006). Re-visioning the sexual violence continuum. *Partners In Social Change*, 9(1), 4-7.
From <http://www.wcsap.org/sites/wcsap.huang.radicallisions.org/files/uploads/documents/RapeCulture2006.pdf>



What factors do you think influence someone in sharing that they have been victimized?



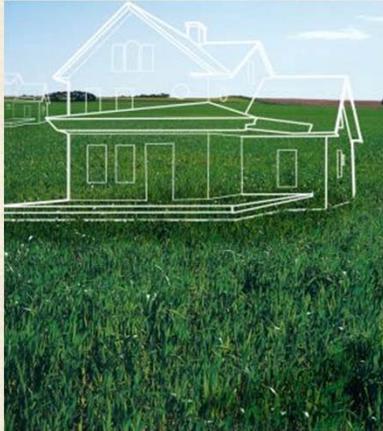
Jeff's Story



Reframing



Safety



Question for your organization:

What can our advocates
do to assist incarcerated
survivors in creating
safety?



Anger

- Meet people where they are at emotionally
- Know that anger may be the first emotion
- Understand that they may be labeled as troublemakers



Fear

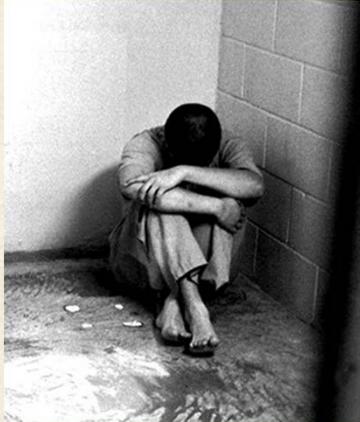


Photo Credit: Steve Liss, Open Society Foundation

- Fear is there for a reason
- It may be expressed as fear of another person, a system, or of the future
- Don't brush it off



Isolation/Despair

Question for your organization:

How can we decrease the sense of isolation and despair for incarcerated survivors?



Drug Use



There are many different ways that we try to regulate ourselves with “addictions” after sexual violence has taken place.



Suicidal Thoughts

Questions for your organization:

- How do you support incarcerated survivors who have suicidal thoughts?
- What are some resources?



Complex Trauma Histories

- History of trauma
- Sexual harassment
- Lack of control in the corrections environment
- Retaliation
- Repeated abuse



Ivory's Story

"Often, people think that you deserve whatever happens to you in prison because you have committed a crime. But no one should be sexually assaulted by an officer. Inmates have no power to protect themselves, so we rely on the officers to make it a safe environment."



— Ivory, prisoner rape survivor



Relationship to Perpetrator



Photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum/ Baltimore Sun

Photo credit: Getty Images/AFP Creative

Services That Can Be Offered

- Hotlines
- Written Correspondence
- Individual Meetings
- Group Meetings*
- Medical Advocacy
- Legal Advocacy
- Systems Advocacy



Hotlines



- How long will the calls be?
- How confidential is the line and phone area?
- Do you have a plan for off-topic calls?
- Do you know how someone can make a report?



Written Correspondence



- Are there limits to confidentiality?
- What can you provide?
- Who on staff will be responding?



Individual Meetings



- What is the direction the individual wants to take?
- What is the goal of the meeting?
- What considerations do you need to plan for?
- What communication do you need with the facility?



Group Work

Use educational groups to communicate available services



Medical Advocacy



Questions for your organization:

- What is your agency's policy around medical accompaniment?
- Has your agency been trained on medical accompaniment for males?



Legal Advocacy

- Does your agency provide legal advocacy through collaboration or referrals?
- What is the role of your legal advocacy?
- What are some of the common needs?



Systems Advocacy



- Who are the individuals at your agency that provide this support?
- What are their individual roles?



Trace's Story



Initial Concerns

- What if this person has a violent past?
- What if they threaten me?
- What if I am threatened by other inmates?
- What if this person is in prison for sexual assault?
- What if they are just mean to me?
- What if this is all a joke?



Tips

- Accept that your feelings of fear and nervousness are normal
- Process your feelings beforehand
- Avoid asking about the survivor's crime
- Try to remain non-judgmental, non-blaming, and non-shaming



Jose's Story



Initial Challenges

- Jose was closed off and intimidating
- He did not want to talk about the attempted rape



Tips

- Meet survivors where they are at
- Understand that “intimidating” behavior is likely a natural trauma response
- Show survivors your commitment
- Be patient
- Find similar interests and build trust



**What concerns do you
have about working with
this population?**



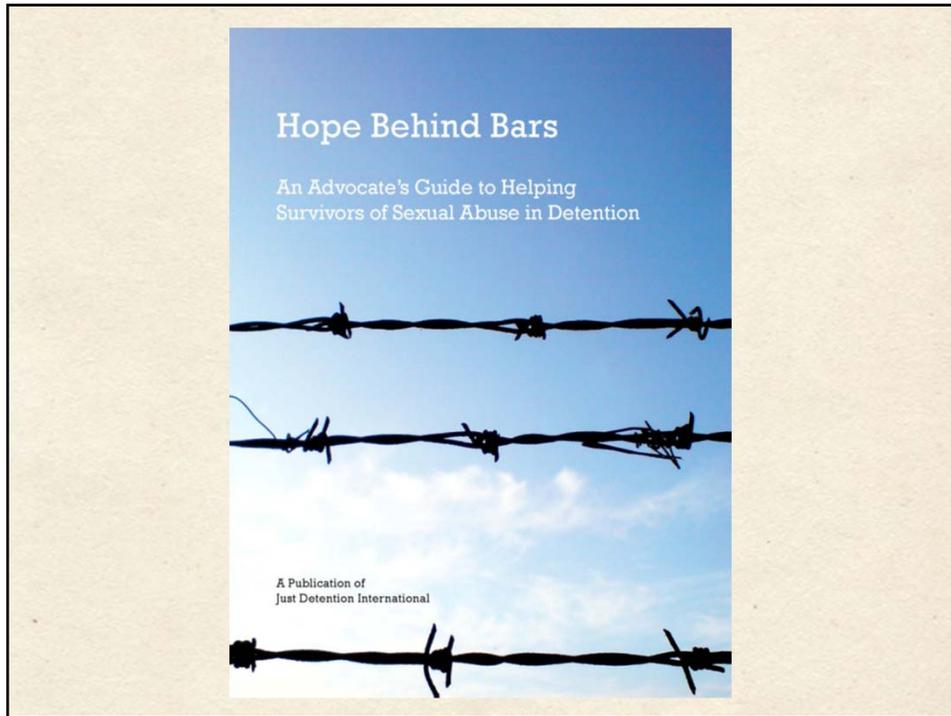
Question to Take With You:

**What are ways that we
can support each other?**



Question and Answer





Resources

- JDI's Advocate Resources: justdetention.org/advocate-resources
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center: nsvrc.org
- PREA Resource Center: prearesourcecenter.org
- 1 in 6: 1in6.org

Contact Us

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