

**Serving Youth Survivors
of Sexual Abuse in Detention**

**December 10, 2019
Webinar**









Introductions



Marsela Rojas-Salas
(She/Her/Hers)
Program Coordinator
CALCASA



Kris Mady
(They/Them/Theirs)
Senior Program Officer
Just Detention International



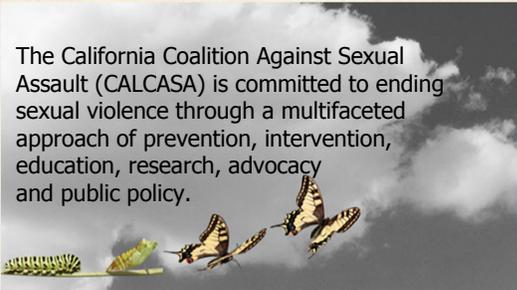
Matthew Van Winkle
(He/Him/His)
Senior Program Officer
Just Detention International





CALCASA's Mission

The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) is committed to ending sexual violence through a multifaceted approach of prevention, intervention, education, research, advocacy and public policy.

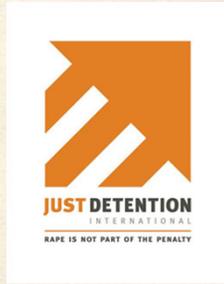






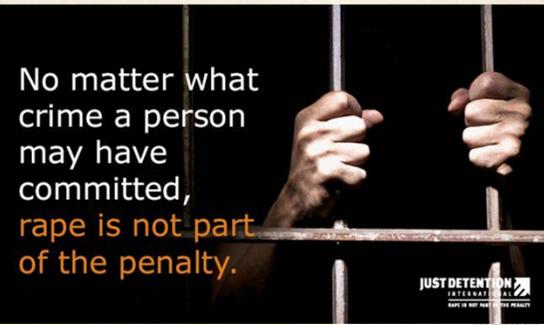
JDI's Mission

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



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Core Belief



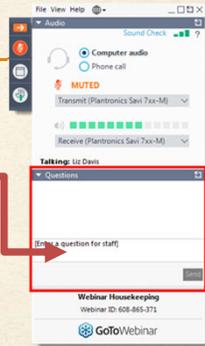
The California Advancing PREA Project



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Ask Questions!

- Type your questions into the Question Pane of the Control Panel

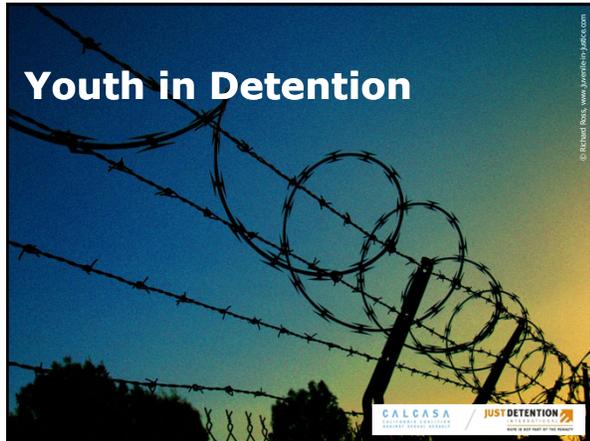


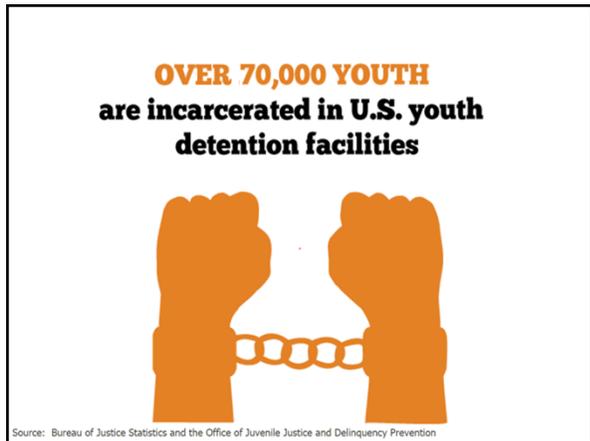
Agenda

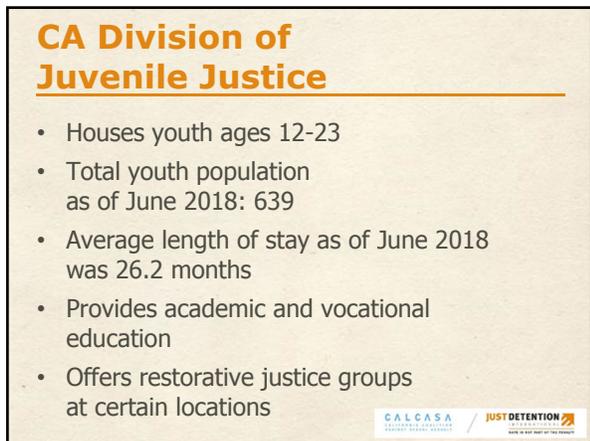
- I. Youth in Detention
- II. Dynamics of Sexual Abuse in Youth Facilities
- III. Services for Youth Survivors in Detention
- IV. Prevention in Youth Facilities
- V. Questions and wrap-up











Predictive Factors for Entering the Juvenile System

- Experiencing poverty, homelessness, and the child welfare system
- Experiencing physical/sexual abuse at home, bullying at school, trafficking, and exploitation
- Having one or more oppressed identities (e.g. being a person of color, LGBTI, and GNC)



School to Prison Pipeline

- Many schools have now adopted "zero tolerance policies"
- Schools have outsourced discipline to juvenile courts and officers in schools
- Black students and students with disabilities are more likely to be disciplined through suspension
- Suspension effectively pushes youth into the juvenile justice system



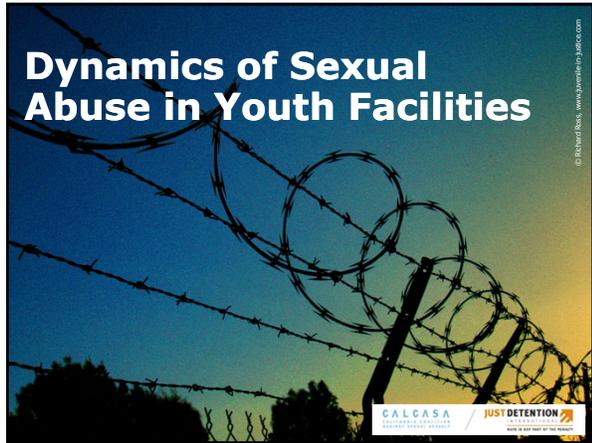
Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline

GIRLS OF COLOR ACCOUNT FOR APPROXIMATELY 22% OF THE GENERAL YOUTH POPULATION, BUT COMPRISE APPROXIMATELY 66% OF GIRLS WHO ARE INCARCERATED.



The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story









1 IN 10 YOUTH IN JUVENILE FACILITIES REPORTED BEING SEXUALLY ABUSED WHILE IN DETENTION



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012* (June 2013). © Just Detention International.

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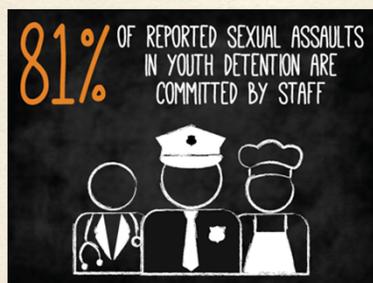
Who is Targeted for Abuse

- Youth who identify as, or are perceived to be, LGBTI
- Youth of color
- Youth who present as older relative to the population
- Youth with mental health issues
- Youth who have suffered previous abuse

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Staff-on-Youth Abuse

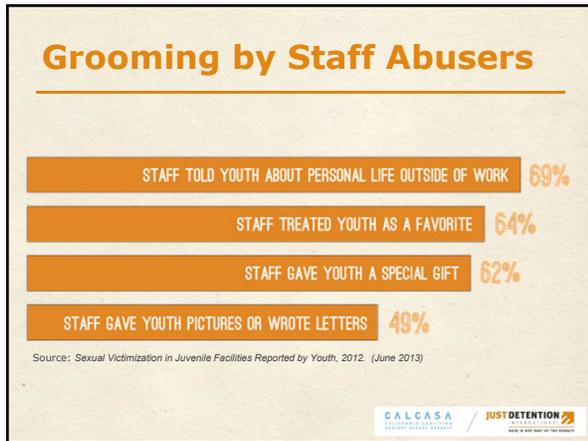
81% OF REPORTED SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN YOUTH DETENTION ARE COMMITTED BY STAFF

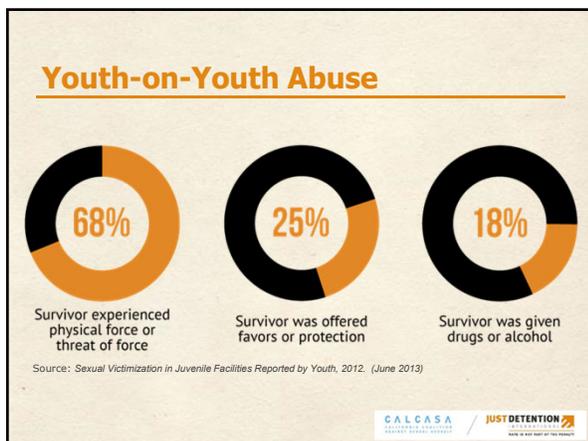


Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012* (June 2013). © Just Detention International.

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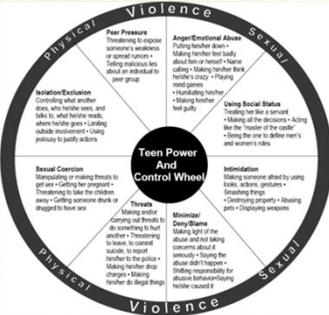


Female Youth at Greater Risk of Youth-on-Youth Abuse

- 5.4% of female youth in custody reported forced sexual activity with another youth
- A youth survivor of relationship abuse in custody cannot end the abuse by leaving
- Reaching out to staff for help can expose a youth to punishment for breaking the rules
- As in the community, there is less understanding of (and support for) same sex relationships, including those which are abusive



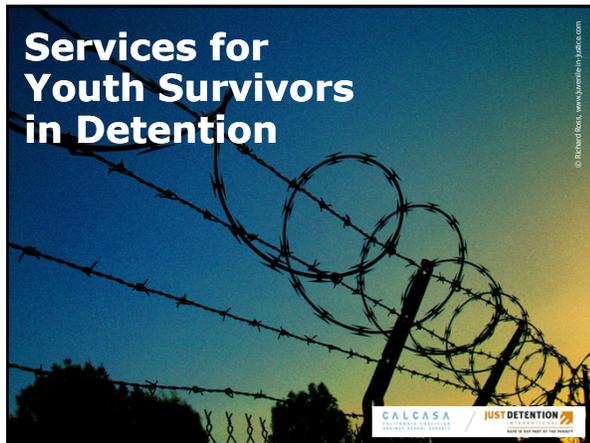
Dynamics of Teen Dating Violence



Source: National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence







Experiences & Needs of Youth Behind Bars

Impact of detention on youth and families:

- Loss of relationships and support for youth
- Loss of individual identity
- Loss of childhood

Abuse and mistreatment risks of the detention setting:

- Youth find themselves at risk of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse
- Youth face being denied their rights

High recidivism rates among youth:

- Illustrates the need for advocates who can provide a path to healing

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The Impact of Detention on Development

- Causes youth to see themselves as "other"
- Erodes sense of belonging, trust in others
- Undermines youth's ability to self-regulate physical and emotional responses
- Impairs development of cognitive skills
- Impairs adaptive problem-solving skills/cognitive flexibility

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Adapting Your Language

INSTEAD OF ...	USE ...
"incarcerated" "minors" "offenders" "bodies" "inmates"	"in detention" "young people" "residents" "teens" "youth"




PREA: A Path to Healing

The Juvenile PREA standards apply to all facilities which primarily confine minors, granting youth in custody access to confidential support services from a rape crisis center.



Photo credit: Just Detention International




PREA § 115.353

The facility shall provide residents with access to outside victim advocates for emotional support services related to sexual abuse.

The facility shall enable reasonable communication between residents and these organizations and agencies, in as confidential a manner as possible.

PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

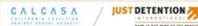


DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUVENILE FACILITY STANDARDS
United States Department of Justice Final Rule
National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape Under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)
28 C.F.R. Part 115
Docket No. 1046-101
804 1105-0004
May 11, 2015




Building a Relationship

- Familiarize yourself with the facility before you reach out, and have some ideas to problems they face
- Frame your services as supporting the facility's goals of safety and security, as well as necessary for PREA compliance
- Take a tour, and meet with both staff *and* youth
- Identify your allies among juvenile detention staff, and maintain contact

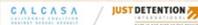


Adapting Your Services

- Forensic exam and investigatory interview accompaniment
- Letter writing
- Hotline calls
- In person follow-up support



Photo credit: Richard Ross, Juvenile-in-Justice



In Person Support for Youth in Detention

Utilize the same skills you would with a client in the community:

- Discuss confidentiality
- Review the scope of what you can and cannot do
- Develop goals for your work together
- Provide emotional support
- Provide advocacy if needed



Photo Credit: Gabor Degre/Bangor Daily News



Mandated Reporting

- Determine if the client is under the age of 18
- Use agency protocol to guide your steps
- Work together with the client if a report needs to be made



Photo credit: CDCR



Messaging for Youth

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

You also have the right to:

Make a report if you are sexually abused or sexually harassed 🗣️

Not be punished for making a report 🚫👮

Sexual abuse and sexual harassment are never OK – no matter what.

Messaging for Youth

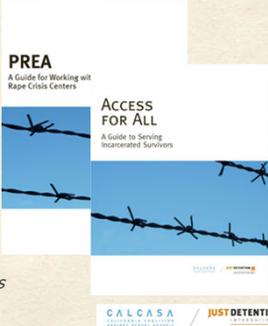


Credit: The Coalition for Family Harmony



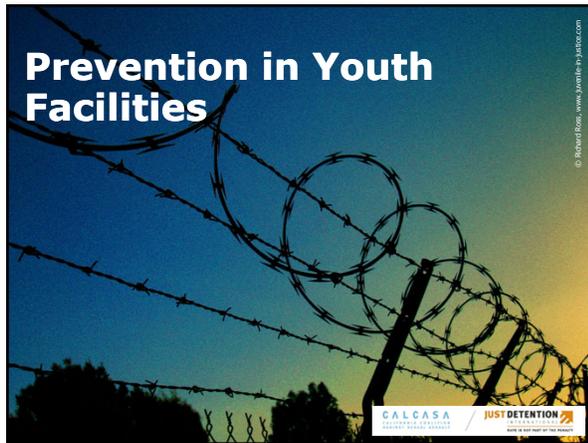
A Toolkit for DJJ

- PREA: A Guide to Working with Rape Crisis Centers**
Audience: PREA Compliance Managers of youth facilities and related staff
- Access for All: A Guide to Serving Incarcerated Survivors**
Audience: Rape crisis advocates new to working in detention



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Prevention in Youth Facilities



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Guest Panelist



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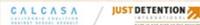
Including Prevention

- Use and modify current prevention programming
- Partner with counseling programs
- Awareness month activities



Topics for Discussion

- Gender Socialization
- Conflict Resolution
- Healthy v Unhealthy Relationship Dynamics
- Consent and Coercion



Things to Remember

- Use empathy and belonging - not shame
- Some residents may have been in or witnessed abusive relationships
- Young people don't reach out the same way as adults - be proactive!



A Youth Survivor Speaks Out

"It would have helped me a lot if I could have spoken to someone who could have told me that it wasn't my fault and I didn't deserve it.

If I could have spoken to someone who would have believed me and advocated for me, I believe it would have been better for me."

-Cyrna



Additional Resources

- California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
calcasa.org
- Just Detention International
justdetention.org
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svjfry12.pdf
- PREA Resource Center
prearesourcecenter.org





Advancing PREA Contact Info

We are here to support you:

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