



## Understanding the Issue: An Overview of Sexual Abuse in Prison

Part 1 of 3  
November 14, 2012  
11am - 12:30pm PST



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### Today's Moderator



**Linda McFarlane, MSW, LCSW**  
Deputy Executive Director  
Just Detention International



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### Today's Speakers



**Christine Kregg**  
Senior Program Officer  
Just Detention International



**Derek Murray, MPA**  
Senior Program Officer  
Just Detention International



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### Mission and Core Goals

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

**Core goals:**

1. to hold government officials accountable
2. to change public attitudes about sexual violence behind bars
3. to ensure survivors get the help they need




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### Office on Violence Against Women

This project is supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K100, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

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




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### Webinar Agenda

- I. Prison Rape Elimination Act
- II. Prevalence
- III. Dynamics
- IV. Impact
- V. Questions and Answers



*Marilyn Shirley, a prisoner rape survivor and member of JDI's Survivor Council*




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## Webinar Logistics

- Use the question box to submit requests for help, questions, or comments.
- An archive of this webinar will be emailed to you in the next few days.



It will also be posted on the JDI website:  
[www.justdetention.org](http://www.justdetention.org)




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How many of you have worked with a survivor of sexual abuse in prison?

**(Use the raise hand button to answer)**




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## None of Us Can Put an End to Prisoner Rape Alone

Sexual violence in detention requires a multi-disciplinary response involving:

- Corrections/Law Enforcement
- Prosecutors/Judiciary
- Health Care Providers
- Sexual Assault Services
- Community Advocacy



*Corrections officials, rape crisis advocates, and JDI staff present at the 2011 NSAC Conference.*




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## Prison Rape Elimination Act



Photo © Galt, Democratic Information  
At the PREA signing ceremony with (from left) President George Bush, former Sen. Edward Kennedy, and Tom Cahill, prisoner rape survivor and former JDI President.



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## PREA Basics

- Passed in 2003
- First federal law to address sexual abuse in detention
- Requires funding for corrections agencies, yearly research on prevalence, and the creation of national standards



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## PREA Standards

- Released by the Department of Justice on May 17, 2012
- Apply to corrections facilities nationwide
- Comprehensive set of guidelines related to all aspects of custodial sexual abuse, including:
  - ❖ Prevention
  - ❖ Detection
  - ❖ Response
  - ❖ Monitoring



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## Standards and Service Providers

Prisons must:

- Offer survivors forensic exams and emergency and ongoing care
- Attempt to make a victim advocate from a rape crisis center available



Members of JDI's Survivor Council at the Department of Justice



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## Standards and Service Providers

Prisons are also required to:

- Allow survivors access to rape crisis advocates in as confidential a manner as possible
- Provide ongoing medical and mental health treatment consistent with the community standard of care
- Attempt to enter into working agreements with community service providers



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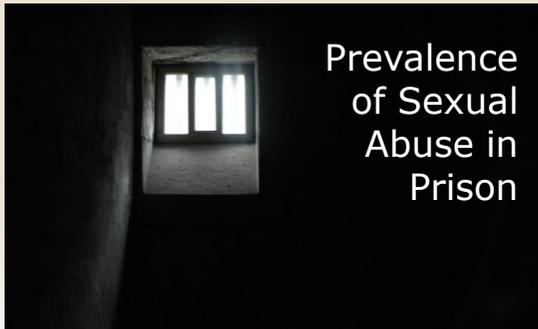
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**When you hear the term *prisoner*, what are the first words or images that come to mind?**

*Please be as specific as possible and submit your answers in the question box.*



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**When you hear the term *survivor*, what are the first words or images that come to mind?**

*Please be as specific as possible and submit your answers in the question box.*



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### Demographics of Prisoners

- 2.3 million people in the U.S are in custody
- Majority are:
  - Men
  - Convicted of non-violent crimes
  - Parents of minor children
  - Living with a mental illness
  - People of color



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## Prevalence

STUDY SHOWS NEARLY EQUIVALENT RATES OF ABUSE BY STAFF AND OTHER INMATES



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Sexual Victimization Reported by Former State Prisoners, 2008," May 12, 2012. (Approximately 9.6% of former state prisoners reported one or more incidents of sexual abuse during the most recent period of incarceration in a jail, prison, or post-release community treatment facility.)



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## Perpetrators Tend to Target:

- People living with a disability or mental illness
- Those with previous history of trauma or sexual assault
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) inmates or those who are perceived to be
- Gender non-conforming inmates



Troy, survivor of sexual abuse in prison



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## LGBT Inmates

LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL WOMEN ARE **2X MORE LIKELY** TO BE SEXUALLY ABUSED BY STAFF THAN THEIR HETEROSEXUAL PEERS

MORE THAN **1 IN 3** GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN WERE SEXUALLY ABUSED WHILE IN CUSTODY

In California state prisons:



OF TRANSGENDER INMATES REPORTED SEXUAL ABUSE compared to 4% of non-transgender men



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### Perpetrators Also Target:

- Younger inmates
- People locked-up for the first time, not street-smart, and not gang-affiliated
- Smaller or physically weaker than the perpetrator
- People convicted of certain crimes
- Minorities in the facility



*Rodney Hullin was a minor in an adult prison. He committed suicide after he was raped.*



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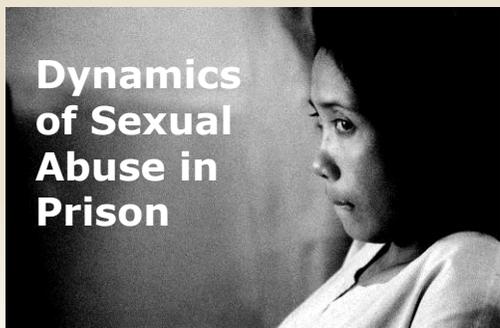
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### Dynamics of Sexual Abuse in Prison



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### Surviving Prisoner Rape: A Conversation with Jan Lastocy



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### Contributing Factors

- Ineffective leadership and accountability
- Lack of awareness and training
- Institutional culture and dynamics




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### QUIZ: Consent vs. Coercion

In the following scenarios, indicate whether you think the sexual contact is consensual or non-consensual.

*Please submit your answers in the question box and include your profession.*

*Example: Consensual (Police Officer)*




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### QUIZ: Consensual or Non-Consensual?

**Scenario #1:** José is a 30-year-old first-time prisoner. He is offered protection from a gang member in exchange for sexual favors. José agrees to submit to oral sex with the gang member on a weekly basis.

**Is this sexual contact consensual or non-consensual?**

*Please submit your answer in the question box and include your profession.*




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### Protective Pairing

An arrangement where one inmate demands sexual and other favors in exchange for protection and/or assistance.

- Common terms: "hooking up" or "getting married"
- One party wields the power and exerts control
- Rigid gender (or other) roles are enforced
- Survivor may have choices to negotiate boundaries and safer sex




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### QUIZ: Consensual or Non-Consensual?

Scenario #2: Bonnie is a federal prisoner. During a pat down search, an officer attempts to insert her fingers in Bonnie's rectum. Bonnie objects, but the officer says she's just doing her job. Bonnie allows the search to continue.

Is this sexual contact consensual or non-consensual?

Please submit your answer in the question box and include your profession.




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### Abuse During Searches

This abuse can include:

- groping and fondling inmates' genitals
- rubbing genitals against inmates
- inserting fingers or objects into body cavities
- degrading comments during a search

I felt raped, humiliated, disgusted, embarrassed and disrespected.

- David




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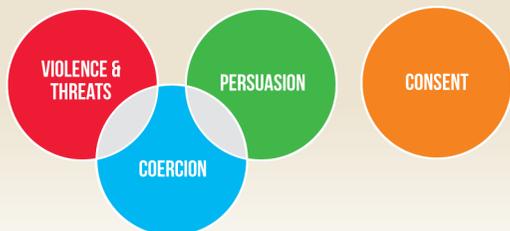
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### Consent in a Custody Setting



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### Sexual violence in prison may include the following dynamics:

- Sexual harassment
- Protective pairing
- Sexual exploitation
- Sexual abuse
- Ritual/gang abuse
- Domestic violence/battering
- Rape



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### Perpetrators may use any of the following methods:

- Offers of protection
- Threats
- Coercion
- Authority
- Extortion
- Medication/drugs
- Force



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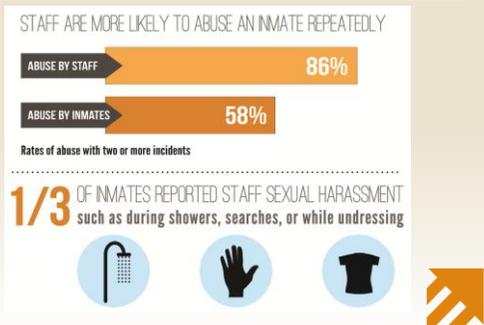
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## Prevalence of Abuse by Staff



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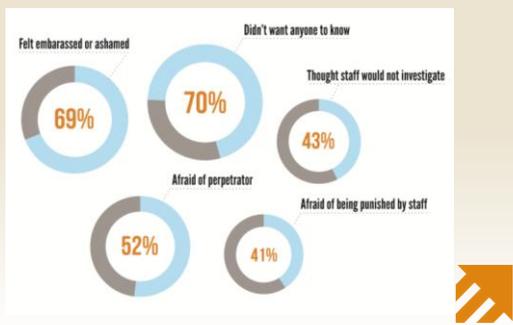
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## Barriers to Reporting



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## Impact on Survivors: A Conversation with Kimberly Yates



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### Common Effects of Prisoner Rape

- Rape Trauma Syndrome and PTSD
- Increased suicidal thoughts or ideation
- Sexually transmitted diseases and HIV
- Worsening of psychiatric disorders




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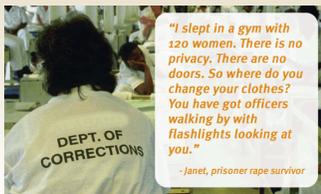
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### Impact of Incarceration

- Incarcerated survivors have little control over their bodies or the environment
- Survivors may be punished or placed in isolated housing after reporting




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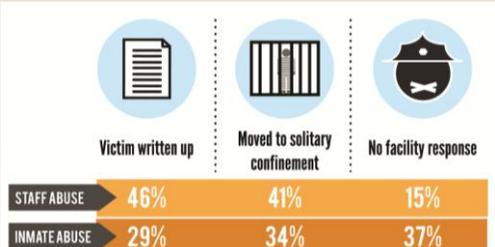
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### Facility Response




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### Access to Services

- Prisoner rape can result in extensive injuries and exposure to sexually transmitted infections.
- Inmates often have limited access to medical, mental health, and rape crisis services.




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### Safety Concerns

- Survivors may experience retaliation by inmates or staff.
- Incarceration almost always involves ongoing contact with the perpetrator(s).
- Anyone who has been targeted for sexual assault in prison may be seen as an "easy target" by others for revictimization.




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Access to rape crisis services can be one of the single most important factors in prisoner rape survivors' healing.

**If you aren't there for these survivors, who will be?**




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## Discussion




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## Upcoming OVW Webinars

### A New Approach: Providing Services to Survivors of Sexual Abuse in Prison

- November 28, 2012 at 11:00AM (PST)

### It Takes a Team: Building a Coordinated Response to Sexual Abuse in Prison

- December 12, 2012 at 11:00AM (PST)




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## For More Information

For more information about the **Sexual Abuse in Detention Resource Center** and additional resources, visit: [www.nsvrc.org/projects/sexual-abuse-detention-resource-center](http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/sexual-abuse-detention-resource-center)

Direct questions to: [info@justdetention.org](mailto:info@justdetention.org)

For more information about **Just Detention International**, visit [www.justdetention.org](http://www.justdetention.org).

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## Thank you for joining us today!

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Please complete a brief evaluation of today's webinar. It will take just three minutes of your time and your feedback will help us to better assist you in the future!

Here is a link to the evaluation (we will also email it to you shortly). [www.justdetention.org/en/understanding-the-issue-evaluation.aspx](http://www.justdetention.org/en/understanding-the-issue-evaluation.aspx)

Please forward it to others who may have joined you.

**THANK YOU!**



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