

# ANNOTATED TRAINER'S GUIDE

Training Module **3**

Dynamics of Sexual Abuse Behind Bars

# Training Module 3: Dynamics of Sexual Abuse Behind Bars

**Length:** 60-90 minutes.

## Objectives:

- Recognize and describe the basic dynamics of sexual abuse in detention
- Draw parallels between the dynamics of sexual abuse in the community and abuse behind bars
- Identify populations who are most vulnerable to this abuse in detention

## Materials:

- Module 3 PowerPoint slides
- “In Her Own Words: Boa” (video)
- “In His Own Words: Martin” (video)
- Active Listening handout

## How to Use This Guide<sup>1</sup>:

This guide is intended to support the material presented in the PowerPoint presentation for trainings on “Dynamics of Sexual Abuse Behind Bars” (Module 3). The left column has a copy of each slide in the presentation; the right column has instructions on how to present the slides. The italicized text contains directions for the trainer. The text not in italics is a sample script.

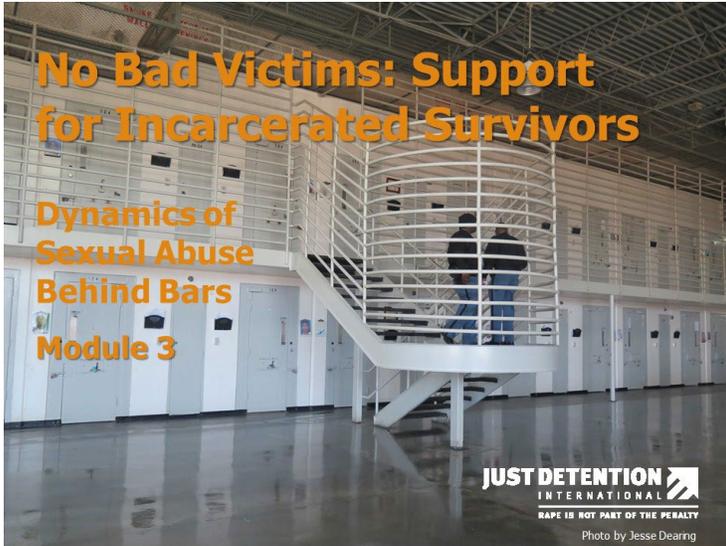
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<sup>1</sup> This project is supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K030, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this guide are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Slide contents

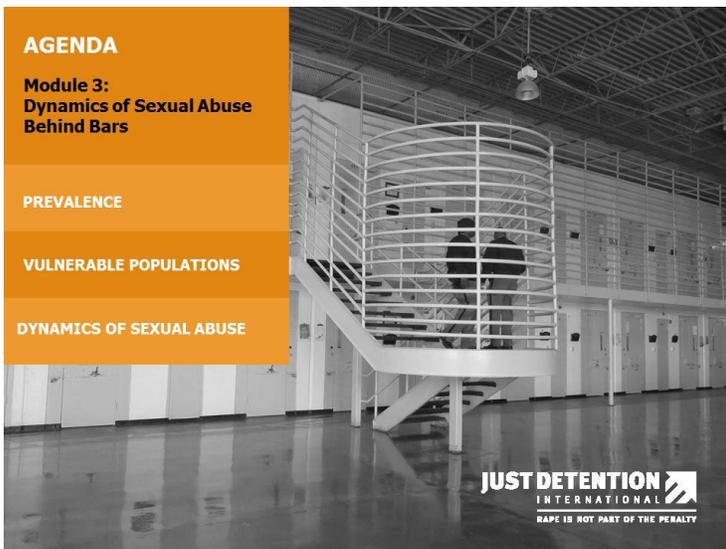
Trainer’s Narrative/Notes

Slide 1



- [Welcome participants enthusiastically and set a positive and energetic tone for the training.]
- Just a quick note on language. We will use the terms “victim” and “survivor” interchangeably during this training.
- Also, the terms “inmates,” “prisoners,” “residents,” and “detainees” will be used interchangeably to refer to incarcerated people. The term “residents” will refer to youth usually.

Slide 2



- We will begin with an overview of the training session, and by taking some time to introduce ourselves.
  - [Give a brief, two-to-three sentence introduction to develop a connection and establish credibility with the audience. Introduce yourself, your current work, and background, and describe why this training is important to you. Ask participants to do the same; encourage participants —particularly those who have experience in detention settings — to share their own understanding of corrections culture and strategies for navigating it.]
  - [Review the agenda.]
- In this module, we will:
- Discuss the prevalence of sexual abuse behind bars
  - Talk about populations who are most vulnerable to abuse behind bars
  - Talk about the dynamics of sexual abuse in detention

Slide 3

## Objectives

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**By the end of this session, participants will be able to:**

- Recognize and describe the basic dynamics of sexual abuse in detention
- Draw parallels between the dynamics of sexual abuse in the community and abuse behind bars
- Identify populations who are most vulnerable to sexual abuse in detention

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

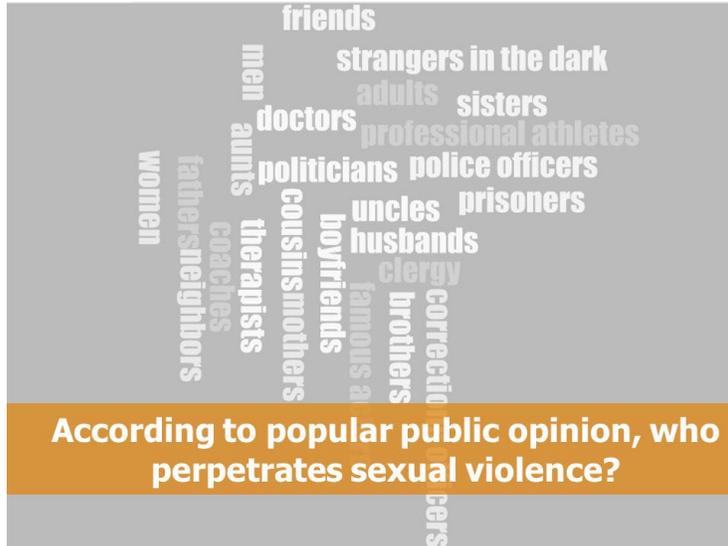
- Recognize and describe the basic dynamics of sexual abuse in detention
- Draw parallels between the dynamics of sexual abuse in the community and abuse behind bars
- Identify populations who are most vulnerable to this abuse in detention

Slide 4



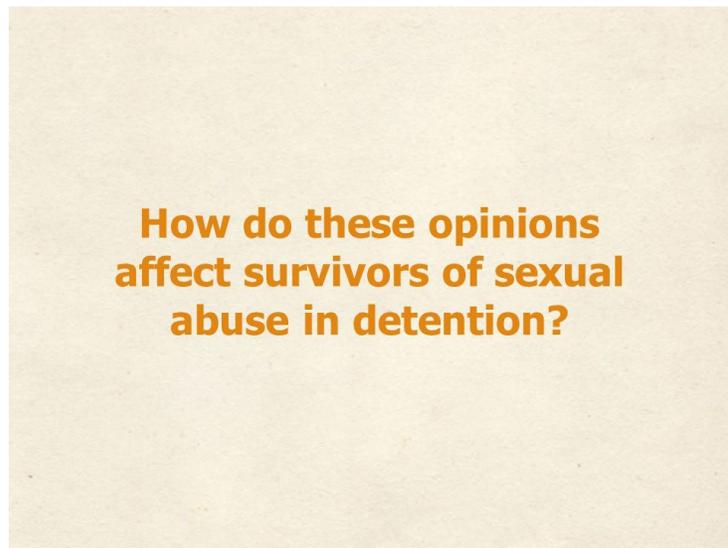
- We are going to start off with some discussion questions.
- *[Read the question.]*
- *[Facilitate a discussion. Consider including follow-up questions such as:*
  - *How has public opinion changed over time?*
  - *How are these opinions different from what we see in our work?*
  - *How do these opinions affect our work?*
- *Consider discussing: who are seen as needing services, accessibility plans for services, prevention education content and intended audience, advocacy strategies, culture change work, and funding opportunities.]*

Slide 5



- *[Read the question.]*
- *[Facilitate a discussion. Consider including follow-up questions such as:*
  - *How has public opinion changed over time?*
  - *How are these opinions different from what we see in our work?*
  - *How do these opinions affect our work?*
- *Consider discussing: prevention education content and intended audience, advocacy strategies, culture change work, and funding and program planning.]*

Slide 6



- *[Read the question.]*
- *[Facilitate a discussion. Consider including follow-up questions such as:*
  - *What happens if a survivor does not fit the public's expectations of a typical survivor?*
  - *For example:*
    - *What happens if the perpetrator is a feminine-presenting woman and a survivor is a masculine-presenting woman?*
    - *Or if a man who presents as typically very "masculine" and "tough" is a survivor?*
  - *What happens if a perpetrator does not fit the public's expectations of a typical perpetrator?*
  - *For example:*
    - *What happens if a female corrections officer is the perpetrator and the survivor is a young male?*
    - *Or a therapist in a jail who is a perpetrator?*
  - *How do these assumptions affect a survivor's safety, healing, motivation to reach out for help, comfort level with reporting, or other related actions?*
  - *How can these opinions potentially affect the responses of corrections officials?*
  - *How can these opinions potentially affect an advocate's response?]*

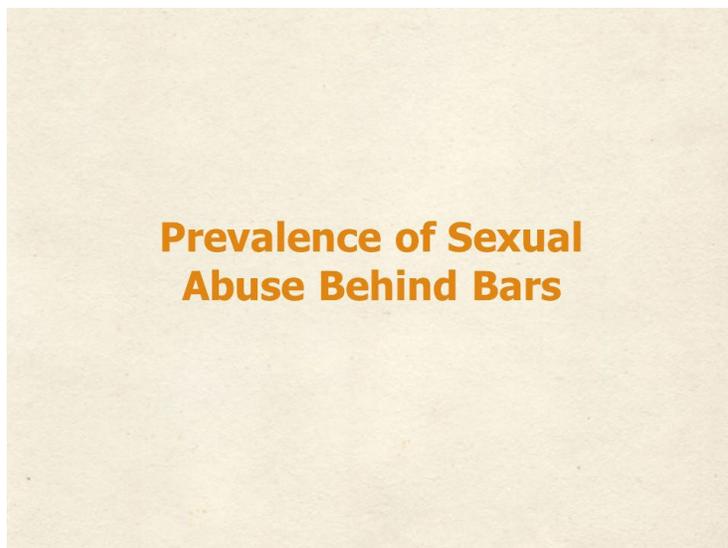
Slide 7



- *[Cue up “In Her Own Words: Boa,” which can be found at <https://goo.gl/mFfos7>.]*
- We are going to watch a video featuring Boa Smith, a JDI staff member, former PREA Peer Educator, and a former prisoner of a California state women’s prison.
- Please listen to see what Boa says about her experiences as a survivor, prisoner, and advocate, the challenges she and other women in custody encounter, her thoughts on abuse in detention, and her advice for advocates.
- *[After the video, ask participants to share what they thought, identify key points of the video, and discuss the importance of becoming familiar with the dynamics of abuse that Boa discusses. If they are not raised, mention the following points:*
  - *The types of violence that prisoners experience at the hands of other prisoners and of staff*
  - *The limitations to the types of services the prison provides*
  - *The conditions incarcerated survivors face on a daily basis*
  - *The impact of incarceration on a person*
  - *The interpersonal dynamics between staff and prisoners*
  - *Examples of structural and interpersonal violence.]*

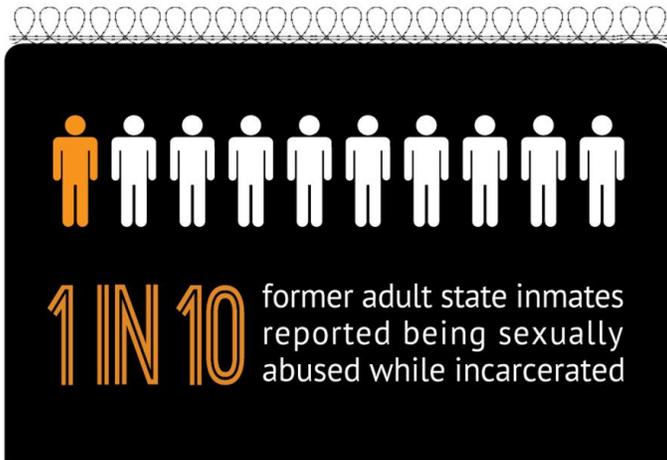
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Slide 8



- In this section, we will talk about the prevalence of sexual abuse behind bars.

Slide 9



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization Reported By Former State Prisoners*, 2008, May 12, 2012. Graphic by Just Detention International.

- Sexual abuse in detention is widespread.
- According to a 2012 Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) study, roughly one in ten former state inmates reported that they had suffered some form of sexual abuse during their most recent period of incarceration. This could have been at any point during their incarceration — at a lockup, jail, state prison, or community confinement facility.

Slide 10

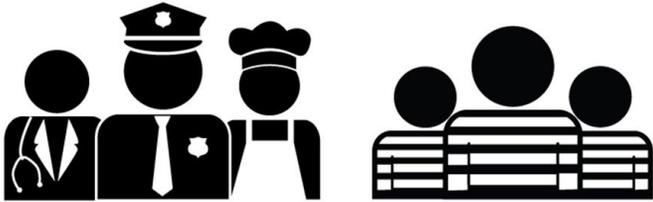


Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth*, 2012 (June 2013). © Just Detention International.

- Sexual abuse is also prevalent in in youth detention facilities.
- According to a 2013 BJS study, roughly one in ten percent of juvenile detainees reported that they had been victimized in the preceding 12 months.

Slide 11

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

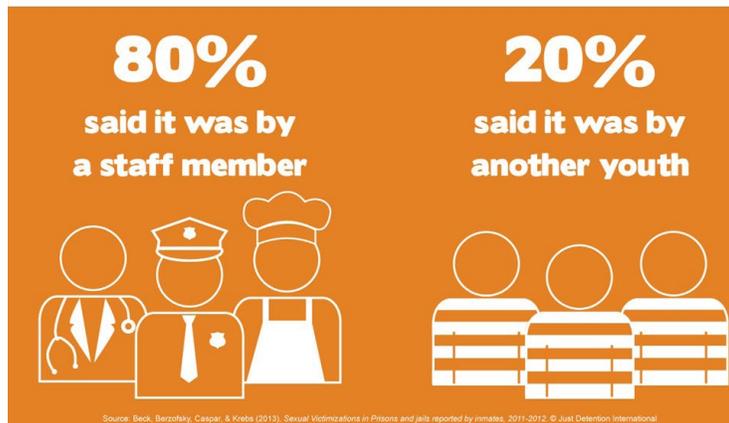


Source: Beck, Berzofsky, Caspar, & Krebs (2013). *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and jails reported by inmates, 2011-2012*. © Just Detention International

- Per the BJS, about half of all sexual abuse in detention with is committed by staff.
- “Staff” includes security staff, like corrections officers, as well as contractors, like those who work in food service, mental health, medical, maintenance, education, facility administration, and volunteers.

Slide 12

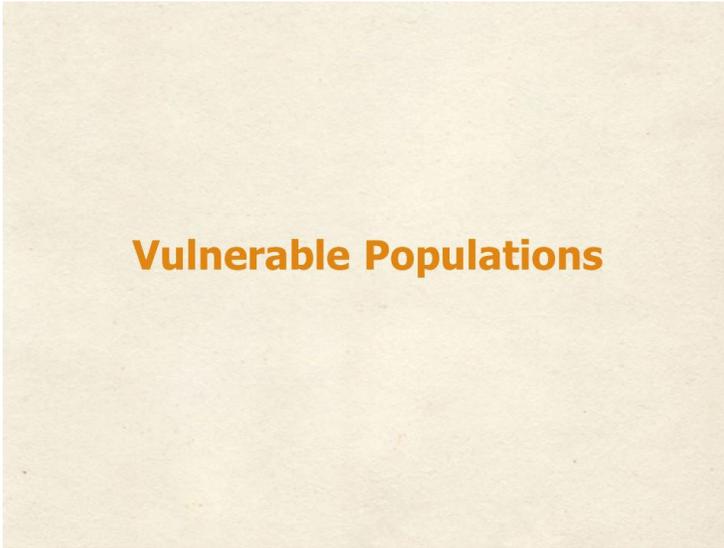
OF YOUTH WHO REPORTED BEING SEXUALLY ABUSED WHILE IN DETENTION:



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

- Of the 1 in 10 youth who reported they were abused, about 80% reported that the abuser was a member of staff.
- It was found that in most cases of staff - perpetrated abuse, the staff were female.
- *[Facilitate discussion. Consider the following questions and ideas.*
  - *Do any of this statistics surprise you?*
  - *Why do you think this might be the case?*
    - *Perpetrators often seek environments and positions where they have greater access to those they intend to target.*
    - *Like in the community youth are extremely vulnerable to abuse by authority figures.*
    - *Society has tended to take sexual abuse by females less seriously and, in the detention context, often staff and inmates alike say that female staff are ‘manipulated’ by male inmates/residents whom they abuse. However, the applicable criminal law and the standards are gender-neutral.]*

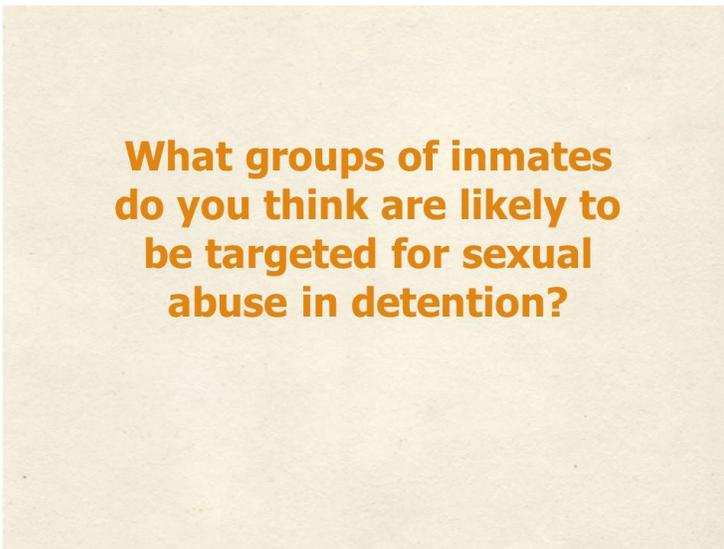
Slide 13



- In this section, we are going to talk about the populations that are most vulnerable to sexual abuse in detention.
- Remember that anyone can be abused behind bars. However, the research shows that some groups of people are at higher risk for abuse in detention facilities than others.

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Slide 14



- *[Ask the question on the slide.]*
- What do you think? Who are perpetrators likely to target?
- *[Possible responses may include people who are:*
  - *LGBT*
  - *physically small*
  - *elderly or very young*
  - *biracial or multiracial*
  - *not street smart*
  - *first-timers*
  - *gang drop outs and people who have:*
    - *a history of sexual abuse*
    - *mental illness*
    - *physical and developmental disabilities*
    - *a sex crime conviction.]*

Slide 15

## People Most at Risk

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- Survivors of previous abuse
- People with mental illnesses and developmental disabilities
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people



Photo by Carlos Jason/Reuters

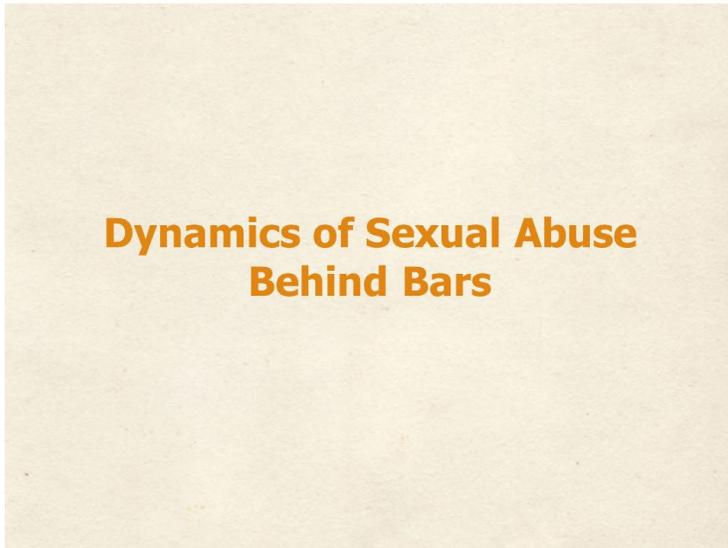
- While anyone can be sexually abused in a confinement facility, the BJS research has shown us that these specific groups of people are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse, including:
  - people with a history of trauma or sexual assault
  - people with disabilities or mental illness
  - people who are LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) and/or gender non-conforming, and those who are perceived to be LGBT and/or gender non-conforming.
    - One of the most pervasive forms of sexual harassment in detention is the sexist and homophobic language that many inmates hear on a daily basis.
    - It is common for gay men, transgender women, and gender - nonconforming men to be called “fag” or some other derogatory term.
    - Transgender men, lesbians, and gender - nonconforming women are often called “dyke.” They are also often punished preemptively because of the misguided assumption that they are dangerous to other inmates. You may also commonly hear inmates and staff alike refer to male inmates using derogatory terms that traditionally are directed at women.

Slide 16

## Why do you think these groups are most vulnerable?

- *[Read the question on the slide.]*
- Why do you think perpetrators are most likely to target people with mental illnesses, survivors of previous abuse, and LGBT people?
- *[Facilitate a discussion.]*
- *Make sure the following points are addressed.*
  - *Similar to perpetrators in the community, perpetrators of abuse in detention are likely to target people who they believe are less likely to report, and less likely to be believed when they do.*
  - *Perpetrators are also likely to target people who do not have support or protection from other people, whether prisoners or staff.]*

Slide 17



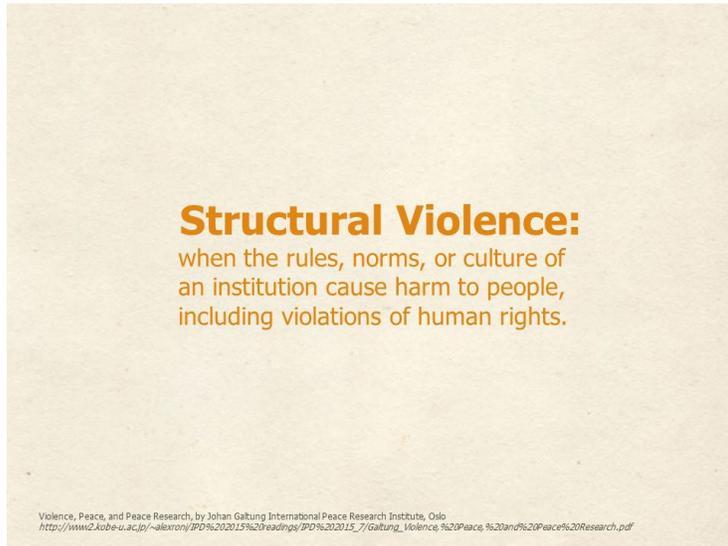
- In this section, we are going to review the dynamics of sexual abuse behind bars. We have broken this section into two parts: structural violence and interpersonal violence.

Slide 18



- [Cue up “In His Own Words: Martin,” which can be found at <https://goo.gl/yzEJMw>.]
- We are going to watch a video featuring Martin Leyva, a community advocate, drug and alcohol counselor, and former prisoner.
- Please listen to see what Martin says about his experiences as a prisoner and advocate, the challenges he and other men in custody encounter, his thoughts on abuse in detention, and his advice for advocates.
- [After the video, ask participants to share what they thought, identify key points of the video, and discuss the importance of becoming familiar with the dynamics of abuse that Martin discusses. If they are not raised, mention the following points:
  - The types of violence that prisoners experience at the hands of other prisoners and of staff
  - The barriers a person in custody faces to reporting and/or reaching out for help.
  - Examples of the fears a person reaching out to an advocate may have
  - The impact of incarceration on a person
  - How prisoners have little autonomy and extremely limited choices, and how this lack of control over their lives can make it extremely difficult to tell when a prisoner is giving consent.]

Slide 19



- We heard Martin talk about the system, calling it “broken.” He shared how the culture of prison is dehumanizing. He described harm that is caused, not by the actions of one individual, but by the structure and culture of the institution. Such harm can be described as “structural violence,” or violence that takes the form of harm caused by the rules, norms, or culture of an institution.
- **Interpersonal and Structural Violence:** Interpersonal, or direct, violence — which occurs when one person exerts power and control over another person through physical, sexual, or emotional threats or actions; economic leverage; isolation; or other kinds of coercive behavior — is what advocates are used to discussing. Yet, structural violence is important to understand because it is at the root of direct violence. Just as sexual assault would not continue to occur without rape culture as a driving force, sexual abuse and harassment inside detention facilities could not continue to exist without structural violence.
- Structural violence is embedded in the fabric of detention facilities — it is in the policies, procedures, budgets, norms, culture, and systems of accountability. It creates the conditions that allow and facilitate interpersonal violence. For example, corrections facilities in general severely limit inmates’ access to routine necessities like: toilet paper, sanitary napkins, soap, food, medications, and communication with the outside world. Such practices both send a message that prisoners are not deserving of basic dignity and create an opportunity that abusive staff and inmates can exploit by bringing in contraband like the items above as well as drugs, weapons, and cell phones.
- **In Their Shoes:** Now, take a moment to think about being in prison. Let’s look at the personal hygiene products example. Really think about what it would be like to know that — every single month while you are locked up — you will not have a sufficient amount of sanitary napkins, and so you walk around fearful of bleeding through your clothes at that time of the month. Imagine what it would be like not to be able to obtain additional pads without requesting them from staff. Imagine that in order to maintain your dignity and your health, you will need to find makeshift items to use in place of pads or use a good portion of what little money you have from your prison job to buy some more at commissary. Try and picture being in a place where you might be pushed into a corner where you would consider doing things you would never have considered before, just to get your basic needs met. Imagine what power that gives to people who have unlimited access to everything you can no longer get.

- *[Instruct participants to read and discuss, “Menstruation Can Become Humiliation in Prisons,” <http://nymag.com/the-cut/2015/06/menstruation-can-become-humiliation-in-prisons.html>.]*
- The combination of deprivation and a market for contraband create unhealthy and dangerous imbalances of power. The BJS research backs up that sexual abuse is more common in poorly run prisons that have high levels of violence in general, and contraband, drug use, and other disorder.
- **More examples of interpersonal and structural violence:** When one officer sexually abuses an inmate during a pat-search — that is interpersonal violence. When that officer’s behavior is supported by the facility and protected by the union — that is structural violence. When a prison doctor sexually abuses a patient during a medical exam— that is interpersonal violence. When survivors of sexual assault are routinely denied appropriate medical and mental health care — that is structural violence. Structural violence is a form of social injustice.
- An individual officer can behave in a fair and professional way, doing nothing to directly harm another person. However, when there is a structure that harms people through deprivation, humiliation, invasion of privacy, blaming victims, and acceptance of abusive behavior, that environment harms people no matter how many well-meaning individuals work there. Structural violence cannot be solved by firing a few “bad apples.” The good news is that sound policies and procedures, proactive leaders, anti-bias and trauma-informed training for staff and inmates, accountability for perpetrators, and addressing basic deprivation can make facilities safer. Rape crisis advocates can help by providing education around rape culture and by recommending changes to policies, practices, and norms that create a sexually violent environment and harm survivors.

Slide 20



Majorie Kamys Cotera, Alamy

- Let's take a moment to talk through another dynamic in many detention facilities — the assumption that prisoners are liars and manipulators who will say and do anything to get what they want or get staff in trouble. It is not uncommon for staff to make comments like, “Prisoners cry rape because they just want a cell change,” “We need to be better about charging prisoners for false reports,” or “Most allegations of abuse are just because the prisoner got written up for something and they are reporting to retaliate against the staff.”
- The assumption that ‘if a prisoner is talking, they’re lying’ is embedded in the culture of detention facilities and is backed up by policies and practices in many, such as difficult-to-navigate grievance procedures and housing policies that require proof of an imminent threat to request a cell change. Staff training programs also often focus heavily on how inmates manipulate and entrap staff, to the exclusion of training about healthy boundaries and professional conduct, reinforcing messages that treating people with dignity is not required.
- What do you think this assumption means for incarcerated survivors?
 

*[Solicit thoughts about how the assumption that all inmates are liars harms survivors. Make sure the following are raised:*

  - *Less likely to be protected from abusers*
  - *Less likely to report abuse*
  - *Less likely to receive medical and mental health care and rape crisis services*
  - *More likely to be retaliated against]*
- How do you think rape crisis advocates can help to address structural violence?
 

*[Solicit thoughts about how rape crisis advocates can contribute to a healthier environment. Make sure the following are raised:*

  - *Provide corrections staff training on trauma, rape culture, and understanding oppression*
  - *Challenge victim-blaming and rape myths*
  - *Offer prevention education to inmates*
  - *Offer recommendations for making practices more trauma informed*
  - *Support survivors of sexual abuse and sexual harassment*
  - *Work with corrections to improve reporting mechanisms, investigations, and the relationship with prosecutors.]*

Slide 21

## Sexual Abuse in Detention

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- Is about power and control
- Is part of the culture in many facilities
- Makes facilities unsafe

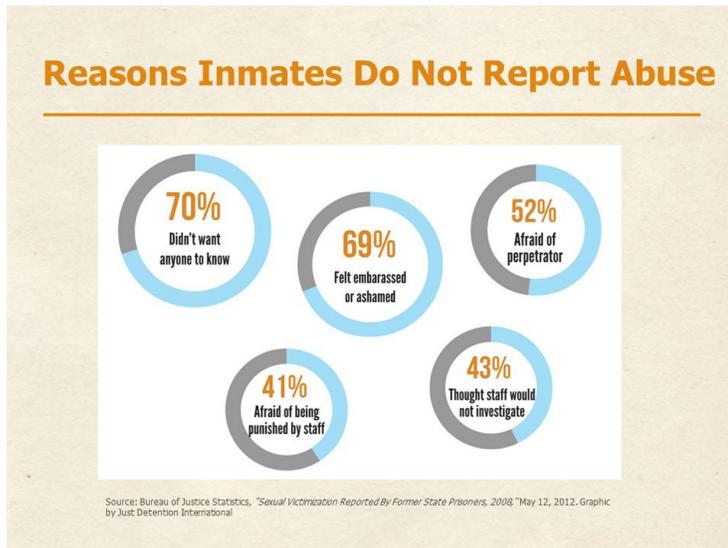
- Sexual abuse is fundamentally about establishing and maintaining power and control. This is as true in prisons and jails, or any other institutional setting, as it is in the community.
- Sexual abuse and sexual harassment are a common part of the culture in many detention facilities.
- Facilities where sexual abuse and harassment are rampant are also poorly run and unsafe in other ways. This violence is a contributing factor in: homicides and suicides, violence against inmates and staff in general, and the targeting of vulnerable inmates. Sexual abuse is also very often linked with the presence of contraband, which makes a facility more dangerous.

Slide 22

**What factors do you think may prevent someone from reporting that they have been victimized in prison?**

- *[Read the question.]*
- *[Facilitate a discussion. Record the ideas participants share on a flip chart or dry erase board, if available.]*
- *[Consider including follow-up questions such as:*
  - *Which of the factors that are present behind bars do we also see in the community?*
  - *Which factors are unique to detention settings?*
  - *How realistic do you think these fears are?]*

Slide 23

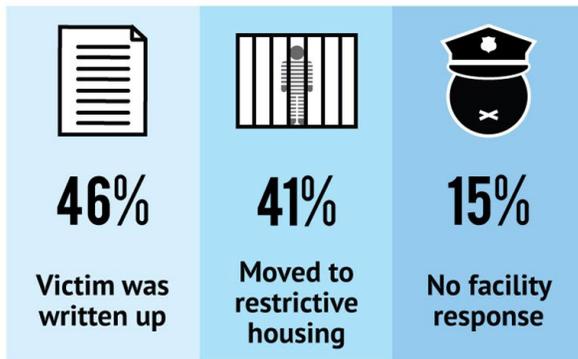


- Incarcerated survivors of sexual abuse face most of the same barriers to reporting or seeking help as survivors in the community.
- According to a 2012 BJS study, many incarcerated survivors did not want anybody to know about the assault, due to feelings of embarrassment or shame ([www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svrfspo8.pdf](http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svrfspo8.pdf)).
  - Male survivors face social and cultural barriers in talking about sexual abuse. This is especially true in men's institutions where hyper-masculinity is the norm, and imperative for safety.
  - Transgender men and gender-nonconforming women in women's facilities may face particular social and cultural barriers in talking about sexual abuse as well. Staff and inmates often believe transgender men and gender non-conforming women cannot be victims of abuse and many times assume that they are perpetrators of abuse solely based on their gender expression and/or gender identity.
- **Code of Silence:** Aspects of the institution's culture and practices may discourage survivors of sexual abuse from reporting and seeking help. This "code of silence" exists among both prisoners and staff. Moreover, in general, many facilities simply do not take sexual abuse seriously — they see it as something that generally does not happen in their facility and believe that most reports are baseless or motivated by an ulterior motive (e.g., housing change, getting an officer or other inmate they don't like in trouble).
- **Reasons Inmates Do Not Report:** According to the same BJS report, survivors may keep quiet out of a fear of:
  - Punishment, like isolation, including placement in solitary confinement, or the loss of good time or programming
  - Retaliation and revictimization, by the perpetrator or the friends of the perpetrator, or by others as result of being labeled a "snitch."
- Finally survivors may not speak out because:
  - They fear their report will not be kept confidential
  - They have little trust in staff to properly handle and investigate the situation
  - They do not know how to make a report
  - They do not recognize what has happened to them as meeting the definition of abuse
  - They fear being blamed for the abuse. While this can happen to any incarcerated survivor, this can be particularly common for inmates who are the most vulnerable, i.e. LGBT inmates, or inmates who are seen as less able to defend themselves.

- [Facilitate a discussion. Consider including follow-up questions such as:
  - Which of these factors do we see in the community?
  - Which of these factors are unique to detention settings?]

Slide 24

**FACILITY RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY STAFF**

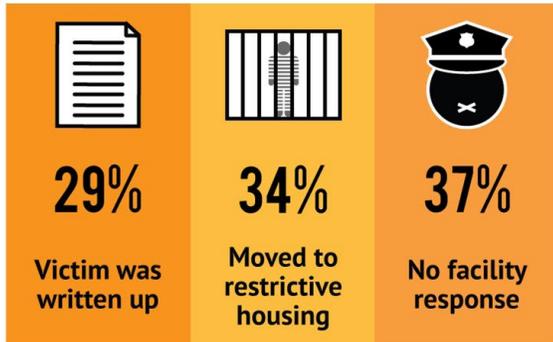


Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sexual Victimization Reported By Former State Prisoners, 2008, May 12, 2012. © Just Detention International

- **Facility Response to Reports of Staff Sexual Abuse:** The BJS also look at official reports and the outcomes. The data shows quite clearly that a high proportion of sexual abuse allegations are dealt with in a way that is overly punitive. First let's look at the outcomes of reports of sexual abuse by staff.
- Overall, detention facilities are more likely to respond to sexual abuse reports made against staff than prisoners. However, the facility response to staff sexual misconduct is often not survivor-centered and is more punitive than responses to reports of sexual abuse by other prisoners.
- According to the BJS, 46% of prisoners who reported were themselves written up and 41% reported that they were moved to restrictive housing, limiting their access to classes, work, visits, phone calls, personal property, and interactions with peers.
- **The Use of Restrictive Housing:** Being placed in restrictive housing can be especially dangerous for survivors of staff abuse, because it may give perpetrators, and their friends, unfettered opportunities to commit further abuse or retaliate against the survivor.
- Often, survivors who report abuse are placed in segregation without being told why, or how long they will be there. Recognizing that this practice is harmful and has a chilling effect on reporting, the PREA standards prohibit involuntary segregation unless no other options exist to keep the person safe.
  - What message does this send to incarcerated survivors?
    - The message is that if you report sexual abuse by staff, you are more likely to be punished and left vulnerable to further re-victimization.
- **Disciplinary Write Ups:** Survivors who report also are at risk for being written up for making false allegations. Survivors of trauma often talk about their abuse in highly emotional, contradictory, and fragmented manner that, in the eyes of an untrained investigator, can undermine the survivor's credibility.
- **Lack of Response:** In 15% of all reported cases of sexual abuse by staff, the facility had no response. This lack of response reinforces the idea that survivors should not report and that the facility will not protect them.

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**FACILITY RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY OTHER INMATES**



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sexual Victimization Reported By Former State Prisoners, 2008, May 12, 2012. © Just Detention International

- **Facility Response to Reports of Abuse by Inmates:** Let’s look at the outcome of reports of sexual abuse by another inmate.
- **Disciplinary Write Ups:** Among inmates who report sexual abuse, 29% were themselves written up. They may be written up for making false allegations. Others may be written up for having what the facility determined to be consensual sex, which is against the rules.
- **The Use of Restrictive Housing:** Among inmates who reported sexual abuse, 34% were moved to restrictive housing. While some prisoners may prefer to be isolated for their safety, for many survivors isolation means being removed from available resources and emotional support that can contribute to their healing. Further, isolation is harmful in and of itself, and is known to cause severe emotional distress.
- **Lack of Response:** Among inmates who reported abuse, 37% received no response from the facility. The lack of any response is indicative of the deeper problem of staff taking interpersonal violence between inmates lightly. In addition, when staff ignore inmates who report, it reinforces the message that it is not worth it for survivors to seek help.

Slide 26

**Consent vs. Non-Consent**



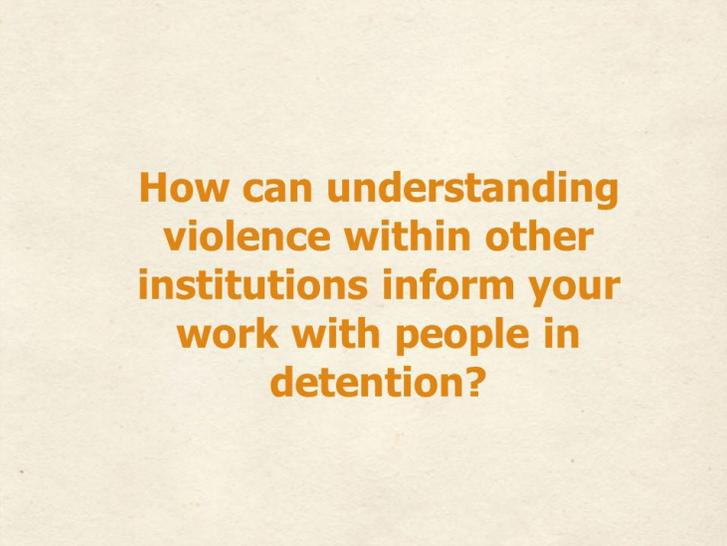
Photo: Prison Fellowship International

- Now let’s talk about the issue of consent, which, as in other contexts, is an especially fraught topic in detention.
- In virtually all corrections agencies and facilities, consensual sex between prisoners is a rule violation.
- Getting a disciplinary for consensual sex can have far-reaching consequences, including:
  - Limits to yard time
  - Restrictions on access to commissary
  - Placement in segregation
  - Fewer opportunities for programming
- Disciplinary reports can even have an adverse impact on a person’s likelihood for be granted an early release at a parole board hearing.
- Even though it is against the rules, inmates can have meaningful romantic relationships.
- Inmates in both men’s and women’s prisons may also engage in sex in exchange for goods or privileges or for protection.
- Most people engage in such exchanges as a means of survival

- and/or to get needs met, but some do it to gain agency over their lives.
- It is critical for advocates to remember that consent — both the legal definition of the term and what it is popularly understood to mean — is the same inside prison as in the community. The dynamics surrounding sex between inmates may vary from what we see in the community, as will be discussed below. Of course, consent between an inmate and a staff, volunteer or contractor is not possible given the power differential.

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**Slide 27**

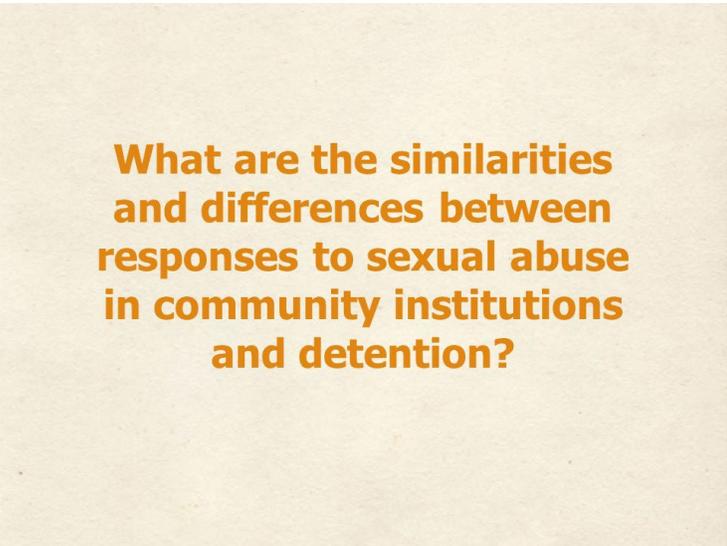


**How can understanding violence within other institutions inform your work with people in detention?**

- *[Ask the question on the slide.]*
- *[Facilitate a discussion. Raise the point that when a model works well in one setting, adapt it for another. For example, if you have already worked within a system that has stringent rules of conduct you'll be able to apply those skills to navigate the detention context.]*

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**Slide 28**



**What are the similarities and differences between responses to sexual abuse in community institutions and detention?**

- *[Facilitate a discussion about the similarities and differences between the responses for community institutions (universities, religious institutions, and the military).*
  - *Make sure the following are raised:*
  - *Larger cultural dynamics including: code of silence, violence as part of the culture, poor investigations, skepticism about a survivor's word and motives, retaliation, and punishment*
  - *The larger cultural dynamics are similar across all these spaces.*
  - *Advocates can use the skills they already have developed to support survivors in detention.*
- *Consider asking a follow-up question around how these dynamics can affect an advocate's approach.]*

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**Interpersonal Violence:**  
 when one person exerts power and control over another person through physical, sexual, or emotional threats or actions; economic leverage; isolation; or other kinds of coercive behavior.

- Interpersonal violence occurs when one person exerts power and control over another person through physical, sexual, or emotional threats or actions; economic leverage; isolation; or other kinds of coercive behavior.
- As advocates, you are experts at understanding and identifying these dynamics in the community. As you will see, the dynamics in detention are similar in many ways. The main difference is that structural violence is the norm inside detention facilities, which has profound impact on the daily life of a survivor.

Slide 30

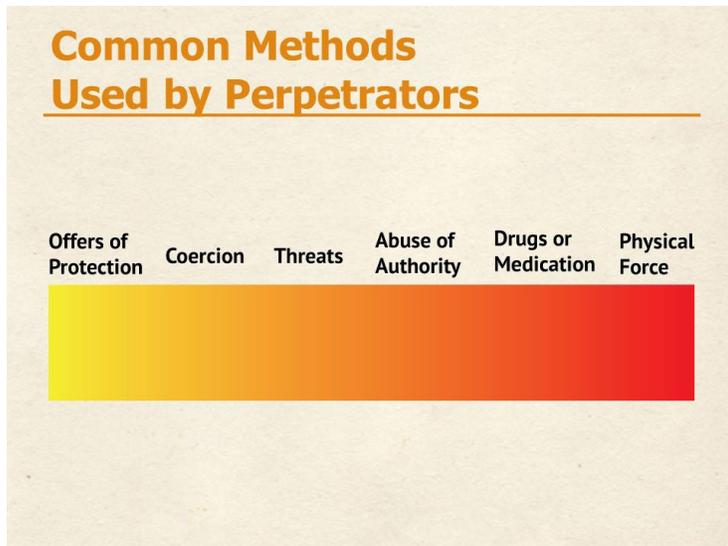
**Continuum of Sexual Abuse**

WORDS	Unwanted sexually offensive jokes, words, or gestures
PRESSURE	Coercion, one person feels pressured to engage
THREATS	Threats or intimidation if sexual acts are not performed
TOUCH	Nonconsensual sexual touch: groping, grabbing, feeling
VIOLENCE	Sexual Assault or Rape

- Sexual abuse is often described as occurring along a continuum. In a prison setting, the continuum applies both to inmate-on-inmate sexual abuse and staff-on-inmate sexual abuse.
- **Challenges Identifying Abusive Behavior:** Prisoners and staff alike often struggle to identify abusive behavior. It can be challenging to detect signs that abuse is escalating. One reason for this is that sexually abusive language and behaviors are so common that they begin to seem normal.
- Also, many prisoners have been abused before they get to the facility — whether it is domestic violence, sexual assault, or child abuse — and have difficulty recognizing when they are being abused or exploited. Incarcerated survivors often have a distrust of the people who work in the criminal justice system due to bad experiences with law enforcement.
- Prisoners are also likely to have had negative experiences trying to report sexual abuse in the community. While there is an increased effort to educate the public about healthy boundaries and the right to be free from sexual abuse, it remains the case that many people do not get this education. As such, staff, as well as inmates, often minimize, explain away, or ignore abusive behavior.
- **Thinking About Prevention:** With the goal of prevention in mind, what strategies are helpful in educating people about the continuum of sexual abuse?
- *[If they are not mentioned, raise the following points:*

*educational groups that discuss red flags and safety planning; prevention education geared toward bystanders and potential perpetrators; peer education programs, where selected inmates educate incoming inmates about their right to be safe and how to get help.]*

Slide 31



- Perpetrators misuse their power in many ways, including by offering protection from others in exchange for sex or simply by using physical force.
- Abusers typically use only as much force as is necessary to control the person they have targeted. Let's look at the left end of the spectrum, which is yellow.
- *[Facilitate discussion.]*
  - Why do you think perpetrators generally use as little force as possible?
  - *[Make sure the following points are raised: because it leaves less evidence and calls less attention to the abuse; because the goal is not necessarily to injure; because it a lack of force can confuse investigators, bystanders, and even the survivor; because the less force used, for some perpetrators, the more powerful they feel.]*
- **Common Methods Used By Perpetrators:**
- Perpetrators may offer protection from other prisoners, a dynamic called protective pairing that we will discuss in more detail later.
- Perpetrators may use their social or institutional authority, or their access to high-value goods or privileges, as leverage. For example, a prisoner with high social standing (e.g., in a gang) may coerce a person into yielding to their demands; or, a staff member may threaten to write up a prisoner for not complying with their requests.
- Perpetrators may use drugs or medication as a tool to abuse their target. Examples of this type of abuse include when perpetrators: drug a person with saved up prescription medication; provide drugs to a known addict in order to manipulate them; or take advantage of a person who feels drowsy due to the side effects of their psych medication.
- Extreme physical violence, which is at the far right of the spectrum, is most common in assaults that involve more than one perpetrator.

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## Sexual Harassment

- Is widespread in corrections facilities
- Is committed by staff and inmates alike
- Is rooted in sexist and heterosexist beliefs
- Used as a grooming tool



- **Prevalence of Sexual Harassment:** In many facilities, sexually degrading or harassing language is so deeply engrained in the culture that staff use it freely in front of advocates.
- The prevalence of sexual harassment is an indicator for whether a facility is serious about stopping sexual abuse overall.
- You may see or hear of incidents of sexual harassment of inmates by staff that are classified merely as “inappropriate behavior” or “professional discourtesy.” In some facilities, only the most egregious and obvious incidents are considered sexual harassment. Another problem with how sexual harassment incidents are handled is that they often are identified as something that happened once and thus are not considered sexual harassment. Staff often lack the understanding of the dynamics of sexual harassment to determine if the behavior is in fact being repeated in less obvious ways.
- **Heterosexism and Homophobia in Prison Culture:** The culture inside detention facilities is often dominated by sexist and homophobic attitudes, which are common among inmates and staff alike. Remember that both inmates and staff bring along with them all of the beliefs and norms they have absorbed in outside culture, and the closed environment tends to concentrate toxic cultural values. Such attitudes encourage the targeting of anyone perceived as not living up to stereotypical gender norms.
- Gender dynamics are different in men’s and women’s facilities, even as they both tend to adhere to rigid gender roles and expectations. *[Below are a few examples that you may choose to discuss with the group.]*
  - **Examples in Men’s Facilities:** In men’s prisons, inmates who do not present as stereotypically masculine — transgender women, for example — are extremely vulnerable to sexual abuse. Perpetrators may target feminine-presenting inmates because they see them as weak or as deserving of abuse. Staff and prisoners alike may assume that gay, bisexual, or gender non-conforming inmates have given a blanket consent to sexual attention, based solely on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression — and by extension blame them for being abused. Such myths create an opportunity for abusive people.
  - When an inmate at a men’s prison is abused by a woman staff member, that prisoner may not be taken seriously, due to stereotypes and expectations around gender and

sexual abuse. Specifically, many people believe that a man cannot be sexually assaulted by a woman. It is also widely believed that a man — especially a man in prison — should consider himself “lucky” to have any sexual interaction with a woman, whether it was wanted or not.

- Male survivors of sexual abuse are often labelled “woman,” “girl,” or “bitch.” They are said to have been “turned out,” meaning turned into a woman or “turned gay,” and often become targets for further abuse. By contrast, male inmate predators are not seen as gay, but rather as hyper-masculine.
- **Examples in Women’s Facilities:** In a women’s prison, if a woman is abused by a fellow inmate, the staff and even fellow inmates may minimize the violence by labeling it a “cat fight” or “drama,” or promoting the false notion that a woman cannot rape another woman. This tendency is especially harmful because it minimizes the trauma that survivors of such violence experience. Indeed, sexual violence within abusive relationships between women remains largely invisible and even survivors do not often identify such abuse as sexual abuse.
- Women who are abused by staff members are often blamed, being seen as manipulative and hyper-sexual. Staff often describe such abuse by staff as cases in which the inmate “compromises” the staff member, thus placing the blame squarely on the victim.
- Masculine-presenting women and transgender men are often assumed to be abusive or aggressive, and are targeted for verbal and physical abuse by staff. If such inmates are abused, they face incredible barriers in being believed and seeking help.
- **Examples in Men’s and Women’s Facilities:** In both men’s and women’s prisons, in instances of inmate-against-inmate abuse, corrections staff will mete out equal punishment to both the victim and perpetrator. This dynamic is mirrored in the tendency among police to arrest both parties in same - sex violence domestic violence cases.
- Survivors of sexual abuse are likely to be targeted for further abuse. Regardless of gender or sexual orientation, people who have been victimized are likely to be labeled as weak and seen as easy targets — especially if they reported and the facility did not handle the report appropriately.
- **Grooming:** Sexual harassment can be a method to groom prisoners — both because a pattern of abusive and unwelcome behavior demoralizes, frightens, and entraps people, and because if they are able to get away with

such harassment, perpetrators learn that it is acceptable. Perpetrators (whether a staff member or inmate) will escalate to other forms of sexual abuse after using harassment to test the limits of the person they are targeting and the facility’s tolerance for sexual harassment.

Slide 33

## Staff-on-Inmate Dynamics

- Abuse of authority
- Voyeurism
- Abusive searches
- Staff sexual misconduct
- Sexual abuse and rape



Photo: Prison Fellowship International

- **Abuse of Authority:** Staff sexual abuse can take many forms, including voyeurism, abusive searches, staff-inmate “relationships,” and rape. All forms of abuse involve the corrections staff’s abuse of their authority. This authority is based on their control over all aspects of a prisoner’s life — everything from what they wear to when they brush their teeth. Staff perpetrators take advantage of having unfettered access to prisoners and failed systems of accountability allow abuse to continue.
- **Barriers to Addressing Staff Abuse:** Inmates tend to be seen as manipulative and untrustworthy by officials, including those who conduct the investigations. Staff members’ adherence to a code of silence stifles any reporting of officer misconduct. Under these conditions, staff sexual abuse is often dismissed and rarely taken seriously.
- Staff perpetrators may offer victims contraband or other scarce goods; threaten victims with a transfer or longer sentence; or withhold privileges, such as family visits.
- **Discussion Questions About Staff Abuse:**  
*[Facilitate discussion.]*
  - Why do you think survivors seem to comply with demands of abusive staff? Why do many survivors choose not to report staff sexual misconduct?
    - Survivors of staff sexual abuse often yield to the demands of their abuser because they may perceive the consequences of noncompliance to be worse than the abuse itself.
    - Staff members sometimes entrap prisoners with things like cell phones, drugs, or tobacco, and then threaten disciplinary action if the survivor reports.
  - How does a person’s past experience in the criminal justice system or history of sexual victimization affect their response to sexual abuse in detention?
    - Many incarcerated people have a history of complex trauma and come from highly policed communities where abuse of authority is often the norm.
    - Many prisoners have a deep distrust of law enforcement, fear that any attention from law enforcement

will be dangerous, and a strong belief that it is always better to handle any trouble yourself.

- Inmates, particularly in higher security men’s prisons, are also highly concerned about being labelled a snitch for reporting any sort of problem, including sexual abuse.
- **Retaliation for Seeking Help:** Many survivors of staff sexual abuse describe the severe and ongoing retaliation they suffer when reporting the abuse, including harassment, involuntary segregation, false disciplinary reports, physical abuse, and denial of medical or mental health care.
- **Framing Staff Perpetrators as Victims:** In many cases of staff sexual abuse, corrections staff characterize staff abusers as victims who were “taken in” by an inmate’s sexual advances. Unfortunately, pop culture perpetuates this notion, ignoring the reality that it is staff, not inmates, who hold the power and who are responsible for setting professional boundaries with the people in their custody.

Slide 34

## In Her Own Words

“While we were showering, there were male officers overlooking the showers, several of them would make lewd comments. We made comments to the female officers and they said, ‘Get used to it!’



Photo by James Stanson

— Barilee, survivor of sexual abuse in detention

- *[Read the quote.]*
- Barilee’s story is an example of voyeurism and abuse of authority. *[Facilitate a discussion about the following questions.]*
  - *How is Barilee’s story an example of interpersonal violence?*
    - *The individual officers exerted power and control over Barilee and the other women by making lewd comments while they were naked and vulnerable in the shower.*
  - *How does structural violence play a role in her story?*
    - *More than one officer made lewd comments and one said ‘Get used to it!’ when the women reported the behavior. The ubiquitous nature of the harassment and the response to reports demonstrates that the abusive behavior was culturally acceptable among the staff and seen as normal.]*

Slide 35

## Voyeurism and Flashing

### This abuse can include:

- Leering at prisoners while they are changing, showering, or using the toilet
- Requiring prisoners to “put on a show”
- Staff exposing their genitals to prisoners
- Requesting that prisoners expose their genitals

- Staff perpetrators may engage in voyeurism, using their job duties as pretext to leer or peer at inmates, including when they are changing, showering, or using the toilet. The PREA standards require that inmates generally be able to toilet, shower and change clothes without being viewed by staff of the opposite gender.
- Voyeurism in a detention setting includes leering, peering, staring at, or taking photos of inmates for the purpose of sexual gratification.
- In many facilities, staff do not take voyeurism as seriously as other forms of abuse because it is difficult to prove and because the extreme lack of privacy behind bars serves to normalize behaviors that would be wholly inappropriate in other settings.
- JDI has heard from survivors who were forced to “put on a show” for staff by engaging in sex acts alone or with another prisoner, wearing their uniforms in a revealing way, or exposing themselves to the staff member.
- JDI has also heard from inmates who stated that a staff member exposed themselves to inmates.
- It can be difficult for survivors to report staff voyeurism; it is rare to see a report of staff voyeurism result in a substantiated investigation, even when staff witness such abuse.

Slide 36

## In Her Own Words

“I was told I have no choice when an officer wants to pat search me but to allow the pat search in the future and write a grievance.”

— Beverly, survivor of sexually abusive pat searches by a female corrections officer



- *[Read the quote.]*
- A corrections officers subjected Beverly to abusive pat searches.
  - How is Beverly’s story an example of interpersonal violence?
    - The individual staff member used her authority to control Beverly, and to intimidate her into staying silent about the abuse.
  - How does structural violence play a role in her story?
    - It is a rule that staff can pat search any prisoner at any time if safety is in question. The officer took advantage of this rule and verbally harassed and groped Beverly under the guise of doing her job.

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## Sexual 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



Photo by Tom Hindman

- **Bodily Searches as Part of Daily Prison Life:** Strip and pat searches are a part of daily life in detention, and staff perpetrators have ample opportunity to perform abusive searches on prisoners. Similar to voyeurism, abusive searches can occur under the pretext of staff duties.
- Advocates are likely to hear about abusive searches only in cases where the abuse is severe or when it happens so frequently that survivors feel compelled to come forward, despite the risks, because in many places abusive searches are commonplace.
- **Pat Searches:** Pat searches are governed by a set of rules and protocols. Being touched by someone with authority over you and having no choice in the matter, even when the search is done according to policy, can be uncomfortable for anyone and traumatizing for some. Staff often do not conduct these searches in a consistent manner; sometimes the searches are conducted in a manner that is less thorough than they are supposed to be. Some officials warn that this may result in an inmate believing a search may have been abusive when in fact it was conducted with the requisite thoroughness. As such, it is crucial that staff adhere to professional codes of conduct (See the Moss Group video on cross-gender searches and searches of transgender inmates: [vimeo.com/183649668](https://vimeo.com/183649668)).
- **Strip Searches:** Bodily searches in general are particularly difficult for survivors of sexual abuse. Not surprisingly, having someone in a position of authority over you view you in a state of undress is one of the hardest and most degrading aspects of life for many inmates. As such, some inmates even forgo certain activities, such as visits or programs, in order to avoid strip searches.
- *[Ask participants to discuss how they think that a pat search done according to protocol can affect a survivor of sexual abuse? How about a strip search? What can an advocate do to support a survivor who is feeling traumatized or triggered by searches?]*

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## Pop Quiz

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**What method did the staff use to abuse Barilee and Beverly?**

- a. Offers of protection
- b. Threats of violence
- c. Abuse of authority
- d. Drugs or alcohol

- *[Read the question.]*
- The correct answer is C, “Abuse of authority.”

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**Why might staff use this method to abuse Barilee and Beverly?**

- *[Read the question]*
- Why might a staff member use their authority to abuse inmates?
  - Abusive staff are less likely to get caught because abuse done under the guise of job duties is difficult to prove.
  - Some abusers find greater satisfaction in using power and authority instead of force.
  - Some staff, who are not equipped to handle authority, may feel entitled to use their authority to be abusive.
  - Staff who do not feel powerful in other parts of their lives may gain a feeling of agency from abusing prisoners.
  - Staff may have learned from their predecessors that abusive behavior is acceptable and the best way to gain control over prisoners.

Slide 40

## In His Own Words

**“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, survivor of sexual abuse by a female officer

- *[Read the quote.]*
- *[Have participant’s read Ivory’s story, which is on JDI’s website, at [www.justdetention.org/story/ivory](http://www.justdetention.org/story/ivory). Also, encourage participants to scroll through the other stories, to see the variety of experiences of survivors of sexual abuse behind bars.]*
- Ivory’s story is an example of sexual abuse by a staff member.
  - How is Ivory’s story an example of interpersonal violence?
    - The officer used her position of power to control Ivory and coerce him into engaging in sexual acts that he did not want and to which he did not (and legally could not) agree.
  - How does structural violence play a role in Ivory’s story?
    - A common misperception is that men are perpetrators of sexual violence and women are victims. The staff member who abused Ivory used this misperception to control Ivory and make it difficult for him to report. Yet if he had reported, it would have been unlikely that he would be taken seriously. Ivory’s boss’ and the facility’s response also made it clear that the staff member’s behavior was culturally appropriate and acceptable.

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## Staff Sexual Misconduct

**Staff sexual misconduct is defined as acts and behavior of a sexual nature by staff directed at a detainee. It can include:**

- Grooming
- Communications suggesting a romantic or sexual relationship
- Physical violence
- Abuse by and of individuals of any gender, identity, or sexual orientation

- Staff sexual misconduct is defined as acts and behavior of a sexual nature by a staff directed at a detainee. It may include: grooming, sexual advances or comments, or physical violence. Staff perpetrators may be of any gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- It is illegal in all 50 states and under federal law for staff to have any sexual contact with a detainee. Consent or perceived willingness on the part of the prisoner, therefore, is never a defense. Sexual contact with a detainee represents a flagrant abuse of power and a clear violation of professional boundaries.
- Staff sexual misconduct is directly linked to other types of unethical behavior and facility disorder, such as staff bringing in contraband, uneven application of rules, distrust among staff and inmates, and other forms of violence. In short, staff sexual misconduct undermines the safety of the entire institution and everyone in it.
- Staff perpetrators use their authority and access to goods and services that inmates may need or want to carry out abuse, as discussed earlier. Staff perpetrators can take advantage of the deprivation within facilities by offering contraband items with the expectation of sex in return. Whatever the reason, it can be extremely difficult for prisoners to get out of these situations. The

officer, who already has more power than the prisoner, can also use that person's rule-breaking to gain yet more leverage. JDI has heard from both staff and inmates that inmates are often disciplined for having something like a cell phone, even if a staff member gives it to them and uses it to blackmail them into having sex.

- In some institutions poor boundaries, unprofessional behavior, and inappropriate relationships between staff and inmates are part of the culture.

- How does an environment where staff have poor boundaries and engage in unprofessional behavior affect all staff and prisoners?
  - It may be difficult for well-meaning corrections staff to identify warning signs of staff misconduct.
  - Well-intentioned staff may become demoralized and feel helpless.
  - It sends a message that exchanges with staff are the best or only way for a prisoner to get their needs met.
  - It can lead to favoritism and can create to animosity and power imbalances between prisoners who are receiving goods or favors from staff and those who are not, creating an unstable and unsafe environment and increasing violence and tensions between inmates. When you provide services to incarcerated survivors, you may hear staff characterize staff sexual misconduct as inmates manipulating (or compromising) staff. While it may appear initially that the inmate agreed to the sexual contact, the impossibility of consent becomes evident because the inmate does not have the same power as the staff person to end that involvement, or determine its conditions. PREA and the laws around sexual misconduct are quite clear: regardless of who initiates it, any sexual involvement by staff with an inmate is against the law.

Advocates may hear from prisoners who were in a “relationship” with a staff member that they initially felt was willing, but that they later realized was abusive.

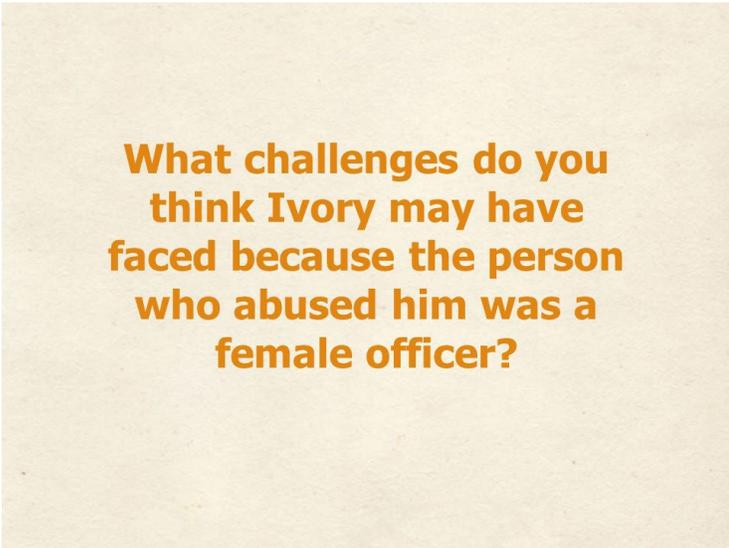
- How could you support a person in this situation?
  - *If participants do not raise them, make sure the following points come up:*
  - *Support and validate the prisoner's feelings — they might feel confused, guilty, and might blame themselves.*
  - *Educate the person about dynamics of abusive relationships, including the impact on survivors.*
  - *Advocate on the survivor's behalf, with the survivor's permission, around any wrongful disciplinary actions that*

*arose from the abuse — for example, if the staff member took the inmate to an unauthorized area to abuse them, and the inmate was then written up for being in an unauthorized area.*

- *Help the survivor develop a safety plan, if they believe they are in danger.]*

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**What challenges do you think Ivory may have faced because the person who abused him was a female officer?**

- *[Read the question. Consider the follow-up questions.]*
- How do you think the gender of Ivory’s perpetrator affected his healing?
  - It is possible Ivory did not seek help as quickly because he felt ashamed that his story did not follow the more commonly accepted narrative of male perpetrator and female victim.
- How do you think the gender of his perpetrator affected his decision-making around whether or not to report?
  - Ivory was afraid that she might accuse him of abusing her. The fear was reinforced because it fit people’s expectations of how abuse happens.

## Inmate-on-Inmate Dynamics

- Protective pairing
- Prostitution
- Gang abuse
- Sexual abuse and rape



Photo credit: Dean Hanson/Albuquerque Journal

- Inmate-on-inmate abuse can take many different forms, including:
  - Domestic violence
  - Prostitution
  - Gang abuse
  - Sexual abuse and rape
- We will go into more detail about what each of these types of abuse look like in a moment.
- Like in the community, inmate perpetrators may use their socio-economic power and status to abuse others. For example, they might be high up in a gang, connected to powerful people in the community, or connected to or trusted by staff.

### Slide 44

## In His Own Words

**“This was, in a word, enslavement. My body no longer belonged to me, but to someone else — to my ‘husband’, a rapist who totally controlled my life with the constant threat of violence.”**



— Rodney, survivor of sexual abuse by other inmates

- *[Read the quote.]*
- *[Have participant’s read Ivory’s story, which is on JDI’s website, at [www.justdetention.org/story/rodney](http://www.justdetention.org/story/rodney)]*
- Rodney’s story is an example of protective pairing.
  - How is Rodney’s story an example of interpersonal violence?
    - Rodney’s abuser controlled him with the constant threat of violence.
  - How does structural violence play a role in his story?
    - Staff knew about this abusive relationship, but they did not say anything because protective pairings are seen as an acceptable part of prison culture.
  - Is his story similar to a domestic violence relationship? How so?
    - Yes, this is similar to domestic violence because many survivors are entrapped in abusive relationships by the constant fear and specter of even worse violence.

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## Protective Pairing and Abusive Relationships

- Example of interpersonal violence
- Part of the culture
- Mimic domestic violence in the community



Photo credit: sakhorn

- **Relationships in Detention:** Men and women form friendships, romantic relationships, and mock families in detention. As in the community, some of these romantic relationships and familial relationships are healthy and others are abusive. These abusive relationships involve some of the same abusive dynamics we see in the community, including: power imbalances, tacit support for or ignoring of the abuse from community members, and blaming the victim.
- Now we are going to talk about two sexually abusive dynamics that are common in detention: protective pairings and domestic violence.
- **Protective Pairing:** A protective pairing is an arrangement where a powerful inmate demands sex from another inmate in exchange for protection. You might also hear protective pairing referred to as “hooking up” or “getting a man.”
- Protective pairing exists on a spectrum, just like abusive or controlling relationships in the community. In some pairings the exchange is quid pro quo: sex for protection. Some pairings may appear to outsiders to be consensual. The abuser might use grooming tactics similar to those of a batterer, entrapping the target through coercion or trickery. On the more violent end of the spectrum, the pairing might be entered into after a violent assault, perpetrated either by the dominant person of the pair or by another prisoner, prompting the survivor to seek help.
- **Gender Roles and Protective Pairing:** Often, the abuser in protective pairings is cast as the “man” or “husband” and his victim as the “woman” or his “prison wife.” The “wife” may be required to dress in a traditionally feminine way and do the house work, regardless of that person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- For vulnerable inmates, protective pairing may represent often the most practical and rational survival strategy in a dangerous situation.
- **Domestic Violence or Abusive Relationships:** Protective pairings are different from relationships that begin as ostensibly consensual, but become abusive.
- There are some similarities between domestic or intimate partner violence and protective pairings. However, in a protective pairing, the terms (that there is an exchange for protection) typically are defined at the outset, whereas abusive relationships typically begin as just a relationship, and often seemingly fully consensual.
- In both dynamics, the very fact of incarceration makes it extremely difficult for the survivor to avoid having prolonged

- contact with the perpetrator.
- Perpetrators of intimate partner violence use the silence that surrounds such abuse, particularly, in same-sex relationships to entrap the survivors.
- Identifying Protective Pairing and Abusive Relationships:** From the outside, and for many staff, protective pairing relationships and abusive relationships may seem consensual; or, if staff see protective pairings for what they are, they may consider them necessary to maintain order.
  - How do staff attitudes towards protective pairings affect a survivor's healing?
  - Do you think the difficulty many staff have identifying protective pairings as abusive affects a survivor's decision to report? How so?
    - You may hear the staff frame reports of abuse in protective pairings as a "lover's quarrel." It is important for advocates to know that often corrections staff do not have the tools, training, or knowledge to identify the difference between consensual and abusive relationships.

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**In His Own Words**

**“Gang members routinely bought and sold me as a chattel, raped and degraded me on virtually a daily basis, and threatened me with death if I resisted.”**



— Roderick, survivor of prisoner rape

- [Read the quote.]*
- Roderick's story is an example of forced prostitution and trafficking.
  - How is this an example of interpersonal violence?
    - The individual gang members threatened and raped Roderick.
  - How does structural violence play a role here?
    - Roderick describes gang members buying and selling of his person as "routine," which shows it is a cultural norm.
  - How does this sound similar to a domestic violence relationship?
    - This sounds similar to a domestic violence relationship because Roderick lived with some of the abusers and the violence happened on a daily basis.

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## Prostitution and Trafficking

- Sex work and survival sex while incarcerated
- Forced prostitution
- Sex slavery and trafficking



Photo credit: End Slavery Now

- Deprivation leads many prisoners to barter and exchange whatever they have for the things that they need. And for some, the only thing they have to exchange is their bodies.
- Some prisoners may choose to have sex in exchange for goods, such as cigarettes, food, money, drugs, and commissary. The “choice” to have sex may represent the only way a person can assert their agency and gain a measure of control over a desperate situation.
- People who engage in sex work, either while incarcerated or in the community, may face higher risk for sexual abuse because of the perception that they are available to anyone.
- Some prisoners even may be forced into sex work by their abusive partner or the other person in their protective pairing.
- Others may be “turned out” or “punked out” and trafficked by gangs for their economic gain.
- In the most extreme cases, like Rodney’s, survivors are bought and sold by more powerful prisoners.

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## In His Own Words

**“I was forced into prostitution by a prison gang. I was raped repeatedly by one of the gang leaders. If ever I refused to have sex, I was physically assaulted and raped.”**



— Justin, survivor of prisoner rape

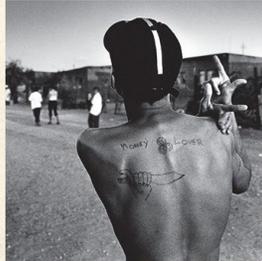
- *[Read the quote]*
- Justin’s story is an example of gang abuse.
  - How is Justin’s story an example of interpersonal violence?
    - The gang members exercised power and control over Justin by forcing him into prostitution.
  - How does structural violence play a role in his story?
    - Justin refers to the gang as a prison gang, which shows that gangs and underground economy they engage in is a cultural norm. Gangs cannot engage this type of behavior without it being accepted as inevitable by the staff and inmates in the facility.
- Is his story similar to a domestic violence relationship? How so?
  - Yes. Many survivors of domestic violence are assaulted and raped if they refuse to engage in sex

Slide 49

## Gangs and Sexual Abuse

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- Use sexual abuse to show power and dominance
- Use sexual assault as initiation rite
- Enforce strict rules against same-sex activity



Gallo Images/Getty Images

- Some gangs use sexual abuse as a tool to demonstrate their dominance and power inside the prison. Gang abuse may include raping members of rival gang, or sexually abusing those within their gang as punishment for breaking gang rules or attempting to leave the gang.
- Other gangs require gay or bisexual prisoners to pay tribute, taxes, or rent, sometimes in the form of sex acts.
- There are also gangs that require recruits to have sex with several of their members in order to join. JDI has also heard from survivors that some prison gangs have rules for their members that forbid sexual activity between people of the same sex. These gangs will sometimes punish their members for violating these rules with severe bodily injury or death.

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## Pop Quiz

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**What method did the perpetrators use to abuse Justin and Roderick?**

- Offers of protection
- Coercion
- Threats and physical force
- Drugs or alcohol

- *[Read the question.]*
- The correct answer is C, “Threats and physical force.”

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## Active Listening Activity

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- *[Listen to the audio, identify what abusive dynamics are happening in each survivor's story and fill out the Active Listening handout, which can be found here: <https://goo.gl/JeP1SM>.*
- *Ask participants to discuss their thoughts.]*
- Thank you for taking the time to learn about the various dynamics of sexual abuse in detention.
- Before we go, I want to acknowledge that learning about dynamics of sexual abuse in detention is difficult. I'd like to go around the room and hear from everyone how you are doing right now, and for you to identify one kind of thing you can do for yourself today, after leaving our training.

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**What is one thing you learned about the dynamics of sexual abuse that will help you to be an effective advocate?**

- *[Thank participants for their participation. Ask them to identify one thing they learned during this module that will help them to be effective advocates. Ask each participant to answer the question, either in a round or "popcorn" style until everyone answers.*
- *[Summarize the main points.]*

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· *[Ask if there are any final questions.]*