

WELCOME

We'll begin shortly.

While you are waiting, please mute your sound.

CA Advancing PREA: Setting Up Services for Incarcerated Survivors

Tuesday, February 21, 2023
10:00am-12:00pm PST



Introductions



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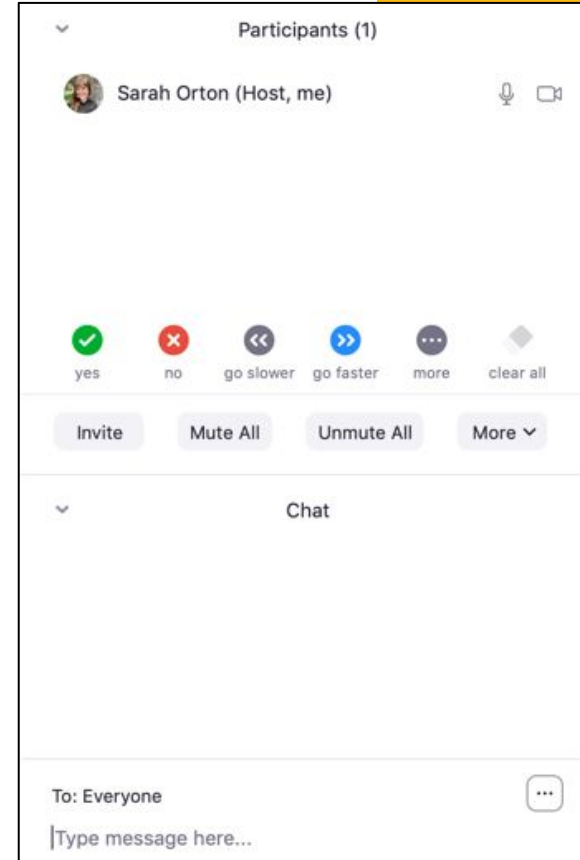


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How to Use Zoom

- Text chat
- PowerPoint Slides
- Phone



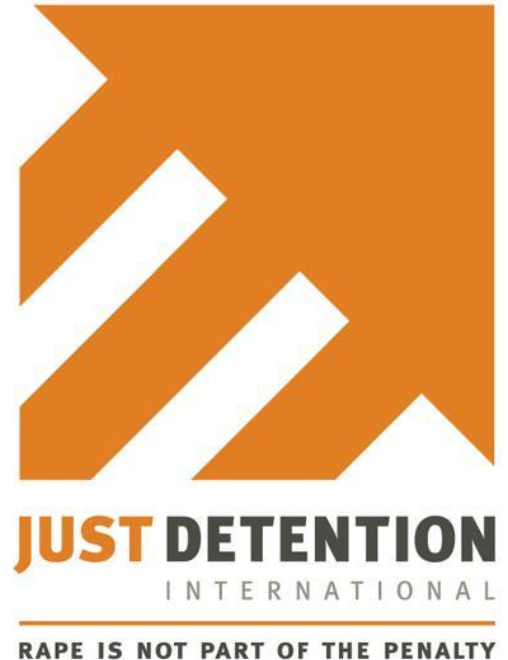
ValorUS' Mission

ValorUS is committed to preventing and ending sexual violence by advancing equity and eradicating oppression.



JDI's Mission

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



JDI's Core Principle

No matter what crime a person may have committed, **rape is not part of the penalty.**



CA Advancing PREA Overview

- Build strong relationships between CA state prison/ county jail staff and rape crisis advocates
- Create sustainable agreements and protocols for the provision of victim services to survivors



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Session Objectives



Understand the basics of U.S. incarceration and sexual abuse in detention

Session Objectives



Provide an overview of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

Session Objectives



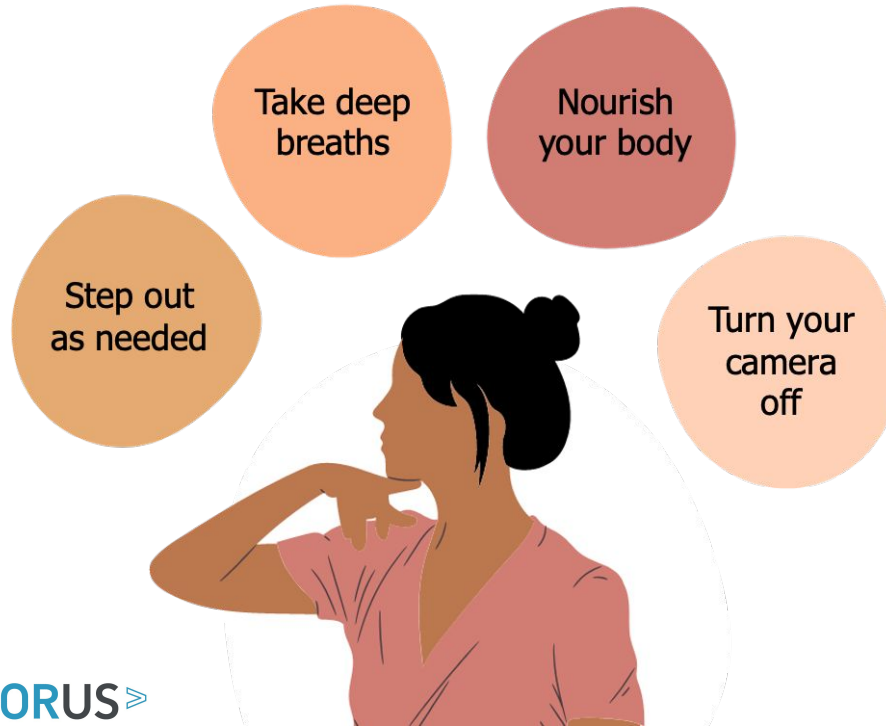
Identify how to weave PREA into agency culture

Session Objectives



Determine strategies to set up confidential services in detention

GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO



Basics of U.S. Incarceration and Sexual Abuse in Detention

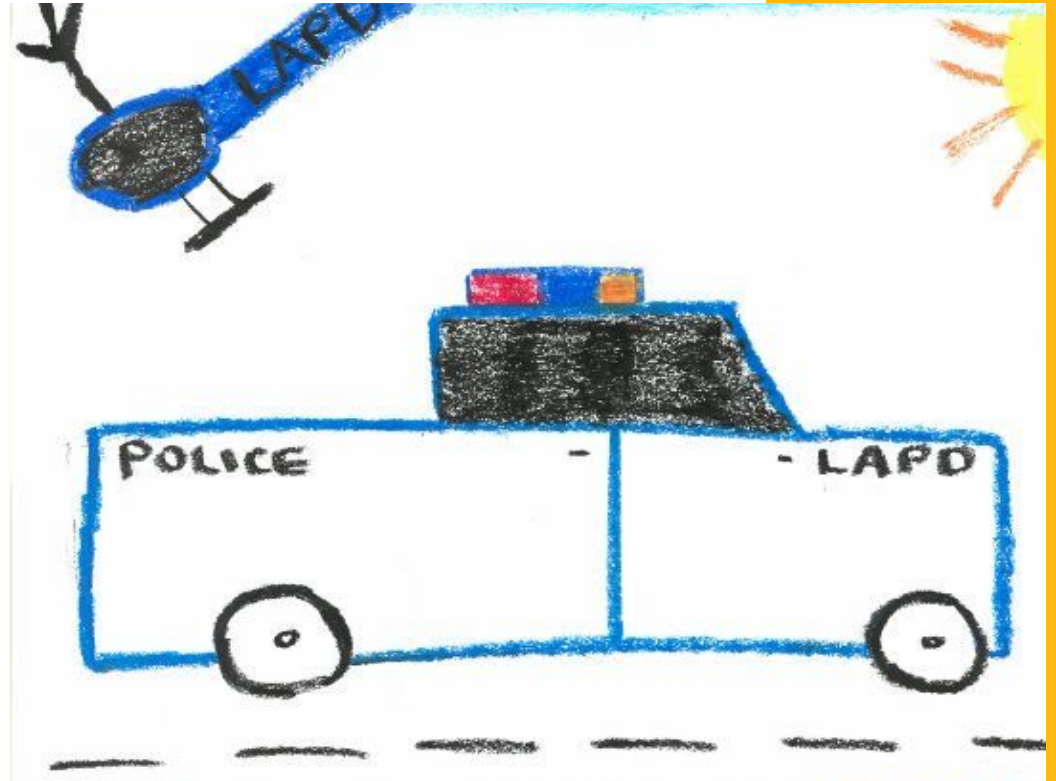


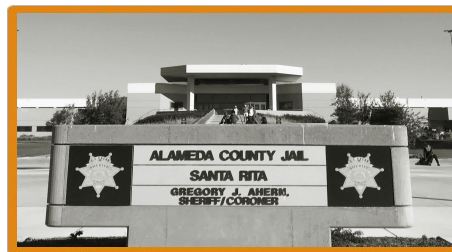
Image: Art created by a participant of JDI's therapeutic art programs in detention

What is Detention?

Prisons



Jails



Youth Detention



Community Corrections



Tribal Detention



Immigration Detention



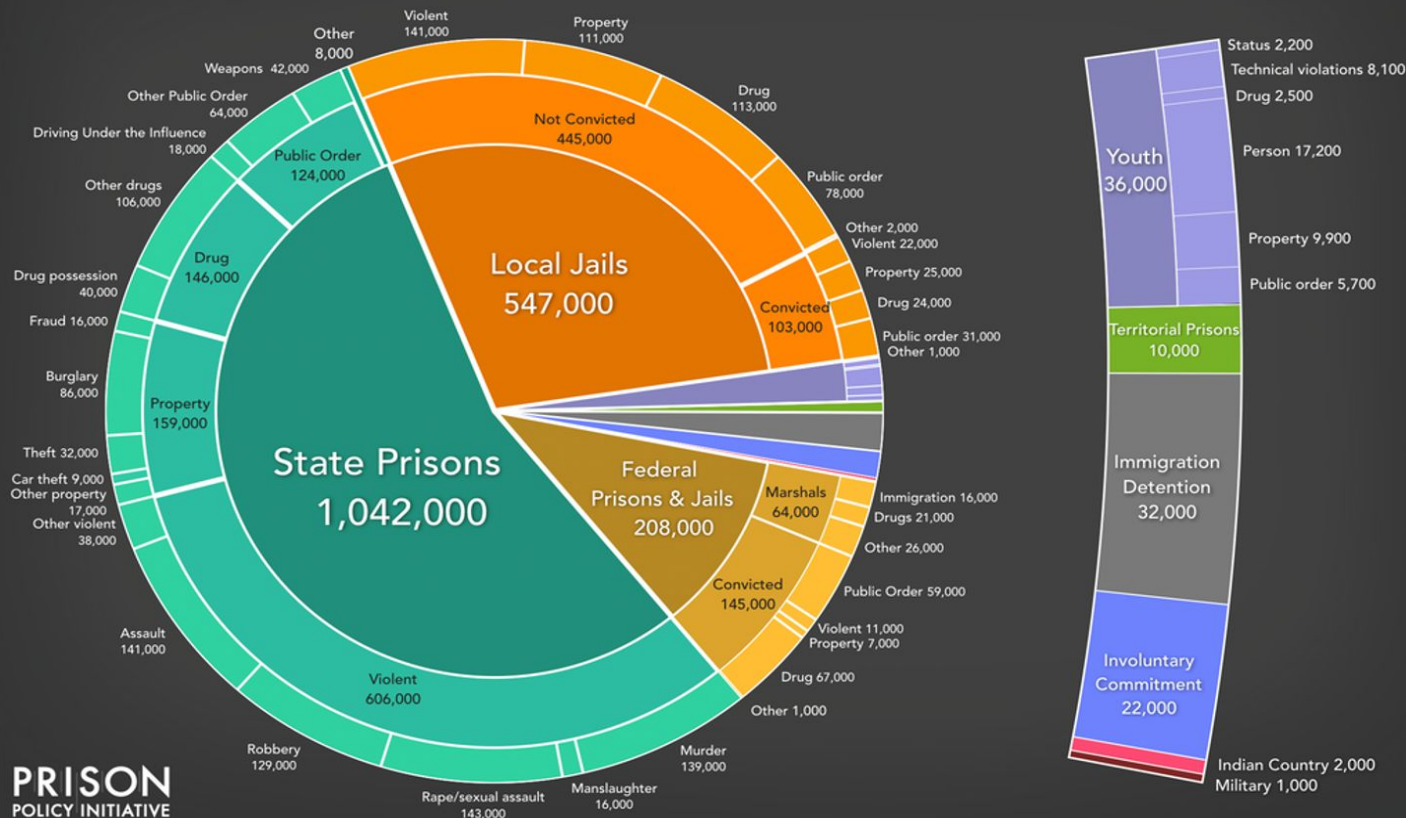
Lockups

County Jails vs Prisons

Jail	Prison
operated locally	operated by CDCR or BOP
local oversight	Office of Inspector General
mainly holds people who have not been convicted and cannot pay bail	holds people who have been convicted of a crime
length of stay can be short	length of stay is usually > 1 year
minimal programming	more robust programming
less physical movement	more movement likely

How many people are locked up in the United States?

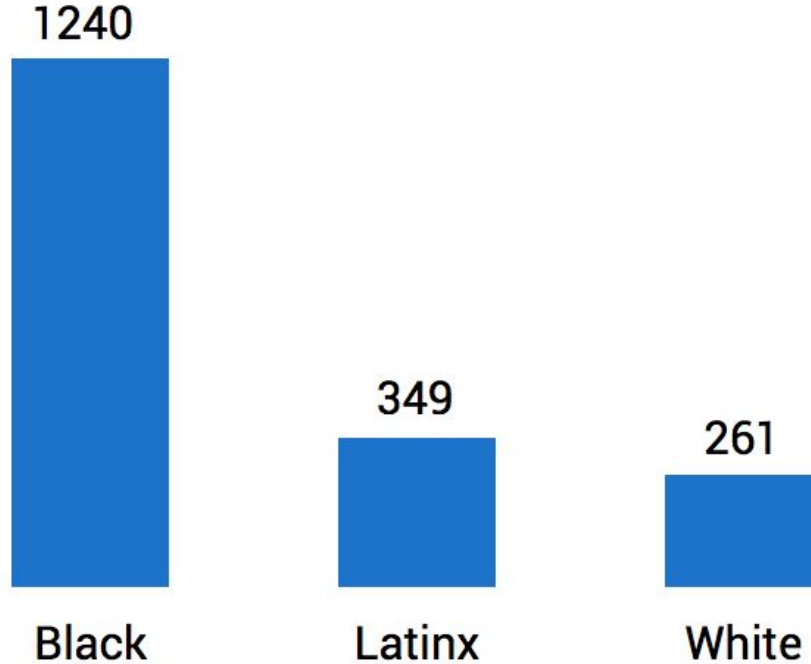
The U.S. locks up more people per capita than any other nation, at the staggering rate of 573 per 100,000 residents. But to end mass incarceration, we must first consider *where* and *why* 1.9 million people are confined nationwide.



PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

Sources and data notes: See <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2022.html>

Average Rate of Black, Latinx and White Imprisonment Per 100,000 Residents



CA Among Top Ten States with Highest Black/White Differential

State	Black Imprisonment Rate	White Imprisonment Rate
New Jersey	1009	81
Wisconsin	2742	230
Minnesota	1023	105
Connecticut	1512	156
Maine	1331	143
California	1623	175
Iowa	2084	225
Nebraska	1733	195
Utah	1383	167
New York	754	96



Complex Trauma Histories

Previous trauma including:

- Child (sexual) abuse
- Adult sexual abuse
- Relationship violence
- Human trafficking
- Gang violence
- Police violence



Photo Credit: Steve Liss, Open Society Foundation

Rates of Sexual Abuse



Roughly 200,000 people are sexually abused behind bars every year in the U.S.

Forms of Sexual Abuse in Detention

- Sexual Harassment
- Protective Pairing
- Relationship violence
- Sexual exploitation
- Gang Abuse
- Rape
- Abusive searches



Photo credit: Paul Hudson

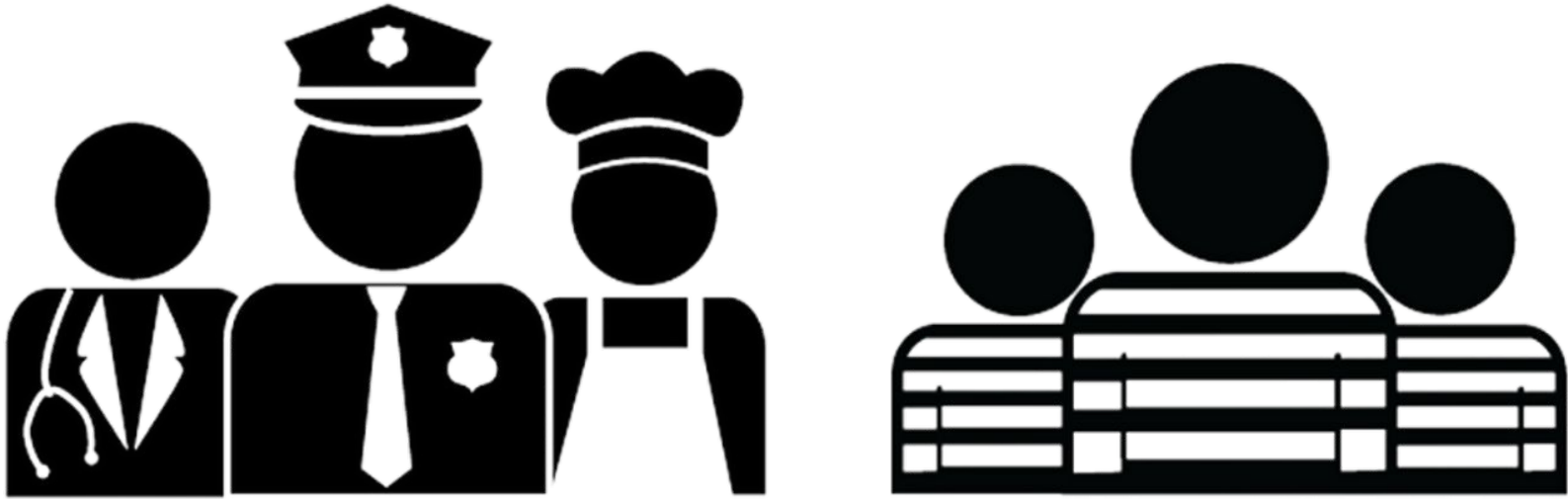
Perpetrators Target

- Survivors of previous sexual abuse
- People with disabilities
- People with mental illness
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual people
- Transgender and gender non-conforming people



Image: Art by Montécristo,
longtime JDI writer

Study shows nearly equal rates of sexual abuse perpetrated by staff and other incarcerated people in adult facilities.



Consent Between Staff and Prisoners is Impossible

- Staff has control over incarcerated person's access to basic needs and physical safety
- Staff controls access to visits from family
- Staff has control over incarcerated person's access to basic needs
- Staff has the influence over programming, work assignments, disciplinary record, and parole date

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 woman officer

Introduction to the Prison Rape Elimination Act



Purpose of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

- To eliminate sexual abuse in corrections and law enforcement facilities
- To increase accountability in corrections agencies
- To give incarcerated survivors access to the same level of care as those in the community

PREA Standards Checklist

- ✓ Protect all incarcerated survivors from abusers
- ✓ Provide multiple ways to report
- ✓ Offer medical and mental health care
- ✓ Increase accountability
- ✓ Provide survivors access to victim services

MOUs Between Corrections Agencies and RCCs...

- Should lay out all the services the jail or prison will facilitate, and the rape crisis center will provide
- Aim to include (at a minimum):
 - medical forensic exam
and investigatory interview accompaniment
 - confidential hotline calls
 - confidential written correspondence
 - confidential follow up support

MOU May Also Include...

- Agreement from facility to contact RCC as part of the standard response to a report of sexual abuse that occurred during incarceration
- Specific language re: when and how incarcerated folks will receive information about RCC services

MOU May Also Include...

- Agreement from facility to support RCC in coordinating in-person services, staff training, and facility tours/meetings
- A contact sheet for multiple key staff on either side, and an agreement to notify one another of staffing changes
- A term limit of no more than 3 years from the date of signing

QUESTION

ANSWER

Who must be in compliance with the PREA standards?	Corrections agencies, NOT rape crisis centers
Do advocates have to report abuse in detention?	Advocates follow the same confidentiality standards as in the community
Do the PREA standards address abuse that happened prior to incarceration?	Yes - PREA does not exclude survivors of previous abuse from accessing services
Does PREA address sexual harassment too?	Yes - PREA addresses sexual harassment, too

In His Own Words



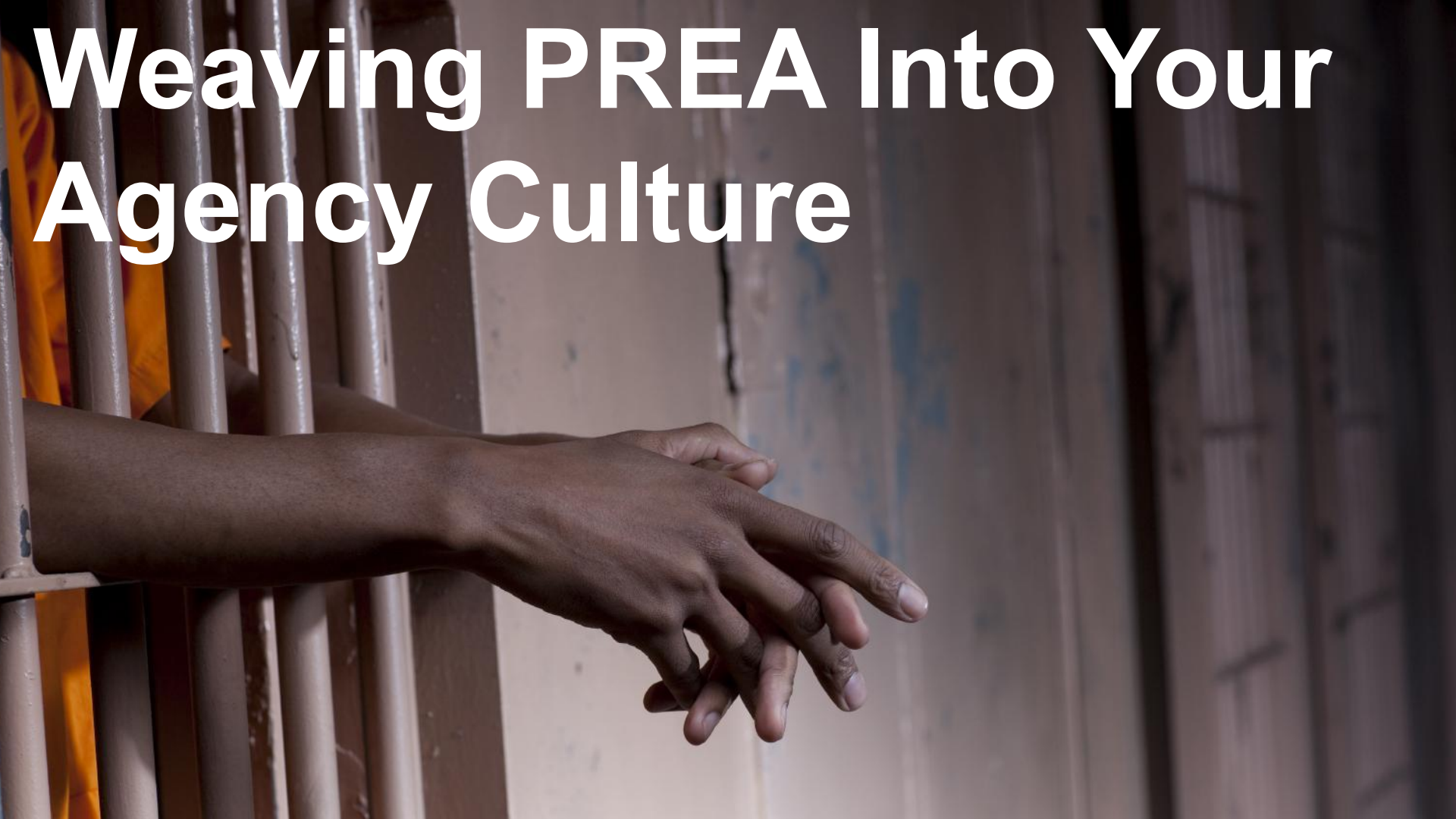
“This was, in a word, enslavement. My body no longer belonged to me, but to someone else — to my ‘husband’, a rapist who totally controlled my life with the constant threat of violence.”

— Rodney, survivor of sexual abuse by other incarcerated people

Break



Weaving PREA Into Your Agency Culture



Best Practices for Setting Up Services

- Creating habits that put incarcerated survivors at the center
- Schedule regular meetings with your staff and with facility staff
- Make PREA updates a standing agenda item for staff meetings
- Document outreach attempts and communication with facility staff

Review Policy and Protocol

- Are agency policies and intake forms inclusive of incarcerated survivors?
- Review policies and practices on providing services for survivors who have caused harm
- Develop and maintain binder or other tool that outlines best practices for your PREA program



Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center

PREA MANUAL

A Guide to Advocating for Incarcerated Survivors of Sexual Assault

Include PREA Work in Job Descriptions

Responsibilities Include:

- Provide direct client services for survivors in the community and detention such as hotline calls, letter writing, and forensic exam and investigatory interview accompaniment
- Train RCC and facility staff on the needs of the incarcerated survivors



Setting Up Rape Crisis Services for Incarcerated Survivors





“Being attacked and not receiving support from the adults in charge turned my world upside down. I take that with me wherever I go.”

— Troy Erik Isaac, prisoner rape survivor

Chat Question

What are some things your agency has done or can do internally to prepare to provide services in detention?

Confidential Correspondence

- Communicate with facility staff about the importance of confidentiality
- Determine how letters will be addressed and kept confidential by facility staff
- Include this agreement in the MOU

Challenges: Confidential Correspondence

- Facility staff concerns around contraband
- Mail may not be treated as confidential by staff
- Mailroom practices can vary widely from state to state

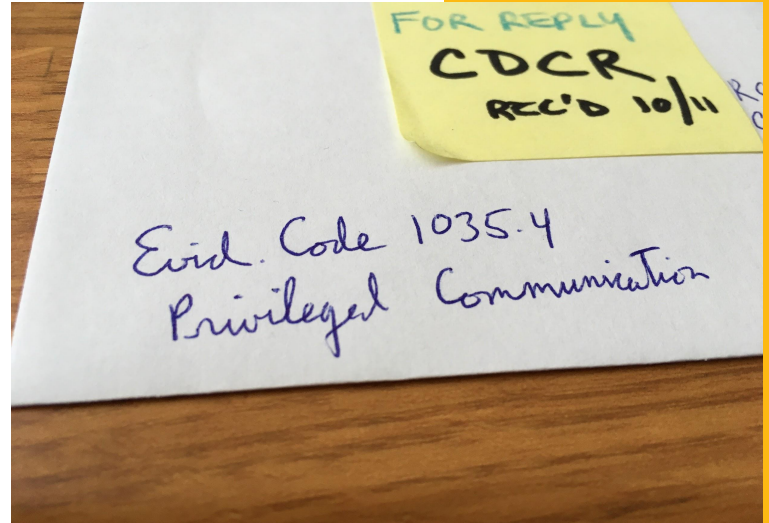


Photo: Just Detention International

Solutions: Confidential Correspondence

- Advocate to staff for confidential treatment of mail
- Ask clients if correspondence is opened in front of them
- Use the reporting barriers tool

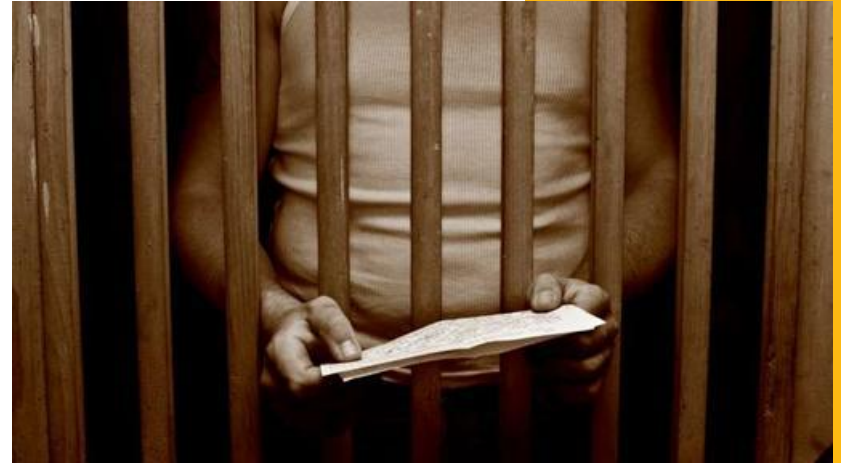


Image source: News Break

Confidential Hotline Calls

- Stress to facility staff the importance of confidentiality
- Ensure calls to your hotline are free, unmonitored, and unrecorded
- Facility staff can set this up with their phone provider



Challenges: Confidential Hotline Calls

- Posters are sometimes removed and repurposed
- Phones are placed in shared spaces
- Time Limits
- County Jails are likely not confidential



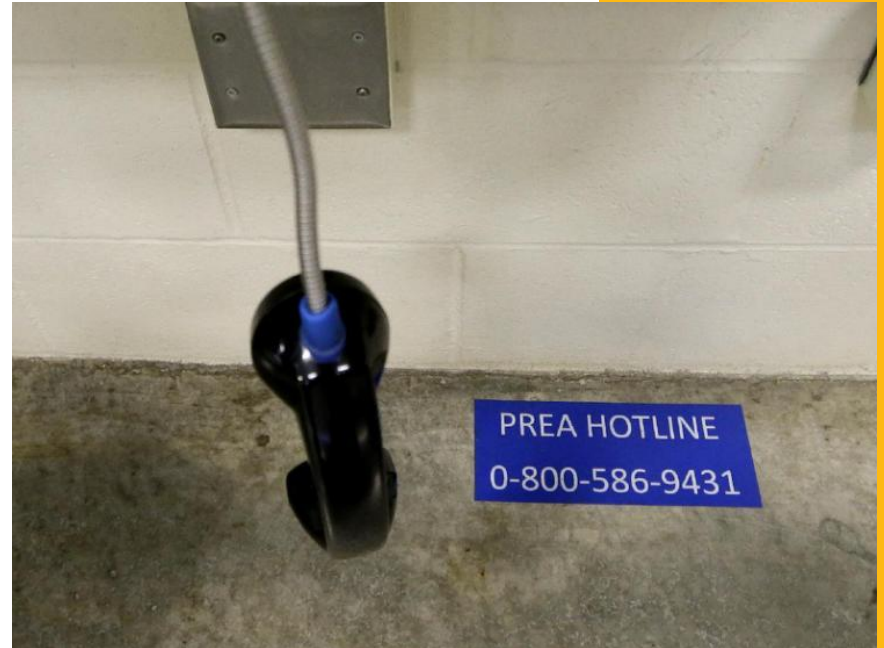
Solutions: Confidential Phone Calls

- Coordinate with staff to place monthly test calls
- Confirm with staff that posters are in place
- Staff may be able to facilitate calls from private rooms



Outside Reporting Agency

- Ensure that your RCC is **not** being used as an outside reporting agency
- If there isn't one, identify one together



Review Protocol for Forensic Exams

- Determine where facility takes someone for a SAFE
- Review facilities' coordinated response plan
 - Ensure that calling your RCC is standard practice
- Discuss remote accompaniment options



Image source: NSVRC

Investigatory Interview Accompaniment

- Survivors have the right to an advocate during interviews
- Request that your agency be notified when interviews are upcoming
- When an advocate cannot be present for an interview, facility staff should provide survivor with RCC materials



Coordinated Response Plan

- Required by PREA Standard §115.64
- Offer your skills as a survivor-centered and trauma-informed practitioner to improve SART's responses to sexual abuse and harassment
 - medical forensic exams
 - investigations
 - follow up services
- *Maintain confidentiality at all times*

Raising Awareness of Your Services

- Posters and pamphlets near phones and other common areas
- Feedback and word of mouth through clients
- Referrals from mental health, intake staff, PCM
- Educational videos on your services



Gentle Reminders

- RCCs have the skills and experience to provide survivor-centered, trauma-informed services.
- Incarcerated survivors depend on a strong relationship between RCCs and correctional facilities for access to services.
- Systems change is incremental — do your best today.



Ongoing Resources

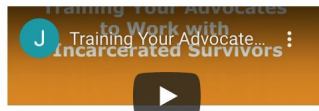
- Just Detention International
justdetention.org
- ValorUS
 - valor.us
- PREA Resource Center
prearesourcecenter.org

CA Advancing PREA: Resources for California Advocates

CALIFORNIA ADVANCING PREA: RESOURCES FOR CALIFORNIA ADVOCATES

The below resources were developed by Just Detention International and ValorUS to support California advocates.

Training Your Advocates to Work with Incarcerated Survivors



September 24, 2019
CA Advancing PREA Webconference



This webinar introduces a PowerPoint presentation and facilitators guide to RCC staff who will train volunteers and advocates at their agency about how to best serve survivors of sexual abuse and sexual harassment who are incarcerated.

QUESTIONS?

