

WELCOME

We'll begin shortly.

While you are waiting, please mute your sound.

CA Advancing PREA:

Setting Up Rape Crisis Services for Incarcerated Survivors

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

11:00am-12:30pm PST



Introductions



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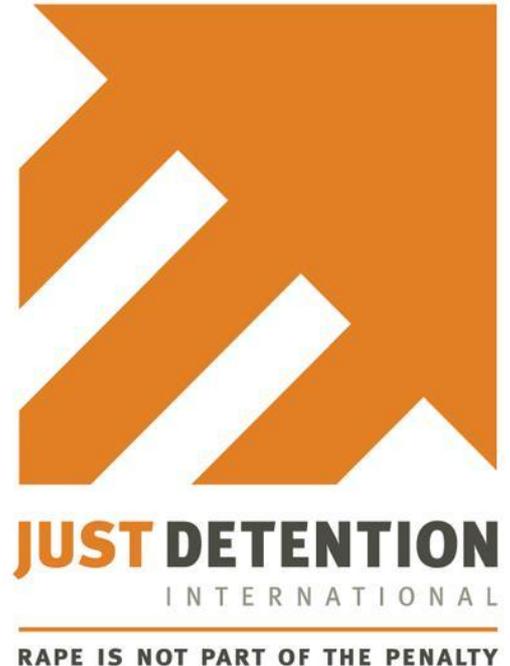
ValorUS' Mission

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



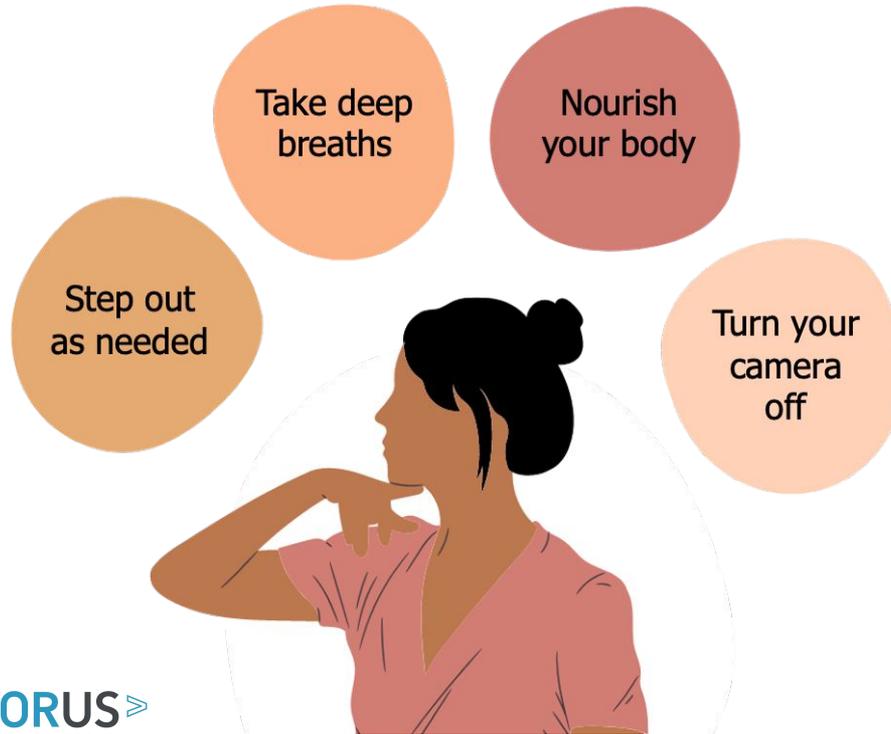
Explore how your agency can center incarcerated survivors

Session Objectives

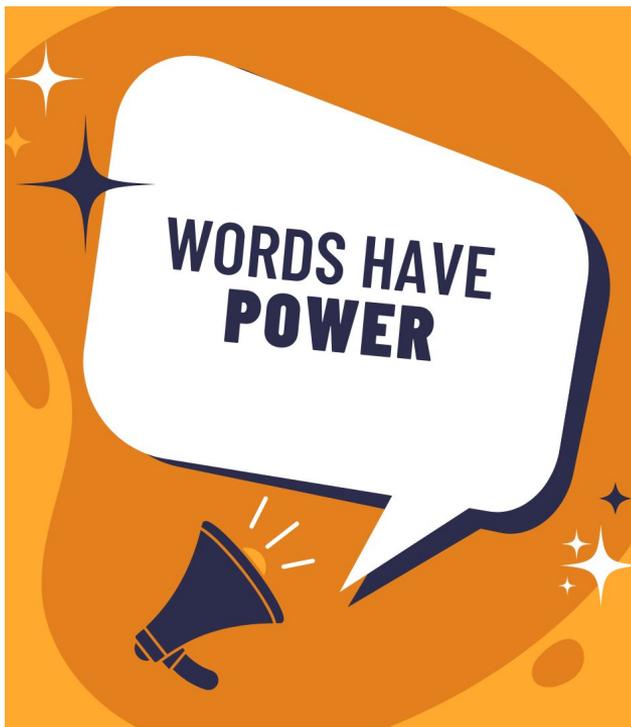


Discuss approaches to setting up confidential services in detention settings

GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO



Person-first Language



Inmate

Preferred Terms:

- People who are incarcerated
- Survivor

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

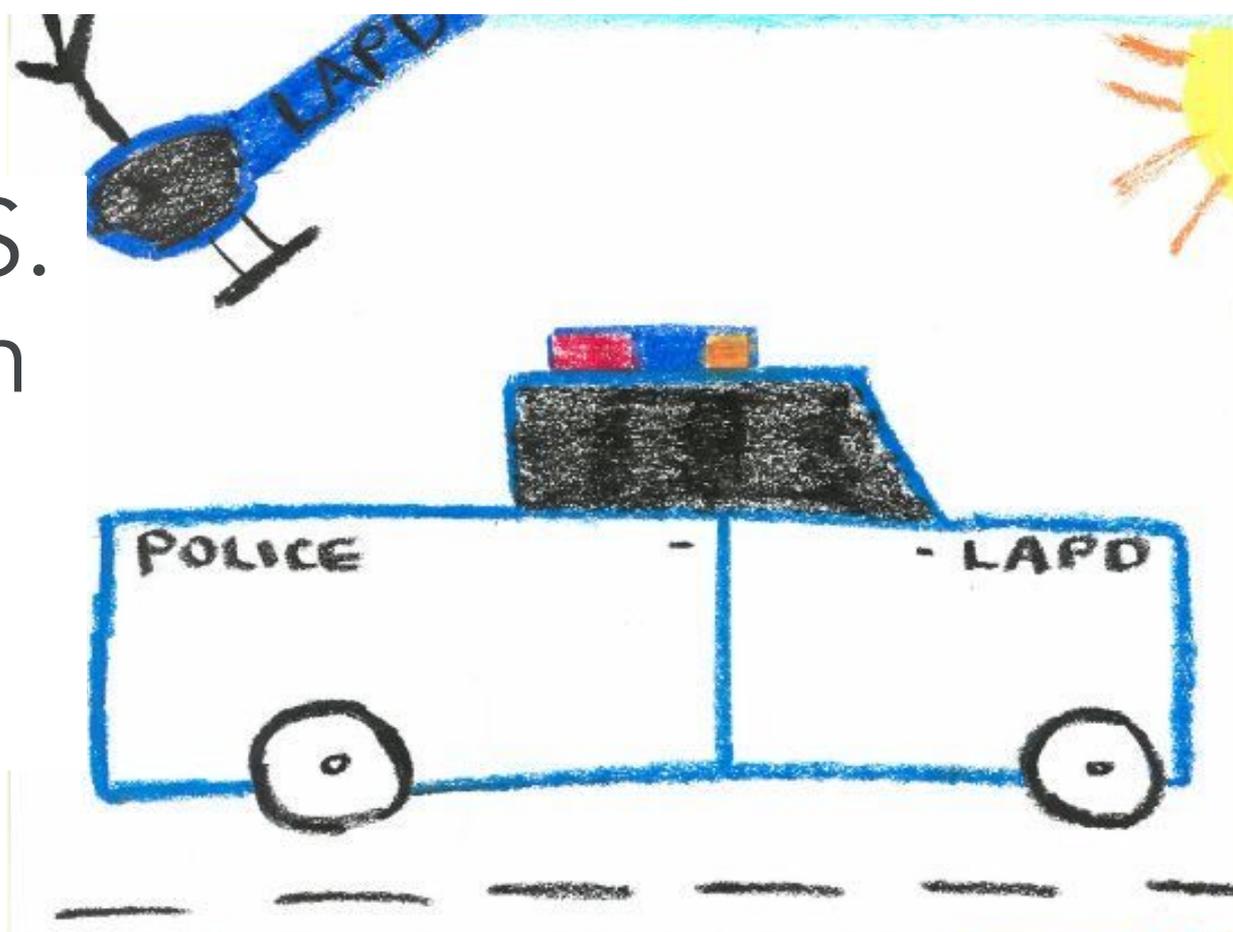


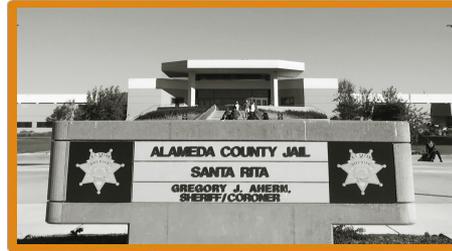
Image: Art created by a participant of JDI's therapeutic art programs in detention

What is Detention?

Prisons



Jails



Youth Detention



Community Corrections



Tribal Detention



Immigration Detention



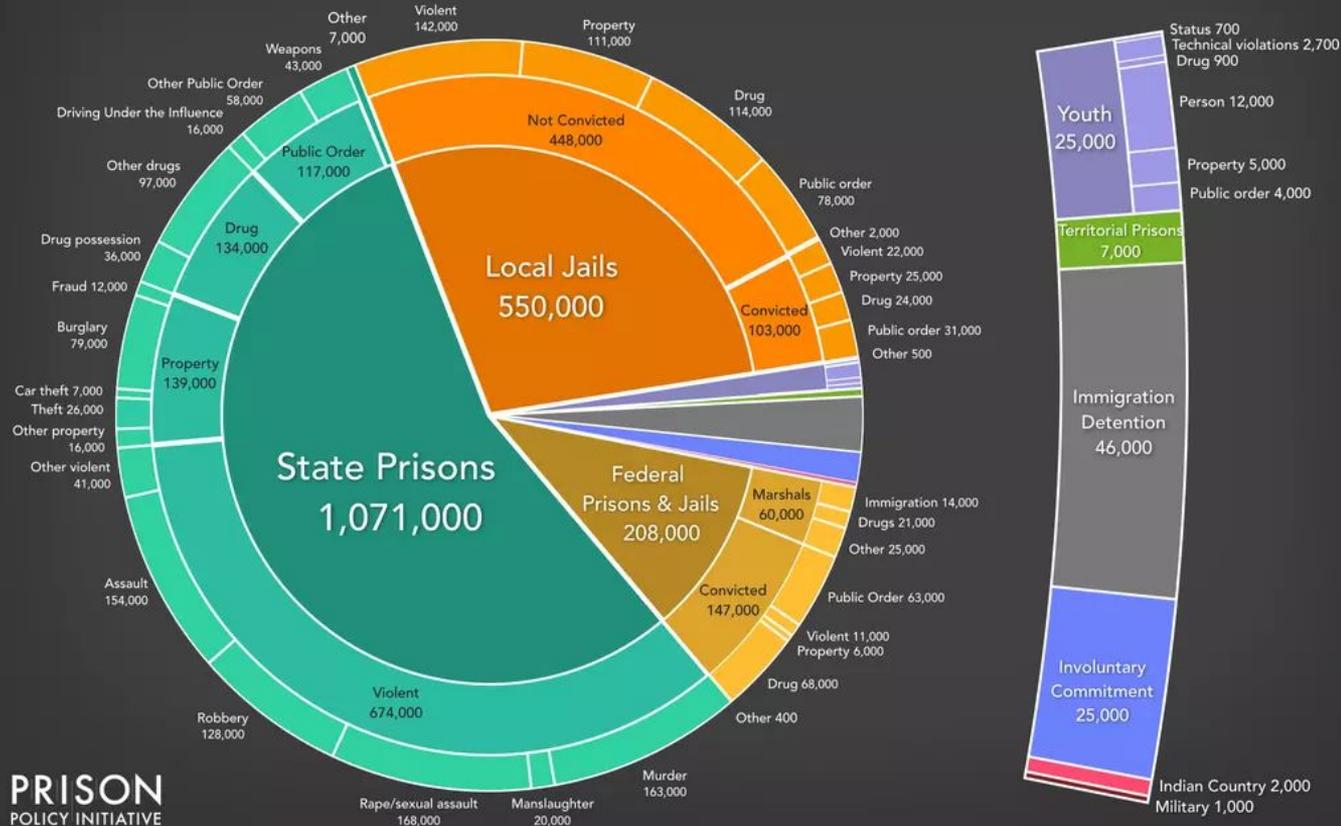
Lockups

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 583 per 100,000 residents. But to end mass incarceration, we must first consider *where* and *why* 1.9 million people are confined nationwide.

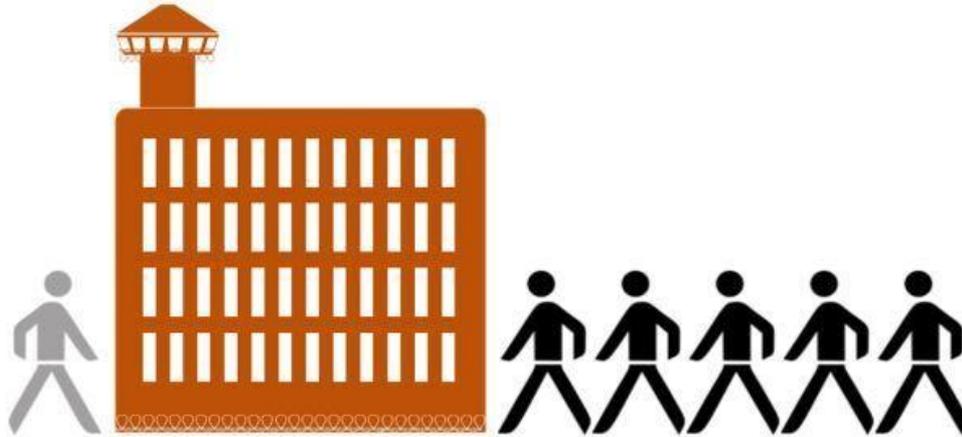


PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

Sources and data notes: www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2024.html

Systemic Racism and Disproportionate Incarceration Rates

BLACK PEOPLE ARE INCARCERATED AT
FIVE TIMES THE RATE OF WHITE PEOPLE



Source: Sentencing Project, *The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons* (2021)
© Just Detention International

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

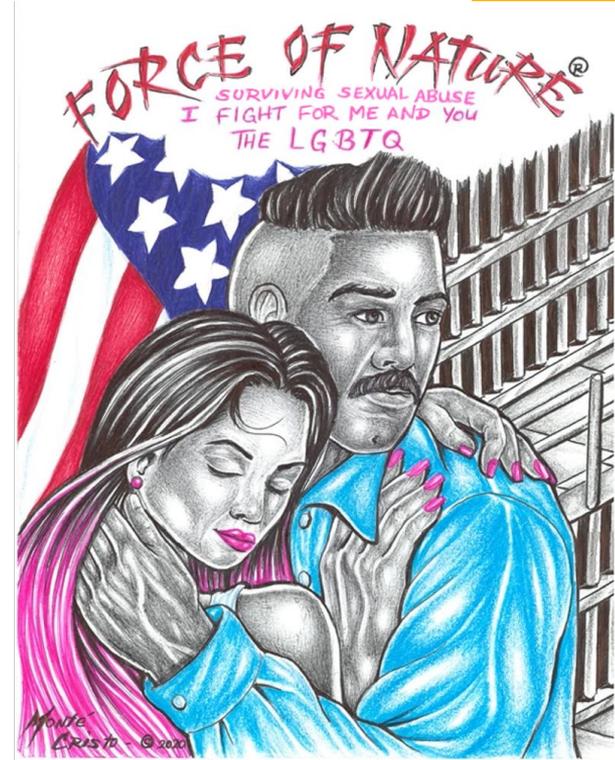
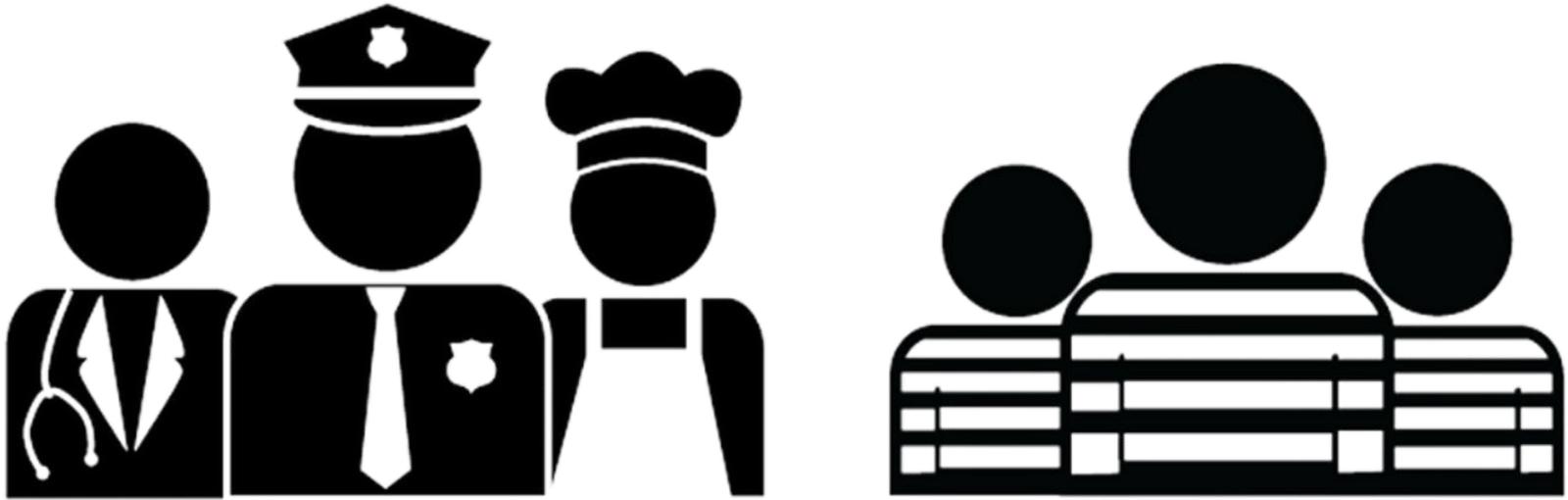


Image: Art by Montécristo,
longtime JDI writer

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



Power Dynamics Between Staff and Prisoners

- 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



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

Multiple Ways to Report

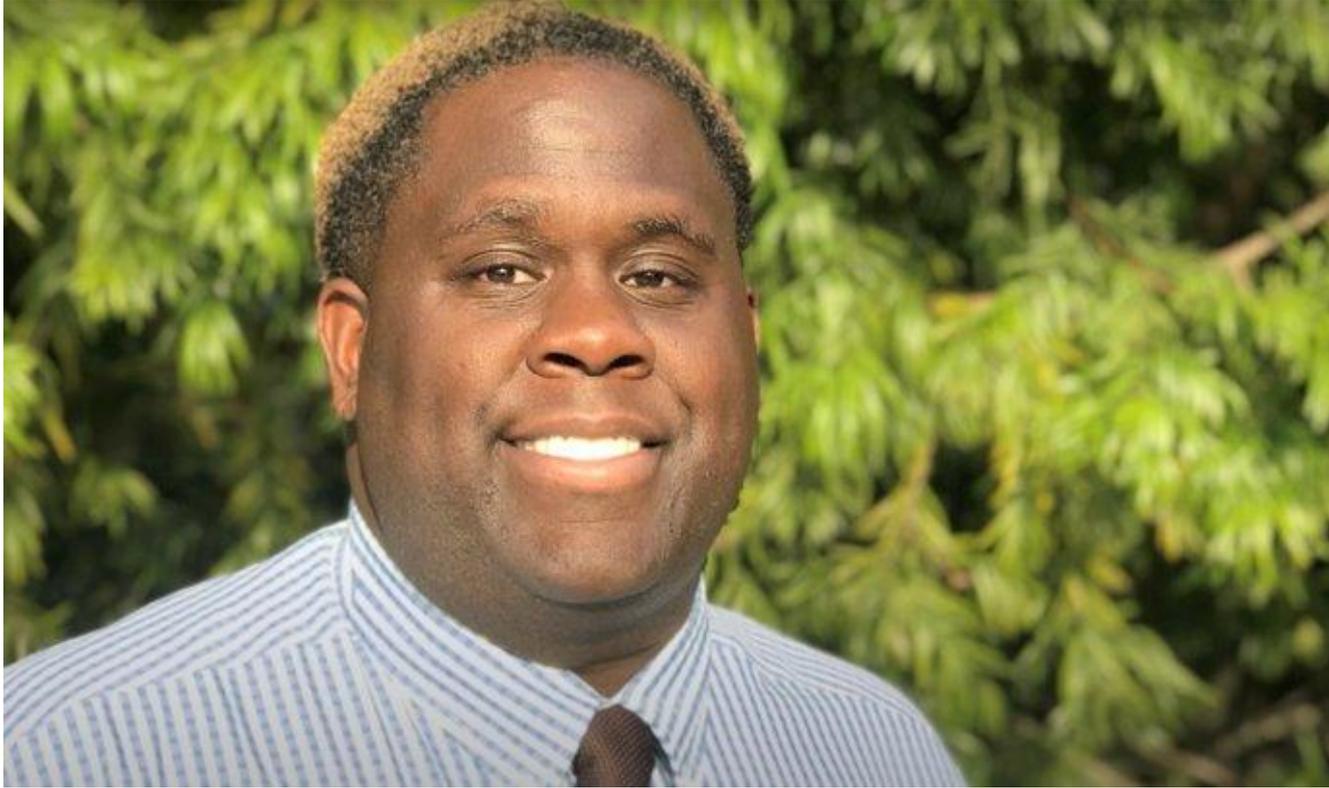
- Staff members, contractors or volunteers
- Third parties (like a friend or family member)
- An outside reporting entity
- Verbally or in writing
- Anonymously (sorta)

QUESTION

ANSWER

Who is responsible for being in compliance with the PREA standards?	Detention Facilities
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

Survivor Voices: Rodney



Break



Including Incarcerated Survivors in Your Agency Culture



Shifting Agency Culture

- Be willing to have tough conversations
- Make PREA updates a standing agenda item for staff meetings
- Invite corrections partners to train staff or tour office (and vice versa!)
- Update forms, policies, best practices, manuals

Shifting Agency Culture Cont'd

- Develop and maintain binder or other tool that outlines best practices for your PREA program

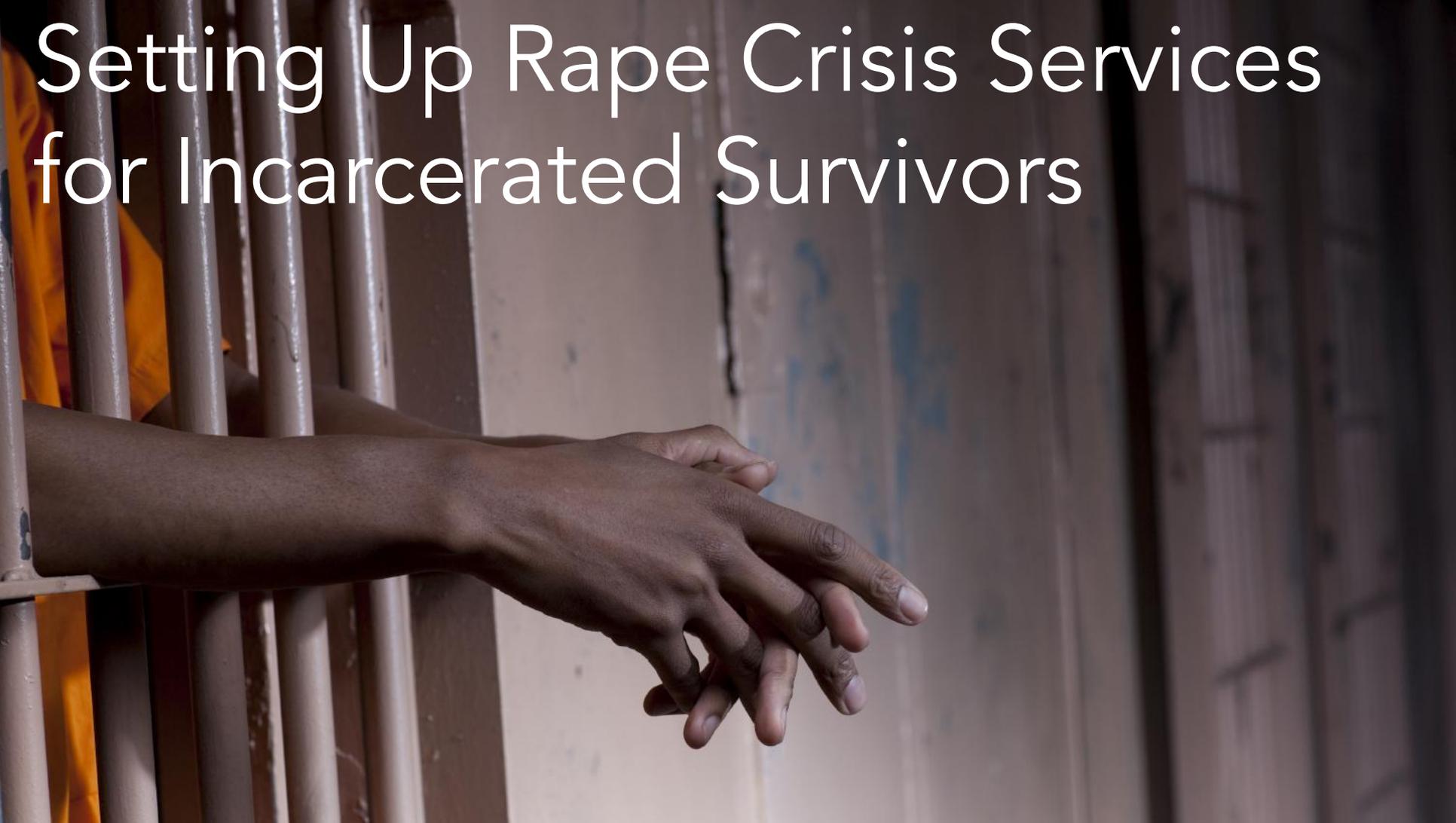
Include This Work in Job Descriptions

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

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

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

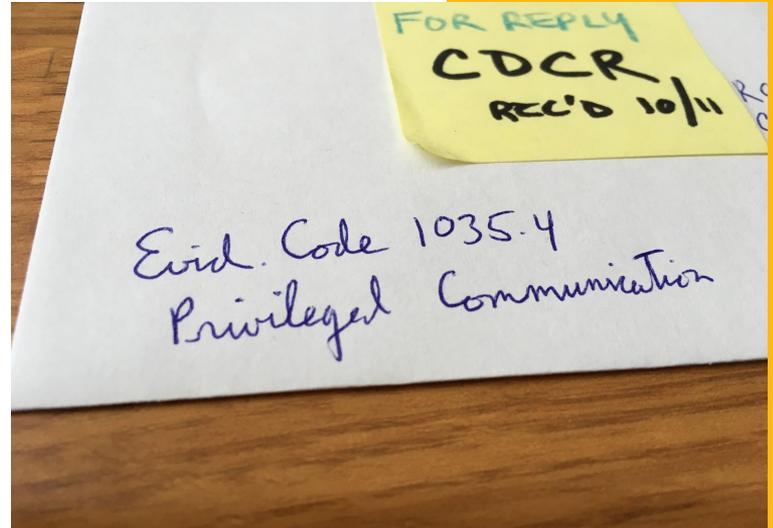


Photo: Just Detention International

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



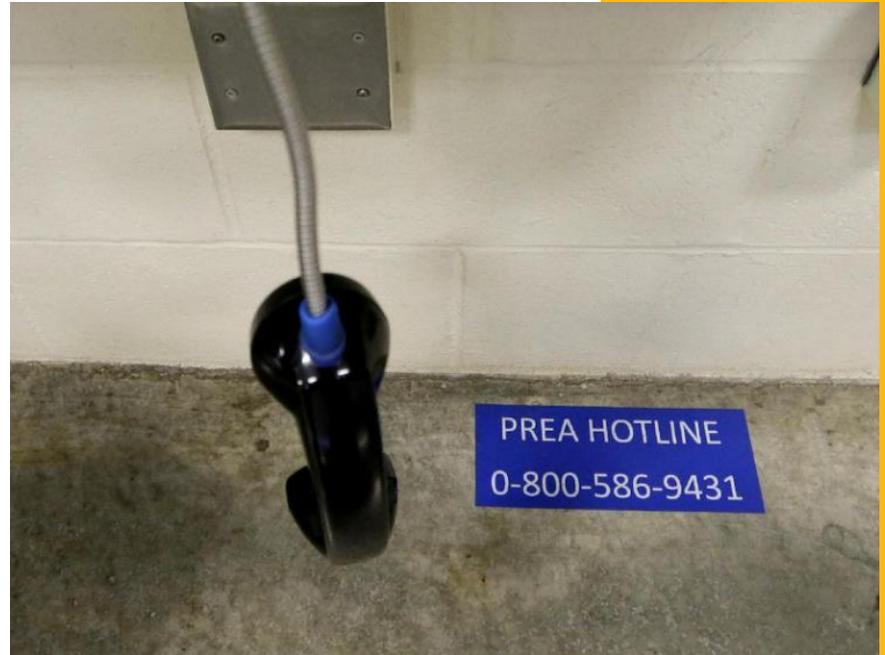
Challenges: Confidential Hotline Calls

- Posters are sometimes removed
- Time Limits
- Phones in group settings or tablet connectivity issues



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



Image source: NSVRC

Investigatory Interview Accompaniment

- Survivors have the right to an advocate during interviews
- Request that your agency be notified when interviews are happening
- When an advocate cannot be present for an interview, facility staff should connect the survivor via phone before and after



Raising Awareness of Your Services

- Posters and pamphlets near phones and other common areas
- Word of mouth through clients
- Referrals from other departments
- SAAM Outreach!



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

Feedback Survey

Thank you for helping us
improve our trainings!



QUESTIONS?

