

Responding to Inmate on Inmate Sexual Violence

Sexual Behavior in Institutional Settings

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Training Objectives

- Define sexual behavior in institutional settings
- Identify perceptions of sex in prison
- Explore and discuss continuum of sexual behavior among women in institutional settings
- Explore and discuss continuum of sexual behavior among men in institutional settings

Training Objectives

- Discuss inmate and staff responses to inmate sexual behavior
- Discuss staff perspectives of sexual violence and power in inmate "relationships"
- Understand how inmate culture impacts sexual behavior in institutional settings
- Identify strategies for prisons to address inmate on inmate sexual violence

Sex and Sexuality

- SEX
 - Biology and Anatomy
 - External sex organs, internal sex organs, and secondary sexual development at puberty

- SEXUALITY
 - The interplay of physical, psychological, social, emotional, and spiritual makeup of an individual
 - Encompasses gender, gender role, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual preference, social norms, and experiential preconditions as they affect physical, emotional, and spiritual life
 - Defined by sexual thoughts, desires and longings, erotic fantasies, turn-ons, and (positive and negative) experiences

Slang used for Sexual Behavior in Institutional Settings: People

■ Men

- Turn out
 - hetero pressured into sex in prison
- Ass Chaser
 - sexual predator
- Fag
 - man who is weak and coerced into sex
- Hard addict
 - a man who does what he has to for drugs
- Housewife
 - a fag who cares for a man's cell

■ Women

- Boo
 - love name for women inmates
- Bull-Dagger
 - masculine woman
- Bushwacker
 - sexual predator
- Femme
 - girly girl
- Garbage Disposal
 - sleeps around
- Strictly Dickly
 - A woman who does not engage in homosexual behavior

Slang used for Sexual Behavior in Institutional Settings: Actions

■ Men

- Skull
- Hitting it
- Leave it at the Gate
- Lock Up
- Lose Manhood
- Shoot
- Take it
- Cap

■ Women

- Fist F*%&ing
- Hitting it from the back
- Riding the dome
- Ride Head
- Marry

Slang used for Sexual Behavior in Institutional Settings: Actions

- Slang for Actions of both men and women can include:
 - Graveyard Love
 - Running a Game
 - Rape
 - Thirsty
 - Beat it
 - Break the Back Door
 - Hustle
 - Pressure
 - Shoot

Perceptions of Sex in Prison: Staff

- That's the way it is in here
- Goes with the territory
- That's what they deserve
- Shouldn't been in prison in the first place
- That ain't my problem

Perceptions of Sex in Prison: Staff

- S/he wanted it
- No sanctions, punishments for this – Nothing I can do
- Hard to tell if coerced or willing
- Enough to watch my own back & do my job

Perceptions of Sex in Prison: Inmates

- S/he liked it
- S/he had it coming
- Shouldn't a' been weak
- Was that way anyway
- Them instead of me

Perceptions of Sex in Prison: Inmates

- Whadda you gonna do?
- Shame; shouldn't a happened
- New here. S/he'll figure it out
- Doesn't stand a chance in here

Perceptions of Sex in Prison: The Community

- Don't drop the soap
- Not my problem
- Doesn't effect my world
- That's what happens in prison
- S/he deserved it

The Reality Is.....

- 1 out of every 32 persons in the US will experience being under some form of criminal justice supervision.
- May be:
 - Daughter, Son, Brother, Sister, Father, Mother, Friend, Relative of close friend, **YOU**
- Some Reasons:
 - Substance Abuse related, Non-paid traffic violations-FTA, False ID, Mentally challenged, Bad choices, Bad child, Dare devil, Criminal

What Would You Do?

- If it was me or my daughter or son in jail or prison, what would I want that experience to be?
- Who is responsible to ensure a safe and secure environments regardless of what inmates have done?

Generalizations About Sex in Prison: Potential Victims are

- Used for Sex
- Treated as a Commodity
- Young; new to incarceration
- Weak; inexperienced; naive
- Disabled (mentally, physically, etc.)
- History of abuse
- Sex Offenders

Generalizations About Sex in Prison: Potential Victims are

- Racial and ethnic minority within prison walls
- Stigmatized by their status as victims
- Soft; feminine in appearance
- Used in games of extortion and for exploitation
- Transgender
- Homosexual

Generalizations About Sex in Prison: Potential Predators are

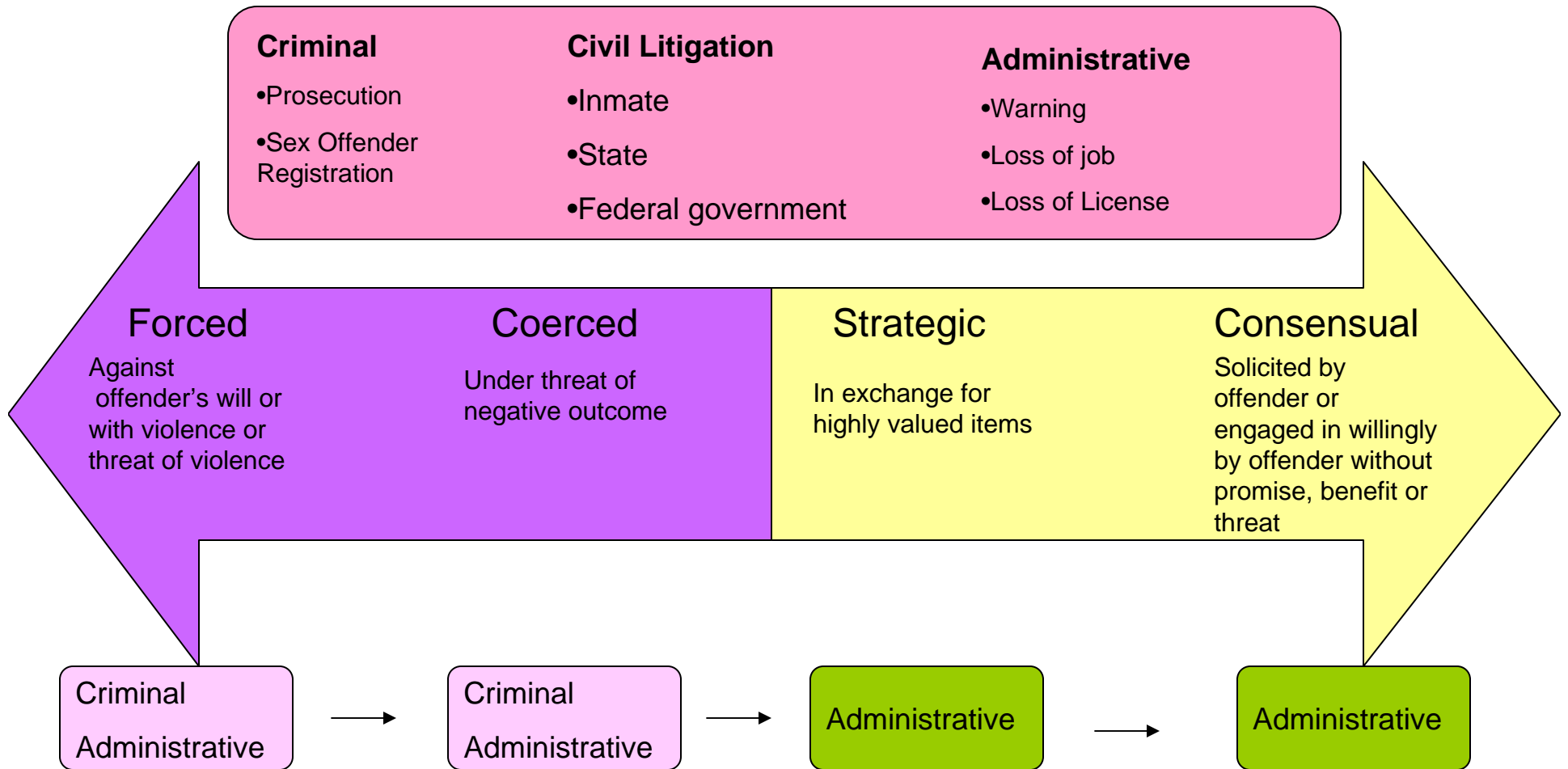
- Likely to be older
- Have been incarcerated for longer period of time
- Have street history of rape and assault
- Physically aggressive, manipulative

Generalizations About Sex in Prison: Potential Predators are

- Masculine in appearance
- Protected by physical strength, reputation as dangerous
- Adept at extorting and exploiting victims
- Members of a gang

Continuum of Sexual Activity Involving Adult Offenders

Staff on Inmate Sanctions



Inmate on Inmate Sanctions

Continuum of Sexual Activity in Prisons: Women

- **Consensual**
 - For sex; related to deprivation
 - As a sedative, to forget
 - Romantic, partner – part of larger relationship
- **Experimental**
 - With same gender > too dangerous to try at home; have a male partner outside
 - Hurt / abused by men, turning to women

Continuum of Sexual Activity in Prisons: Women

- **Strategic > To get things**
 - Acceptance > into certain crowd, 'family'
 - Favors > shared commissary, other benefits
 - Attention, 'love'
 - As a way to establish dominance, exercise power, imitate what they've experienced
- **Coercive - To avoid things**
 - For protection from person wanting sex or from others
 - Based on past history > not understanding its possible to refuse; believing always dangerous to refuse
 - Mentally ill, unable to cope or respond

Continuum of Sexual Activity in Prisons: Women

- **Assaultive**
 - Obtained by threats of harm
 - Obtained by force, assaults with objects [rare in women's facilities]
 - Part of battering relationship/domestic violence

Continuum of Sexual Activity in Prisons: Men

- **Abstinence**
 - Celibate while in prison
 - Does not participate in any sexual behavior
 - Denial of sexual appetite

- **Masturbation**
 - Intentional touching of an intimate body part over or under clothing without a security or medical purpose
 - Excitation of the genital organs to orgasm
 - With self
 - With self and partner

Continuum of Sexual Activity in Prisons: Men

- **"Gay for the Stay"**
 - More accepted in prison
 - Peer pressure
 - Bicurious- a straight person curious about and will try a same sex relationship
- **Fit In, Everybody Does It**
 - Consensual
 - Sex related to deprivation
 - Companionship
 - Favors and/or benefits

Continuum of Sexual Activity in Prisons: Men

- **Protection**
 - Strategic to get things
 - Individual- “find a friend/partner” to take under wing
 - Fear from others wanting sex
 - Afraid to refuse
 - Group affiliation

- **Sex with Staff**
 - Employee
 - Contractor
 - Vendor
 - Intern
 - Volunteer

Continuum of Sexual Activity in Prisons: Men

- Forced
 - rape
- Coerced
 - For protection
- Strategic
 - For commodities
- Consensual
 - Due to sexual deprivation

Continuum of Sexual Activity in Prisons: Men

- Abstinence
- Masturbation
- "Gay for the Stay"
- Freaky Behavior
- Fit In, Everybody Does It
- For Protection
- Sex with Staff
- Sex in Visitation

Repeat Victimization

Repeated sex with perpetrator(s) > facilitated by -

- **Danger of retaliation for refusal, reporting**
- **Responses to sexual assault/rape > numbing, PTSD, fatalism, depression**
- **Perception of no safe remedies within the facility**
- **Fear of being put in protective housing / isolation so don't report**

Differences for Short-term Facilities/ Jails

- May have less affiliative (consensual) sexual relationships
- More sexual acting out directly off the street
- More drug/drug withdrawal influenced sexual behaviors [e.g., in drunk tanks]

Differences for Short-term Facilities/ Jails

- More crowding & less opportunity for staff to observe
- Inmates less affected by concern with long-term safety & reputation within facility

Victim Responses to Sexual Victimization

- Comply; repeated victimization
- Report
- Pretend it never happened
- Seek other affiliations for protection (gang; protective pairing)
- Withdraw from activities, associations

Victim Responses to Sexual Victimization

- Commit violation to pull move to segregated housing
- Leave and change associations
- Seek help [Where?]
- Take anger out on others
- Suicide ideation/self harm/suicide attempts

Staff Perspectives: Violence and Power

- Interpersonal conflicts
- Exploitive nature of inmate culture
- Pursuit of power
- Forced abstinence
- Mental games
- Protective pairing
- Grooming
- Relational or domestic violence

Taken from: Staff Perspectives: Sexual Violence in Adult Prisons and Jails by The Moss Group Inc.,
under NIC Cooperative Agreement 05S18GJ10

The Impact of Inmate Culture

- Peer Pressure
- Dangers in refusal, reporting [snitching]
- Attitudes
- Values
- Beliefs
- Norms
- Language
- Code of Silence
- Criminal Thinking

The Impact of Inmate Culture

- Survival
- Protection
- Group Affiliations
- Companionship/ Friend
- Reputation
- Fear
- Deprivation
- Curiosity/Exploration

Safe Prisons: What Institutions Can Do

- Establish zero-tolerance initiatives for all sexual violence
- Increase sanctions for inmate predators
- Establish preventative measures

Safe Prisons: What Institutions Can Do

- Increase facility staff coverage & visibility
- Decrease inmate idle time
- Enhance family visiting programs

Safe Prisons: What Institutions Can Do

- Investigate all reports of sexual violence
- Develop and enforce protocols & policy

Safe Prisons: What Institutions Can Do

- Educate and train staff about inmate sexual violence
- Educate inmates about resources, steps, protections, and preservation of physical evidence