

**Responding to Sexual Abuse of Inmates in Custody: Addressing the Needs of Men, Women, and Gender Nonconforming Populations**  
**Notification of Curriculum Use**  
**April 2014**

The enclosed Responding to Sexual Abuse of Inmates in Custody: Addressing the Needs of Men, Women, and Gender Nonconforming Populations curriculum was developed by the Project on Addressing Prison Rape at American University, Washington College of Law as part of contract deliverables for the National PREA Resource Center (PRC), a cooperative agreement between the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards served as the basis for the curriculum's content and development with the goal of the Responding to Sexual Abuse of Inmates in Custody: Addressing the Needs of Men, Women, and Gender Nonconforming Populations curriculum being to satisfy specific PREA standards requirements.

It is recommended that the Responding to Sexual Abuse of Inmates in Custody: Addressing the Needs of Men, Women, and Gender Nonconforming Populations curriculum be reviewed in its entirety before choosing which modules to use. Any alterations to the original materials require either acknowledgement during their presentation or removal of the PRC and Project on Addressing Prison Rape logos.

BJA is currently undergoing a comprehensive review of the enclosed curriculum for official approval, at which point the BJA logo may be added.

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**Training Curriculum:  
Responding to Sexual Abuse of Inmates in Custody:  
Addressing the Needs of Men, Women and Gender Non-Conforming  
Populations**

## **Module 4: Sexuality and Sexual Behaviors in Institutional Settings**

**The Project on Addressing Prison Rape  
February 2014**

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# Training Objectives

Identify and discuss key issues related to sexuality including:

- The definitions, development and relationship of sex, gender and sexuality
- How biological sex, gender expression, sexual orientation and sexual acts work together
- Sexual orientation
- Gender and sexual minorities
- Trends and factors related to sexuality
- Discussing sexuality
- When reality meets sexuality

# Training Objectives

Explore and discuss the continuum of sexual behavior in institutional settings

Define sexual behavior in institutional settings

Identify perceptions about sex in prison

Discuss sexual activities of men, women and gender non-conforming inmates

Discuss the risk of sexual violence in correctional settings

# Disclaimers

Pretty explicit language

Not the way you or I talk every day

Meant to give you a sense of the language and culture that has developed around sex in institutional settings

# Human Sexuality

# Human Sexuality

Sexuality is made up of several factors including biological sex, gender, gender expression and sexual acts. Each factor has a set of independent issues to consider:

Sex (what you got or what you get)

- Biological and anatomical identity assigned at birth (sometimes earlier)
  - Chromosomes, external sex organs, internal sex organs, reproductive organs
  - Historically, only two options – male or female recognized by law and society
  - Historically, initial determination lasts once determination is made at birth
  - Today, sex can be reassigned surgically and/or chemically after initial determination
  - Increasing recognition of intersex conditions



# Human Sexuality

## Gender (Outside-In)

- The set of qualities and behaviors expected by society
- Expectations based on sex determination
- Communicated via images, language, text, media, symbols
- Can vary widely within and among cultures, religions, nations, and families structures and institutional settings
- Impacted by factors such as past experiences, education, physical abilities and/or economics.
- Can evolve over time

## Gender Expression/Identity (Inside/Out)

- The way a person communicates sexual and/or gender identity via behavior, attitude, conduct, and language
- Can be verbal and non verbal, conscious or unconscious, intentional or unintentional, sexual or non-sexual
- What a person communicates and what the world perceives may not be the same thing
- Sexual minorities may or may not conform to gender expectations

# Human Sexuality

## Sex Acts (What you do)

- Any form of intentionally sexual physical conduct including masturbation, oral sex, anal sex, intercourse, and frottage
- Can be consensual or non-consensual or something in between
- May be consistent with traditional expectations established by one's gender and gender expression, biological sex
- Sexual minorities may engage in sex acts that are inconsistent with traditional expectations established by one's biological sex, gender and gender expression

## Sexuality

- Catch-all phrase used to describe the interplay of physical, psychological, social, emotional, and spiritual makeup of an individual
- Can encompass sex, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, sexual preference, and social norms as they affect physical, emotional, and spiritual life
- In addition (or in lieu of) physical conduct, sexuality can involve sexual thoughts, desires and longings, erotic fantasies, turn-ons and past experiences – positive and negative

# Biological Sex

## INDICIA OF BIOLOGICAL SEX

- Penis
- Testicles
- Scrotum
- Vas Deferens
- Adam's Apple
- Facial Hair
- Uterus
- Breasts
- Clitoris
- Vagina
- Fallopian Tubes
- Ovaries
- Labia

## POSSIBLE BIOLOGICAL SEX DETERMINATIONS

**MALE**

**FEMALE**

**INTERSEX**

Once determination is made, societal expectations on biological, physical, emotional, intellectual gender, sexual conduct and sexuality quickly attach.

**Societal Expectations = Gender**

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# Biological Sex and Gender: Indicia of Gender Expectation

- Blue is for boys and pink is for girls
- Boys don't cry/girls are emotional
- Boys are good at sports/girls are good at art
- Toys (baby dolls, trucks, animals, guns)
- Girls are quiet
- "Be a man" or "Be a lady"
- Girls are feminine/boys are masculine
- Sweet sixteen v. 1st sexual conquest
- Bar Mitzvah v. Bat Mitzvah
- Girls like boys and boys like girls
- Women have sex with men
- Men have sex with women
- Girls wear dresses and boys wear pants

# Biological Sex and Gender: Indicia of Gender Expression

- Sexual orientation
- Appearance/style
- Personal hygiene
- Body movements
- Bathroom habits
- Athleticism
- Sexually aggressive v. coy
- Masculinity v. femininity
- Intelligence v. caring
- Emotional v. physical
- Career v. homemaker
- Protector v. vulnerable
- “I wear the pants here!”
- Passive v. aggressive
- Sexual conduct
- Sexuality
- Muscles v. curves

# Gender, Gender Expression, Sexual Acts and Sexuality

## **MALE**

- Society stereotyping and influence on behavior
- Sexuality is easily detached from emotional feelings
- Same sex sexual conduct does not equal bisexuality or homosexuality
- Showing any emotion is a form of weakness
- Sex is primarily physical.

## **FEMALE**

- Sexual acts historically connected to reproduction not pleasure
- Physical intimacy is often connected to emotional intimacy
- Sexuality is linked to attraction and feelings of love
- Intimacy between women more acceptable than between men

# Other Factors Affecting Sexuality

## Race

- African American
- Hispanic
- Caucasian
- Asian
- Native American

## Religion and Ethnicity

- Jewish
- Hindu
- Muslim
- Christian

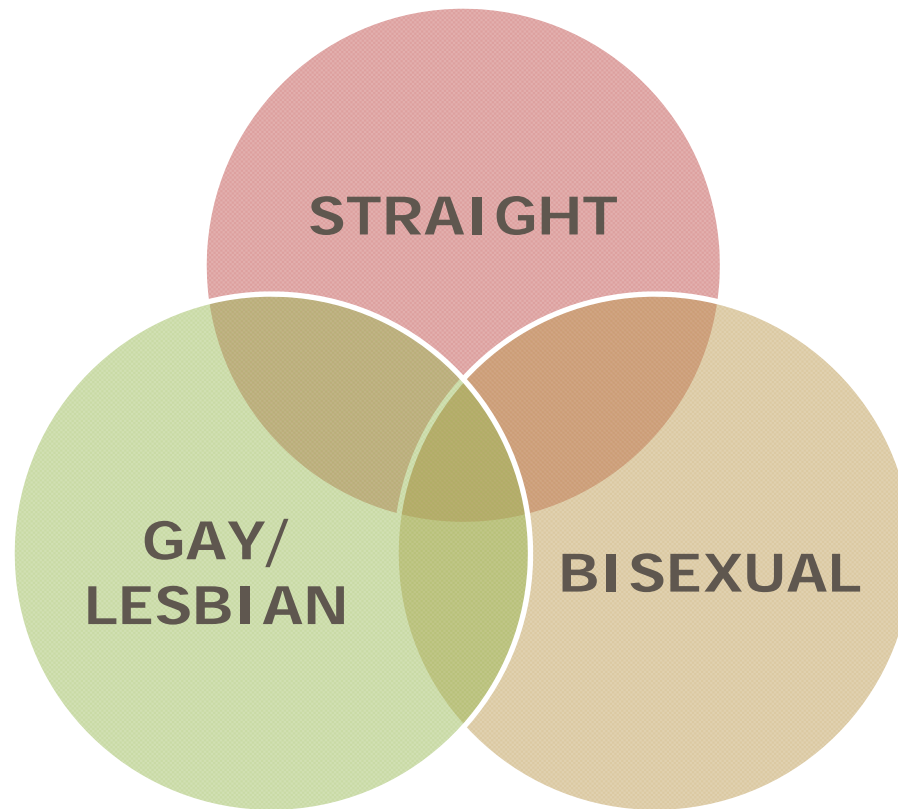
## Class

- Housing
- Access to health care
- Education
- Neighborhoods
- Career Goals

## Geography

- Urban v. rural
- South v. northeast v. mid west v. west coast

# Sexual Orientation





# Gender, Sexuality and Terminology

A person is a gender and/or sexual minority when their actual or perceived gender expression, sexual conduct and/or sexuality are inconsistent with traditional expectations established by biological sex.

LGBTI: An acronym that refers to sexual minorities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex

Gender expression: a person's expression of his/or gender identity, including appearance, dress, mannerisms, speech, and social interactions

Gender identity: distinct from sexual orientation and refers to a person's internal, deeply felt sense of being male or female

Gender non-conforming: gender characteristics and/or behaviors that do not conform to those typically associated with a person's biological sex

# Gender, Sexuality and Terminology

Questioning: active process in which a person explores her or his own sexual orientation and/or gender identity and questions the cultural assumptions that they are heterosexual and/or gender conforming

Intersex: an individual born with external genitalia, internal reproductive organs, chromosome patterns, and/or endocrine systems that do not seem to fit typical definitions of male or female

Transgender: person whose gender identity differs from their birth sex

- Transgender woman: person whose birth sex was male but who understands herself to be, and desires to live her life as, a female
- Transgender man: person whose birth sex was female but who understands himself to be, and desires to live his life as, a male

# Society and Sexuality

## The Greatest Generation

- No sex before marriage
- Vaginal intercourse is the only sex
- Sex is for procreation

## Baby Boomers

- Sex, drugs and rock and roll
- Free love
- Hippies
- Experimentation
- Women's Movement

## Birth Control Pill

- Abortion legalized
- Sex without life changing consequences
- Title 9

# Current Trends Affecting Sexuality

## Gen X and/or Y

- HIV/AIDS
- “Post” civil rights era
- High divorce rate/single parent homes/dual income Families
- Multiple partners
- Experimentation is accepted and expected
- Shifting gender expectations
- Improved sex reassignment procedures and medications
- War on drugs and increase in incarceration rates and length of sentences

# Current Trends Affecting Sexuality

## Gen NEXT

- HIV/AIDS
- Constitutional protection for same-sex sexual conduct
- Several states recognize same sex marriage, domestic partnerships, or civil unions
- Divorce as the norm with single parent homes
- Multiple partners
- Experimentation is accepted and expected
- Oral/ Anal sex is not sex
- Internet/Virtual Sex

# Discussing Sexuality

## Step 1: Know Yourself

- Do you have sufficient relevant information to discuss this?
- What is your sex, gender and sexuality?
- What makes you uncomfortable?
- What are your strengths and limitations?
- What are your values?

## Step 2: Know your Context

- What is the objective(s) of the discussion?
- What is the location/physical setting?
- What is your role?
- What are the parameters/ boundaries at play?

# Discussing Sexuality

## Step 3: Know your audience

- Age, language, culture, setting, identity
- What are the specific characteristics of your audience that will impact a discussion on sexuality?
- What are the most effective forms of communicating with your audience.

## Step 4: Connecting

- Use cultural references to represent healthy and non-healthy representations of sexuality.
- Avoid making superficial cultural references.

# Discussing Sexuality: When Reality Meets Sexuality

Sexuality issues are relevant to every stage of life– there are few, if any, contexts, where sexuality issues are not at play

Discussions about sexuality can be unsettling, comforting and/or challenging

Right and wrong answers should not be the objective--there are no absolutes



# Strategies for Discussing Sexuality

Determine whether given the time, place, situation and parties involved it is appropriate to discuss sexuality

Determine your objective – security, information sharing, exertion of power

Determine whether the situation requires attention to issues unique to sexual minorities

# Talking about Sex and Sexuality

## Who

- Issues related to sexuality impacts all humans at every stage of life and beyond. Language, age, race, societal factors, power dynamics will all impact on who is the appropriate participant in sexuality discussions

## What

- All aspects of sexuality require attention to the facts, the audience, and the context. The discussants should also note the role that society, biology, emotional and physical desire play in determining the content of the discussion

## When

- Timing issues are important to engaging productive discussions of sexuality and/or sexual conduct

# Talking about Sex and Sexuality

## How

- With Knowledge, respect, and appreciation for differences and challenges of discussing sexuality.

## Where

- The location of discussion of sexuality is important in determining parameters of discussions on sexuality. the Institutional, educational, private, medical settings will all impact who, what, when and why and how.

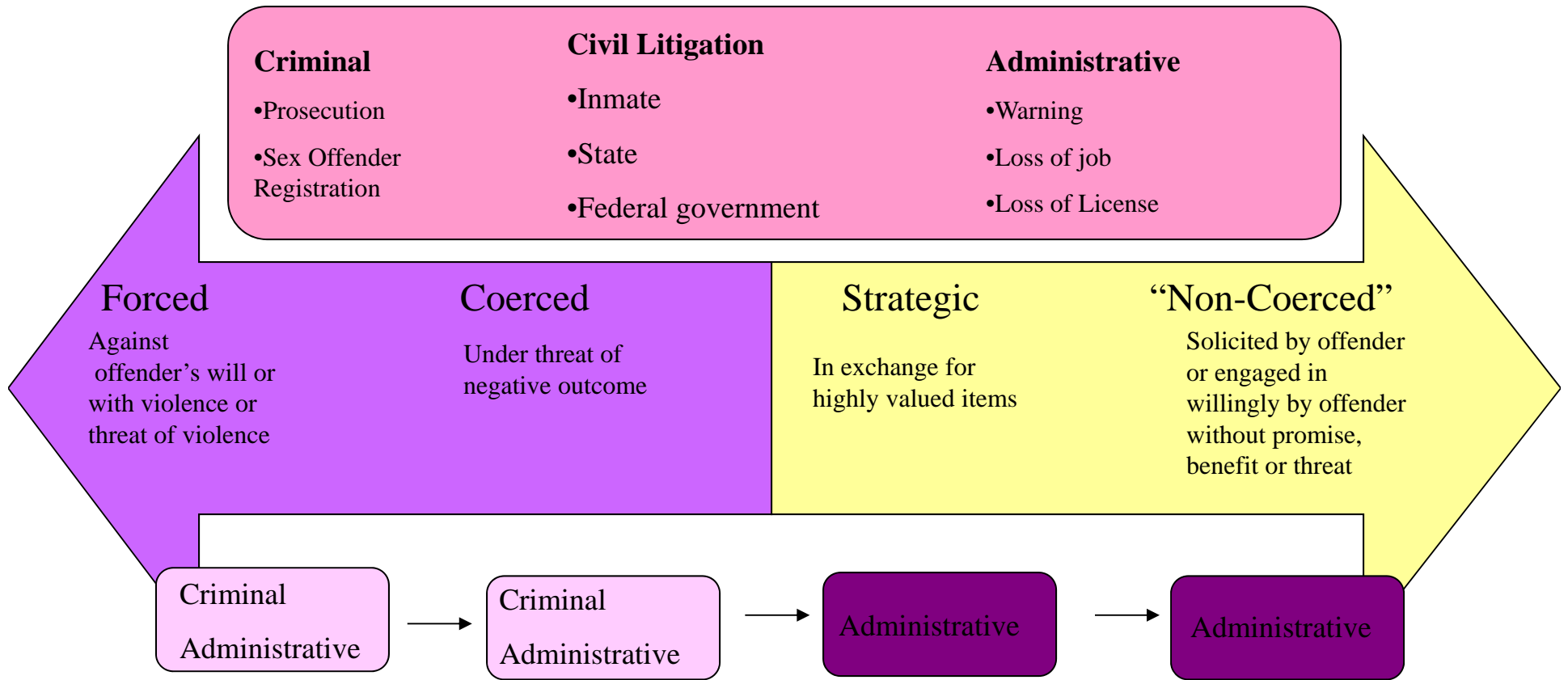
## Why

- It is important to understand how attitudes about sex impact our lives and work and how their role in society in order to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy

# Sexual Behaviors in Institutional Settings

# Continuum of Sexual Activity: Adult Offenders

## Staff on Inmate Sanctions



## Inmate on Inmate Sanctions

# Sexual Behavior in Institutional Settings: Descriptive Language

## 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 Dicky
  - A woman who does not engage in homosexual behavior

# Sexual Behavior in Institutional Settings: Descriptive Language

## 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

# Sexual Behavior in Institutional Settings: Descriptive Language

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: Generalizations about Potential Victims

Used for sex

Treated as a commodity

Young; new to incarceration

Weak; inexperienced; naïve

Disabled (mentally, physically, etc.)

History of abuse

Sex offenders

# Perceptions of Sex in Prison: Generalizations about Potential Victims

Racial and ethnic minorities within prison walls

Stigmatized by their status as victims

Soft; feminine in appearance

Used in games of extortion and for exploitation

Gender non-conforming/ LGBTI

# Perceptions of Sex in Prison: Generalizations About Potential Predators

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

# Perceptions of Sex in Prison: Generalizations About Potential Predators

Masculine in appearance

Protected by physical strength, reputation as dangerous

Adept at extorting and exploiting victims

Members of a gang

# Why Women may Engage in Sexual Activity in Custody

Inappropriate sexualization

Sex defined as “love” or as a commodity

Boundary issues

Challenges in defining domestic violence

Fears about disclosure & reporting

PTSD and re-traumatization

Crisis and long-term treatment issue

Trauma remains untreated and cycle continues

# Which Women May Engage in Sexual Activity

History of previous confinement

Longer sentences

Arrested earlier

Higher levels of aggression

# Why Men May Engage in Sexual Activity

Want

Deprivation

Companionship

Favors or Benefits

Protection

Force

# Which Men May Engage in Sexual Activity

Aggressors are men in a racial or ethnic majority within the facility– victims are in the racial or ethnic minority

Older inmates

Violent offenses

Not gang affiliated



# Why Gender Non-Conforming Inmates may Engage in Sexual Activity

Sex defined as “love” or as a commodity  
Boundary issues

Fears about disclosure & reporting

History of previous confinement and/ or longer sentences

Want/ need

Favors or benefits

Protection

Force

# Challenges for Administrators

Allowing conjugal visits

Training officers to know the difference between forced, coerced, and non-coercive sex

Housing and treatment of sexual minorities

What is permissible sexual behavior

# Strategies for Responding to Inmate Sexual Violence

- Establish zero-tolerance initiatives for all sexual violence
- Increase sanctions for inmate predators
- Establish preventative measures
- Increase facility staff coverage & visibility
- Decrease inmate idle time
- Enhance family visiting programs
- Investigate all reports of sexual violence
- Develop and enforce protocols & policy
- Educate and train staff about inmate sexual violence
- Educate inmates about resources, steps, protections, and preservation of physical evidence

# Other Resources

Lager, Robert. "Lesbianism Among Female Prisoners: Participants and Non

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Greer, Kimberly. "The Changing Nature of Interpersonal Relationships in Women's Prisons." The Prison Journal. 80:4 (December 2000): 442-468.

Eigenburg, Helen M. "Correctional Officers and Their Perceptions of Homosexuality, Rape and Prostitution in Male Prisoners." The Prison Journal. 80:4 (December 2000): 415-433.

Eigenburg, Helen M. "Corrections' Officers Definitions of Rape in Male Prisons." Journal of Criminal Justice. 28 (2000): 435-449.

Hensley, et. al.,. "The Evolving Nature of Prison Argot and Sexual Hierarchies." The Prison Journal. 83:3 (September 2003): 289-300.

Hensley, et. al.,. "Examining the Characteristics of Male Sexual Assault Targets in a Southern Maximum Security Prison." Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 20:6 (June 2005): 667-679.

United States. US Department of Justice/ National Institute of Corrections. Staff Perspectives: Sexual Violence in Adult Prisons and Jails. Comp. The Moss Group Inc. Washington, DC: June 2006.

United States. Department of Justice/ Bureau of Justice Assistance. Sexual Violence in the Texas Prison System. Comp. James Austin, et. al.,. Washington, DC: September 2006.

United States. Department of Justice/ National Institute of Justice. The Culture of Prison Sexual Violence. Comp. Mark Fleisher and Jessie Krienert. Washington, DC: November 2006.

Smith, Brenda V. Rethinking Prison Sex: Self Expression and Safety, Columbia Journal of Gender and the Law, 15 (2006): 185-234.

# Summary

What are the differences between gender, sexual orientation and sexuality?

What are some differences between the sexuality of women, men and gender non-conforming individuals in custody?

What are some strategies to discuss the sexual activity of inmates?

How can you implement these strategies in your agency?