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.

Note: Use of the enclosed curriculum, either in part or whole, does not guarantee that an auditor will find that a facility “meets standards.” Rather, an auditor will take into consideration the curriculum used as part of their overall determination of compliance.

Notice of Federal Funding and Federal Disclaimer – This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-RP-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice nor those of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), which administers the National PREA Resource Center through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
Training Curriculum:
Responding to Sexual Abuse of Inmates in Custody:
Addressing the Needs of Men, Women and Gender Non-Conforming Populations

Module 6:
Implications of Inmate Culture

The Project on Addressing Prison Rape
February 2014

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Training Objectives

Discuss inmate perspectives of sexual violence, power and sexual behavior in custody

Understand how inmate culture impacts sexual behavior in institutional settings
S/he liked it
S/he had it coming
Shouldn’t a’ been weak
Was that way anyway
Them instead of me
Inmate’s Perceptions of Sex in Prison

Whadda’ you gonna’ do?
Shame; shouldn’t a happened
New here. S/he’ll figure it out
 Doesn’t stand a chance in here
Inmate’s Perceptions of Sex in Prison

- Manhood & Masculinity
- Power Dynamics
- Sexual Roles - Dominance & Submission
- Inmate Value Systems
- Theatre of Bullying
- Racism
Inmate’s Perceptions of Sex in Prison

LGBTI Populations
  • Vulnerabilities
  • Coping Strategies
  • Challenges w/ Promiscuity
  • Homophobia
  • Racism
  • Religion

Youthful Offenders
Inmate’s Perceptions of Sex in Prison

Short Video
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

Some Reasons:
- Substance abuse related, DUI, non-paid traffic violations-FTA, false ID, mentally challenged, bad choices, bad child, dare devil, criminal
What Would You Do?

Who is responsible to ensure safe and secure environments regardless of what inmates have done?
Why Female Inmates Engage in Sex

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
Why Female Inmates Engage in Sex

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
Why Female Inmates Engage in Sex

Assaultive
- Obtained by threats of harm
- Obtained by force, assaults with objects [rare in women’s facilities]
- Part of battering relationship/domestic violence
Why Male Inmates Engage in Sex

Forced Abstinence

- Celibate while in prison
- Does not participate in any sexual behavior
- Denial of sexual appetite
- Prohibition on masturbation
Why Male Inmates Engage in Sex

“Gay for the Stay”
- More accepted in prison
- Peer pressure
- Bi-curious- 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
Why Male Inmates Engage in Sex

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
Differences for Short-term Facilities/ Jails

- May have less affiliative sexual relationships
- More sexual acting out directly off the street
- More drug/drug withdrawal influenced sexual behaviors
Differences for Short-term Facilities/ Jails

More crowding and less opportunity for staff to observe

Inmates less affected by concern with long-term safety and reputation within facility

Transient nature of jails leads to greater anonymity
The Impact of Inmate Culture

- Peer Pressure
- Dangers in refusal, reporting [snitching]
- Attitudes
- Values
- Beliefs
- Norms
- Language
- Code of Silence
- Criminal Thinking
- Theatre of the Absurd
The Impact of Inmate Culture

- Survival
- Protection
- Group Affiliations
- Companionship/Friend
- Reputation
- Fear
- Deprivation
- Curiosity/Exploration
Challenges to Changing Inmate Culture
Summary

Why does addressing inmate culture matter?

What impact does changing inmate culture have on sexual abuse in custody?

What impact does changing inmate culture have on implementing the standards?