



# Understanding the Culture of NC Jails



# Special Thanks

This powerpoint was built from the Just Detention International (JDI) “One Day at a Time – Understanding the Culture of Corrections” webinar

# Webinar Agenda

## Overview of the NC Jail System

- I. Demographics of US inmates
- II. Demographics of survivors in the system
- III. PREA Standards
- IV. Similarities and differences in approaches
- V. Creating shared approaches to serving survivors in custody

# Overview:

# Jails

- House inmates awaiting trial or who have been sentenced to 90 days or less for a misdemeanor
- Many of those in jail have not been convicted of a crime – Most are pre-trial inmates
- Limited programming
- Operated by Sheriffs
- 96 jails in NC — generally one per county

# **Demographics of Inmates**

# Demographics of Inmates

In 2006, at the last BJS Census of Jails, there were  
**17,682** jail inmates  
in North Carolina

# Demographics

**The majority of those in jail:**

**are male**

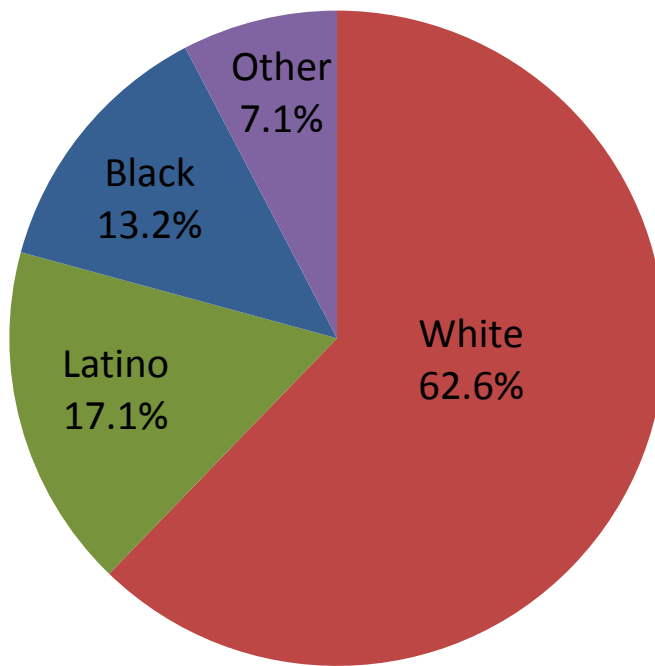
**are black or white**

**have *NOT* been convicted of a crime  
and/or awaiting trial**



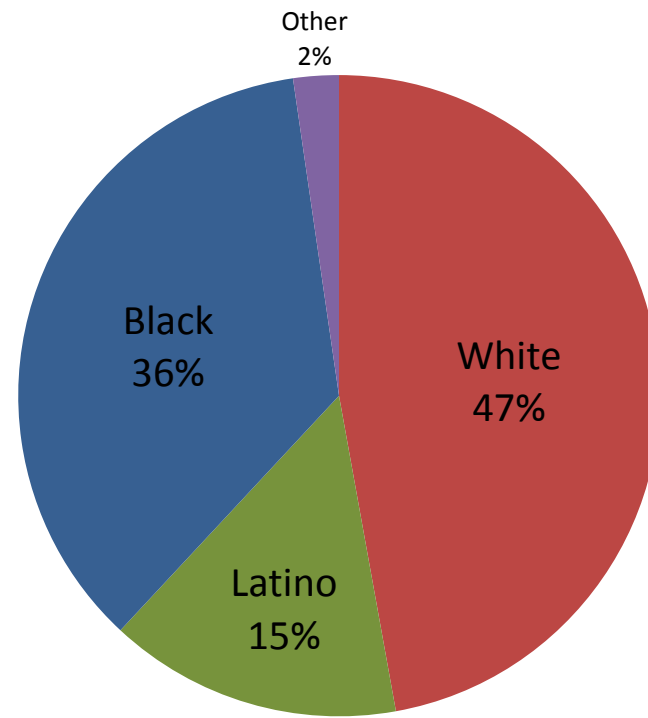
# Demographics: Race

**US Population by Race and Ethnicity**



Source: US Census, 2013 Projections

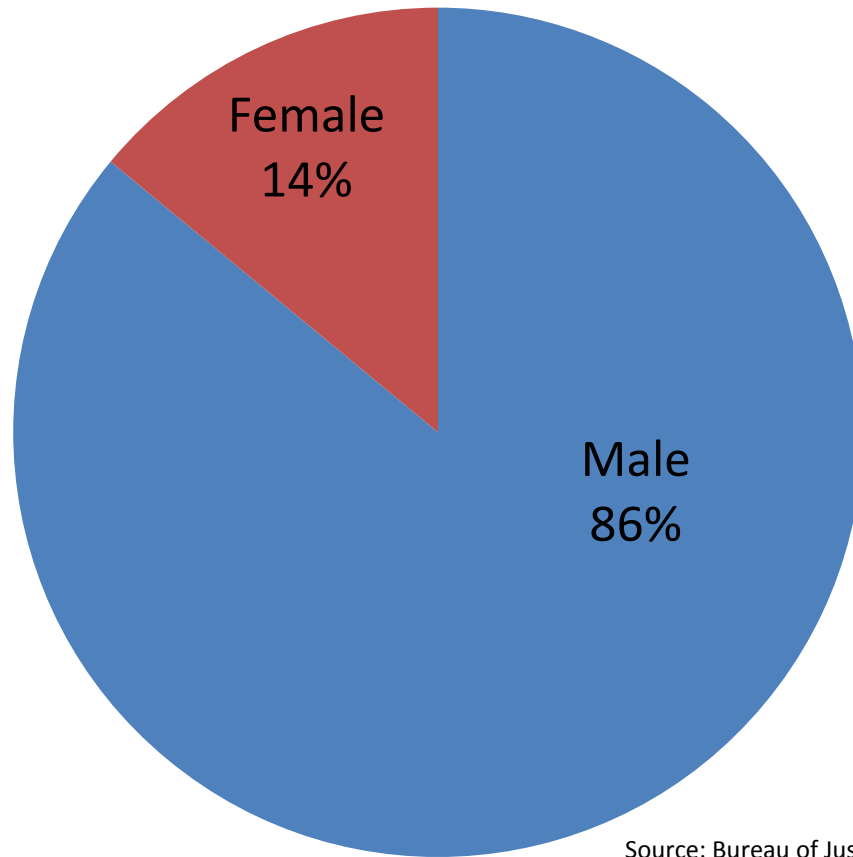
**US Jail Population by Race and Ethnicity**



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics  
Jail Inmates at Midyear 2013 - Statistical  
Tables

# Demographics: Gender

US Jail Population, by Gender



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics  
Jail Inmates at Midyear 2013 - Statistical Tables

# **Prevalence of Sexual Abuse in Prisons and Jails**

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

# Prevalence of Sexual Abuse in Confinement



**1 IN 10**

former adult state inmates  
reported being sexually  
abused while in detention

# Prevalence

STUDY SHOWS NEARLY EQUAL  
RATES OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY  
STAFF AND OTHER INMATES



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011–12*, May 2013. © Just Detention International

# Who do perpetrators tend to target in detention?

- People living with a disability or mental illness
- Those with previous history of trauma or sexual assault
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) inmates or those who are perceived to be
- Gender non-conforming inmates

*Those marginalized in the community are generally those victimized in detention*

# **Targets for Staff Sexual Abuse**

**Who is the average victim of sexual abuse by staff in jails and prisons?**

**Black, Latino, or multiracial**

**Younger than 24 years  
old**

**Male**

# The PREA Standards

*They may try to tell you  
that it didn't happen...  
that you're making  
something out of nothing...  
or that you caused it...  
that it was all your fault.*

*Victims of sexual abuse in confinement deserve  
advocacy & treatment services comparable to  
those available in the community.*

No matter how they deny it or make you feel guilty, you know what happened to you. And no amount of minimizing or blaming you can change that. Talk to staff, and help us stop anyone who sexually violates you or others!

**Nobody Deserves To Be A Victim Of Sexual Violence!**



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# **PREA Standards and Service Providers**

**The PREA Standards say that facilities must:**

1. Offer survivors emergency care, a forensic exam, and ongoing treatment
2. Follow a coordinated response to incidents
3. Attempt to enter into working agreements with community service providers

# PREA Standards and Service Providers

## **Facilities must also:**

- Allow survivors access to advocates in as confidential a manner as possible
- Provide treatment that is consistent with the community standard of care

# PREA Standards and Service Providers

- Access to victim advocates for forensic medical exams & outside confidential support services (115.21, 115.121, 115.321; 115.53, 115.253, 115.353)
- Coordinated response planning (115.65, 115.165, 115.265, 115.365); and
- Emergency medical services (115.82, 115.182, 115.282, 115.382) and on-going mental health care for victims (115.83, 115.283, 115.383).

***Attempt to enter into written working agreements with community service providers***

# Understanding Culture

# The Advocate

## Common principles:

- Survivors deserve care, support, health, and safety
- Perpetrators should be held accountable
- No one deserves to be raped
- Changing rape culture is critical to eliminating sexual violence

# Your Approach

- Trauma-informed and survivor-centered
- Promote healing and well-being
- Listen to survivors
- Set boundaries and explain limitations
- Follow mandated reporting requirements

# The Corrections Official

## Focus: SAFETY & SECURITY

- Public safety and public health
- Officer safety and inmate safety

***The security of the facility equates to the safety and care of inmates.***

- Inmates are community members
- Officials want to see them succeed in life
- Offer a second chance



# Their Approach

- Safety and security for all staff, visitors, and inmates or residents
- Dependence on rules and regulations that minimize agency liability and damage to persons or property
- Provision of educational and therapeutic programs
- Assistance with re-entry into the community

# Advocate: Self Identification Checklist

- Agency is often underfunded or under-resourced
- Senior level employees wear multiple hats
- Vicarious trauma and long hours play a role in staff turnover
- Staff entered the helping profession because they care for others or about injustice
- Staff are distrustful or cautious around law enforcement

# Corrections Staff: Self Identification Checklist

- Agency is often underfunded or under-resourced
- Employees wear multiple hats
- Vicarious trauma and long hours play a role in staff turnover
- Staff entered law enforcement or corrections because they care about the community and justice
- Staff are distrustful or cautious around community-based organizations

**You are similar in many ways!**

# Some Things to Remember

- Demonstrate your commitment to safety and willingness to follow facility rules
- Work respectfully and cooperatively with corrections staff while remaining a survivor advocate
- Be clear about your role
- Talk about ways you share goals or a vision with corrections
- Maintain your bottom line that no one deserves to be sexually abused

# Thank You

For more information:

Just Detention International Webinars at

<http://www.justdetention.org/en/Advocate-Resources/webinar-archive.aspx>

NC CASA Website's PREA page:

<http://www.nccasa.org/resources/prison-rape-elimination-act-prea>