

The Occurrence and Health-Related Impacts of Prison Sexual Victimization

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Data Collection

- Large Southern Prison System
- Male and Female Inmates
- Self-Administered Surveys
 - Group setting
 - Occurrence, perceptions, behaviors related to sexual victimization
- Response Rate ~63.0%

Sample Characteristics

■ Significant Gender Differences

- Age***
- Sexual Orientation***
- First Time Inmate***
- Lifetime Victimization***
- In-Prison Victimization*
- Know an In-Prison Victim**
- Know an In-Prison Victim in the Past Year**
- Sentence Length***
- Time Served***
- Time Left***

Sample Characteristics

- Types of Sexual Victimization Reported
 - Completed sexual assault (n=40)
 - Attempted sexual assault (n=20)
 - Unwanted touching (n=62)
 - Sexual abuse (n=11)
 - Other (n=6)

Sample Characteristics

- Significant Victim Differences
 - Race*
 - Gender*
 - Sexual Orientation***
 - Know In-Prison Victim***
 - Know In-Prison Victim in Past Year***

Noted Effects of Sexual Assault

■ Physical Effects

- Pregnancy
- STDs
- Bruising, soreness, abrasions, bleeding
- Internal bleeding
- Muscle tension
- Insomnia and nightmares
- Loss of sexual drive
- Other injuries from physical assault...
- Death

Noted Effects of Sexual Assault

- Psychological/Emotional Effects
 - Flashbacks
 - PTSD
 - Rape Trauma Syndrome
 - Depression
 - Suicidal Tendencies
 - Anxiety
 - Borderline Personality Disorder
 - Dissociative Identity Disorder
 - Common feelings...

Scenario Responses

■ Female Scenarios

- #1 Verbal threats/coercion (inmate-on-inmate)
 - Treated for injuries (54.1% yes)
 - Tested for STDs (82.3% yes)
 - Speak with counselor/chaplain (75.9% yes)
- #2 Physical and sexual assault (inmate-on-inmate)
 - Treated for injuries (89.2% yes)
 - Tested for STDs (89.2% yes)
 - Speak with counselor/chaplain (87.4% yes)
- #3 Forced sex (male officer-on-female inmate)
 - Treated for injuries (79.8% yes)
 - Tested for pregnancy/STDs (86.2% yes)
 - Speak with counselor/chaplain (78.0% yes)

Scenario Responses

■ Male Scenarios

- #1 Debt/threat induced oral sex (inmate-on-inmate)
 - Treated for injuries (81.2% yes)
 - Tested for STDs (90.2% yes)
 - Speak with counselor/chaplain (80.6% yes)
- #2 Physical assault and forced oral sex (inmate-on-inmate)
 - Treated for injuries (88.4% yes)
 - Tested for STDs (90.0% yes)
 - Speak with counselor/chaplain (81.0% yes)
- #3 Debt induced physical assault and forced sex (inmate-on-inmate)
 - Treated for injuries (88.8% yes)
 - Tested for STDs (90.0% yes)
 - Speak with counselor/chaplain (78.4% yes)

In Sum...

■ Limitations

- Self-report survey on sensitive topic
- Generalization only back to this inmate population

■ Summary

- 135 inmates did report in-prison sexual victimization
 - Broad measure of sexual victimization
- Significant bivariate differences found
- Many negative effects stemming from such victimization
- Found that a majority of respondents would encourage a victim to be treated physically and psychologically as well as be tested for STDs and/or pregnancy

Thank You
Questions / Discussion