



# THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT & ADVOCACY

Providing Support to Survivors of Sexual Abuse Behind Bars



## IN THIS TRAINING, WE WILL DISCUSS...

- ...the dynamics of sexual abuse behind bars, including *who* is most impacted by sexual violence while in custody.
- ...the PREA standards and survivor rights to reporting options, medical care, and access to support.
- ...how advocates from community-based DV/SA or SA programs can best support incarcerated survivors and how *that support has shifted because of the pandemic*.



**JUST DETENTION**  
INTERNATIONAL

RAPE IS NOT PART OF THE PENALTY

**CALCASA**  
CALIFORNIA COALITION  
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

Center for  
**HOPE &  
SAFETY**



**TAKE  
CARE  
OF  
YOU.**

## TERMS & ACRONYMS

PREA = Prison Rape Elimination Act

AIC = Adult in Custody

DOC = Department of Corrections

DV/SA = domestic violence/sexual assault



# SEXUAL VIOLENCE BEHIND BARS



A man with dark hair, looking directly at the camera, wearing a plain grey t-shirt. The background is a light-colored wall with horizontal lines.

**WOULD YOU JOKE**  
**AROUND ABOUT**  
**THIS MAN BEING RAPED?**

The same man from the first image, now wearing an orange V-neck jumpsuit. On the left chest of the jumpsuit, the number "03185" and the letters "LACCF" are printed. The background is the same light-colored wall with horizontal lines.

**HOW ABOUT NOW?**

[www.justdetention.org](http://www.justdetention.org)

**RAPE IS NOT  
PART OF THE  
PENALTY.**

- Just Detention International





No bad victim.



# RAPE CULTURE & WHAT SOCIETY BELIEVES



Screen capture of Rodney Roussell, from the video  
“The Rape Jokes We still Laugh At.”

**The Rape Jokes We Still Laugh At**

# WHAT IS DETENTION?

Prisons

Jails

Lockups

Community  
confinement  
facilities

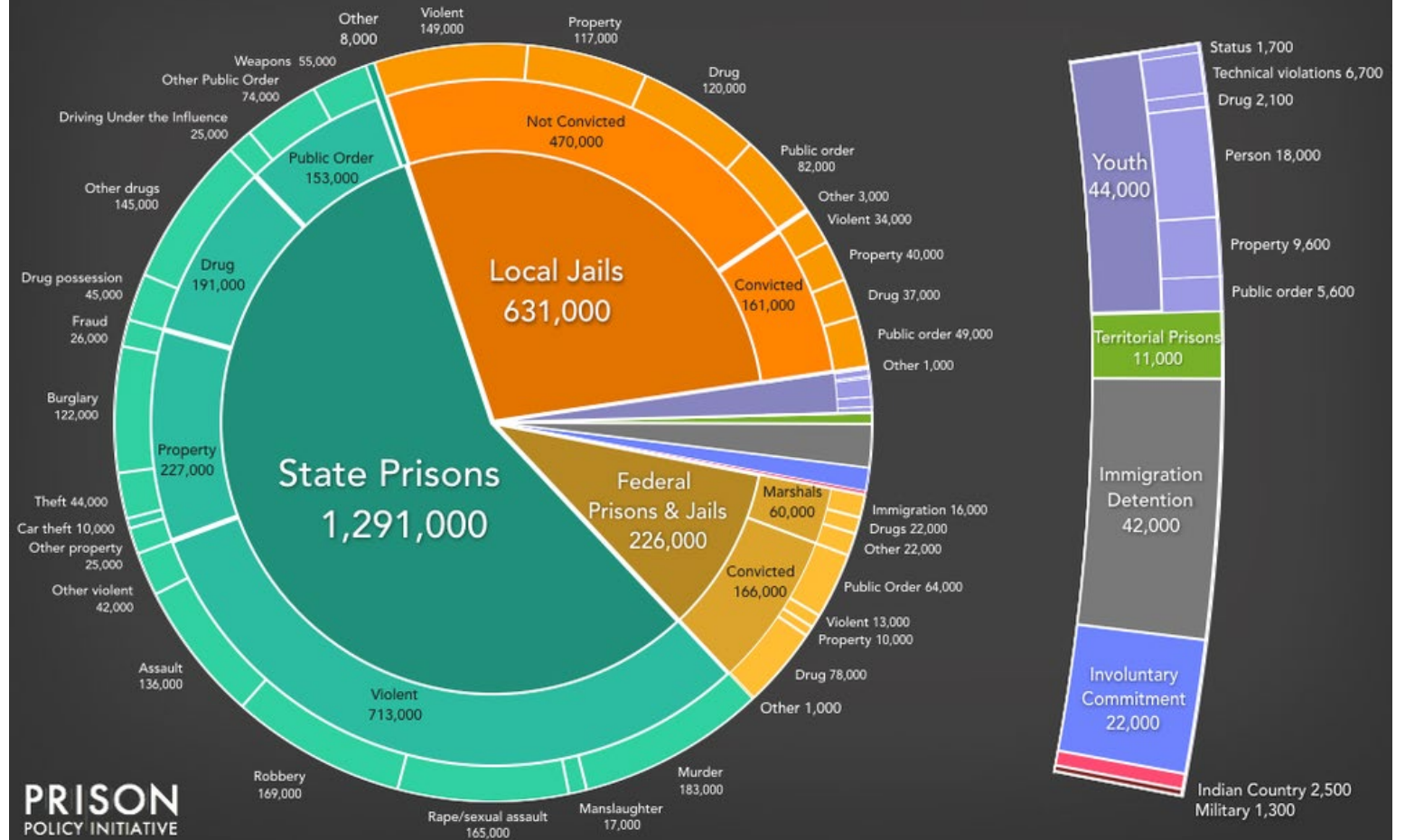
Juvenile  
facilities

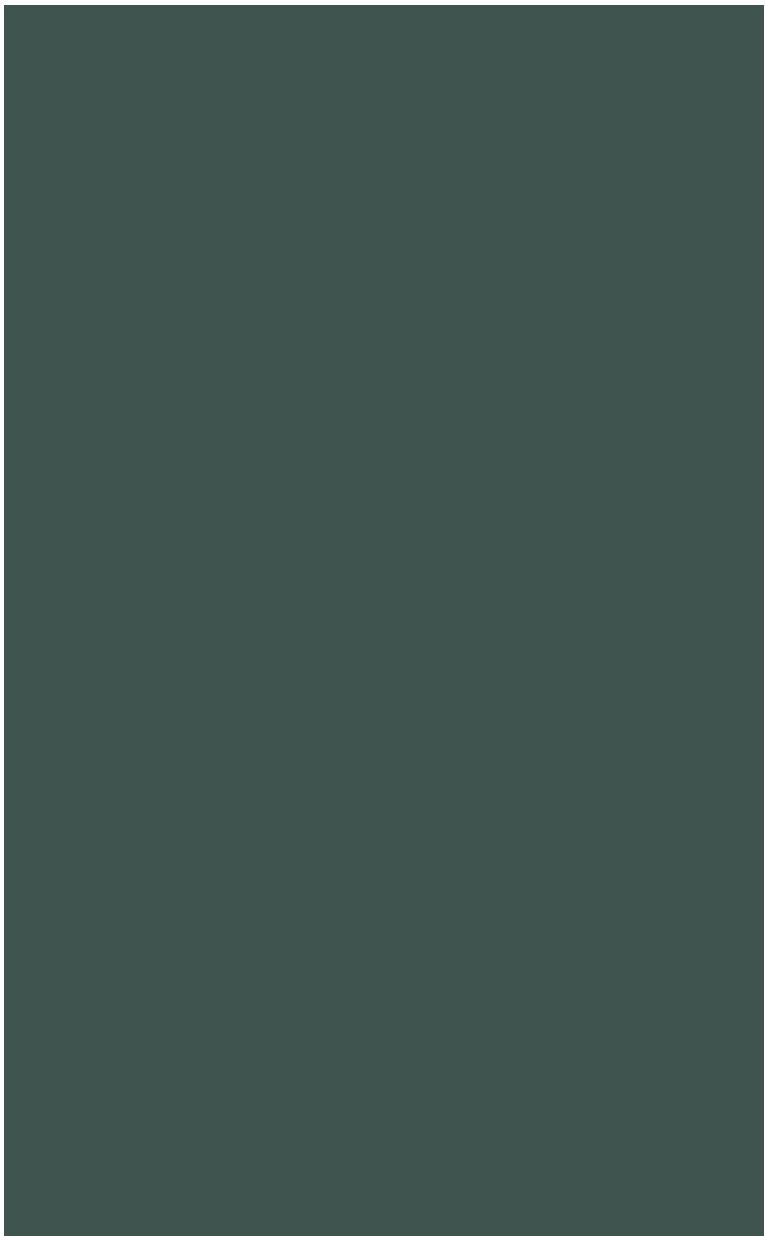
Immigration  
facilities

# WHO IS INCARCERATED?

## How many people are locked up in the United States?

The U.S. locks up more people per capita than any other nation, at the staggering rate of 698 per 100,000 residents. But to end mass incarceration, we must first consider *where* and *why* 2.3 million people are confined nationwide.







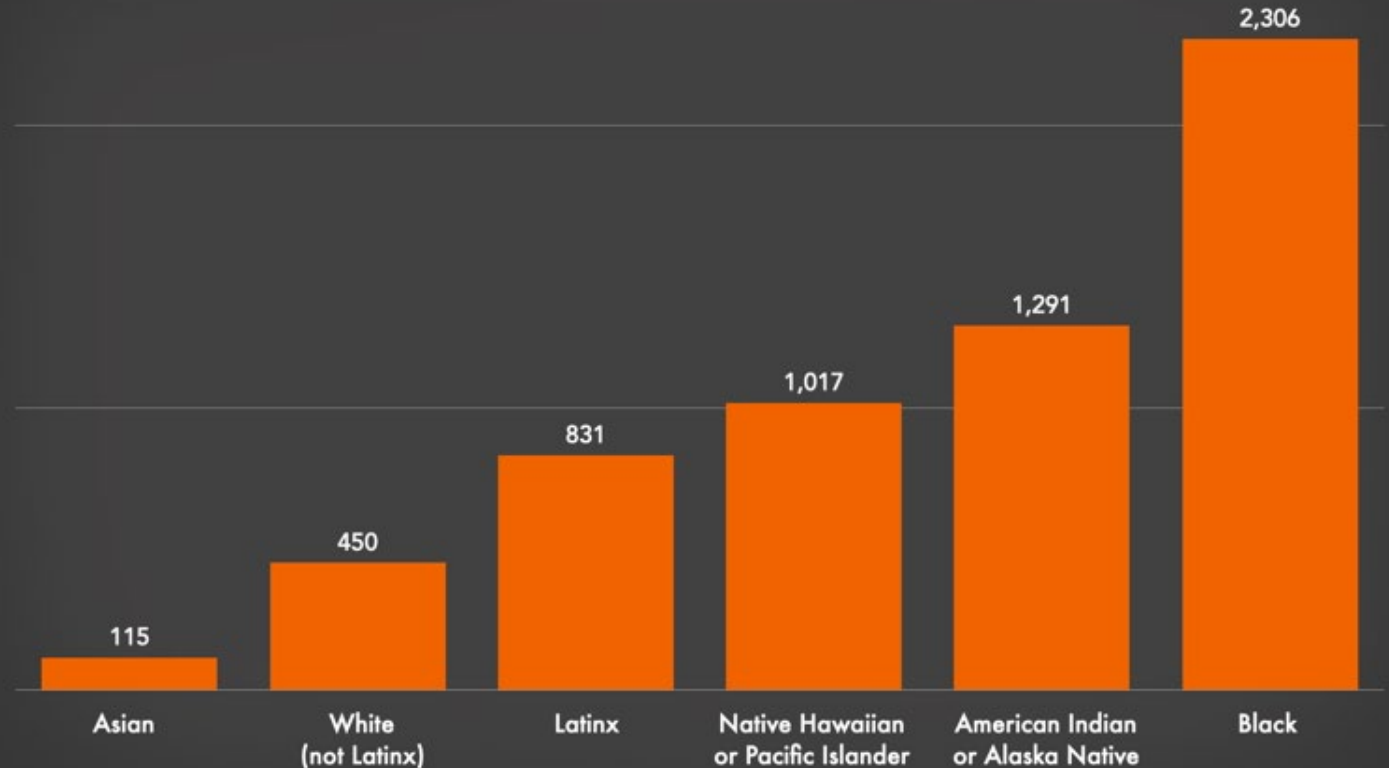
# WHO IS INCARCERATED?

Most prisoners are:

- Men
- Black or persons of color
- Locked up for nonviolent crimes
- Facing mental health issues

## U.S. incarceration rates by race and ethnicity, 2010

Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in each racial or ethnic category



**PRISON**  
POLICY INITIATIVE

Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. For the full data set and sourcing details, see [www.prisonpolicy.org/data/race\\_ethnicity\\_gender\\_2010.xlsx](http://www.prisonpolicy.org/data/race_ethnicity_gender_2010.xlsx)

# COMPLEX TRAUMA HISTORY

Child  
abuse

Sexual  
abuse

Domestic  
violence

Gang  
violence

Police  
violence

Not enough  
resources

# THE DYNAMICS OF SEXUAL ABUSE



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Sexual harassment

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Protective pairing

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Domestic violence

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Sexual exploitation

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Gang abuse

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Rape

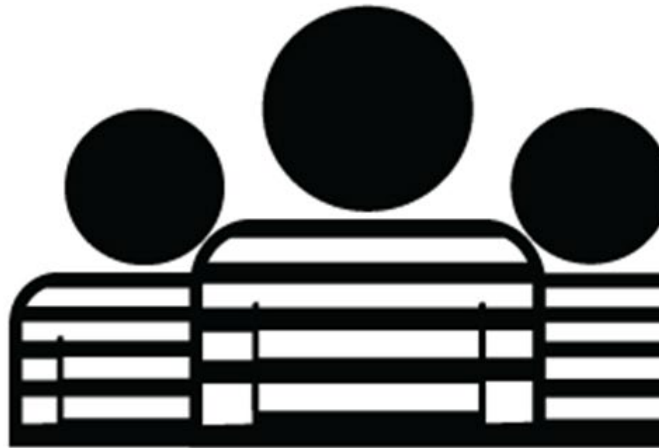
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Abusive searches

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



STAFF  
SEXUAL  
ABUSE





CONSENT

## WHO IS MOST VULNERABLE?

- Disabled folks
- People suffering from mental illness
- LGBTQIA+: particularly those who are transgender
- Those who have been abused before

## WHO IS MOST VULNERABLE TO SEXUAL ABUSE IN DETENTION?



Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and survivors of previous abuse



# THE PREA STANDARDS & SURVIVOR RIGHTS



# THE PREA STANDARDS

1

Keep people  
safe

2

Protect  
survivors  
from abusers

3

Provide  
multiple ways  
to report

4

Offer medical  
& mental  
health care

5

Increase  
accountability

6

Provide  
survivors  
access to  
victim services

# PREA STANDARDS: SURVIVORS' RIGHTS



WAYS TO REPORT



MEDICAL/FORENSIC  
EXAM



ACCESS TO  
SUPPORT

## ACCESS TO VICTIM SERVICES

Forensic exams

Investigations

Follow-up services

Emotional support services

A photograph of the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem, Oregon. The image shows a long, multi-tiered chain-link fence topped with coiled barbed wire, stretching across the frame. The fence is set on a paved area, and its shadow is cast onto the ground. In the background, a tan-colored prison building is visible under a cloudy sky. A tall, modern light pole stands near the fence. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

BELIEVE,  
EMPOWER,  
SUPPORT.

*Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem.  
(Photo by Joseph Glode)*

# TRAUMA REACTIONS & HEALING

- Isolation (or being/feeling alone)
- **Retaliation** (harming someone because they have harmed them)
- Little control
- Lack of autonomy (or independence) & privacy
- Contact with perpetrators/abusers



# COPING SKILLS & SAFETY PLANNING IN DETENTION

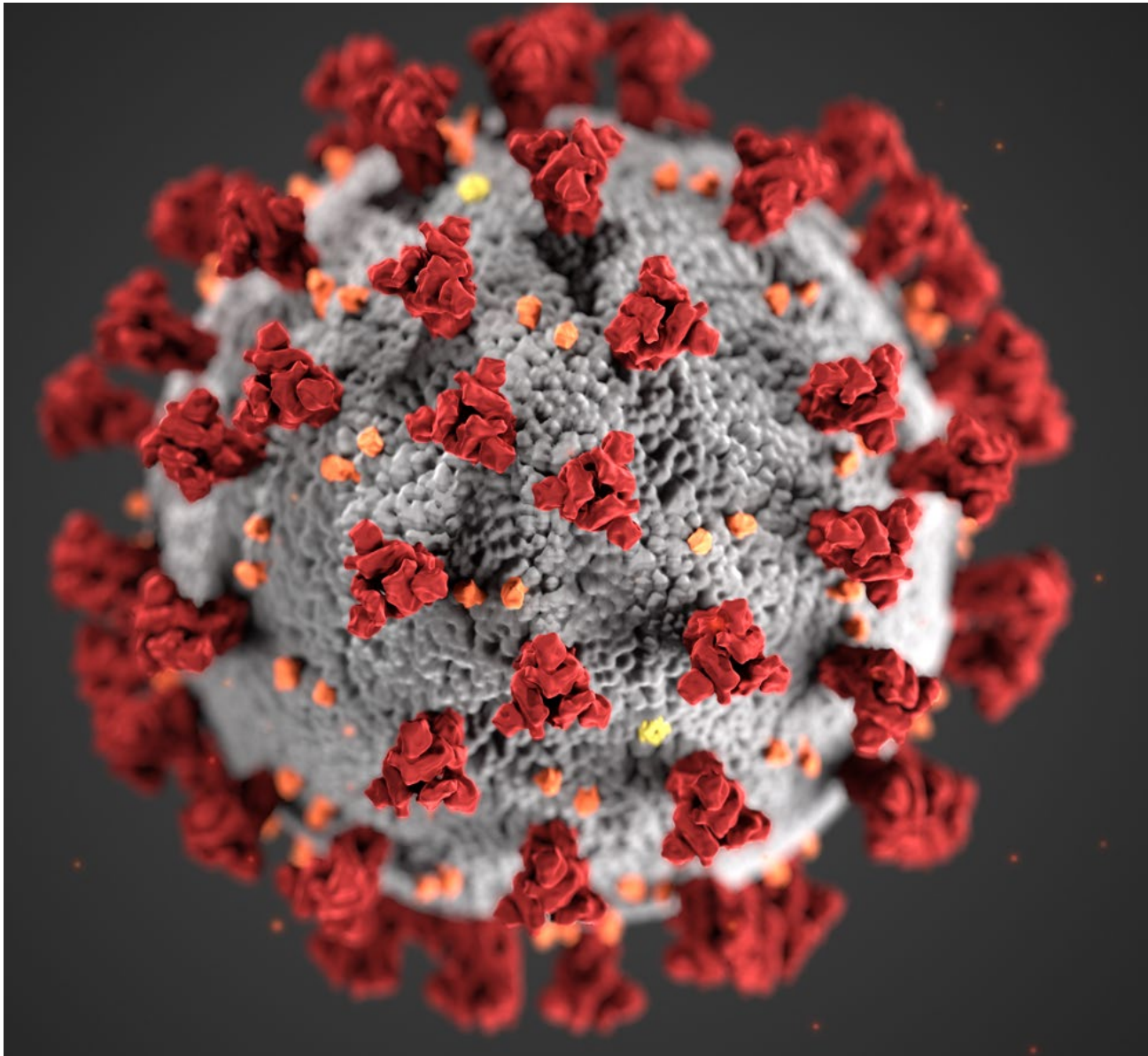
- Safety planning is different in detention
- Coping skills (or ways of dealing with things and events) that might work for a survivor in the community might not work for folks in detention
- Coping is a sign of strength



# HOW HAVE THINGS CHANGED?

PREA & THE PANDEMIC





# WHEN THE PANDEMIC BEGAN...



HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO  
SUPPORT SURVIVORS IN  
CUSTODY?



# QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

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- Just Detention International: <https://justdetention.org/>
  - CALCASA: <http://www.valor.us/>
  - PREA Resource Center: <https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/>
  - Oregon Department of Corrections: <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/prison-rape-elimination-act/Pages/home.aspx>