

## The Road to Repair: Webinar Fact Sources

- Fewer than half of us contact the criminal justice system after experiencing harm - 56% of cases in which a victim was injured go unreported.<sup>1</sup>
- In 1994, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) created new funding streams to incentivize collaboration between anti-DV advocates and law enforcement, and directed other resources to grow the law enforcement response to violence against women. VAWA '94 also incentivized the adoption by states of mandatory/pro arrest policies. Five years later, the 1999 Crime Bill, the largest crime bill in US history, provided funding for one hundred thousand new police officers and \$9.7 billion for prisons. By the end of the 1990s, the number of people receiving welfare (the majority of whom were women) had fallen 53 percent, or 6.5 million. Gutting welfare stripped away an economic safety net that allowed survivors to flee abusive relationships.<sup>2</sup>
- Regardless of crime of conviction, women in prison are likely to have experienced incredibly high rates of abuse prior to coming. Eighty-six percent of jailed women surveyed in 2015<sup>3</sup> reported a history of sexual and DV victimization. Abuse is a better predictor of incarceration than any other factor.<sup>4</sup>
- Sexual misconduct is the second most commonly reported form of police misconduct. (A 2015 investigation by the Buffalo News concluded that an officer is accused of sexual misconduct every five days.)<sup>5</sup> There is a well-established pattern of police officers committing rape and sexual assault against those they arrest.<sup>6</sup> And in prison, rape is an epidemic<sup>7</sup> to which an estimated 200,000 people in the US are subjected every year.<sup>8</sup>
- A group of prisoners at the Washington Corrections Center for Women, in Purdy near Gig Harbor, filed the lawsuit with Columbia Legal Services against former corrections Secretary Harold Clarke in July 2007 and it was settled by consent decree. The women alleged that sexual assaults by staff were rampant. Prisoners who complained or reported violence had to report to the very institution and officers who were causing harm to begin with and then were often subjected to lie-detector tests by prison staffers and were rarely asked to submit to a rape-kit examination.<sup>9</sup>
- Prison does not deliver on the safety and security it promises, even in the cases of extreme violence.<sup>10</sup> We incorporate the drivers of violence (shame, isolation, exposure to violence, inability to meet one's economic needs etc.) into prison itself.<sup>11</sup> Lengthy incarceration exacerbates the very conditions that lead to crime -- conviction and incarceration result in barriers to occupational opportunities, student loans, public assistance, housing, promote isolation and shame, and increase prisoners' exposure to violence and trauma.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Danielle Sered, [Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration and a Road to Repair](#) (The New Press, 2019). Lynn Langton et al., [Victimizations Not Reported to the Police 2006-2010](#) (U.S. Department of Justice, 2012). The National Domestic Violence Hotline, <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/law-enforcement-responses/> (The National Domestic Violence Hotline, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Victoria Law, [Against Carceral Feminism](#) (Jacobin, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Swavola, Kristine Riley, and Ram Subramanian, [Overlooked: Women and Jails in an Era of Reform](#) (New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> Chandra Bozelko, [No Justice: When Abuse and Incarceration Intersect](#) (Ms Magazine, 2016).

<sup>5</sup> Staff, [Sexual abuse by a few police officers is a stain that must be eradicated](#) (Buffalo News, 2015).

<sup>6</sup> Andrea J. Ritchie, [How Some Cops use the Badge to Commit Sex Crimes](#) (Washington Post, 2018). Zoe Carpenter, [The Police Violence We Aren't Talking About](#) (The Nation, 2014).

<sup>7</sup> Natasha Lennard, [Will the Prison Rape Epidemic Ever Have Its Weinstein Moment?](#) (The Intercept, 2017).

<sup>8</sup> Federal Register, [National Standards to Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Prison Rape](#) (Justice Department, 2012).

<sup>9</sup> Jennifer Sullivan, [\\$1M awarded to 5 Washington inmates in sex-assault lawsuit](#) (The Seattle Times, 2009).

<sup>10</sup> Christopher Uggen, Jeff Manza and Melissa Thompson, *Citizenship, Democracy and the Civic Reintegration of Criminal Offenders* (Annals of the American Association of Political Science Studies, 2006).

<sup>11</sup> Danielle Sered, [Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration and a Road to Repair](#) (The New Press, 2019).

<sup>12</sup> Bruce Western and Becky Pettit, *Collateral Costs: Incarceration's Effect on Economic Mobility* (The Pew Charitable Trusts: Pew Center on the States, 2010).