

Sexual Violence & Criminalized Youth



Today & Hiscussion

- Who/What is the CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence? • What is sexual violence and how does it impact young people who are system-involved?
- What can we do about it?



# CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE

Support. Advocate. Prevent.

### 24-Hour, Toll-Free Hotlines: 1-888-999-5545 (English) | 1-888-568-8332 (Español)

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence is a statewide coalition of individual sexual assault crisis programs whose mission is to end sexual violence and to ensure high-quality, comprehensive, culturally competent sexual assault victim services.



formerly CONNSACS



All services are free. and confidential.

The sexual assault crisis programs provide:

- certified sexual assault victim advocates
- 24/7 hotline services in English and Spanish
- short-term counseling for individuals and groups
- information and referrals to other social and legal services
- accompaniment and support in hospitals, police departments and courts

Women's Center of Greater Danbury

The Rowan Center



Share your reflections! I feel...I wonder...I think



# What is Sexnal Violence?



OWF · 2020









SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS ANY UNWANTED CONTACT OR NONCONTACT SEXUAL ACTS OR BEHAVIORS. SEXUAL VIOLENCE DESCRIBES A RANGE OF BEHAVIORS CARRIED OUT WITH THE USE OF COERCION, MANIPULATION, THREATS, INTIMIDATION, FORCE, OR ABUSE OF POWER. THESE INCLUDE RAPE OR ATTEMPTED RAPE; FONDLING; INCEST; EXPLOITATION; EXHIBITIONISM; OBSCENE PHONE CALLS, EMAILS, OR TEXT MESSAGES. SEXUAL CONTACT WITHOUT AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE;

IT IS NEVER THE VICTIM'S FAULT.









Impacts of Sexnal Violence can include

# IN GENERAL:

increased use of drugs and/or alcohol, depression, anxiety, self-harming behaviors, chronic headaches or other pain, insomnia, hypervigilance, perfectionism, people-pleasing/fawning

# FOR CHILDREN:

this may include STIs, isolating themselves from friends and family, regressive behaviors, an increase in sexual behaviors and understandings of sexual topics that are not developmentally appropriate, unexplained changes in eating habits, being overly compliant, new and extreme worry or fear.

# REMEMBER:

Every victim/survivor's experience is unique, as are the ways they physically, emotionally, and behaviorally respond to their experiences.

# Prevalence of Sexual Violence

# 1 IN 4 GIRLS AND 1 IN 13 BOYS EXPERIENCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE **BEFORE THEY TURN 18**

NATIONALLY, 41.3% OF FEMALES WHO EXPERIENCED A RAPE IN THEIR LIFETIME FIRST EXPERIENCED ONE PRIOR TO THE AGE OF 18; 30.1% WERE AGED 11 TO 17.

Pereda N, Guilera G, Forns M, Gómez-Benito J. The prevalence of child sexual abuse in community and student samples: A meta-analysis. Clinical Psychology Review. 2009;29:328–338. doi:10.1016/j.cpr.2009.02.007

Smith SG, Chen J, Basile KC, Gilbert LK, Merrick MT, Pate, N, Walling M, Jain A. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2017. Available at: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf. Accessed November 10, 2018.



Why might a young person not share their experiences of sexual violence?



### CHILD VICTIMS OFTEN KNOW THE PERPETRATOR

Among cases of child sexual abuse reported to law enforcement:

- Lack of language or understanding
- Shame & Guilt
- Lack of support system & safe

# spaces



What About Jourg People Who Ave System-Involved?



Source: Michael T. Baglivio et al., US Dep't of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in the Lives of Juvenile Offenders, 3 J. Juv. Justice 1, 9 (Spring 2014), available at http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/ J0JJ0302/J0JJ0302.pdf.

Girls' rate of sexual abuse is 4 times higher than boys' in juvenile justice, and girls' rate of complex trauma (five or more ACEs) is nearly twice as high.



# What About Jourg People Who Ave System-Juvolved?

# SOUTH CAROLINA OREGON 0 VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE SEXUALLY OR PHYSICALLY ABUSED 0 **O F** S G VICTIMS OF DATING VIOLENCE SEXUALLY ABUSED

0 G

PHYSICALLY ABUSED

SEXUALLY & PHYSICALLY ABUSED

0

0







Trauma to Prison
Pipeline
Survived & Punished
Carceral Facilities







# OUR CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM RELIES ON & **ASSUMES THAT**

Crime is neutral, apolitical, and unconnected to oppression

Survivors never commit crimes and are perfectly sympathetic

Survivors want incarceration, deportation, and punishment. These things make the world safer.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES WITH THIS?





Trauma to Prison Pipeline

MANY SURVIVORS ARE CRIMINALIZED FOR THE WAYS THEY EXPERIENCE & NAVIGATE TRAUMA AND SURVIVAL







# Trauma to Prison Pipeline

### How Victimization Creates "Pathways to Crime"











# Tranna to Prison Pipeline

# THE SEXUAL ABUSE PEINE **THE GIRLS' STORY**

Human Rights Project for Girls Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality Ms. Foundation for Women

HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT FOR GIRLS

**CENTER ON POVERTY and INEQUALITY** GEORGETOWN LAW



Entry into Juvenile Justice

for prostitutio status offense incorrigible behavior, etc.)

> Reactive Behavior



Release into community with exacerbated trauma symptoms

### Trauma symptoms triggered and/or new incidents of abus

GIRLS' COMMON REACTIONS TO TRAUMA ARE CRIMINALIZED AND EXACERBATED BY INVOLVEMENT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. LEADING TO A CYCLE OF ABUSE AND IMPRISONMENT

Trauma coping behaviors resume and/or re-entry into abusive environment

> New arrest occurs and cycle repeats and deepens

Sexual Abuse (sex trafficking, abusive home, poorly supervised child welfare placement)

Unaddressed Trauma, Mental Health, Physical Health Issues







Watch on 🕞 YouTube



# WHAT DO WE HOPE JUVENILLE DETENTION **CENTERS DO?**

1. Places of rehabilitation 2. Provide people with needed mental health care



- LESS THAN 12 MONTHS.

DOES MORE SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT MEAN MORE VULNERABNILITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE BOTH SURVIVORS AND EXPERIENCE CRIMINALIZATION?

BECK, ALLEN J. DAVID CANTO, JOHN HARTAGE, TIM SMITH. SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION IN JUVENILE FACILITIES REPORTED BY YOUTH 2012. NATIONAL SURVEY OF YOUTH IN CUSTODY 2012. U.S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS. BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS. 2013.





• FEMALE-ONLY FACILITIES HAD THE HIGHEST RATES OF YOUTH-ON-YOUTH SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION (5.7%), • MALE-ONLY FACILITIES HAD THE HIGHEST RATES OF STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT (8.2%). • AN ESTIMATED 92.4% OF ALL YOUTH WHO REPORTED STAFF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT SAID THEY WERE VICTIMIZED BY FEMALE FACILITY STAFF • AN ESTIMATED 9.5% OF ADJUDICATED YOUTH IN STATE JUVENILE FACILITIES AND STATE CONTRACT FACILITIES (REPRESENTING 1,720 YOUTH NATIONWIDE) REPORTED EXPERIENCING ONE OR MORE INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION BY ANOTHER YOUTH OR STAFF IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS OR SINCE ADMISSION, IF





# WHAT DO WE HOPE JUVENILLE DETENTION CENTERS DO?

 Places of rehabilitation
Provide people with needed mental health care

### TENSION BETWEEN BODILY AUTONOMY VS SECURITY MEASURES



PRISONS ALSO FOSTER AN ATMOSPHERE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE THROUGH SECURITY PROCEDURES...THIS EMPHASIZES INCARCERATED SURVIVORS OF THEIR LACK OF POWER AND ABILITY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THEIR SUPPOSED PROTECTORS (RICHIE 2012, 51)









# WHAT DO WE HOPE JUVENILLE DETENTION CENTERS DO?

 Places of rehabilitation
Provide people with needed mental health care

### WHEN DID YOU FIRST LEARN ABOUT CONSENT, BOUNDARIES, AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP BEHAVIORS?



HOW ARE YOUNG PEOPLES' IDEAS OF VIOLENCE AND RELATIONSHIPS INTERTWINED AND IMPACTED WHEN THEY ARE SEPARATED FROM THEIR COMMUNITY AND FAMILY AND PLACED UNDER STATE SUPERVISION?









"I was locked up ten different times within a two year period. Inside juvie I met other girls like myself who were there for prostitution, running away, and truancy. All of us were from the same neighborhoods, poor families, and seemed to have the same disposition of trauma, anger mixed with hopelessness. We were not violent girls. We were girls who were hurting. Being confined to a tiny cement room was one of the hardest things I have ever had to experience. Being locked up all I could do was reflect on my life but it didn't seem to help. I became even more withdrawn and angry." — *Nadiyah Shereff* 





THERE ARE NO PERFECT VICTIMS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO SERVING ALL SURVIVORS REGARDLESS OF HOW THEY'RE LABELED OR JUDGED BY THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

WE CAN'T ASSUME THAT THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS ALWAYS IDENTIFYING SITUATIONS AND THE PEOPLE WITHIN THEM CORRECTLY OR ETHICALLY.

NO ONE DOES THE WORK KNOWING HOW TO DO IT PERFECTLY FROM THE START. HOWEVER, WE DO HAVE MANY OF THE SKILLS WE NEED ALREADY



NOT ALL LAWS ARE JUST. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS AGAINST ABUSES OF POWER, EVEN WHEN THE LEGAL SYSTEM IS INVOLVED IN PROSECUTING THEM

WE DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, BUT WE DO HAVE A LOT TO SHARE AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER



# ALLIANCE

Attend our trainings! Learn more about sexual violence and the way it impacts all of us.

# CRISIS CENTERS

Partner with us and your local crisis center!

# EARLY INTERVENTION

Diversion pathways JRB/YSB, Sequential Intercept

## UNDERSTAND & ACCEP



Survivors are not a monolith, there is no perfect survivor; trauma responses are incredibly diverse and can impact how survivors navigate their environment and how they perceive safety, harm, and authority.

Mhat can we do?

# People and Organizations to learn From

- Mariame Kaba
- K Agebeyi
- Beth Richie
- Andrea Ritchie
- Survived & Punished
- Project Nia\*
- Interrupting Criminalization
- Generation Five\*
- Color of Violence
- Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story\*





Sexual Violence & Criminalized Youth

