



The National Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project

# ReShape Newsletter

*Working together to end sexual violence.*



## Understanding Mass Incarceration

“Forward-looking research and organizing strategies should recognize that the deeply gendered character of punishment both reflects and further entrenches the gendered structure of the larger society.” – Angela Davis

As people supporting survivors of sexual assault, it is our job to understand the myriad ways survivors interact with the criminal legal system, prison, jails, and immigration detention. Sexual violence is intimately connected with how people end up in custody.

Research shows that in 2018, 2.3 million youth and adults are incarcerated or held in immigration detention each day in the United States. An additional 4.5 million people are on parole or probation. While some people are in custody because of

sexual assault convictions, many are also incarcerated because of their trauma and survival strategies.

In this edition of ReShape, we highlight different sexual assault coalitions' perspectives on the intersections between sexual violence and incarceration.

For more information about the incarceration statistics referenced above, please see the Prison Policy Initiative article, "Mass Incarceration: the Whole Pie 2018" at <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2018.html>.



### ***How survivors of sexual assault end up in jail and prison***

The Virginia Action Alliance provides a helpful explanation of how an increasing number of students are being set up to enter jails and prisons through school discipline policies.

- Virginia Action Alliance blog posts:  
<https://allianceinaction.org/2017/01/31/trauma-to-prison-pipeline-how-schools-are-reinforcing-the-cycle-of-mass-incarceration/>
- <https://allianceinaction.org/2017/03/30/4-ways-to-reverse-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-now/>



## ***Gender and Prison Pipelines***

When we begin to ask questions about how gender specifically plays a role in the trauma-to-prison pipeline, we begin to see more explicit impact of stories of sexual assault. This factsheet from the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs provides a summary of the report, *The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story*, and sample systems advocacy tips.

WCSAP review about CSA to prison pipeline:

- <https://www.wcsap.org/resources/publications/research-advocacy-review/sexual-abuse-prison-pipeline>



## ***LGBTQ youth vulnerability***

LGBTQ youth are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault before and after incarceration. In this tip sheet from the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, we see how advocates can use PREA to support incarcerated LGBTQ survivors of sexual violence.

- <https://www.mcasa.org/newsletters/article/prea-and-the-criminalization-of-lgbtq-youth>

## ***Sexual violence is prevalent in prisons and jails too***

In 2018, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released a special report with aggregate data about sexual assault in prison and jail from 2012-2015. Periodically, BJS releases reports analyzing data collected through the Survey of

Sexual Victimization. This survey helps prisons and jails meet mandated provisions outlined in the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

- [https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svraca1215\\_sum.pdf](https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svraca1215_sum.pdf)

### ***Sexual assault happens in immigration detention centers, too***

Statistics about rates of sexual assault in US immigration detention centers varies. Reports by two media outlets review information released by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and much larger numbers released from the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General. A statement by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault also outlines how children are particularly vulnerable to sexual assault in immigration family detention centers.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/17/us/sexual-assault-ice-detention-survivor-stories.html>
- <https://theintercept.com/2018/04/11/immigration-detention-sexual-abuse-ice-dhs/>
- TAASA statement on family detention centers: <http://taasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/TAASA-Statement-Opposing-House-Immigration-Bills-June-20-20181.pdf>



### ***Statement of Support for Immigrants and Refugees***

In the midst of increased detention of people seeking asylum, some coalitions have released statements of support. Statements of support offer opportunities

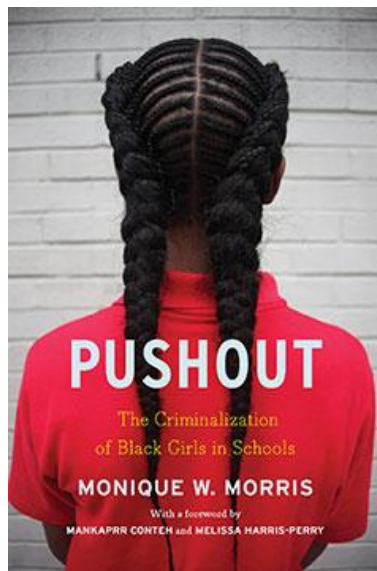
for service providers to let documented and undocumented immigrants know that sexual assault services are available for survivors regardless of citizenship status. Below is a statement of support written by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

- <http://www.pcar.org/blog/affirmation-our-commitment-immigrant-and-refugee-survivors-sexual-violence>

### Supporting Incarcerated Survivors

Given how often sexual violence and incarceration intersect, advocates will likely be called upon to provide support for currently incarcerated people. The following resources cover frequently asked questions about providing that support and clarify any protections and rights offered through the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

- Mapping It Out: Providing Victim Services for Incarcerated Survivors, a joint webinar by the Resource Sharing Project and Just Detention International: <http://www.resourcesharingproject.org/mapping-it-out-providing-victim-services-incarcerated-survivors>
- Just Detention International PREA resources: <https://justdetention.org/resources/prea-resources/>
- The National PREA Resource Center: <https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/>



## **Coalition Role in Ending the Pushout of Black Girls in School**

RSP TA provider Tracy Wright interviewed Dr. Monique Morris, author of Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. In this interview, Dr. Morris offers insight into how coalitions are uniquely positioned to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline for Black girls.

- Interview with Dr. Monique Morris, author of Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools:

<http://www.resourcesharingproject.org/sites/resourcesharingproject.org/files/ReShapeAntiRacism2017.pdf>

This project was supported by Grant No. 2014-TA-AX-K024 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women