

# The Source

Summer 2006

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence*

## Government Prisoner Rape Study Shows Increase in Sexual Violence Reports

*Reprinted with permission from Stop Prisoner Rape.*

National human rights organization Stop Prisoner Rape (SPR) welcomed the release of the U.S. Department of Justice's second annual statistical report on prisoner rape, while noting the limitations of data based purely on administrative records.

The Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report found that the number of formal complaints of sexual violence filed in adult prisons and jails increased nearly 16%, from 5,386 in 2004, to 6,241 in 2005. More than one-half of these complaints concerned staff sexual misconduct or harassment.

"The increase in allegations reported by correctional facilities in just one year strongly suggests that prisoner rape is more prevalent than generally believed. However, even these numbers do not fully capture the scope of the concern. The prisoner rape survivors who contact SPR often do not report their assault because they do not believe that action will be taken or they are concerned that they will be retaliated against, humiliated, or further punished," said Katherine Hall-Martinez, Co-Executive Director of SPR.

For the first time, BJS collected data on each incident that correctional officials determined was substantiated. Approximately fifteen percent of reported complaints were found to be substantiated. The majority of allegations were dismissed for lack of evidence. Among substantiated

cases, BJS found that approximately half of the incidents of inmate-on-inmate sexual violence involved the use of force, while two-thirds of substantiated reports of staff sexual misconduct were reported to be "romantic."

"The high evidentiary bar that seems to be required for a complaint to be substantiated, and the ease with which correctional officials appear to dismiss substantiated complaints of sexual misconduct as consensual raise serious concerns about the follow through provided. Even two years after passage of the groundbreaking federal Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA), many correctional facilities still have a long way to go in their handling of inmate reports of sexual abuse, as well as in preventing them in the first place," Hall-Martinez said.

"The government's report is a useful tool for examining what is reported, and how these reported incidents are treated," Hall-Martinez noted, "but reviewing correctional institutions' own records and assessments of what occurred cannot, on its own, fully reveal the extent or nature of sexual violence behind bars."

The BJS report, which is published annually, is mandated by PREA, the first-ever federal legislation to address prisoner rape. Also as required by PREA, later in 2006, BJS will initiate a self-administered survey of past and present inmates, which has the potential to provide a more accurate measurement of the prevalence of prisoner rape.

SPR is the only non-governmental organization in the country dedicated exclusively to eliminating sexual violence against men, women, and youth in detention. SPR was instrumental in securing the passage of PREA.

To access a full copy of this report, please visit <http://www.nicic.org/Library/serial929>.

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### National Domestic Violence Hotline

*Linea Nacional sobre la*

*Violencia Domestica*

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

TTY 1-800-787-3224

### Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)

1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

## New Print Resources

- **The Effective Executive: The Definitive Guide to Getting Things Done**
- **Things We Learned in Organizations**
- **Leadership: A Communication Perspective, Fourth Edition**
- **Developing the Leader Within You**
- **Thinking for a Change: 11 Ways Highly Successful People Approach Life and Work**
- **Alliances, Coalitions and Partnerships: Building Collaborative Organizations**
- **Balancing the Power: Creating a Crisis Center Accessible to People with Disabilities**
- **Fundraising: Community Engagement Strategies for Boards who Hate Fundraising but Love Making Friends**
- **Board Recruitment and Orientation: A Step-by-Step Common Sense Guide**

## Principles of Trauma Therapy: A Guide to Symptoms, Evaluation and Treatment

This book, by John Briere, Ph.D., takes trauma therapy to a new stage of development, brilliantly integrating the diverse findings of cognitive behaviorists, relational and attachment theorists, and neurobiologists. The authors understand that therapy is an intimate relationship between two people—the (often distrusting and fearful) patient who wishes relief from pain and the (often frustrated but empathic) therapist who would like to provide that relief. The authors generate in the reader a respect for the biological underpinnings of trauma and the power of early attachment dynamics, showing us how to accept these realities while building the structures that will help the patient achieve symptom relief. The clarity of the text, particularly given the complexity of the material, combines with the wisdom and warmth of the authors to produce a “must read” for any therapist working with trauma patients.

To borrow this book, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

## New Tool for Evaluating Program Effectiveness

The *Evaluation Toolkit*, developed by the FRIENDS National Resource Center, was created to assist child abuse and neglect prevention, family support, and parenting programs in evaluating the effectiveness of their programs in improving outcomes for children and families they serve. One component of the *Evaluation Toolkit* is the Logic Model Builder.

The Logic Model Builder was designed to provide guidance in developing a logic model—that is, a picture of how a program works. A logic model outlines what you do, why you do it, and how you can measure your results. The Logic Model Builder helps programs identify outcomes anticipated by the program, indicators of success, and evaluation instruments that may be appropriate to measure success toward intended outcomes. The logic model will help you get started in planning an evaluation of your program.

Evaluating the outcomes of prevention programs is not only important, but also critical for program growth and improvement. Programs need to provide convincing evidence that their work makes important differences for children, families, and communities they serve.

To learn more about evaluating outcomes of child abuse prevention, family support, and parenting programs, please visit <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/developing/evaluating.cfm>.

## Newest Addition to PCAR's Teen Sexual Violence Prevention Campaign

*Whatcha Gotta Know* is the latest edition to PCAR's Teen Sexual Violence Prevention Campaign. Featuring J-Saint's hit single *It Stops With Us*, the CD combines education with entertainment in a unique package. A ten-panel insert speaks to guys and girls about how to be safe, what's cool and what's not and what to do if something goes wrong. This “edutainment” piece features the power of hip hop intermixed with important facts about integrity and respect. This CD, *Whatcha Gotta Know* is available at no cost. For more information, please visit [http://pcar.org/acatalog/Public\\_Awareness.html](http://pcar.org/acatalog/Public_Awareness.html).

## Spin the Bottle: Sex, Lies and Alcohol

This video offers an indispensable critique of the role that contemporary popular culture plays in glamorizing excessive drinking and high-risk behaviors. Award-winning media critics Jackson Katz and Jean Kilbourne contrast these distorted representations with the often disturbing and dangerous ways that alcohol consumption affects the lives of real young men and women. Illustrating their analysis with numerous examples, Katz and Kilbourne decode the power and influence these seductive media images have in shaping gender identity, which is linked to the use of alcohol. Nowhere is this link more cause for concern than on America's college campuses.

By exploring the college party scene, *Spin the Bottle* shows the difficulties students have in navigating a cultural environment saturated with messages about gender and alcohol. Interviews with campus health professionals provide a clear picture of how drinking impacts student health and academic performance, but it is the students' own experiences and reflections that tell the real story behind alcohol's alluring public image.

*Spin the Bottle* concludes with concrete strategies for countering the ubiquitous presence of alcohol propaganda and challenges young people to make conscious decisions about their own lives.

To borrow this video, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

**Have a suggestion?**  
The Resource Center welcomes your suggestions for materials to add to the collection. Send us an email at [resource@mcadsv.org](mailto:resource@mcadsv.org) or call us at (517) 381-4663, ext. 17

## A World of Differences: Understanding Cross-Cultural Communication

When we encounter people from other societies or cultures, we may fail to understand them for many reasons, including differences in language, values, gestures, emotional expression, norms, rituals, rules, expectations, family background, and life experiences. This extraordinary video shows that cross-cultural communication can be successful if we manage to understand the powerful differences that separate people who come from differing cultures.

The video examines 14 key facets of cross-cultural miscommunication. In each case, the power and subtlety of cultural differences are explored and illustrated. As the video demonstrates, culture can be like a veil that prevents us from understanding those from other societies, and also prevents them from understanding us.

While some aspects of “culture shock” are predictable, such as language differences, many powerful differences are less obvious, and perhaps therefore even more “culture shocking.” Examples include dramatic differences in personal space, patterns of touching, etiquette and ritual, the expression of emotions, ideas about edible and delicious food, gestures, courtship patterns, and parent-child relationships.

*A World of Differences: Understanding Cross-Cultural Communication* is both richly instructional and keenly enjoyable. Viewers will be rewarded with a greatly enhanced awareness of the importance and nature of cultural differences.

To borrow this video, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

## DOJ launches Project Safe Childhood

The U.S. Department of Justice has launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide project designed to increase the investigation and prosecution of Internet-based child sexual exploitation. Project Safe Childhood creates locally designed partnerships of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement together with community leaders to develop a coordinated strategy to prevent, investigate, and prosecute sexual predators, abusers, and pornographers who target children. All U.S. Attorneys are being called to take the lead in designing a strategic plan for their state. More information about Project Safe Childhood, including a guidebook for U.S. Attorneys, is available at [www.usdoj.gov/](http://www.usdoj.gov/).

## The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help

Nearly 1/3 of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives; a major national study in 2003 found that 92 percent of women named “reducing domestic violence and sexual assault” the top priority for women’s movements.

Jackson Katz, gender violence prevention pioneer and author of the new book, *The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help*, claims that a fundamental shift in society must occur before there is a dramatic reduction of these crimes.

Simply stated, violence against women must no longer be considered solely a “Women’s Issue.” Rather, it must be understood as a “Men’s Issue,” with a critical mass of well-meaning men aware, concerned, and taking responsibility for change. Katz makes this case comprehensively and persuasively.

*The Macho Paradox* argues that certain prevailing social norms in the U.S.—such as the one embodied in the ever-popular phrase “boys will be boys”—are actually the root cause of much abusive and sexually violent behavior by men. The book demonstrates that violence against women is so ingrained in American society that most women and girls take a series of steps every day to prevent themselves from being sexually assaulted, whereas most men never even give the subject a second thought.

*The Macho Paradox* incorporates the voices, experiences, and personal stories of women and men who have confronted the problem from all angles.

To borrow a copy of this book, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

### Volunteer Opportunities Available at the Michigan Resource Center!

The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is seeking volunteers to assist with the management of the Resource Center. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Melissa Limon at (517) 381-4663, ext.17.

## New Video Resources

- **The Savage Cycle**
- **Safety Planning with Children**
- **Through the Eyes of a Child**
- **The Undetected Rapist**
- **The Dating Bill of Rights**
- **Dreamworlds 2: Desire, Sex and Power in Music Videos**
- **Secret Wounds: Working with Child Observers of Family Violence**

Visit us on the Web!



Access the entire Resource Center Collection and request materials online at [www.mcadv.org/mrcdsv](http://www.mcadv.org/mrcdsv)

**The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is a collaboration of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.**

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**Resource Center Staff**

Melissa Limon,  
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MICHIGAN  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION &  
TREATMENT BOARD



**Silence Speaks: Digital Storytelling**

Violence shapes the lives, experiences, and dreams of countless adults and children each year. In the case of people of color, youth and lesbian/gay/bisexual/ transgender individuals this violence can be compounded by experiences of racism, homo/transphobia, ageism and insensitivity to youth culture. Sadly, few opportunities exist for survivors to tell their stories in their own words. Silence Speaks fills this gap by connecting survivors and witnesses of abuse with their creativity and making their voices the centerpiece of violence prevention and social justice efforts.

Silence Speaks digital storytelling workshops provide survivors, witnesses, and prevention advocates diverse in age, race/ethnicity, religion, class, ability, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation with the support, skills, and equipment they need to create original multimedia pieces of courage and healing. Within this project, violence is broadly defined and stories have addressed intimate partner and family abuse, hate violence and racism, and the violence of poverty, political persecution, and war.

Beyond the workshops, the Silence Speaks staff further assists storytellers and community partners to identify ways to share these stories, as a method of deepening public understanding about the complexities of violence, promoting survivor advocacy, and mobilizing people to take action in support of violence prevention.

With the permission of storytellers, pieces have been shown at local and national conferences, at staff and provider training sessions about abuse, to potential funders of support and prevention services and at community events to mobilize involvement in violence prevention. The potential for this work as a tool for qualitative, community-driven research and evaluation, and for media advocacy, is also being explored. To view and download these digital stories, please visit <http://www.silencespeaks.org/stories.html>

**Responding to Violent Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities: A Manual for Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Judges, and Court Personnel**

This manual provides tools and information to help criminal justice system professionals attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officers more effectively respond to, investigate, and prosecute crimes against people with disabilities. *Responding to Violent Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities* provides information about disabilities and disability etiquette; the dynamics

of domestic violence, sexual assault, and caregiver abuse against people with disabilities; comprehensive safety planning for crime victims with disabilities; and strategies for taking a proactive approach to providing accessible services to crime victims with disabilities.

Written with the input and guidance of criminal justice personnel and disability rights advocates, this guide helps agencies increase their ability to effectively investigate and prosecute crimes against people with disabilities.

To borrow this manual, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

**Sexual Violence Related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused immense devastation along the Gulf Coast region in late summer 2005. In the weeks immediately following these disasters, a group of professionals from the fields of rape victim advocacy, law enforcement, emergency medicine, and prosecution began work on developing an anonymous database to measure the extent of sexual violence committed in the aftermath of these hurricanes. Now, six months after the development of this national database, the group offers a report on preliminary findings.

Developed as an internet survey, using the Survey Monkey program, the intent of this initiative was to obtain an estimate of the incidence and prevalence of sexual violence that occurred during or following the hurricanes, and to collect some anecdotal information, when offered. The procedure involved the following steps: A link to the survey was disseminated, via email, to various advocacy, criminal justice, and medical organizations and coalitions throughout the U.S. Information regarding victimization was entered into the database by the professionals who had been in direct contact with victims/survivors, or by those supporting their efforts, e.g., state sexual assault coalition staff. In order to protect the integrity of the data, the public did not have access to the database.

The database does not include any identifying information about victims/survivors; however, it gathered sufficient information so as not to duplicate reports of one incident.

To access this report online, please visit [http://www.nsvrc.org/publications/Hurricane\\_report.pdf](http://www.nsvrc.org/publications/Hurricane_report.pdf).

**Outreach Cards Available Through the National Center for Victims of Crime**

Make sure every victim has a place to turn. To order free outreach cards, please visit [http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB\\_OutreachMaterials119](http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB_OutreachMaterials119)