

2019

The Experiences of Witnesses to Prison Sexual Violence: A Case Study

Edyth Zada Hendricks
Walden University

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Walden University

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Edyth Z. Hendricks

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Walden University
2019

Abstract

The Experiences of Witnesses of Prison Sexual Violence: A Case Study

by

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MS, [University of Phoenix], February 2007

BA, [University of Illinois, Chicago], August 1975

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Forensic Psychology

Walden University

August 2019

Abstract

Prison sexual violence is prevalent and impacts the witnesses to it. Previous literature has fully discussed the victims of prison sexual violence; however there remains an important gap in the current literature regarding the experiences of witnesses. The purpose of the present qualitative case study was to explore the lived experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. The theoretical foundation of this study was the self-categorization theory linked to the prison code of silence. Four ex-inmates answered semi structured interview questions. Transcripts were coded and themes developed. Five themes that emerged were exposure (to prison sexual violence), ineffective guards, avoidance (of witnessing prison sexual violence), distress, and violence. The themes of this study add more information to the literature regarding witnessing prison sexual violence by expanding information beyond aggression and violence. Recommendations from this research can assist prison administrators with assisting to break the prison code of silence; which would enhance social change.

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Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to my father (Leonard D. Hendricks, Sr), my mother (Edith V. Hendricks), my brothers (Dr. Leonard D. Hendricks and James E. Hendricks) my uncle (George E. Elliott) and my aunt (Barbara Ann Irby), along with my other aunts and uncles and Godmother(Lois V. Burrell).

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank again my family and friends for their support. Special thanks to Ron Ludwigson, for editing my papers and supporting me on this journey for as long as he could. Brenda Johnson, a fellow PhD student who encouraged me not to give up. Thanks to Brenda Hines and Jasmine (Jazzy) who also showed me that I could complete this journey and gave me confidence. To my daughter (Thamar) and granddaughter (Jade) thanks for understanding the hours of my being on the computer. I would like to thank Dr. Toby Hagar for our discussions on dedication and her inspiration. Also thanks to Brenda Cepriano for the rides home and friendship, Miss Roz and Brytney for being my cheering section. Lastly thanks to my committee members for helping me to reach this point in my academic career.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

This study explored the lived experience of witnesses to prison sexual violence (PSV). Wolff and Shi (2009) argued that the experiences of being both physically and sexually assaulted have made the reality of violence and brutality of prison an absolute certainty for inmates who have been sexually or physically assaulted; these inmates are generally emotional, fearful, angry, and physically traumatized. The information on witnessing PSV is limited in the literature to questioning inmates regarding whether they witnessed prison assaults (United States Department of Justice, 2007) and the reports do not focus on the lived experience of witnesses.

In this chapter, information about the problem and why this topic needs to be explored will be given. This is an important topic because being a witness to PSV can have long term effects on individuals psychologically, emotionally, and behaviorally (Banbury, 2004; Shivy & Guion, 2012). The aim of this study was to add information to the prison literature regarding lived experiences of witnesses to PSV.

Background of the Problem

PSV throughout history has been a prevalent and serious problem that affects male and female incarcerated populations in the United States correctional facilities (Alarid, 2000; Dumond, 2003). Sexual victimization was written about by the Reverend Louis Dwight as early as 1826. In his documentation the Rev. Dwight condemned the behavior of sexual victimization and called it a depravity (Dumond, 2003). PSV has been documented from the perspective of the victim. This research purpose is to give information on the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence (PSV).

PSV is not only perpetrated between inmates; there are also documented cases of inmates being sexually victimized by correctional staff and in some cases administrative staff. Whether sexual assault is by an inmate or prison staff (Perez, Gover, Tennyson &, Santos, 2010,) sexual victimization has lasting effects on the victim (Banbury, 2004). The lasting effects of PSV can be psychological, emotional, and physical (Banbury, 2004; Shivy& Guion, 2012).

The importance of PSV from the witnesses point of view is needed to understand how unsafe witnesses view being unsafe in prison and how this feeling of being unsafe leads to making sure that they do not become victims of violence It is not uncommon for witnesses to violence to become more hyper vigilant and be more assertive or even aggressive to avoid becoming victimized (Haney, 2012).

Tewksbury and Mahoney (2009) said that 18.2% of inmates reported witnessing prison sexual assault of other inmates. Being a witness can have intrapersonal effects on individuals. Some of these intrapersonal effects are depression, anxiety, aggression, and PTSD (Boxer et al., 2009). Therefore, this current study is needed to specifically detail the lived experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence .Listwan et al. (2010) in their study stated that further research needs to be done to explore the direct and indirect effects of victimization. Daquin (2013) said that there was further need for research related to witnessing victimization. The findings of this study lead to a greater awareness of vicarious traumatization within the prison research literature. The information in this study adds to the knowledge base of literature regarding the exploration of the lived experiences of witnesses to PSV from their perspective.

Statement of the Problem

PSV from the perspective of the victim has been well documented in the literature, along with the characteristics of the perpetrators of the alleged sexual assaults (Neal & Clements, 2010) there is, however, a gap in the literature with regards to the witnesses of PSV. Actual victims of PSV may have posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or rape trauma syndrome (RTS) as a consequence of being sexually victimized (Neal & Clements, 2010). Furthermore, being exposed to interpersonal trauma (both witnessing violence and being victimized) has been associated with a range of adjustment disorders (Shivy & Guion, 2012).

DeVeaux (2013) said that persons who have been incarcerated experience a sense of hopelessness, helplessness, and psychological trauma or suffering, and this is intensified by the knowledge of or being a witness to prison violence. It is not uncommon for witnesses of sexual assault to remain silent. Kwon, Lee, Kim, and Kim (2007) found that witnesses to sexual assault in the military remained silent about what they had witnessed. Witnessing violence can be traumatic and in some cases can place an added emotional strain on the witness. The witness must mentally process what was seen and decide whether reporting the violence will make it better or worse for all involved. Witnesses to PSV may not report incidents to correctional authorities because they do not want to be viewed as an informer, or they may fear becoming a victim as well (Garland & Wilson, 2013). However, the knowledge that witnesses to PSV have may assist prison administrators who must deal with the pressures of keeping inmates safe. If prison administrators could examine patterns of polyvictimization, (this is where an inmate is the

victim of physical or sexual victimization multiple times) they may be able to identify those at risk for this victimization.

Prison administrators have had to take into consideration PSV for as long as there have been prisons in the United States. Researchers have viewed prison sexual violence through different lenses. Some focused on the traits of the victim or the perceptions of and attitudes toward prison sex. All these studies added to the body of knowledge related to PSV, but no information involved experiences of witnesses regarding PSV. Filling the gap in the literature with the experiences of witnesses of PSV will add to the knowledge base of researchers, prison administrators, understanding witnesses' experiences of PSV, and assist researchers and prison administrators further understand why there is continued PSV from the perspectives of witnesses. This added knowledge may have the potential to assist prison administrators with enhancing their prevention programs, create intervention programs to assist inmates with traumatic events, and change how inmates are assigned to housing units.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to explore the lived experiences of witnesses of PSV. There is a dearth of information on witnessing PSV. Daquin (2013) stated that there is not a lot of information regarding witnesses of prison violence, and her findings indicated that there needs to be more research done in this area. This dissertation filled a gap in the literature and gave an understanding regarding the lived experiences of witnesses of PSV. Filling the gap in literature will potentially increase the understanding and knowledge regarding how being a witness to PSV affects witnesses, and how these

witnesses make sense of these experiences. This study can potentially lead to the development of psycho-educational and intervention programs that can assist inmates and ex-inmates who have witnessed PSV. This study will lead to a positive social change, in that it will improve the wellbeing of this group of people (witnesses to PSV). I explored this through interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA). The method for investigating and interview questions will be provided in Chapter 3.

Research Question

This study will be guided by the following research question:

RQ: What are the lived experiences of male ex-prisoners in terms of witnessing PSV?

Theoretical Framework

The methodology that will be used for this study is Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). IPA allows the researcher to investigate how participants make sense of their experiences (Pietkiewicz & Smith, 2014). I chose the IPA methodology because the focus of my research is the lived experiences of witnesses to PSV; IPA will allow the respondents in this study to make sense of their personal experiences of being witnesses to PSV. IPA is a chosen method when the study is about emotionally laden topics or topics that are complex and ambiguous. IPA according to Pietkiewicz and Smith (2014) uses the fundamentals of phenomenology, hermeneutics, and idiography. The phenomenological component is concerned with the way the phenomena or event is experienced by the individual, hermeneutics pertains to the researcher interpreting and trying to understand the experience from the participants

perspective, and idiography refers to the in-depth analysis of single cases, studying individual perceptives of the respondents in their unique context (Pietkiewicz & Smith 2014). Most of the prison literature focuses on the victims of PSV (Neal & Clements 2010); there has not, however been many studies that have examined PSV from the witnesses' experiences (Daquin, 2013). IPA is an exploratory qualitative method that explores the experiences of participants; this method was chosen to give a voice to the witnesses of PSV.

The theoretical framework for this study will be self-categorization theory, linked to the prison culture code of silence. The inmate code of silence involves ways inmates are socialized, such as acting tough, not interfering with other inmates, and not communicating with correctional officers (Chonco, 1989; Trammell, 2009). Self-categorization theory is a social psychology theory that describes how people perceive themselves and groups. This theory was chosen because it can help researchers understand how inmates or prisoners self-identify as being a part of an in-group and how this in-group becomes a cohesive unit that no longer allows for self-expression and leads to cognitive support for group behaviors, group trust, group conformity, solidarity, and patterns of in-group liking (Hogg, 2004; Hogg & Terry, 2000).

The code of silence can also extend to prison guards who often overlook, ignore, or fail to report PSV because they cannot distinguish between coercive and consensual sexual acts (Eigenberg, 2000). The blue code is an unwritten code of honor amongst correctional officers. This code is like the prison code of silence; as with the inmate code, the blue code also influences behaviors and beliefs of correctional officers. Both

with the inmate code and the blue code, it is forbidden to inform, and the blue code has comparable penalties for violation of the code (Kupers, 2010). There is no information in the prison literature that discusses self-categorization theory as a reason for correctional officers ignoring PSV. Trammell and Rundle (2015) said that related to inmate violence, there may be a correlation between being viewed by correctional staff as nonpersons (this is where a person is viewed more as an object than a human being) and the possibility of interactions with other variables (threatening inmates with other inmates) influences inmates' behaviors. Therefore, it could be theorized that correctional officers might turn their backs to PSV because they do not empathize with the victims' pain. Furthermore, officers see their relationships with inmates as an important influence on how they develop relationships with other inmates; in other words, ignoring PSV is a way of avoiding upsetting the status quo, and thus further tension in prison.

Being in such a violent environment as a prison, correctional officers do have a subculture with its own set of rules. Keeping social distance from inmates (most likely seen as an out-group) can set the tone for some correctional officers to ignore PSV. In some cases, correctional officers use PSV to control some of the inmates' behaviors (Alarid, 2000; Chonco, 1989; Eigenberg, 2000). In the aforementioned studies correctional officers may use sexual assault (or threat of) to control inmates and overlook the actual sexual assault, along with threats of selling inmates into other inmates.

The next sections will be the nature of the study and operational definitions or common words that will be used throughout the study, along with the scope,

delimitations and limitations of the study. There will also be discussion of the theoretical framework and significance of the study.

Nature of the Study

The nature of this study was qualitative using the IPA approach. The qualitative approach uses the inductive approach, which can generate meaning or understanding from the data. The philosophical foundation is postmodernism or constructivism, where there is shared knowledge. The focus is on individual meanings and points of view, and the nature of this method is descriptive.

The IPA methodology was chosen because this design focuses on how participants or people experience events and attaches meaning to these experiences. IPA can give a voice to a population that has little or no opportunity to tell their experiences and meanings that these lived experiences had for them. IPA uses the fundamental principles of phenomenology, hermeneutics, and idiography (Pietkiewicz & Smith, 2014). The phenomenological component is concerned with the way phenomena or events are experienced by individuals, hermeneutics pertains to the researcher interpreting and standing in the position of the participants by trying to understand experiences from participants' perspectives, and idiography is the in-depth analysis of each participant's case before making any statements (Pietkiewicz & Smith, 2014).

The key phenomenon being investigated for this study is the lived experiences of male ex-inmates in terms of witnessing PSV. Data will be collected from participants using semi-structured and in-depth one-on-one interviews. Open-ended questions will be used. I used the technique of reflexivity which is recommended by Janesick (2011).

Reflexivity is used by the researcher as a means of deep reflection. Keeping a journal when a topic of research is a difficult topic can give the researcher a method of writing down the information and note how the information was internalized. Another technique recommended is the use of active listening skills and warm-up discussion with each participant may also help them to feel more at ease and become ready for more sensitive or personal issues to be discussed (Miner-Romanoff,2012; Pietkiewicz& Smith,2014). Miner-Romanoff (2012) also suggested that during interviewing, researchers can encourage participants with verbal signals such empathic murmurs or gentle laughter. Nonverbal cues such as body language or tone can also encourage the flow of the interview. Conroy's work (as cited in Miner-Romanoff, 2012) suggested that researchers should use cues such as leaning forward, having one's arms open, uncrossed legs, having steady eye contact, and nodding one's head in understanding to give the participant a demonstration of sincerity and interest.

The data was analyzed by organizing and identifying themes. Miner-Romanoff (2012) suggested that the use of analytical reduction, coding processes, and thematic analyses are unique to IPA. The beginning stages of analysis will involve reading the transcripts many times. This means a close reading of each transcript, listening to audio recordings, and making notes about observations and reflections regarding the interview experience and personal reflexivity. This will be discussed further in Chapter 3.

Operational Definitions

Coercive or Coercion sex: Any attempt by means of threat or intimidation to procure sexual relations from an individual who does not want any sexual contact with

the individual who is trying to force sexual contact through verbal or physical intimidation with or without a weapon.

Continuation: The perseverance or sustenance of PSV.

Ex-correctional officer: A person who was once employed as a guard in a prison facility for securing and detaining inmates in a facility.

Ex-inmate: A person who spent time in a prison facility for a designated period and has completed said time in full or is on parole.

Prison: A place of incarceration that is either a facility at the federal or state level and not a county or city facility that detains persons who have been convicted of a crime per state or federal laws for a period designated by a judge.

Sexual assault or rape: Unwanted sexual contact between individuals that was nonconsensual according to at least one of the parties involved in the sexual act.

Sexual violence: This can include but is not limited to: penis to mouth, penis to anus, hand to penis, fingers or fist to anus, mouth to anus, mouth to vagina, hand, fingers, or fist to vagina. The forcefully grabbing of either sex's genitals, including in the case of women or transgendered men touching or grabbing of breast or nipples, and forced masturbation. This is not an exhaustive list of what sexual violence can entail during the interviewing of participants, there may be more descriptions in the narrative stories.

Vicarious traumatization: An event or situation that affects a person who was not directly victimized but either heard about the traumatic situation via secondary means or was a witness to the trauma.

Witness: A participant who saw or heard a sexual assault occurring.

Assumptions

The first assumption was that participants answered the questions honestly and did not expound or fabricate events about which they are asked. The second assumption was that participants were competent in terms of understanding and reading the English language. I also read out loud the consent form to participants as needed. Another assumption in IPA is that the participants reflected on the event and how this affected them without exaggeration or prejudice. They are not simply telling me what happened; they are discussing how they experienced and made sense of their experiences. This requires some insight and reflective skills. Another assumption is that, I will acknowledge the probable presence of my bias. Everyone has biases, my biases going into this study included that males would be more impacted as witnesses to PSV, least likely to want to talk about the experience, and that this negative impact of witnessing PSV would have lasting effects.

Scope and Delimitations

The scope of this study is limited to witnesses to PSV. Participants were ex-inmates who were male. Interviewing individuals who are no longer in prison may allow for a more open interview. This topic was chosen for study because of the lack of information regarding lived experiences of witnesses to PSV. The focus was chosen because from witnesses' perspectives and knowledge can be gathered regarding why PSV continues and what if any lasting effects happen to witnesses of PSV.

Delimitations of this study will be that no person under the age of 18 will be interviewed. Persons who have been victimized sexually while in prison or any

perpetrator of sexual assault while in prison will not be included in this study. Lastly, any person who was not a witness to PSV will be excluded from the study.

Some theories that were considered included the general strain theory, importation and deprivation theories, and feminist theory. General strain, importation, deprivation and feminist theories were eliminated because they are more specific to inmates' behaviors. The prison code of silence is thought to be based upon the importation theory (which is based on inmates bringing into the prison the rules of the streets where no one informs on another member of the social grouping) using violence as a means of control and not talking to police. When this attitude is brought into the prison, it can become the prison code of silence, and can affect both inmates and prison staff. I was seeking a theory or theories that would possibly explain both inmates and correctional officers' behaviors and attitudes toward PSV, and the self-categorization and prison code of silence can help explain why inmates and correctional officers respond to PSV.

Transferability allows the reader to take the findings and transfer to other cases. This can be done if the research is written in such detail that it allows the reader to engage in a reasonable speculation about the findings being applicable to other cases that have similar circumstances (Schwandt, 2007). Transferability will be manifested in this study by writing in detail so that the reader can come to their own conclusions.

Limitations

Gaining access to male ex-inmates who are willing to openly discuss the experience of witnessing PSV may present as a barrier to the identification of

participants. This may be due to the emotional or psychological trauma these events have in their lives, or something they may not want to discuss. Another limitation involves self-reporting; in that there is no way that I will be able to corroborate the information given by the participants. However, this is less of an issue with IPA, because I am trying to understand how people made sense of their experiences rather than checking out facts. A last limitation may be that interview data may include responses that are distorted because of personal bias, anger, and anxiety, and interviews can be affected by the emotional state of the interviewee (Patton, 2002)

The results of this study will be limited to the six participants of this study. According to Pietkiewicz and Smith (2014) there is no rule regarding how many participants need to be included in an IPA study. The number of participants is based upon how the researcher wants to compare and contrast single cases, the depth of analysis of single cases, the copiousness of the individual cases, and practical restrictions the researcher is working under. Typically, IPA researchers' goal is to concentrate on the depth or details of the study and have a somewhat homogenous sample.

IPA will not provide quantitative description of witnessing PSV. Quantitative studies may be able to be more specific in terms of the psychological aspects of witnessing PSV, and these results can be generalized. The findings of this study will be limited to lived experiences rather than quantitative analysis.

I am aware of my biases (that males will be least likely to talk about the event, witnessing PSV will have negative and lasting impact, and males will be more impacted by being witnesses to PSV) and I will bracket any thoughts or comments, and I will be

keeping a reflective diary to gauge my thoughts and feelings throughout the data collection and analysis process. Reasonable measures to address limitations will include member-checking, where I will take a summary of the interviews back to the participants and give them an opportunity to correct and object to what they think may have been misinterpretations of information.

Significance of the Study

This study aimed to increase the understanding and knowledge of the lived experiences of witnesses of PSV. This study enhanced prison literature with information on the lived experiences of witnesses of PSV and gain insight into why this egregious behavior persists.

The proposed study was unique in that it addressed an understudied area of PSV from the witnesses' experiences. The results of this study may provide prison administrators with information regarding experiences of being a witness. With this additional information, prison administrators could enhance their prevention programs and create intervention programs to assist with these traumatic events; the information from this study can give insight into how guards can use housing assignments based on race, sexuality, and stature to reduce PSV and sexual slavery. Application of this information could lead to positive change. This positive change could include policy changes at the facilities to make it easier to report incidence of PSV, and counseling programs for inmates, and this could hopefully decrease victimization in prisons.

Summary

Information regarding PSV according to the experiences of witnesses is limited in the literature. Research has documented the traits of the alleged perpetrators of PSV and the victims of this violence. Both being witness to violence and being victimized have a history of negative psychological effects. This chapter will be followed by a review of the pertinent literature in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 will follow with a description of the study design, participants, procedures, and an explanation regarding how information will be assessed; lastly ethical procedures will discuss the steps necessary to maintain the respondents' anonymity.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction

There is a gap in the current literature regarding lived experiences related to witnesses of PSV (Daquin, 2013; Listwan et al., 2010). The purpose of this proposed study is to explore the lived experiences of witnesses of PSV and what, if any, are the ramifications of being a witness to PSV. Sisco and Becker (2007) stated that inmates face the reality of prison rape daily. Sexual assault and sexual coercion in prison has been a longstanding form of interpersonal violence (Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 2006). In a survey, done by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) (2012) 9.6% of former state male prisoners reported one or more incidents of sexual victimization, 5.4% reported an incident with an inmate, and 5.3% reported an incident with staff. While there is information regarding the long-term effects of PSV on victims, there has been a dearth of information on the experiences of witnesses of PSV. This literature review includes information on victimization, historical overview of males and PSV, sexual assault by prison staff, inmate-on-inmate sexual violence, females and PSV, correctional officers and PSV, violence outside of the prison setting and its effects, the importance of the Prison Elimination Act (PREA), theories on codes of inmate conduct, and vicarious traumatization. In the following section, the research strategy will be discussed, on what inclusion and exclusion criteria were used to search the data bases for information on PSV.

Research Strategy

I conducted my search for relevant literature through the Walden University Library databases of ProQuest Criminal Justice, PsycINFO, the SocINDEX, Google Scholar, SAGE Encyclopedia and Handbooks, and Journals. I used the following terms to identify articles for inclusion: *prison and sexual violence*, *prison sexual violence*, *victimization or victimization and prison*, *inmate-on-inmate rape*, *fear of prison sexual assault*, *vicarious traumatization*, and *sexual violence*.

Theoretical Foundation

Self-categorization theory and the prison code of silence will be the theories used for this study. John C. Turner is usually credited for the origin of the self-categorization theory, which is based upon the social psychology analysis of group identification and membership. In other words, self-categorization theory explains how people in a group see each other as members of that group and set rules regarding how individuals will act within the group, along with relationships with others not in the group. Members of the out-group (who are not members of the in-group) are very similar to each other and all having out-group attributes. The out-group can be perceived through the lens of depersonalization, and in extreme cases, may produce dehumanization (Hogg, 2006). The concept of the prison culture code of silence is based upon how prisoners will normally live their lives in their community by adhering to rules that deal with not informing and not getting involved in other people's business.

Self-categorization theory is a way that prisoners and possibly correctional officers perpetuate the prison code of silence. SCT stands for the self-categorization theory and is how members of groups identify themselves and others in the group and set up rules based upon how the members of the group identify themselves (Hogg, 2006). Based upon the assumptions of group likeness, conformity, trust, and solidarity surface and then this forms a self-defining group model (Hogg, 2006).

Victims or witnesses of PSV avoid reporting because of fear of retaliation from the attacker or other inmates for speaking up (Chonco, 1989; Fowler et al., 2010; Garland & Wilson, 2013). The most important aspect of the inmate code of silence is the prohibition against informing. This inmate code of silence was brought into prisons via the importation and deprivation theories (Listwan et al, 2014; Trammell, 2009). The importation theory is thought to bring in ideals and behaviors from the subculture in free society as the practice of criminals and gang members discouraging members from informing and associating with law enforcement; and the deprivation theory is tied into the inmate code of silence through the process of understanding how confinement of inmates can influence inmates behaviors and the deprivations caused by confinement in prisons have inmates trying to alleviate these deprivations and gain or secure a sense of control and stability over their environment (Garland & Wilson, 2013).

Prison involves socialization of inmates and correctional officers within various subcultures. Both SCT and prison culture explain why witnesses of PSV will not volunteer information. SCT and prison culture can explain the attitudes and behaviors of

inmates and correctional officers, as well as why the subculture of prison influences both groups to remain silent about the perpetuation of PSV.

The reason for using SCT and the prison code of silence is that prison is a socialization environment for both inmates and correctional officers. SCT is a social psychology theory that explains the circumstances under which a person perceives a collection of people including themselves as a group as well as the consequences of perceiving people in group terms. Again the SCT was selected because of how inmates and correctional officers perceive themselves in groups and I thought that this theory was appropriate for this study based upon the social psychology explanation of group formations and perceptions. Rationales for correctional officers remaining silent may differ from inmates in that some officers may have difficulty delineating what is consensual as opposed to coercive sexual contact. Some officers may use sexual violence to control other inmates, and because correctional officers very rarely observe the sexual contact, they may not believe that PSV is real. Whatever the reason, correctional officers in some instances can become a part of the prison code of silence. In the next section, more information will be given regarding why the exploration of witnesses' experiences of PSV is so important to prison literature.

Review of Literature

Correctional administrators in prisons, jails, and other correctional facilities reported 8,763 assertions of sexual victimization in 2011, which is a statistically notable increase over 8,404 assertions reported in 2010 and 7,855 in 2009(Beck, Rantala,&Rexroat, 2014). Sexual violence is a crime that can debase and devastate any

individual; though sexual violence and sexual coercion exists in prison, some in the general public, (anyone who is not incarcerated) inmates, and correctional officers have thought that PSV is a part of the punishment that should occur, this based upon the concept that prisoners have no rights and because violence is an inevitable (Abraham, 2001; Dumond, 1992; Human Rights Watch). Prisoners who are victims of PSV are slow to report these incidents because they fear retaliation by the abuser or even other inmates for flouting the prison code of silence, or they may be confused by prison administrators' definitions of sexual assault (Fowler et al., 2010; Tewksbury & Mahoney, 2009).

In the following section, there will be a discussion of victimization of sexual violence and the repercussions of victimization. Victimization is being chosen next because it is important to the understanding of the witnessing experience and the effects of victimization can lead to the possibility of being a perpetrator. Before I go into detail about victimization, I would like to discuss the concept of vicarious traumatization.

Vicarious Traumatization

There are ideas about prison, one that prisons are designed to house perpetrators, that prison do not house not victims (Miller & Najavits, 2012), and the other that being incarcerated in prisons there is the potential to being exposed to violence and victimization (McGrath, Marcum, & Copes, 2012). Lastly prisons are places where the systemic problem of PSV not only violates basic human rights but the Eighth constitutional amendment against cruel and unusual punishment and Thirteenth constitutional amendment against slavery (Abraham, 2001).

Vicarious traumatization can be a strain on inmates and their ability to have pro-social coping mechanisms; that is, inmates who have heard about an inmate being physically violated from another inmate or witnessing the event or even hearing it (screams) may engage in aggressive and more violent behaviors to stave off being a victim (McGrath et al., 2012). This traumatization will keep the prison environment in a constant fluctuation between being a victim and becoming a perpetrator.

Correctional personnel may respond differently when confronted with the concept of vicarious traumatization. This may affect how the staff is making decisions; may cause cynicism, hopelessness, hyper vigilance, and detachment (Miller & Najavits, 2012). Vicarious traumatization can cause individuals to respond to this strain in stressful manners that affect behaviors. Most inmates do not have adequate pro-social coping skills and will perpetuate violence which is one reason in prison violence is circular and can become increasingly unmanageable (McGrath et al, 2012).

Inmates who are afraid they might become victimized can have emotional and physical reactions; whether it was from experience, anticipated, or vicarious experiences, inmates who have been victimized whether sexually, physically or theft will engage in protective behaviors (McGrath et al., 2012). Vicarious traumatization can be a leading cause of inmates' continued violence in prisons and for correctional staff to becoming emotionally numb and detached. Both behaviors can lead to a stalemate of endless victimization. In the next section victimization will be further discussed.

Victimization

Victimization in the prison setting can be violent and stressful and many inmates, prison officials, and members of the public may accept it as fact (Wolff, Shi, & Bachman, 2008). An inmate who has been victimized can also turn around and become a predator to survive the prison life (Wooldredge & Steiner, 2013). Victims of violence in prison can be violated by both inmates and staff members, and this can cause more stress and anxiety for persons who are, victimized multiple times (Alarid, 2000; Chonco, 1989; DeVeaux, 2013). Men who are victimized in prison can usually incur a serious injury (such as bodily injury from trying to stave off an attack or physical injury from the actual attack); and the negative outcome of being raped in prison can result in the possible spread of sexually transmitted infections; posttraumatic stress disorder, fear, anxiety, and a sense of being devalued and less of a man or loss of security (Morash et al, 2012). Sexual victimization can include a range of behaviors from sexual abusive conduct to nonconsensual sexual assaults; this behavior can lead to public health issues such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and can also lead to rage which can culminate into future violence either within or without the prison, self-injurious behaviors and mental illness (Wolff, Blitz, Shi, Bachman, & Siegel, 2006).

Prison assault, especially amongst male inmates is stigmatizing to the victim; if the inmate admits to being assaulted it can compromise the safety of this inmate. Some inmates have had multiple traumatic events that have occurred; inmates who have witnessed or have been victimized by acts of violence are at increased risk of manifesting depressive symptoms and post traumatic symptoms than those inmates who were not

witnesses or victimized (Hochstetler et al., 2004). Perpetrators of prison sexual violence are usually older, heavier, and bigger than their victim; being vulnerable in the prison setting, the victim is usually younger, less experienced, smaller in stature, and having some intellectual or mental disability (Morash et al, 2012; Neal & Clements, 2010).

Wolff and Shi (2009a) discussed that the levels of feeling safe in prison can be diminished for inmates who have been victimized, especially sexual victimization. The study went on to discuss that more than two thirds of inmates who had reported sexual assault by another inmate in the past six months reported feelings of being unsafe from being coerced into performing sexual acts on other inmates, being physically or sexually assaulted by inmates, along with other victimizations such as theft of property and staff using force against them. In another study Wolff and Shi (2009b) reported that inmates who were victimized reported experiencing emotional reactions consequently to the assault. Nearly half of the inmates who were sexually assaulted reported having feelings of depression, anger, difficulty sleeping, nightmares, and fear. The study also found that those who were sexually assaulted were more likely to join a gang, agree to the demands of their attacker, request protective custody, or transfer to another facility.

Dumond (2003) found that for female inmates, traits did not have a large role in the determination of who is targeted for sexual abuse; however, it was determined that first-timers, young women, and those with mental or intellectual disabilities were more vulnerable populations. In a seminal study from an historical point of view, Hensley, Struckman-Johnson, and Eigenberg (2000) stated the study of prison sexuality started in the early 1900s, with the discussion of what was considered unnatural relationships with

women behind bars. Hensley et al., (2000) noted that sexual coercion was written about as early as 1934 with the discussion of conditions in the federal prison where young boys were pressured into homosexual relationships via trickery, debt, or threats of physical harm. In the 1990s women became a focus of prison sexual assaults up to that time male sexual assaults in prison had the focus (Hensley et al., 2000)

Even though there may be profound differences over the prevalence of sexual assault in prisons, researchers have agreed with how negative the effects are on men and women who are victimized (Alarid, 2000; Banbury, 2004; Chonco, 1989; Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 2006). Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson's (2006) findings suggested that sexual coercion in prison is more violent for men than women. The literature showed that men were more likely than women to have force used against them and to have more physical injuries; whereas women were more likely to be victimized by staff (Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 2006). Also, in the same study it was shown that both male and female inmates had experienced multiple incidents of sexual coercion and more than one fourth of female inmates in the study experienced what would qualify as a rape that was carried out by multiple perpetrators.

Though females make up only 7% of the imprisoned population, it is shown that when females are victimized, it is perpetrated by other inmates (Teasdale et al., 2015); and that female inmates report more sexual victimization than their male counterparts. It could be that females while being victims of prison sexual violence, it may not have as much stigma attached as it does for male victims of prison sexual violence; or that female inmates are more comfortable in reporting the incidences (Sisco & Baker, 2007).

Not all inmates are equally targeted for victimization in the prison setting; according to routine activities and lifestyle theory persons who are suitable targets are those who have traits that are deemed valuable (Teasdale et al., 2015). This theory is relevant for understanding prison victimization risk because it purports that motivated inmates and daily activities that bring potential perpetrators and potential victims together (Wooldredge & Steiner, 2013). For example, inmates who are of slight build, who may have a mental disorder, age, or who have been victimized before are perceived as suitable for victimization also sexual orientation increases the risk of PSV (Morash, Jeong, Northcutt Bohmert, & Bush, 2012; Perez et al. 2009; Stemple and Meyer, 2014; Wolff & Shi, 2009b). It is also noted in the literature that inmates serving time for sexual offenses are more likely to be victimized by fellow inmates whereas inmates serving time for violent offenses are at risk for being victimized by staff (Wolff, Shi, & Siegel, 2009). The carceral environment creates opportunities for victimization by those who are thought to be vulnerable because of age, race and educational, family status, and employment history differences (Wooldredge & Steiner, 2013). Morash et al., (2012) compared victims to the perpetrators who victimized them; it was found that the victim was newly incarcerated, younger, and smaller. In the same study it was found that being sexually victimized as a child increased the risk of being sexually victimized in prison. Morash, Jeong, and Zang (2010) determined that a history of predatory behavior before prison and criminal actions before and while incarcerated have an impact on predicting prison sexual violence. It is not uncommon that weakness and vulnerability of inmates is determined

upon arrival at a facility and these new arrivals are targeted and identified quickly by more aggressive or predatory inmates (Hensley, Koscheski, & Tewksbury, 2005).

Victimization can also be seen through ‘protective pairing’, this is where men perform sexual acts for protection (Trammell, 2011). Lastly, victimization in prison has been found to be based on a high rate of violent inmates, males, offenders that are from multiracial backgrounds, and those inmates that had major infractions where at an increased odds of being victimized (Teasdale, Daigle, Hawk, & Daquin, 2015).

Besides the physical, emotional, psychological, and mental factors of being victimized, another consequence of victimization is that the victim can become a perpetrator (Wolff et al., 2009). In the next section there will be more information given on this phenomenon of going from victim to perpetrator. This is important to the study because it could be a possible explanation as to why prison sexual violence continues.

From Victim to Perpetrator

Manhood in prison is a different social construct than manhood in the community; men incarcerated are forced to use the limited resources that are available in prison. The cultural rules within the prison environment are powerful and dictate that the consequences of rule breaking be swift and immediate (Phillips, 2001). Masculinity in prison is often portrayed in response to an environment that encourages “stoicism, bravery, physical prowess and violence and aggression” (Ricciardelli, Maier, & Hannah-Moffat, 2015, p. 1).

For inmates who have not yet been directly victimized, the witnessing of a victimization of another and the anticipation of experiencing victimization can be a great source of stress (McGrath, Marcum, & Copes, 2012). Inmates can vary in their coping skills and resilience when experiencing actual victimization or the potential of victimization; some may be pro-social in overcoming the potential violence by using religion or spirituality classes or even relying on their social support network (family or friends in the community), while others respond to stressors in a more anti-social manner by initiating violence or using drugs or alcohol (McGrath et al., 2012).

Sexual victimization can lead to rage, which can lead toward future violence in prison or in the community (Wolff et al., 2006). Listwan, Daigle, Hartman, and Guastaferrro (2014) postulated that the threatening environment of prison supported aggression and victimization. Neller, Denney, Pietz, and Thomlinson (2006) contended that witnessing serious violence was a predictor of violence; and that the inmates in this study who reported trauma were at increased risk to having perpetrated violence than being nonviolent.

Being a victim or witness to prison sexual violence can place a great stressor upon the person who is being exposed to this type of brutality; this can possibly lead persons to become perpetrators of prison sexual violence. In the next section there will more discussion related to males and prison sexual violence from an historical perspective.

Historical Overview of Males and PSV

Davis (1968) said that during his 26 months investigation of male inmate sexual assault in the Philadelphia jail system there were 156 sexual assaults that had been

documented and substantiated through both institutional records and polygraph. It was reported that seven of the assaults took place in the sheriff's van, and 149 took place in the prison. Of the sexual assaults 82 involved sodomy, 19 fellatio, and 55 attempts and coercive demands to commit sexual acts. There were assaults on 97 different victims by at least 176 different aggressors. It is stated that the sexual assaults were caused by an expression of anger and aggression and the inability to achieve a masculine identity accept through the avenue of sex and physical aggression.

Dumond (1992) called sexual assault a "malignity that occurs as a result of the prison experience and it continues to occur because of the prison mismanagement" (p.135). (Dumond, 1992) stated that sexual violence is a way of commanding fear, respect, and asserting one's manhood, it is also a challenging task to separate sexual behavior and social status in a prison setting. The effects of sexual victimization can include the fear of being re-victimized, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, psychological disturbances, fear of stigma, and loss of social status, physical trauma and the possibility of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases.

Fowler et al. (2010) surveyed 499 men and 436 women to get a better understanding of inmates' perceptions and beliefs of what constitutes a sexual assault. Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) targets the improvement, detection and prevention of prison sexual assault. The authors concluded that to carry out these goals of PREA inmates and correctional administrators must have the same definition of what is prison sexual assault. Fowler et al. (2010) concluded that correctional administrators use a legal definition of sexual assault in a concerted effort to prevent and detect prison sexual

assaults whilst inmates rely upon a cultural and narrow definition of what frames or constitutes a sexual assault. Inmates will usually define a sexual assault as when force is used or if the victim resisted. The authors enriched the literature by clarifying how staff and prisoners understand sexual assault, and how these definitions differ between the two groups. It is noted in the literature that prison sexual assault can have lasting psychological, emotional, and physical effects on the victim and loss of social status in the prison (Chonco, 1989; DeVeaux, 2013; Dumond, 1992).

Morash et al. (2010) posited that being sexual abused as a child, life sentence, and having an adult sexual assault conviction place man at higher risk of having unwanted sexual touching by other men. The authors also concluded that besides individual traits, prison culture and administration or management had an influence on prison sexual violence. Hensley et al., (2005) found that sexual orientation is a factor in an inmate being a target for sexual approaches and sexual assaults. In this study one half of the male inmates that were targeted sexually identified as being homosexual or bisexual prior to their incarceration. This study took place in the “hyper-masculine” environment of a Southern prison where the identity of not being a heterosexual is viewed as being feminine, weak and vulnerable. Neal and Clements (2010) found that being middle or upper class, being perceived as weak, of having short stature are just a few of the traits that place inmates more at risk for prison sexual violence.

The fear of being sexually assaulted is a reality that males have prior to going to prison (Hensley, Tewksbury, and Castle, 2003; Richters et al. 2012; Robertson, 2003; Trammell, 2011). This fear becomes a reality for some inmates yet; it is not clear what

percentage of inmates is sexual assaulted in prison. How this percentage is determined varies, based upon how the researchers asked the questions (related to what is a sexual assault or rape) and how the study was conducted (Wolff et al., 2008). While in the research prison rapes do occur one of the biggest obstacles to dealing with the problem effectively is the quantification of the extent of prison rape, it is a common occurrence that rape victims are silent about their victimization (McGuire, 2005). Studies have also discussed whether the sex was consensual or assaultive (Listwan et al., 2014). The foundation of prison sexual violence resembles that of female rape (in the community) and that of rape in the military (Robertson, 2003; Kwon et al., 2007) in that it is more about power than a sexual release.

For male inmates there is a fear of being victimized sexually while incarcerated. This has been well documented in the literature and this fear for some inmates becomes a reality. Sexual violence in male prisons is usually based upon some prison culture concepts of manhood, commanding fear and respect. Regardless of the circumstances or perception prison sexual violence is real and can cause physical, emotional, and psychological repercussions to the victim.

In the next section the focus will be on prison sexual violence from the perspective of risk factors, being sexually assault by prison personal, and inmate-on-inmate sexual assaults. The order was chosen to go from a general to a more specific point of view, as it relates to prison sexual violence.

Risk factors for PSV

Rape myths that are focused on blaming the victim are not uncommon in prison cultures and it is often a perception of prisoners that the sexual perpetrator is entitled to committing the sexual violence because of the formed opinions or attitudes of sexual violence (Mardorossian, 2012). It is not uncommon for prisoners to size up new inmates. They are labeled dominant, or submissive, the penetrator or the penetrated (Robertson, 2003). Victims of prison sexual assault have been left with long-term psychological harm, beaten and bloodied; feelings of humiliation, shame, and guilt of having been sexually abused, and the survivor of the sexual assault may suffer from a life-time of pain from just one assault (Dumond, 2003; Stemple, 2003). There is a higher number of prison sexual assaults perpetrated against inmates that have mental illness; it has been identified that the rate of sexual victimization is almost two times higher amongst those inmates that have mental disorders than those without mental disorders (Tewksbury & Mahoney, 2009).

Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson (2006) stated that women are more likely to be victimized by staff (as compared to men) and that women did report emotional upset and experiencing multiple incidents of sexual coercion. Females who are incarcerated have a more interpersonal history of violence than the general population. It is thought that those women, who are incarcerated having a higher rate of interpersonal trauma such as physical and sexual abuse in childhood, can place them more at risk for experiencing prison sexual victimization (Wolff et al, 2009b). Females

who are incarcerated and have a mental illness are reportedly at higher risk of being sexually victimized by other female inmates (Wolff et al, 2007).

Wolff et al. (2008) found that the rates of sexual victimization amongst female inmates ranged from 2.5% to 26%. The results were dependent on how the question was worded when asking about sexual victimization. It should be noted here that interpersonal violence, whether it is sexual or physical does have many manifestations albeit with actual, attempted, or threatened violence; there are consequences that can affect physical health, and psychological and emotional well-being (Wolff et al., 2008).

Prison sexual violence for men and women related to mental health are very similar. However, women inmates seem to be victimized more by prison staff than male inmates. Risk factors for prison sexual violence can be increased for those who have experienced interpersonal violence in the past from childhood. Males' risk factors appear to be based on physical appearance more so than females. Lastly it was reported by Perez et al., 2010 that younger inmates are more likely than older inmates to experience serious victimization. The following section will further explore sexual assault by staff on inmates.

Sexual Assault by Prison Staff

According to the U.S. DOJ (2013) an estimated 2.4% (34,100) instances of reported unwilling sexual activity occurred (in all state and federal prisons) that involved federal and state staff and inmates. Perez et al. (2010) said that 32% of the inmates surveyed stated that they were victimized by staff, other inmates or both; the study further indicated that male inmates who had the characteristics of being non-White and,

housed in a maximum-security facility were at a higher risk of being victimized by the staff. A limitation of this study was that the researchers combined sexual victimization with physical victimization. The inmates that were at lessening risk of victimization by staff were those who viewed the facility to be safe and had a job assignment.

Inmate-on-Inmate Sexual Assault

Jenness et al. (2010) said that 4.4% of randomly selected inmates in California prisons stated that they had been sexually assaulted by inmates. It is not uncommon that the victim of sexual prison violence has a loss of status amongst other inmates, along with the loss of self-esteem, and estrangement from staff (Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 2006). Banbury (2004) said that when an inmate is victimized they are open to repeated sexual violence by multiple perpetrators and that the perpetrators will use many tactics to thwart the victim from reporting any incidents. The focus of the research was on the analysis of coercive sexual behavior in British prisons from the perspectives of the victim, perpetrators, non-victims and non-perpetrators; there was no information given on witnesses to the sexual coercion. Males are not the only victims of prison sexual predators; this sexual violence can also be found amongst female inmates as well. In the next section a discussion of females and prison sexual violence will be investigated.

Females and PSV

Prison sexual violence is not limited to male prisons; female prison sexual violence does occur; however, this information is less prevalent in the literature. Alarid (2000) said sexual pressuring and sexual harassment were more prevalent than sexual assault. However, it was noted that a reason for less sexual violence amongst female inmate is that most female inmates submit with only coercion. When rapes did occur, it was usually done by more than one perpetrator, and the motivation for the rape was based more upon resentment and anger toward the targeted victim. Blackburn, Mullings, and Marquart (2008) examined a sample of female inmates from a large Southern prison; the researchers used self-reported data to investigate the regularity of their sexual victimization experiences (both within the prison and outside the prison) and the type of sexual victimization, along with the traits of the women who reported being victimized. Of the 719 females that were invited to participate in the study 436 individuals completed the survey. This study found that the number of sexual victimizations reported by the female prisoners was higher than in other studies; 64% of the participants reported that they had been the victim of sexual abuse at some point in their lifetime and 17.2% stated that they had been sexually victimized while incarcerated.

It is thought that women who are incarcerated (as compared to men) create a more family oriented based stable and interpersonal environment; in this study it was shown that sexual relationships could be as high as 90% (Greer, 2000). Some reasons for intimacy in the prison environment are: loneliness and companionship, economic, peer pressure, curiosity, sexual identity, and sexual release (Greer, 2000). Though this may

appear to be genteel it is still sexual contact in prison and can lead to violence through peer pressure (coercion) and women sometimes engage in sexual pairing to avoid sexual violence.

Pardue, Arrigo, and Murphy (2011) addressed the concept of women's sexual practices in prison as being diverse. The continuum of sexual behavior can be suppressive, autoerotic, consensual, situational homosexuality, and sexual violence. The three forms of sexual violence that the authors addressed were manipulation, compliance, and coercion. Manipulation is based on the concept of sexual bartering, compliance is where an inmate comes to a reluctant agreement or submits for safety or protection, and coercion can take the form of pressure for sexual contact, sexual assault, rape and in some extreme cases murder. Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson (2006) found that almost 57% of the women in the study reported being sexually coerced more than once. Comparisons were made between self-reports of 382 men and 51 women who had experienced sexual coercion in prison. The data was ascertained from a sample of 1,788 male inmates and 263 female inmates who responded to an anonymous written survey that was distributed in 10 Midwestern prisons. The male and females of this study were similar in their sexual victimization in that both reported being victimized more than once; males reported being victimized on average 9 times while females reported on average four incidents. Another similarity of this study was that for both males and females the worst-case scenario was that there were multiple perpetrators (typical was two or more).

In a seminal study conducted in March 2000, in a southern correctional facility for women 245 out of 643 inmates had agreed to participate in the study (Hensley, Castle, & Tewksbury, 2003) There were 243 inmates who were surveyed and 11 inmates (4.5%) reported incidents of sexual coercion, all the sexual assaults that were discovered in this study were one-on-one assaults and not gang rapes. Out of the 243 inmates five women (2%) admitted to being perpetrators of sexual coercion (Hensley et al., 2003). This study used the definition of sexual coercion as being any unwanted sexual contact that was brought about by pressure or force which included attempts at touching, touching of the genitals, and oral, vaginal, or anal intercourse, and the focus was only on inmate to inmate sexual assault. In this survey there was no focus or information on witnesses to the prison sexual violence.

Struckman-Johnson, Struckman-Johnson, Rucker, Bumby, and Donaldson (1996) reported the results from an anonymous survey of 1,800 men and women from a Midwestern prison showed that 104 out of 516 participants indicated that they were pressured or forced to engage in unwanted sexual contact at least once during their incarceration. Important findings of the study were that incident rate for coerced sex was 22% for male and 7% for females. The sample size of the females was 42. Alarid (2000) in her study concluded that sexual assault is underreported, that sexual assaults or the threat of sexual assault is a daily event, and that victims are more than likely to be assaulted by more than one perpetrator. In worst case scenarios women reported that the sexual assault was perpetrated by more than two assailants and that females were

victimized by both staff (who could be either male or female) at 43% and inmates at 48% (Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson, 2006).

Females can be perpetrators of prison sexual violence. Though these perpetrators may not leave their victims bloodied and the victims may not lose any social status (as compared to men), the victims of this sexual prison violence may still have emotional, psychological, and physical effects. Listwan et al., 2014 stated that victimization can lead to long-term negative outcomes which can include aggressive behaviors.

Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson (2006) reported that females who had experienced sexually coercion in prison felt depressed and reported thoughts of suicide and suicide attempts. The ramifications of sexual prison violence can have long term effects on the victims and can in some ways restrict how an individual may experience their life socially i.e. have distrust of people and dislike people, be nervous around people, and even have some symptoms related to posttraumatic stress disorder (Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 2006). There are several sexual assaults that happen in prison that may appear to be consensual. Sexual assaults and coercion imperil both the safety of inmates and the security of the facility (Alarid, 2000).

In the next section how do correctional officers view prison sexual violence? And what is their role in the possible reduction of prison sexual violence?

Correctional Officers and PSV

Correctional officers (COs) are the first line of protection for the inmates in correctional facilities. COs enforce the facilities' rules to maintain safety of the prisons.

Whether sex is consensual or rape, it is prohibited in prisons and subject to corrective sanctions (Eigenberg, 2000). However, COs can also contribute to the sexual violence in prisons (Alarid, 2000; Banbury, 2004; Eigenberg, 2000; Struckman-Johnson et al. 2013). Gonsalves, Walsh, and Scalora (2012) aimed to look at factors that contributed to correctional officers' perception of prison sexual violence. Difficulty with investigating prison sexual violence can be the culture and social climate of the facility, that sexual violence is more than a sexual issue it's a power issue, and possible manipulation of the system by inmates (U.S. DOJ, 2007). Miller (2010) reported that amongst the male inmate population a fear of the inmate subculture (that is the code of silence and retribution), is often cited as a primary reason for not reporting sexual violence. For sexual activity to be officially recorded it must first come to the attention of correctional staff. Correctional staff very rarely catches inmates in the act of sexual activity; and prisons usually rely upon reports from inmates (Garland & Wilson, 2013). Male inmates are also less likely to report any victimization to correctional staff, especially male staff members because of the value placed on masculinity in prison (Miller, 2010)

Halberstadt and La Vigne (2011) used radio frequency identification device technology (RFID) to aid in the prevention of misconduct in a female prison in Cleveland, Ohio. The RFID's most impressive feature was the exclusion zones where COs could then be alerted to when certain inmates were near aid in the prevention of fights, or sexual assaults. In theory RFID technology could be used as evidence in investigative procedures related to inmate misconduct in the locating of inmates involved in an assault or other prohibited acts. Gonsalves et al. (2012) asserted that a small

number of inmates were at medium or high risk for sexual violence and that the purpose of the study was to examine what risk factors were important for COs when considering predictions of inmates' perpetrators and victims. The study found that risk predictions of perpetrators were: having a history of multiple incarcerations, history of violence, intimidating or aggressive, prison wise, history of predatory behavior, history of sexual assault, and presenting as emotionally cold. The risk predictors for victimization included: intellectually challenged, naiveté, history of sexual victimization, small stature, unassertive, socially awkward, sexual orientation, nature of crime and expression of concern. Struckman-Johnson et al. (1996) though dated found that both inmates and COs felt that prison sexual assault could be reduced with better screening procedures to separate predators from potential victims. COs are often asked to make predictions of an inmate's risk on arrival to the facility; there is little collateral information for the CO to use, risk assessment tools require background information, and COs have with a limited amount of time given at intake which can affect how inmates are classified (Gonsalves et al., 2012).

Cook and Lane (2012) studied how officers in jail perceived sexual assault victims and victimization; and to explore the COs attitudes about victim blaming, the credibility of the inmates who reported rape, definitions of rape, and the COs willingness to respond to incidents of sexual victimization between inmates. For COs barriers to identifying sexual assault can be complicated, which can start with determining the nature of the sexual act(whether it was coercive or consensual), there is a lack of training in how to investigate prison rape and sexual assault, insufficient resources to follow up

on allegations, inmates' reluctance and lack of witnesses (United States Department of Justice, 2007); other concerns with COs and prison sexual violence stem from embarrassment of the COs to confront inmates, and these COs may choose to ignore the sexual act because of their perception of no harm (Eigenberg, 2000). Correctional officers who do not observe the rape choose not to take actions against the perpetrator, or an officer may ignore the sexual act because it is thought that the men involved are engaged in a consensual sex act between two grown men. And that for some officers it is difficult to distinguish between consensual sex acts and rape, because rape in prison relies on forceful techniques and unless a weapon is being used to force the victim it can be misconstrued as being consensual (Eigenberg, 2000).

COs are responsible for making housing recommendations for inmates and to enforce the rules of the facility that are made to prevent behaviors that have an adverse effect on the facilities orders and safety (Gonsalves et al., 2012; Steiner & Wooldredge, 2014). Though facility regulations may require staff to classify and isolate all high-risk inmates, due to overcrowding there may not be room to place all high-risk inmates in seclusion. So, to avoid this dilemma staff may be inclined to give a lower risk rating (Gonsalves et al., 2012).

The most common response in substantiated incidents of sexual victimization is to place the victim in administrative segregation or protective custody; among incidents of nonconsensual sex acts 47% of the victims were placed in protective custody or administrative segregation, 17% were placed on medical units, and 12% were transferred to another facility (Beck et al., 2014).

One of the best pre-PREA research on the attitudes of COs was conducted by (Eigenberg, 2000), this study found that some COs were willing to prevent any sexual victimization and that the prison regulations against any type of sexual behavior whether consensual or coercive in nature would be dependent on the officers' perception of the act being consensual or an act of violence (Eigenberg, 2000). Because COs are responsible for the placement of inmates into housing at the prisons, in a few studies the recommendations of the officers were based upon who would likely be a predator and who would be a possible victim. These studies listed as an increased risk for sexual victims as being short in stature, sexual orientation, younger, effeminate physical appearance and naiveté; and to be a predator it was inmates who were "career criminals", serving longer sentences, an adult sexual assault conviction, and race being a factor as well (Gonsalves et al., 2012; Morash et al., 2010; Neal and Clements, 2010). Assessments of inmates' vulnerability to sexual assault are important for developing strategies to prevent sexual assault from occurring (Roswell-Cunsolo et al., 2014).

In summary, prison sexual violence is not limited to male facilities; it also exists in female prisons as well. COs though the first line of protection for all inmates, because of different perceptions of what constitutes sexual violence can inadvertently not perceive a situation as a sexual assault or sexual violence. Being a victim of prison sexual violence or even the fear of being a victim can assist in the perpetuation of prison sexual violence. As stated before victimization can lead to predatory behaviors; there is a lot of information on victimization of sexual violence and what type of emotional, psychological, and physical effects this can have on individuals.

In the next section it will be discussed about witnessing to violence in general, then how men, women and COs witness to violence in a prison setting. I decided to focus on witnessing violence outside the prison setting first because it is important to understand in general (outside of a seemly violent environment) how witnessing to violence can leave a person feeling helpless and sometimes hopeless, and witnessing can lead to changes in a person behaviorally, psychologically, and emotionally.

Witnessing Violence Outside of the Prison Setting

The literature comments on the effects of the association between witnessing violence in the community and criminal behavior (Eitle & Turner, 2002). Inmates who have witnessed prison sexual violence when they return to community show more hyper-vigilance have signs of distress, display some symptoms of depression, along with being more aggressive. Witnessing violence does have negative effects on the individual who is the witness (Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 2006).

Kwon et al. (2007) in a study done on sexual violence in the South Korean military found that of the 671 valid respondents of the study 166 (24.7%) stated that they had witnessed sexual violence; as in prison settings sexual violence in the military is theorized as not being a sexual outlet but to exercise power within a sociocultural framework. Witnesses to prison sexual violence whether in the military or prison usually remain silent. Kwon et al. (2007) highlighted that the sexual violence occurred with an eyewitness present gives a sense of responsibility to the witness and this can lead to the legitimization of the sexual violence. It has been shown that persons who have witnessed or been a victim of violence have been associated with a wide range of adjustment

disorder, negative psychological outcomes such as depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and suicidal ideations or attempts (Banbury, 2004;Boxer et al., 2009;Shivy& Guion, 2012). Eitle and Turner (2002) posited that amongst youth the exposure of witnessing or receiving traumatic news can have behavioral and mental health consequences.

Witnesses of PSV

There is a gap in the research related to experiences of witnesses of PSV. There is occasion when the witness to PSV may be mentioned in the literature; however, there is no further exploration of the experience of the witness given in the research. The literature is clear that persons who have been sexually assaulted may have posttraumatic stress disorder or rape trauma syndrome as a secondary symptom of being sexually victimized (Neal & Clements, 2010); there is research that also indicates that witnesses to interpersonal trauma can lead to a range of adjustment disorders (Shivy& Guion, 2012).

Saum et al., (1995) examined the sexual habits of 101 inmates at a Delaware male medium security prison and found that 3.0% had witnessed rape and 1.0% had witnessed multiple rapes; (Tewksbury & Mahoney, 2009) indicated in their study that inmates who had witnessed the sexual victimization of other inmates was as high as 18.2%; other studies by (Hochstetler &DeLisi, 2005) asked parolees whether they “witness[ed] another inmate being sexually assaulted”? That there are witnesses to prison sexual violence and that none of these studies have any information on the experiences of the witnesses to prison sexual violence.

Rowell-Cunsolo, Harrison, and Haile (2014) reported that incarcerated Black males are involved in and exposed to prison sexual assault in a number of ways. The study had 134 participants, 43% (n=57) reported hearing sexual assaults occurring and 16% (n=21) reported that they witnessed a sexual assault while incarcerated. Maschi et al., (2011) reported that the younger inmates reported witnessing physical assaults while the older inmates reported witnessing more sexual assaults.

Alarid (2000) a female prisoner documented cases of sexual prison violence in which she was victimized and a witness too; this documentation occurred over a five-year period. The inmate commented that some women were targeted by sexual perpetrators on a daily bases; and that the sexual coercion did consist of loud verbal harassment, showing of genitals, and masturbation. If the target ignored this sexual coercion, then it would escalate to other forms of violence. For all the information that this inmate wrote about to the researcher, there was no focus on the experience of being a witness to this sexual violence.

Sexual violence in prisons can cause a destabilization of the institutions' security and interpersonal trauma to the victim and witness to this violence (Jones & Pratt, 2008) Seminal studies done by Alarid, 2000; Hensley, Castle, & Tewksbury, 2003; Struckman-Johnson, Struckman-Johnson, Rucker, Bumby, and Donaldson, 1996) all investigated sexual violence within female facilities, yet the focus was not on the experiences of witnesses to this sexual violence. While sexual coercion and sexual assault does occur in female carceral there is little information on the witness experience to this sexual violence. Prison sexual violence is not uncommon in both male and female incarcerated

populations; the victims of this sexual violence can be victimized by inmates as well as by staff (Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 2006). Prison staff has a very different perception of what prison sexual violence may be and they have a role to fulfill as being custodial and keepers of the prison facility; that is to keep the inmates safe and to keep the community safe by keeping the inmates in the prison.

Guards that do not witness the actual rape cannot help the victim or take any disciplinary action against the perpetrator; the guards' perception of what is consensual sex, and some guards may choose to ignore it because of being embarrassed to confront the inmates or the perception of no harm (Eigenberg, 2000). This embarrassment or shame can also be seen on the part of male inmates who are victims of prison sexual violence. Male inmates are less inclined to report sexual victimization because of the value placed on maintaining one's masculinity, the inmate subculture and the shame in revealing of this experience to a male CO (Miller, 2010).

Staff notes that even though they may not be a witness to the sexual assault, when a complaint is generated by a victim the facility is obligated to follow-up with an investigation. The COs that do respond to witnessing a sexual assault is rare because the CO will usually come after the assault, some will use inmates to control other inmates and will overlook sexual assaults, some COs fear for their own lives, and they are grossly outnumbered by inmates (Chonco, 1989). Some inmates fear placement in protective custody or administrative segregation because of loss of privileges such as employment opportunities, educational programs, movies and some fear that correctional officers will sell them to other inmates for sexual favors (Alarid, 2000; Hensley et al., 2003).

Hochstetler, Murphy, and Simons (2004) researched men who are incarcerated in prison who have the threat of being victimized on their minds; this is not only physical or sexual victimization but also being repeatedly harassed by theft, vandalism, robbery, and other offenses, with the threat of violence underlying these offenses. The literature has documented the experiences of victims of prison sexual violence and how this has impacted their lives; victims of prison sexual violence experience posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, low self-esteem, become isolative, suicidal or complete suicide (Dumond, 2003; Neal and Clements, 2010).

The research that has been done on persons who have either witnessed or been a direct victim of prison violence has shown that these persons are more likely to have experiences of long-term negative outcomes such as anxiety, depression, PTSD, and health concerns (Listwan et al., 2014). Effects of exposure to violence have also been associated with increase aggressive behaviors (Boxer et al., 2009).

There is research in the literature that has suggested studies of prison sexual violence may be over stated or estimated surrounding rape and that most of the sexual acts are consensual; also, there are variance in the percentage of inmates who report being sexually assaulted, these various rates can be due to time frames used by the various researchers (Listwan et al., 2014). Banbury (2004); Chonco (1989); Miller (2010) pointed out that witnesses to prison sexual violence are disinclined to give information for fear of retaliation and violating the prison code. In these articles there was no focus on the experiences of those who witnessed the prison sexual violence.

In summary, though witnessing sexual violence by male and female inmates may be somewhat different; males have a tendency not to report the witnessing and it appears that in some of the literature there is a difference in male age groupings as to what is witnessed. While correctional officers serve multiple roles in correctional facilities, sometimes for these first-line protectors of inmates, without knowledge or understanding of situations some COs are unable to construe sexual violence from consensual sex, even though prison facilities have a no sex policy. Stumbling upon inmates in sexual acts does constitute a violation of this rule; it appears that COs whose perception that the sexual act is coerced may act more swiftly than if perceived as consensual. In the next section there will be discussion on the foundations of trying to eliminate prison sexual violence through legal means.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was a seminal bill passed by the United States Congress and signed by President George W. Bush in 2003 to prevent, prosecute, identify, and respond to prison sexual violence in correctional facilities (Neal & Clements, 2010; Tewksbury, 2010). Prison sexual assaults are not a new event; the attention to this type of behavior has gained new heights since the passage of the PREA in 2003. Under PREA all U.S. correctional facilities are required to submit annual reports and the participation of prison rape studies to receive federal funds (Garland & Wilson, 2013).

Persons who have been incarcerated experience a sense of hopelessness, helplessness, and psychological trauma that can be intensified by the knowledge or the witnessing of violence (DeVeaux, 2013). It has been suggested by theory and research

that prisons are violent and traumatizing places; even so few have endeavored to document the predominance of violence within prison walls, or measure individual inmates' experiences of witnessing and enduring physical assaults (Boxer et al., 2009)

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (2003) has a central goal to provide analysis of the incidence and effects of prison rape in Federal, state and local institutions along with providing information, resources, and funding to protect inmates from prison rape; and assist prison administrators with making improved decisions placing staff, housing inmates and allocating money to better ensure inmates safety (Dumond,2003;Jenness et al., 2010;Struckman-Johnson, Struckman-Johnson, Kruse, Gross, and Summers, 2013).

The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission (NPREC) provides solutions to department of corrections to help prevent prison sexual violence (Struckman-Johnson et al., 2013). Prior to the NPREC there were other individuals or groups that set the precedence for stopping prison sexual violence; the first to investigate prison sexual violence used a humanitarian approach to effect changes (Struckman-Johnson &Struckman-Johnson, 2013)

The personal stories of men and women who have endured prison sexual violence have served as an important catalyst for investigating and understanding sexual violence in prisons. These accounts have also helped to personalize to bring a human element to the plight of prison sexual violence (Stemple, 2003). The emotional, psychological, and physical scars that torment people affected by prison sexual violence can now be investigated, understood, and punished because of PREA (Dumond, 2003; Stemple, 2003; Struckman-Johnson &Struckman-Johnson, 2013).

Though there are guidelines and rules in prisons to try and safe guard sexual violence in prisons there is still a group of individuals who maintain being predators and perpetrators of this brutality. Prison code of conduct is a means of binding all prisoners together in an us versus them scenarios; and this code can assist in maintaining the predator victim relationship and witnesses to a silence that only helps to continue prison sexual violence. In the next section there will be a discussion on literature that used IPA.

Literature Review Related to Methodology

Research on men in prison is usually qualitative. Male rape by male heterosexual inmates is an act that demonstrates the connection between male power, insecurity, and sexuality (Evans & Wallace, 2008). There were not any specific Interpretative Phenomenological Analyses (IPA) on the experiences of prison sexual violence, but the use of IPA was found in the literature when dealing with the topics of exploring the experiences of sexual offenders, therapy in prison through the lived experiences of psychotherapists and counselors, and crime studies. Blagden, Winder, Thorne, and Gregson (2011) used IPA to explore the experiences of sexual offenders who had denied their offense and how they began the process of admitting their guilt. Blagden et al (2011) did acknowledge limitations to their study, first being the size of the study, and that the narratives of the participants were based upon a retrospective interpretation.

IPA can address the lived experiences of participants and explore the differences and similarities between each case (Smith et al., 2012). Harris, Happell, and Manias (2015) used IPA to explore the experiences of forensic mental health clinicians and their attitudes toward forensic patients. The vicarious traumatization of these clinicians did

have an impact on how clinicians interacted with each other and the forensic patients. It was also noted that a limitation of this study was that it took place in one forensic setting and that it described the experiences of that facility in one forensic mental health setting in Australia.

According to Miner-Romanoff (2012) and Smith et al., (2012) IPA studies are focused on addressing specific experiences and the understanding of phenomena. The strength of using the IPA approach is that it does not seek to find one single answer or truth (Pringle, Drummond, McLafferty & Hendry, 2011). Instead, this approach explores in detail the personal lived experiences of people and how these people are making sense in their personal and social world (Shinebourne, 2011).

Summary

Inmates' belief systems are an important influence as to whether an inmate is willing to report a sexual assault (Garland & Wilson, 2013). Barriers to the investigation of sexual assault in prison is the lack of witnesses, inmate culture, those who do witness not wanting to be perceived as a snitch, difficulty in the validation process of the claim and inadequate resources to pursue any allegations (United States DOJ, 2007).

Prison sexual violence is a common experience for men and women inmates; and can be viewed by the negative results as a life altering event (Marx, 2005). Amid male inmates a large amount of sexual activity is coerced even though it may appear to be voluntary; and the fear of being sexually assaulted is considered higher than the actual sexual assaults in male prisons. Female inmates according to the literature sexual activity

is consensual, though there is documentation of sexual encounters that are coercive in nature (Hensley & Tewksbury, 2002).

Though there is a plethora of literature discussing the negative aspects of the victims of prison sexual assaults, there is a dearth of information on the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. Witnesses to prison sexual violence do not want to be perceived in a negative manner by other inmates and will not volunteer any information per the inmate code and self-categorization theory. . Some inmates do not report sexual assaults for a variety of reasons, including fear, to protect their reputation; victims may not want others to know because it may make them more susceptible to other victimization, not wanting to be perceived as weak because the prison subculture is based upon dominance and control. Reluctance to report sexual assaults via victims or witnesses can keep the perpetuation of the prison subculture such as aggressive acts from other inmates, possible repercussions from institutional staff. It should be noted that coerced and consensual sexual acts do occur in both male and female facilities (Hensley & Tewksbury, 2002). Lastly this study filled a gap in the research literature on the topic of witnesses to prison sexual violence. This study filled the gap on information related to witnesses' stories and experiences about witnessing prison sexual violence, and why, prison sexual violence continues.

In the next chapter, information is provided regarding how this study was performed, how participants were identified and what questions were asked, and how information was collected and analyzed. The next section also identified the research

design and rationale, participant selection logic, role of the researcher, and more in-depth information related to the study.

Chapter 3: Research Method

Introduction

The previous chapters detailed the experiences of males, females, and correctional officers regarding PSV. Prisoner-on-prisoner violence is a component of prison culture (Wills, 2014). However, the experiences of witnesses of PSV have not been examined. SCT and the prison code of silence help explain and understand the experiences of witnesses of PSV.

This chapter outlines the methodology and design used to aid those researchers who have an interest in understanding of the experiences of witnesses of PSV. This chapter summarizes profiles of participants and how they were recruited and includes data collection strategies, data analysis, and ethical procedures.

Research Design and Rationale

RQ: What are the lived experiences of male ex-prisoners in terms of witnessing PSV?

This was a qualitative study. The qualitative methodology is used when a topic to be studied needs to be explored more in detail. Qualitative research is used when research questions are exploratory, available research is limited, a researcher believes that there may be multiple realities (each respondent has different experience which is their reality) that are interpreted by different persons (Leedy & Ormrod, 2010).

The research tradition for this study was IPA. The IPA approach was chosen as it is committed to examining how individuals make sense of major lived experiences. According to Shinebourne (2011), IPA researchers try to understand what the world is

like through the point-of-view of participants. Furthermore, the understanding of the event or experience of the respondent is colored by participants' culture, and social history, along with the meaning that the researchers themselves attach to what participants say (Larkin, Watts & Clifton, 2006).

Other qualitative designs were considered, but I concluded that they were less effective in gaining the insight needed to understand participants' lived experiences. For example, grounded theory uses larger samples to generate theory, and theory generation is not the focus of the current study. The ethnography approach is used to describe and interpret a culture-sharing group and the purpose of ethnography is to understand how behaviors reflect the culture of the group (Creswell, 2013; Leedy& Ormrod, 2010). The aforementioned methods would not provide enough in-depth exploration of witnesses' experiences. A narrative approach was considered, but there not enough information from various sources.

Role of the Researcher

I will be in the role of the interviewer. As the researcher, I will have no personal relationships with any of the participants. For this study, there will be no incentives used. Reflexivity involves self-questioning and self-understanding using this technique will help any researcher to be attentive to one's own ideological perceptions. Furthermore, reflexivity will give clarity to the audience receiving the information. I used a journal during the research process. In my entries, I recorded methodology decisions and reasons for them as well as logistics of the study. I also reflected upon what was happening regarding my own interests and values. My bias going into this study is that males who have witnessed PSV will have been impacted emotionally by vicarious traumatization. Because of this trauma, they may not want to share or discuss how this trauma impacted them and while in prison, they may have become more aggressive than usual. My experience of recognizing vicarious traumatization is based upon being a psychiatric physician assistant and hearing about ex-male inmates' experiences regarding incarceration.

Methodology

Participant Selection Logic

During IPA, participants are selected purposively because they can offer insight into answering the research question (Smith et al, 2012). The participants will be six male ex-inmates. The participants will be selected because they all have meet the inclusive criteria of being over 18, witnesses to prison sexual violence, been in prison for at least one continuous year and not perpetrator or victim of PSV.

Recruitment

The way this study was suppose to be conducted was through the IPA method. I was to introduce myself to the gatekeeper (parole officer) by calling the local Probation and Parole office and set an appointment with this gatekeeper to come by the office in person to talk to the Supervisor of the Probation and Parole office. I was to bring my letter of introduction of the study and a flyer and ask permission to post in the office and distribute to parole officers in the office. Potential participants were to be contacted through a referral from this office. A flyer was supposed to left with the supervisor giving details of the study and a phone number where I could be reached (see Appendix A). When there were enough participants in the study and after attaining IRB approval and approval from the office, I would have approached the participants at the office and set up individual times to interview recruits of this study. All participants were supposed to be from the same prison to assure homogeneity. The number of participants was six. The rationale for this quantity was that based upon the IPA approach per Pietkiewicz and Smith (2014); Smith et al., (2012) this number is large enough to have similarities and differences between the participants and not have an overwhelming amount of data.

The parole officers were to screen the potential participants for me. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were to be clearly explained to them in a leaflet (see Appendix D).

The inclusion criteria for this study were that all participants were witnesses to PSV and over the age of 18. Those who were under the age of 18, did not witness PSV, were victims or perpetrators of PSV, or any of my current clients were excluded.

Homogeneous sampling is a type of purposive sampling. Purposive sampling involves focusing on certain traits of a population that are of interest and which best enable the researcher to answer the research question. Homogenous sampling aims at achieving a similar sample population; that is, a sample of people that share a very similar or the same traits. Homogeneous samples are often chosen when the research question addresses a specific trait of a population of interest which is being examined in detail.

In summary the study was not conducted the way outlined. There had to be a change in methodology and recruitment. The aforementioned agency was not helpful in the recruitment of potential candidates. The methodology was changed to a case study and recruitment was through the snowball effect. Also because saturation was not met with male ex-inmates IRB permission was granted to open the study to both male and female ex-inmates. More details will be given in Chapter four.

Instrumentation

The data collection instruments for this study were the interview protocol questions. I conducted one semi structured interview with each participant. According to Smith et al (2012) interview time can be between 45 minutes to 90 minutes depending on the topic. It is also important to let participants know the estimated time needed for each interview. Each of the interviews will be audio-taped.

It is important that each participant knows how important their stories are to adding information to the literature. Participants will be told how their information will

be used, and they will be allowed to read their information and to confirm or object to any misinterpreted information. There will be a consent form (see Appendix C).

Participants will be given information regarding procedures related to the interview process including length of the interview. In terms of interview questions (see Appendix B), these will be open-ended questions.

These interview questions are linked to the overarching research question in that these questions will give the participants an opportunity to express their experiences of being a witness to prison sexual violence. They are planned so the interviews do not last longer than an hour, to avoid participants' fatigue.

Interview Questions

1. Question 1: Please tell about a typical day for you in prison.

This question is designed to help establish rapport with the participant.

2. Question 2: Please tell me a time when you saw someone in prison having sexual contact against their will.

This question can give insight into how the participants witnessed a sexual encounter is viewed as being nonconsensual vs. consensual.

3. Question 3: What were your thoughts and feelings during the nonconsensual sex act?

What was your experience immediately after? And what was your experience a few months after the event?

These questions gather information on the participants processing as a witness to the sexual violence.

4. Question 4: Tell me how have you been coping with this experience? What were your behaviors after this experience? Has this experience changed your thoughts or feelings related to your prison experience?

These questions provide insights into the participants various ways of dealing with the experience.

5. Question 5: How do you define prison sexual violence?

This question is designed to gain insight into what the participants' definition or define as prison sexual violence.

Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection

In the original plan of using the IPA method I was to recruit participants from the probation and parole office. I was seeking six participants who were male ex- inmates and who had witnessed prison sexual violence. If the recruitment leads to too few participants I was going to open my search to neighboring cities. This would be done after relevant IRB and Parole office ethics approval had been obtained.

Semi-structured interviews were to be used. I would be conducting one interview with each participant. In using IPA, it is important to establish rapport with the participants. The participants need to be comfortable with the interviewer and trust the interviewer, so the information gathered from the participants will be useful data. The interview process for this study would be one hour. The interview process can be between 45 minutes to 90 minutes. It is important that the participants are given enough

time to fully answer the questions and if the participants appear to be uncertain then I can use prompts (Smith et al. 2012).

The data will be collected using an audio-tape recorder. All the participants will be given information on how the data is to be used and stored to protect their privacy. Participants will be given information regarding procedures of the study which will include interviews, length of the interview and if follow-up is needed. Member-checking was to be used to determine how the participants felt about the theme that was being used by me (see Appendix C. It is suggested that the participants can withdraw from the study any time during data collection (Smith et al. 2012).

As stated earlier there was a change in how the study was conducted related to recruitment, participation, and data collection. Again this change occurred because of the lack of assistance from the probation and parole office. More information about the change will be given in Chapter four.

Data Analysis Plan

In the analysis of IPA, it is recommended that the researchers are totally immersed in the data or in other words try to step into the participants' shoes as far as possible (Pietkiewicz & Smith, 2014). In IPA the researcher will need to read the transcript multiple times and to listen to the audio-tape a few times as well. This is so the researcher will become immersed into the data and recollection of the atmosphere of the interview and the setting where the interview was conducted and can add new insights. At this stage it is also recommended that the researcher make notes about his or her observations and reflections about the interview experience (Pietkiewicz & Smith, 2014).

The researcher looked at each question answered by the participant and then begins the process of writing descriptive comments related to the comments made by the participant. The next steps entail looking for emergent themes, themes that then are grouped together, and finally looking for patterns across themes (Smith et al., 2012). I will be using the software Nvivo to help with the data analysis.

I followed the steps identified by Smith and colleagues (Smith et al. 2012). The first step of an IPA analysis is that the researcher must reading and re-reading the data; also, if the data is from an interview, then listening to the audio-tape at the same time would be most useful. Having the audio will help with imagining the voice of the participant. The purpose of this first step is to ensure that the participant is the focus of the analysis. The second step of analysis is the most time consuming and detail oriented; it is initial noting or comments. This step scrutinizes the meaning of word content and language used on an exploratory level. The use of descriptive comments helps with clarifying what the participants say. Linguistic comments focus on exploring the use of language by the participant and lastly conceptual comments are more at the level of interrogative and conceptual. Two other ways of doing exploratory noting is to go through the transcript and underline text which seems to have meaning or importance. Then for each underline sections of text write in the margin why you think that it is important. The use of free association is also a technique that can be used. With this technique the researcher writes down whatever comes to your mind when reading certain sentences and words.

Step three involves the developing of emergent themes. At this junction the analyzing of exploratory comments is used to identify emergent themes. Here is where the researcher attempts to produce concise and meaningful statements that are important in the many comments that are attached to pieces of the transcript. The themes not only combined the participant's original words and thought's but also the researcher's interpretation.

Step four entails typing all the themes in a chronological order into a list. The next step will be for the themes to be moved to form clusters of related themes. Print out the themes, cut up the list of themes so that each theme is on a separate piece of paper. Then use a large space like the floor to move the themes around. Those themes that are similar should be placed together; and those themes that are in opposition should be placed in at opposite ends of a piece of paper. Step 5 is moving on to the next case and repeating the process. There is also the possibility of new themes emerging across each case. Step six is looking for patterns across each case (Smith et al., 2012).

IPA can include abstraction which is a basic form of identifying patterns between emergent theme and then developing what is called a "super-ordinate theme. Polarization is examining the transcript for oppositional relationships that focus on difference instead of similarity. Contextualization looks for emergent themes through the narrative elements within analysis. Numeration is looking at how often or the frequency a theme is supported; and this is a way of indicating the importance of a theme. Function can be used as a means of examine emergent themes for a specific function within the transcript.

Organizing themes in more than one way can be creative and help with raising the analysis to another level (Smith et al., 2012).

As stated before the IPA method was not used because of lack of saturation; the case study method was used to carry out the study, more information will be given in chapter four and what steps were followed to actually conduct the data analysis of the study. The above information was kept in the study because it was part of the proposal.

Issues of Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness was a phrase coined by Lincoln and Guba as a set of criteria to judge the quality of qualitative research. Trustworthiness is defined as the quality of an investigation along with the findings that made it noteworthy to audiences (Schwandt, 2007). Trustworthiness involves credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability (Cohen & Crabtree, 2006).

Credibility

Credibility is establishing that the results of the research are believable from the viewpoint of the participants in the research (Trochim, 2006). Triangulation is a component of credibility which involves gathering information from multiple data sources (Cohen & Crabtree, 2006). Credibility can also be ensured through member-checking. Lincoln and Guba (as cited in Cohen & Crabtree, 2006) posit that member checking is the most crucial technique for verifying the credibility of an account. For this study, this writer will aim for credibility by supplying the participants with a summary of their transcript and this researcher's interpretation and the participants will give feedback and recommendations.

A final means of ensuring credibility will be by peer debriefing where an external audit of the research process, data collection, and the data analysis is reviewed by an impartial expert (Patton, 2002). The achievement of maintaining this type of credibility is through the doctoral committee (Patton, 2002). The doctoral committee at Walden University consist of two people the committee chair and the committee member. The chairperson of the committee is responsible for providing guidance and support to the doctoral student throughout the process of writing the dissertation. The chair is also responsible for making sure that the dissertation meets all Walden University requirements which include content coverage, methodology, research ethics, form and style. The committee member has a shared responsibility with the chair and provides support and guidance to the student; and is responsible for assisting the doctoral student with either methodology expertise or content expertise; or a combination of both areas (Walden University Doctoral Committee Members Roles and Desired Practices, n.d.)

Transferability

Transferability a part of trustworthiness deals with the concern of generalization “in terms of case-to-case transfer” (Schwandt, 2007 p.299). This study being IPA is concerned with how each participant made sense of their experience (Pietkiewicz & Smith, 2014). The point of that this writer is trying to make in the study is less about generalizing this information but getting an understanding about experiences of witnessing prison sexual violence. Per Lincoln and Guba (as cited in Cohen & Crabtree, 2006) the use of thick description is a means of achieving transferability. Through describing the phenomenon in detail, the reader can then come to their own conclusion of

the data that is being presented (Cohen & Crabtree, 2006; Leedy& Ormrod, 2010; Schwandt, 2007). For this reason, this writer will be engaging in the use of thick description. Thick description is defined as not just a matter of gathering relevant materials; it is to interpret it through recording the circumstances, meanings, intentions, and motivations of a situation (Schwandt, 2007). According to Cohen and Crabtree (2006) thick description was described by Lincoln and Guba as a way of showing a type of external validity; by the describing an event in such ample detail that one can draw a conclusion that the evaluation can be transferable to other times, settings and people.

Dependability

Dependability ensures that the researcher process is logical, traceable, and documented (Schwandt, 2007). In other words, a study that a researcher is doing can be repeated using the exact methodology, the exact participants, and the same results would happen (Crabtree & Cohen, 2006). To guarantee dependability this researcher will give in detail the research process so that anyone else who wants to replicate this study will be able to do so. This will be done through rich description of how this study as designed and planned; detail of what happened in the field; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the chosen method used for this study. It is of this researchers' opinion that the thoroughness that is written will in some manner ensure the dependability of this study.

Confirmability

Confirmability is concerned with establishing the fact that the data and interpretations of the researcher were not from researcher bias, interest, motivation, or figments of imagination (Cohen & Crabtree, 2006; Schwandt, 2007). This researcher

will use the techniques of triangulation and reflexivity to help establish confirmability. Triangulation for this study information will be used via cross-checking and comparison of the participants. The participants will also review the data and conclusions for accuracy. This will assist in the reduction of interview bias. The use of reflexivity is to critically examine the entire research process. From the researcher's reflection on the ways the participants were recruited for the study; the researcher examining her own personal and theoretical commitment and how this can serve as a resource for generating data, one's behavior towards participants, and for having certain interpretations (Schwandt, 2007). It is important and greatly suggested that researchers keep a journal during the research process. In this journal I will include the methodology reasons; reflections on what are happening and my own interest, and even information on how the study is panning out. Lastly as the researcher I report any preconceived notions, assumptions or values that may come into play during the research process Lincoln and Guba's work (as cited in Cohen & Crabtree, 2006).

Ethical Procedures

To ensure ethical protection of the participants of this study, I obtained approval from Walden University Institutional Review Board (IRB) and from the parole office before I begin the study. All the research participants were given an informed consent agreement (see Appendix C) which will explain the participants' role in the study being voluntary; they are permitted to withdraw from the study at any time without any negative consequences; and as the writer I am not in any position to influence the amount of time left on their parole status. After the participants are given ample time to read the

form and any questions are answered by the writer, the participants will be asked to sign the consent form, which will indicate their willingness to be a participant in the study. No incentives will be offered to the participants to be involved /interviewed for this study.

The anonymity of the participants will be secured by using an assigned number for each participant instead of their name. To gain access to participants I contacted the parole board supervisor and set up a meeting with him or her and discuss my dissertation and leave a copy of a flyer asking for participants.

Furthermore, the participants will be given information on how this data is to be used. It will explain how their information will remain anonymous and that there will be a final report as part of the dissertation that will be a collection of data from all the participants. The data that is collected will be kept in a locked file cabinet for a period of five years after this study is completed and then will be destroyed. The audio-tapes will also be kept in a locked file cabinet and will be destroyed after five years.

Summary

Witnessing prison sexual violence is a topic that does not have a lot of information (Daquin, 2013). There is plethora of information on victims of prison sexual violence (Wolff & Shi, 2009) and even the traits of the potential victims of sexual victimization in prison (Neal & Clements, 2010). Because there have been very few studies on this topic of witnessing prison sexual violence, this study seeks to add to the prison literature firsthand accounts of the lived experiences of witnessing prison sexual violence. The qualitative interviews will offer more information into the prison literature on a much-needed topic (Listwan et al, 2012; Daquin, 2013).

This chapter explained the research methodology, design, collection and analysis of the data. This chapter also explored how the participants would be recruited, and the validation of the information gathered from the participants. The participants of this study will all be over 18 years of age and will include five male ex-inmates. There will be one interview conducted for approximately one-hour duration. The use of the IPA approach to explore the lived experiences of witnessing prison sexual violence is the most appropriate design. This writer will be the sole interviewer and it has been discussed how this study could be replicated, participant population, the sample size, and the recruitment process. Ethical procedures and what steps that have been taken to secure the participants anonymity have been also discussed along with the various tactics that are to use to ensure credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability throughout the research process. In Chapter 4, the analysis of this study will be presented.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to explore the lived experiences of witnesses of PSV. It adds to the literature by providing additional research regarding the existence of prison systems of communication and ways of interacting that affect witness reporting of such violence, as well as traumatic experiences involving a structured setting such as prison. Additional research is necessary to illuminate how systems function and the effects of those systems on witnesses of violence. This study addressed the question of what the actual emotional experiences are for those who witness sexual violence within a system that often operates with a code of silence mentality. This chapter includes a review of the setting, demographic information, data analysis, and evidence. The chapter concludes with a summary. The research question was: What are the lived experiences of ex-inmates regarding witnessing PSV?

Setting

The setting of the research was face-face and telephone. All participants set convenient times for interviews. The only face-to-face interviewee selected a local restaurant for the interview. All participants did not want me to record the interview, so I took notes and later transcribed them for reporting. To ensure privacy, the interview took place out of hearing range of other patrons, and there were no interruptions from others during the interview.

I conducted three interviews over the phone. Each participant selected a time that was convenient. Participants did not agree for me to audio taping the interviews, so I recorded each interview with handwritten notes. Of note, the participants experienced strong emotions at times, in which their voices cracked from the emotion of retelling the events. The emotions they expressed added to the findings by confirming how the effects of witnessing PSV are lasting. Each participant had the time and comfort to process his or her emotions in a safe setting, and the interview only proceeded when the participant gave permission. One interview took place in two parts due to the participant needing to leave and return to the interview later. There were times when, during an interview, it was necessary to repeat questions and reiterate answers to clarify that the information the researcher was gathering was accurate due to difficulties with speech on the part of one of the participants. All interviews took place in private and with the express permission of the participants.

Demographics

Four participants provided information for this study. Three were males and one was female. There were two Native Americans, one Hispanic American, and one African American. The ages of the respondents were 27, 30, 43, and 52. One respondent had a general education diploma, two respondents had some college, and one respondent had an Associates of Science degree.

Data Collection

The four participants answered semi structured interview questions. All interviews took place at the convenience of the participants. The first interview took place at a local restaurant away from other patrons. The researcher recorded the data through handwritten notes. This interview took 45 minutes.

The second and third interviews were 45 minutes in length, and the researcher took handwritten notes. The researcher called the participants at the agreed time. The last interview took place over the phone; the researcher called the participant at the selected time. This interview was in two parts because the participant had to leave to perform a work-related duty. This interview lasted 50 minutes. The first part was 30 minutes and the second part was 20 minutes. The participant was away for about 30 minutes. To encourage quality assurance, the researcher used member checking. The researcher read back to participants their responses to the questions to make sure what the participants were expressing was accurate.

Methodology

Originally, I planned to use the IPA method. However, I changed the IPA method to a case study because saturation did not occur. In changing the methodology I also changed the number of participants. In IPA I needed six participants and in the use of the case study I was able to recruit four participants which satisfied saturation. The challenge in reaching saturation was a lack of assistance from parole and probation officers, homeless shelters, and addiction programs to recruit possible participants. It is not clear why these organizations lacked support in terms of recruiting participants for this study. Also, other potential participants did not want to participate. Some respondents reported wanting to leave the past in the past. I had to acquire IRB approval to make some changes to the study such as inclusion of female participants who were ex inmates and opening up the facilities to jails. The case study still captured the phenomenon of witnessing PSV. Case studies answer questions regarding why or how. A case is an investigation or intensive study of a person or a group of people (Gustafsson, 2017). According to Thomas and Myers (2017), case studies are analyses of persons, events, or decisions who/which undergo holistic study through one or more methods. Case studies can give researchers the ability to choose participants who offer insights regarding interesting, unusual, or revealing phenomena which are bounded by time or place (Thomas & Myers, 2017). The purpose of case study research is to look for an explanation and gain an understanding of the phenomenon; case study research is particularly suitable for description, interpretation, and exploratory analysis (Farquhar,

2012). Yin (as cited in Farquhar, 2012) said that case studies also illustrate and enlighten research.

I used the retrospective method, which involves collecting data relating to a past phenomenon. Using the case study method I was able to explore the phenomenon of PSV from the witnesses' perspective in depth. Case study research can explore a phenomenon in depth (Farquhar, 2012). Also; case study research is useful where the findings generate insight into "how the phenomenon occurs within a given situation" (Farquhar, 2012, p. 6). Questions regarding why in this study are important, because of the insight they can give regarding the continuation of PSV and the impact of PSV on witnesses. The case study method allowed me to gain insight into and understand the emotions of witnesses of PSV.

An unusual circumstance in this study was that the participants did not want the researcher to audio record them. This may be because of the sensitive subject of this research topic. Another possible reason for this type of apprehension is the prison code of silence, which is based upon importation theory, in which no one informs. The rule or code of not snitching is possibly ingrained in all inmates, and they continue to express it outside of incarceration.

Data Analysis

The first step in the analysis was to review written transcripts of the interviews and evaluate them to extract key ideas and recurring themes. Open and thematic coding are the usual procedures used by researchers in the analysis of data according to Coffey and Atkinson (as cited in Evers & Loes vanStaa, 2012). Thematic coding draws on the

research question; the researcher develops open codes while reviewing the data. I documented a list of the most common words and then placed short descriptions after every single passage; after that, I organized the codes according to similar themes that emerged. The five themes that emerged were exposure, corrupt guards, avoidance, distress, and violence.

Exposure was the first theme. The participants all discussed how exposure to witnessing PSV impacted them. Participants discussed being fearful and angry, feeling helpless and hopeless. Some of the participants witnessed prison sexual violence nightly. Witnessing prison sexual violence can also lead to secondary traumatization. A discussion of this follows later in the chapter.

Corrupt guards were the second theme to emerge. The guard's function is to help with preserving the peace in prison and to stop the inmates from escaping. The participants thought that the guards were not helping in keeping the environment safe inside the prison; that the guards even encouraged some of the unsafe environment for prison sexual violence. Most guards were not corrupt, even though the participants only commented on the corrupt guards that impacted them. Corruption of guards can be the result of individuals who are seeking power over the inmates and who will misuse this authority (B.Hines, personal communication, March 12, 2019).

The third theme was avoidance. The participants discussed various ways of trying to handle witnessing PSV. Avoidance coping is a way of dealing with a stressful or unpleasant situation. One of the participants would stay off the "run" and work longer hours at work; another participant asked for a transfer to another unit.

The fourth theme was distress. The participants reported that distress has links with other behaviors and ways of dealing with prison sexual violence. The primary cause of distress for the interviewees was being in prison. Some of the participants talked about not being able to sleep, because of witnessing PSV caused nightmares and discomfort in wanting to sleep so as not to become a victim. Appetite was another concern that was mentioned by the respondents. Some of the participants talked about loss of appetite as it related to prison sexual violence. The loss of appetite had to do with seeing the either the victim or the perpetrator of sexual violence the next day at meals; “it was difficult to stomach” respondents (P1 and P3) stated.

The fifth theme was violence. Prisoners view violence as a means of protection. Some of the participants thought of becoming violent so as not to become victims. There was one respondent who was more violent than the rest of the respondents. This respondent spoke about wanting to seek revenge on the individuals who had sexually assaulted a young man. However, due to prison politics this was not done to keep the peace in the prison. Perpetrators also use violence as a means of coercion.

Evidence of Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness is the quality of an investigation along with the findings that make it noteworthy to audiences (Schwandt, 2007). Trustworthiness includes credibility, dependability, transferability, and confirmability (Cohen & Crabtree, 2006). The various aspects of trustworthiness will be discussed individually below.

Credibility

As Chapter 3 indicated, credibility was establishing that the results are accurate from the viewpoint of the participants in the research (Trochim, 2006). A means of assuring credibility was through member checking. This involved the members making sure of the accuracy of their accounts when the researcher read their answers back to them. In other research studies member checking would involve summarizing a transcript for the respondents and have them check it for accuracy. However, with this study the sensitive topic, the respondents did not want to be contacted after the interviews, so the only means of assuring any type of accuracy was the reading back to them at the time what was stated. This may be an unusual method, but it was all I had at my disposal. A final means of ensuring credibility is by peer debriefing, is where an impartial expert reviews an external audit of the research process, data collection, and data analysis; this achievement took place through the doctoral committee (Patton, 2002).

Transferability

According to Lincoln and Guba (as cited in Cohen & Crabtree, 2006) the use of thick description is a means of transferability. In this study, transferability resulted from describing the research setting. Also, in this study, it was less about generalizing information than about answering the questions of why or how. In this study, the phenomenon of interest was witnessing PSV. The findings of this qualitative study are not transferable due to the number of respondents in this study, this places limitation relayed to transferability.

Dependability

Dependability ensures that the researcher's process is logical, traceable, and documented (Schwandt, 2007). In other words, if another researcher repeated the study using the same methodology and the same participants, he or she would obtain the same results (Cohen & Crabtree, 2006). The guarantee of this study's dependability is giving in detail the research process so that anybody else who wants to replicate this study will be able to do so using the rich description of the design and planning of this study, details of what happened, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the method for the research.

Confirmability

Confirmability concerns demonstrating that the facts, the data, and the interpretation of the research were not the result of the researcher's bias, interest, or motivation, or a figment of the researcher's imagination (Crabtree & Cohen, 2006; Schwandt, 2007). For this research, I kept a small journal during the data collection and data analysis procedures. I made sure that I was aware of my body language in the only face-to-face interview, and my voice inflections for the phone interviews, making sure there were no changes in my voice that could influence the participants. Over-the-phone interviewing was challenging, because there were no visual cues. I was mindful not to make comments or any vocalizations that might influence the participants in what they were saying, and just to take notes as impartially as possible.

Study Results

Five themes surfaced from the interviews. These themes were exposure, corrupt guards, avoidance, distress, and violence. Each topic had subthemes. The exposure

subtheme was secondary traumatization; the corrupt guards' subtheme was bribery; the avoidance subthemes were ignoring and denial; the distress subthemes were remorse, empathy, hopelessness, and anger; and the violence subthemes were code of silence and sexual slavery. Table 1 lists these themes and subthemes.

Table 2

Themes and Subthemes Emerging from the Interviews

Theme	Exposure	Corrupt guards	Avoidance	Distress	Violence
Subthemes	Secondary traumatization	Bribery	Ignoring Denial	Remorse Empathy Hopelessness Anger	Code of silence Sexual slavery

Theme: Exposure

All the participants talked about how exposure to prison sexual violence has affected them. P1 said, "I couldn't believe it when I was hearing that sexual violence." "Hearing it was awful". "They were supposed to be a couple". P2 said it was "scary to hear and see prison sexual violence." P1 talked about how you "can't unsee or unhear" the violence and this leads to "insecurity."

(a) Subtheme: Secondary Traumatization

Secondary trauma is the result of indirect exposure to a traumatic event through a firsthand account or a secondary narrative. All the participants were affected by their exposure to prison sexual violence. It changed the participants then and now. P2 said “I have nightmares; [you] never get over it when you hear or see this type of violence.” P4 said “I have anxiety.” Also, a common symptom of secondary trauma is anger. P2 said “thought of bashing in those bitches’ heads.” P3 said “felt shocked...sad...pity...angry...annoyed.” P4 said “felt rage; wanted to attack them.” P1 said was upset “by hearing people being raped and the noises.”

Theme: Corrupt Guards

Correctional officers are the staple of the penitentiary system. Their role is dual; one is to help with keeping the inmates safe and to preserve the peace; the other is to ensure that society stays safe from inmates by keeping the prison secure. All the participants had issues with trusting guards. There is also an imbalance of guards at night. P1 stated that “there is a ratio of 1 guard to 60 inmates.” Some of the participants heard the sexual violence more at night. Contributing factors to prison sexual violence at night may include decreased staff, officers falling asleep, and dimmed lighting, which does not allow the control room guards to see properly, and which can provide an opportunity for predators to take advantage. Also, some guards like to create friction amongst the inmates to maintain control, and they may use predatory inmates to control other inmates (B.Hines, personal communication, March 12, 2019).

(b) Subtheme: Bribery

Bribery is a way of persuading others to act favorably towards you. Bribery was a subtheme relating to the participants not having any trust in the correctional officers. P1 stated “Inmates can pay off guards to open cells at night; it’s very scary.” P3 stated “guards are paid off.” P4 stated: “Guards didn’t do anything—laugh and joke about it!” There are a couple of theories relating to why guards do not do anything but laugh and joke about the prison sexual violence. One is that the guards do not empathize with the pain of the victim (Trammell & Rundle, 2015), not wanting to upset the status quo (Liebling & Arnold, 2012); and some guards may use prison sexual violence as a means of controlling some of the inmates’ behaviors (Alarid, 2000; Chonco, 1989; Eigenberg, 2000).

Theme: Avoidance

Avoidance is a nonadaptive way of dealing with a stressful or unpleasant situation. The participants discussed various ways of trying to handle witnessing prison sexual violence.

(c) Subtheme: Ignoring

Ignoring is a conscious coping mechanism not to take notice of or acknowledge a given situation that is stressful; to disregard it intentionally. P2 talked about “prayer and putting her headphones on; not wanting to appear afraid.” Also, P2 reported that “I coped by working as often as I could; staying off the run.” P1 stated “I coped by closing my eyes.” “ I did nothing ...was polite...went on about my day... try to get through the

day and go on to the next.” P3 reported “asked to be transferred off the unit,” and P4 said “didn’t talk about it anymore.”

(d) Subtheme: Denial

Denial is an unconscious psychological mechanism to reduce anxiety that can arise from an unacceptable or painful situation. P3 said “felt this shouldn’t have happened... why [would] you allow [your] self to be used?” He was in a way almost blaming the victim, because his witnessing this made him uncomfortable. P2 said “try not to think about it.” P1 said “thought of being in another place.” P4 said “felt sad and coped by using marijuana and drinking ‘hooch.’”

Theme: Distress

Distress is when an individual is suffering mentally, emotionally, or physically. There may also be a range of symptoms and experiences that are troubling, confusing, or out of the ordinary. Distress can lead to other strong emotions and if prolonged a deep depression.

(e) Subtheme: Remorse

Remorse is a distressing emotion that people experience when they feel that they should have acted on a situation and did not; this has a close relationship with guilt. P2 said “[I] wish I had done something more—tried harder to help the people.” P4 said “I should have done something.”

(f) Subtheme: Empathy

Empathy is the ability to sympathize with and understand the feelings of another person’s situation. P3 said “no one deserves to be raped every night.”“ What does he

feel?”“ How does this person feel at night?” P1 said “It is very sad that people have to go through this in prison.”

(g) Subtheme: Hopelessness

Hopelessness is a feeling of despair or lack of hope. P3 said “Ironic everyone knows that it is happening—no one says anything about it.” The participants felt that there would not be any change in how prison authorities handle sexual violence; exposure to this type of violence also made the participants feel hopeless. P1 thought “it’s terrible.”“I think it’s not going to change.”“ It sucks!”“ What are you going to do about it?” P2 stated “Prison sexual violence is horrifying or terrifying; going on all the time; nobody is going to put an end to it! No one is doing anything to change it!”

(h) Subtheme: Anger

Anger is a strong emotion with links to depression, which is the result of the hopelessness of a given situation. Being in prison is a very stressful situation and having to abide by the unspoken laws and rules of prison can only lead to pent-up anger. P2 said “thought of bashing in those bitches’ heads.” P4 said “I am still disgusted by it today—if I were to see these guys today I would get em.” P3 said “felt shocked... sad...pity... angry...annoyed.”

Theme: Violence

Violence can be a strength of emotion or behavior that involves brute force. There are predators in prison that wait to take advantage. P2 stated that if “I was sexually attacked I would have attempted suicide.” P4 stated “I became violent toward other White inmates.” There is also violence against oneself.P3stated “Knew of one inmate

that committed suicide after being a victim of prison rape.” P2 stated “there were a couple of inmates that tried to kill themselves.” P1 stated “thought better off killing them [the perpetrator] than being raped.” P4 stated “if an inmate is raped, he will be preyed upon by others then he will need a ‘Daddy’ for protection, or he will be beaten up and raped every day.”

(i) Subtheme: Code of Silence

The code of silence is a subtheme of violence, because it is a means of intimidation, violence (sexual and physical), and coercion for victims and witnesses to remain silent. This is from importation theory; which draws on inmates bringing the codes of the street into the prison. The most important aspect of the code of silence is the prohibition against snitching. The prison code of silence maintains that victims of or witnesses to prison sexual violence avoid reporting because of fear of retaliation. P1 stated “Didn’t do anything about it, because if you snitched, it would come back worse on you. They could rape you or beat you later when you least expected it.” P3 stated “don’t report to guard; whether you hear it or see it you don’t talk about it to another inmate; chose to ignore it for survival reasons.” P2 stated “There was a girl who was cut from her vagina up to her throat for being a snitch.

(j) Subtheme: Sexual Slavery

Sexual slavery in prison is when a person buys another inmate; this person may or may not know about the arrangement. Sexual slavery is can be devastating. P4 stated “I saw a man get sold—and he didn’t know he was sold—he was immediately raped.”

Summary

In conclusion, this chapter has examined the lived experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. There were four participants, and all the participants answered the same open-ended interview questions. Five main themes emerged from the interviews: exposure, corrupt guards, avoidance, distress, and violence. On exposure, participants discussed how exposure to prison sexual violence impacted them. The subtheme was secondary traumatization. Avoidance was how the participants dealt emotionally or psychologically with being witnesses to PSV. Subthemes were ignoring and denial. Corrupt guards was a theme, as the participants did not think the CO's were doing their part in keeping the prison safe, and they were not trustworthy. The subtheme was bribery. Distress is when a person is suffering emotionally, mentally, or physically. Subthemes were remorse, empathy, hopelessness, and anger. Violence was a theme dealing with strength of emotion or brute force. Violence is most often a means of control from inmate to inmate. Subthemes were code of silence and sexual slavery.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Introduction

The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore the lived experiences of witnesses of PSV. The researcher used the qualitative methodology and a case study approach. The researcher conducted this study because there is a vast amount of information on victims of PSV, but not regarding witnessing PSV. One of the key findings of this study is that witnessing PSV can have lasting effects, such as secondary trauma (anxiety, nightmares, and signs and symptoms of PTSD) or struggling with

remorse and the code of silence. The code of silence comes from the importation theory that prisoners do not share information with authorities under threat of reprisal. Five themes emerged during the interviews from the participants: exposure (participants to witnessing PSV), corrupt guards, avoidance (participants used as a coping mechanism), distress, and violence.

Interpretation of the Findings

Although research relating to PSV has taken place, there is little information on witnessing PSV in the literature. The findings of this study can address the gap in the literature regarding witnesses of PSV. Researchers have explored PSV from the victims' points of view. There is limited literature on the experience of witnesses of prison sexual violence.

The themes of this study were exposure, corrupt guards, avoidance, distress, and violence. The results revealed that exposure to PSV led to secondary traumatization. Inmates that have heard about an inmate being physically violated by another inmate, witnessed the event, or even heard it may engage in aggressive and more violent behaviors to stave off becoming victims. Participants in this study discussed how exposure to prison sexual violence has affected them. P2 said "Scary to hear and see prison sexual violence." Vicarious traumatization can be a strain on inmates and their ability to have prosocial coping mechanisms, such as behaving in a positive manner that could help others avoid traumatization. The code of silence can and in most cases does limit how inmates can influence other inmates positively. P2 said "I tried to get some girls to talk to [the] guards, but they were too scared."

Corrupt guards may accept bribes to perpetuate the cycle of PSV, and therefore the witnessing of PSV. P1 said “Inmates can pay off guards to open cells at night; it’s very scary. Correctional staff very rarely observes inmates in the act of sexual activity, and prisons usually rely on reports from inmates (Garland & Wilson, 2013). Inmates are less likely to report PSV because of the code of silence and fear of retribution. Male inmates are also less likely to report any victimization to correctional staff, especially male staff members, because of the culture of masculinity in prison (Miller, 2010). Though the participants in this study reported different experiences, guards who participate in sexual violence or fail to fulfill their duty of keeping the prison safe for inmates may exacerbate the effects of witnessing PSV.

Guards may find identifying sexual assault complicated, as it can be difficult to determine the nature of the sexual act (for example, the guard may not interfere due to not knowing the difference between consensual and forced sexual contact), and there may be a lack of training (by guards) regarding how to investigate PSV and/or insufficient resources to follow up on allegations (U.S. DOJ, 2007). Eigenberg (2000) said guards sometimes chose to ignore sexual violence due to embarrassment confronting inmates, and these guards may choose to ignore sexual acts because of their perception of no harm. For a sexual activity to go on the official record, it must first come to the attention of the guards or correctional officers. However, guards or correctional officers can also contribute to sexual violence in prisons (Alarid, 2000; Banbury, 2004; Eigenberg, 2000; Struckman-Johnson et al., 2013). They may do so by using sexual assault to control other inmates and overlooking the attacks; some guards fear for their own lives, as they are

hugely outnumbered (Chonco, 1989), and some inmates fear that guards will sell them to other inmates for sexual favors (Alarid, 2000; Hensley et al., 2003).

Avoidance was a theme in this study. Avoidance was a way that participants dealt with the stress of witnessing PSV. Participants used avoidance techniques to manage their feelings regarding witnessing PSV. This information from the participants gave insight into how they felt being witnesses to PSV, and adding to the prison literature may expand literature regarding witnessing PSV. McCorkle (1992) said that avoidance was the preferred approach to reduce the threat of victimization among infirm and older inmates.

Participants discussed various ways of trying to manage witnessing PSV. One idea was to ignore the event or situation; this is a conscious coping mechanism not to take notice of or acknowledge a given situation that is stressful; to disregard it intentionally. P1 said “I coped by closing my eyes. I did nothing ... was polite... went on about my day... [tried] to get through the day and go on to the next.” Another means of managing emotions was to use a defense mechanism; denial is an unconscious psychological mechanism that can reduce anxiety arising from an unacceptable or painful situation. P4 said “[I] felt sad and coped by using marijuana and drinking hooch.”

The experience of distress can lead to hopelessness, anger, remorse, and empathy. Remorse is a distressing emotion that occurs when someone feels that he or she should have acted in a situation and did not; this has a close relationship with guilt. P2 said, “[I] wish I had done something more—tried harder to help the people.” Empathy is the ability to sympathize with and understand the feelings of another person. P3 said “no one

deserves to be raped every night. What does he feel? How does this person feel at night?" Hopelessness is a state of despair. P1 said "It is very sad that people have to go through this in prison." The reality of being in prison and the prison regime (lack of freedom, and the prison rules and regulations) has been a factor in distress (Vanhooren, Leijssen, &Dezutter, 2015). However, there are no previous references in the literature linking distress to witnessing PSV that I could find; distress has been linked to being in prison and possibly to victims of prison violence. The participants discussed distress in detail to manage their remorse, empathy, anger, and hopelessness; they eventually stopped talking about the event, did not expect any changes, and decided to live with witnessing PSV. However individual and institutional differences can reduce or amplify the experience of distress during incarceration Day, Casey, Vess, &Huisy, 2012; Liebling &Maruna, (as cited in Vanhooren, Leijssen, &Dezutter, 2017).

Anger is a strong emotion that can have links with depression arising from the hopelessness of a given situation. Being in prison is a very stressful situation, and having to abide by the unspoken laws and rules of prison can lead to pent-up anger (DeVeaux, 2013). This anger is usually manifested in acts of violence either toward self or others.

The participants felt that there would not be any change in how prison authorities handle sexual violence; exposure to this type of violence also made the participants feel hopeless (Dumond, 2003). Sometimes PSV comes from sexual predators that are bigger and older than their cellmates (Neal &Clements, 2010). PSV is something that participants thought will continue to persist and that it is an unfortunate part of prison life.

The last theme, violence, has a connection to the subtheme of prison code of silence and the subtheme of sexual slavery, on which there is a not a lot of information. The code of silence is a subtheme of violence, because it is a means of intimidation, violence (sexual and physical), and coercion for victims and witnesses to remain silent. The inmate prison code comes from the importation theory, which states that inmates brought the codes of the street into prison. The most important aspect of the code of silence is the prohibition against snitching. The prison code of silence maintains that victims or witnesses to prison sexual violence avoid reporting because of fear of retaliation. P1 said “Didn’t do anything about it because if you snitched, it would come back worse on you. They could rape you or beat you later when you least expected it.” McCorkle (1992) reported that younger inmates used the inmate code to strengthen their positions in prison, and they used more aggressive techniques to deter attacks. Sexual slavery in prison is when a person buys another inmate; this person may or may not know about the arrangement. P4 said “I saw a man get sold—and he didn’t know he was sold—he was immediately raped.”

The research documents the characteristics or traits of the perpetrator and the victim of the prison sexual violence well (Morash et al., 2012; Neal & Clements, 2010; Perez et al., 2009; Richters et al., 2012; Wolff et al., 2006). There is, however, a gap in the research relating to the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. Prison assault, especially amongst male inmates, is stigmatizing to the victim; if the inmate admits to being assaulted, it can compromise his or her safety. Many inmates have had multiple traumatic events; inmates who have witnessed or been the victims of acts of

violence are at greater risk of manifesting depressive and posttraumatic symptoms than inmates who were not witnesses or victims (Hochstetler et al., 2004). An inmate who has become a victim can also turn around and become a predator to survive (Wooldredge & Steiner, 2013). Being a witness to violence and/or a victim of violence has adverse psychological effects. This current study uncovered the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence; there is already information on the long-term effects of sexual assaults in general on adult male victims and the effects of prison sexual violence on victims. For inmates who have not yet directly become victims, witnessing the victimization of another and the anticipation of experiencing victimization can be a great source of stress (McGrath et al., 2012). Though this was a small study, the information it gathered adds to and confirms knowledge of how witnesses respond to prison sexual violence through the themes and subthemes that emerged: exposure (secondary: traumatization); ineffective guards (bribery); avoidance (ignore, defense mechanism); distress (remorse, empathy, hopelessness, and anger); and violence (code of silence and sexual slavery). Witnessing prison sexual violence led the participants to become fearful and to anticipate victimization. As the literature shows, secondary traumatization can influence how some individuals respond to the trauma then and now; this is no different from how the participants in this study reacted.

The last theme, violence, is present in the literature. Violence and the code of silence go together. This code keeps inmates quiet about any violence in prison. This study is no different in its information. The participants avoided talking because they did not want any retaliation from the perpetrators of the sexual violence. The phenomenon of

sexual slavery in prison has only recently emerged from the shadows. Prison rape, in general, has received sporadic notice over the years and sustained attention more recently, with the passage of the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act, which aims to eliminate it (Liptak, 2004). In an article on sexual slavery, one person spoke about being a sex slave for a gang member for 18 months and his sale to other gangs or inmates for commissary, \$5 to \$10, or even cigarettes. He was a gay man, and other inmates did not allow him to use his name; he received a feminine name (Liptak, 2004). Though the present study is small, one participant did recall an inmate being sold to another inmate and raped immediately.

The themes and subthemes of this study add more information to the prison literature relating to witnessing PSV by expanding the information beyond aggression and violence into other, unexplored areas relating to witnessing PSV. The themes included exposure (to witnessing PSV); avoidance (of witnessing PSV); corrupt guards; distress; and violence.

Many inmates have had multiple traumatic events; inmates who have witnessed or have become victims of acts of violence are at greater risk of manifesting depressive symptoms and posttraumatic symptoms than inmates who have not (Hochstetler et al., 2004). There are witnesses to prison sexual violence, but none of these studies have any information on the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. The evidence shows that those who have witnessed or been direct victims of prison violence are more likely to have long-term adverse outcomes such as anxiety, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and health concerns (Listwan et al., 2014). The participants in this study

suffered from secondary traumatization, anger, posttraumatic stress disorder, and anxiety. They reported signs and symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder such as flashbacks, nightmares, intrusive memories, anxiety, and sleep disturbances. The effects of exposure to violence also have links with an increase in aggressive behaviors (Boxer et al., 2009). Some of the participants expressed anger and aggression towards the perpetrators. This study may help with understanding their experiences by giving detailed information relating to witnessing prison sexual violence, how this experience has affected them then and now, and why prison sexual violence continues.

The data for the study falls within the perimeters of the theoretical framework of self-categorization, and they link to the code of silence. Self-categorization theory is a way that prisoners and possibly correctional officers perpetuate the prison code of silence. It is how members of groups identify themselves and others in the group and set up rules based upon the internalization of these identifying factors (Hogg, 2006). Based upon these assumptions of group likeness, conformity, trust, and solidarity surface, and then this forms a self-defining group model (Hogg, 2006).

The themes of this study have links with self-categorization theory, based upon the participants' collective reports of how they felt and coped with the trauma of being witnesses to prison sexual violence. Participants of this study felt isolated and forced to remain in the inmate collective of self-identification of the group. Since self-categorization theory is a self-identification of a group, the participants of this study complied, but they also had the burden of dealing with their emotions through the themes that emerged in this study: exposure, ineffective guards, avoidance, distress, and

violence. The prison code of conduct is a means of binding all prisoners together in us versus them scenarios, and this code can assist in maintaining the predator-victim relationship and witnesses to silence that only help to continue prison sexual violence.

The prison code maintains that victims or witnesses to prison sexual violence avoid reporting because of fear of retaliation from the attacker or other inmates for speaking up (Chonco, 1989; Fowler et al., 2010; Garland & Wilson, 2013). The most important aspect of the criminal code is the prohibition against snitching. It seems that this code entered prisons via the importation and deprivation theories (Listwan et al., 2014; Trammell, 2009). Inmates' belief systems have an important influence on whether they are willing to report sexual assaults (Garland & Wilson, 2013). Barriers to the investigation of sexual assault in prison are the lack of witnesses, inmate culture, those who do witness not wanting others perceive them as snitches, difficulty in the validation process of the claim, and inadequate resources to pursue any allegations (U.S. Department of Justice, 2007). The information in this study is in line with the literature, in that the participants did not want others to see them as snitches, and therefore they did not report the events, due to not wanting any repercussions from fellow inmates, either physical or sexual assault.

Limitations of the Study

With all studies there are limitations. One weakness was the size of the study, which necessitated a change in method from IPA to case study. Using the IPA research design, the study did not reach saturation. A significant aspect of gaining saturation was the lack of participants and the difficulty of gaining access to willing participants. There

were some contacts with potential participants who at the end did not want to be part of the study. With more participation from local probation and parole offices, there could have been more potential participants.

Another limitation is that this is a retrospective interpretation of the events; participants' may have forgotten some information, expanded on other information, and because of emotions, filtered this information, which may have added a prejudicial slant. Quantitative studies can be more specific in the psychological aspects of witnessing prison sexual violence, and their results are generalizable, using objective measurements from questionnaires and numerical analysis. However, the findings of this study only involved lived experiences rather than quantitative analysis.

Recommendations

The strengths of this study are its addition of information to the prison literature relating to witnesses of prison sexual violence. Because there have been very few studies on this topic, this study adds firsthand accounts of the lived experiences of those witnessing prison sexual violence to the prison literature. Using the information in this study, prison administrators can develop programs that will allow witnesses to prison sexual violence to speak to counselors about their experiences. The prison administrators can use the findings to see how important it is to continue to work on not allowing the prison code of silence to persist in their facilities; to train guards on being more effective in their duties by safeguarding the prison security of the inmates. The prison administrators can offer programs to all inmates through a religious organization that can come in and give one-to-one counseling to help witnesses of prison sexual violence.

Recommendations would include further research on witnessing prison sexual violence, with a larger group of participants. Using a larger group opens the potential of having a more diverse participant pool, possibly including juveniles, ethnic/racial groupings, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, and those with varying socioeconomic status. It could include current inmates and not only ex-inmates; it could include jails, state prisons, and federal prisons. Though it could be risky, it might be useful to interview current inmates to find ways of breaking the inmate code, and to repeat the research with more females to make it possible to compare the effects by gender. This might reveal different themes for males and females, and it might reveal differences in how females manage when they witness prison sexual violence.

This study could take place as a quantitative or mixed-methods study as well, to add statistical information and to expand the information and population of the study. It might result in changes in prison policy to give witnesses to prison sexual violence easy accessibility to report said information and to have access to counselors who have expertise in secondary traumatization, posttraumatic stress disorder, and adjustment disorder. The results of this study may provide prison administrators with data on the experience of being a witness, which may help to explain why there is continued prison sexual violence from the perspective of the witnesses. With this additional information, prison administrators could enhance their prevention programs and create intervention programs to assist with this traumatic event; it may also influence how they assign inmates. This study adds to the existing literature on prison sexual violence and the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. Application of this information could

lead to positive change through improving programs for inmates, and this could hopefully reduce victimization rates in prisons.

In conclusion, the recommendations for this much-needed topic may improve the prison literature on witnessing prison sexual violence and assist witnesses to prison sexual violence to tell their stories. It may also document this topic, provide a focus on the victims of and witnesses to prison sexual violence, and it may lead to changes in policies in prison. Hopefully, this study will also open access to counseling for witnesses to prison sexual violence.

Implications

A positive social change could include policy changes at the prison for inmates who witness prison sexual violence by making it easier for them to report the incident and to gain emotional relief from the resulting stress through counseling, without the fear of repercussions from fellow inmates or ineffective guards. Though there is a subculture of no snitching, the prison administrators must work diligently to make it easier to report witnessing prison sexual violence, even if it means bringing in outside agencies, who can take the information and give training for inmates on how to report witnessing prison sexual violence, taking advantage of the Prison Rape Elimination Act, and training the staff to be more active. Another means of trying to deter the code of silence would be to have the administrators bring in the inmate bosses of each tier and to set up perimeters for inmates to report witnessing prison sexual violence. The involvement of tier bosses would be a bold and different solution; however, it is worth trying first on a small unit. There should also be training for guards not to turn away or to accept bribes, which,

according to this study promotes the continuation of prison sexual violence. It is difficult to change prison culture, it may take multiple solutions at the same time to make a change, and it is possible that this subculture may never change.

Agencies that see ex-inmates can keep a specialist on board with training in posttraumatic stress disorder and adjustment disorders with experience in secondary traumatization. These counselors can assist with ex-inmates' re-adjustment into society. While in prison, there should also be counselors trained in secondary traumatization, posttraumatic stress disorder, and adjustment disorders.

I used a qualitative method for this study. A case study captured the phenomenon of witnessing prison sexual violence. I gained insight into and understanding on witnesses to prison sexual violence and she may be able to assist with positive social change through the distribution of a summary of this study to agencies, wardens, and prison staff. Through the distribution of an overview of this study, positive social change may take place through social changes relating raining to secondary trauma, posttraumatic stress disorder, and adjustment disorders. Also, prison administrators will gain information on the experiences of being a witness to prison sexual violence, and the themes that emerged from this study may help them to make changes to counselors' expertise in handling the greater emotional and mental needs of witnesses to prison sexual violence. The results of this study may provide prison administrators with information on the experience of being a witness. With this additional information, prison administrators could enhance their prevention programs (which are currently set up more for the prevention of sexual assault) and create intervention programs to assist

with this traumatic event; it may also influence how they assign inmates. Application of this information could lead to positive change through improving programs for inmates, and this could hopefully reduce victimization in prisons.

Last, the addition of the information from the participants to the prison literature will give more insight into aspects of witnessing prison sexual violence through the themes and subthemes that emerged in this study. Furthermore, the themes and subthemes will help in the development of counseling specifically for witnesses to prison sexual violence.

Conclusion

Some researchers have suggested that studies on prison sexual violence may overstate or overestimate the frequency of rape, and that most sexual acts in prison are consensual. Also, there is variance in the percentage of inmates who report being sexually assaulted; these various rates can be due to the varying timeframes different researchers used (Listwan et al., 2014). Banbury (2004), Chonco (1989), and Miller (2010) pointed out that witnesses to prison sexual violence tend not to give information for fear of retaliation and violating the prison code. Witnesses to prison sexual violence do not want other inmates to perceive them negatively, and they will not volunteer any information per the inmate code and self-categorization theory.

Witnessing prison sexual violence has lasting effects on the witness, such as secondary traumatization, remorse, anger, posttraumatic stress disorder, and adjustment disorder. Without programs for witnesses to prison sexual violence, there is a continued risk of unresolved mental and emotional issues. Wardens should consider that witnesses

to prison sexual violence are as fearful as victims to come forward, and they should work on policies that will assist witnesses to prison sexual violence to get the emotional and mental support and security they need while in prison.

Persons who have been incarcerated experience a sense of hopelessness, helplessness, and psychological trauma that the knowledge or witnessing of violence can intensify (DeVeaux, 2013). Some have suggested that prisons are violent and traumatizing places; even so, few have documented the predominance of violence within prison walls or measured individual inmates' experiences of witnessing and enduring physical assaults (Boxer et al., 2009). Views of prison sexual violence from the perspectives of witnesses are limited in the literature. Though this study is not generalizable, this research can show how the experiences of witnessing prison sexual violence (PSV) impacted the participants in this study. Reluctance to report sexual assaults on the part of victims or witnesses can perpetuate the prison subculture, encouraging aggressive acts from other inmates and possible repercussions from institutional staff.

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Appendix A: Letters to Participants and Parole Board
Letter to Participant

Name of Participant

Date

Address

Dear (Name),

I am a PhD student at Walden University. I am conducting dissertation research on the lived experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. There are a lot of studies on the victims of prison sexual violence. However, what is not known, are the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. This study will provide needed information on the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence.

I realize that your time is valuable, and I appreciate your consideration to participate in this study. To fully understand your experience, we will need to meet for about one hour. Meetings can be held at a location that is comfortable for both of us (such as a meeting room in a hotel or a private space in a restaurant or café; there is no cost to you for meeting with me in any of these places). In this meeting I will aim to get to know you and to learn about your experiences of being a witness to prison sexual violence. All information gathered during the interview will be kept in strict confidence; (except if you are danger to self or others and disclosing a crime that has not been investigated yet, will forfeit the strict confidence clause of this letter).

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to schedule a date and time that we can

meet. My telephone number is (xxx) xxx-xxx. You can also email me at name@ website

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have before you make a decision.

So, if you are unsure please give me a call. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

With Regards

Doctoral Candidate
Walden University

Letter to Parole Office

Name of Parole Office Administrator

Date

Address

Dear (Name),

I am a doctoral candidate at Walden University. I am conducting dissertation research on the lived experiences of male prisoners in terms of witnessing prison sexual violence. There is a vast number of studies that detail the victims' stories or experiences of prison sexual violence. However, what are not known are the experiences of being a witness to prison sexual violence. This study will provide needed insight into the witnesses' experiences of prison sexual violence.

Your assistance in conducting this much needed research is vital. If you are willing, I am asking if you would hand out a questionnaire to your parolee caseload that could be completed in private, and then sealed and I will come back to the office and collect.

Once the men have been identified I would like to meet with them and discuss the nature of the study. The participants must be 18 years and older, have spent at least one consecutive year in prison, not been a victim of prison sexual violence, or a perpetrator of prison sexual violence and have been a witness to the prison sexual violence. The participants are free to choose whether to participate or not in the study at any time.

Information provided by the participants will be kept in strict confidence.

I would welcome a telephone call from you to discuss any questions you may have concerning this study or your role in identifying research participants. I can be reached at (xxx) xxx-xxxx or email at name @web site.

With Regards,

Doctoral Candidate
Walden University

Appendix B: Interview Questions

Interview Protocol

Date _____

Location _____

Name of Interviewer _____

Name of Interviewee _____

Interview Questions:

Question #1: Can you tell me about a typical day for you in prison?

Prompt: Can you tell me how you felt about being in prison?

Question #2: How do you define prison sexual violence?

Prompt: Did you have a concept about prison sexual violence prior to prison?

Question#3: Can you tell of a time when you saw someone in prison having sexual contact?

Prompt: How did you know it was consensual or nonconsensual?

Question # 4: What were your thoughts or feelings during the nonconsensual sexual act?

Prompt: How did you feel during and afterwards?

Question #5: Tell me how have you been coping with this experience?

Prompt: Did it change you? If so how?

Consent Form

The Experiences of Witnesses to Prison Sexual Violence: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis Walden University

You are invited to participate in a research study of telling your experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. You were selected as a possible candidate because of your experience on the topic. Please read this form and ask any questions that you have before any action on this invitation to be in the study.

Background Information

This study is being conducted by a Doctoral Candidate at Walden University. The purpose of this study is to gather information on the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. This study is being conducted because there is not a lot of information on the witnessing of sexual prison violence. This will add information to the prison literature. This is important because it will increase the understanding and knowledge of the lived experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. Gain some insight into why prison sexual violence still occurs. The creation of intervention programs can assist with the traumatic event of witnessing prison sexual violence; could enhance prison administrators' prevention programs and it may also influence housing assignments of inmates. This study can also lead to counselors to better understanding secondhand trauma and create programs for ex-inmates. I will ask about your experiences of witnessing prison sexual violence. Some of the questions that will be about your feelings while witnessing the sexual act; what were your thoughts? How did you cope? How did this impact or affect you?

Procedures

If you agree to be in the study, you will be asked to participate in one individual interview at a local library of your choice in a private room approximately 60 minutes.

Voluntary Nature of the Study

Your participation in this study is strictly voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate can be revoked or withdrawn at any time.

Risk and Benefits of Being in the Study

The only possible risk may be increased anxiety or other emotional distress in the discussing the experiences of witnessing prison sexual violence, depending on how traumatic the event you witnessed was to you and if you are still processing the event; in which case you can seek help by contacting the local Crisis Hotline or Local Hospital . The potential benefit of participating in this study may come from the experiences of witnessing prison sexual violence is the creation of supportive services to inmates and ex-inmates. If you experience stress or negative emotional or psychological feelings during the study, you may terminate your participation at any time. You may also refuse to answer any questions you consider stressful.

Compensation

There is no form of compensation for participation.

The records of this study will be kept private. If any portion of this study is published, the researcher will not include any identifying information of the participants. Research records will be kept safe in a locked file cabinet; only the researcher will have access to the records.

Interviews will be audio taped for providing accurate descriptions of your experiences.

Audio recordings will be destroyed at the end of the study, which will be within one year.

My committee members (supervisors) will have access to the raw data, but not the participants' names or other personal information. I will use pseudonyms or false names throughout the study even for the names of the prison and any prisoners' names used by the participants.

Contacts and Questions

The researcher conducting this study is a PhD candidate. You may ask any questions you have now. If you have any questions later, you may contact me at (xxx) xxx -xxxx or e-mail me at name @ website. The Research Participant Advocate at Walden University is insert name you may contact this person at (xxx) xxx-xxxx, or e-mail at name@ website you have any questions about your participation in the study. You will receive a copy of this form from the researcher for your records. Walden University's approval number for this study is 10-12-17-0281745 and it expires October 11, 2018.

If you would like to receive a 1-2-page summary of the results of the study, please write your e-mail address here: _____.

I will only use this e-mail address to send you these results.

Statement of Consent

I have read the above information. I have asked questions and received answers. I consent to participate in this study.

Printed Name of Participant

Signature of Participant Date

Signature of Investigator Date

Appendix D: Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria an Flyer Information**Inclusion Criteria**

1. Age 18 and older.
2. Be a witness to prison sexual violence.
3. Been in prison for one consecutive year.

Exclusion Criteria

1. Under age 18.
2. Not a witness to prison sexual violence.
3. Victim of prison sexual violence.
4. Perpetrator of prison sexual violence.

5. Had not been in prison for one consecutive year.
6. Any of my current clients.

Flyer Information

Greetings Potential Participant,

I am a PhD student at Walden University. I am doing a study on the lived experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. There are a number of studies on the victims and person who have victimized others. However, what is not known, are the lived experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence. This study will provide that needed information on the experiences of witnesses to prison sexual violence.

I realize that your time is valuable and I appreciate your consideration to participate in this study. If you are willing to be a participant in the study, I will need to meet with you for one hour. Meetings will be done in person. In person meetings is done at the library of your choice in a private room.

If interested please contact me at (xxx) xxx-xxxx to schedule a date and time that we can meet. This is only an information flyer and not a consent form. The consent form will be given once you have agreed to participant in the study.

The inclusion criteria are: age 18 to 64; have been in prison for one consecutive year; and have been a witness to prison sexual violence. The exclusionary criteria are: Under age 17 and above age 64. The victim of prison sexual violence; perpetrator of prison sexual violence; have not been in prison for one consecutive year; and any of my current clients.

With Regards,

Doctoral Candidate Walden University