



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH

The American Association for Public Opinion Research

presents the

2014 POLICY IMPACT AWARD

to

U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

and its contractors

RTI International, Westat, NORC and U.S. Census Bureau

for the

National Prison Rape Statistics Program

The goals of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 included developing national standards for detecting and preventing prison rape; increasing data on the incidence of prison rape; increasing accountability of prison officials; and protecting prisoners' Constitutional rights.

To meet the Act's requirements, BJS and its contractors developed the National Prison Rape Statistics Program (NPRSP) to collect data on sexual assault within U.S. correctional facilities. In designing the NPRSP, a state-of-the-art, multi-measure, multi-mode approach was created that relied on victim self-report surveys and on surveys of administrative records.

The findings, and their extensive publicity, have triggered special investigations by governors and state legislatures and immediate changes in policies and plans of action. Findings from the project are now cited extensively in the training received by correctional administrators on how to prevent and respond to prison rape. Without these data, national standards for best practices to eliminate rape and other related violence among prisoners could not have been promulgated.

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