

AFTERNOON SESSION

HOW DOES OUR NATION CONFRONT PRISON RAPE:

THE MEDICAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

QUESTIONS

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any research model that could be done to make this assessment?

DR. POTTER: Well, I think -- let me lay out the model, what I think we would have to have. Number one, we would need to know when people come into -- let's use, for instance, because they're staying. You would need to know when people come into a prison system, what diseases they have. So a very comprehensive medical screening. You need to be able to know who the people are who have sexually transmittable infections and the people that aren't.

You would then need to follow those people over time and see who developed the disease, who converted to HIV, and then you would have to go back and do an investigation on what were the risk factors on their behavior, their exposure, that might have -- that might explain that. And then look when people come out and see whether or not

you have -- I mean we know there is going to be some transmission, we just don't know how much. So you really would have to -- I mean it's going to take continuous monitoring, surveillance of people's disease states across the system.

Now, Georgia, for example, has adopted a physical examination that includes HIV testing, along the same lines that your and my insurance agency, health insurance provider might do. So as you get older, you get them annually, as you reach my age, and then every two years, every three years, that sort of thing. And they do test so they can see what changes might have occurred. But not every state does there and not every state can afford to do that. And I think that's part of the issue, does that go beyond adequate health care.