

AFTERNOON SESSION

HOW DOES OUR NATION CONFRONT PRISON RAPE:

THE MEDICAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

QUESTIONS

COMMISSIONER FELLNER: Dr. Potter, I just wanted to follow up a little bit on that. So we understand from the research that's been done and not been done that we don't know what role incarceration plays in increasing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS or other diseases. However, we do know from research that exists that there is sexual activity in the prisons, that there is substance abuse, and that there is tattooing in prisons.

And we know that the use of condoms reduces the transmission from sexually transmittable diseases, that clean needles reduce the transmission of diseases if you use needles to inject drugs, and same with tattooing, that if you use clean needles. In light of that, I think that prevention is a major part of all of our goals because the ability to cope with the consequences of sexual abuse are so dramatic. And then plus, if you have health consequences as a result, the

prevention is always a better policy.

Does the CDC encourage or support the way many countries do and some correctional agencies in this country the availability of bleach for clean needles and the availability of condoms? And I would just -- for those of you who say why for the prison rape commission should we care about condoms, and you might say, well, if a prisoner is going to rape another prisoner, he's not going to use a condom. What we know is that many of the coerced sexual relationships are ongoing and long term, wherein they will an oppressed, made the wife of another inmate.

So it's not just a spontaneous -- we're not just dealing with a spontaneous takedown in a bathroom. So that condoms might, in fact, be used in these ongoing relations. So I was just wondering what CDC's position was?

DR. POTTER: To the best of my knowledge, CDC has not official position on that because that really is the state corrections'.