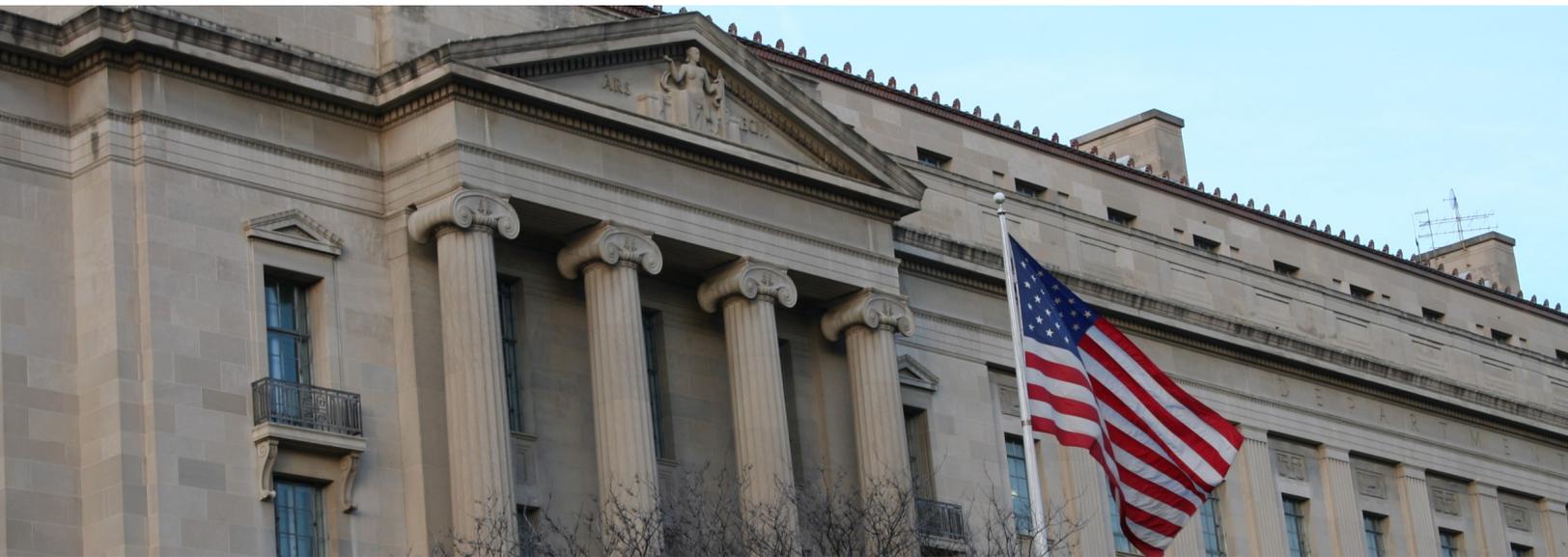




# Office of the Inspector General U.S. Department of Justice

**OVERSIGHT ★ INTEGRITY ★ GUIDANCE**



## **Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Management of Its Female Inmate Population**



# Executive Summary

## *Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Management of Its Female Inmate Population*

### Introduction

As of September 2016, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) incarcerated 10,567 sentenced female inmates, representing 7 percent of the total BOP sentenced inmate population of 146,084. Though female inmates compose a small percentage of the nationwide incarcerated population, correctional officials have recognized that in some areas female and male inmates have different needs and BOP has adopted gender-responsive programs and policies that account for these needs. As a continuation of prior U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reviews **examining BOP's management of certain subpopulations** of inmates, including aging inmates and inmates with mental illness in restrictive housing, OIG initiated this **review of BOP's management of female inmates, specifically BOP's efforts and capacity to ensure that BOP-wide policies, programs, and decisions adequately address the distinctive needs of women.** Our decision to initiate this review was also informed by members of Congress and public interest groups recently raising concerns about what they consider to be deficiencies in **BOP's current management of female inmates.**

### Results in Brief

We concluded that BOP has not been strategic in its management of female inmates. We determined that BOP needs to take additional steps at the Central Office level to ensure that female inmate needs are met at the institution level. Our review identified instances in which **BOP's programming and policy has not fully** considered the needs of female inmates, which has made it difficult for inmates to access certain key programs and supplies. Further, while BOP is adhering to federal regulations and BOP policies requiring that only female Correctional Officers conduct strip searches **of female inmates, BOP's method for ensuring** compliance with these requirements assigns staff inefficiently. Finally, we found that **BOP's conversion of** Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Danbury to house male inmates negatively affected certain female inmates who had been housed there.

#### ***BOP's Approach to Managing Female Inmates Has Not Been Strategic, Resulting in Weaknesses in Its Ability to Meet Their Specific Needs***

We found that during the period of our review BOP could not ensure that its institutions adhered to policies pertaining to female inmates because BOP had only recently taken steps to formalize a process for verifying compliance. As of April 2018, BOP was drafting planning documents that it believes will enhance its ability to perform internal oversight of these policies

and better ensure compliance with female inmate-focused policies and protocols.

Further, while BOP established a Central Office branch **that serves as BOP's source of expertise on the** management of female inmates in BOP custody, this branch may not have adequate staffing to fully fulfill its mission. Female inmates are just one of six special populations about which the Women and Special Populations Branch is responsible for providing national direction and subject matter expertise and for ensuring that the needs of each of these populations are met at BOP institutions. For example, this branch designs and delivers training to institution staff and ensures that programming run by other BOP divisions is responsive to the needs of each subpopulation. **Given the branch's** wide range of responsibilities, its four staff members may not be sufficient to accomplish its mission and to ensure that BOP adequately addresses the distinctive needs of women in its custody.

Additionally, BOP requires all staff in its female institutions to take training on the management of female inmates, as well as training in trauma-informed correctional care for the management of inmates who have experienced trauma. However, BOP does not require the same training for its Executive Staff and, as a result, National Executive Staff officials may develop policy and make decisions that affect female inmates without awareness of their needs.

#### ***BOP's Programming and Policy May Not Fully Consider the Needs of Female Inmates***

We identified three **areas in which BOP's programming** and policy decisions did not fully consider the needs of female inmates: trauma treatment programming, pregnancy programming, and feminine hygiene.

BOP relies on research that shows that physical and emotional trauma affects as many as 90 percent of the female inmate population. Research also recommends that female inmates undergo trauma treatment early during incarceration to enhance their ability to benefit from all institutional programming. However, we found that BOP may not be able to provide its trauma treatment program to all eligible female inmates until late in their incarceration, or ever, because it has assigned only one staff member at each institution to offer this program. The lack of sufficient staff is most noticeable at larger female institutions, where inmates **face delays in completing each of the program's two prerequisites, as well as the program's treatment** phases.

In addition to female inmates being unable to use BOP trauma treatment programs, we estimate that only 37 percent of sentenced pregnant inmates participated



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in BOP's pregnancy programs between fiscal year (FY) 2012 and FY 2016. Further, we confirmed that these programs had additional capacity to include more pregnant inmates during this period. We believe that participation is low because BOP inmates and staff lack awareness of these programs. We also determined that BOP staff may apply eligibility criteria more restrictively than intended by BOP headquarters officials and that BOP lacks data to assess inmate interest and participation in its pregnancy programs.

In visits to several BOP institutions housing female inmates, we found that the distribution methods for feminine hygiene products provided to inmates varied by institution and did not always ensure that inmates had access to a sufficient quantity of products to meet their needs. BOP issued new guidance in August 2017 to standardize the range of products available free of charge. However, BOP still lacks a method to ensure sufficient access because the guidance did not address how products should be distributed to inmates.

### ***BOP's Lack of Gender-specific Posts Results in Inefficiencies at Female Institutions***

We found that BOP's practice of assigning Correctional Officers to posts solely by seniority has resulted in male Correctional Officers being assigned to posts at which staff must regularly conduct searches of female inmates. Because the *Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003* and BOP policy prohibit cross-gender searches of female inmates, female Correctional Officers must leave other assigned posts to conduct these searches, leading to an inefficient use of Correctional Officer resources. Both female and male institution staff suggested that a small number of posts in female institutions, particularly some of the posts in the Special Housing Unit (SHU)—a unit used to separate inmates from the general population for protective or disciplinary purposes—and the visiting room, be reserved for female staff to ensure that they can conduct inmate searches without disrupting other operations. We agree that BOP should implement this or another approach to ensure the availability of female staff at locations in female institutions where inmate searches are common.

### ***BOP's Decision to Convert Federal Correctional Institution Danbury to a Male Institution Negatively Affected Female Inmates Transferred to Metropolitan Detention Center Brooklyn***

As a case study, we also examined BOP's 2013 decision to convert FCI Danbury from a female institution to a

male institution as part of a larger plan to increase bed space for low security female and male inmates throughout BOP institutions. Although concerns were raised that the conversion would cause female inmates to be incarcerated farther from home, we found that, while 19 percent of U.S. citizen inmates were transferred farther from their homes, the overwhelming majority were transferred closer to their homes.

The conversion resulted in 366 low security sentenced female inmates serving a portion of their sentences in Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) Brooklyn, a detention center intended for short-term confinement. The National Association of Women Judges found that the conditions of confinement at MDC Brooklyn amounted to a violation of the American Bar Association Standards on Treatment of Prisoners, as well as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. When we visited MDC Brooklyn, we found that BOP offered female inmates no access to outdoor space, less natural light, and fewer programming opportunities than what would otherwise be available to female inmates at BOP facilities designed to house sentenced inmates in long-term confinement. In addition, a separate OIG criminal investigation determined that, during the time that sentenced female inmates were assigned to MDC Brooklyn, multiple custody staff sexually assaulted female inmates, resulting in the convictions of two Lieutenants and a Correctional Officer.

In December 2016, after reversing its decision not to house female inmates at FCI Danbury, BOP opened a new low security institution for female inmates at FCI Danbury. However, because FCI Danbury was constructed without a SHU, we found that managing female inmates who needed to be placed in a SHU disrupted institution operations because BOP had to transfer these inmates to Federal Detention Center Philadelphia for SHU placement.

## **Recommendations**

In this report, we make 10 recommendations to **improve BOP's management of its female inmate population**. These recommendations include training executive leaders on issues important to managing female inmates, enhancing the capacity of BOP's trauma treatment program, communicating information about pregnancy programs, and clarifying guidance on the distribution of feminine hygiene products.

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# INTRODUCTION

## Background

According to the U.S. Department of Justice's (Department, DOJ) Bureau of Justice Statistics, state and federal prisons had jurisdiction over more than 1.5 million inmates at the end of 2015. Of these inmates, approximately 111,500, or 7 percent, were female.<sup>1</sup> The percentage of female inmates in the Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) custody as of September 2016 was also 7 percent (10,567) of BOP's total population of 146,084 sentenced inmates.<sup>2</sup> While female inmates compose a small percentage of the nationwide inmate population, BOP recognized that in some areas female and male inmates have different needs. Accordingly, BOP developed gender-responsive programs and policies to account for female inmates' distinctive needs.

As a continuation of several prior Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reviews examining BOP's management of certain subpopulations of inmates, including aging inmates and inmates with mental illness in restrictive housing, OIG initiated this review of BOP's management of female inmates.<sup>3</sup> Our decision to initiate this review was also informed by members of Congress and public interest groups recently raising concerns about what they considered to be deficiencies in BOP's current management of female inmates.<sup>4</sup>

In this report, we assess BOP's efforts and capacity to ensure that BOP-wide policies, programs, and decisions address the unique needs of female inmates. Specifically, we assess female inmates' access to BOP's trauma treatment and pregnancy programs, which are significant for female inmates and their families and can play important roles in successful reentry into society. Additionally, we discuss BOP's gender-responsive policies and evaluate how they affect the

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<sup>1</sup> DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 2015* (December 2016).

<sup>2</sup> For this review, we examined sentenced inmates incarcerated in BOP-managed institutions only. We excluded approximately 22,000 male inmates who were incarcerated in contract institutions, approximately 12,000 female and male inmates who were in halfway houses, and approximately 12,000 female and male pretrial detainees in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. BOP does not incarcerate female inmates in contract institutions.

<sup>3</sup> DOJ OIG, [The Impact of an Aging Inmate Population on the Federal Bureau of Prisons](#), Evaluation and Inspections Report 15-05 (May 2015), and DOJ OIG, [Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Use of Restrictive Housing for Inmates with Mental Illness](#), Evaluation and Inspections Report 17-05 (July 2017).

<sup>4</sup> In July 2017, four U.S. Senators introduced legislation designed to increase familial visitation and female inmates' access to feminine hygiene products. See *Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act of 2017*, 115th Congress, 1st sess., S. 1524. The Arthur Liman Public Interest Program at Yale Law School also wrote about the management of female inmates affected by BOP's decision to convert Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Danbury from a female to male institution in *Dislocation and Relocation: Women in the Federal Prison System and Repurposing FCI Danbury for Men* (September 2014). This issue was also discussed in "Female Inmates from Danbury Still in Limbo, Lacking Key Services," *Slate Magazine*, September 3, 2014, and "Female Inmate Transfers to Resume: Senators Say Relocation Disrupts Women's Lives, Vow to Fight Bureau of Prisons' Decisions; Danbury Federal Correctional Institution," *Hartford Courant*, October 5, 2013.

conditions of confinement for female inmates. We pay particular attention to policies relevant to inmate access to feminine hygiene products and physical searches of female inmates. Lastly, we examine as a case study how BOP's decision to convert its low security institution in Danbury, Connecticut, from a female institution to a male institution affected female inmates.

**Characteristics of BOP's Female Inmate Population**

As shown in Table 1, the overall population of sentenced female inmates decreased between fiscal years (FY) 2012 and 2016. The ratio of female inmates to male inmates has remained constant during this period and is approximately equal to the nationwide ratio, as mentioned previously.

**Table 1  
Female and Male Sentenced Inmate Population  
FYs 2012–2016**

		Fiscal Year				
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Female Inmates</b>	<b>Number of Inmates</b>	11,737	12,154	11,868	11,214	10,567
	<b>Percentage of BOP Population</b>	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
<b>Male Inmates</b>	<b>Number of Inmates</b>	152,803	152,676	149,663	143,655	135,517
	<b>Percentage of BOP Population</b>	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%
<b>Total BOP Population</b>		164,540	164,830	161,531	154,869	146,084

Source: BOP SENTRY

BOP data shows that between FYs 2012 and 2016 the majority of both female and male inmates were incarcerated for drug offenses; but male inmates were much more likely to have been convicted of weapons, sex, or other violent crime offenses than were female inmates. Further, research shows that female inmates incarcerated for drug crimes were often accessories to the broader criminal activity of a male partner, rather than being the instigator of a crime.<sup>5</sup> Female inmates also tend to have shorter sentences than male inmates. For example, as of September

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<sup>5</sup> Darrell Steffensmeier and Emilie Allan, "GENDER AND CRIME: Toward a Gendered Theory of Female Offending," *Annual Review of Sociology* 22 (1996): 459–487. BOP cited this particular point as part of its own research, which found that gender is a powerful predictor of risk for serious violence and other serious misconduct while incarcerated. Miles D. Harer and Neal P. Langan, "Gender Differences in Predictors of Violence: Assessing the Predictive Validity of a Risk Classification System," *Crime and Delinquency* 47 (2001): 513–536. Because of this internal BOP research, BOP determines security levels for female and male inmates separately and, as a result, classifies nearly all female inmates as minimum or low security.

2016, the median total sentence length for female inmates in BOP custody was 5 years, whereas the median total sentence length for male inmates was 10 years.

BOP has four security classification levels for inmates: high, medium, low, and minimum. Nearly all sentenced female inmates are classified as low or minimum security. BOP does not classify female inmates as medium security but does classify a small number as high security.<sup>6</sup> BOP institutions are also assigned security levels, and BOP generally assigns inmates to institutions that correspond with their security level.<sup>7</sup>

Twenty-nine BOP locations throughout the United States house one or more female institutions.<sup>8</sup> BOP manages female inmates in 20 institutions designed for the long-term incarceration of sentenced inmates.<sup>9</sup> We describe these below:

- **Minimum security institutions**, also known as Federal Prison Camps (FPC), have dormitory-style housing and limited or no perimeter fencing. As of December 2017, BOP managed 13 of these institutions for female inmates.
- **Low security institutions**, also known as Federal Correctional Institutions (FCI) or Federal Satellite Lows, have perimeter fencing and either dormitory-style or cell-style housing. As of December 2017, BOP managed six of these institutions for female inmates.
- **Federal Medical Centers** (FMC) are used to treat sentenced inmates of all security levels who have serious or chronic medical problems. As of December 2017, BOP managed one medical center, FMC Carswell, for female inmates. **This institution also housed the small number of BOP's high security female inmates.**

In addition to these 20 institutions, BOP houses female inmates in 12 detention centers, which generally are designed for the short-term incarceration of pretrial

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<sup>6</sup> Two officials in BOP's Designation and Sentence Computation Center, the BOP office responsible for determining where inmates should be housed, told us that nearly all female inmates can be managed in minimum security or low security settings because they are less prone to behaviors such as violence and escape attempts. The small number of female inmates who cannot be managed in these settings are **designated as high security and housed in BOP's sole high security female unit at FMC Carswell.**

<sup>7</sup> Throughout this report, we will use the term "female institutions" to refer to all of BOP's institutions designed to house sentenced female inmates, regardless of security level.

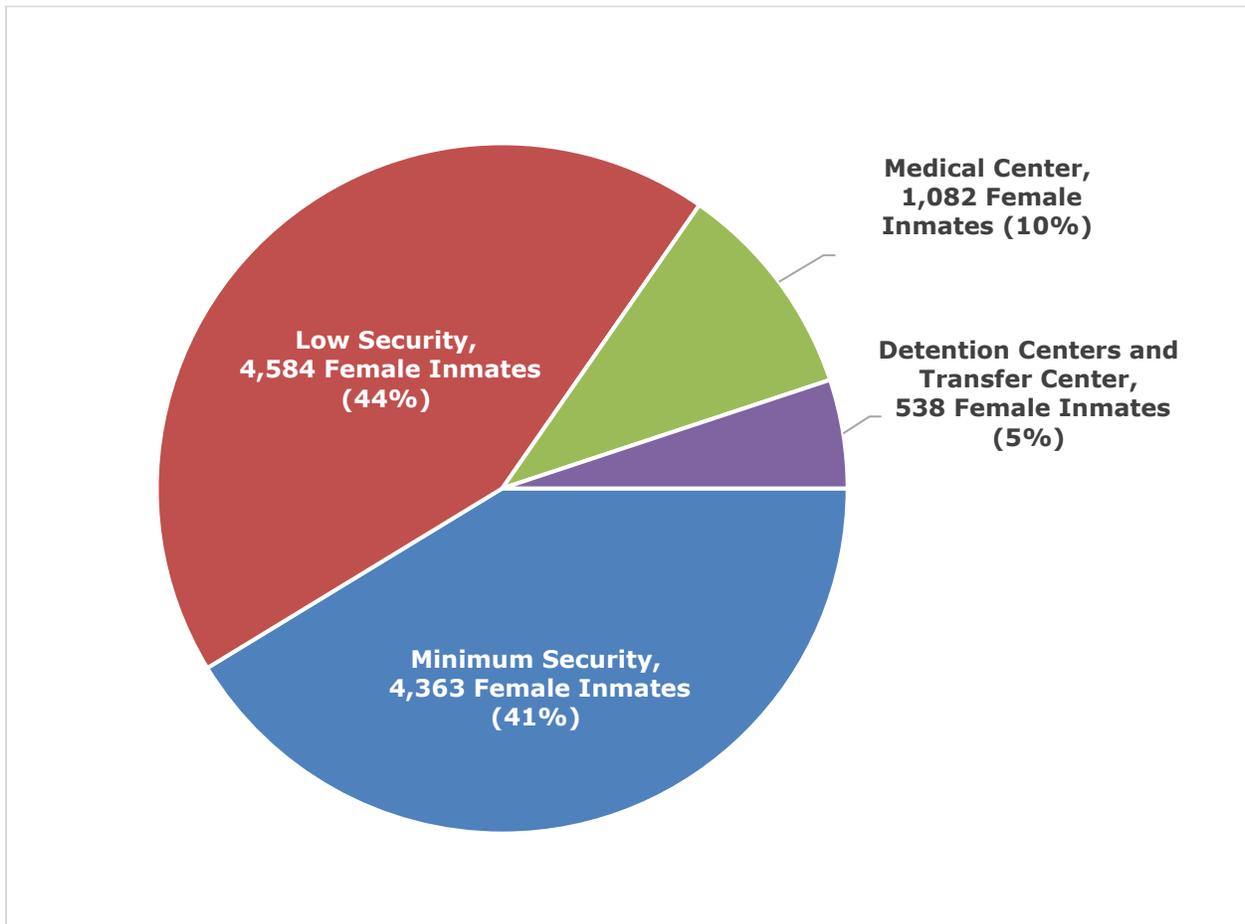
<sup>8</sup> During our fieldwork, BOP housed female inmates in 28 locations throughout the United States. BOP added a 29th location in late 2017 by converting a minimum security institution in Pekin, Illinois, which had formerly housed male inmates, into a female institution. Because Pekin did not house female inmates during the time we conducted the analyses used in our report, these analyses do not include data or information from Pekin.

<sup>9</sup> Eight of these female institutions are a part of larger facilities that also contain at least one other female institution. Such facilities include a low security institution and a minimum security institution in Aliceville, Alabama; a low security institution and a minimum security institution in Dublin, California; a low security institution and a minimum security institution in Danbury, Connecticut; and a minimum security institution and a female inmate medical facility in Fort Worth, Texas. **As a result, BOP's 20 female institutions are in 16 locations throughout the country.**

detainees, as well as a transfer center that houses inmates in transit to other BOP facilities. Unlike institutions designed for long-term incarceration, detention centers and the transfer center house both female and male inmates.

Figure 1 shows the number of sentenced female inmates assigned to each of the three types of institutions described above. A map showing the locations of BOP's female institutions designed for long-term incarceration can be found in [Appendix 2](#).

**Figure 1**  
**Number of Sentenced Female Inmates, by Institution Type**  
**September 2016**



Source: BOP SENTRY

### ***BOP Policy on the Management of Female Inmates***

In August 1997, BOP developed a formal policy, known as a program statement, on the Management of Female Offenders. While this program statement recognized that BOP programs and services should meet the different physical, social, and psychological needs of female offenders, the Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator told us that this policy was not substantive and was difficult to enforce. In an effort to strengthen existing policy, BOP issued a new

Female Offender Manual in November 2016.<sup>10</sup> The new manual expanded on the prior policy by incorporating gender-responsive language on how BOP should classify and designate female inmates; discipline female inmates; provide gender-responsive programming; and address birth control, pregnancy, child placement, and abortion.

The Female Offender Manual also identifies the Women and Special Populations Branch, within BOP's Reentry Services Division, as BOP's source of expertise on classification, management, and intervention programs and practices for females in BOP custody.<sup>11</sup> Further, the Female Offender Manual delegates a wide range of responsibilities to the Women and Special Populations Branch. For female inmates specifically, these responsibilities include advising BOP management and institution staff on issues affecting female inmates, developing staff training on these issues, and ensuring that programs managed by other BOP branches are gender responsive.<sup>12</sup> As of November 2017, the Women and Special Populations Branch comprised one Branch Administrator and three staff members.<sup>13</sup>

### *Gender-responsive Approaches to Corrections*

The BOP defines gender-responsive approaches to corrections as those that are based on an understanding of the ways female inmates are different from male inmates and that specifically aim to address those differences. In particular, BOP has established gender-specific policies pertaining to access to female and reproductive health services, to the provision of feminine hygiene products, and to the implementation of regulatory requirements that ensure female inmates are physically searched only by female BOP employees.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> BOP Program Statement 5200.02, Female Offender Manual, November 23, 2016.

<sup>11</sup> **BOP's Reentry Services Division aims to prepare inmates for reentry by focusing on** programming and community transition. The Reentry Services Division is composed of six branches: (1) National Reentry Affairs, (2) Education Services, (3) Chaplaincy Services, (4) Residential Reentry Management, (5) Women and Special Populations, and (6) Psychology Services.

<sup>12</sup> BOP also delegates to the Women and Special Populations Branch the responsibility of ensuring that BOP policy and practices are inclusive of the needs of other special populations. BOP identifies special populations to include female inmates, juvenile inmates, transgender inmates, inmates with disabilities, inmates who are parents, and inmates who are veterans. The Women and **Special Populations Branch Administrator told us that she considers "special populations" to be any** group of inmates that is not part of the male majority.

<sup>13</sup> In response to a working draft of this report, BOP stated that all four staff in the Women and Special Populations Branch, including the Branch Administrator, focus on program or training work.

<sup>14</sup> Federal regulations and BOP policies mandate that strip searches be conducted by a staff member who is the same gender as the inmate being searched. See 28 C.F.R. § 552.11(c) and BOP Program Statement 5521.06, Searches of Housing Units, Inmates, and Inmate Work Areas, June 4, 2015, 4. See also 28 C.F.R. § 115.15(a). Additionally, federal regulations and BOP policies mandate that only female staff can pat search female inmates. See 28 C.F.R. § 115.15(b); BOP Program Statement 5521.06, 3; and BOP Program Statement 5324.12, Sexually Abusive Behavior Prevention and Intervention Program, June 4, 2015, 17.

## *Trauma-informed Correctional Care*

An important but less obvious difference between female and male inmates has to do with past traumatic experiences. While many studies support the conclusion that female inmates experience very high rates of trauma before incarceration, BOP used one particular study as a basis for emphasizing the need to account for past trauma in its management of female inmates. This study found that as many as 90 percent of women in prison have experienced trauma and that the most common type of traumatic experience for female inmates is repeated sexual violence, followed by intimate partner violence.<sup>15</sup> Male inmates are less likely to have been a direct victim of violence, but they more commonly have experienced or witnessed a singular traumatic event such as a shooting.<sup>16</sup>

Research also shows that the effects of trauma manifest themselves differently for female and male inmates. For example, female inmates who experience trauma can develop chronic depression, eating disorders, or difficulty managing emotions, while trauma in male inmates is more likely to manifest itself externally, resulting in emotional outbursts or violence.<sup>17</sup> Although female inmates are more likely to internalize their trauma, a Resolve Coordinator we interviewed told us that female inmates are generally more willing to discuss their trauma than are male inmates.

To address the effects of past trauma on inmates, BOP implemented a **“trauma-informed correctional care approach.”** The BOP Psychology Services Branch describes trauma-informed care as a comprehensive approach to corrections in which all policies recognize, and actions of staff reflect, the concept **that trauma is a “real and prevalent occurrence, and that any opportunity to avoid re-traumatizing an inmate is an opportunity for healing.”** The Psychology Services Branch stated that there is not a strict method for applying trauma-informed correctional care approaches, but it identifies important principles for trauma-informed staff to consider. These principles include:

- ensuring physical, psychological, and emotional safety for inmates and staff;
- ensuring that, when practicable, staff interventions highlight strengths that can be used as a foundation for improvement, as opposed to focusing only on problems;
- ensuring that information and training about trauma are available to inmates and staff; and

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<sup>15</sup> Niki A. Miller and Lisa M. Najavits, “Creating Trauma Informed Correctional Care: A Balance of Goals and Environment,” *European Journal of Psychotraumatology* (2012): 2. BOP asserts that the 90 percent statistic is likely a low estimate because traumatic experiences are often underreported by victims.

<sup>16</sup> Miller and Najavits, “Creating Trauma Informed Correctional Care,” 4.

<sup>17</sup> Miller and Najavits, “Creating Trauma Informed Correctional Care,” 3.

- using communication methods that deescalate conflict and avoid triggering memories of past traumatic experience. (See the text box.)

### *Gender-responsive Programs*

Below, we highlight three gender-responsive programs because of their importance to female inmates and their families. These programs are administered by branches within the Reentry Services Division.

#### Resolve Program

The Resolve program, managed by **BOP's Psychology Services Branch** and **offered at 14 of BOP's 15 female institutions**, is a national treatment program for female inmates with a history of trauma-related mental illnesses.<sup>18</sup> According to the Psychology Services Branch, the objective of the Resolve program is to promote positive behavioral changes that decrease the incidence of **trauma-related psychological disorders and improve inmates' level** of functioning.<sup>19</sup> Psychology Services staff emphasized the importance of this program because of the high number of female inmates with a history of trauma or victimization prior to incarceration. All inmates undergo an intake interview with a Psychologist at the beginning of their BOP incarceration.<sup>20</sup> If a female inmate describes a history of trauma during this intake interview, the Psychologist will recommend that she sign **up for the Resolve program's introductory workshop**. Participation in the Resolve program is voluntary.

All elements of the Resolve program, outlined in Table 2 below, are managed by a Resolve Coordinator, who is a Psychologist. One Resolve Coordinator is assigned to each of the 14 female institutions that offer the program.<sup>21</sup> According to **BOP's program statement on Psychology Treatment Programs**, inmates with a history of trauma or victimization initiate the Resolve program by taking the

#### **Potential Effects of Past Trauma on Female Inmates**

Awareness of how female inmates are affected by trauma is important in all aspects of BOP operations. For example, an inmate having her teeth cleaned is lying on her back, with someone leaning over her and something in her mouth that she cannot remove. These sensations can trigger flashbacks for victims of sexual abuse. It is therefore important for all BOP staff who work with female inmates to be aware of the potential for such reactions and how to respond to them.

Source: Interview with DOJ Civil Rights Division official

<sup>18</sup> FCI Phoenix did not offer the Resolve program during the scope of our review because it had not been allocated a Resolve Coordinator position. Resolve is not offered at the 12 detention centers or the Federal Transfer Center because those institutions are exempt from most BOP programming requirements. As of September 2016, only 5 percent of the sentenced female inmate population was in a detention center or the Federal Transfer Center.

<sup>19</sup> BOP employs psychology, psychiatry, and mental health staff to offer services, beyond the scope of the Resolve program, to inmates who require mental health treatment.

<sup>20</sup> In this report, we use the term Psychologist to refer to a doctoral-level Psychologist.

<sup>21</sup> BOP operates multiple female institutions at 4 of the 14 locations where it offers the Resolve program to female inmates. BOP also offers the Resolve program, with a modified male-specific curriculum, to male inmates at two institutions.

introductory workshop during the first 12 months of incarceration. BOP policy states that the Resolve program takes approximately 40 weeks to complete, but it also notes that scheduling conflicts may extend the length of the program.

**Table 2**  
**Structure of the Resolve Program for Female Inmates**

Segment of Program	Name	Description
<b>Prerequisites</b>		
<b>Introductory Workshop</b>	Trauma in Life	Educational workshop that provides female inmates with psychological information on trauma and its potential impact in their lives
<b>Screening</b>	Psychological Testing	Psychological eligibility assessment to diagnose the related trauma <sup>a</sup>
<b>Active Treatment<sup>b</sup></b>		
<b>Phase I</b>	Seeking Safety	Therapy group that emphasizes the acquisition of basic skills, with a focus on coping and interpersonal skills
<b>Phase II</b>	Cognitive Processing Therapy	Therapy group for inmates with a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, major depression, or substance abuse
	Dialectical Behavioral Therapy	Therapy group for treatment of inmates with borderline personality disorder
<b>Post Treatment</b>		
<b>Maintenance</b>	Maintenance Group	Skills group for maintaining treatment gains for inmates whose symptoms, if present, no longer interfere with daily functioning

<sup>a</sup> In response to a working draft of this report, BOP stated that it completes psychological eligibility assessments to provide diagnostic clarity and accuracy prior to a formal diagnosis.

<sup>b</sup> In response to a working draft of this report, BOP stated that the group sessions used during the Active Treatment phases of the Resolve program are psychotherapy groups.

Note: The Psychologist who performs the screening determines which version of the Phase II therapy is most appropriate for each inmate, depending on her specific diagnosis.

Source: BOP

### Female Integrated Treatment Program

In the fall of 2017, the Psychology Services Branch, in coordination with the Women and Special Populations Branch, piloted the Female Integrated Treatment (FIT) program at BOP’s low security female institution in Danbury, Connecticut.<sup>22</sup> According to BOP, the FIT program offers evidence-based treatment for trauma, substance abuse, and mental health in a comprehensive, holistic program. The program begins with a 4-month educational curriculum that includes a Trauma in Life workshop as well as basic drug and mental health education. After completing

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<sup>22</sup> The FIT program is available only for inmates in Danbury’s low security female institution. Inmates in Danbury’s minimum security female institution take the Resolve program instead.

the introductory portion of the program, each inmate participates in a treatment curriculum tailored to her individual trauma, substance abuse, or mental health needs. Inmates in FIT requiring trauma treatment take the Resolve curriculum described in Table 2 above. All female inmates designated to the low security female institution in Danbury participate in the FIT program.<sup>23</sup>

### Mothers and Infants Nurturing Together Program

The Mothers and Infants Nurturing Together (MINT) program, managed by **BOP's Residential Reentry** Management Branch, is a community-based residential program in which pregnant inmates prepare for delivery and bond with their infant after giving birth.<sup>24</sup> **According to BOP's Female Offender Manual, pregnant inmates in BOP custody are eligible to serve a portion of their sentence at a MINT program site if they are pregnant upon incarceration with an expected delivery date prior to release, have less than 5 years remaining on their sentence, are eligible for halfway house placement, and assume financial responsibility for their child's care.**<sup>25</sup> Female inmates are generally eligible to transfer to a MINT program site during the last 2 months of pregnancy. After birth, the Female Offender Manual requires BOP to allow participating inmates at least 3 additional months to bond with their infant, although the manual recommends 6 months. Once an inmate completes the MINT program, BOP returns the inmate to a BOP institution for the remainder of her sentence.

### Residential Parenting Program

According to the Female Offender Manual, **BOP's female inmates**, no matter their location, may also participate in the Washington State Department of Corrections' **Residential Parenting Program**. In contrast to the MINT program, Residential Parenting Program participants and their infants reside in the minimum security unit of the Washington Corrections Center for Women in Gig Harbor, Washington, for up to 30 months after birth.<sup>26</sup> Female inmates who participate in

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<sup>23</sup> In response to a working draft of this report, the Administrator of the Women and Special Populations Branch elaborated on the terminology of **this model, stating that "the entire facility operates as a 'modified therapeutic community.'"**

<sup>24</sup> During the scope of this review (FYs 2012–2016), MINT program sites were located in San Francisco, California; Tallahassee, Florida; Phoenix, Arizona; Fort Worth, Texas; Springfield, Illinois; Hartford, Connecticut; and Hillsboro, West Virginia. As of December 2017, the sites in San Francisco and Hartford no longer accepted MINT inmates because they were unable to comply with some of the contract requirements for hosting the MINT program.

<sup>25</sup> The Female Offender Manual further states that inmates with more than 5 years remaining on their sentences, or who become pregnant while on furlough, or who plan to place their infants up for adoption are not eligible for the MINT program.

BOP provides prenatal care and covers the financial costs associated with delivery for all pregnant inmates, regardless of whether they participate in this program.

<sup>26</sup> The eligibility requirements for the Residential Parenting Program are established by the Washington State Department of Corrections and are stricter than those for **BOP's MINT program**. For example, only minimum security inmates are eligible to participate in the Residential Parenting Program, whereas both minimum and low security inmates are eligible to participate in the MINT program. We discuss the eligibility requirements for the Residential Parenting Program in greater detail in a text box later in this report.

this program receive credit toward their federal sentence for any time served at the Gig Harbor facility. BOP Social Workers are responsible for providing pregnant inmates with information about the two pregnancy programs.

### **Scope of the OIG Review**

BOP has implemented gender-responsive policies and programs that affect the conditions of confinement for female inmates. OIG initiated this review to **examine BOP's** management of its female inmate population between FYs 2012 and 2016. We focused our analysis on how the Women and Special Populations Branch and other relevant BOP branches implement gender-responsive trauma-treatment and pregnancy programs. Additionally, we examined how BOP has implemented policies relevant to inmate access to feminine hygiene products and physical searches of female inmates. We also examined **how BOP's decision to convert its** low security institution in Danbury, Connecticut, from a female institution to a male institution affected female inmates transferred from Danbury. We held in-person, telephone, and video teleconference interviews with BOP officials responsible for or involved in the management of federal female inmates, as well as with state correctional officials to learn how non-federal correctional agencies manage their female inmates.

## RESULTS OF THE REVIEW

### **BOP's Approach to Managing Female Inmates Has Not Been Strategic, Resulting in Weaknesses in Its Ability to Meet Their Specific Needs**

We found that over time BOP has made efforts to improve its management of female inmates. However, we identified several additional steps BOP should take to ensure female inmate needs are addressed appropriately. First, BOP has only recently taken steps to formalize a process for verifying staff compliance with policies related to the management of female inmates. Second, we found that while BOP established a Central Office branch with responsibilities that include providing national direction and subject matter expertise on the treatment, management, and programming of female inmates, the branch may not have adequate staffing to fulfill its mission. Finally, while BOP requires all personnel working in female institutions to take training on current best practices in the management of female inmates, it does not require its National Executive Staff to take any training related to female inmates. As a result, National Executive Staff may develop policy or make decisions without awareness of **female inmates' needs**. As we will discuss later in this report, we also identified similar limitations in certain BOP programs and policies of significance to female inmates. For BOP to be fully effective at appropriately managing female inmates, we believe that it must take a holistic approach at the Central Office level to identify and address issues affecting this population.

### ***BOP Has Not Fully Implemented Internal Controls to Ensure Institutions Follow Policies Related to the Management of Female Inmates***

The Female Offender Manual is BOP's primary policy on the management of female inmates. The Assistant Director of the Reentry Services Division told us that it is important for institutions housing female inmates to be in compliance with the Female Offender Manual.<sup>27</sup> While BOP has recently taken its first initial steps to verify compliance with the manual, it has not yet fully implemented these efforts. Specifically, BOP is still in the interim stage of establishing a program review to evaluate the implementation of its Female Offender Manual.<sup>28</sup>

In 1997, BOP created its first policy on the management of female inmates.<sup>29</sup> This four-page policy only **briefly described BOP's role in identifying the appropriate** programs and services to meet the different physical, social, and psychological needs of female inmates; but it never explained what those needs were and it

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<sup>27</sup> Subsequent to our interview, the Assistant Director of the Reentry Services Division was named the Acting BOP Director.

<sup>28</sup> BOP develops program reviews to assess an institution's internal controls, programs, and operations in a topic area. Most program reviews summarize the overall findings with a rating of Superior, Good, Acceptable, Deficient, or At Risk.

<sup>29</sup> BOP Program Statement 5200.01, Management of Female Offenders, August 4, 1997.

lacked specific guidance that would help institutions identify and address those needs. Further, BOP did not conduct program reviews to verify compliance with this policy.

To address the deficiencies in its initial policy concerning female inmates, BOP issued its Female Offender Manual in November 2016.<sup>30</sup> This manual is much more comprehensive than the 1997 policy in the topics covered, and it offers more guidance about how BOP should handle a range of policy and management issues pertaining to female inmates. For example, it describes how BOP should classify and designate female inmates; discipline female inmates; provide gender-responsive programming; and address birth control, pregnancy, child placement, and abortion.<sup>31</sup> While the new manual is more comprehensive, we found that BOP has not yet finalized a mechanism to ensure that institutions housing female inmates comply with it.

During interviews, three managers in the Reentry Services Division emphasized the importance of establishing a program review to ensure institutions are managing female inmates consistently with the Female Offender Manual. For example, the Senior Deputy Assistant Director of the division described the **establishment of a program review as critical for ensuring that BOP's female institutions are held accountable for how they manage female inmates.** He and the Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator described the program review as the most important factor in ensuring compliance with the Female Offender Manual and said that **the absence of a program review has weakened the branch's ability to ensure that institutions are implementing BOP's primary policy on the management of female inmates.**

Program reviews are also important because BOP policy requires reviewed institutions to implement corrective action plans, monitored by the BOP Central Office, to correct any deficiencies identified during the course of the review. In response to a working draft of this report, the Senior Deputy Assistant Director of the Program Review Division described these follow-up requirements as critical aspects of all program reviews to ensure accountability.

We found that BOP had not begun to implement any review mechanism to **evaluate institutions' compliance with the Female Offender Manual** until November 2017, a year after its release, and, as of June 2018, BOP has not fully implemented these efforts.<sup>32</sup> **According to a Senior Deputy Assistant Director of BOP's Program**

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<sup>30</sup> BOP Program Statement 5200.02, Female Offender Manual, November 23, 2016.

<sup>31</sup> BOP Program Statement 5200.02.

<sup>32</sup> In response to a working draft of this report, BOP stated that it began the process to establish this review mechanism in March 2017 by scheduling a management assessment, which **initiates BOP's formal process for designing program reviews.** BOP further stated that the management assessment was scheduled within the timeframe required by policy based on the release date of the Female Offender Manual.

Review Division, BOP created an interim program review in November 2017 with the intention of establishing a permanent program review in the near future.<sup>33</sup>

**We reviewed BOP's interim program review** plan and found that BOP conducted it entirely remotely, rather than on site at the institutions. We also learned that under the interim plan BOP did not intend to issue an institution a formal compliance rating at the close of the review. After BOP conducted its first remote program review, **a Senior Deputy Assistant Director of BOP's Program Review Division** told us that BOP intended to change its program review methodology to conduct future program reviews on site and provide the institution a rating on compliance with the Female Offender Manual.

We are encouraged that BOP plans to implement a rated, on-site program review. Although the **Program Review Division's** Assistant Director and Senior Deputy Assistant Director told us that on-site reviews may stretch limited resources, an on-site program review would allow BOP to assess compliance with the Female Offender Manual in part through direct observation, which **BOP's Management Control and Program Review Manual describes as "the most dependable type of evidence, and...essential in determining the adequacy of internal controls."**<sup>34</sup> **Additionally, we believe that some of the criteria in BOP's interim program review guidelines and other guidance are particularly suited to direct observation.**<sup>35</sup> For example, the interim program review guidelines for the Female Offender Manual require Program Review Division staff to assess whether institutions offer gender-responsive programs to inmates and whether institutions widely advertise those programs **"in visible areas in the institution," such as bulletin boards, electronic message boards, and resource centers** to assist in raising inmate awareness of the availability of those programs. In addition, **BOP's August 2017** guidance on the accessibility and availability of feminine hygiene products, which we discuss in more detail later in our report, also lends itself to direct observation. We believe that a physical visit to the institution being reviewed would allow the Program Review Division staff to confirm that institutions are complying with BOP

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**We focus on November 2017 in this report because that was the date that BOP's Central Office notified the Wardens of the female institutions that a program review to evaluate institutions' compliance with the Female Offender Manual had been designed, and that the reviews would begin.**

<sup>33</sup> The Program Review Division conducted its first program review of the Female Offender Manual in December 2017, using the interim program review plan, and provided results to the reviewed institution in January 2018.

<sup>34</sup> BOP Program Statement 1210.23, Management Control and Program Review Manual, August 21, 2002, Chapter 2, p. 8. **This policy establishes BOP's standards for conducting program reviews.**

<sup>35</sup> Officials in the Program Review Division told us that they could not create program review guidelines for all sections of the Female Offender Manual because some portions were too broadly written. The Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator said that some sections of the Female Offender Manual were written this way as a result of negotiations with the union before the policy was implemented. The Assistant Director of the Program Review Division said that a more detailed Female Offender Manual would allow for more robust oversight of how female institutions implement the policy.

policy on the management of female inmates and to better identify any deficiencies that should be monitored through a corrective action plan.

**BOP's Management Control and Program Review Manual** generally requires that program reviews provide a rating that summarizes **the review's findings and reflects the reviewer's overall judgment as to how well the institution accomplishes the program area's mission and objectives.** Currently, all program reviews are rated except for the *Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003* (PREA) program review.<sup>36</sup> The Senior Deputy Assistant Director for the Reentry Services Division said that it is important for the Female Offender Manual program review to be rated to ensure that the female institutions take the findings from the review seriously.

We agree that ratings would promote accountability, and we believe that ratings for the Female Offender Manual will make it easier for the Program Review **Division to identify trends in an institution's results, potentially allowing BOP to** identify deficiencies and systemic issues across BOP institutions over time.<sup>37</sup> The Senior Deputy Assistant Director for the Reentry Services Division said that it is important to rate female institutions on their management of female inmates so that the significance of meeting these standards does not get diluted across multiple reviews that cover items related to female inmates as well as items related to all inmates. He also said that a rated program review of the Female Offender Manual will make it easier for the Reentry Services Division to spot problems multiple institutions have in managing female inmates and identify areas where broader action is needed.

At the time of our review, BOP was in the early stages of implementing a system of formal oversight and enforcement for the Female Offender Manual. This accountability mechanism will provide BOP with a key tool for determining whether institutions are complying with policy governing the management of female inmates.

### ***The Women and Special Populations Branch's Staffing May Not Be Sufficient to Fully Accomplish its Mission***

BOP created the Women and Special Populations Branch in the Reentry **Services Division of BOP's Central Office** to address the needs of special

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<sup>36</sup> A Senior Deputy Assistant Director of BOP's Program Review Division said that the PREA program review does not receive a rating because the goal of the PREA program review is to help institutions prepare for the formal PREA audits conducted by outside auditors.

<sup>37</sup> We asked BOP whether program review ratings were taken into account during Wardens' annual performance evaluations. **BOP's Management Control and Program Review Manual (Program Statement 1210.23)** states that a program review rating is **a measure of a program's performance, not directly related to a program manager's performance.** BOP's Human Resource Management Division further reported that a program review rating was taken into account only if it directly related **to a specific performance measure described in a Warden's performance work plan.**

populations, including female inmates.<sup>38</sup> However, we found that the number of staff members BOP allocated to this branch may not be enough to carry out all of the responsibilities it has given to the branch. In February 2014, the branch had only 1 **staff position (of the Reentry Services Division's 247 positions)**. As of November 2017, the branch had four full-time employees, making up 2 percent of the Reentry Services Division's staffing.<sup>39</sup> The four staff members are responsible for six separate inmate special populations that, when combined, make up a large **share of BOP's total inmate population**.<sup>40</sup> While there is bound to be some overlap in the inmates that are a part of these populations, each population has distinct needs.

The Women and Special Populations **Branch's responsibilities require it to** coordinate regularly nationwide and across all BOP divisions at the Central Office and regional levels, at all female institutions, and with external organizations. The branch is required to perform a broad range of responsibilities for each special population, potentially independently of one another. For example, the following duties, among many others, demonstrate the broad scope of duties for this branch:

- developing, implementing, and maintaining national programs for female inmates, inmates with disabilities, children of incarcerated parents, and other special populations, which require extensive knowledge of mental health, case management, custody/discipline, vocational/workforce, education, life skills, release preparation, and community placement;
- representing BOP in the day-to-day dealings with outside agencies and with other BOP branches and institutions regarding female inmates or inmates from special populations; and
- serving as the BOP National **Executive Staff's primary resource** concerning female inmate and special population issues. The Women and Special Populations Branch also provides information and advice to other Branch Chiefs and management, including the BOP Director, regarding the needs of female or special population inmates and programs for these inmates.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> As of April 2018, BOP had identified six special populations. We list these in the [Introduction](#).

<sup>39</sup> The Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator is included in this staffing level. In response to a working draft of this report, BOP stated that all four staff in the Women and Special Populations Branch, including the Branch Administrator, focus on program or training work.

<sup>40</sup> Female inmates account for approximately 7 percent of the inmate population, as we state in the [Introduction](#). We could not determine the number of inmates with disabilities from the BOP data we analyzed; but, in response to a working draft of this report, BOP estimated that inmates with disabilities account for approximately one-third of the inmate population.

<sup>41</sup> The items we highlight here represent just a fraction of the Women and Special Populations **Branch's responsibilities. The Administrator's position description includes seven pages of** responsibilities.

To accomplish these duties, the branch must collaborate with Health Services staff, Psychology Services staff, Education Services staff, and staff located in any other area of BOP, as necessary, to address the needs of female inmates. The Senior Deputy Assistant Director of the Reentry Services Division said that it is challenging for the branch to ensure institutions are complying with policy when the branch has only four staff, all of whom are located at Central Office. He noted that BOP might need to consider a variety of staffing arrangements, including placing staff at regional offices or individual institutions, as the branch continues to develop additional policies that each need to be implemented for different special populations.

The Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator told us that the **branch's range of responsibilities and current level of staffing left it unable** to provide training on current best practices for managing female inmates. She told us that she would like the branch to conduct more in-person, interactive trainings on the management of female inmates for staff at female institutions. In 2017, the branch conducted one such training at an institution; several Psychologists who **attended told us that it was very useful because it enhanced staff members'** understanding of trauma, how trauma impacts female inmates, and how to more effectively communicate with female inmates. A Social Worker at another female institution had not received in-person training but told us that given the mental health effects of abuse and the high rate of trauma in the female inmate population, Correctional Officers would benefit from increased training on effectively managing the needs of inmates with mental illness.<sup>42</sup>

As we described above, the Women and Special Populations Branch is **responsible for overseeing BOP's management of multiple special populations, which includes coordinating across BOP's** many divisions at the Central Office, as well as with individual institutions. Given these multiple responsibilities, we believe that BOP should **evaluate the breadth of the branch's mission and** ensure that the branch has sufficient staff to accomplish that mission.

### ***BOP Does Not Require Its National-Level Executives to Take Training on Managing Female Offenders***

We found that while BOP has implemented mandatory training on the management of female inmates for staff who work in female institutions, BOP has not required its National Executive Staff to take this or other training pertaining to female inmates.<sup>43</sup> As a result, the officials who make decisions affecting the

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<sup>42</sup> OIG's review of BOP's management of inmates with mental illness in restrictive housing recommended additional mental health training for staff monitoring the behavior of inmates in restrictive housing. DOJ OIG, [Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Use of Restrictive Housing for Inmates with Mental Illness](#), Evaluation and Inspections Report 17-05 (July 2017), 66.

<sup>43</sup> BOP's National Executive Staff consists of the BOP Director, Deputy Director, 6 Regional Directors, and 10 Assistant Directors in BOP's Central Office. The trauma-informed correctional care

(Cont'd)

conditions of confinement for female inmates may not be fully aware of the unique needs of female inmates. According to **BOP's primary training video on the management of female inmates**, these unique needs include the prevalence of **trauma in the female inmate population and how trauma affects female inmates'** behavior; communication strategies that BOP recommends staff use when working with female inmates to avoid triggering memories of previously experienced trauma; BOP policies that impact female inmates differently, such as the inmate search policy; female inmate healthcare needs; relationships, especially relationships with their minor children; and educational and release needs. We will discuss actions BOP has taken to address some of these needs in later sections of this report.

BOP has made training on the management of female inmates mandatory only for staff who work in female institutions and directly with female inmates. When staff begin working at a female institution for the first time, they are required to take two trainings that were prepared by the Women and Special Populations Branch: a 1.5-hour video on the management of female inmates, accompanied by discussions moderated by an on-site trainer, and a 24-minute video on trauma-informed correctional care.<sup>44</sup> Both of these trainings have been updated since 2016 to reflect **BOP's** current practices in the management of the female inmate population. A Correctional Officer who watched the trauma-informed correctional care video described the training as very powerful and said it made her more empathetic toward female inmates because it helped her understand how past traumas influence how female inmates express frustration and react to staff.

However, BOP National Executive Staff exposure to this training is ad hoc. One National Executive Staff member with decision-making authority over female inmates said that he had not received training on the management of female inmates because he had never worked at an institution that housed female inmates.<sup>45</sup> Another member of the BOP National Executive Staff told us that he had training on the management of female inmates in the 1990s because at that time he worked at an institution that housed female inmates. The Senior Deputy Assistant Director of the Reentry Services Division said that he believes it is

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**training video was incorporated into BOP's annual refresher training curriculum one time, in FY 2016,** and all staff employed by BOP that year, including National Executive Staff, saw the video. BOP has an ongoing requirement that all staff assigned to a female institution for the first time take the trauma-informed correctional care training. However, because BOP does not also require this training at the **time of promotion to BOP's National Executive Staff, it is possible for an individual to be** promoted to an executive position without ever having taken the training. BOP reported to us that its National Executive Staff are required only to complete and maintain certification in a series of standard government manager and supervisory trainings.

<sup>44</sup> Three April 2018 program reviews of the Female Offender Manual conducted by BOP found that three different female institutions were failing to provide all institution staff with these trainings as required by BOP policy.

<sup>45</sup> During the course of this review, we interviewed three members of the BOP National Executive Staff who oversee aspects of BOP operations directly related to the management of female inmates.

important for Regional Directors to take this training because they oversee such institutions in their respective regions. He further recommended that the BOP Director take any training associated with a program statement he signs.<sup>46</sup> Although the Assistant Director of the Reentry Services Division told us that he does not believe that requiring National Executive Staff to take training on the management of female inmates is important, he also acknowledged that, if left to its own devices, BOP is not gender responsive. We are concerned that, without such training, members of the National Executive Staff who are in a position to make decisions that affect the female inmate population may not be fully aware of **female inmates' unique needs.**

Individuals inside and outside BOP described training as an effective method for helping staff recognize the unique needs of female inmates, as well as an effective tool to convey support from agency leadership. A DOJ Civil Rights Division official who works closely with BOP on issues related to female inmates emphasized the importance of support from top BOP officials in ensuring that the incarceration of women is gender responsive in all areas. The Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator added that it is important for BOP leadership to be exposed to female inmate-specific issues so they understand the importance of those issues when making decisions. A Deputy Commissioner from the Alabama Department of Corrections told us that providing multidisciplinary training in gender-responsive **corrections was "probably one of the most impactful" things the Department of Corrections has done to make its culture more understanding of female inmates.** The Deputy Commissioner said that the training created significant buy-in from staff across all levels about understanding the unique needs of female inmates and recognizing the differences between female and male inmates.

Accordingly, we believe that BOP should ensure that all staff, including the National Executive Staff, who work with or have management decision authority over female inmates receive the current mandatory training on the unique needs of female inmates.

### **BOP's Programming and Policy May Not Fully Consider the Needs of Female Inmates**

We identified concerns with the way BOP implements two programs for female inmates, **as well as a concern with how BOP's implementation of its inmate grooming policy affects female inmates.** First, BOP has not staffed its trauma treatment program for female inmates at a level that ensures that all female inmates who are eligible for the program can participate in it before they are released. Second, a lack of staff awareness and a lack of data may limit access to **BOP's residential programs for pregnant inmates.** Third, the distribution methods for feminine hygiene products did not always ensure that inmates had sufficient access to the quantity of products they needed.

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<sup>46</sup> We note that the six Regional Directors plus the BOP Director account for more than a third of the BOP officials who make up the National Executive Staff.

## ***BOP's Trauma Treatment Program Is Inadequately Staffed Compared to the Level of Need***

Based on research we previously referred to in the [Introduction](#) of this report, BOP's training materials acknowledge that the prevalence of trauma in the female inmate population is high—approximately 90 percent. Some of the inmates we interviewed described a range of traumatic experiences they had faced prior to incarceration, including homelessness, sexual abuse, and domestic violence. To treat the psychological and interpersonal difficulties that can result from traumatic life experiences, BOP offers the Resolve trauma therapy program at 14 of its 15 female institutions. One Resolve Coordinator said that the goal of the program is to help inmates improve their ability to function on a daily basis through treatment that reduces psychological symptoms, improves behavior, and decreases **an inmate's need for medication**. A BOP Mental Health Treatment Coordinator told us that, ideally, an inmate should take the Resolve program during the first 12 months of her sentence because the program can help the inmate adjust to being in an institution and prepare for other psychological programming, such as residential drug treatment. BOP Psychologists inform female inmates about the Resolve program at the start of incarceration and encourage all female inmates with a history of trauma to sign up for the introductory workshop. Participation in the Resolve program is voluntary.

Several of the inmates we interviewed who had taken Resolve told us that the program helped them come to terms with their past and prepare for life after prison. One inmate praised the Resolve program for helping her recover from severe domestic violence, **saying, "I'm trying to better myself while in prison. I don't want to walk in here and walk out the same way."** She also praised the Resolve Coordinator for helping her understand her marriage and how to heal from the abuse she suffered.

Although BOP considers Resolve to be an especially important program for female inmates, we found that due to current staffing BOP may not be able to ensure that all inmates who are eligible for the program can participate in it before their release from BOP custody. We learned that, regardless of the size of the **institution's female inmate population**, BOP allocates one position, known as a Resolve Coordinator, to administer and facilitate the Resolve program, its two prerequisites, and other tasks that are part of the program.<sup>47</sup> As we explain below **in our discussion of the ramifications of BOP's current staffing model for Resolve**, we estimate that the 40-week Resolve program can accommodate only 336 female inmates nationwide at a time, and 24 per institution at a time, representing roughly **3 percent of BOP's sentenced female inmate population**.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> During the time of our review, BOP was piloting the Resolve program for male inmates at two institutions. At all other institutions, the Resolve program was available only to female inmates, even if the institution as a whole housed both female and male inmates.

<sup>48</sup> As of the end of FY 2016, there were 10,567 sentenced female inmates in the BOP's female institutions.

As a result of this limited staffing, inmates at larger institutions are often delayed from beginning each separate step of the program. This presents a challenge for BOP because female inmates generally have shorter sentences than male inmates. We also identified an unfilled need for trauma programming among non-English speaking inmates because BOP offers Resolve only in English. Finally, **we found that Resolve’s staffing level is significantly** lower than several other BOP psychological treatment programs.

**To determine an inmate’s eligibility for the Resolve program,** BOP policy requires that she complete two prerequisites: the Trauma in Life seminar and psychological screening tests (see Table 2 above). A Resolve Coordinator explained that the psychological screening tests determine whether an inmate meets certain traumatic stress criteria and is therefore eligible for the Resolve treatment. Typical diagnoses indicating eligibility include post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, or depression but may also include conditions such as schizophrenia if the condition is triggered or worsened by the traumatic experience. We found that inadequate staffing creates delays for inmates in completing the prerequisites, which may result in eligible inmates not being able to complete the treatment phases until later in their sentence, and possibly not at all. BOP cannot easily determine how many female inmates complete the Resolve program because, while BOP tracks completion of individual segments of the Resolve program, it does not track completion of the program as a whole.

For example, the Trauma in Life seminar, the first prerequisite for determining eligibility in the Resolve program, is an 8-hour course and is typically taught in four 2-hour sessions over 4 weeks. Trauma in Life is intended to provide female inmates with information on trauma and its potential impact on their lives, as well as to identify inmates who need trauma treatment and to motivate them to participate in the Resolve program. As shown in Table 3 below, we found that **waiting lists for Trauma in Life seminars can be lengthy, particularly in BOP’s** seven large, all-female institutions. We found this troubling because, as of September 2016, **70 percent of BOP’s sentenced female population was in one of the seven all-**female institutions.

**Table 3**  
**Trauma in Life Waiting Lists at All-female and Mixed-gender**  
**BOP Institutions, August 2017**

Type of Institution	Average Female Population	Average Number of Female Inmates on a Trauma in Life Waiting List	OIG Estimate of Months Needed to Teach Trauma in Life to All Inmates on an Average Waiting List <sup>a</sup>
<b>All female<sup>b</sup></b>	1,103	172	8
<b>Mixed gender<sup>c</sup></b>	318	47	3

<sup>a</sup> BOP institutions told us that Trauma in Life courses can accommodate a maximum of 24 inmates at a time. Therefore, our analysis assumes that each Trauma in Life seminar can accommodate 24 inmates.

<sup>b</sup> The seven all-female institutions were Federal Prison Camp (FPC) Alderson, Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Aliceville, FPC Bryan, Federal Medical Center Carswell, FCI Dublin, FCI Tallahassee, and FCI Waseca.

<sup>c</sup> The eight mixed-gender institutions were FPC Coleman, Federal Satellite Low and FPC Danbury, FPC Greenville, Secure Female Facility Hazelton, FPC Lexington, FPC Marianna, FPC Phoenix, and FPC Victorville. At these institutions, BOP housed female and male inmates in buildings separated by fences and enforced strict operational rules to keep female and male inmates apart at all times.

**Notes:** The BOP's detention centers and Federal Transfer Center Oklahoma City all housed female inmates, but we excluded them from this analysis because they did not offer the Resolve program.

We used August 2017 population data for this analysis to more accurately reflect the female population at the time we collected the waiting lists.

Sources: BOP data on Resolve program waiting lists; institution population data on BOP's website as of August 30, 2017; and OIG analysis

We found that 6 of BOP's 15 female institutions had Trauma in Life waiting lists of 150 inmates or more. We concluded that inmates at the end of a waiting list of 150 could wait at least 6 months before they could take the first step toward determining whether they were even eligible for the Resolve program.<sup>49</sup> However, this may understate the amount of time that individual inmates must wait to enroll in the program because BOP organizes its program waiting lists by release date, not the date an inmate is added to the waiting list. A Social Worker told us that, as a result, female inmates with longer sentences may spend years rather than months on a program waiting list, including the Trauma in Life waiting list.<sup>50</sup>

After inmates complete Trauma in Life, they must undergo a psychological assessment to determine whether they have a psychological diagnosis related to a traumatic life event. Such a diagnosis is a requirement for inmates to begin **Resolve's** treatment phases. Making such a diagnosis requires the Resolve

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<sup>49</sup> One institution reported to us that its Trauma in Life waiting list was 311 inmates. At this institution, we estimate the wait for the Trauma in Life course could be as long as a year.

<sup>50</sup> BOP policy states that inmates should enroll in the Trauma in Life seminar during the first 12 months of incarceration. An inmate was **always placed on the Trauma in Life seminar's waiting list** based on her release date, even if she did not sign up for the Trauma in Life seminar until after her first 12 months of incarceration. BOP policy does not establish a timeframe for completing the rest of the Resolve program.

Coordinator to perform a screening assessment that includes several psychological tests and a review of the inmate's file. One Resolve Coordinator said that the process of interviewing an inmate, performing the psychological tests, and reviewing the inmate's file takes several hours for each inmate. Another Resolve Coordinator at a large female institution said that the amount of psychological testing required for Resolve is a lot of work for a single staff member, especially given all of a Resolve Coordinator's responsibilities.

During our fieldwork, 5 of BOP's female institutions reported that 45 or more inmates were awaiting a screening assessment to determine whether they were eligible for Resolve. At 1 of these institutions, 180 inmates, representing 18 percent of the institution's population, were on the waiting list for screening.<sup>51</sup> The second-longest waiting list for screening assessments, 82 inmates, represented 5 percent of that institution's population.

After inmates complete Trauma in Life and receive a psychological assessment that results in a diagnosis related to a traumatic event, they are eligible to begin the Resolve program. However, according to BOP Psychologists, the single Resolve Coordinator running the program can manage a caseload of only 24 inmates at a time in the treatment phases. The caseload of inmates in the treatment phases does not include inmates who are taking the Trauma in Life seminar, are undergoing the psychological screening assessment, or have completed the treatment phases and are in the maintenance group. With a current staffing level of one Resolve Coordinator per institution, eligible inmates will not necessarily begin a Resolve program right after completing the two prerequisites.

Additionally, we found that the existing waiting lists for Resolve programming may underrepresent the actual level of need because Resolve is offered only in English and, therefore, waiting lists generally include only inmates who speak fluent English. BOP Psychologists at multiple institutions expressed concern that BOP is not able to provide sufficient trauma treatment for non-English speaking female inmates, specifically Spanish-speaking female inmates. While the fact that Resolve is taught only in English could be an impediment for any non-English speaking inmate, institution staff told us that Spanish is by far the most common non-English language spoken by inmates. A Warden and a Chief Psychologist from two female institutions told us that their greatest unmet programming need was for Spanish Resolve. According to the Chief Psychologist, "There's horrific history, but we just can't get to them."

Psychological staff at multiple female institutions expressed concern that having only one position dedicated to administering all aspects of Resolve at each institution, regardless of the size of the institution, was inadequate. We note that this is particularly problematic for the three female institutions that have both a low security institution and a minimum security camp because security considerations

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<sup>51</sup> BOP's Chief of Mental Health Services attributed the backlog to the fact that the Resolve Coordinator position at this institution was vacant, noting that BOP has found it challenging to keep the Resolve Coordinator position filled at this rural institution.

require the low and minimum security inmates to be separated. The Resolve Coordinator from one of these institutions said that if she offered treatment to both low and minimum security inmates at the same time, she must do so in separate treatment groups. Another Resolve Coordinator worried that, as a result of low **staffing levels**, “you have people going home without the treatment, although we identified that they needed it.”

The Chief of Mental Health Services described this staffing model as “**not ideal**” and noted that it worked better at camps, which typically have populations of around 300 female inmates, than at larger institutions. She further explained that BOP had not added staff to the Resolve program as of the time of our review because it had to balance competing priorities for psychological resources and had chosen in recent years to prioritize the treatment of serious mental illness.<sup>52</sup> Finally, the Chief of Mental Health Services said that, because Resolve is run by a single coordinator in each institution, any time that position is vacant the program goes dormant until a replacement is hired. A September 2016 BOP statistical report summarizing staffing levels and inmate participation in psychology treatment programs showed that 5 of the 14 Resolve Coordinator positions in female institutions were vacant at that time. As a result, the Resolve program was not available to the female inmates at these institutions until the positions were filled.

**We found that Resolve’s staffing model allotted fewer staff than several of BOP’s other psychology treatment programs, including the Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP), the Brave program, and the Challenge program.**<sup>53</sup> BOP policy requires the RDAP, Brave, and Challenge programs each to be staffed by a Program Coordinator and multiple Treatment Specialists, allowing these programs to treat more inmates concurrently than Resolve can, as shown in Table 4 below, because each Treatment Specialist maintains a caseload of inmates. Meanwhile, Resolve is the only psychological treatment program with a capacity not established in policy, although **BOP’s Chief of Mental Health Services told us that the general expectation** is that each Resolve Coordinator will treat 24 inmates at a time. The Chief Psychologist at a large female institution said that BOP does a great job treating substance abuse through RDAP because it allocates sufficient resources and staffing to RDAP; but it does not do the same for trauma treatment through Resolve.

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<sup>52</sup> Based on concerns about insufficient mental health staff, **OIG’s review of BOP’s** management of inmates with mental illness in restrictive housing recommended that BOP prioritize and incentivize hiring mental health staff at institutions that have inmates with mental illness in long-term restrictive housing. DOJ OIG, *Use of Restrictive Housing*, 65.

<sup>53</sup> The Brave program is an institutional adjustment program for male inmates who are medium security, age 32 or younger, serving their first BOP sentence, and beginning a sentence of at least 5 years. The Challenge program is for male inmates who are high security and have either a history of substance abuse or a severe mental health diagnosis.

**BOP’s program statement for Psychology Treatment Programs describes four additional programs for mental health treatment.** We excluded these programs from our analysis because they are for inmates whose mental health diagnoses require intensive treatment services.

**Table 4**  
**Psychology Treatment Program Average Participation Levels and Onboard Staffing Levels, September 2016**

Program	Average Program Staff per Institution	Average Inmate Participants per Institution at a Time
<b>Resolve</b>	1	24
<b>RDAP</b>	6	118
<b>Brave</b>	5.5	75
<b>Challenge</b>	4	65

Notes: We excluded three institutions from our analysis of Resolve program participation because the Resolve Coordinator positions at those institutions were vacant.

The staffing levels of RDAP, Brave, and Challenge varied slightly, usually ranging between four and six staff per program location. Additionally, some BOP institutions operated multiple RDAPs at a single institution.

Source: OIG analysis of BOP data on psychology treatment programs

RDAP, Brave, and Challenge differ from Resolve also because they are residential programs, meaning that all inmates in the program also live together in a single housing unit **separate from the institution’s general population**. BOP residential programs are more intensive than non-residential programs, requiring more programming hours to complete.<sup>54</sup> Residential programs have more staff to account for these differences. While we recognize that residential programs are frequently of a greater intensity than non-residential programs such as **Resolve, we believe that BOP’s current approach to staffing Resolve does not take into account the importance of female inmates completing this program as close as possible to the beginning of their incarceration**. For a description of a new trauma treatment program that BOP was piloting during the time of our review, see the text box.

#### Female Integrated Treatment

BOP has taken a promising first step in its efforts to enhance the capacity of its trauma treatment programming at one female institution. The Female Integrated Treatment (FIT) program being piloted at the low security female institution in Danbury, Connecticut, has positions for a FIT Program Coordinator, two Psychologists, and four Treatment Specialists. BOP anticipated that, when fully staffed, FIT would be able to provide treatment to up to 96 women at a time. The capacity of the low security female institution in Danbury is 192 inmates, meaning that, unlike Resolve, the FIT program will be able to accommodate a relatively high proportion of Danbury’s low security female population.

Sources: OIG interviews of BOP staff and BOP documents describing the FIT program

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<sup>54</sup> Typical residential programs require inmates to participate in group sessions for 3–4 hours per day. Resolve consists of group sessions that meet for approximately 1–2 hours per week.

A 2003 National Institute of Corrections report stated that “among women, the most common pathways to crime are based on survival (of abuse and poverty) and substance abuse.”<sup>55</sup> The Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator described sexual assault in particular as the pipeline to prison for many female inmates. BOP recognizes that trauma treatment programs are an important tool to disrupt this pathway. A 2012 study on trauma-informed correctional care reported that histories of sexual abuse could **interfere with female inmates’ ability to benefit** from other institution programs; the study stated that addressing trauma should be a priority for female inmates.<sup>56</sup> Also, these programs have been in high demand among female inmates, as evidenced by waiting lists for the Trauma in Life seminar that extend for 6 months or more. **However, we found that BOP’s staffing level for these program is inadequate to meet the demand.** As a result, BOP cannot ensure that all eligible female inmates receive trauma treatment before their release.

### ***BOP’s Pregnancy Programs May Be Underutilized***

To further address the unique needs of female inmates, BOP offers two programs for its pregnant inmates. The first is the BOP-sponsored Mothers and Infants Nurturing Together (MINT) program, which allows female inmates to serve a portion of their sentence living in a halfway house with their infants after birth. According to BOP, the MINT program was designed to teach parenting skills and facilitate mother-child bonding so that inmates will be more likely to provide a stable home environment upon release from BOP custody. The second program, which has similar goals to the MINT program, is the Washington State Department of Corrections’ Residential Parenting Program. BOP maintains an agreement with the Washington State Department of Corrections that allows BOP female inmates and their infants to participate in the program, which is housed inside a Washington state minimum security female institution.

The Female Offender Manual requires BOP Social Workers to meet with pregnant inmates to provide information regarding the MINT program and the Residential Parenting Program. The Social Worker must document this meeting in the **inmate’s** electronic medical record and notify the Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator, Regional Social Worker, and institution Clinical Director of any inmate wishing to participate in either pregnancy program.<sup>57</sup> The

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<sup>55</sup> BOP National Institute of Corrections, *Gender-Responsive Strategies: Research, Practice and Guiding Principles for Women Offenders* (June 2003), 52–54. The report discussed female inmates in both federal and state prison systems.

The National Institute of Corrections provides training, technical assistance, information services, and policy and program development assistance to federal, state, and local correctional agencies.

<sup>56</sup> Niki A. Miller and Lisa M. Najavits, “Creating Trauma Informed Correctional Care: A Balance of Goals and Environment,” *European Journal of Psychotraumatology* (2012): 3.

<sup>57</sup> Not every female institution employs a Social Worker. When an institution does not have a Social Worker, the Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator told us that the Regional Social Worker is responsible for meeting with a pregnant inmate.

MINT program is open to inmates who do not plan to place their infant up for adoption, are pregnant upon incarceration with an expected delivery date prior to release, have less than 5 years remaining on their sentence and are eligible for halfway house placement, and can assume financial responsibility for the child's care.<sup>58</sup> During the scope of this review (FYs 2012–2016), MINT program sites were located across the country in multiple regions.<sup>59</sup>

If a pregnant inmate is interested in either program, **the inmate's Unit Team** is responsible for preparing a referral packet and forwarding the packet to the Residential Reentry Management Branch within the Reentry Services Division for a final **decision about the inmate's** eligibility and placement. After completing the MINT program, inmates who have time remaining to serve on their sentence transfer their infant to another legal guardian and return to a BOP institution or are transferred to a halfway house or home confinement.

One MINT Coordinator told us that she believes that MINT is valuable to inmates because it helps them bond with their infants and can increase the likelihood that those inmates will assume parental responsibilities when they are released, therefore motivating them to avoid future criminal behavior. Participants in the MINT program told us that the residential placement during and after pregnancy has helped them learn important parenting skills and develop a bond with their infants.

Despite the benefits that the MINT program can provide to pregnant inmates, we found that the program may be underutilized. Between FYs 2012 and 2016, there were 951 **pregnant inmates in BOP's custody**, 558 of whom were in institutions designed to house sentenced inmates. Of these 558 sentenced pregnant inmates, we estimate that only 204 (37 percent) participated in MINT or the Residential Parenting Program.<sup>60</sup>

We believe that the low levels of participation likely can be attributed to four causes. First, we found that pregnant inmates may not always be told about available pregnancy programs. Social Workers are responsible for informing inmates about these programs, but Social Worker positions are often vacant. In fact, we found that 5 of the 15 female institutions had Social Worker vacancies in September 2017. Additionally, underscoring the importance of program reviews, **BOP's first review of its policies on** the management of female inmates in December 2017 concluded that Social Workers at one institution were not meeting with pregnant inmates to discuss pregnancy programming, as required. Although we

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<sup>58</sup> The Residential Parenting Program has a separate set of eligibility criteria, established by the Washington State Department of Corrections. We discuss these criteria in a text box below.

<sup>59</sup> As of December 2017, the sites in San Francisco, California, and Hartford, Connecticut, no longer accepted MINT inmates. BOP ended the MINT program at these locations because the sites were unable to comply with some of the contract requirements for hosting MINT programs.

<sup>60</sup> For this review, we evaluated participation for those inmates who were in institutions designed to house sentenced inmates only. Additionally, BOP Program Statement 7310.04, Community Corrections Center Utilization and Transfer Procedure, December 16, 1998, states that pretrial detainees are not eligible for halfway house placement.

also found that some institution staff did not fully understand the eligibility criteria for the pregnancy programs, the Health Services Administrator of one female institution said that staff there inform pregnant inmates of either MINT or the Residential Parenting Program only if the staff believes that the inmate meets the eligibility criteria for those programs, to avoid disappointing inmates who are not eligible.

In addition to a lack of program awareness among inmates, we also found that BOP institution staff were generally unaware of the Washington State Department of Corrections' Residential Parenting Program, for which some BOP pregnant inmates were eligible. We believe that this general lack of awareness has, in part, contributed to low BOP inmate participation in the Residential Parenting Program. Specifically, only five inmates entered the program between FYs 2012 and 2016, most recently in FY 2013. This was the case despite the fact that Washington State Department of Corrections officials told us that the program had excess capacity. We describe the Residential Parenting Program, and its eligibility criteria, in the text box.

### **Residential Parenting Program**

During the course of our review, we learned that BOP inmates may participate in the **Washington State Department of Corrections' Residential Parenting Program**. Unlike the MINT program, which provides a shorter period of mother-infant bonding time in a halfway house setting, the Residential Parenting Program offers 30 months of mother-infant bonding time in the minimum security unit of the Washington Corrections Center for Women in Gig Harbor, Washington. If an inmate is interested in the program after learning about it from a BOP Social Worker, **the inmate's Unit Team** submits a referral packet to **BOP's Residential Reentry Management Branch** for review and placement.

The eligibility requirements for the Residential Parenting Program are stricter than those for the MINT program. For example, only minimum security inmates are eligible to participate in the Residential Parenting Program, whereas both minimum and low security inmates can be eligible to participate in the MINT program. To be eligible for the Residential Parenting Program, inmates must meet certain disciplinary and work evaluation criteria and must have no history of violence, sex offenses, or child abuse. Inmates must also be eligible for release or home confinement within 30 months of their expected delivery date.

Sources: Washington State Department of Corrections officials, BOP officials, and BOP policies

Third, we found that BOP institution staff may be applying policy more restrictively than intended by Central Office policymakers. BOP policy states only that inmates must be eligible for halfway house placement to participate in the MINT program and does not explicitly bar inmates from participation based on security level; however, we learned that some BOP institution officials may apply a more restrictive eligibility standard. For example, a Warden of a female institution told us that only minimum security inmates qualify for MINT, because, she believed, that low security inmates had not proven they were ready for halfway house style housing. However, the former Chief of **BOP's Designation and Sentence Computation Center**, which has responsibility for determining where inmates should be housed, told us that security level designation alone should not prevent an interested inmate from participating in MINT. **BOP's policy on halfway house**

eligibility calls for case-by-case consideration of each interested MINT participant and her likelihood to pose a threat, rather than a blanket disqualification based on her security level.<sup>61</sup>

Fourth, we found that BOP does not collect data that would allow it to identify barriers to participation and monitor pregnant inmates' awareness of, interest in, and enrollment in the MINT program or the Residential Parenting Program. The Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator told us that collecting sufficient data on pregnant inmates historically has been a challenge for BOP. It was not until 2016 that BOP added a code to its inmate tracking system to indicate that an inmate is pregnant. Additionally, four of the interim remote program reviews that BOP conducted on Female Offender Manual compliance between December 2017 and May 2018 found inconsistencies in tracking pregnant inmates. During the time of our review, BOP did not track data that would allow it to ensure that pregnant inmates were informed about pregnancy programs, as required by the Female Offender Manual. Additionally, BOP did not collect data that would allow it to determine the specific eligibility criteria that preclude program participation, such as whether a pregnant inmate faced financial barriers to supporting her baby during mother-infant bonding time or planned to pursue adoption, either of which would render the inmate ineligible for participation in MINT.

Lastly, BOP did not track the length of time a pregnant inmate spent at a MINT program site. Tracking duration of stay could help BOP better determine the ideal amount of time an inmate should spend at a MINT program site to achieve the **program's goals**. During the time of our review, policy allowed institution staff to exercise discretion as to how long an inmate may stay at a MINT program site; inmates must be allotted 3 months after birth, but the policy recommended that inmates be allowed to participate for 6 months after giving birth.<sup>62</sup> Multiple MINT Coordinators told us that many inmates stay at the MINT program site for only 3 months after birth.

We learned from MINT capacity data and interviews with BOP and Washington State Department of Corrections officials that both the MINT program and the Residential Parenting Program can accept additional eligible BOP inmates. Therefore, we determined that low levels of inmate participation in pregnancy programs were not caused by limited program capacity. Instead, we found that low participation was likely due to BOP staff **members'** failure to fully communicate program opportunities and eligibility criteria to staff and pregnant inmates and to collect relevant data to assess **pregnant inmates'** interest and participation in the MINT program and the Residential Parenting Program. As a result, we believe that pregnancy program participation will remain low until BOP addresses these issues.

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<sup>61</sup> BOP Program Statements 7310.04 and 5200.02.

<sup>62</sup> MINT Coordinators believe that when inmates participate in MINT for at least 6 months after birth, they **are more likely to achieve the program's goals of learning parenting skills and bonding with their infants**. **One region's MINT program site allows any inmate who enrolls there to participate for 12 months.**

*BOP Recently Implemented New Guidance on Access to Feminine Hygiene Products, but This Guidance Is Silent on How These Products Should be Distributed*

In addition to managing female inmates' needs related to pregnancy, BOP must also appropriately manage female inmates' distinct needs related to feminine hygiene. During our fieldwork, we found that the distribution methods for feminine hygiene products and the type of products provided to inmates free of charge varied by institution and did not always ensure that inmates had access to a quantity of products sufficient to meet their needs. Even though BOP issued an Operations Memorandum on the Provision of Feminine Hygiene Products (Operations Memorandum) expanding the availability of products, which appears to have made some important improvements, we note that the policy lacked specificity in how institutions should distribute the products.<sup>63</sup> Because our fieldwork ended around the same time as this policy was issued, we could not confirm that it has addressed our concern that some institutions were not making these products sufficiently accessible.

All BOP institutions that house female inmates provide some feminine hygiene products to inmates free of charge, as required by the BOP grooming policy, which states, "for women, products for female hygiene needs shall be available."<sup>64</sup> However, we found that distribution practices varied across institutions. All of the institutions we visited provided sanitary pads free of charge, and a few also provided tampons. Female inmates could also purchase at their own expense both pads and tampons at the commissary.

We found that the method of distribution generally varied by the type of institution. For example, minimum security institutions stored feminine hygiene products in central locations such as bathrooms or a container that was accessible to all inmates at all times. In contrast, at several low security institutions, BOP correctional staff issued each inmate a predetermined number of feminine hygiene products per month, usually 25 to 30, regardless of individual need. One BOP staff member we interviewed told us that the number of feminine hygiene products distributed was determined largely by dividing the number received from the warehouse by the number of inmates. One inmate we interviewed from an institution that issued a preset number of hygiene products said that the amount she received from the institution each month was not enough to meet her menstrual needs. At one institution we visited, officials told us that feminine hygiene products were centrally distributed because the inmates had been misusing

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<sup>63</sup> BOP Operations Memorandum 001-2017, Provision of Feminine Hygiene Products, August 1, 2017.

<sup>64</sup> BOP Program Statement 5230.05, **Grooming, November 4, 1996, is BOP's policy on standards of grooming for all inmates in BOP custody.** The policy describes standards of grooming regarding bathing, clothing, and hygiene for all inmates. In addition, the policy states that BOP institutions are to provide feminine hygiene products free of charge to all female inmates.

them for purposes such as cleaning their cells.<sup>65</sup> Inmates told us that the centralized distribution was problematic because hygiene products were no longer accessible in the housing units and the amount inmates received was limited.

We also found that, if inmates needed more feminine hygiene products than were issued, their ability to receive additional products varied. At institutions where access was tightly controlled, inmates who needed additional feminine hygiene products had to request them from a counselor. One inmate we interviewed told us that she had requested additional sanitary pads from a counselor and the counselor told her that the amount she received should be enough. In other institutions, inmates must go to health services to request additional products and, in some instances, going to health services also required permission from correctional staff.<sup>66</sup> Inmates at these institutions indicated that they interpreted this as a quota system because they could not necessarily obtain additional hygiene products beyond the number issued, even if they asked for them; or if they asked, they might be questioned about why they needed more. We believe that any distribution method that tightly controls access to feminine hygiene products and requires inmates to request more from staff, with no guarantee that their requests will be granted, places an excessive burden on inmates and does not meet BOP's grooming policy requiring that such products "shall be available" to female inmates.

Advocacy groups also have stated that access to and affordability of feminine hygiene products has been a concern for incarcerated women. Feminine hygiene products are costly relative to the salary inmates earn in prison. Additionally, advocacy groups have raised concerns that limited access to feminine hygiene products creates anxiety and is dehumanizing for incarcerated women. Several U.S. Senators introduced legislation on this topic in 2017, as we discuss in the text box below.

We found that some state correctional systems made feminine hygiene products more readily available for their inmates. Some states made the products freely available in several locations throughout the institution, including search areas, housing units, programming areas, and bathrooms, rather than distributing a preset number to each inmate per month. One state official we interviewed told us that at one time there were issues with inmates hoarding feminine hygiene products. He explained that the hoarding stopped once the inmates believed they would have regular access to the products for their menstrual needs. Other state officials told us that if inmates were misusing feminine hygiene products for other

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<sup>65</sup> No BOP staff member told us that feminine hygiene products were misused in a manner that presented a security concern. When we asked the Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator whether making them accessible could be a security concern, she said that they could not be.

<sup>66</sup> We note that not all of the reasons for which a female inmate might need additional feminine hygiene products are indicative of a medical problem. For example, a female inmate whose menstrual period began as frequently as every 21 days would be considered medically normal. However, if she received feminine hygiene products every 28 days she would not have enough.

purposes, they would address the issue with the individual inmates rather than changing the distribution method for all inmates.

We believe that the Operations Memorandum that BOP distributed to all institutions in 2017 is a positive step in that it required all institutions to provide sanitary pads, tampons, and panty liners free of charge to inmates. Even though the Operations Memorandum did not explicitly address how products should be dispersed, **BOP's** Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator told us that the intent of the Operations Memorandum was to ensure that these products were freely available and that institutions should not be dispersing a preset amount of hygiene products to female inmates. She added that during the quarterly conference calls with Wardens of female institutions, she instructed them that placing quotas on or issuing a preset amount of feminine hygiene products was prohibited.

We could not validate that our concerns about inmates having insufficient access to products were addressed because the Operations Memorandum was issued at the end of our fieldwork.<sup>67</sup> **Further, BOP's** interim program reviews of the Female Offender Manual, implemented in November 2017, also assessed only whether an institution provided the products required in the Operations Memorandum, but did not assess the accessibility of the products to inmates.<sup>68</sup> Although the new guidance is in place and BOP has taken some steps to bring institutions into compliance, we are concerned that BOP still lacks a method to ensure sufficient

### 2017 Legislation on Providing Feminine Hygiene Products for Inmates

In July 2017, four U.S. Senators introduced the "Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act of 2017." Among other provisions, the bill, if passed, would permanently prohibit federal prisons from charging female inmates for essential healthcare items, including sanitary napkins and tampons. The proposed legislation received widespread attention, and some states were reviewing their policies on sanitary napkins and tampons to make them more accessible for women.

In May 2018, the House Judiciary Committee passed the "FIRST STEP Act," a bill intended to improve the federal prison system through the implementation of corrections policy reforms. This bill included language that would require BOP to make sanitary napkins and tampons available for free, in a quantity that is appropriate to the healthcare needs of each inmate.

Sources: U.S. Congress website, media articles

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<sup>67</sup> The Assistant Director of the Reentry Services Division told us that even after the new guidance was issued he became aware that six institutions had not implemented it as promptly as expected. He told us that the Regional Directors, who directly supervise the Wardens of each institution, had to intervene to bring those institutions into compliance.

<sup>68</sup> Program Review G5200I.01, Interim Remote Guideline Steps, November 2017, evaluated how well an institution was providing vital services to female offenders. The review included an assessment of the following: Classification, Staff Training, Inmate Programs, Pregnancy/Child Placement, Pregnancy/Programming, High Security Administrative Units, Trust Fund/Commissary, and Feminine Hygiene Products.

access. As noted previously, in-person program reviews may provide a way to ensure institutions have implemented the Operations Memorandum as intended.

### **BOP's Lack of Gender-specific Posts Results in Inefficiencies at Female Institutions**

In addition to programming, pregnancy, and hygiene matters, another issue we identified in **BOP's management of its female inmate population** relates to BOP's policy prohibiting cross-gender searches. The *Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003* (PREA) and BOP policy prohibit cross-gender searches of female inmates.<sup>69</sup> We found that BOP did not take this policy into account when assigning posts for its Correctional Officers. BOP assigned Correctional Officers to posts solely based on seniority, which resulted in male Correctional Officers being assigned to posts at which staff regularly conducted searches of female inmates. This means that female Correctional Officers had to leave other assigned posts to conduct these searches, which we found to be inefficient and disruptive. This problem is more acute at institutions where the inmate population is entirely female and female Correctional Officers must perform all inmate searches.

BOP policy requires that staff conduct strip searches of inmates in certain situations, most commonly when they enter or leave the Special Housing Unit (SHU) and before and after they have contact with the public, such as when they receive visitors **in the institution's visiting room, appear in court, or** have a medical appointment outside the institution.<sup>70</sup> Therefore, conducting strip searches is among the inherent duties of the Correctional Officer posts in those locations. However, BOP cannot currently ensure that there is a female Correctional Officer on each post where strip searches are required.

**The fact that every inmate search at BOP's female institutions—both strip searches and pat searches—must be done by female staff** can be disruptive to operations when female inmate searches are needed at a post staffed only by male

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<sup>69</sup> In August 2012, the Department issued a final rule adopting national standards to prevent, detect, and respond to prison rape, as required by PREA. This rule banned male staff from conducting pat searches of female inmates (known as cross-gender pat searches) beginning in August 2015. See 28 C.F.R. § 115.15(b). BOP updated multiple policies to incorporate the ban after the rule was issued. See BOP Program Statements 5521.06, Searches of Housing Units, Inmates, and Inmate Work Areas, June 4, 2015, 3, and 5324.12, Sexually Abusive Behavior Prevention and Intervention Program, June 4, 2015, 17.

The Department chose not to ban cross-gender pat searches of male inmates when promulgating the PREA regulations because it found that male inmates are less likely than female inmates to have a history of sexual abuse and are also less likely to experience re-traumatization as a result of a cross-gender pat search. Further, the Department concluded that in correctional agencies where the percentage of female correctional staff is substantial, but the percentage of female inmates is small, banning cross-gender pat searches of male inmates could have a significant adverse impact on employment opportunities for female staff.

<sup>70</sup> Federal regulations and BOP policies mandate that strip searches also be conducted by a staff member who is the same gender as the inmate being searched. See 28 C.F.R. § 552.11(c) and BOP Program Statement 5521.06, 4. See also 28 C.F.R. § 115.15(a).

staff. Female Correctional Officers we interviewed at female institutions told us that in these instances they are required to leave their post and go to the post where the search is needed.<sup>71</sup> A female Correctional Officer at an all-female institution told us that in a recent 3-month period she was called to the SHU an average of 3 or 4 times each week to search female inmates because all of the Correctional Officers assigned to the SHU were male. Similarly, another female Correctional Officer told us that when all of the visiting room posts at her institution were filled by males she had to juggle the duties of her own post as well as theirs.

**At BOP's mixed-gender institutions, the need for female staff to search female inmates is more manageable.** While female Correctional Officers represent only a fraction of the staff, female inmates represent only a fraction of the population. The challenge at mixed-gender institutions is physical distance. BOP policy requires female institutions, including mixed-gender institutions, to have at least one female staff member on duty during every shift but does not specify where the female staff should be posted. Correctional Officers at mixed-gender institutions told us that, while there was always a female officer on duty, the duty location could be so far away that the female Correctional Officer would have to drive to respond to the search request.

In our interviews, BOP staff expressed widespread support for BOP requiring certain posts, such as in the visiting rooms and SHUs at female institutions, to be staffed by female Correctional Officers, citing as an impediment to operations the frequent need to call female staff from other posts to strip search and pat search female inmates.<sup>72</sup> Nearly two-thirds (15 of 23) of both supervisory and non-supervisory custody staff at female institutions with whom we discussed the topic were in favor of establishing a small number of gender-specific posts at female institutions.<sup>73</sup> **This includes 9 of the 11 female custody staff, who are the most affected by BOP's current policies, and 6 of the 12 male custody staff we spoke to.** The Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator echoed these views.

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<sup>71</sup> **BOP's policy on inmate searches states that except when circumstances are such that delay would constitute an immediate threat to the inmate, staff, others, property, or institution security, a female staff member should come to a post to pat search a female inmate rather than invoke an exemption in the PREA regulations that permits cross-gender pat searches in "exigent circumstances."** BOP Program Statement 5521.06, 3.

**The PREA regulations define "exigent circumstances" as those that require immediate action in order to combat a threat to the security or institutional order of a facility.** Institution staff did not describe to us any situations where they had to invoke the exemption.

<sup>72</sup> **These disruptions occur despite the fact that, on average, nearly 40 percent of Correctional Officers in BOP's seven female institutions are female.**

<sup>73</sup> BOP staff specifically recommended that BOP require at least one of the Correctional Officers assigned to a female visiting room or female SHU be female.

We reviewed the written directives describing the specific duties of these posts, known as **post orders, from four of BOP's female institutions and found that the post orders anticipated that the Correctional Officers working the posts would routinely strip search and pat search female inmates.**

State correctional officials we interviewed told us that their agencies had recognized this issue and had taken several different approaches to address it. Officials from two of the five state correctional agencies told us that they had established gender-specific posts in specific areas of their female institutions, such as the SHU and the visiting room, to ensure that only female Correctional Officers search female inmates without interfering with operations.<sup>74</sup> Officials from two additional state correctional agencies told us that their agencies did not have any gender-specific posts in their female institutions, but that the institutions had enough female staff to handle all search needs. The fifth agency obviated the need for gender-specific posts by assigning only female staff to work at its female institution.

We found differences of opinion about whether the establishment of gender-specific posts is allowable under the Master Agreement that governs BOP labor practices and working conditions and even whether gender-specific posts are needed.<sup>75</sup> **Specifically, BOP's Assistant Director** of the Correctional Programs Division stated that the terms of the Master Agreement do not expressly allow for gender-specific posts and that he was not aware of any problems that would require the establishment of gender-specific posts.<sup>76</sup> He also expressed concern that having such posts could lead to an increase in staff complaints or grievances. Further, institution custody supervisors told us that they believed seniority was the only factor they could consider in determining assignments. They explained that Correctional Officers bid for their preferred posts quarterly in order of seniority and **institution staff create a roster based on "reasonable efforts" to grant the requests. The Master Agreement defines "reasonable efforts" to mean that "management will not arbitrarily deny such requests."**<sup>77</sup>

**In contrast, BOP's General Counsel said that** the Master Agreement could allow female institutions to establish a few gender-specific posts because, in his view, having enough staff on a post to complete the work efficiently is not arbitrary. Further, while in his opinion an institution could not establish a blanket rule that all posts in a particular location could be filled only by staff from one gender,

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<sup>74</sup> One of these two correctional agencies said that the agency had not faced challenges from male staff as a result of establishing gender-specific posts in female institutions, although the official we interviewed acknowledged that **the agency's** lack of a public sector union may also be a reason why the posts have not been challenged. See [Appendix 1](#) for the methodology of our review, including the officials we interviewed.

<sup>75</sup> The current Master Agreement between BOP and the Council of Prison Locals, the union **that represents BOP's bargaining unit employees, went into effect in July 2014. Master Agreement** between the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Council of Prison Locals, July 21, 2014–July 20, 2017.

<sup>76</sup> The Master Agreement does not discuss gender-specific posts. **Instead, BOP's program** statement on inmate searches prohibits the establishment of gender-specific posts and requires institutions to evaluate operational needs consistent with the Master Agreement and collective bargaining obligations. BOP Program Statement 5521.06, 3.

<sup>77</sup> Master Agreement, Article 18, Section d, para. 2d. This Master Agreement was in effect during the scope of our review.

institutions could require that a certain portion of them be filled by staff from one gender.<sup>78</sup>

We note that the Master Agreement went into effect in 2014, but the PREA regulations and BOP policies that ban cross-gender pat searches of female inmates did not go into effect until 2015. Given that cross-gender pat searches of female inmates were banned after the Master Agreement came into effect, BOP may need to reexamine its blanket ban on gender-specific posts. We recommend that BOP improve the availability of female staff at locations in female institutions where inmate searches are common, through the establishment of gender-specific posts or other methods.

### **BOP's Decision to Convert Federal Correctional Institution Danbury to a Male Institution Negatively Affected Female Inmates Transferred to Metropolitan Detention Center Brooklyn**

Our broader evaluation of BOP's management of female inmates also encompassed a more specific **review of the circumstances and results of BOP's decision to convert Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Danbury to a male institution.** We believe that the effects of this decision, described below, serve as a **case study that highlights BOP's ongoing challenges in strategically managing its female inmate population.**

In April 2014, BOP converted FCI Danbury, its low security female institution in Danbury, Connecticut, to a male institution.<sup>79</sup> As a result of the conversion, BOP eliminated its only low security female institution in its Northeast Region. Members of Congress and other stakeholders expressed concern that without a comparable facility in the region BOP would send local inmates to BOP institutions farther from their homes, making it difficult for families to visit inmates throughout their incarceration.<sup>80</sup> As a result of this concern, and the concern of other criminal justice stakeholders that following the conversion sentenced female inmates were housed in inappropriate conditions in Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) Brooklyn, we examined how **BOP's decision to convert FCI Danbury affected female inmates.**

First, we found that, although the Danbury conversion resulted in 19 percent of U.S. citizen female inmates being transferred farther from home, far more were transferred to facilities closer to home. Second, we found that BOP offered female

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<sup>78</sup> The post orders we reviewed indicated that visiting rooms and SHUs were staffed by multiple Correctional Officers.

<sup>79</sup> According to a September 2013 BOP projection, BOP would see a reduction in both the male and female low security overcrowding rates by opening FCI Aliceville as a low security female institution and converting FCI Danbury to a low security male institution. Specifically, BOP estimated that these changes would reduce the low security female overcrowding rate from 48 percent to 23 percent and the low security male overcrowding rate from 38 percent to 36 percent.

<sup>80</sup> In August 2013, Senators Christopher Murphy (Connecticut) and Kirsten Gillibrand (New York) sent a letter to then BOP Director Charles Samuels expressing concern regarding the conversion of FCI Danbury.

inmates at MDC Brooklyn no access to outdoor space, less natural light, and fewer programming opportunities than what would otherwise be available to female inmates at a BOP facility designed to house sentenced inmates for long periods of time. Third, although BOP opened a new low security institution for female inmates from the Northeast in December 2016, during the course of our fieldwork we found that BOP built the new institution without a SHU for female inmates, which has created challenges for disciplining female inmates. We discuss each of these findings below.

### ***Most Female Inmates Transferred from FCI Danbury Moved Closer to Home***

In response to congressional concerns that the conversion of FCI Danbury would cause female inmates to be housed farther from their homes, we analyzed the distances from home for female inmates transferred from FCI Danbury. We found that **81 percent of Danbury's U.S.** citizen female inmates were transferred closer to or remained the same distance from home and 19 percent were transferred farther from home.

We further describe the outcomes of our analysis below in Table 5, which shows that of the 1,127 female inmates transferred or released from FCI Danbury, 497 were U.S. citizen female inmates who were transferred to other BOP institutions. Of those 497, we found that 401 were transferred to a BOP institution closer to their homes or were reassigned to a minimum security prison camp at FCI Danbury. Conversely, 96 were transferred to a BOP institution farther from home. Of those 96, **61 were from BOP's** Northeast Region.<sup>81</sup> We did not consider the non-U.S. citizen inmates whom BOP transferred from FCI Danbury in this analysis because the BOP data we analyzed did not always include a U.S. residence for these individuals.

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<sup>81</sup> These 61 inmates were transferred to 12 different institutions. BOP told us that it considered multiple factors when making each transfer decision. These factors include distance from home, availability of programming, and physical and mental health needs.

**Table 5**  
**Geographic Outcomes of FCI Danbury Female Inmate Transfers**

**1,127 Inmates Transferred or Released Between August 2013 and March 2014**

675 U.S. citizens  
 445 non-U.S. citizens  
 7 U.S. citizens with incomplete data for geographical analysis<sup>a</sup>

**675 U.S. Citizens**

497 transferred to another BOP institution  
 45 released from BOP custody  
 133 transferred to a halfway house prior to release from BOP custody

**497 Transferred to Another BOP Institution**

373 transferred closer to home  
 96 transferred farther from home  
 28 not changed (transferred to Federal Prison Camp Danbury)<sup>b</sup>

**96 Transferred Farther from Home**

61 from BOP's Northeast Region<sup>c</sup>  
 35 from other BOP regions

<sup>a</sup> Of the 1,127 inmates BOP transferred or released from FCI Danbury, 682 were U.S. citizens. Due to data limitations, we were unable to conduct a distance analysis for seven of these U.S. citizen female inmates.

<sup>b</sup> BOP reduced the security level of these inmates to minimum and assigned them to the minimum security Federal Prison Camp Danbury, which is adjacent to FCI Danbury.

<sup>c</sup> For the purpose of this analysis, we used the 10 states that BOP designated as within its Northeast Region as our parameter for "Northeast." These states are Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Sources: BOP Sentry and SAS geolocation library

***The Duration and Conditions of Confinement of Inmates Housed at MDC Brooklyn***

After members of Congress expressed concern that the conversion of FCI Danbury would eliminate BOP's only low security institution for female inmates in the Northeast, in October 2013 BOP announced that it would open a new low security institution in Danbury in order to keep low security female inmates from the Northeast closer to home. While BOP was constructing the new institution, it decided to house many of the displaced inmates from the Northeast at MDC Brooklyn, a detention center designed and generally used for short-term confinement. BOP housed these inmates at MDC Brooklyn between March 2014 and December 2016, significantly longer than the 18 months it had initially anticipated.

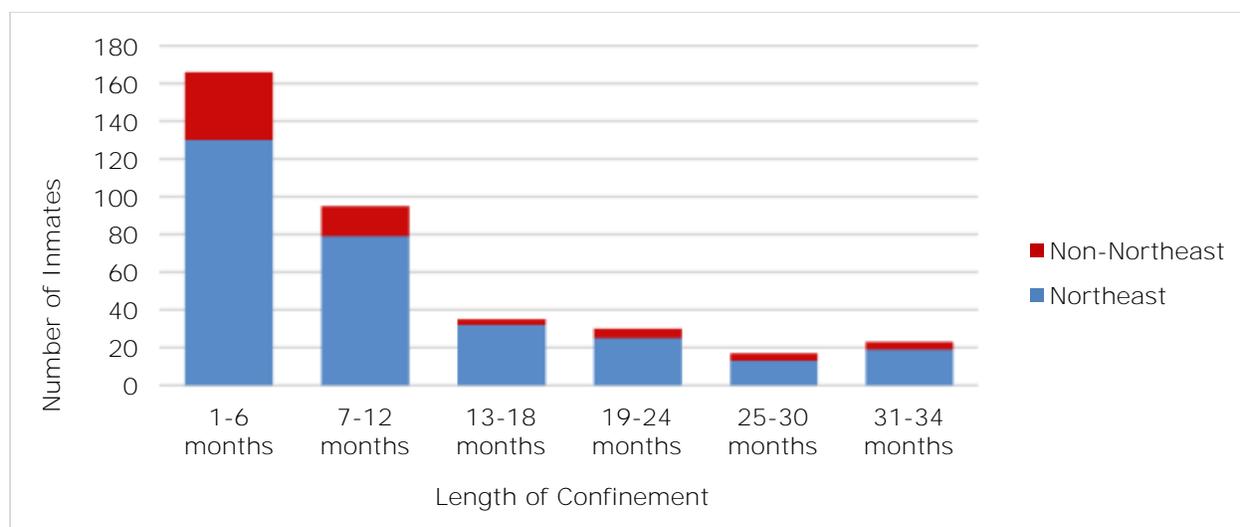
According to the former Chief of the Designation and Sentence Computation Center, detention facilities such as MDC Brooklyn lack the physical infrastructure and programming opportunities appropriate for long-term incarceration. However, BOP officials decided that it would be better to house sentenced inmates at MDC Brooklyn in order to keep them closer to their families, as opposed to transferring them to institutions farther away from their homes that were suitable for long-term

confinement.<sup>82</sup> The former Chief of the Designation and Sentence Computation Center stated that BOP officials chose the former in part because they estimated that the inmates would be housed there only on a temporary basis until the new institution at Danbury was complete.

In October 2013, BOP anticipated that the new institution would open 18 months later, in March 2015. However, the construction did not actually begin until June 2015, or 20 months later, and the new institution at Danbury did not open until December 2016, causing 70 of the 366 female inmates to remain at MDC Brooklyn for longer than 18 months, with the longest stay lasting 34 months.<sup>83</sup> Figure 2 provides a more detailed explanation of the period of confinement for sentenced female inmates at MDC Brooklyn.

**Figure 2**

**Length of Confinement for Sentenced Female Inmates at MDC Brooklyn**



Notes: For the purpose of this analysis, we defined 1 month as 30 days.

This figure includes MDC Brooklyn’s U.S. citizen and non-U.S. citizen sentenced female inmates.

For the purpose of this analysis, we use the 10 states that BOP designated as within its Northeast Region as our parameter for “Northeast.” These states are Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Source: BOP SENTRY

<sup>82</sup> We also note that, given the greater number of male institutions, BOP would be less likely to have to choose between institutions close to home and institutions suitable for long-term confinement if it had decided to convert or close one of its male institutions. For example, BOP operated four low security male institutions in its Northeast Region in 2013 (FCI Allenwood Low, FCI Elkton, FCI Fort Dix, and FCI Loretto), compared to one for women (FCI Danbury). Had the BOP decided to convert or close one of these low security male institutions at that time, the other three institutions would have remained options for low security male inmates from the Northeast.

<sup>83</sup> According to BOP, the March 2015 estimate was always subject to change. OIG is currently completing an audit of the FCI Danbury construction contract.

## Conditions of Confinement at MDC Brooklyn

Between March 2014 and December 2016, members of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) visited MDC Brooklyn multiple times and issued two reports detailing its concerns about the conditions of confinement at the facility.<sup>84</sup> NAWJ reported that BOP housed female inmates at MDC Brooklyn without access to an outdoor recreation space that had fresh air and exposure to sunlight, which, NAWJ believed, amounted to a violation of both the American Bar Association Standards on Treatment of Prisoners and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.<sup>85</sup>

During our visit to MDC Brooklyn in August 2017, we found that its female inmates had less access to fresh air and sunlight than what would have been available to them at FCI Danbury. Unlike female inmates at MDC Brooklyn, who rarely left the floor of their housing unit, low security inmates at FCI Danbury and those at most other BOP institutions designed for sentenced inmates have access to fresh air and sunlight not only during recreation, but throughout the day when they move from one part of the institution to another. Further, FCI Danbury and other BOP institutions have open outdoor recreation spaces, whereas the recreation space at MDC Brooklyn was directly attached to the female inmate housing unit and had only two caged sides exposed to sunlight.<sup>86</sup> Because male inmates in the facility **had a direct sightline into the exposed sides of the women's recreation cage**, MDC Brooklyn staff added metal sheeting to the exposed sides, which left only small portions, at the top and bottom, uncovered, further restricting the amount of natural light.<sup>87</sup>

Some BOP staff acknowledged that the limited access to sunlight for the sentenced female inmates was not ideal, and in our report on the *Federal Bureau of*

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<sup>84</sup> NAWJ Women in Prison Committee, *Visit to BOP's Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC), Brooklyn, New York* (March 2015) and *Second Visit to BOP's MDC, Brooklyn, New York* (June 2016).

<sup>85</sup> In particular, NAWJ cited the *American Bar Association Standards on Treatment of Prisoners, Standard 23-3.1(a) 3rd edition*, 2011, which states that "a correctional facility should not deprive prisoners of natural light, of light sufficient to permit reading throughout prisoners' housing areas, or of reasonable darkness during the sleeping hours." Additionally, NAWJ cited a standard related to access to exercise and sports for inmates, which is outlined in the *UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners*, 1977. The standard specifies that "every prisoner who is not employed in outdoor work shall have at least one hour of suitable exercise in the open air daily if the weather permits."

<sup>86</sup> These differences exist because MDC Brooklyn is a high-rise building, with all of its departments housed in a single building. As a result, inmates rarely leave the floor their unit is on. FCI Danbury and other institutions designed for sentenced inmates consist of multiple smaller buildings surrounded by a perimeter fence. Inmates in these types of institutions have access to the outdoors daily because they must go outside to get from their housing units to the cafeteria, the medical clinic, classrooms, and other departments.

<sup>87</sup> Judges belonging to NAWJ, who visited MDC Brooklyn in March 2015, estimated that there was an 18-inch opening at the top and a 6-inch opening at the bottom of the exposed walls. We did not take measurements at the time of our visit in August 2017 because most of the metal sheeting had been removed in late 2016.

*Prisons' Use of Restrictive Housing for Inmates with Mental Illness*, a BOP Psychologist explained that access to sunlight is important for an inmate's mental and physical well-being.<sup>88</sup> Although the level of natural light in the recreation space was below the level BOP generally considers appropriate for long-term confinement, a February 2015 American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation report on MDC Brooklyn did not identify natural light levels as a concern.<sup>89</sup>

We also found that female inmates assigned to MDC Brooklyn did not have the range of programming that is normally available at institutions for sentenced inmates. According to BOP's program statement on Education, Training, and Leisure Time, detention centers are exempt from providing the same education programs that are offered at other BOP institutions.<sup>90</sup> We believe that this exemption is reasonable when the only mission of a detention center is to provide short-term housing for pretrial inmates. However, in the case of MDC Brooklyn, the exemption limited the programming opportunities below the level BOP determined is appropriate for sentenced inmates.

Additionally, we found that MDC Brooklyn did not offer the Resolve program (discussed above) because it did not have a Resolve Coordinator on staff. We found this surprising given the emphasis that BOP places on trauma-informed care. **MDC Brooklyn's Chief Psychologist told us that** it was difficult to conduct those group psychology programs for which MDC Brooklyn did have sufficient staff because the population of sentenced inmates was too small to generate the number of interested inmates required for participation. When discussing the availability of programming at MDC Brooklyn, the Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator told us that in retrospect she believes that BOP should have better recognized the need to provide MDC Brooklyn with additional programming resources before it transferred sentenced female inmates there.

Although not directly related to the work of this review, a separate OIG investigation determined that, during the time that sentenced female inmates were assigned to MDC Brooklyn, multiple custody staff sexually assaulted female inmates.<sup>91</sup> We discuss the findings of this investigation of staff in the text box below.

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<sup>88</sup> DOJ OIG, *Use of Restrictive Housing*, 23.

<sup>89</sup> The accreditation report determined that MDC Brooklyn was compliant with all relevant **light access requirements outlined in ACA's *Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities***. ACA's standards for access to light, as relevant to our review, are the same for both detention facilities and adult correctional institutions. However, ACA's accreditation report covers the institution as a whole and does not separately describe the female and male housing units. ACA, *Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities*, 4th edition and 2012 Standards Supplement.

<sup>90</sup> BOP Program Statement 5300.21, Education, Training, and Leisure Time Standards, February 18, 2002.

<sup>91</sup> We note that as a result of OIG investigations, six BOP staff members from five additional female institutions have pled guilty to sexual abuse of a ward since January 2016.

### **OIG Investigation of Sexual Assaults at MDC Brooklyn**

As a result of a nearly yearlong OIG investigation into allegations of sexual abuse of female inmates at MDC Brooklyn, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York filed indictments in May 2017 alleging that Lieutenants Carlos Martinez and Eugenio Perez and Correctional Officer Armando Moronta engaged in criminal sexual acts with female inmates between 2013 and 2016.

In January 2018, Martinez was found guilty on 20 counts that covered 4 sexual assaults between December 2015 and April 2016. The evidence at trial established that Martinez repeatedly raped a female inmate who spoke limited English and worked as a cleaner inside the prison. **Specifically, Martinez raped his victim while she cleaned the Lieutenants' office on the weekends, when that area of the institution is generally empty, and monitored security video footage of the surrounding area to make sure no one would discover him committing sexual assault.** Martinez also threatened his victim with placement in the SHU and additional jail time if she told anyone what he had done.

In May 2018, Perez was found guilty on 23 counts that covered sexual abuse of 5 women between January 2013 and September 2016. The evidence at trial established that Perez lured each of his victims into **isolated situations by arranging for them to clean the Lieutenants' office at night and then used physical force and intimidation to compel the victims to engage in various sexual acts with him, including oral sex.** Perez used his authority over the inmates to ensure they did not report the abuse.

In November 2017, Moronta pled guilty to four counts of sexual abuse of a ward. Specifically, between May and June 2016, Moronta engaged in criminal sexual contact and acts with three female inmates, including fondling a female inmate and causing inmates to perform oral sex on him while he was assigned to guard their unit.

Sources: U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York, Press Releases, January 19, 2018; May 14, 2018; and November 8, 2017

While BOP recognizes that detention centers offer sentenced inmates less suitable recreation space and fewer programming opportunities than would be available in other institutions, we found that BOP does not have a policy that limits the amount of time sentenced inmates can be assigned to a detention center. We recognize that, in the case of FCI Danbury, BOP made a difficult decision either to transfer some female inmates to institutions that offer the appropriate type of recreation space and programming opportunities or to transfer female inmates to a detention center closer to their homes. However, we believe that BOP may continue to confine sentenced inmates for an extended period of time in conditions it recognizes as inappropriate unless it establishes a policy that defines how long a sentenced inmate can be confined in a detention center or ensures that the conditions of confinement at a detention center more closely approximate those of a non-detention center when sentenced inmates are housed there.

#### ***The Lack of a SHU for Female Inmates at Danbury Has Been Disruptive to Operations***

During our fieldwork, we found that changes at FCI Danbury have created a separate challenge for BOP in enforcing discipline on female inmates. In particular, we found that BOP built the new low security female institution on the FCI Danbury campus without a SHU, a unit used to separate inmates from the general

population for protective or disciplinary purposes.<sup>92</sup> Because BOP does not house female inmates and male inmates in the same unit, Danbury staff cannot use the SHU at the all-male institution to house female inmates for whom the SHU is appropriate. As a result, when Danbury staff determine that a female inmate should be separated from the general population, they must transport the inmate more than 150 miles to Federal Detention Center (FDC) Philadelphia.

We found that before construction on the new low security institution was completed, both the former and current Wardens of FCI Danbury expressed concern to BOP leadership that the construction plans did not include a SHU. They further explained that, without secure housing, Danbury staff would be forced to utilize secure housing in other facilities, which could cause operational problems. Despite these warnings, the BOP Central Office told OIG that it did not include a SHU in the construction plans because the new institution would have only a small number of low security inmates (its capacity is 192) and BOP did not believe this population necessitated the construction of a SHU.

Danbury staff told us that it is difficult to enforce rules and investigate misconduct at the institution given this arrangement. During our visit to FCI Danbury, we found that the operational challenges predicted by the former and current Wardens have manifested themselves. According to the current Warden, Danbury staff are less likely to recommend SHU placement for an inmate who misbehaves because of the challenges of transporting those inmates to FDC Philadelphia. The Warden also told us that the female inmates understand these challenges and, on occasion, are emboldened to misbehave.

**FCI Danbury's** Lieutenant for Special Investigative Services also told us that it is difficult to investigate inmate misconduct once the suspected inmates have been transferred to FDC Philadelphia because the Lieutenant cannot conduct in-person interviews with Danbury inmates housed at FDC Philadelphia. Instead, he must rely on a Special Investigative Services investigator at FDC Philadelphia to conduct the interview. The Lieutenant said that, although he is satisfied with the quality of his FDC Philadelphia colleagues' investigative work, he would prefer to conduct the interviews himself because he is more familiar with the inmates and the situation he is investigating than his colleagues in other institutions.

The current Warden of FCI Danbury explained that in order to minimize the burden of transferring female SHU inmates long distances she was looking to identify a nearby jail that could **house Danbury's female SHU inmates**. This solution has been implemented by at least one other similarly situated institution, which we visited during our review. However, as of August 2017 the Warden had not yet identified an appropriate jail.

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<sup>92</sup> With the opening of the new low security female institution, at the time of our review there were three institutions on the FCI Danbury campus: (1) FCI Danbury, a low security male institution that, prior to May 2014, was a low security female institution; (2) Federal Prison Camp Danbury, a minimum security female institution; and (3) Federal Satellite Low Danbury, the new low security female institution. We refer to BOP staff who work at any of the three institutions as "Danbury staff."

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusion

Overall, we concluded that BOP has not been strategic in its management of female inmates. At the Central Office level, we found that BOP only recently took initial steps to implement oversight of the Female Offender Manual. We also found that BOP may not have allocated sufficient resources to the Women and Special Populations Branch to fulfill its complete range of responsibilities with regard to female inmates and that it has not ensured that BOP decision makers understand **how female inmates' needs differ from those of male inmates**. At the institution level, we identified deficiencies in how BOP staffs its trauma treatment program, makes staff and inmates aware of its pregnancy programs, distributes feminine hygiene products, and staffs correctional posts where female inmates are searched. **Finally, we found that BOP's conversion of FCI Danbury from a female to a male institution negatively affected female inmates transferred to MDC Brooklyn.** For BOP to be fully effective at appropriately managing female inmates, we believe that it must take a holistic approach at the Central Office level to identify and address issues affecting this population.

### Recommendations

To ensure that BOP is better positioned to identify and respond to female **inmates' needs at the Central Office level**, provide female inmates with programming that addresses their unique needs, and **consider female inmates' needs in policy and operational decisions**, we recommend that BOP:

1. Fully implement ongoing plans to create a permanent program review for the Female Offender Manual that includes in-person visits and an institution-specific rating.
2. Determine the appropriate level of staffing that should be allocated to the Women and Special Populations Branch based on an analysis of its broad mission and responsibilities.
3. Ensure that all officials who enter into National Executive Staff positions have taken appropriate, current training specific to the unique needs of female inmates and trauma-informed correctional care.
4. Identify ways to expand the staffing of the Resolve program.
5. Improve the communication of its pregnancy program availability and eligibility criteria to relevant staff and pregnant inmates to ensure consistent understanding across BOP institutions.
6. Improve data tracking to allow it to more easily identify inmates who are aware of, interested in, eligible for, or participating in pregnancy programs, as well as to assess barriers to participation.

7. Clarify guidance on the distribution of feminine hygiene products to ensure sufficient access to the amount of products inmates need free of charge.
8. Improve the availability of female staff at locations in female institutions where inmate searches are common, through the establishment of gender-specific posts or other methods.
9. Establish policy that determines how long sentenced inmates can be confined in a detention center, or ensures that the conditions of confinement and inmate programming at a detention center more closely approximate those of a non-detention center when sentenced inmates are housed there.
10. Explore options to procure female Special Housing Unit space closer to Federal Correctional Institution Danbury.

## **METHODOLOGY OF THE OIG REVIEW**

### **Standards**

OIG conducted this review in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (January 2012).

### **Purpose and Scope**

OIG conducted this review to **examine BOP's efforts and capacity** to ensure that BOP-wide policies, programs, and decisions address the unique needs of female inmates. Our review analyzed BOP inmate population data, as well as BOP policies and programs from FY 2012 through FY 2016. We also included in our analysis the revised Female Offender Manual issued by BOP in November 2016, as well as new staff training materials that BOP launched in FY 2017, during the course of our fieldwork. **We focused our analysis on how BOP's Women and Special Populations Branch** and other relevant BOP branches implement gender-responsive trauma treatment and pregnancy programs and examined how BOP has implemented policies relevant to physical searches of female inmates and inmate access to feminine hygiene products. Lastly, we examined how **BOP's decision to convert its low security institution in Danbury, Connecticut, from a female institution to a male institution** affected the female inmates who had been housed there. Our review focused on federal offenders incarcerated in the 28 BOP-managed institutions whose populations are all female or mixed gender. We excluded from our analysis inmates housed in contract halfway houses and contract state and local institutions. BOP does not house female inmates in private correctional institutions.

### **Methodology**

Our fieldwork, conducted from July 2016 through September 2017, included interviews, data collection and analyses, and document reviews. We interviewed officials from six **divisions of BOP's** Central Office. We conducted site visits to 12 of the 28 institutions where BOP houses female inmates, including 5 institutions through video teleconference and 7 institutions in person. For each site visit, we interviewed institution officials and staff. For those institutions that we visited in person, we also interviewed inmates, toured housing units and programming space, and observed the physical landscapes. We visited all three types of BOP institutions for female inmates: minimum security, low security, and administrative. Our site visits also encompassed female institutions; mixed-gender institutions, including a detention center; **and BOP's only** Federal Medical Center for female inmates.

The seven sites that we visited in person were Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Aliceville, Federal Medical Center Carswell, Federal Prison Camp (FPC) Bryan, FCI Dublin, Secure Female Facility Hazelton, Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) Brooklyn, and FCI Danbury. The five sites where we conducted video teleconferences were FPC Alderson, Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) Victorville, FCI Marianna, FCC Coleman, and FCI Phoenix.

## *Data Analysis*

We analyzed both raw data and data reports provided by BOP, from its prisoner management system, SENTRY, to assess **BOP's** inmate population and pregnancy program participation. Additionally, to determine whether BOP housed an inmate closer to or farther from home **following the inmate's** transfer from FCI Danbury, we reviewed SENTRY zip code and transfer location data for the 1,127 inmates transferred from FCI Danbury between August 2013 and March 2014. We performed two SAS calculations to conduct this analysis. First, we calculated **the distance between a transferred inmate's home zip** code and FCI Danbury's zip code. Second, we calculated **the distance between that inmate's** home zip code and the zip code of the BOP institution to which that inmate was transferred.

We did not consider the 445 non-U.S. citizen inmates whom BOP transferred or released from FCI Danbury in this analysis because most of these inmates did not have a U.S. residence prior to incarceration. Due to data limitations, we were also unable to conduct a distance analysis for 7 of the 682 U.S. citizen female inmates transferred or released from FCI Danbury.

## *Interviews*

We conducted 217 interviews during the course of this review. We interviewed Central Office officials, including the Assistant Director for the Correctional Programs Division, the General Counsel, a Senior Deputy Assistant Director for the Program Review Division, the Assistant Director of the Reentry Services Division, the Senior Deputy Assistant Director for the Reentry Services Division, the Women and Special Populations Branch Administrator, the Residential Reentry Management Branch Administrator, the Education Branch Assistant Administrator, the former and current Chiefs and a Section Chief of the Designation and Sentence Computation Center, the Acting Chief of the Construction and Environmental Assessments Branch, the Chief of Mental Health Services, a Mental Health Treatment Coordinator, and two Social Science Research Analysts in the Capacity Planning Branch.

During our site visits, we interviewed 193 staff and inmates, including 10 Wardens, 6 Associate Wardens, 1 Executive Assistant, 1 Captain, 9 Lieutenants, 13 Correctional Officers, 5 Chief Psychologists, 1 Acting Chief Psychologist, 4 Resolve Coordinators, 3 Psychologists, 1 Female Integrated Treatment Program Coordinator, 1 Chief Social Worker, 5 Social Workers, 6 Health Services Administrators, 5 Assistant Health Services Administrators, 2 Clinical Directors, 1 Infectious Disease Coordinator, 1 Health Technician, 1 Pharmacy Technician, 10 Supervisors of Education, 2 Assistant Supervisors of Education, 1 Supervisor of Recreation, 1 Case Management Coordinator, 1 Assistant Case Management Coordinator, 3 Reentry Services Coordinators, 3 Unit Managers, 14 Case Managers, 14 Counselors, 1 Facilities Manager, 1 Maintenance Supervisor, 1 Supervisory Contract Specialist, and 61 inmates. Additionally, we interviewed the program coordinators from four different contract sites that operated **BOP's Mothers and Infants Nurturing Together** residential program as of December 2017.

Outside BOP, we interviewed a Section Chief from the DOJ Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section, as well as three judges from the National Association of Women Judges who were familiar with BOP operations related to female inmates.

Finally, we interviewed officials from the correctional agencies of four states (Alabama, Kansas, Washington, and Wisconsin), as well as the U.S. Navy, to discuss how those agencies meet similar challenges in the management of their female inmate populations. In the report, we refer to the four states and the Navy collectively as five state correctional agencies.

**MAP OF BOP INSTITUTIONS FOR SENTENCED FEMALE INMATES**



**Key to the Map**

#	Name	Number of Female Institutions on Site	Security Level(s) of Female Institution(s)
1	Federal Prison Camp Alderson	1	Minimum
2	Federal Correctional Institution Aliceville	2	Low and Minimum
3	Federal Prison Camp Bryan	1	Minimum
4	Federal Medical Center Carswell	2	Minimum and Administrative
5	Federal Correctional Center Coleman	1	Minimum
6	Federal Correctional Institution Danbury	2	Low and Minimum
7	Federal Correctional Institution Dublin	2	Low and Minimum
8	Federal Correctional Institution Greenville	1	Minimum
9	Federal Correctional Institution Hazelton	1	Low
10	Federal Medical Center Lexington	1	Minimum
11	Federal Correctional Institution Marianna	1	Minimum
12	Federal Correctional Institution Pekin	1	Minimum
13	Federal Correctional Institution Phoenix	1	Minimum
14	Federal Correctional Institution Tallahassee	1	Low
15	Federal Correctional Institution Victorville II	1	Minimum
16	Federal Correctional Institution Waseca	1	Low

**BOP'S RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT REPORT**



U.S. Department of Justice

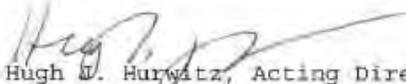
Federal Bureau of Prisons

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20534

August 30, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR NINA S. PELLETIER  
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
EVALUATION AND INSPECTIONS DIVISION

FROM:   
Hugh W. Hurwitz, Acting Director

SUBJECT: Response to the Office of Inspector General's (OIG)  
Draft Report: Review of the Federal Bureau of  
Prisons' Management of Its Female Inmate Population

The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) appreciates the opportunity to provide a response to the Office of the Inspector General's above referenced report. Therefore, please find the BOP's responses to the recommendations below:

**Recommendation 1: Fully implement ongoing plans to create a permanent program review for the Female Offender Manual that includes in-person visits and an institution-specific rating.**

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will fully implement ongoing plans to create a permanent program review for the Female Offender Manual that includes in-person visits and an institution-specific rating.

**Recommendation 2: Determine the appropriate level of staffing that should be allocated to the Women and Special Populations Branch based on an analysis of its broad mission and responsibilities.**

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will determine the appropriate level of staffing that should be allocated to the Women and Special Populations Branch based on an analysis of its broad mission and responsibilities.

**Recommendation 3:** Ensure that all officials who enter into National Executive Staff positions have taken appropriate, current training specific to the unique needs of female inmates and trauma-informed correctional care.

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will ensure that all officials who enter into National Executive Staff positions have taken appropriate, current training specific to the unique needs of female inmates and trauma-informed correctional care.

**Recommendation 4:** Identify ways to expand the staffing of the Resolve program.

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will identify ways to expand the staffing of the Resolve program.

**Recommendation 5:** Improve the communication of its pregnancy program availability and eligibility criteria to relevant staff and pregnant inmates to ensure consistent understanding across BOP institutions.

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will improve the communication of its pregnancy program availability and eligibility criteria to relevant staff and pregnant inmates to ensure consistent understanding across BOP institutions.

**Recommendation 6:** Improve data tracking to allow it to more easily identify inmates who are aware of, interested in, eligible for, or participating in pregnancy programs, as well as to assess barriers to participation.

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will improve data tracking to allow it to more easily identify inmates who are aware of, interested in, eligible for, or participating in pregnancy programs, as well as to assess barriers to participation.

**Recommendation 7:** Clarify guidance on the distribution of feminine hygiene products to ensure sufficient access to the amount of products inmates need free of charge.

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will clarify guidance on the distribution of feminine hygiene products to ensure sufficient access to the amount of products inmates need free of charge.

**Recommendation 8:** Improve the availability of female staff at locations in female institutions where inmate searches are common, through the establishment of gender-specific posts or other methods.

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will improve the availability of female staff at locations in female institutions where inmate searches are common, through the establishment of gender-specific posts or other methods.

**Recommendation 9:** Establish policy that determines how long sentenced inmates can be confined in a detention center, or ensure that the conditions of confinement and inmate programming at a detention center more closely approximate those of a non-detention center when sentenced inmates are housed there.

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will establish policy that determines how long sentenced inmates can be confined in a detention center, or ensure that the conditions of confinement and inmate programming at a detention center more closely approximate those of a non-detention center when sentenced inmates are housed there.

**Recommendation 10:** Explore options to procure female Special Housing Unit space closer to Federal Correctional Institution Danbury.

**Initial Response:** The BOP agrees with this recommendation. The BOP will explore options to procure female Special Housing Unit space closer to Federal Correctional Institution Danbury.

**OIG ANALYSIS OF BOP'S RESPONSE**

OIG provided a draft of this report to BOP for its comment. BOP's response is included in Appendix 3 to this report. OIG's analysis of BOP's response and the actions necessary to close the recommendations are discussed below. Please provide a status update on the 10 recommendations by December 31, 2018.

**Recommendation 1:** Fully implement ongoing plans to create a permanent program review for the Female Offender Manual that includes in-person visits and an institution-specific rating.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would fully implement ongoing plans to create a permanent program review for the Female Offender Manual that includes in-person visits and an institution-specific rating.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please provide a copy of program review guidelines for the Female Offender Manual that include in-person visits and an institution-specific rating, as well as a schedule of Female Offender Manual program reviews by institution for calendar year 2019.

**Recommendation 2:** Determine the appropriate level of staffing that should be allocated to the Women and Special Populations Branch based on an analysis of its broad mission and responsibilities.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would determine the appropriate level of staffing that should be allocated to the Women and Special Populations Branch based on an analysis of its broad mission and responsibilities.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please provide a copy of the analysis BOP performed of the branch's mission and responsibilities, including a conclusion about the appropriate staffing level for the work identified.

**Recommendation 3:** Ensure that all officials who enter into National Executive Staff positions have taken appropriate, current training specific to the unique needs of female inmates and trauma-informed correctional care.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would ensure that all officials who enter into National Executive Staff positions have

taken appropriate, current training specific to the unique needs of female inmates and trauma-informed correctional care.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please provide an update to the Bureau Mandatory Training Standards or other relevant policy showing how BOP will ensure that all officials entering into **National Executive Staff positions have taken BOP's current training** specific to the unique needs of female inmates and trauma-informed correctional care.

**Recommendation 4:** Identify ways to expand the staffing of the Resolve program.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would identify ways to expand the staffing of the Resolve program.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please provide OIG with a copy of **BOP's analysis of the Resolve program's staffing needs** and the option BOP selected.

**Recommendation 5:** Improve the communication of its pregnancy program availability and eligibility criteria to relevant staff and pregnant inmates to ensure consistent understanding across BOP institutions.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would improve the communication of its pregnancy program availability and eligibility criteria to relevant staff and pregnant inmates to ensure consistent understanding across BOP institutions.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please provide a copy of any notices, operations memoranda, program statements, or other written materials used to communicate information about pregnancy program availability and eligibility criteria to inmates and institution staff. Please also include a description of how the materials were disseminated and a list of the institutions and position titles of the addressees who received them.

**Recommendation 6:** Improve data tracking to allow it to more easily identify inmates who are aware of, interested in, eligible for, or participating in pregnancy programs, as well as to assess barriers to participation.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would improve data tracking to allow it to more easily identify inmates who are

aware of, interested in, eligible for, or participating in pregnancy programs, as well as to assess barriers to participation.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please describe how BOP intends to track pregnant inmates to more easily identify inmate awareness of, interest in, eligibility for, participation in, and barriers to participation in BOP's two pregnancy programs.

**Recommendation 7:** Clarify guidance on the distribution of feminine hygiene products to ensure sufficient access to the amount of products inmates need free of charge.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would clarify guidance on the distribution of feminine hygiene products to ensure sufficient access to the amount of products inmates need free of charge.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please provide a copy of BOP policy clarifying that female inmates should have sufficient access to the amount of feminine hygiene products they need, free of charge, and a description of how the policy was disseminated, including a list of the institutions and position titles of the addressees who received it.

**Recommendation 8:** Improve the availability of female staff at locations in female institutions where inmate searches are common, through the establishment of gender-specific posts or other methods.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would improve the availability of female staff at locations in female institutions where inmate searches are common, through the establishment of gender-specific posts or other methods.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please describe the method BOP selected to improve the availability of female staff at locations in female institutions where inmate searches are common.

**Recommendation 9:** Establish policy that determines how long sentenced inmates can be confined in a detention center, or ensures that the conditions of confinement and inmate programming at a detention center more closely approximate those of a non-detention center when sentenced inmates are housed there.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would establish policy that determines how long sentenced inmates can be confined

in a detention center, or ensures that the conditions of confinement and inmate programming at a detention center more closely approximate those of a non-detention center when sentenced inmates are housed there.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please provide a copy of BOP policy that defines the length of time sentenced inmates can be confined in a detention center or describe how BOP would ensure that the conditions of confinement and inmate programming at detention centers more closely approximates those of a non-detention center when sentenced inmates are housed there.

**Recommendation 10:** Explore options to procure female Special Housing Unit space closer to Federal Correctional Institution Danbury.

**Status:** Resolved.

**BOP Response:** BOP concurred with the recommendation and stated that it would explore options to procure female Special Housing Unit space closer to Federal Correctional Institution Danbury.

**OIG Analysis:** BOP's planned actions are responsive to our recommendation. Please describe the options BOP considered to procure female Special Housing Unit space closer to Federal Correctional Institution Danbury, research conducted by BOP to assess each option considered, and the option BOP selected.



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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Suite 4760  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

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