

AFTERNOON SESSION

HOW DOES OUR NATION CONFRONT PRISON RAPE:

THE MEDICAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

QUESTIONS

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Dr. Potter

there were some recent news reports within the last month or so that suggested at least a correlation between the rising incidents of HIV/AIDS in young African American men and a large number of African American men who have been incarcerated and allegedly sexually assaulted while incarcerated. Are you saying that those reports have no empirical data to support that the rise in HIV/AIDS is a result of sexual assault of inmates?

DR. POTTER: Sir, those articles that I've seen rarely cite a source of their information. And as far as I can tell through trying to do an exhaustive review of the literature, there are no carefully controlled studies out there that do that. We have found in one study, a very small study in North Carolina, for example, in a recent MMWR that CDC puts out, that among a group of four women who contracted HIV

in the community, not once you mix everything else in, that there was a tendency for those women to report that they have had a sexual relationship with a man who had a history of incarceration. This history of incarceration was undefined, so we don't know whether these men might have had HIV before they were incarcerated, whether they got it after they were incarcerated, or whether they got it while they were incarcerated.

We simply do not have the research out there, sir, that makes the necessary links to make those data.