Although our discussion to this point has focused primarily on the prison scene as practiced by some heterosexuals and bisexuals and its effect upon the homosexual inmate, incidents of sexual exploitation, intimidation, and assault have also occurred to some of the heterosexual inmates as well. Furthermore, the psychological consequences of these attacks may be far more damaging to those men whose basic sexual orientation is heterosexual, because the victims feel a sense of loss of their “manhood.” Moreover, support systems and assistance have not developed in prison to assist these young men with their trauma nearly to the extent that support systems and assistance have developed for their homosexual counterparts, as we discuss in Chapter 11.

In our random prison survey, 9% of the heterosexuals in our sample reported having been sexually assaulted since coming to this prison. Twelve of the fourteen men who had been “turned out” were Caucasian and two were black (no Mexican-American heterosexual reported having been pressured into having sex). In terms of age, the heterosexual men who had been sexually assaulted were younger (average age was twenty-three) compared to the
total prison sample (average age was twenty-nine). Likewise, the range in age for this group of men was narrower (from twenty-one to twenty-six) compared to the age range for the total prison population (twenty to fifty-nine).

As to marital status, eight of the fourteen men indicated they were single, five men stated they were married, and one man indicated that he was divorced. Of the five married men, four had received conjugal visits while in prison. Thus even though these men were being pressured sexually and forced to assume the “passive” role in prison, they were apparently maintaining their heterosexual orientation with regard to sexual activity with their spouses.

Of these fourteen men who had been pressured into having prison sex against their will, three had each been pressured by only one inmate. At the other extreme, two men reported having been forced into sex by eight different inmates at different times. Most of the men who had been forced to have sex reported having been victimized by four other inmates. It appears that once these men had been pressured into sex and labeled as a “mark,” they continued to be “hit on” by other inmates as well. This pattern also held true for those bisexuals (2%) and homosexuals (41%) who reported having been sexually victimized against their will.

As for actual sexual activity, the heterosexual men who had been pressured reported participating in primarily “submissive” sexual roles such as performing fellatio or receiving anal penetration. None of the fourteen men in the random sample indicated that they had been involved in an ongoing relationship, although in our case studies and interviews with “punks” (discussed later in this chapter) we did find instances in which the punks were hooked up. Nine of these fourteen men reported some prior male sexual experiences before incarceration. This was similar to the proportion of the total heterosexual sample (64%) that