

Resource List

Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

Prepared by the Campaign for Youth Justice
www.campaignforyouthjustice.org

Publications & Resources

Voices from the National Girls Institute (NGI) Listening Sessions (April 2013)

Series of four briefs about what girls, parents, caregivers, and direct service providers say about what works in girls' programming and what is still needed. The series also sheds light on how NGI can respond to these needs through avenues such as specialized training and technical assistance, resource development, or system-level decision making and policy development.

<http://www.nationalgirlsinsitute.org/i-want-to-know-more/research/briefs/>

Improving the Juvenile Justice System for Girls: Lessons from the States (October 2012)

The Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy's report examines the challenges facing girls in the juvenile justice system, offers innovative solutions for federal and state governments, and suggests strategies to adopt and implement critical improvements based on successful reforms in Connecticut, Florida, and Stanislaus County, California. The report emerged from the policy series, *Marginalized Girls: Creating Pathways to Opportunity*, convened by the Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy; The National Crittenton Foundation; and the Human Rights Project for Girls. The series focuses on improving public systems' response to the challenges facing marginalized girls and young women.

http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/centers-institutes/poverty-inequality/upload/JDS_V1R4_Web_Singles.pdf

Left behind: the paternalistic treatment of status offenders within the juvenile justice system (July 2010)

Julie J. Kim focuses on status offenses and their disproportionate impact on girls, beginning with a description of the courts' historical treatment of juveniles and the role of the state as parent. The article looks at various studies about gender bias in the juvenile justice system, particularly with respect to detention rates. Because of the link between running away and physical and sexual abuse, they recommend developing services to cope with and prevent abuse, and identify a few problems that may be encountered in the process.

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Left+behind%3a+the+paternalistic+treatment+of+status+offenders+within...-a0238426221>

Justice System Involvement Into Young Adulthood: Comparison of Adolescent Girls in the Public Mental Health System and in the General Population (February 2009)

Published in the American Journal of Public Health, this study found that girls in the public mental health system were arrested at earlier ages more frequently and were charged with more serious offenses than were girls in the general population. To reduce incarceration, the authors advocate collaboration among mental health and justice professionals as well as continuing research to investigate the interaction between mental illness and other factors leading to incarceration.

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2008.141135>

Hidden Injustice; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Juvenile Courts (Fall 2009)

The Equity Project, guided by experts in juvenile court processing and issues affecting LGBT youth in the justice system, released this report to help inform justice professionals about the experiences of LGBT youth in the juvenile justice system. Many of the issues that affect all youth in the justice system, such as incarceration for misdemeanors, overuse of detention, and overrepresentation of ethnic minorities, have higher risks for LGBT youth. The report also identifies key issues specific to LGBT youth and makes recommendations for juvenile justice professionals to implement moving forward. http://www.equityproject.org/pdfs/hidden_injustice.pdf

A Call for Gender Equity for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System (November 2008)

In this report, the NCCD recommends that the juvenile justice system address the growing segment of girls in the system, as well as their specific psychological needs. Compared to boys, girls in the system are younger and have committed fewer violent crimes. The Center calls for a Congressional hearing to examine institutional abuse, resource allocation, and legislation that negatively impacts girls. http://www.nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/genderequity.pdf

Understanding the Female Offender (Fall 2008)

In this article, Elizabeth Cauffman explores how the juvenile justice system is and should be responding to the adolescent female offender. Female delinquents have a high frequency of mental health problems and Cauffman suggests that diverting them to community-based treatment programs would not only improve their individual outcomes, but allow the juvenile justice system to focus on cases that present the greatest risk to public safety.

http://futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/18_02_06.pdf

A Rallying Cry for Change: Charting a New Direction in the State of Florida's Response to Girls in Juvenile Justice - Executive Summary (July 2006)

This NCCD report looked at girls in the Florida juvenile justice system in order to help inform a comprehensive approach to gender-specific juvenile justice programming. This report presents new research findings on how girls came to the Florida juvenile justice system and identifies their treatment needs. The research supports changing system responses to girls, both in treatment services and in system policies and practices, to increase success with the girls.

http://www.nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/focus-2006-rcfc.pdf

Girl Talk - Examining Racial and Gender Lines in Juvenile Justice (Spring 2006)

Kim Taylor-Thompson examines the increase of girls of color in the juvenile justice population through an historical analysis of the design, goals, and growth of the juvenile justice system. The author reveals the historical tendency to convert early female sexuality into juvenile delinquency by tracing the progression of efforts to reform juvenile behavior from the nineteenth century to present day. 6 Nev. L.J. 1137.

Detention Reform & Girls: Tools for Reform (2006)

Prepared by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this power point presentation provides statistics on the increasing proportion of girls in detention centers, including the nature of the offenses leading to arrest or detention. It shows that more girls than boys have been detained for minor offenses and it describes some of the events in girls' past histories – such as family conflict and mental health issues – that differentiate girls from boys. Recommendations include examination of girls' individual cases, and viewing detention sites through a gender lens, using the Washoe County Detention as an example of a successful reform.

<http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org/miscellaneous/Girls%20and%20Detention%20Reform%20-%20Tools%20for%20Reform%20fran.pdf>

13 Pathways to Juvenile Detention Reform: Detention Reform and Girls (2005)

Francine Sherman identifies the increase of detained girls, the use of the male model of detention centers and alternatives, and the lack of attention paid to girls' mental and physical health as key issues which need to be addressed. She also discusses racial disparities and the disproportionate number of girls who are detained for status offenses and warrants. Under the Equal Protection and Due Process clauses, girls are entitled to equal services and individualized treatment, so Sherman recommends that professionals examine attitudes and decision-making processes towards girls, collaborate with professionals in other systems, and create gender-responsive alternatives to improve outcomes.

<http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org/JDAI%20Pathway%20Series/JDAI%20Pathway%2013%20Detention%20Reform%20and%20Girls%20Challenges%20and%20Solutions.pdf>

Are Those Cookies for Me or My Baby? Understanding Detained and Incarcerated Teen Mothers and their Children (Spring 2004)

Leslie Acoca uses the California and Florida justice systems to describe the barriers in meeting the needs of pregnant teenage women and teenage mothers in the juvenile justice system. To address barriers, Acoca provides a range of recommendations including, more girl-specific prevention programs and community based alternatives, needs-based screenings, collaboration among judges and child welfare agencies, and programs that help mothers build and maintain relationships with their children. <http://stoneleighfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Acoca-%20Are%20Those%20Cookies%20for%20Me%20or%20My%20Baby.pdf>

Trauma among Girls in the Juvenile Justice System (2004)

The report documents the impact of trauma on girls in the justice system and compares it to that of boys in the system. Recommendations include gender-specific, ethnicity-specific, and trauma-specific programs to help girls learn to cope with their feelings and prevent re-victimization.

http://www.nctsnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/trauma_among_girls_in_jjsys.pdf

When Individual Differences Demand Equal Treatment: An Equal Rights Approach to the Special Needs of Girls in the Juvenile Justice System (January 2003)

Marsha Levick and Francine Sherman argue that since girls' needs are different from those of boys, and all juveniles have a constitutional right to rehabilitation, the Equal Protection Clause, state Equal Rights Amendments, and Title IX demand equal and individualized treatment for both males and females in the justice system. The article discusses levels of scrutiny, disparate treatment and impact, and obstacles to remedying issues of discrimination.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2111579

Tenuous Borders: Girls Transferred to Adult Court (August 2002)

Joanne Belknap and Emily Gaarder analyze a study covering the prior records and histories of 22 girls and young women in the adult criminal justice system. The participants in the study were White, Native American, African American, Hispanic, and of mixed races, and had histories of drug use, physical and sexual abuse by family, neglect by family, and problems in school. The article suggests that while family history is not the only factor involved in whether women end up in adult court, it is important to investigate family histories to help determine appropriate rehabilitative services.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1745-9125.2002.tb00964.x/abstract>

Justice by Gender (May 2001)

This report from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Juvenile Justice Working Group of the American Bar Association identifies victimization inside and outside of the justice system, family fragmentation, school failure, mental health disorders, and the separation of incarcerated mothers from their children as major concerns for girls in the system. Recommendations include gender-specific accommodations and cross-system collaboration among branches of government and mental health agencies. <http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/justicebygenderweb.pdf>

Educate or Incarcerate? Girls in the Florida and Duval County Juvenile Justice Systems (2000)

Leslie Acoca compares various risk factors which lead girls to the juvenile justice system, repeat offense, and personal offense. She identifies educational failure as the most significant risk factor, with gang affiliation, intergenerational incarceration, and early sexual experience as additional factors. Significant protective factors include family support, mental health treatment, and possession of a job. Since educational failure is a major determinant of entry, investment in middle school education, which should also include pregnancy prevention programs, would be an effective and less costly method of prevention.

http://www.nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/educateorincarcerate.pdf

No Place to Hide: Understanding and Meeting the Needs of Girls in the Juvenile Justice System (July 1998)

Leslie Acoca and Kelly Dedel examine the NCCD study which focused on the past histories of girls and emphasized the need for girls to tell their own stories so that professionals would be able to better help them. The paper identifies the most significant risk factors for system involvement and recommends focusing on prevention, improving opportunities for personal relationships, providing quality health assessments, giving mental health assessments including cross gender relationship evaluations, addressing substance abuse needs, and most importantly, placing girls in all-girl environments.

http://www.nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/no-place-to-hide.pdf

National Groups & Organizations

OJJDP Girls Study Group

The Girls Study Group is an interdisciplinary group of scholars and practitioners convened by OJJDP to develop a research foundation to inform local, state and national decisions about how best to prevent and reduce delinquency and violence by girls. The Study Group members have complementary and multidisciplinary backgrounds and experiences that encompass the range of knowledge needed to understand and explain female delinquency. The group includes sociologists, psychologists, criminologists, and gender studies experts, as well as researchers and practitioners with legal and girls' program development experience.

http://girlsstudygroup.rti.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=dsp_presentations

NCCD Center for Girls & Young Women

The Center for Girls & Young Women was launched in 2008, and is the newest division of National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD). NCCD develops research, programs, and policies that promote fair, effective, and age-appropriate treatment of youth and works to improve young people's chances to become successful. The Center strives to raise awareness, informing the public and the next generation of juvenile justice workers by mobilizing college students and publishing fact sheets and position papers on critical issues facing justice-involved girls.

<http://www.nccdglobal.org/what-we-do/center-for-girls-young-women>

The National Crittenton Foundation

The National Crittenton Foundation, started in 1883, maintains a vision that all girls, young women and their families live safely in a just world in which they can visualize and achieve their unique potential as healthy, contributing members of society. To that end, the Foundation supports empowerment, self-sufficiency, and the end of cycles of destructive behaviors for girls, young women and their families who live at the margin of the American dream.

<http://www.nationalcrittenton.org/>

Human Rights Project for Girls

Rights4Girls is a human rights organization dedicated to protecting vulnerable young women and girls in the U.S. Founded in 2011 by a dedicated group of human rights attorneys and advocates, the organization advocates for the dignity and personhood of young women and girls—so that every girl may possess the right to be safe and live a life free of violence and exploitation.

<http://www.rights4girls.org>

Girls @ the Margin Alliance

Girls at the Margins Alliance is a group of approximately 40 national policy, research, and community-based organizations that advocate for systematic reforms that address the specific needs of girls and young women. Founded by Human Rights for Girls and the National Crittenton Foundation, the Alliance reaches across disciplines and systems using a holistic perspective to address root causes of the complex issues confronting girls and young women @ the margin.

<http://www.atthemargin.org>

National Girls Health and Justice Institute (NGHJI)

The mission of the NGHJI is to improve access to health care for the 641,000 adolescent girls who enter the juvenile justice system each year in the United States. A key objective of the NGHJI is to disseminate the web-based Girls Health Screen (GHS), the first validated gender-responsive physical and behavioral health screen for girls, and an Electronic Girls Health Passport (EGHP) into the Los Angeles juvenile justice system.

<http://www.leslieacoca.org/>

Girls, Inc.

Girls Inc. inspires all girls to be strong, smart, and bold through life-changing programs and experiences that help girls navigate gender, economic, and social barriers. Research-based curricula, delivered by trained, mentoring professionals in a positive all-girl environment equip girls to achieve academically; lead healthy and physically active lives; manage money; navigate media messages; and discover an interest in science, technology, engineering, and math. The network of local Girls Inc. nonprofit organizations serves 125,000 girls ages 6 - 18 annually across the United States and Canada.

<http://www.girlsinc.org/>