Girls’ Experiences Prior to Justice Involvement

- Nationally, approximately 73% of all juvenile justice involved girls have histories of physical and sexual abuse.\(^i\)
- Girls in the juvenile justice system are nearly 2 times as likely as boys to report having experienced 5 or more forms of abuse and trauma.\(^ii\)
- The New Mexico Sentencing Commission found that 23% of females in the juvenile justice system reported Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) scores of 9 or 10, compared to 3% of boys.\(^iii\)
- A 2014 Florida study conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention found that, across all ten ACE categories, girls had higher scores than boys.\(^iv\)

Girls’ Physical Health Needs

- **Treatment for recent trauma:** In a 2009 study of girls entering the justice system, 22% of girls had been sexually assaulted in the past 7 days.\(^v\)
- **Treatment for acute and chronic illnesses:** In a 2009 study of girls entering the justice system, 18% of girls had an ER visit for an asthma-related condition.\(^vi\)
- **Gynecological care:** In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control found that 15.7% of young women and girls (in chosen juvenile facilities) had chlamydia, compared to 8.3% of young women and girls in the general population.\(^vii\)
- **Pregnancy and postpartum care:** There is no national data on the number or share of pregnant and post-partum youth in custody. The 2003 Survey of Youth in Residential Placement found that 5% of girls in custody were pregnant.\(^viii\)

Girls’ Mental Health Needs

- **Psychiatric disorders:** In one study conducted by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 65% of justice-involved girls experienced symptoms of PTSD at some point in their lives.\(^ix\)
- **Substance abuse:** Of girls in juvenile justice facilities, 71% report recent problems related to substance use.\(^x\)
- **Self-Harm:** In a 2009 study of girls entering the justice system, 28% of girls had a history of self-harm.\(^xi\)
- **Suicidal Ideation:** In a 2009 study of girls entering the justice system, 18% had a current suicidal ideation.\(^xii\)
Resources

- Rights4Girls, [www.rights4girls.org](http://www.rights4girls.org)
- *Gender & Trauma, Somatic Interventions for Girls in Juvenile Justice: Implications for Policy and Practice*, Rebecca Epstein & Thali González, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality (2017)

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iv *Id.*
vi *Id.*

viii *Id.* at 27.
ix Supra, note 2, at. 12.
x Supra, note 7, at 18.
xi Supra, note 5.
xii *Id.*