



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
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network, <http://nctsn.org/>
- *The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story*, Yasmin Vafa, Malika Saada Saar, Rebecca Epstein & Lindsay Rosenthal, Rights4Girls, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality & Ms. Foundation for Women (2015)
- *OJJDP Policy Guidance: Girls and the Juvenile Justice System*, created by the National Girls Initiative, <https://www.ojjdp.gov/policyguidance/girls-juvenile-justice-system/>
- *Gender Injustice*, Francine T. Sherman & Annie Balck, The National Crittenton Foundation & The National Women's Law Center (2015)
- *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)

ⁱ Francine Sherman, Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Pathways to Juvenile Justice Reform: Detention Reform and Girls Challenges and Solutions* (2005).

ⁱⁱ Yasmin Vafa, Malika Saada Saar, Rebecca Epstein & Lindsay Rosenthal, Rights4Girls, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality & Ms. Foundation for Women, *The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story* (2015), pp. 8-9.

ⁱⁱⁱ Rebecca Epstein & Thali González, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality, *Gender & Trauma, Somatic Interventions for Girls in Juvenile Justice: Implications for Policy and Practice* (2017), p. 12.

^{iv} *Id.*

^v Leslie Acoca & Mana Golzari, *Girls Health Screen Validation Study* (2013).

^{vi} *Id.*

^{vii} Francine T. Sherman & Annie Balck, *Gender Injustice: System Level Juvenile Justice Reform for Girls* (2015), p. 24.

^{viii} *Id.* at 27.

^{ix} *Supra*, note 2, at 12.

^x *Supra*, note 7, at 18.

^{xi} *Supra*, note 5.

^{xii} *Id.*