

100 Girls Study- Preliminary Findings

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Introduction of Researchers

- ❖ Dr. Elizabeth Brown, PhD, San Francisco State University/YJI Advisory Board
- ❖ Gena Castro Rodriguez, MA, MFTI, Executive Director YJI
- ❖ Dr. Amy Smith, PhD, JD San Francisco State University/YJI Advisory Board
- ❖ Youth Justice Institute

100 Girls Study

- ❖ Youth Justice Institute has worked with more than 1,400 juvenile justice system girls since 2003
- ❖ Court order San Francisco, California 2009
- ❖ Purpose of study: to better understand young women involved in the juvenile justice system and the course of their experiences before, during and after system involvement
- ❖ Planned to be completed Fall 2010

Sample Population

- ❖ Original sample 100 girls selected from list of 1,200 in YJI database (2009)
- ❖ Open-ended interviews with 10 girls (3 completed to date)
- ❖ Collection of data/ data-inductive analysis: court files, YJI files, interviews
- ❖ Final count of files 67; 33 not found and assumed sealed or incorrect information
- ❖ Today's presentation based on analysis of 20 (of 67) records; all young women of color (African American/Latina)

Themes Identified

- ❖ Prosecutorial Up-Charging
- ❖ Status vs. New Law Violations
- ❖ Dependency and Delinquency Relationship
- ❖ AWOL
- ❖ Trauma, Grief and Loss
- ❖ Closure of Files

Prosecutorial Up-Charging

- ❖ Total number of charges 133/average 6.65
- ❖ Total number of charges sustained 41/average 2.05
- ❖ Examples
- ❖ Outliers 15/6, 11/1, 12/3 and 1/1 1/0

Status vs New Charges

- ❖ 70% have formal violations of probation
 - ❖ curfews
 - ❖ failed placement
 - ❖ failure to obey parents
 - ❖ not attending/late for school
- ❖ Only 30% have no formal violations of probation

Dependency and Delinquency

- ❖ 25% have dependency system involvement at time of delinquency involvement
- ❖ Does not include prior dependency system involvement. Example: only kids in dependency system vs. kids with CPS report*

*Final report will have this data coded

AWOL

- ❖ 60% contain at least 1 AWOL
- ❖ Average 1.75 of 20
 - ❖ 2.916 median for 12 that have AWOL
- ❖ Examples: running from placement

Types of Trauma, Grief and Loss defined for study

Trauma	Grief and Loss
❖ Family involvement in crime	❖ Abandonment
❖ Parent drug use	❖ Dependency System
❖ Expressions of fear	❖ Abuse (physical, sexual, neglect)
❖ Sexual assault/rape	❖ Parent/sibling incarceration
❖ Self harm, suicide attempts	❖ Death
❖ Prostitution	

Trauma

- ❖ 65% have had trauma
- ❖ 60% have had grief and loss
- ❖ 85% have had trauma and/or grief and loss
- ❖ 45% have had both

Closure of Files

- ❖ 65% failed to have petitions dismissed
- ❖ 35% dismissed

3 Initial Interviews

- ❖ All over 18
- ❖ All felony charges
- ❖ All had family members incarcerated at one time
- ❖ All arrested in multiple counties
- ❖ All failed to complete high school
- ❖ All unstable housing
- ❖ 2 with children/1 past pregnancy
- ❖ 2 no jobs
- ❖ 2 in public housing
- ❖ 2 labeled early on due to family criminal involvement
- ❖ 1 DJJ, 2 707b but not transferred
- ❖ 1 adult charge/probation, 1 juvenile probation, 1 completed juvenile probation

Interviews

- ❖ DATA REMOVED TO PROTECT PARTICIPANT'S PRIVACY
- ❖ DATA WILL BE AGGREGATED IN FINAL STUDY

Themes

- ❖ Psych evaluations recommended positive re-enforcement rather than punitive
- ❖ If had private insurance, could not get mental health services easily
- ❖ Chronic instability in family
- ❖ Prolonged periods of time to address basic needs (example: glasses)
- ❖ Multiple AWOLs
- ❖ Probation reluctant to identify or refer for mental health services, not advocating for services, over-recommendation of placement, report girls to be uncooperative when other system players state compliance

What Girls Identified Helped

- ❖ Lasting relationships
- ❖ Having children
- ❖ Facing serious charges/fear of crossing to adult system
- ❖ System players (judges, defense attorneys)
- ❖ Placed outside of home (instability)
- ❖ Outside services (therapists, CBO service providers, treatment facilities)
- ❖ Ongoing & long term supportive help

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