

# **Girls and Young Women in the Juvenile Justice System**

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Presented by Young Women United,  
in collaboration with Bernalillo County  
Deep End Girls Group

## **Presentation by:**

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**Young Women United** leads policy change and community organizing by for women of color and families most impacted by challenging issues facing our New Mexico communities.

# Deep End Youth, Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative:

**JDAI in Bernalillo County, an Annie E. Casey Foundation site:** Intentionally applying JDAI's collaborative, data-driven approaches to "deep-end" policies, practices and programming, our sites can substantially reduce their reliance on incarceration without sacrificing public safety, thereby improving outcomes for youth in their care.

Casey Foundation documents in their report, *No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration*, out-of-home placements often have a deeply troubling track record: high rates of recidivism; exorbitant costs; frequent harm to the health and safety of the youth (and staff) who are confined in them; and poor outcomes in terms of youth development.

<http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org/SitePages/deep-end-reform.aspx>

**Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative in Bernalillo County:** Bernalillo County will focus its efforts under this initiative on reducing these out of home commitments significantly, but safely, through program reform in partnership with community agencies and at the state and local government levels.

- Reducing racial and ethnic disparities, now turning to gender disparities
- Collaboration of over 40 community agencies and leaders, families and youth, mental health providers, and justice system stakeholders

<http://www.bernco.gov/youth-services-center/director.aspx>

# **Deep End Youth, Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative:**

## **From Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) Materials:**

A **Deep End youth** is a young person who has been identified as waiting for placement in out of home placements such as group homes, treatment foster care, residential treatment and long term commitment.

Deep End youth in Bernalillo County: Youth stay an average of 17.5 days in the Bernalillo County Youth Services Center, “Deep End” youth stay up to three times longer

Deep End youth are consistently close to 30% of the total juvenile detention population in Youth Services Center. These youth tend to have more complex needs, but not always more serious offenses.

<http://www.bernco.gov/youth-services-center/director.aspx>

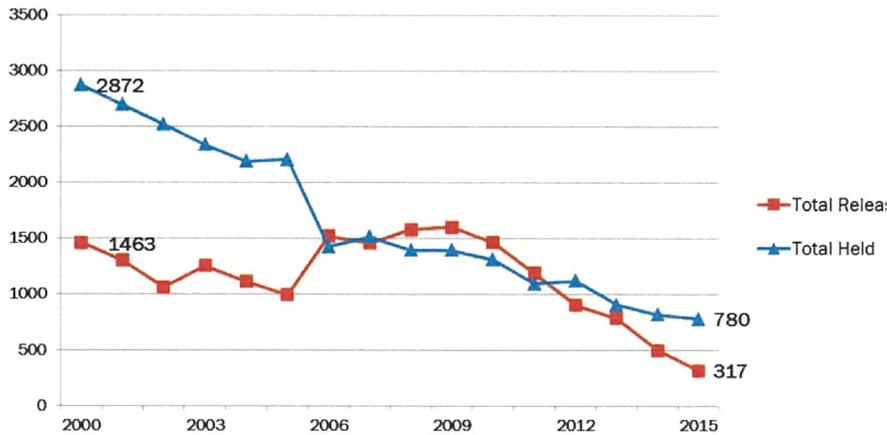
# Overview of girls and young women in the the juvenile justice system

Bernalillo County and National Data



# Public Safety Improvements & Cost of Youth Detention

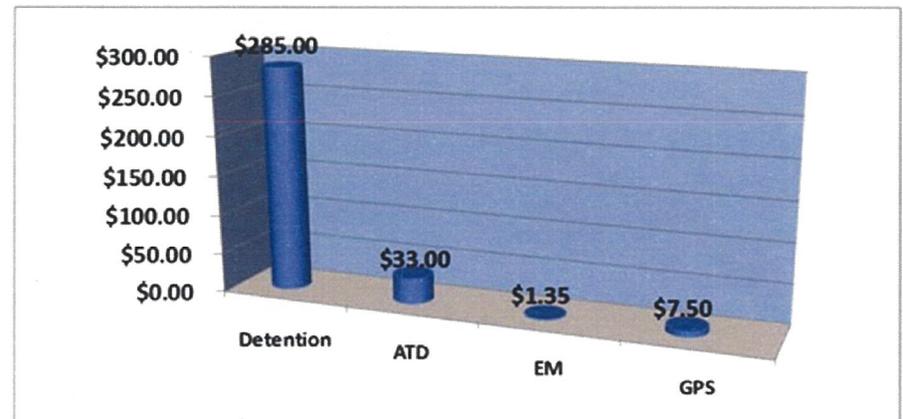
Safely Reduce the Juvenile Detention Population



The Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Collaborative (JDAI) has safely reduced the unnecessary use of detention by 74% in the last 15 years.

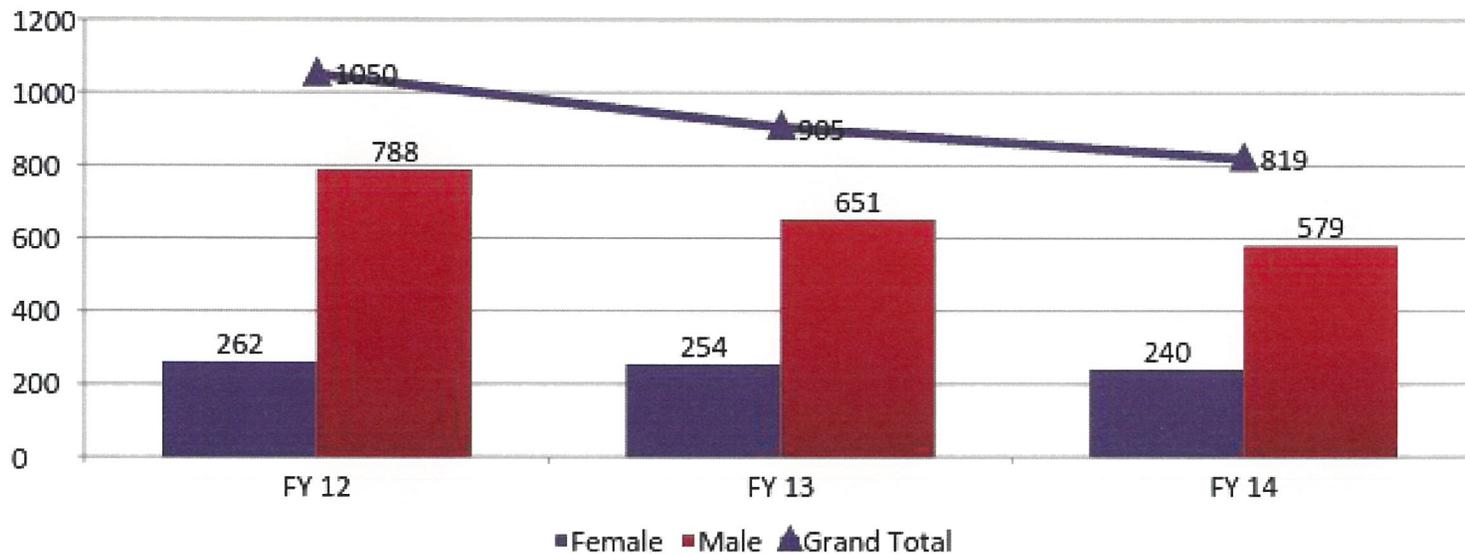
Source: JDAI Collaborative 16 year program measurement

Shift Cost Savings to Alternatives, Diversion and Prevention



The juvenile crime rate, measured here through a reduction of law enforcement referrals over the past 16 years, has decreased by 72%.

# NUMBER OF DETAINED YOUTH BY FISCAL YEAR AND GENDER (Bernalillo County)

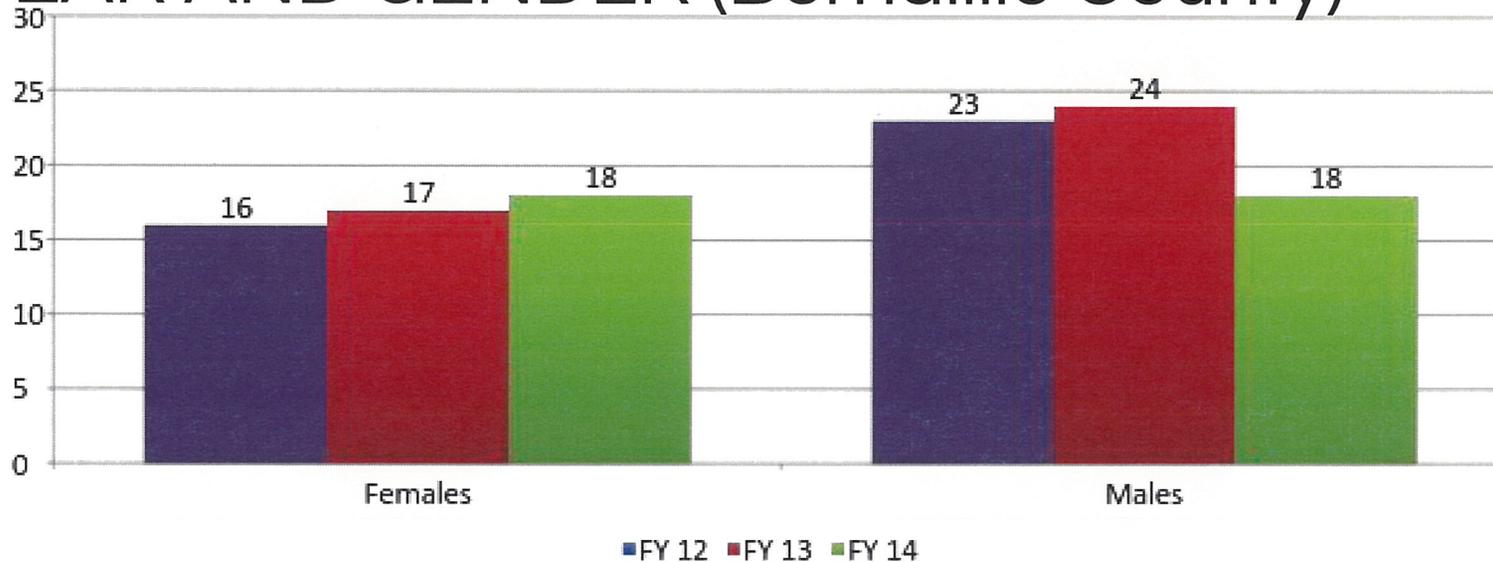


**There is an 8% decrease for girls as compared to 26% decrease for boys**

***\*In FY 2014 the majority of girls detained came from zip codes 87105, 87108 and 87121, which are the most economically challenged areas of Albuquerque and have the highest populations of youth of color.***

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Easy Access to Juvenile Populations. (1990-2014); Bernalillo County JDAI data reports - [jdaihelpdesk.org](http://jdaihelpdesk.org); SARA Reports for FY 12 – FY 14.

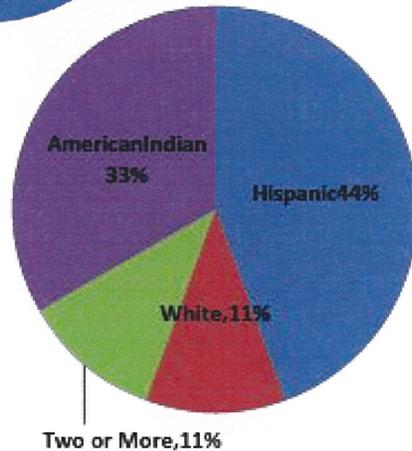
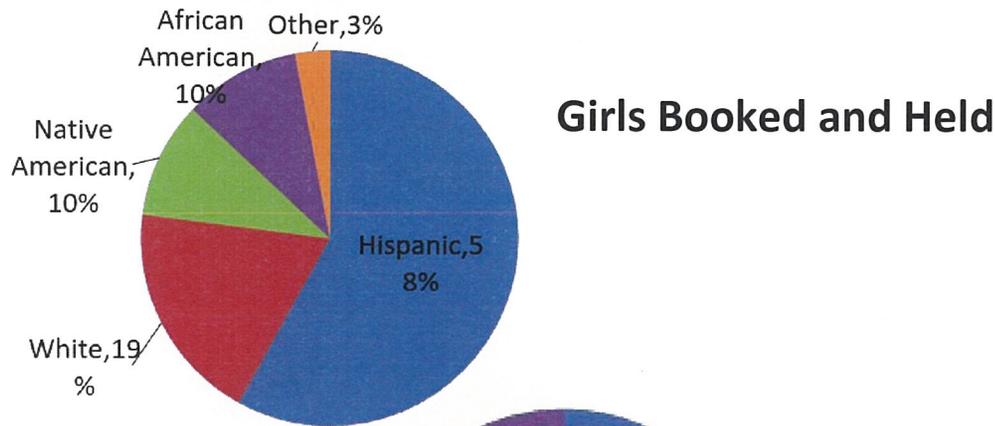
# AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY (ALOS) BY FISCAL YEAR AND GENDER (Bernalillo County)



**There is a 12% increase in girls average length of stay as compared to a 22% decrease for boys from FY 12 to FY 14**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Easy Access to Juvenile Populations. (1990-2014); Bernalillo County JDAI data reports - [jdaihelpdesk.org](http://jdaihelpdesk.org); SARA Reports for FY 12 – FY 14.

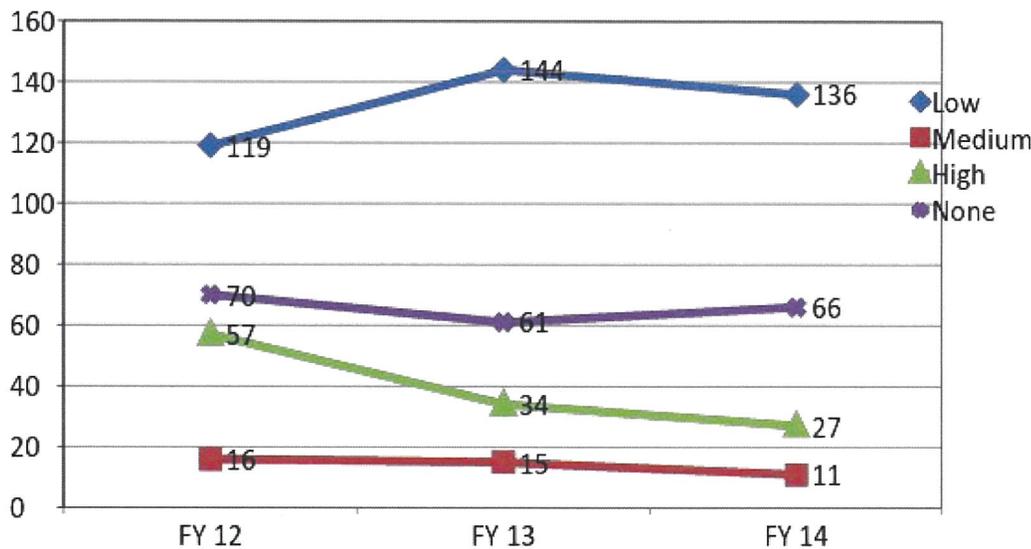
# Demographics for Bernalillo County Girls 10-17 Years of Age For FY 14



General Population 10-17 yrs.	PERCENT
Hispanic	62%
White	27%
Native American	5%
African American	3%
Asian	3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Easy Access to Juvenile Populations. (1990-2014); Bernalillo County JDAI data reports - [jdaihelpdesk.org](http://jdaihelpdesk.org); SARA Reports for FY 12 – FY 14.

# Girls Booked in Detention- Risk Assessment Level by Fiscal Year (Bernalillo County)



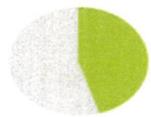
## Top 4 Override Reasons FY12-14 for Girls

- No Adequate Supervision or Care
- Parents Refuse Custody
- Domestic Violence
- Parents Located but Unavailable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Easy Access to Juvenile Populations. (1990-2014); Bernalillo County JDAI data reports - [jdaihelpdesk.org](http://jdaihelpdesk.org); SARA Reports for FY 12 – FY 14.

# **Specific Needs of Girls and Young Women**

# Trauma-informed approaches



**45 percent of girls in an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) study of justice-involved youth had experienced 5 or more ACEs;**



**31 percent of girls had experienced in-home sexual abuse;**



**84 percent had experienced family violence; and**



**girls reported sexual abuse at 4.4 times the rate of boys.**

Justice-involved girls have disproportionately high rates of past physical and sexual abuse and trauma (Weemhoff & Staley 2014; Gaarder & Belknap 2002; Wu 2010; Selph 2014) and, as a result, experience high rates of mental and emotional health issues (Wasserman, McReynolds, Schwalbe, Keating, & Jone, 2010; National Prison Rape Elimination Commission 2009; Selph 2014).

NIC/NCCD Girls in the Adult Justice System Bulletin, National Institute of Corrections | July 2016 | Davis, Gentile, Glesmann

Approaches must be trauma-informed, gender-specific and culturally relevant.

The National Crittenton Foundation & The National Women's Law Center. (2015). Gender Injustice: System-Level Juvenile Justice Reforms for Girls. Francine T Sherman and Annie Black. Retrieved from [www.nationalcrittenton.org](http://www.nationalcrittenton.org).

# **Diversion is effective, but NM lacks programming options, especially for girls**

## **Residential treatment centers:**

- There are only 5 residential treatment centers (RTCs) in the state, and only 1 in Albuquerque that accept girls and young women. Frequently girls and young women must go out of town, or sometimes out of state, to get treatment.
- There is only one RTC for young people with serious mental health issues in New Mexico, Sequoyah. They do NOT accept girls and young women.
- Mesilla Valley (Las Cruces), The Peak (Santa Teresa) and San Juan (Farmington) take girls, but they are not specifically focused on girls and therefore girls are often segregated.

## **Nonresidential treatment:**

- With the closing of Turquoise Lodge, there are no facilities for young people to detox.

## **Group Homes:**

- There are very few shelter beds for girls
- There is only one home that accepts expectant and parenting young women, Humphrey House in Hobbs.
- Currently the only group home for girls in Albuquerque is the Girls Reintegration Center. However, its beds are it's primarily for girls exiting a commitment with only a few beds given to girls and young women on probation.

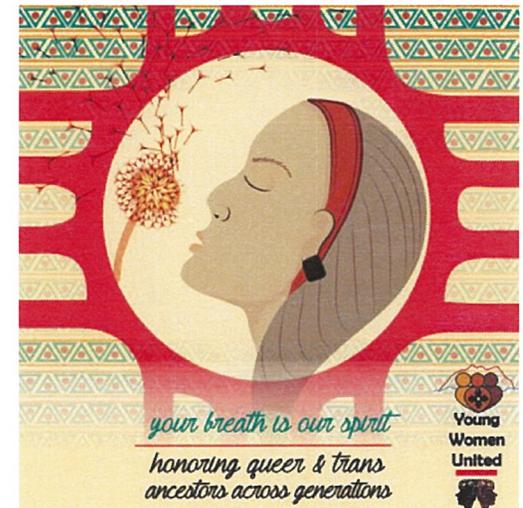
# LGBTQGNC Young People in the System

The 2011 National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health found that girls who identified as lesbian or bisexual were at significantly greater risk than straight peers of being expelled from school, stopped by police, subjected to juvenile arrest and conviction, and subjected to adult arrest and conviction.<sup>1</sup>

Youth in detention and correctional settings who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other report being sexually victimized by peers at a rate that is nearly 10 times higher than their heterosexual counterparts.<sup>2</sup>

About 8% of all youth and 20% of detained youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, transgender and gender non-conforming.<sup>3</sup>

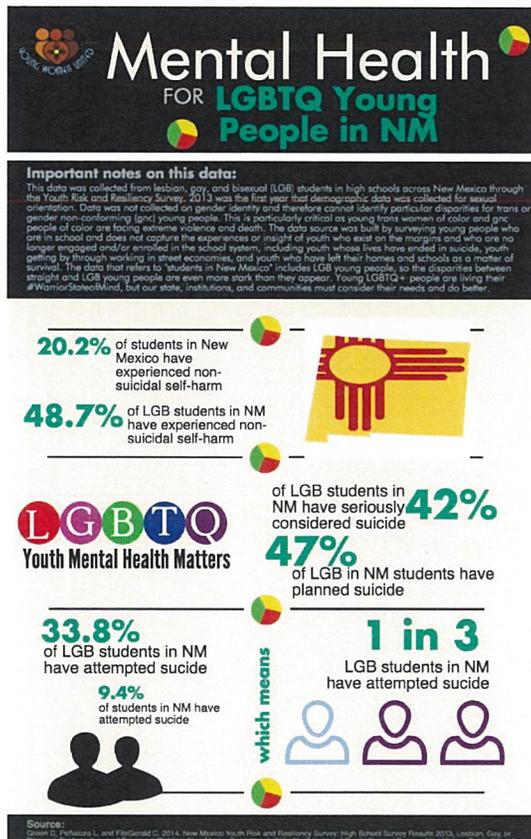
Nearly 14% of justice-involved boys identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning, transgender or gender non-conforming. For girls, this figure jumps to almost 40%.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup>American Academy of Pediatrics, Volume 127, Issue 1. (2011). Criminal-Justice and School Sanctions Against Nonheterosexual Youth: A National Longitudinal Study. Program in Ethics, Politics, and Economics and Center for Research on Inequalities and the Life Course, Yale University. New Haven, CT: Kathryn E. W. Himmelstein, Hannah Brückner.

<sup>2,3,4</sup>The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2015). Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth in the Juvenile Justice System. Baltimore, MD: Shannan Wilber. Retrieved from [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).

# NM Specific LGBTQ Needs



## Mental Health Services

- 1 in 3 LBG students in NM have attempted suicide<sup>1</sup>
- 48.7% of LGB students have experienced non-suicidal self harm<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Green D, Peñaloza L, and FitzGerald C. 2014. New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey: High School Survey Results 2013, Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual. Epidemiology and Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health; School and Family Support Bureau, New Mexico Public Education Department; and University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center.

# Considering needs of young parents and expectant young people

**There are more young mothers and expectant young women in the juvenile justice system than in general population of same age.**

- According to the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement, 9 percent of girls in custody have children compared with 6 percent of female youth in the general population.<sup>1</sup>
- A 2004 national census found that 5 percent of girls in juvenile justice residential placement were pregnant.<sup>2</sup>

**We need to consider young families health care, status, placement and care of child, visitations, etc.**

<sup>1</sup>Sedlak, A.J. and Bruce, C. 2010. *Youth's Characteristics and Backgrounds: Findings from the Survey of Youth in Residential Placement*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Available at [https://syrp.org/images/Youth\\_Characteristics.pdf](https://syrp.org/images/Youth_Characteristics.pdf).

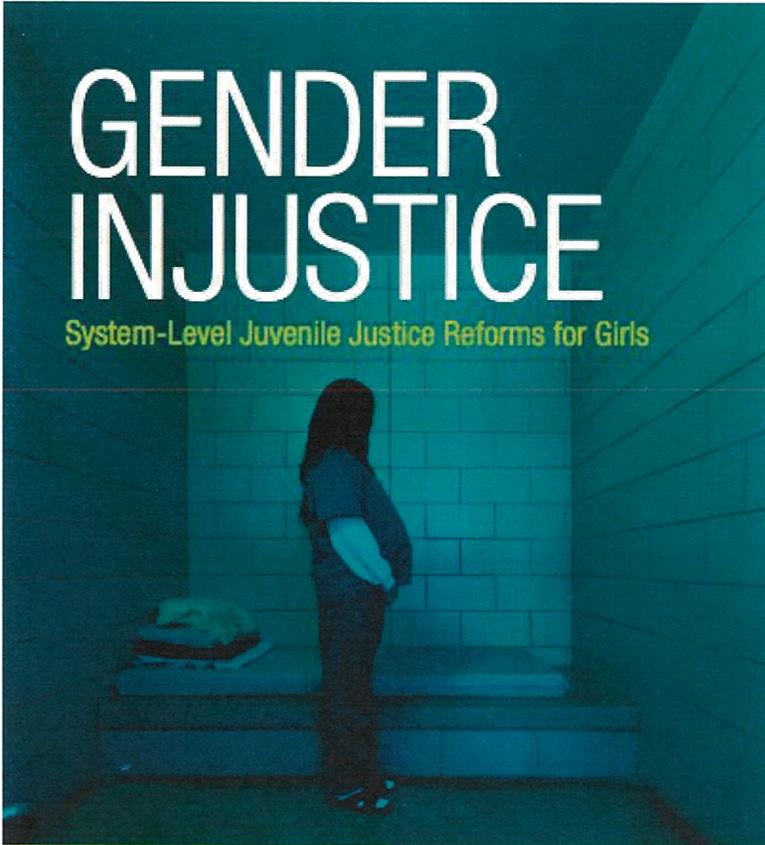
Survey of Youth in Residential Placement online analysis. Available at [https://syrp.org/online\\_analysis.html](https://syrp.org/online_analysis.html); See also Gallagher, C.A., Dobrin, A., and Douds, A.S. 2007. A National Overview of Reproductive Health Services for Girls in Juvenile Justice Residential Facilities. *Women's Health Issues*, 17: 217-226.



# **Learning from the Expertise of Young Women and Girls**

# GENDER INJUSTICE

System-Level Juvenile Justice Reforms for Girls



Authors:  
Francine T. Sherman  
Annie Balck

In partnership with:



## Plan for Action

# Objectives of the Deep End Girls Group

- 1.** Eliminate detention in cases that come in as Domestic Violence/ Domestic Battery (as the issue), at the front- end of the system and refocus on family engagement and crisis intervention.
- 2.** Eliminate referrals to CCA (Children's Court Attorney) for 3 or fewer misdemeanors and target gender and culturally competent informal diversion.
- 3.** Reduce detention and out of home consequences for technical violations and program/rule non-compliance and re-focus and refine probation objectives and services to be gender and culturally responsive.

# Young Women United

## Recommendations

- 1) Consider the specific needs of girls and young women in the system in any conversations about behavioral health, juvenile justice, and foster care systems
- 2) Consider the specific needs of girls and young women in any budgetary consideration and funding allocations, with specific dollars being dedicated to serving girls and young women
- 3) Center the experiences and expertise of girls and young women in the system
  - Provide mechanisms of support that uplift whole families
  - Provide resources and space to capture the insight and knowledge of young women and girls currently in the juvenile justice system
    - i) Ie: Stress Pass

# Sources and additional information

The National Crittenton Foundation & The National Women's Law Center. (2015). Gender Injustice: System-Level Juvenile Justice Reforms for Girls. Francine T Sherman and Annie Black. Retrieved from [www.nationalcrittenton.org](http://www.nationalcrittenton.org).  
[http://nationalcrittenton.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Gender\\_Injustice\\_Report.pdf](http://nationalcrittenton.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Gender_Injustice_Report.pdf)

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<http://nicic.gov/library/031370>

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<http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-JDAIBernalilloCountyCaseStudy-2013.pdf>