Ending the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline:
A Public Health Approach

November 19th, 2015

Presenters:
• Maheen Kaleem, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Human Rights Project for Girls
• Lindsay Rosenthal, Vera Institute Fellow and Research Associate, Center on Youth Justice and Substance Use and Mental Health Program

Moderator:
• Jennifer Rose, Consultant, Futures Without Violence

Welcome to the Webinar

We will begin at 11:00am (PT) / 2:00pm (ET).

A recording will be available after the webinar.
Your line will be muted to cut down on background interference so please use the chat box to share your name, your organization, your location and any questions you have for our featured speakers.
DEFENDING CHILDHOOD
PROTECT HEAL THRIVE
Federal Coordination

- US Department of Justice
  - Office of the Attorney General
  - Office of Justice Programs
    - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
    - Office for Victims of Crime
    - National Institute of Justice
  - Office on Violence Against Women
  - Office of Community Oriented Policing
  - Executive Office of US Attorneys

- US Department of Health and Human Services
- US Department of Education
Goals of the Defending Childhood Initiative

• Prevent children’s exposure to violence.

• Mitigate the negative effects experienced by children exposed to violence.

• Develop knowledge about and spread awareness of this issue.
Over $30 M Invested From FY2010 – FY2012

• Research and Evaluation
• Direct Action in Communities
  – Comprehensive Demonstration Project
  – Safe Start Program (www.safestartcenter.org)
  – OVW Children Exposed to Violence grants
• Training and Technical Assistance
• Attorney General’s Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence (www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf)
• Action Partnerships with Professional Organizations
How to use this technology

• You can choose to connect via computer OR via telephone.
  • Should you choose computer, please mute your computer microphone to avoid feedback.
  • Should you choose to dial in, please follow the audio instructions on the screen or in the audio pop up:
    • Dial: 1-877-647-3411
    • Enter the Participant Code: 914571#
    OR
    • Dial: 1-719-867-0497
    • Enter the Participant Code: 914571#
• There will be time for Q & A at the end of the presentation.
• Please enter any questions you have in the Public Text Chat box.
• A recording and PDF slides will be available after the webinar.
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Lindsay Rosenthal, Vera Institute Fellow and Research Associate
Learning Objectives

1) The audience will be able to describe the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline.

2) The audience will understand the gendered trends in sexual violence and the relevance of gender differences in traumatic exposure to juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention efforts.

3) The audience will be informed about current federal policy efforts to dismantle the pipeline.

3) The audience will understand the utility of the National Girls Health and Justice Institute’s Girls Health Screen© as a public health tool to help end the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline.
Gendered Social Context

• Gendered social context that is distinctly oppressive for girls and young women:
  ➢ Sexism at home and in the community.
  ➢ Intersection of race and gender.
  ➢ Gender nonconformity (actual or perceived).
  ➢ Differences in the types of trauma and violence.
  ➢ Differences in context of violence.
  ➢ Generally more serious health conditions.
Sexism and Sexual Violence

• Sexual abuse is about power and control.

• It is linked to a culture of female and feminine subordination.

• It can play a global role in girls’ sense of self worth and self efficacy.

• Perpetrators are usually known to the victim and not uncommonly someone she is dependent on for survival.

• Stigma means that it is underreported.
Gender Difference in ACE Scores

- Girls are nearly twice as likely to report five or more "ACEs."
- 45 percent of girls vs. 24 percent of boys.

Source: “The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) in the Lives of Juvenile Delinquents”
Gender Difference in ACE Indicators

- Greatest gender disparity is in prevalence of sexual abuse.
- Girls rates of sexual abuse are more than 4 times higher (31 vs. 7 percent).

Source: “The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) in the Lives of Juvenile Delinquents”
Sexual Abuse and Juvenile Justice

- Prevalence ranging from 25 percent to 91 percent.
- Early onset (between 5 and 7 years old).
- Prevalence alone does not capture extent.
- Oregon study reported they had experienced an average of over four forms of severe sexual abuse before the age of 12.

The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls’ Story
Girls of Color Impacted Most

Girls in Residential Placement by Race and Ethnicity:

- Non-Hispanic White: 37
- African American: 123
- Hispanic: 47
- Asian: 11
- Native American: 179

Girls of Color are Disproportionately Affected

- Youth of color are 45% of general youth population, but girls of color are 66% of girls who are arrested

- Black Girls and Native American girls were 20% more likely than white girls to be formally petitioned (Sherman & Balck 2015)

- African-Americans are 14% of youth population, but African-American girls are 33% of girls arrested

- Girls are 76% of children arrested for prostitution, and African-American children are 59% of children arrested for prostitution (FBI 2013)

- African American Girls are 3x as likely to be referred to court than their white peers (Sherman and Balck 2015)
Audience Poll

Do you know the prevalence of sexual violence among child welfare and justice involved youth in your jurisdiction?

Please click either “yes” or “no” in the polling pod. If you selected yes, please type the information you have on prevalence into the chat box.

If your jurisdiction does keep data on sexual violence prevalence among youth in juvenile justice and foster care, please let us know about those efforts in the chat box.
Why does sexual abuse matter?

• Uniquely predictive of traumatic stress for girls.

• Developmentally targeted interventions: Pre-high school abuse and trauma is a strong predictor of delinquency for girls.

• Trauma after high school is does not appear to be a strong predictor of delinquency but predicts subsequent victimization.
Why does sexual abuse matter?

• Evidence that is uniquely predictive of justice outcomes:

   ➢ Girls with a history of sexual abuse were 5 times more likely to recidivate within 12 months.

   ➢ Stronger predictor of recidivism than other risk factors such as behavioral problems, substance use, or prior justice involvement.

   ➢ Did not have an effect on sexually abused boys’ risk of recidivism.

Why does sexual abuse matter?

• It may also be predictive of foster care outcomes.
  ➢ One study of girls receiving independent living services found that 54 percent had a history of sexual abuse
  ➢ Substance use disorder: 29 vs. 16
  ➢ Mental health: 21 vs. 11
  ➢ Justice Involvement: 41 vs. 24
  ➢ Two studies have found that it is strongly associated with placement mobility and failed adoptions.

Source: “Differences between Sexually Abused and Non-Sexually Abused Adolescent Girls in Foster Care”
Does your institution or practice offer gender-specific services for girls experiencing sexual violence?

If you have ideas or suggestions about programs and services that should be implemented for sexual assault survivors in the justice system and child welfare system, please share them in the chat box!
What is the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline?
What is the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline?

• The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline describes the pathways of **gendered** violence that actually lead girls into the juvenile justice system.

• Specifically, it outlines the ways that girls in the juvenile justice system are actually criminalized for their responses to **trauma**.

• Because **trauma** is the underlying factor for most justice-involved girls’ delinquent behavior, we need a **public health** approach.
How prevalent is this pipeline?

- Girls are the **fastest rising segment** of the juvenile justice population (Sherman & Balck 2015)

- Girls are NOT becoming increasingly violent. Most common offenses for which girls are arrested are:
  - Running away
  - Prostitution/Solicitation
  - Truancy
  - Simple Assault (related to domestic/intra-familial chaos)

- Prevalence of abuse among girls in JJ:
  - South Carolina: 81% of girls reported sexual abuse
  - Florida: 84% of girls reported being victims of family violence
  - Oregon: 93% of girls experienced physical or sexual abuse
What are the Specific Pathways of the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline?

• Arrest for Status Offenses
  • Running away is the most common offense for which girls are arrested
  • Valid Court Order Exception allows for girls to be arrested and detained

• Dual System/Crossover Youth
  • Youth enter the system for abuse and neglect
  • Girls are transferred to delinquency system as a result of the child welfare system being unable to appropriately serve them
  • Disproportionately impacts not only children of color, but girls of color

• Arrest and Detention of Victims of Domestic Child Sex Trafficking
Promising Policy Drivers to End the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline

• Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2015 (JJDPRA)
  • Ends the Shackling of Pregnant and Post-Partum girls in custody
  • Requires collection of data on number of pregnant girls in custody
  • Requires screening upon intake for child sex trafficking, child abuse, and trauma
  • Requires member of State Advisory Group to have expertise on trauma, gender-specific services, and child sex trafficking
  • Calls for alternatives to detention for girls in the juvenile justice system and programs to divert victims of child sex trafficking away from a delinquency response
  • Requires a 3-year phaseout of Valid Court Order Exception

• Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014
Promising Policy Drivers to End the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline cont.

- Increased trend to use **Multi-Disciplinary** response to address the needs of victims of child sex trafficking

- **No Such Thing Campaign**
  - Rights4Girls, with Google & The California Endowment
  - Goal: To ensure that there is **no such thing as a “child prostitute”** in language and in **law**
  - Resolution passed by Los Angeles County calls for end to arrest of girls for prostitution, in accordance with **Trafficking Victims Protection Act**, and for use of MDTS

- Implementation of **Crossover Youth Practice Model** and other efforts to reduce crossover
OJJDP National Girls’ Initiative

• Grants
  • Awarded 7-8 grants to promote promising collaborative initiatives
  • Requirements
    • *address the needs of girls at risk* for entering the JJ system
    • *reduce the arrest and detention* of girls
    • implement *gender-specific, culturally-responsive, trauma-informed, strengths-based* programming

  • Includes important research, statement of the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system, and call to action for juvenile justice system providers

• Release of Cross-tabulated Data
Health and the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline
What does the research say?

• More significant health challenges overall.

• Mental health:
  - Higher rates of PTSD
  - Co-morbid substance abuse and mental health
  - Higher rates of suicidal ideation
  - Sexual abuse uniquely linked to substance use and mental health
Gender & Early Mortality

Source: “Early Violent Death Among Delinquent Youth: A Prospective Longitudinal Study”
Reproductive Health & Trauma

• Trauma increases risk of pregnancy.
• Trauma may impact desire for pregnancy.
• Sexual abuse.
• Reproductive coercion.
• Cultural Factors: “I want to have a baby by you.”
• Economic Factors: When opportunity is limited the trade-offs are fewer.
Improving Girls’ Health: An Innovative Strategy in LA County
The Girls Health Screen©

- Created by Leslie Acoca, National Girls Health and Justice Institute
- The Girls Health Screen© is a 117 item self-report screen that girls answer on a kid-friendly, touch screen iPad.
- Self-administered.
- Triage Model: Takes 10-13 minutes to complete.

Source: National Girls Health and Justice Institute
NGHJI’s Pilot Findings

Source: Acoca et. al, “Health Coverage and Care for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: The Role of Medicaid and CHIP”
Audience Poll

Do you use different instruments to screen for sexual violence and trafficking in your practice or institution?

If you do use different screening practices, please let us know in the chat box. We would love to hear from you!
Thank you!

CONTACT
Lindsay Rosenthal
lrosenthal@vera.org

Maheen Kaleem
maheen@rights4girls.org
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Please take a moment to take a short survey regarding today’s webinar and future webinars.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQ6LQN3

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