



Justice for Girls Blueprint: Report Card

COLOR CODING KEY:

- ✓ Substantive progress — Insufficient progress ✗ Ignored/no progress

DATA TRENDS Specific to Girls

- ✓ **66%** reduction in arrest between 2008-09 and 2018-19
- ✓ **67%** reduction in incarceration between 2008-09 and 2018-19
- **Reduced lockup for technical violations of probation (TVOP)** 36% in 2011, compared to 16% of girls in 2020. Boys consistently around 9%.
- **Consistent overrepresentation of Girls of Color in the past decade:** Black girls comprise 21% of girls ages 10–17, but represent 45% of girls' arrests, 52% on probation, 47% incarcerated, and 52% transferred to the adult system.
- **68%** reduction in arrests in schools 2016-2021
- **Increased use of civil citation** from 26% in 2011-12 to 59% in 2020-21.

TRAINING NEEDS

- ✓ **Convened a statewide training conference** specific to justice-involved girls including the latest research, skill building, resources, and materials in 2017.
- **DJJ establish and provide an on-going training program for key stakeholders** addressing the needs of girls, gender specific sanctions and services.

POLICIES Impacting Girls

- ✓ **Anti-shackling laws** for incarcerated pregnant girls during labor.
- ✓ **Safe Harbor Law** recognizing trafficked children as victims and not criminals.
- ✓ **Safe Harbor laws** to ensure CSEC victims were not detained in secure confinement.
- ✓ **Expunction of Juvenile Records** to clear arrest charges and convictions at age 21 to promote access to education and job opportunities.
- ✓ **Confidentiality of Juvenile Records** to keep records from being publicly available.
- **Use of Civil Citations** as an alternative to arrest.
- **Implementation of school code of conduct policies** for issuing civil citations or referrals to pre-arrest diversion programs.
- ✗ **Amend policies regarding the use of detention** for girls who do not pose a public safety threat.
- ✗ **Amend domestic violence policies** regarding charges related to family disturbances or family violence.
- ✗ **Amend policies regarding impact of violations of probation** or conditional release whereby girls receive additional charges without having committed another crime.
- ✗ **Amend policies to address girls who pick up new charges** while are in residential commitment despite founded allegation of staff abuse and misconduct.



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PRACTICES / PROCESSES

Harming Girls

- **DJJ validate Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI)** to determine accuracy in assessing public safety and flight risk. Modifications made in 2019 should result in fewer youth detained and more community-based detention options.
- **A gender responsive training protocol** was integrated into the DJJ training curriculum in 2015.
- **Gender specific requirements integrated into contracts**, program monitoring and quality assurance standards to ensure programs are designed to meet the needs of girls. However, review and modification process based on best practices is unclear.
- × **Provide access to legal counsel** at the first point of entry into the juvenile justice system and during transfer hearings.
- × **Develop a position in each circuit** that targets girls who cycle in and out of the system.
- × **Convene a legislative work group**, and a statewide summit to review the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system, increase coordination, problem-solving and to promote a unified, consistent response to girls. Include DJJ, DCF, DOE, courts and legal systems, physical and mental health services, and private providers.

PROGRAMMING SERVICES

For Girls

- ✓ **New programming initiatives funded** (e.g. PACE Center for Girls, Girl Matters® Continuity of Care, Statewide Open Doors Outreach Network for Victims of trafficking, Girls Court, etc.)
- × **Adequately fund community-based alternatives** to detention and commitment programs.
- × **Implement small (no more than 20 beds) gender-responsive, culturally competent residential facilities** for girls who require residential placement.
- × **Require community-based, gender-specific aftercare services** for girls transitioning from DJJ programs (including mental health, substance abuse, family counseling, crisis intervention, education, vocational training, and independent/transitional living alternatives).
- × **Place girls under the supervision of a female probation/conditional release case manager** and, where justified, an all female caseload for officers
- × **Provide specialized, small family style community-based programs** for girls who are pregnant and/or parenting to maintain healthy contact between mother and child.