

Gender-specific Programming for Girls

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GENDER-SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING

Gender-specific programming refers to unique program models and services that *comprehensively* address the special needs of a targeted gender group. An essential ingredient is the fostering of positive gender identity development, particularly during the formative years of the gender group.

PROFILE of FEMALE JUVENILE OFFENDERS:

- ▶ **14 -16 years of age (older adolescent)**
- ▶ **Marginal student or academic failure**
- ▶ **Victim of physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse**
- ▶ **Status offender**
- ▶ **Living in poverty stricken environment**
- ▶ **Instability in living arrangements**
- ▶ **History of family incarceration**
- ▶ **Substance use and abuse**
- ▶ **High incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and chronic health conditions**
- ▶ **Likelihood of demonstrating heightened levels of relational aggression as compared to overt aggression**
- ▶ **Girls of color**

Addressing Girls' Victimization

- Girls need to develop an understanding of their victimization and how they may continue to view themselves as victims.
- Girls need to begin to understand that they can accept the power to not participate in abusive situations in the present and future.
- Girls need opportunities to address their feelings of anger and frustration that might have contributed to their involvement in criminal activity.
- Girls need opportunities to systematically explore their reluctance to trust others.
- Girls need opportunities to learn how to develop and maintain appropriate, healthy boundaries in relationships.