

## **FACT SHEET: ILLINOIS GIRLS AND VIOLENCE**

Violence against young women and girls, including assault, rape, sexual exploitation and homicide, is prevalent in the United States. At the same time that girls and young women are victimized by violence, a growing number are being arrested on charges of violent crime.

A number of researchers have found that there is a link between the victimization of girls and their perpetration of violent crimes. Current data suggests that girls and young women may be responding to a culture of sexual abuse and physical violence by fighting back.

### **Victimization**

80% of cases of both alleged and indicated child sexual abuse investigated through the Department of Children and Family Services in FY2007 were perpetrated against girls (DCFS 2007).

In Chicago, more than one in ten girls (10.6%) reported that a boyfriend or girlfriend had hit, slapped or physically hurt them on purpose in the previous year, with Black girls reporting the highest rates of dating violence (YRBS 2007).

According to the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 9.4% of female high school students in Illinois report ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse. 11.3% of Chicago high school girls reported being forced by partners, family members, acquaintances or others to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to. This number is the same as the percentage for girls in the U.S. as a whole. The prevalence of having experienced forced intercourse varies across race and age. Latina high school girls in Chicago are more likely than Black or White girls to experience forced sexual intercourse (13.3 percent).

**Percentage of female high school students who had ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse<sup>1</sup> 2007**

	U.S.	Illinois	Illinois w/o Chicago	Chicago
All Races	11.3	9.4	9.0	11.3
Black	13.3	9.7	Group too small	8.4
Hispanic/Latina	11.4	11.7	Group too small	13.3
White (non-hispanic)	11.0	9.0	8.9	Group too small

Considering that sexual assault is usually underreported and that this measure includes only forced intercourse, we believe that the actual occurrence of sexual violence is likely to be even higher.

<sup>1</sup> 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), Centers for Disease Control.  
<http://www.chdl.org/YRBS%202007%20Summary%20Tables.pdf>

11.7% of female high school students have been harassed one or more times during the past year because someone thought they were gay, lesbian, or bisexual (YRBS 2007).

10.7% of Chicago high school girls report that they have skipped school because of safety concerns (YRBS 2007).

### **Violence by Pimps**

Girls also face violence when recruited into the sex trade, and further violence once they became involved. For example, 24% of Chicago young women (16 – 25 years old) who had been recruited into the sex trade reported being slapped during the process of recruitment; 71% had been slapped by pimps by the time they were interviewed for the research study. Twenty percent stated that they were sexually assaulted during recruitment; 47% reported sexual assault by the time of their interview. 10% said they were kicked during recruitment; 43% stated they had been kicked by the time of the interview. The more customers they had, the more violence they faced over time. The average age at which girls were recruited to work in the sex trade was 16 years old; about a third of the girls responding had been recruited between the ages of 12 and 15.

### **Comparison of violence by pimps during recruitment and at time of interview**

<sup>1</sup> Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Prostitution study finds Chicago girls trafficked through coercion, violence. Jessica Ashley, ICJIA senior research analyst. Research Journal. Sept. 2008 Vol 7, No. 1 <http://www.icjia.org/public/pdf/Bulletins/Chicago%20sex%20exploitation%20Sept%202008.pdf> Date Accessed: October 2009

<b>Violent Acts</b>	<b>During Recruitment</b>	<b>At Time of Interview</b>
Slapping	24%	71%
Punching	14%	48%
Pulling hair	11%	31%
Pinching	4%	17%
Spanking	10%	26%
Kicking	10%	43%
Kidnapping	5%	18%
Ripping clothes	8%	24%
Throwing objects	11%	28%
Threatening sexual assault	9%	23%
Sexual assault	20%	47%
Other	2%	9%

## Sexual Victimization of Adjudicated Girls in Illinois Juvenile Facilities<sup>2</sup>

According to a new study released by the Justice Department on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2010, **11.4 percent** of adjudicated female youth at Warrenville reported experiencing one or more incidents of sexual victimization<sup>3</sup> by another youth or facility staff in the past 12 months or since admission, if less than 12 months.

6.8% of adjudicated female youth at Warrenville reported one or more incidents of sexual victimization by facility staff; while 11.4 percent reported one or more incidents with another youth.

**Table 1.** Percent of Illinois adjudicated female youth reporting sexual victimization, by facility, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008-09

Facility name	Number of respondents <sup>4</sup>	Response rate	Percent of youth reporting sexual victimization		
			Percent	95% confidence interval	
				Lower bound	Upper bound
Illinois Youth Ctr. Warrenville <sup>5</sup>	28	51.6	11.4	4.8	24.7

**Table 2.** Percent of Illinois youth reporting sexual victimization by another youth, by type of incident and facility, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008-2009

Facility name	Percent of Illinois youth reporting victimization by another youth					
	All youth-on-youth			Nonconsensual sexual acts		
	Weighted percent	95% confidence interval		Weighted percent	95% confidence interval	
		Lower bound	Upper bound		Lower bound	Upper bound
Illinois Youth Ctr. Warrenville <sup>6</sup>	11.4	4.8	24.7	6.8	2.3	18.2

<sup>2</sup> Beck, Allen J., Harrison, Paige M., and Paul Guerino. (January 2010). Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2008-09. Bureau of Justice Statistics. NCJ 228416. <http://bjs/ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2113> (retrieved on 1/7/10).

<sup>3</sup> Sexual victimization is defined as any unwanted sexual activity between youth and all sexual activity between youth and staff.

<sup>4</sup> Sexual victimization survey – portion of the National Survey of Youth in Custody (2008-2009)

<sup>5</sup> Facility houses females only

<sup>6</sup> Facility houses females only

**Table 3.** Percent of Illinois youth reporting staff sexual misconduct, by type of incident and facility, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008-2009

<i>Facility name</i>	<b>Percent of Illinois female youth reporting staff sexual misconduct</b>					
	<b>All staff sexual misconduct</b>			<b>Sexual acts excluding touching</b>		
	<b>Weighted percent</b>	<b>95% confidence interval</b>		<b>Weighted percent</b>	<b>95% confidence interval</b>	
		<b>Lower bound</b>	<b>Upper bound</b>		<b>Lower bound</b>	<b>Upper bound</b>
Illinois Youth Ctr. Warrenville <sup>7</sup>	6.8	2.3	18.3	2.2	0.6	8.4

**Table 4.** Percent of Illinois youth reporting staff sexual misconduct, by use of force and facility, National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2008-2009

<i>Facility name</i>	<b>Percent of Illinois youth reporting staff sexual misconduct excluding touching<sup>8</sup></b>					
	<b>Force reported</b>			<b>No report of force</b>		
	<b>Weighted percent</b>	<b>95% confidence interval</b>		<b>Weighted percent</b>	<b>95% confidence interval</b>	
		<b>Lower bound</b>	<b>Upper bound</b>		<b>Lower bound</b>	<b>Upper bound</b>
Illinois Youth Ctr. Warrenville <sup>9</sup>	2.2	0.6	8.4	0.0	0.0	8.0

<sup>7</sup> Facility houses females only

<sup>8</sup> Weighted percent of youth reporting one or more incidents of sexual victimization involving facility staff in the past 12 months or since admission to the facility, if less than 12 months.

<sup>9</sup> Facility houses females only

## Perpetration

In calendar year 2007, female youth under 17 years old in Illinois accounted for 22 percent of all youth arrests reported to the CCH system. Thirty-three (33) percent of all female arrests were for offenses against a person. In comparison, 26 percent of male arrests were for offenses against a person (Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data, 2007 Annual Report, ICJIA).

Girls in Illinois experienced a greater increase in rate of arrests than boys from 2002 to 2007. During this period, girls' arrests were more likely than boys' to be for status and person offenses, and noncompliance with public officials, such as contempt of court. Girls' arrests were more likely to be for misdemeanor offenses than boys' (Bostwick & Ashley 2009)<sup>10</sup>.

Females accounted for 2,445 (17 percent) of 14,154 admissions of 10 to 16 years olds to secure detention statewide in calendar year 2007. Forty-eight (48) percent of female detention admissions were for offenses against a person, compared to 30 percent of male's admissions (Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data, 2007 Annual Report, ICJIA).

In fiscal year 2007, females accounted for 11 percent of all commitments of youth ages 13 to 16 years old to IDOC or 145 of 1,362 commitments. Furthermore, females accounted for 10 percent of 13 to 16 years olds committed for new adjudications by the court (Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data, 2007 Annual Report, ICJIA).

Fifty-two (52) percent of females' commitments to IDOC youth facilities of 13 to 16 year olds were for offenses against a person and 35 percent were for property offenses. In comparison, 39 percent of males' commitments were for offenses against a person and 43 percent were for property offenses (Juvenile Justice System and Risk Factor Data, 2007 Annual Report, ICJIA).

A one-day snapshot on July 6 2009 found that there were 98 girls and young women committed in Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice facilities. This is 8% of the total number of youth confined in DJJ facilities.

Facility	Property Offenses	Drug Related Offenses	Crimes against People	Weapon Charges
Pere Marquette	14	0	7	0
Warrenville	32	4	41	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46 46%</b>	<b>4 4%</b>	<b>48 48%</b>	<b>0</b>

*\*\* Note: Youth have multiple committing offenses. In gathering this data, the most serious committing offense, or in case of a tie, a crime against a person was used.*

<sup>10</sup> Bostwick, Lindsay & Ashley, Jessica. 2009. *Examining at-risk and delinquent girls in Illinois*. Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Girls from minority populations are over-represented in the Illinois juvenile justice system.

During 2005, the state of Illinois paid an average of \$70,827 per year to incarcerate each juvenile (IDOC 2005).

The Health Medicine Policy Research Group reported in April 2008 that: "Census figures provided by the CCJTDC [Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center] illustrate that on any given day, approximately 55 girls (or 11 percent of the total population) reside at the CCJTDC. They are housed in 3 distinct units, each having 22 beds.... [Data demonstrate] that girls are being detained at CCJTDC (or local county-run) detention facilities in increasing numbers from 2005 to 2006 with an estimated increase again in 2007."<sup>11</sup>

About 75% of young women in the Cook County Temporary Juvenile Detention Center had a psychiatric disorder (Abram, et al., 2004).

*(Developed by Mariame Kaba for Project NIA and the Chicago Taskforce on Violence against Girls and Young Women – January 2010)*

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<sup>11</sup> Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. (2003-2007). [Juvenile Monitoring Information System (JMIS)]. (2003-2006). Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. Unpublished raw data as cited in Cummings and McAlpine, 2008.