

THE ABUSE TO PRISON PIPELINE

Understanding Girls' Pathways to the Juvenile Justice System

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM



73% of justice involved girls have histories of physical and sexual abuse.



African American girls are nearly three times as likely as their white peers to be referred to juvenile court for a delinquency offense.



80% of justice involved girls meet the criteria for at least one mental health disorder.



Running away, truancy, and substance use are among the most common behavioral reactions to abuse for girls. They are also disproportionately criminalized as status offenses.



In 2014, Kentucky youth were detained more than 1,000 times for status offenses.

Criminalizing girls' responses to abuse creates a cycle where mental and physical health issues are ignored, negative coping mechanisms are increasingly utilized, and the abuse girls experience at home is largely disregarded. Learning about and advocating for the passage of House Bill 1809, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017, is a critical first step towards disrupting the pipeline to prison.

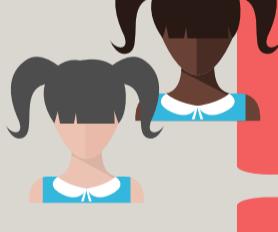
THE JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 2017



Supports evidence-based and trauma-informed practices that address the impact that adverse childhood experiences have on youth behavior and development.



Requires states to deinstitutionalize status offenses by phasing out the Valid Court Order (VCO) exception by the year 2020. A one-year hardship extension can be granted to states that need more time.



Requires states to collect and analyze data specific to racial disparities among justice involved youth and implement measurable goals to address them.



Encourages a comprehensive continuum of care, increased family involvement in treatment and services, and recognizes the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations.



Provides critical funding, training, technical support, and other resources for organizations that work with at risk and delinquent girls.



CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Via phone, email, or social media. It's especially important to contact legislative members of the House Education and Workforce Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?



TRACK THE STATUS OF H.R. 1809

Sign up on congress.gov to be alerted anytime the status of this bill changes.

