

**STATISTICS:**

Most girls in detention are stereotyped as hysterical, manipulative, verbally aggressive, and untrusting. Yet little attention has been given to the emotional and physical violence many girls have experienced prior to their incarceration.

- In 1997, young people committed less violent crimes than in 1973. Yet more and more kids got locked up, even though violent crime decreased (Illinois Issues, [www.uis.edu/~ilissues](http://www.uis.edu/~ilissues), May 2000).
- From 1988 to 1997, the number of African American girls in detention increased 123 percent. The number of *all* youth getting locked up increased, too.
- Studies indicate that more than half of all girls in detention have been sexually abused (Acoca and Dedel 1998; Bloom and Owens 1998).
- 8 out of 10 incarcerated girls have run away from home (Dohrn 2004).
- 40% of street prostitutes are women of color. 55% of those arrested are women of color. 85% of prostitutes sentenced to jail time are women of color (The Facts about Women, Women's Action Coalition, 1992).
- Girls are twice as likely as boys to be confined for a violation of probation (Dohrn 2004).
- Among a sample of girls in detention in the late 1990s, close to one in ten (88 percent) reported having experienced serious physical health problems (Acoca and Dedel 1998).
- Depression and delinquency were linked through research that finds that a large proportion of girls (82 percent) who suffered from depression had committed crimes against persons (Obeidallah and Earls 1999).
- Research reveals that court-involved girls suffer from tremendous emotional trauma (Cauffman et al 2004).
- Girls' aggression and its correlates have recently been linked to a variety of subsequent challenges in adolescence, including coming to the attention of juvenile authorities (Moretti et al 2004; Underwood 2003).

**DID YOU KNOW THAT:**

Girls today are being incarcerated more often for trivial offenses such as:

- Technical violation of probation/parole
- Status offenses (truancy, runaway, incorrigibility)
- Aggravated assault
- Public order (loitering, curfew)
- Larceny theft (shoplifting)
- Traffic offenses
- Drug offenses
- Murder is a small percentage of the crimes girls commit

**HEALTH ISSUES OF GIRLS INCARCERATED:**

- Most girls have a high rate of emotional and physical problems: conduct disorders, depression, anxiety disorder and learning disabilities.
- Suicide behavior is about 2.5 times greater than the general population.
- Substance abuse is high (marijuana)
- STD's, unplanned pregnancies, and dental problems
- Unapproved medical diets.