

GIRL CONNECTION

For those who serve adolescent females

October 2012

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
Department of Human Rights



The next Iowa Task Force for Young Women

meeting will be held

November 2nd

10am-Noon

Urbandale Public Library
3520 86th St.
Urbandale, IA

National Girls Institute Releases Findings of Listening Sessions on Needs

OJJDP's National Girls Institute (NGI) has released "[Voices From the Field: Findings From the NGI Listening Sessions](#)."

Stakeholders—at-risk or justice system-involved girls, parents and caregivers, and practitioners—who attended listening sessions that NGI held across the nation informed the report. The report details training, technical assistance, and informational needs that the 600-plus participants identified as well as recommendations for the field.



[Learn more](#) about OJJDP's research and programs related to girls in the juvenile justice system.

Social Media, Social Life: How Teens View Their Digital Lives

A Common Sense Media Research Study

This large-scale, nationally representative quantitative survey of more than 1,000 13- to 17-year-olds reveals that most teens think that social media has had a more positive than negative effect on their social and emotional well-being.

CDC Releases 2011 YRBSS Data

YRBSS includes a national school-based survey conducted by CDC and state, territorial, tribal, and local surveys conducted by state, territorial, and local education and health agencies and tribal government. The [YRBS 2011 Report](#) summarizes recent findings. [Youth Online](#) lets you analyze

[Improving Law Enforcement Responses to Adolescent Girls](#)

Written by Susan Yeres, Ed.D and Meg Holmberg, MSW, the purpose of this resource is to improve outcomes when interacting with adolescent girls by providing some reasons why girls often behave differently from boys, and tips on how to approach situations involving girls in a way that will lead to the best possible outcome for them and ensure public safety.

[Julia Bluhm, 14, Leads Successful Petition For Seventeen Magazine To Portray Girls Truthfully](#)

Facing pressure from teen girls demanding truthful images of young women, *Seventeen* magazine has [vowed to](#) "celebrate every kind of beauty" and feature only photographs of real girls and models who are healthy.

[Study: Girls as young as 6 want to be "sexy"](#)

A strong majority of girls between the ages of 6 and 9 years old want to be "sexy" and associate being sexy with popularity, suggests a new study by psychologists at Knox College in Illinois. In the study, 60 elementary school girls were given two dolls -- one dressed in revealing clothing and the other dressed in trendy but loose clothing -- and asked questions such as which doll they more wanted to look like, and which doll appeared more popular.

[Women, girls light spark to challenge media portrayals](#)

Women need to remain cognizant of the effects media's portrayal of females has on their psyche and that of young girls. Nonprofit organizations have joined with young girls to support the SPARK! campaign to stand against media's sexualization of women and girls, and have already scored a victory with *Seventeen* magazine.

national, state, and local Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) data from 1991 - 2011. Data from high school and middle school surveys are included. You can filter and sort on the basis of race/ethnicity, sex, grade, or site, create customized tables and graphs, and perform statistical tests by site and health topic.

SAMHSA Releases Toolkit for Suicide Prevention in High Schools

The [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#) of the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) has released "Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools." The toolkit provides strategies to help high schools, school districts, and their partners design and implement strategies to prevent suicide and promote behavioral health among their students. It also includes information on screening tools, warning signs and risk factors, statistics, and parent education materials.

The toolkit is free and available [online](#).

[Depression Rates Triple between the Ages of 12 and 15 among Adolescent Girls](#)

A new report shows that the percentage of girls who experience a major depressive episode in the past year triples between the ages of 12 and 15 (from 5.1 percent to 15.2 percent respectively). The report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) also shows that an annual average of 1.4 million adolescent girls aged 12 to 17 experienced a major depressive episode in the past year. In addition, the report reveals that adolescent girls aged 12 to 17 are three times more likely to have experienced a major depressive episode in the past year than their male counterparts (12 percent versus 4.5 percent).

National Center for Juvenile Justice Releases Juvenile Court Statistics 2009

The [National Center for Juvenile Justice](#) (NCJJ) has released "[Juvenile Court Statistics 2009](#)." The report profiles more than 1.5 million delinquency cases and more than 140,000 status offense cases that courts with juvenile jurisdiction processed in 2009. The report also tracks trends in delinquency and petitioned status offense cases over several decades. Data include volume of cases, demographics of juveniles involved, and offenses charged.

Toolkit on Children's Exposure to Violence Released

Harrods' new "Toy Kingdom" department is gender-neutral

London's Harrods department store is no longer dividing toys into separate categories for boys and girls. The retail establishment now has a gender-neutral "Toy Kingdom" department, measuring 26,000 square feet divided into "Dreamscapes."

[How Women Are Changing the Tech World](#)

An emerging class of early-stage tech start-up executives is helping dispel the notion that there isn't a leading role for them in the male-dominated valley.

[Girls in Science: Gender Gaps Still Persist in STEM Subjects](#)

Gender gaps in STEM subjects persist today despite gains made by female students in education and athletics during the 40 years since Title IX was signed into law.

The [Girl Scout Research Institute](#), formed in 2000, is a vital extension of Girl Scouts of the USA. The GSRI conducts original research, evaluation, and outcomes measurement studies; releases critical facts and findings; and provides resources essential for the advancement of the well-being and safety of girls living in today's world. The GSRI also informs program, public policy, and advocacy for Girl Scouting

[Title IX at 40](#)

Facts speak for themselves. In 1972, fewer than 300,000 girls in America played high school sports. Now, three million do.



Dawn Staley, a Title IX baby, and coaching icon Pat Summitt (left)

[Pioneer helped inspire women in sports, "A League of Their Own"](#)

Women's baseball pioneer and Women's Professional Hall of Famer Doris Sams was buried in her home town of Knoxville, Tenn., Sunday following her death at age 85. Sams was one of the stars of the wartime All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, the

OJJDP's [Safe Start Center](#) has released a [toolkit](#) to increase awareness about the prevalence of children's exposure to violence (CEV). This free online resource includes information about the subject along with links to tip sheets, guides, and other publications on CEV.

[**Girls With ADHD Have Higher Rates Of Self-Injury: Study**](#)

Boys are more likely than girls to be diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, a condition characterized by difficulty paying attention and controlling behavior. But new research suggests that the consequences for girls with the disorder can be particularly serious.

[**Research Briefs Examine Interventions for Girls/Boys**](#)

Child Trends has released two fact sheets: "[What Works for Female Children and Adolescents: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Interventions](#)" and "[What Works for Male Children and Adolescents: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Interventions](#)." Each research brief synthesizes findings from more than 100 evaluations of interventions to reduce risk factors for children and youth, presenting what works - and what doesn't - for girls and boys.

inspiration for the movie "A League of Their Own."

[**Female athletes use sports to change the game**](#)

Forty years after Title IX changed U.S. sports programs, game-changing pioneers continue to chip away at the remaining gender barriers that exist in athletics in the U.S., and around the world. Olympic gold medalist Angela Ruggiero will take over as president of the Women's Sports Foundation next year, and Awista Ayub, who founded the Afghan Youth Sports Exchange, will work to use sports as a means of conflict resolution in war-ravaged areas with Seeds of Peace.

[**Girl Trouble**](#) is an award-winning documentary produced by Critical Images Inc., featured on the PBS Nationally-Acclaimed Series: Independent Lens. It is an intimate look at the compelling personal stories of three teenagers entangled in San Francisco's juvenile justice system. The film documents the girls' remarkable successes and heartbreakng setbacks over a four-year period- their daily struggles with poverty, violence, public defenders and homelessness, and exposes a system that fails to end the cycle of incarceration.

The Girl Connection newsletter is provided as a service of the Iowa Task Force for Young Women (ITFYW). For back issues, more information about the ITFYW or any information included in this newsletter, please contact:

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