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## Girls and Substance Use: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities

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# Says SAMHSA about this section of 'Girls Matter'...



Girls' abuse of substances has been increasing, with dangerous consequences for their health and well-being. Among youth ages 12-17, girls' nonmedical use of prescription painkillers, alcohol, methamphetamine, and most other illicit drugs matches or exceeds that of boys. Adolescent girls have different intervention, treatment, and recovery support needs from those of adolescent boys or adult women. This webinar will discuss current trends in adolescent girl substance use as well as effective strategies for intervention, treatment, and support for girls. After completing this webinar, participants will have a working understanding of how the terms gender-responsive, trauma-informed, culturally relevant, recovery-oriented, family-centered, and age-appropriate apply to effective services for girls.



# Disclaimers

- This webinar is supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- The contents of this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of SAMHSA or DHHS.
- The webinar should not be considered a substitute for individualized client care and treatment decisions.



# **Deborah Werner**



Deborah Werner Project Director SAMHSA's TA and Training on Women and Families Impacted by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problems



## Introduction to Girls and Substance Use: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

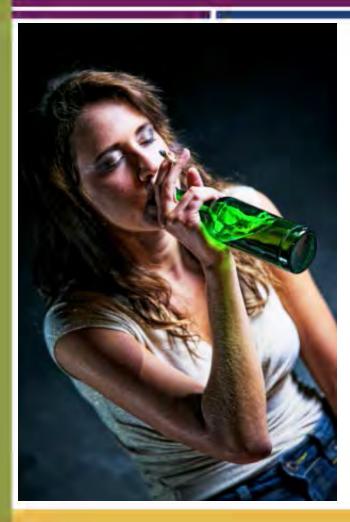


### Sharon Amatetti, M.P.H.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



## Girls and Substance Use -Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities



Girls' abuse of substances has been increasing, with dangerous consequences to their health and wellbeing.





## Girls and Substance Use: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

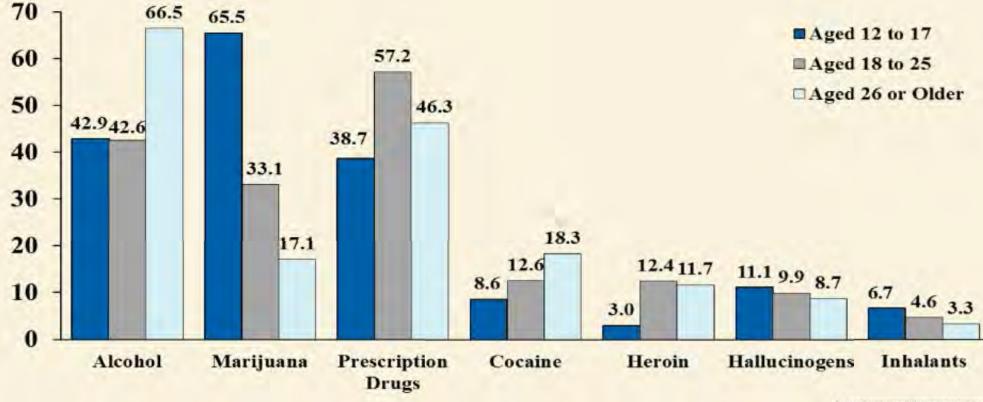
Presented Online on April 22, 2014 By Sharon Amatetti, MPH





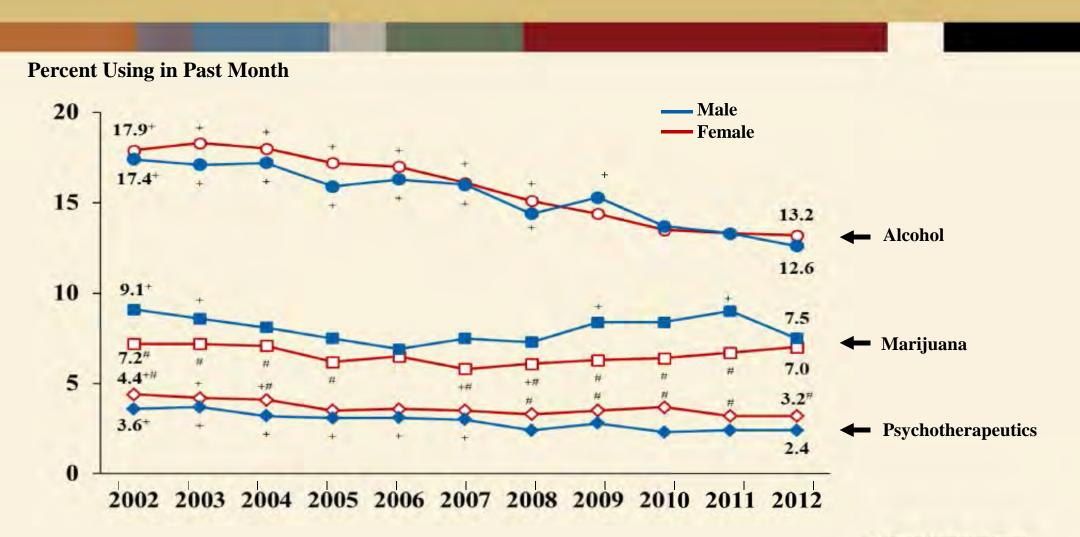
## Adolescents Differ from Adults in Substances Most Abused

#### Percent of Those Who Received Past Year Treatment





### Past Month Use of Selected Illicit Drugs and Alcohol among Youths Aged 12 to 17: 2002-2012



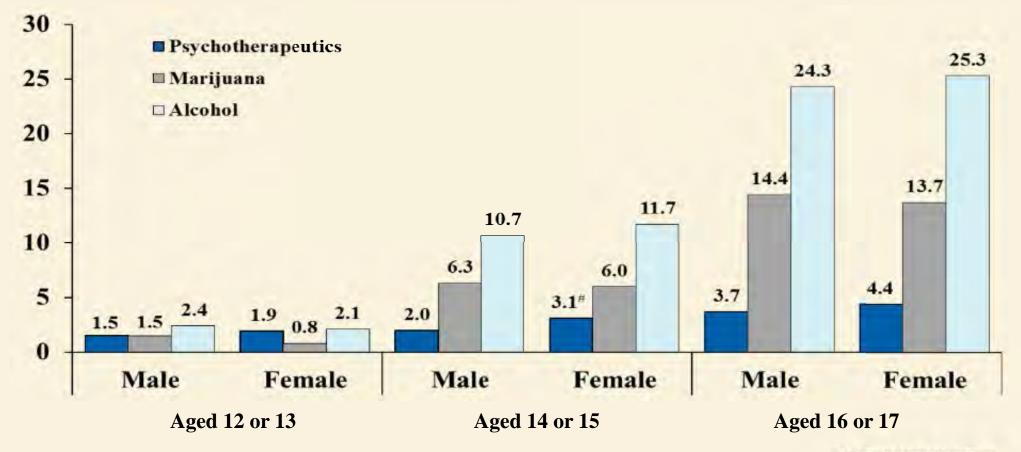
<sup>+</sup> Difference between this estimate and the 2012 estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

<sup>#</sup> Difference between this estimate and the male estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.



## Past Month Use of Selected Illicit Drugs and Alcohol among Youths Aged 12 to 17, by Gender and Age Group: 2012

#### **Percent Using in Past Month**

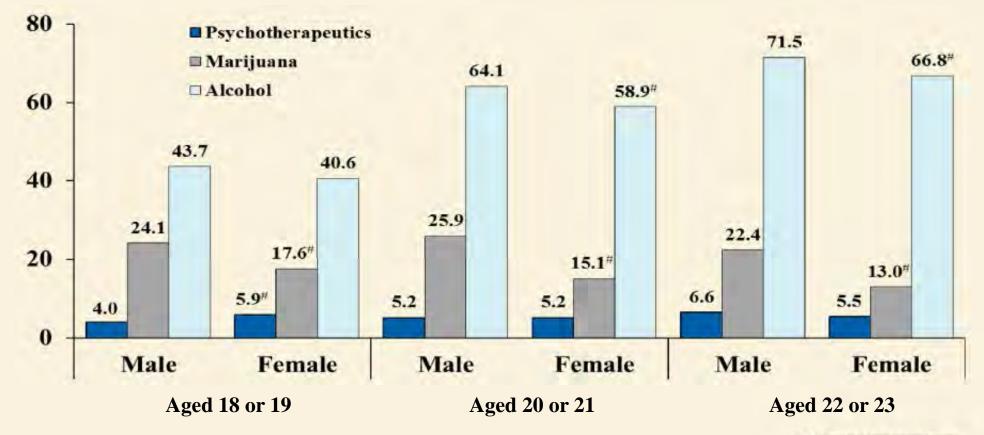




<sup>#</sup> Difference between this estimate and the male estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

## Past Month Use of Selected Illicit Drugs and Alcohol among Young Adults Aged 18 to 25, by Gender and Age Group: 2012

#### **Percent Using in Past Month**

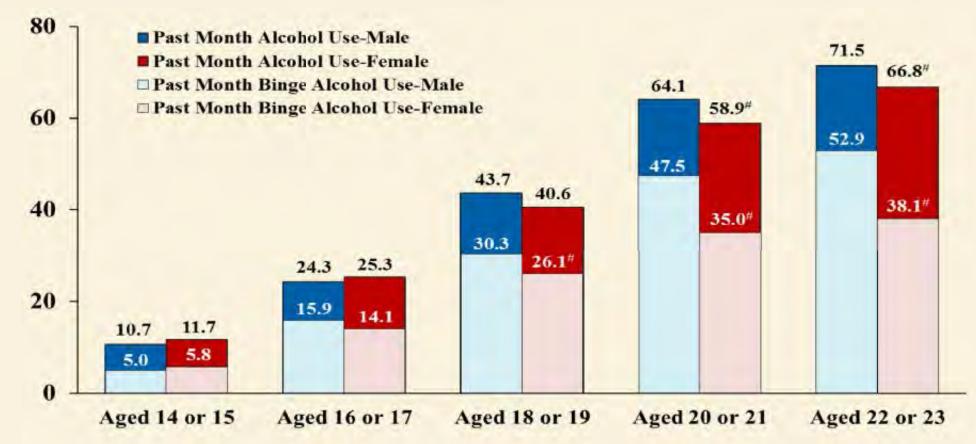




<sup>#</sup> Difference between this estimate and the male estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

### Past Month Alcohol Use and Binge Alcohol Use among Persons Aged 14 to 23, by Gender and Age Group: 2012

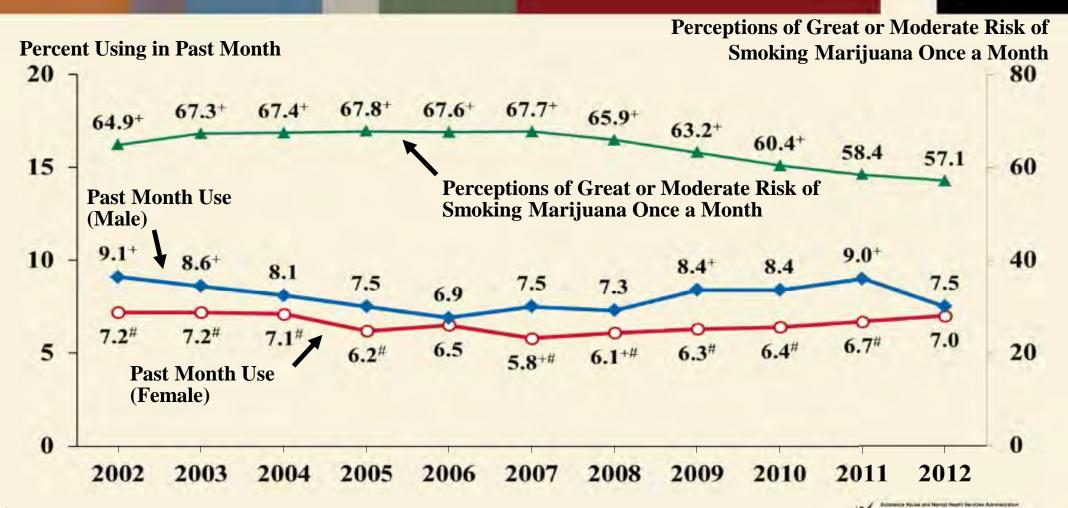
#### **Percent Using in Past Month**





# Difference between this estimate and the male estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

Past Month Marijuana Use and Perceptions of Great or Moderate Risk of Smoking Marijuana Once a Month among Youths Aged 12 to 17, by Gender: 2002-2012



<sup>+</sup> Difference between this estimate and the 2012 estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

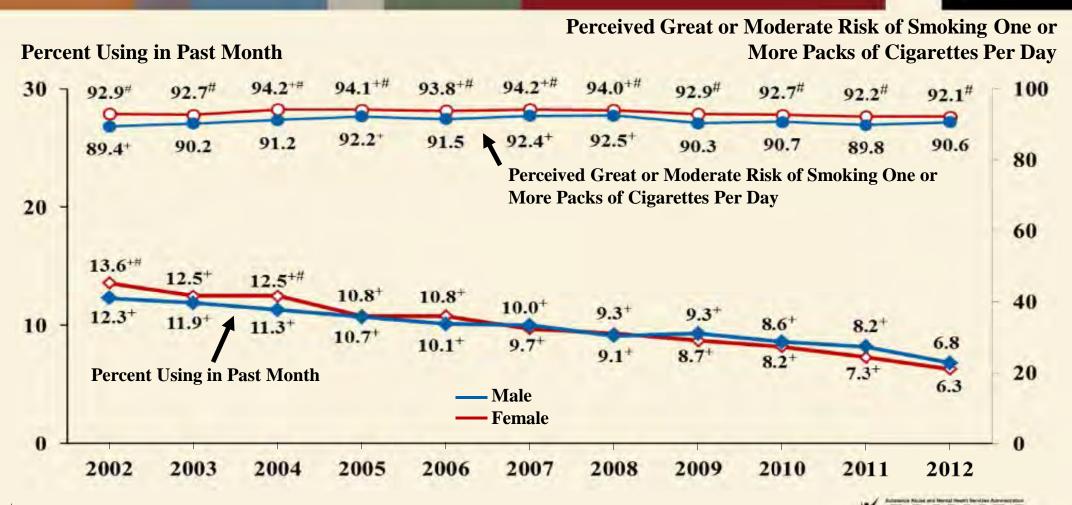
# Difference between this estimate and the male estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

# **Marijuana Vulnerability**

- "There is no controversy, marijuana produces addiction." Dr. Nora Volkow, Director, NIDA
- If marijuana use is initiated by 17 years or younger, 9-16% of users will become addicted.
- Earlier use also is associated with higher risk of addiction to other drugs.
- When perceived risk of use decreases, use increases.
- Marijuana use increases vulnerability to depression and anxiety.
- <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSDnLSU3owc&feature=youtu.be</u>.
  "Or search Youtube for "Nora Volkow CADCA marijuana."



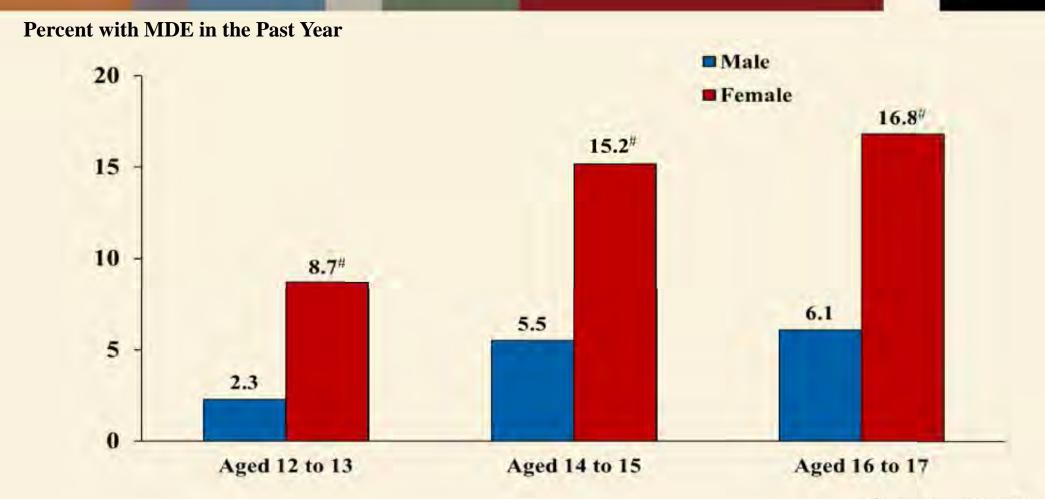
Past Month Cigarette Use and Perceptions of Great or Moderate Risk of Smoking One or More Packs of Cigarettes Per Day among Youths Aged 12 to 17, by Gender: 2002-2012



<sup>+</sup> Difference between this estimate and the 2012 estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

# Difference between this estimate and the male estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

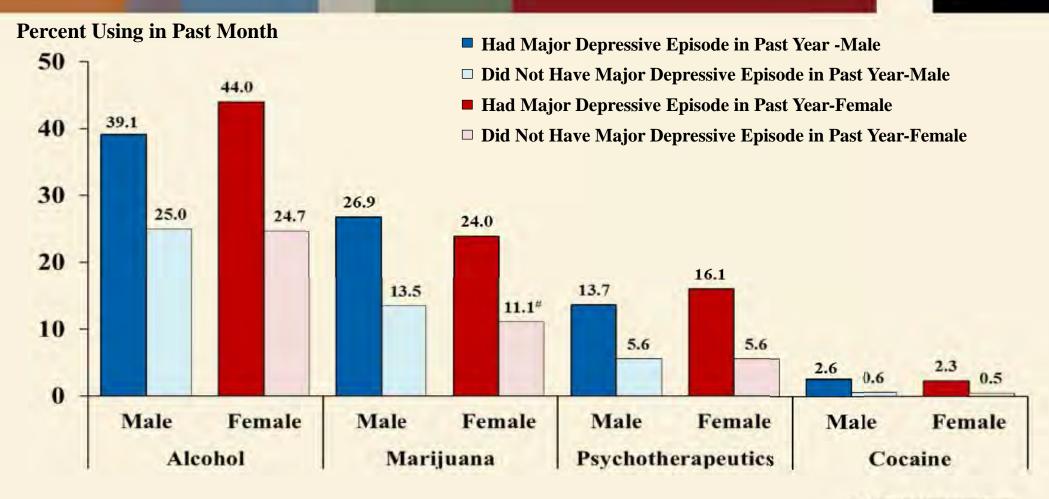
### Major Depressive Episode in the Past Year among Persons Aged 12 to 17, by Age Group and Gender: 2012





# Difference between this estimate and the male estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

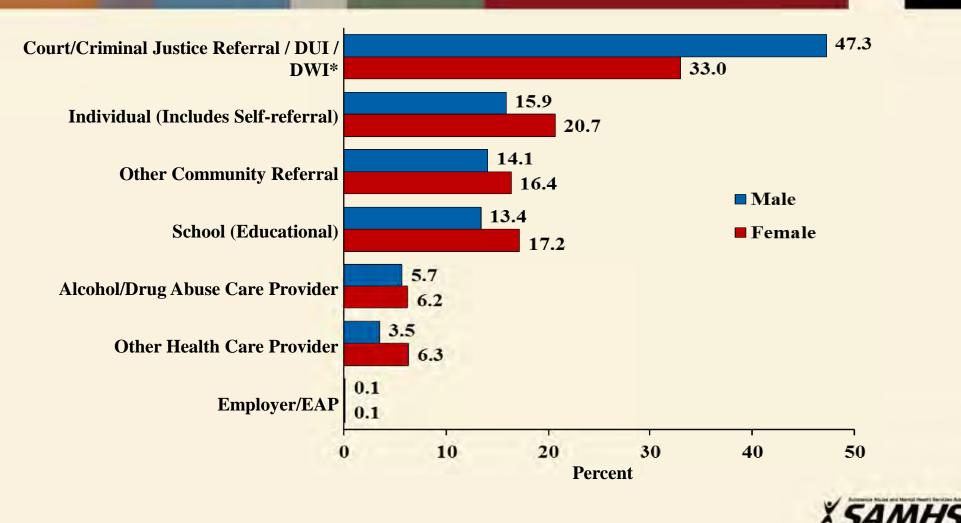
Past Year Substance Use among Youths Aged 12 to 17, by Major Depressive Episode in the Past Year and Gender: 2012





# Difference between this estimate and the male estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level.

## Adolescents Aged 12 to 17 Admitted to Publicly Funded SA Treatment Facilities by Principal Source of Referral

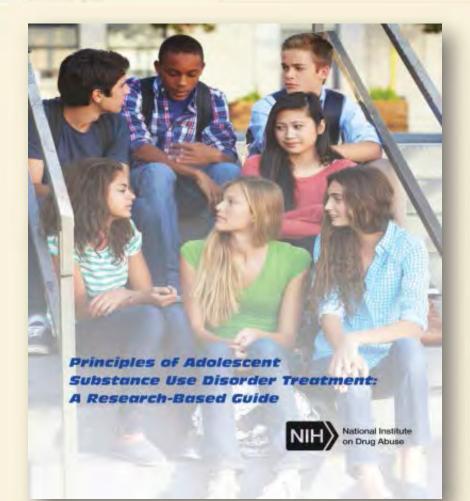


\* Cohen's  $h \ge .20$ : Court/Criminal Justice Referral/DUI/DWI: male vs. female.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Treatment Episode Data Set, 2011.

## Principles of Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment: A Research-based Guide

Note: This SAMHSA Publication Is Sponsored Online on This Website by CEU By Net, As Course 3H, Earning 3 Clock Hours of CE Credit





## 13 principles of substance use disorder treatment for adolescents

- 1. Early Identification
- 2. Intervention even if not addicted
- **3.** Medical visits are opportunities
- 4. Legal interventions and sanctions play a role
- 5. Treatment should be personspecific
- 6. Address the needs of the whole person
- 7. Behavioral interventions are effective

- 8. Families and community are important
- 9. Co-occurring conditions must be addressed
- 10. Histories of violence and trauma must be addressed
- **11.** Monitoring drug use during treatment
- **12.** Adequate length of stay in treatment
- **13.** Testing for infectious diseases



## TREATING THE WHOLE GIRL



#### **Candice Norcott, Ph.D.** Licensed Clinical Psychologist



## **TREATING THE WHOLE GIRL:**

Discussing girls' services development through the example of voices: A program of self-discovery and empowerment for girls

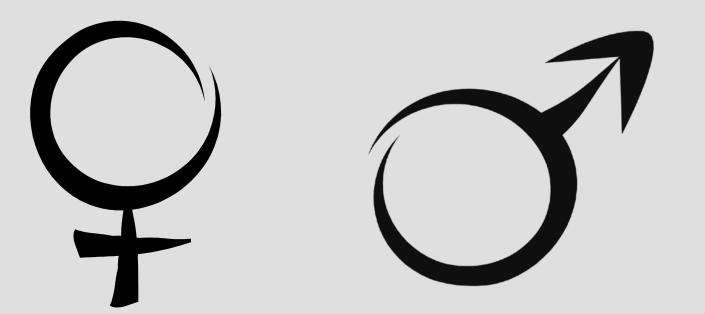
SAMHSA Webinar Series Candice Norcott, Ph.D. 4/22/14



# What I'll be Talking about...

- Gender Matters and Why
- Creating Services for Girls
  - Gender-Responsive
  - Developmentally Appropriate
  - Trauma Informed
- Example Specifically for Adolescent Girls:
  - Voices: A Program of Self-Discovery and Empowerment for Girls

## Gender Differences



## **Sex Differences**

© S. Covington, 2009

# Creating Services for Girls



© S. Covington, Ph.D., 2012

## Definition of Gender-Responsiveness

- Creating an environment through:
  - site selection
  - staff selection
  - program development
  - content and material
- that reflects an understanding of the realities of the lives of women and girls, and addresses and responds to their strengths and challenges.

# Why Develop Gender-Responsive Programs?

- Girls travel a different path to problems than most of their male counterparts.
- After years of struggling to squeeze girls into programs designed for boys, some agencies that work with girls are seeking approaches that are gender-specific.

## Gender-Responsive: Guiding Principles

- Gender
- Environment
- Relationships
- Services
- Economic and Social Status
- Community



## Creating Services for Girls

Gender-Responsive

Developmentally Appropriate

□ Trauma Informed



## **Creating Programs for Girls**

### **Taking Adolescent Development into Account**

- Celebrates strengths
- Safety is key
- Female mentors and role models
- Develop and support leadership skills
- Empower girls force for social change

- Media literacy
- Physical, sexual and mental health information
- Cultural connections
- Solidarity between girls and women

## Creating Services for Girls

### Gender-Responsive

Developmentally Appropriate

□ Trauma Informed

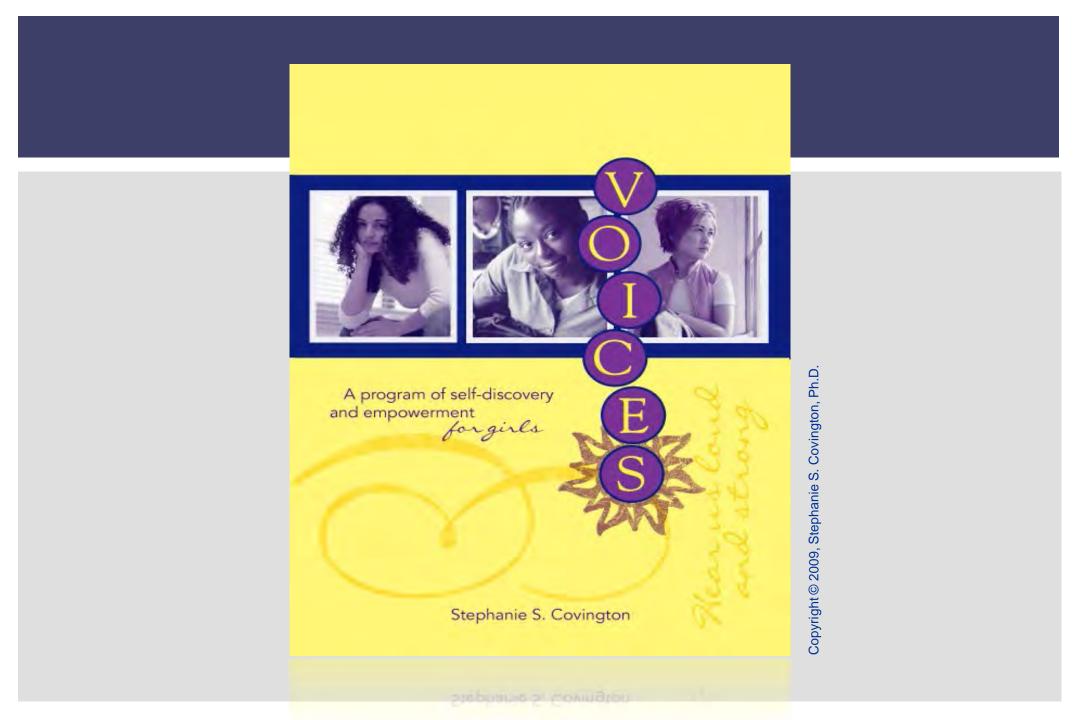


# Creating Programs for Girls Using

## **Core Principles of Trauma Informed Care**

- Safety (physical and emotional)
- Trustworthiness
- Choice
- Collaboration
- Empowerment

(Fallot & Harris, 2006)



## Voices: A Program of Self-Discovery and Empowerment for Girls

### FOUR MODULES

18 sessions / 90 minutes each

### SITES

- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Juvenile Justice
  - Probation & Custodial Settings
- Schools
- Mental Health Settings
- Churches



## Voices: A Program of Self-Discovery and Empowerment for Girls

### FOUR MODULES

- Self
- Connecting with Others
- Healthy Living
- The Journey Ahead



# Module A: Self

Session 1 Session 2 Session 3 Session 4 Session 5

Who am I? My Life Story Breaking the Silence The World Girls Live In Support and Inspiration

(27 activities)

# Module B: Connecting with Others

**Session 6** Session 7 Session 8 **Session 9** Session 10 Session 11 Session 12

Communication My Family Mothers and Daughters Friendship Dating and Sexuality Supportive Relationships Abusive Relationships

(36 activities)

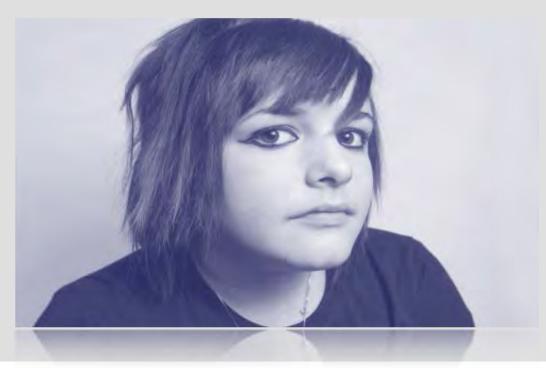
# Module C: Healthy Living

Session 13 Session 14 Session 15 Session 16 Our Bodies Emotional Wellness Alcohol and Other Drugs Spirituality

(24 activities)

## Module D: Journey Ahead

# Session 17CrossroadsSession 18Packing for My Journey



## References

- National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (2005). The Formative Years: Pathways to Substance Abuse Among Girls and Young Women Ages 8–22, New York, NY.
- Fallot, R. D., & Harris, M. (2006). Trauma-informed services: A selfassessment and planning protocol, version 1.4.Washington, DC: Community Connections.
- Covington, S.S., & Bloom, B.E. (2006). Gender-responsive treatment and services in correctional settings. In E. Leeder (Ed.), *Inside and out: Women, prison, and therapy*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth.

## For More Information...

#### For more on Voices, visit:

http://www.stephaniecovington.com/voices-a-program-of-self-discoveryand-empowerment-for-girls1.php

My Contact Information

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# Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) with Adolescent Girls



#### Cynthia Rowe, Ph.D.

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's Center for Treatment Research on Adolescent Drug Abuse (CTRADA)



#### Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) with Adolescent Girls

Cynthia Rowe, Ph.D.

Center for Treatment Research on Adolescent Drug Abuse University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

MDFT International, Inc.: www.mdft.org



SAMHSA Webinar: Adolescent Girls and Substance Abuse; April 22, 2014

## What is MDFT?

- Integrative family-based treatment
- Addresses interrelated risk factors
- Multidimensional assessment/intervention
- Flexible for use in different settings
- Well specified, adaptable protocols

 "Best Practice" for adolescent substance abuse and delinquency based on 10 RCTs



## How does MDFT Work?

- Facilitation of development
- Working the *four corners:* adolescent, parent, family, and extrafamilial interventions
- Building community connections
- Improving parents' functioning
- Changing family relationship/environment
- Targeting multiple domains of functioning



#### Why are Adolescent Girls Unique?

- High rates of comorbid mental health and substance abuse problems
- Family and parenting dysfunction
- Central importance of relationships
- Significant focus on emotions
- Importance of empowerment
- Sexual health and self-care



## Why is MDFT Effective with Girls?

- Leveraging the power of families
- Healing relationships in all life domains
- Emphasis on emotional health and balance
- Self-examination and self-empowerment
- Addressing sexual health and self-care
- Extrafamilial interventions build competencies
- Comprehensive approach



#### **Illustrative Case Example**

- Alana: 17 year-old African American abusing substances and referred by probation officer
- Family history and presenting issues
- Treatment approach and interventions with Alana and her aunt
- Crisis as an intervention opportunity
- A new life chapter



#### **Summary and Conclusions**

- Girls who abuse substances tend to have many risk factors, particularly family dysfunction
- Comprehensive interventions are needed to target these multiple risk factors and problems
- MDFT is effective with girls given its comprehensive approach and emotional and relational focus
- MDFT impacts substance abuse as well as delinquency, school, and mental health problems
- Its flexibility increases its implementation potential



#### Resources

- MDFT Website: <u>www.mdft.org</u>
- MDFT Treatment Manual: <u>http://lib.adai.washington.edu/clearinghouse/</u> <u>downloads/Multidimensional-Family-Therapy-for-Adolescent-</u> <u>Cannabis-Users-207.pdf</u>
- MDFT Factsheet and Implementation Information: <u>http://www.mdft.org/mdft/media/files/MDFT\_</u>
   <u>Fact\_Sheet\_Final.pdf</u>
   <u>http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/pdfs/MDFT\_Booklet\_</u>
   <u>Final.pdf</u>
- MDFT NREPP Summary: http://www.mdft.org/mdft/media/files/NREPPintervention-summary.pdf



# RESOURCES FOR GIRLS: RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS



#### Andrew J. Finch, Ph.D.

Practice of Human and Organizational Development at Vanderbilt University





## RESOURCES FOR GIRLS: RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOLS

ANDY FINCH, PH.D. VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work in this section was supported by Grant Numbers R21 DA-019045 and R01DA029785-01A1 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The contents of this presentation are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institute on Drug Abuse or the National Institutes of Health.

#### VOICES



"Girls our age, we tend to talk like we are more mature but in our heads we are still young, we are still scared little girls which makes adults expect more."

#### NIDA PRINCIPLES

"Recovery high schools...allow adolescents newly in recovery to be surrounded by a peer group supportive of recovery efforts and attitudes. Recovery schools can serve as an adjunct to formal substance abuse treatment, with students often referred by treatment providers and enrolled in concurrent treatment for other mental health problems."

SOURCE: http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-adolescent-substance-use-disorder-treatment-research-based-guide/evidence-basedapproaches-to-treating-adolescent-substance-use-disorders/recovery-support-services

#### RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL DEFINITIONAL COMPONENTS

- A. Primary purpose is to educate students in recovery from substance use or co-occurring disorders;
- B. Meet state requirements for awarding a secondary school diploma, i.e. school offers credits leading to a state-recognized high school diploma, and student is not just getting tutored or completing work from another school while there;

#### RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL DEFINITIONAL COMPONENTS

- C. Intent that all students enrolled be in recovery and working a program of recovery from substance use or co-occurring disorders as determined by the student and the School;
- D. Available to any student in recovery who meets state or district eligibility requirements for attendance, i.e., students do not have to go through a particular treatment program to enroll, and the school is not simply the academic component of a primary or extended-care treatment facility or therapeutic boarding school.

#### VOICES



"I went to a public school after rehab, and it was awful. They called me a junkie; they literally made fun of me for being an alcoholic. I don't think people understand, and I literally stopped going because I was so sick of being tormented."

#### HOLDING ENVIRONMENTS

#### Traditional = Negative HE

- **Challenge** Being "sober" is "strange. Familiar environments, peer groups, and teachers/administrators challenge the new learnings/desires for sobriety.
- Support Old friends and playgrounds support return to former ways of being and knowing. Authority figures trigger old behaviors.
- **Consistency** Drinking and drug using peer groups and family patterns remain intact and feel comfortable in times of struggle.

#### **Recovery = Positive HE**

- Challenge New ways of being and knowing challenge the familiar desires to fall back into "using" behaviors. Rules challenge old behaviors.
- Support Being sober is "normal". New growth in wanting to be sober and graduate is affirmed.
   Recovery schools support unknown strengths and holds a person who is struggling. New support group forms that does not use drugs. Authority figures reinforce new behaviors.
- **Consistency** Recovery schools usually set no time limits for enrollment. Supports students as long as student wants to stay until earning a diploma.

#### FACILITIES









#### FACILITIES - INTERIORS



## SCHOOL/PROGRAM

#### **Admission requirements:**

- Sobriety Duration (none to at least 30 days)
- Recovery (Contemplation through active recovery)
- Treatment history (none required, though some in prior treatment program)
- Voluntary though coerced

#### Frameworks of Recovery:

- Most include daily group plus available one on one counseling.
- All utilize some variant of Twelve Step/Minnesota Model, some also incorporate harm reduction, CBT, etc.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Most share school staff with other schools/programs
  - Embedded programs usually use parent organization's staff/classes
- Individualized, self-paced learning, often tutorial in nature
  - Classes often blend grade levels and sometimes subject material
- Some schools use externally created curriculum aligned with state standards
- Strive to:
  - transition students to regular high schools
  - graduate students, or
  - either transition or graduate, depending on student need
- Typically no set limit on length of stay

#### VOICES



"Teachers need to care about their students, not all teachers know what students are going through, there should be more counselors at school because being in your teens are such crucial years."

### THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS

- All have counselor/therapist involved, some contracted/outsourced to treatment programs
- Counseling staff credentials vary (most have licensed A&D counselors, LPCs, LMFTs, and/or social workers).
- Generally eclectic professional orientation for clinical staff:
  - reality therapy
  - brief therapy (MET)
  - cognitive-behavioral (CBT)
  - dialectical behavior therapy (DBT)
  - client/student centered

- family systems
- behavior modification (threat of incarceration)
- psychopharmacology (for mental health issues)
- AA and NA emphasis

#### VOICES



"Life experiences make you who you are. Our worries are much greater than most regular girls our age."

#### STUDENT SURVEYS (N=321): TREATMENT HISTORY

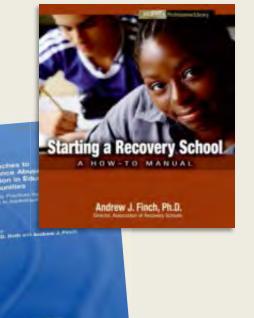
- Student tenure: mean 232 days (just over 7.5 months), range 0-1440 days (4 yrs)
- 78% report substance abuse treatment history
  - 54% Inpatient/Residential
  - 55% Outpatient
- 49% report mental health treatment history
  - 23% Inpatient/Residential
  - 25% Outpatient
- 48% report they are currently receiving counseling or treatment outside of school (18% for AOD, 16% MH, 22% both)

#### CURRENT NIH COMPARATIVE OUTCOMES STUDY: PRELIMINARY 6-MONTH OUTCOMES

- Preliminary results suggest RHS programs can be successful in supporting young people in recovery, and promoting both behavioral and academic outcomes.
- Compared to students not in RHSs, students in RHSs:
  - Reported fewer days using alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs than students not in RHSs
  - Reported higher math scores

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION





R

- www.recoveryschools.org
- Publications:
  - Starting a Recovery School
  - Approaches to Substance Abuse and Addiction in Education Communities

76

# Resources

- SAMHSA's Girls Matter! <u>http://www.tinyurl.com/girlsmatter2014</u>
- Other SAMHSA resources <a href="http://www.samhsa.gov">http://www.samhsa.gov</a>
- HHS, Office of Women's Health, girls health website <u>www.girlshealth.gov</u>
- HRSA Office of Women's Health, health & wellness
  <u>http://www.hrsa.gov/womenshealth/wellness/</u>
- Futures without Violence <a href="http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/">http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/</a>



# Resources continued

- Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs, collaborative website <u>http://findyouthinfo.gov/</u>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse, teen website <u>http://teens.drugabuse.gov/</u>
- National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women, Teen Dating Violence Special Collection <u>http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/TDV.php</u>
- Federal collaborative website on bullying <u>http://www.stopbullying.gov/</u>



We hope you enjoyed this section of sponsored Course 5N. The next section in this course is *Digital Girls* - *Study Guide 4.* 



