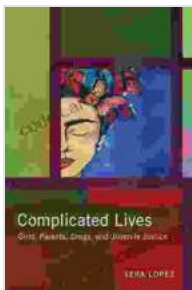


Girls, Parents, Drugs, and Juvenile Justice: A Heartbreaking Look into a Dysfunctional System

In the United States, girls are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system. They are more likely to be arrested, detained, and sentenced to residential placement than boys, even though they commit fewer crimes. Girls of color are particularly vulnerable to involvement in the juvenile justice system, and they are more likely to experience harsh treatment and abuse while in custody.



Complicated Lives: Girls, Parents, Drugs, and Juvenile Justice (Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies)

by Blythe Lucero

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2402 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 242 pages
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled

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The book *Girls, Parents, Drugs, and Juvenile Justice* explores the complexities of the juvenile justice system as it intersects with girls, their families, and substance abuse. Drawing on extensive research and firsthand accounts, the book provides a comprehensive analysis of the

challenges faced by these vulnerable youth and offers insights into how we can create a more just and equitable system.

The School-to-Prison Pipeline

One of the most significant factors contributing to the overrepresentation of girls in the juvenile justice system is the school-to-prison pipeline. This pipeline refers to the policies and practices that push students out of school and into the criminal justice system. These policies include zero-tolerance discipline policies, which mandate harsh punishments for even minor infractions, and the presence of police officers in schools, which can create a climate of fear and intimidation.

Girls are particularly vulnerable to the school-to-prison pipeline because they are more likely to be suspended or expelled from school than boys. They are also more likely to be arrested for non-violent offenses, such as truancy and curfew violations. Once in the juvenile justice system, girls are more likely to be detained, sentenced to residential placement, and experience harsh treatment.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Substance abuse and mental health issues are common among girls in the juvenile justice system. Approximately 75% of girls in juvenile detention facilities have a substance abuse problem, and more than half have a mental health disorder. These issues can contribute to girls' involvement in the juvenile justice system, and they can also make it more difficult for them to succeed once they are released.

Girls who abuse substances are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, such as unprotected sex and running away from home. They are also more

likely to experience violence and victimization. Girls with mental health issues are more likely to self-harm, attempt suicide, and experience homelessness.

The Role of Parents

Parents play a critical role in the lives of girls in the juvenile justice system. They can provide support and guidance, and they can help their daughters to navigate the challenges they face. However, parents can also be a source of stress and conflict for girls. Parents who are struggling with their own substance abuse or mental health issues may not be able to provide the support that their daughters need.

Parents of girls in the juvenile justice system often feel overwhelmed and alone. They may not know how to help their daughters, and they may be afraid of the consequences if they get involved. However, there are many resources available to help parents support their daughters. These resources include support groups, counseling, and educational programs.

Policy Reform

The juvenile justice system is in need of reform. We need to create a system that is more just and equitable for all youth, regardless of their gender, race, or socioeconomic status. This reform must include addressing the school-to-prison pipeline, providing treatment for substance abuse and mental health issues, and supporting parents.

There are a number of policy reforms that can be implemented to address the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system. These reforms include:

- Ending the use of zero-tolerance discipline policies

- Reducing the number of police officers in schools
- Increasing access to mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Providing support for parents of girls in the juvenile justice system
- Raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction

Girls, Parents, Drugs, and Juvenile Justice is a powerful and eye-opening book that explores the complexities of the juvenile justice system as it intersects with girls, their families, and substance abuse. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges faced by these vulnerable youth and offers insights into how we can create a more just and equitable system.



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