

The Young Women of San Francisco

How the Community
Empowers Its Girls

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GABHS for Gals Intern
& Coro Youth Fellow

Agenda

- ◆ Background (Internship & Project)
 - ◆ Organizations & Programs
 - ◆ Issues Facing SF Girls – Program & Client Perspectives
 - ◆ Overall Strengths (Best Practices)
 - ◆ What's Still Needed
 - ◆ What it All Means!
 - ◆ Questions & Answers
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Background of Internship & Project

- ◆ Coro Exploring Leadership Program
- ◆ Mental Health Board
 - GABHS for Gals
- ◆ Poster!

Background cont.

- ◆ What was going on before this
 - Research
 - Needs Assessments
 - ◆ Discovering needs of SF females
 - ◆ Organized by neighborhood
 - ◆ Contacted SF Programs
 - ◆ Compiled & Identified Patterns

My Assignment

- ◆ To learn about how non-profits in San Francisco's diverse neighborhoods are meeting the needs of high school girls
- ◆ What are these non-profits doing in order to empower girls to live healthy and productive lives?

Assignment #1

- ◆ What “Empowerment” is...
 - ◆ United Nations Definition (1995):
Women’s Empowerment
- ◆ Sense of self-worth
- ◆ Right to have & determine choices
- ◆ Access to opportunities & resources
- ◆ Power to control own lives
- ◆ Ability to influence the direction of social change

Source:

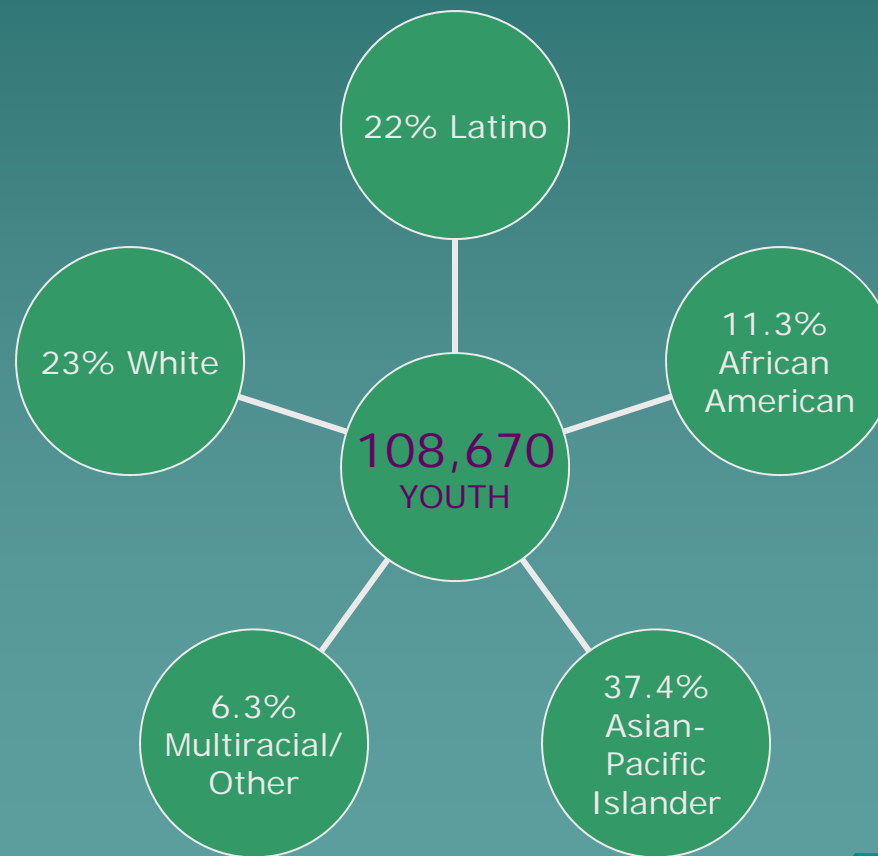
<http://www.un.org/popin/unfpa/taskforce/guide/iatfwemp.gdl.html>

Focus & Goals Cont.

- ◆ Importance
 - Demographics (next slide)
 - Personal connection
- ◆ Relation to behavioral health
- ◆ Why girls, why empowerment?

Demographics of Female Youth in SF

- ◆ 805,235 total population, 49.2% Female



Sources: 2010 Census Bureau & Annie E. Casey Foundation Data

What I Did

- ◆ Researched organizations & programs
- ◆ Contacted Executive Directors/Program Managers
- ◆ Interviewed staff on best practices, safety, needs, etc.
- ◆ Interviewed young women (clients) about their experience

SF Programs and Organizations

- ◆ San Francisco Youth Commission



- ◆ Youth Justice Institute



LYRIC*

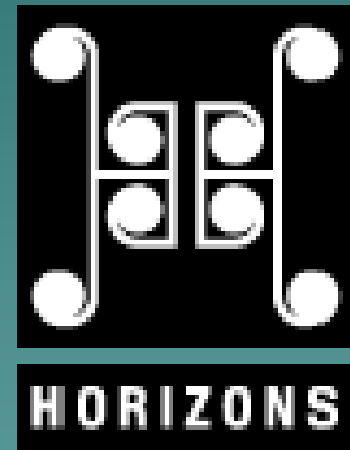


* = spoke to program clients

SF Programs & Organizations

- ◆  About-Face*

- ◆ Horizons Unlimited*
 - Females Against Violence
 - Young Women Arise Project



- ◆ Girl Ventures



* = spoke to program clients

SF Programs & Organizations

- ◆ Oasis for Girls*
 - Arts
 - Life Skills
 - Leadership & Technology



Rising Women,
Rising Voices*

* = spoke to program clients

Issues Facing the Young Women: Programs' Perspective

- ◆ Family Problems
 - Communication
 - Split-up or absent members
 - >Lack of support or a safe space
- ◆ Bullying -> Isolation
- ◆ Drug or Alcohol Use



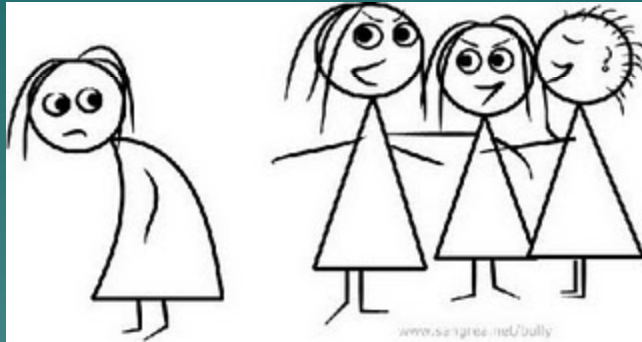
Issues, Program Perspective Cont.

- ◆ Violence
 - Dating violence/sexual assault
 - Gangs



- ◆ Unsafe Environment
- ◆ Body Image & Media Illiteracy
- ◆ Education
 - Poor quality or low level of education
 - Misinformation about drugs or sex

Issues Facing the Young Women: Girls' Perspective



- ◆ Body Image
- ◆ Being Judged or Bullied
- ◆ Peer pressure toward drugs
- ◆ Resources
 - Lack thereof
 - Not knowing about location/existence



Overall Strengths: Best Practices

Preventative Measures

- Addressing drug and mental health issues
- Providing a safe & fun space
- Encouraging relationships and connections



Major Best Practices

- ◆ Letting the Girls Take the Lead
 - Oasis for Girls
 - About-Face
 - Rising Voices
- ◆ Responsibility
 - Girl Ventures
 - SF Youth Commission
 - Youth Justice Institute
 - ◆ Seven Programs -> Group Agreements

What's Still Needed

- ◆ Girls' Recommendations
 - Continuation of programs or centralization of resources
 - More support of organization itself
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Needs of organizations
 - Funding/materials
 - Community involvement, spreading the message
 - Diverse female staff as role models (cultural competency)
 - ◆ Both girls & organizations: centralized resources

What We Can Do

◆ Government

- Support of effective, gender-responsive programs
- Gender-responsive policy recommendations for SF programs

◆ Businesses & Nonprofit Organizations

- Understand gender differences and needs
- Hiring diverse female, role-model-like staff or training existing staff
- Cultural Competency
- Offer programs or places with a focus on girls

What We Can Do Cont.

◆ Community

- Awareness of current issues facing girls
- Encouragement of young women's success
- Filtering media; critical thinking of societal expectations regarding females

- ◆ Advocate to go above and beyond “gender neutral” to “gender responsive” in non-profits, governmental policies, health services

Shout Outs!


to Organizations & People who Made this Happen

- ◆ SF Youth Commission – Mario Yedidia, *Executive Director* & Phimy
- ◆ Youth Justice Institute – Robin Morales, *Advocacy Program Manager*
- ◆ LYRIC – Erik Martinez, *Youth Advocate* & Vanessa Lee, *Case Manager & Alumna*
- ◆ Oasis for Girls – Jessica Van Tuyl, *Executive Director*

Shout Outs! Cont.

- ◆ Rising Voices – Michelle Torres Maxson, *Program Director* and Alumnae Kisha & Theresa
- ◆ About-Face – Jennifer Berger, *Executive Director*
- ◆ Girl Ventures – Sarah Heath, *Executive Director*
- ◆ Horizons Unlimited – Nora I. Rios Reddick, *Executive Director* and Deborah, *Program Coordinator & FAV alumna*

Special Thanks

- ◆ My supervisors Sarah Accomazzo & Helynna Brooke
 - ◆ Coro Trainers Ikenna Acholonu & Andrew Rothman
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- A decorative silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located at the bottom right of the slide.

Sources, Bibliography

- ◆ Each organization's website, for images & logos
- ◆ Annie E. Casey Foundation
<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Other/123/2007CaliforniaCountyDataBook/Californiadatabook2007.pdf>
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- ◆ Images:
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The End!

Thanks to everyone in the room for coming!!

Questions
&
Answers

