

What's Going On With Our Girls? Significant Changes Are Occurring With The Female Juvenile Offender Population Which Cannot Be Ignored.

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The Juvenile Justice System is experiencing a historical change which cannot be ignored, notably, a change in the actions, behaviors and roles of the female juvenile offender. For the last few decades we have seen an alarming rise in the arrest rates of female juvenile offenders. This trend is causing experts in the field to begin to pay attention. Research hypothesizes many factors that might explain this rise in the female crime rate. In an attempt to recognize some of the possible causes, information and data was collected from female delinquents, pre-delinquents and offenders in all stages of the Florida Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice Systems. Other data sources included various stakeholders within the Florida Juvenile Justice System who work with and come in contact with female offenders. The gathered data offers possible explanations why this historical trend is occurring with our girls. As law enforcement professionals we must respond and work in coordination with other juvenile justice professionals to reverse this trend and get our girls back on track.