



Seeing & Listening to Girls

A presentation by Alternatives For Girls
Outreach & Education Services' Youth Peer Education Program's
Youth Street Outreach Peer Educators
UM School of Social Work Fauri Memorial Conference, October 2013

ALTERNATIVES FOR GIRLS
www.alternativesforgirls.org

Alternatives For Girls

- * ***OURstory***

- * Started in 1987

- * A true community effort

- * Amanda (Amy) Good

- * Shelter, Girls Clubs, Outreach

AFG Today

- * Shelter/ Transition to Independent Living
 - * 27 beds for runaway/ homeless girls ages 15-21
 - * 15 beds for children of the adults
 - * Not just beds: a program
- * Community-based Prevention Services
 - * After-school programming
 - * Mentoring
 - * Family programming
 - * Youth community engagement & leadership

Outreach & Education Services

- * Safe Choices Project
 - * Works with girls & women in the sex industry
- * Resource Center
 - * Entry into AFG's programming
 - * Resource for community
 - * 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EVERY DAY

Youth Peer Education

- * Leadership, Risk-reduction, & Employment training
 - * Since c. 1996
 - * Teams around risk activity
 - * Currently slots for 40-44 youth
 - * Receive stipends for participation
 - * OUTCOMES

Youth Street Outreach

- * Coordinator: former Peer Educator (PE)
- * Detroit, Highland Park, Hamtramck, Ecorse, River Rouge, Melvindale, Redford, Dearborn, and Dearborn Heights
- * Distribute: Teen Help Cards, safer sex materials, hygiene kits
- * Goal: connect youth to AFG and other high-risk youth programs & services

The Youth

- * Who are we
- * What Street Outreach means to us
- * Typical day on outreach
- * My most memorable contact on outreach

Doing the survey

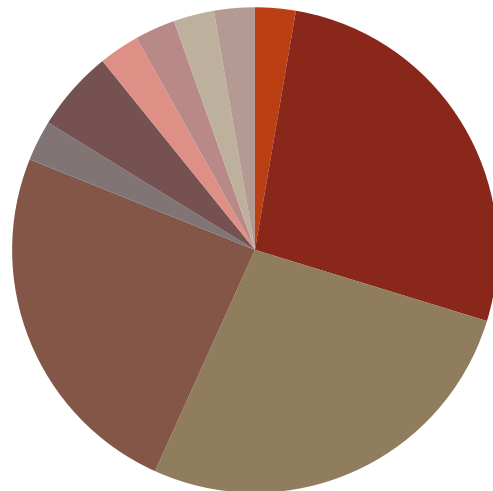
- * First youth survey in a couple of years
- * Designed with U of M guidance and youth leadership
- * Goals of survey

Stories about doing the survey

- * Surprises
- * Challenges
- * Lessons learned

Who did the survey?

Age of Girls



- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19

100% African- American

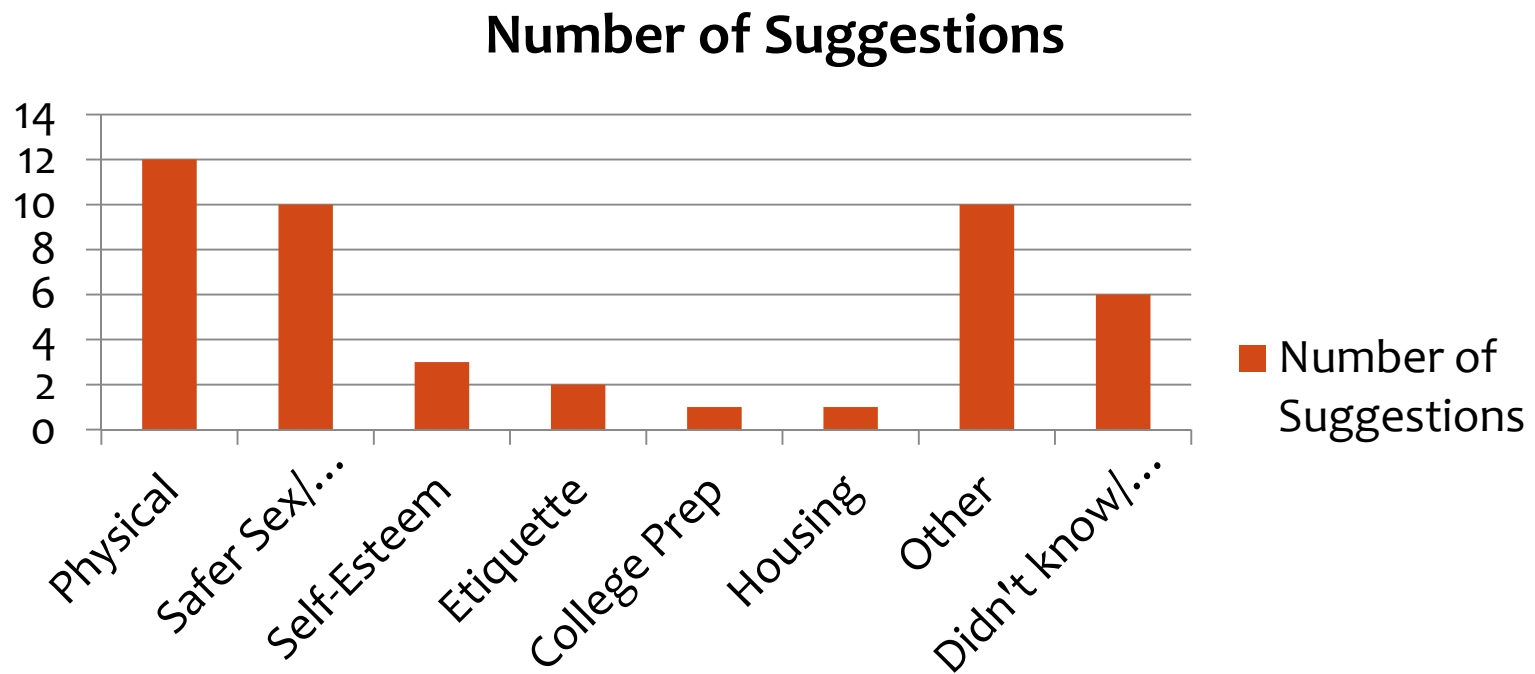
97% Detroit residents

30% of girls had moved to Detroit at some point

Streets

- * Transit Center
- * West Grand Boulevard
- * 7 Mile
- * Woodward
- * Fenkell

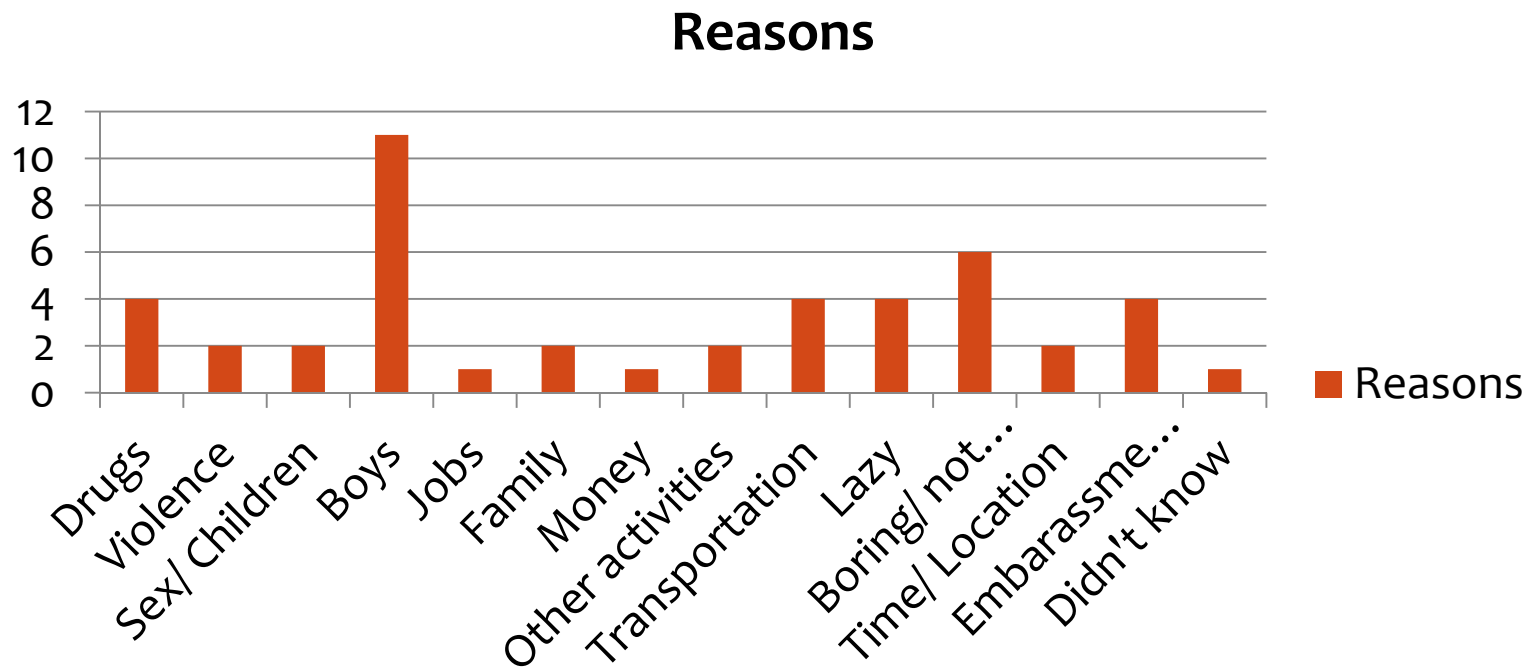
What kinds of programs do people want?



Time to hold programs

Time of Day	Number of girls who responded
Day time	4
After-school (3-6)	23
Weekends	1 (morning)
Evening (7 and after)	2
Did not answer/ did not know	7

What keeps girls from programs? “The Struggle”



Do you know anyone who has?

Risk Factor	Number of Marks	Percentage
Been in a gang	27	73%
Experienced domestic violence	24	65%
Ran Away	28	76%
Forced to leave home	19	51%
Been a victim of a crime	21	57%
Early parenthood	32	86%
Done drugs	27	73%
Been raped	22	59%
Has family problems	32	86%
Been bullied	28	76%
Did not answer	1	3%

Has anyone ever forced you?

Risk activity	Number of Girls	Percentage of those who answered
Run away	7	30%
Smoke	13	56%
Steal	10	43%
Drink alcohol	11	48%
Join a gang	3	13%
Sell drugs	2	9%
Leave/ skip school	11	48%
Fight	17	74%
Strip	0	0
Have sex	10	43%
Do drugs	7	30%
Take nude pictures	2	9%
Did not answer	14	0%

Opportunity to talk

- * We were concerned that the girls may want to talk about some of the things that they told us.

Safety

- * Number of girls who said that they felt unsafe __5__
- * “A little”- what does that mean to you?

#1 Threat to Girls

Boys	8
Peer Pressure	8
Rape	4
Violence, Men, Drug Users, HIV/ STI, Drugs, Pedophiles	2
Stalkers, Sex Abuse, Teen Pregnancy, Sex, Sex Offenders, Gangs, and Females	1
Did not answer	3

Anything else to say about the lives of girls in Detroit?

“They all need help. They need to seek it.”

“Easily influenced.”

“*They are rats.*”

“They need to stay off the streets.”

“*They need to be safe.*”

“**We should stay in school.**”

“To tell females to stop being fast, go to school, don’t do drugs.”

“*It’s crazy.*”

“It’s hard and bad for females.”

“**Ratchet [the girls are].**”

“*They need to stop having sex.*”

“They’re sex addicted.” “**Need somebody to talk to.**”

“**Struggles.**”

“*They need help.*”

Final Thoughts on the Survey

- * Gave girls on the street a voice into AFG and beyond
- * More girls have input into AFG programming

What we, the PEs, are doing?

- * How street outreach will change
 - * Realizing that the girls are affected by more than we thought
 - * Include more “dramatic” elements in workshops
 - * Ask if “safe”
- * S.T.O.P. Activities
 - * Movie
 - * Workshop 12/5 for young people 16-21
 - * Outreach to motels

How AFG will use the information

- * Boys
- * Rape is a crime
- * Positive acceptance and appreciation for “female”

Questions

- * Contact information
 - * To schedule a team of PEs to come to your metro-Detroit organization to speak about a risk topic with youth, parents, social service professionals, contact Ruth Davis
 - * 313-361-4000, ext. 288 or rdavis@alternativesforgirls.org
 - * Please note, youth are not always available but staff can fill-in