



GIRLS JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDER SURVEY ANALYSIS

LYNN WU, MARCH 2010

Executive Summary

The Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative Planning Team developed and disseminated two online surveys to stakeholders in the fields of criminal justice, education, child development, public and mental health in Stanislaus County.

Through these surveys, the Planning Team aimed to achieve the following goals:

1. Gauge recipients' understanding of the unique strengths and needs of girls at-risk of being involved in, currently involved in, and previously involved in the juvenile justice system.
2. Facilitate the mapping of existing resources and identification of service gaps.
3. Identify local stakeholders interested in participating in the strategic planning of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative.

Selected Findings

Survey recipients unequivocally (100%) recognized the need for gender-responsive services. Their reasons for this belief and the depth of their comprehension of gender-specific issues varied widely. This demonstrates that while the need for gender-responsive services is clear, more education regarding how to meet the particular needs of the target population is necessary.

The majority of survey respondents do not believe that the needs of the target population are being met. Among those who do, no school/district believes that they are the primary entity that is meeting the needs of the target population. Responses varied widely between surveys regarding why respondents believe the needs of the target population are not being met. This indicates that further research should be done regarding the varied perspectives of the respondents of each survey to understand the cause of this discrepancy.

Next Steps

The Planning Team will spend three days in Stanislaus County with stakeholders, including those identified through the survey, to follow up on the survey findings and learn more about existing resources, gaps, and ideas that stakeholders have for better meeting the needs of the target population. The Planning Team will also interview justice-involved girls and their families about their experiences and conduct an extensive intake process with the girls who are currently in detention in order to, along with existing data from the probation department, get a better sense of the needs and strengths of the target population. This information, along with that gained from the survey, will be used to develop the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative Strategic Plan, which will include a resource map of the county's available services for young women at-risk of being involved in, currently involved in, and previously involved in the juvenile justice system.

Survey Background

The Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative Planning Team developed and disseminated two online surveys to stakeholders in the fields of criminal justice, education, child development, public and mental health in Stanislaus County.

Survey One was developed for stakeholders in criminal justice, public health, behavioral health, child development, family services, and group homes that work with the target population of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative: girls at-risk of being involved in, currently involved in, or previously involved in the juvenile justice system. Survey Two contained similar questions, but was tailored to stakeholders in education who work with the target population.

Through these surveys, the Planning Team aimed to achieve the following goals:

1. Gauge recipients' understanding of the unique strengths and needs of girls at-risk of being involved in, currently involved in, and previously involved in the juvenile justice system.
2. Facilitate the mapping of existing resources and identification of service gaps.
3. Identify local stakeholders interested in participating in the strategic planning of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative.

Survey Response Rates

Both surveys had response rates too low to draw statistically reliable conclusions regarding all survey recipients, but the survey results do help the Planning Team achieve the above goals by revealing trends that can be considered and further investigated.

Survey One was sent to 58 people. This included 17 people in the field of criminal justice, including representatives from the probation department, public defender's and district attorney's offices, county sheriff, local police departments, and juvenile court judges, and 33 representatives from public health, behavioral health, child development, family services, and group homes. The remaining eight survey recipients were district representatives, and members of the board of supervisors and housing authority on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council and Children's Council¹.

19 of the 58 recipients (32.8%) began Survey One. 11 of those 19 (57.9%) completed the survey, 3 (15.8%) partially completed it, and 5 (26.3%) only filled out their contact information. 14 of 58 (24.1%) survey recipients started to complete or completed Survey One.

Survey Two, targeted at education stakeholders, was sent to 72 people. This included the superintendent of every school district in Stanislaus County and the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), SCOE representatives who run various types of programs for county schools

¹ All members of the Children's Council, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), and Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDCP) received Survey One.

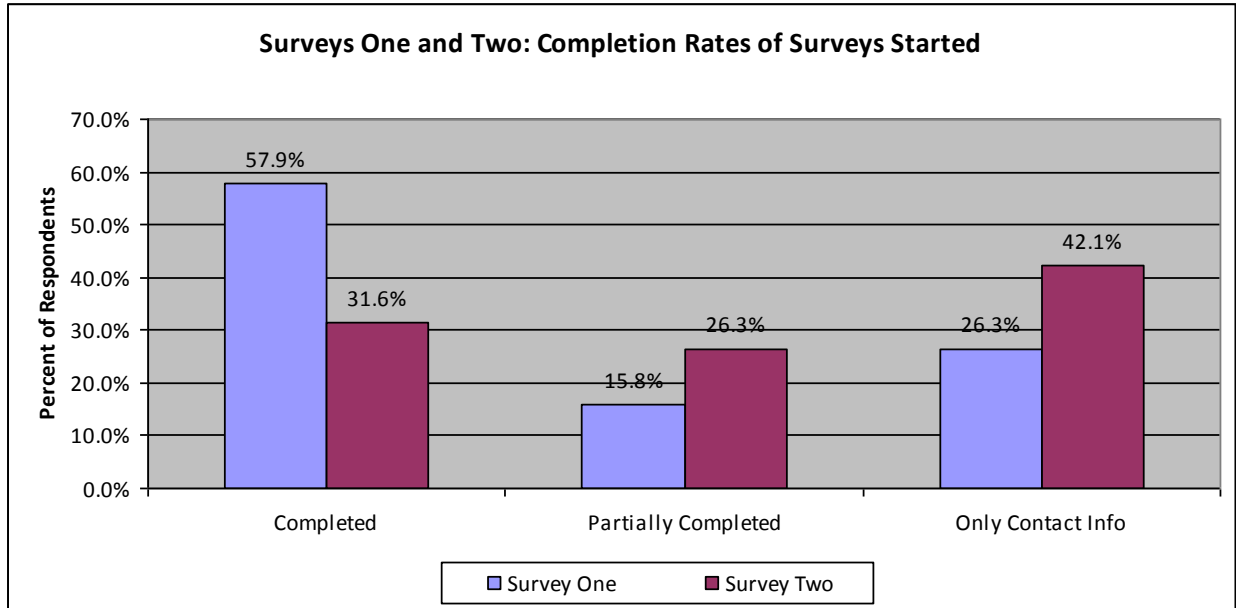
The Children's Council is a working group of professionals and community members dedicated to fostering collaboration and creating effective services for children and their families.

JJCC is composed of members of the different agencies in the County. They oversee programs funded by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act: Juvenile Drug Court/Intensive Treatment Unit, High Risk Offender Project, and Home Supervision Program.

JJDCP is composed of members of the public who inspect Juvenile Hall and visit group homes annually to provide input.

and support district schools, every school district’s SCOE representative, who are program specialists, directors of student services, psychologists, directors of special education, and administrators, and the principal of every alternative and continuation school in Stanislaus County.

19 people (26.4%) began Survey Two. 6 of those 19 (31.6%) completed the survey, 5 (26.3%) partially completed it, and 8 (42.1%) only filled out their contact information. 11 of 72 (15.3%) survey recipients started to complete or completed Survey Two.



The completion rate of Survey Two was even lower than that of Survey One. The high number of Survey Two respondents who began the survey, but failed to answer any questions (42.1%) after providing contact information suggests that they did not find the survey questions relevant to their work. This may be due to the fact that education stakeholders are unclear about what their role should be with regards to youth in the delinquency system and even more unclear with regards to the particular needs of girls in the delinquency system. It could also represent the misidentification of survey recipients who do not work with the target population or that recipients themselves do not know which of the youth they work with belong to the target population. Another contributing factor is that the Planning Team aired on the side of over-inclusion with regards to who received the survey.

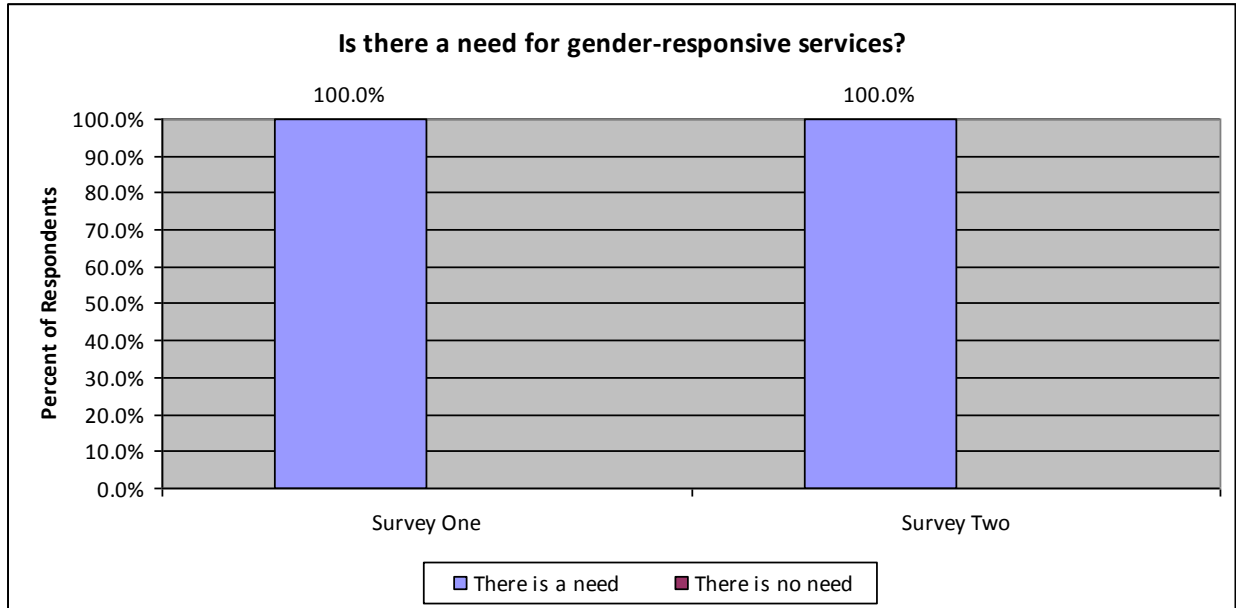
Survey Results

As stated above, the completion rate for both surveys was below the acceptable response rate necessary to establish that the sample was statistically representative, but the survey responses are still useful to identify trends to further investigate, identify existing programs and providers of gender-responsive programs, and educate stakeholders regarding the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative.

Furthermore, questions that produced rankings should not be used to draw conclusions, but to direct further inquiry.

Awareness of the necessity of gender-responsive services for the target population.

Survey recipients unequivocally recognized the need for gender-responsive services. Their reasons for this belief and the depth of their comprehension of gender-specific issues varied widely. This demonstrates that while the need for gender-responsive services is clear, more education regarding how to meet the particular needs of the target population is necessary.

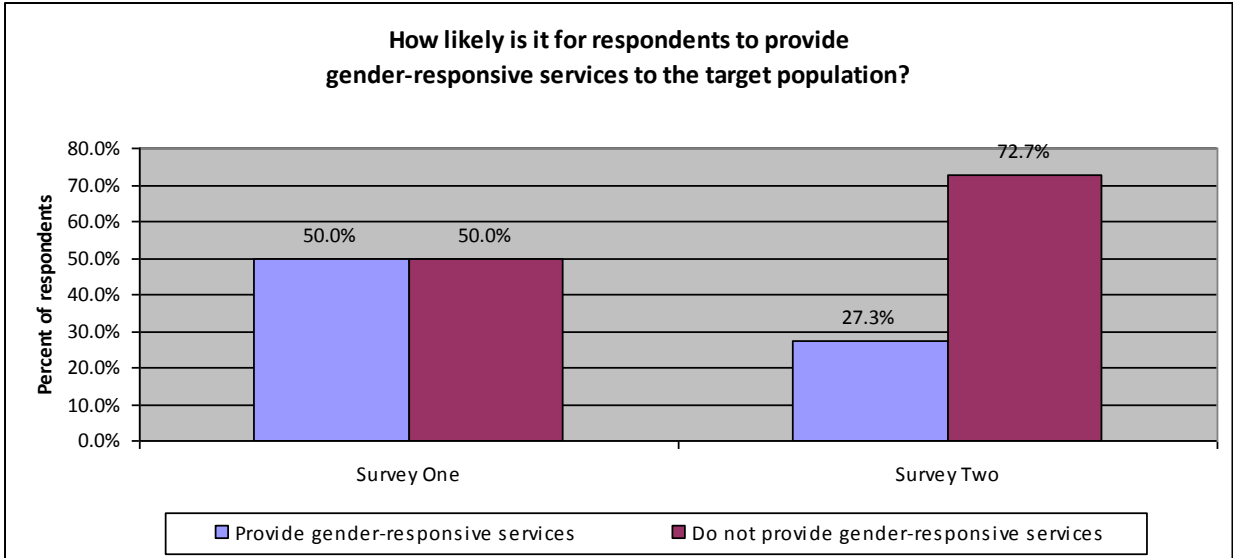


Survey One: 13 of 13 (100%) of respondents recognized that there is a need for gender-responsive services for this population.

Survey Two: 10 of 10 (100%) of respondents recognized that there is a need for gender-responsive services for this population.

Likelihood that agencies/organizations and schools/districts working with the target population provide gender-responsive services to the target population.

Half of the respondents in Survey One indicated that they provide gender-responsive services to the target population, with the majority of services being provided to girls in-custody and the fewest being provided to girls after they are released from custody. The vast majority of Survey Two respondents indicated that they do not provide any type of gender-responsive services to the target population, but those who do most frequently provide these services in-custody. This demonstrates a high likelihood that more services for girls released from custody are needed. It is also likely that partnerships between probation and educational entities would result in improved services for the target population regardless of who the provider(s) of these services would be.



Survey One:

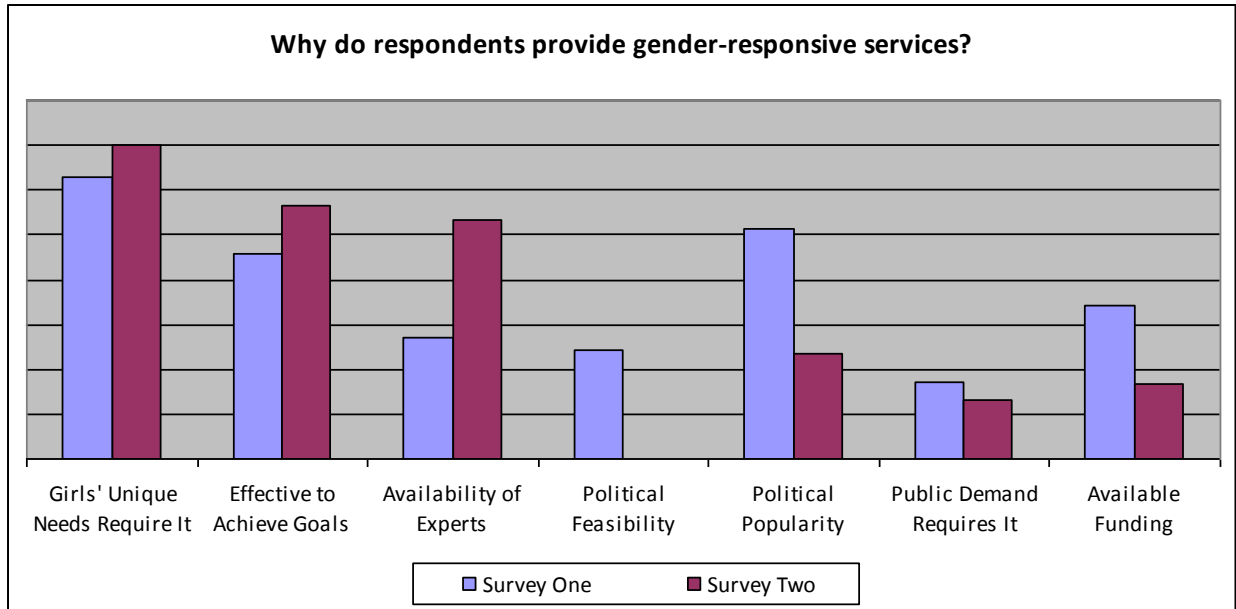
- 7 of 14 (50.0%) provide gender-responsive services to young women at-risk of being involved, currently involved, or previously involved in the juvenile justice system.
- Of the 7 who responded affirmatively to the above:
 - 5 of 7 (71.4%) provide services to at-risk young women
 - 5 of 6 (82.3%) respondents provide services to young women in-custody
 - 1 of 5 respondents (20.0%) provides services to young women after they are released from custody.

Survey Two:

- 3 of 11 (27.3%) provide gender-responsive services to young women at-risk of being involved, currently involved, or previously involved in the juvenile justice system.
- Of the three who responded affirmatively to the above:
 - 2 of 3 (66.7%) provide services to at-risk young women
 - 3 of 3 (100.0%) respondents provide services to young women in-custody
 - 1 of 2 (50.0%) respondents provide services to young women after they are released from custody.

Reasons for which agencies/organizations and schools/districts provide gender-responsive services to the target population.

Respondents to both surveys were clear that the main reason they provide gender-responsive services to the target population is that these services are necessary to meet the girls’ unique needs. Respondents also agreed that this approach is effective in achieving their goals.



Survey One:

- Of the seven respondents who indicated that their agency/organization provides gender-responsive services to the target population, the reasons for this were ranked as follows:
 1. The unique needs of young women require gender-responsive services.
 2. It is politically popular to provide gender-responsive services.
 3. Providing gender-responsive services is effective in achieving the agency's/organization's goals.
 4. Funding is available for gender-responsive services.
 5. Experts to implement gender-responsive services are available.
 6. It is politically feasible to provide gender-responsive services.
 7. Public demand requires the provision of gender-responsive services.

Survey Two:

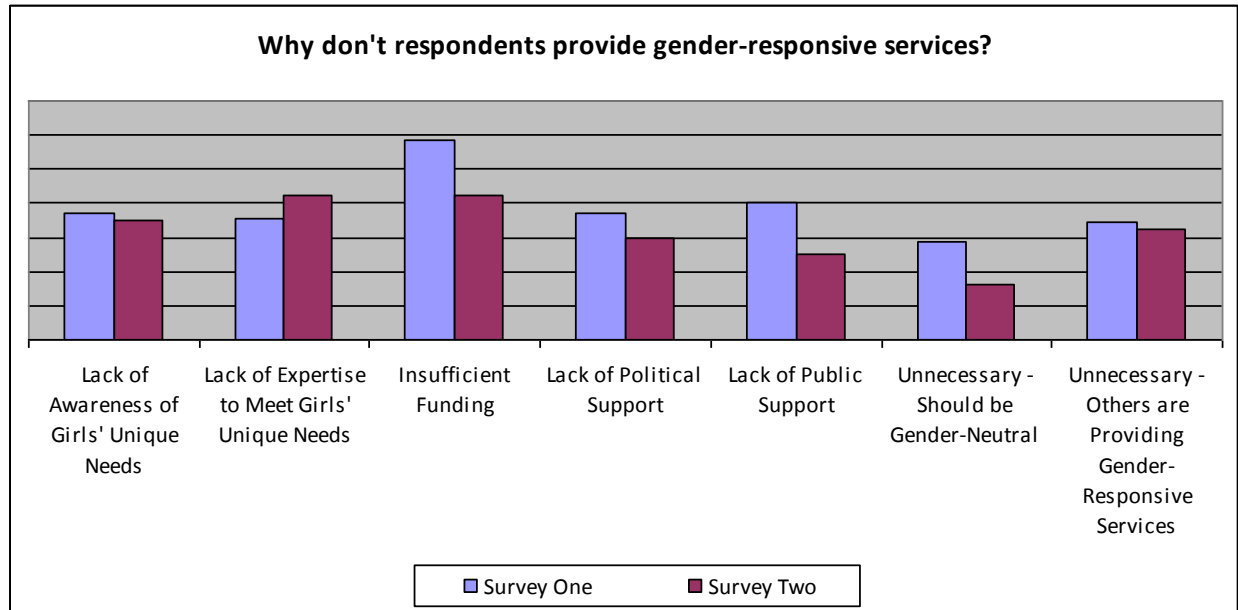
- Of the three respondents who indicated that their school/district provides gender-responsive services to the target population, the reasons for this were ranked as follows:
 1. The unique needs of young women require gender-responsive services.
 2. Providing gender-responsive services is effective in achieving the school's/district's goals.
 3. Experts to implement gender-responsive services are available.
 4. It is politically popular to provide gender-responsive services.
 5. Funding is available for gender-responsive services.
 6. Public demand requires the provision of gender-responsive services.

None of the three respondents cited that it was politically feasible as a reason for why their schools/districts provide these services.

Reasons for which agencies/organizations and schools/districts do not provide gender-responsive services to the target population.

Respondents to both surveys were clear that the main reason they do not provide gender-responsive services to the target population is that they lack the funding necessary to do so.

Respondents also agreed that the reason that they do not provide such services is not because they believe boys and girls should be treated the same.



Survey One:

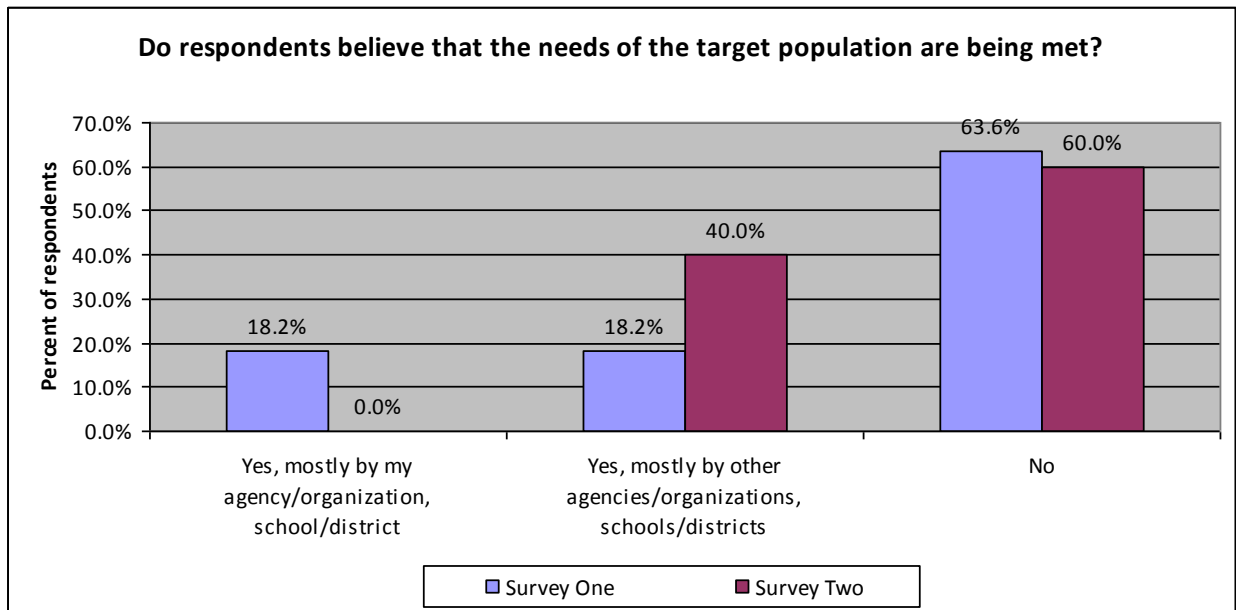
- Of the seven respondents who indicated that their agency/organization does not provide gender-responsive services to the target population, the reasons for this were ranked as follows:
 1. Sufficient funding is not available for gender-responsive services.
 2. There is a lack of public support for providing gender-responsive services to the target population.
 3. There is a lack of political support for providing gender-responsive services to the target population.
 4. There is a lack of awareness regarding the needs for gender-responsive services.
 5. There is a lack of expertise regarding the provision of gender-responsive services.
 6. Gender-responsive services are unnecessary because other agencies/organizations provide these services.
 7. Gender-responsive services are unnecessary because boys and girls should be treated the same.

Survey Two:

- Seven of the eight respondents who indicated that their school/district does not provide gender-responsive services to the target population ranked the reasons for this. The reasons were ranked as follows:
 1. Sufficient funding is not available for gender-responsive services and there is a lack of expertise regarding the provision of gender-responsive services.
 2. There is a lack of awareness regarding the needs for gender-responsive services.
 3. Gender-responsive services are unnecessary because other agencies/organizations provide these services
 4. There is a lack of political support for providing gender-responsive services to the target population.
 5. There is a lack of public support for providing gender-responsive services to the target population.
 6. Gender-responsive services are unnecessary because boys and girls should be treated the same.

Whether agencies/organizations and schools/districts believe that the needs of the target population are being met.

The majority of survey respondents do not believe that the needs of the target population are being met. Among those who do, no school/district believes that they are the primary entity that is meeting the needs of the target population.



Survey One:

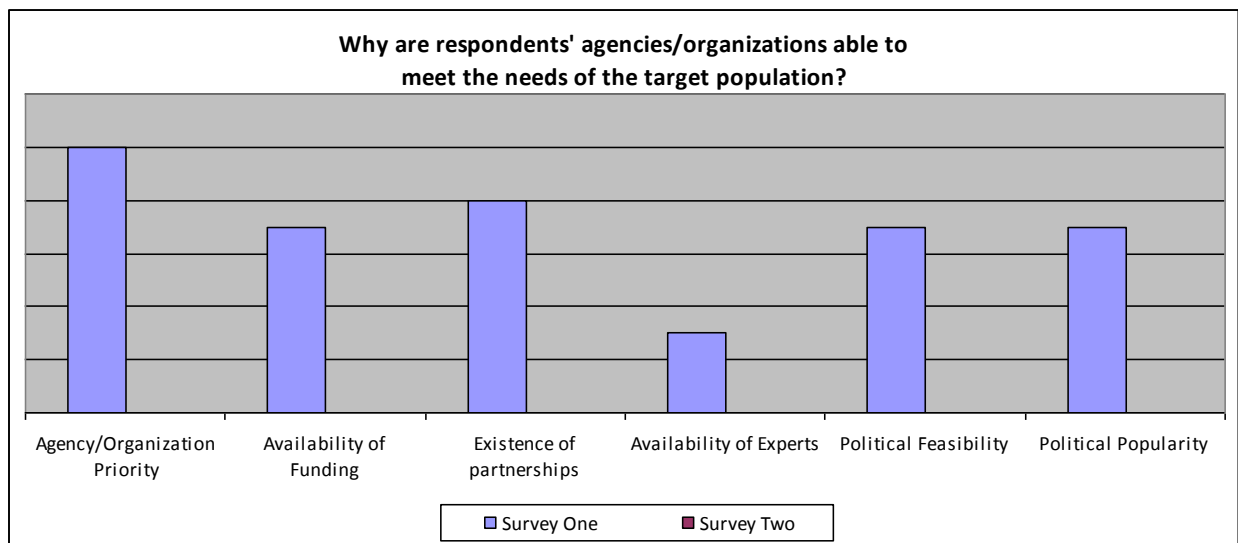
- 2 of 11 (18.2%) selected “Yes, mostly by my agency/organization”
- 2 of 11 (18.2%) selected “Yes, mostly by other agencies/organizations”
- 7 of 11 (63.6%) selected “No”

Survey Two:

- 0 of 10 (0.0%) selected “Yes, mostly by my school/district”
- 4 of 10 (40.0%) selected “Yes, mostly by other schools/districts”
- 6 of 11 (60.0%) selected “No”

Reasons for which agencies/organizations working with the target population believe that they are mostly meeting the needs of the target population.

The main reasons cited for why agencies/organizations believe they are mostly meeting the needs of the target population are that it is a priority and that partnerships allow them to do this. The availability of funding was listed as the third highest ranked reason, which suggests that an agency/organization can sometimes overcome perceived funding inadequacies if meeting the needs of the target population is a priority and by building coalitions to meet these needs.



Survey One:

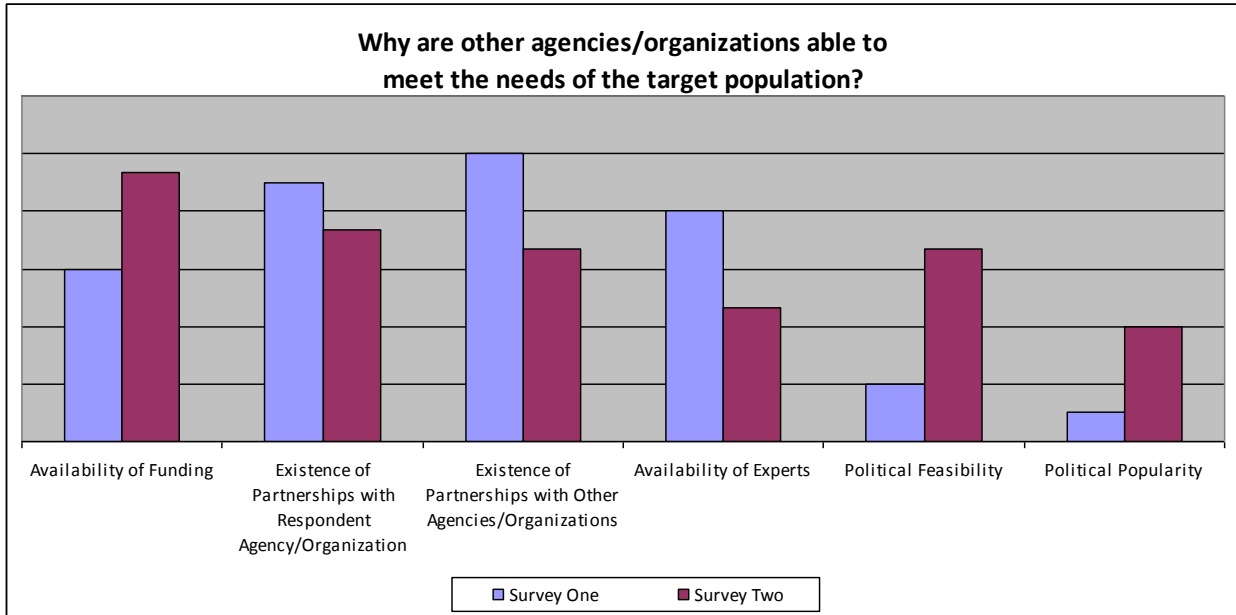
- Of the two respondents who indicated that their agency/organization mostly meets the needs of the target population, the reasons for this were ranked as follows:
 1. It is an agency/organization priority to meet the needs of the target population.
 2. The agency/organization is involved in partnerships that allow it to meet the needs of the target population.
 3. Funding is available to meet the needs of the target population.
 4. It is politically feasible to meet the needs of the target population.
 5. It is politically popular to meet the needs of the target population.
 6. Experts are available to meet the needs of the target population.

Survey Two:

- No respondents indicated that their school/district is the primary entity that meets the needs of the target population.

Reasons for which agencies/organizations and schools/districts working with the target population believe that other agencies/organizations are mostly meeting the needs of the target population.

Respondents to both surveys cited partnerships with their own agency/organization, school/district as a main reason why they believe other agencies/organizations are mostly meeting the needs of the target population. Other responses varied between surveys regarding why respondents believe the needs of the target population are mostly being met by other agencies/organizations. This indicates that further research should be done regarding the varied perspectives of the respondents of each survey to understand the cause of this discrepancy.



Survey One:

- Of the two respondents who indicated that they believed other agencies/organizations mostly meet the needs of the target population, respondents ranked reasons as follows:
 1. They are involved in partnerships with other agencies/organizations that allow them to meet the needs of the target population.
 2. They are involved in partnerships with respondent’s agency/organization that allows them to meet the needs of the target population.
 3. They have experts that can meet the needs of the target population.
 4. They have funding to meet the needs of the target population.
 5. It is politically feasible for them to meet the needs of the target population.
 6. It is politically popular for them to meet the needs of the target population.

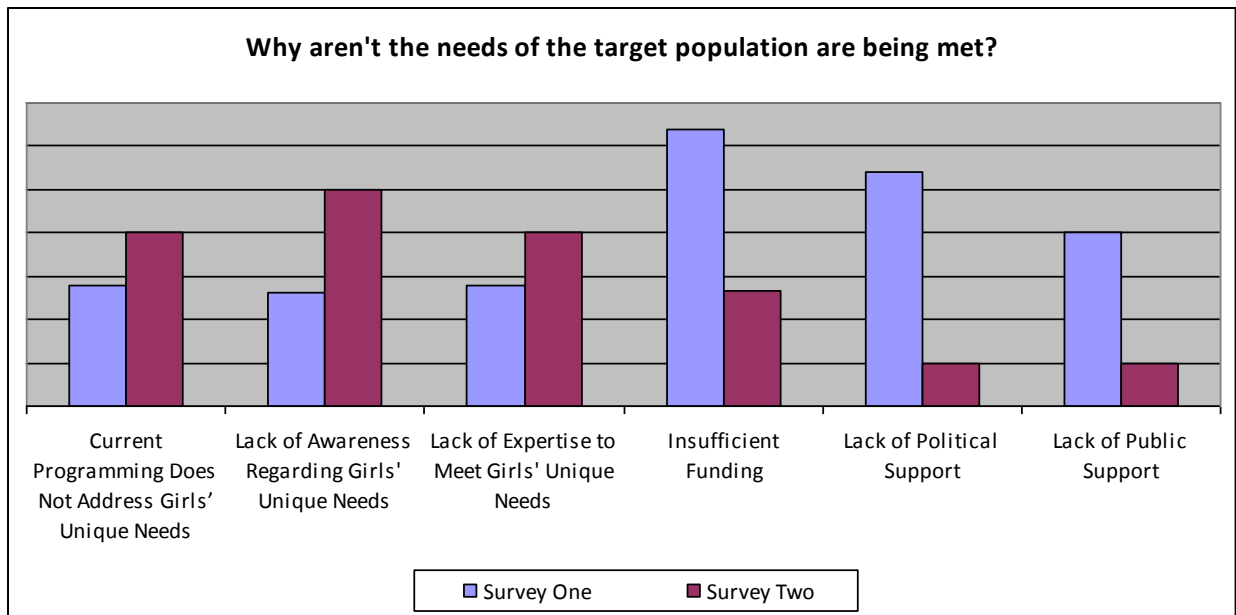
Survey Two:

- Of the four respondents who indicated that they believed other agencies/organizations mostly meet the needs of the target population, respondents ranked reasons as follows:
 1. They have funding to meet the needs of the target population.

2. They are involved in partnerships with respondent's agency/organization that allows them to meet the needs of the target population.
3. They are involved in partnerships with other agencies/organizations that allow them to meet the needs of the target population and it is politically feasible for them to meet the needs of the target population.
4. They have experts that can meet the needs of the target population.
5. It is politically popular for them to meet the needs of the target population.

Reasons for which agencies/organizations and schools/districts working with the target population believe that the needs of the target population are not being met.

Responses varied widely between surveys regarding why respondents believe the needs of the target population are not being met. The top three reasons for each set of respondents were all different. This indicates that further research should be done regarding the varied perspectives of the respondents of each survey to understand the cause of this discrepancy.



Survey One:

- Of the seven respondents who indicated that they do not believe that the needs of the target population are being met, six provided more information. They ranked reasons for this belief as follows:
 1. Sufficient funding is not available to meet the needs of the target population.
 2. There is a lack of political support to meet the needs of the target population.
 3. There is a lack of public support to meet the needs of the target population.
 4. Current programming does not address the needs of the target population and there is a lack of expertise to address the needs of the target population.
 5. There is a lack of awareness regarding the needs of the target population.

Survey Two:

- Of the six respondents who indicated that they do not believe that the needs of the target population are being met, three provided more information. They ranked reasons for this belief as follows:
 1. There is a lack of awareness regarding the needs of the target population.
 2. Current programming does not address the needs of the target population and there is a lack of expertise to address the needs of the target population.
 3. Sufficient funding is not available to meet the needs of the target population.
 4. There is a lack of political and public support to meet the needs of the target population.

Gender-Responsive Programs Available in Stanislaus County

The following list represents all programs, listed alphabetically, that were cited by at least one respondent. The frequency that programs were cited is not reflected on this list because, as previously mentioned, the responses are not statistically representative of the sample. Furthermore, very few of these programs systematically collect outcomes and thus, the effectiveness of these programs needs to be further investigated.

This list, however, does provide useful information that can be used to begin mapping existing resources and identifying gaps in service provision as well as identifying organizations with stakeholders who may be interested in participating in the strategic planning of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative.

For young women at-risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system:

- Domestic Violence
- Girls Circle
- Work for Success

For young women currently involved in the juvenile justice system²:

- Behavioral Health and Recovery counseling services
- Breaking Barriers
- Gang intervention
- Girl Scouts
- Health issues
- Positive self image
- Real Girls Real Life
- Seeking Safety
- Ultimate Choice
- Youth for Christ

² These programs were listed as services in response to a question regarding services for young women at-risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system, but the respondent indicated that these are provided in the juvenile hall. In addition, the respondent indicated that the groups are made gender-specific by the unit facilitators, which suggests that the programs themselves are not gender-responsive if they were not created to respond to the unique needs of justice-involved young women.

For young women previously involved in the juvenile justice system³:

- N/A

Providers of Gender-Responsive Programming in Stanislaus County

The following list represents all providers of gender-responsive programs that survey respondents listed.

For young women at-risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system:

- El Concilio (mentoring)
- SCOE in collaboration with two high schools, WIC programs, health and mental health service providers
 - child care to teen mothers
 - collaboration with high school counselors and nurses
 - one-on-one mentoring with a family service worker
 - parent advisory/policy group participation
 - parenting skills classes
- Women's Haven (domestic violence)

For young women currently involved in the juvenile justice system:

- Behavioral Health and Recovery
- Center for Human Services
- El Concilio
- Girl Scouts
- Sierra Vista
- Women's Haven
- Work Net
- Youth for Christ

For young women previously involved in the juvenile justice system⁴:

- N/A

Respondent Feedback

Respondents were asked to list organizations/agencies that should be primarily responsible for meeting the needs of the target population, as well as those that should be involved in meeting these needs. The lists below reflect all the organizations mentioned by respondents.

Respondents were also asked to provide any suggestions for improving gender-responsive programs and implementing the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative. These suggestions will help guide the Planning Team's development of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative Strategic Plan.

³ Only one respondent indicated that his/her agency/organization provides services to young women previously involved in the juvenile justice system, but did not provide any additional details.

⁴ Only one respondent indicated that his/her school/district provides services to young women previously involved in the juvenile justice system, but did not provide any additional details.

Organizations that should be primarily responsible for meeting the needs of the target population.

- Probation Department (most commonly cited)
- School districts
- Social services agencies

Organizations that should be involved in meeting the needs of the target population.

- Behavioral Health/Mental Health
- Center for Human Services
- Child Protective Services
- Community Services Agency
- Drug and alcohol abuse programs
- Girls Scouts
- Health Services Agency
- Other juvenile halls (to share best practices)
- Kiwanis
- Local businesses
- Modesto Junior College
- Sheriff's department
- Sierra Vista
- Soroptimists
- Stanislaus State University
- Women's Haven
- YWCA

Suggestions for improving gender-responsive programs available in Stanislaus County

- Provide more training to staff.
- Provide more staff to administer programs.
- Provide more staff coverage to allow one-on-one interactions with the target population.
- Increase funding for gender-responsive programming.
- Purchase updated program materials
- Deliver services in minors' neighborhoods – ideally at school after school hours
- Have law enforcement and probation identify students for schools so that schools can provide targeted services
- Increase the participation of fathers in the lives of children and young mothers

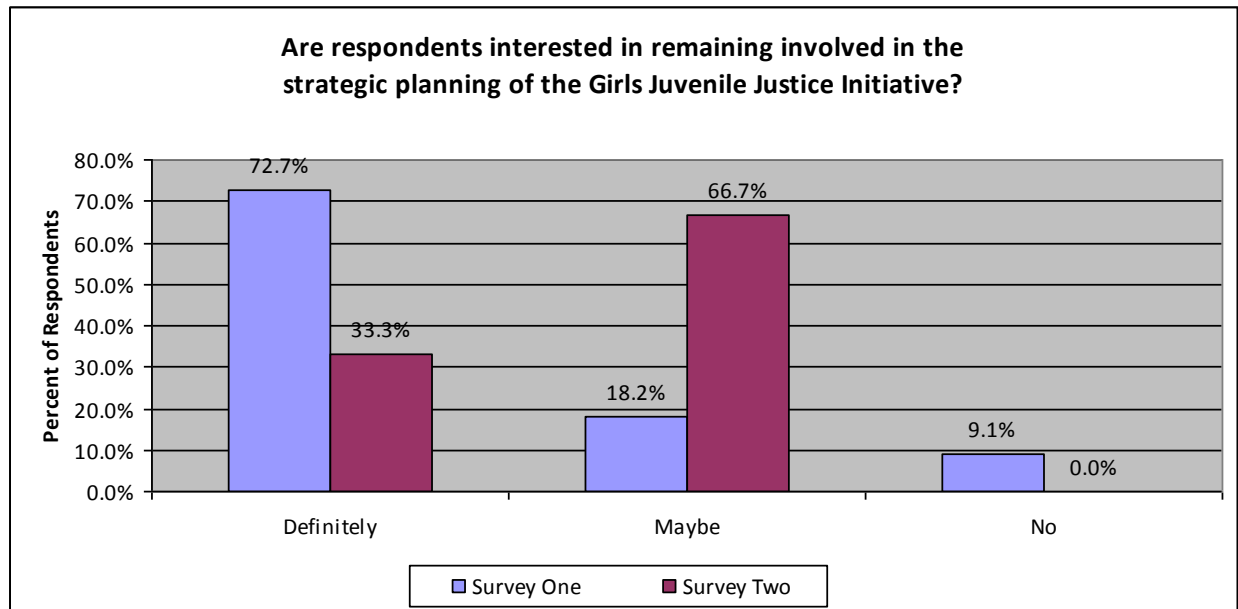
Suggestions for the implementation of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative in Stanislaus County

- Create a community task force to review and discuss the unique needs of this population.
- Involve youth in making decisions.
- Address broader community issues – not just those in probation or school
- Have probation communicate with schools so that schools can support efforts being made by other agencies, including law enforcement
- Increase funding for gender-specific programming.
- Expand mental health care and increase time available for group therapy.

- Use community based organizations to provide services and be clear about expectations for the organizations.
- Provide one-on-one counseling.

Respondent Engagement

Survey recipients were asked if they would like to remain involved in the strategic planning of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative. The majority of respondents indicated that they “definitely” or “maybe” wanted to remain involved. This result could be biased due to who chose to fill out the survey, but it is useful in identifying community partners in moving forward with the strategic planning.



Survey One:

- Of the 11 respondents who completed the survey, 8 (72.7%) definitely want to remain involved and 2 (18.2%) might want to remain involved in the strategic planning of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative.
- None of the three respondents who partially completed the survey answered this question.

Survey Two:

- Of the six respondents who completed the survey, two (33.3%) definitely want to remain involved and four (66.7%) might want to remain involved in the strategic planning of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative.
- Of the five respondents who partially completed the survey, two answered this question and both indicated that they might want to remain involved.

Survey recipients were also asked to identify others who might be interested in participating in the strategic planning. This led to the identification of 12 more people, 7 of whom who did not originally receive the survey.

Next Steps

The survey did help the Planning Team achieve the following goals:

1. to gauge recipients' understanding of the unique strengths and needs of girls at-risk of being involved in, currently involved in, and previously involved in the juvenile justice system.
2. to facilitate the mapping of existing resources and identification of gaps in service provision.
3. to identify stakeholders interested in participating in the strategic planning of the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative.

In addition, potential recommendations for the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative emerged from the analysis of the survey responses. These may be incorporated if further investigation warrants as much.

1. Educate stakeholders regarding how to meet the needs of the target population.
2. Increase gender-responsive services to girls who are at-risk of being detained and to girls after they are released from custody.
3. Develop partnerships to maximize the use of scarce resources; increase the effectiveness and efficiency of service provision to the target population.
4. Identify existing and new funding streams for gender-responsive services.
5. Investigate the validity of beliefs of respondents' who do not believe the needs of the target population are being met. Consider that the reasons may differ depending on the entity in which respondent works.

The Planning Team will spend three days in Stanislaus County with stakeholders, including those identified through the survey, to follow up on the survey findings and learn more about existing resources, gaps, and ideas that stakeholders have for better meeting the needs of the target population. The Planning Team will also interview justice-involved girls and their families about their experiences and conduct an extensive intake process with the girls who are currently in detention in order to, along with existing data from the probation department, get a better sense of the needs and strengths of the target population. This information, along with that gained from the survey, will be used to develop the Girls Juvenile Justice Initiative Strategic Plan, which will include a resource map of the county's available services for young women at-risk of being involved in, currently involved in, and previously involved in the juvenile justice system.