

Research Question

How do the disparities between the treatment of females and males in the Juvenile Justice system affect the females' overall health?

Background

- Juvenile Detention Centers were originally created for males. When young women began to enter these facilities, officials did not bother to change the system to fit their needs.
- 88% of female inmates have reported being emotionally, physically, or sexually abused before their first arrest.
- Females get arrested for *minor crimes* (like breaking curfew or running away) 23% more than males from 1995-2009.
- Females are more likely to have internalized disorder (e.g. anxiety) rather than an external disorder (e.g. ADHD).

Methodology

- While doing my research, I got most of my information from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) website and scholarly research papers from the past decade. Most of the sources I used came from federal officials and scientists and experts that specializes in adolescent issues. I took a variety elements and statistical information from a research paper and synthesised that into my chart.

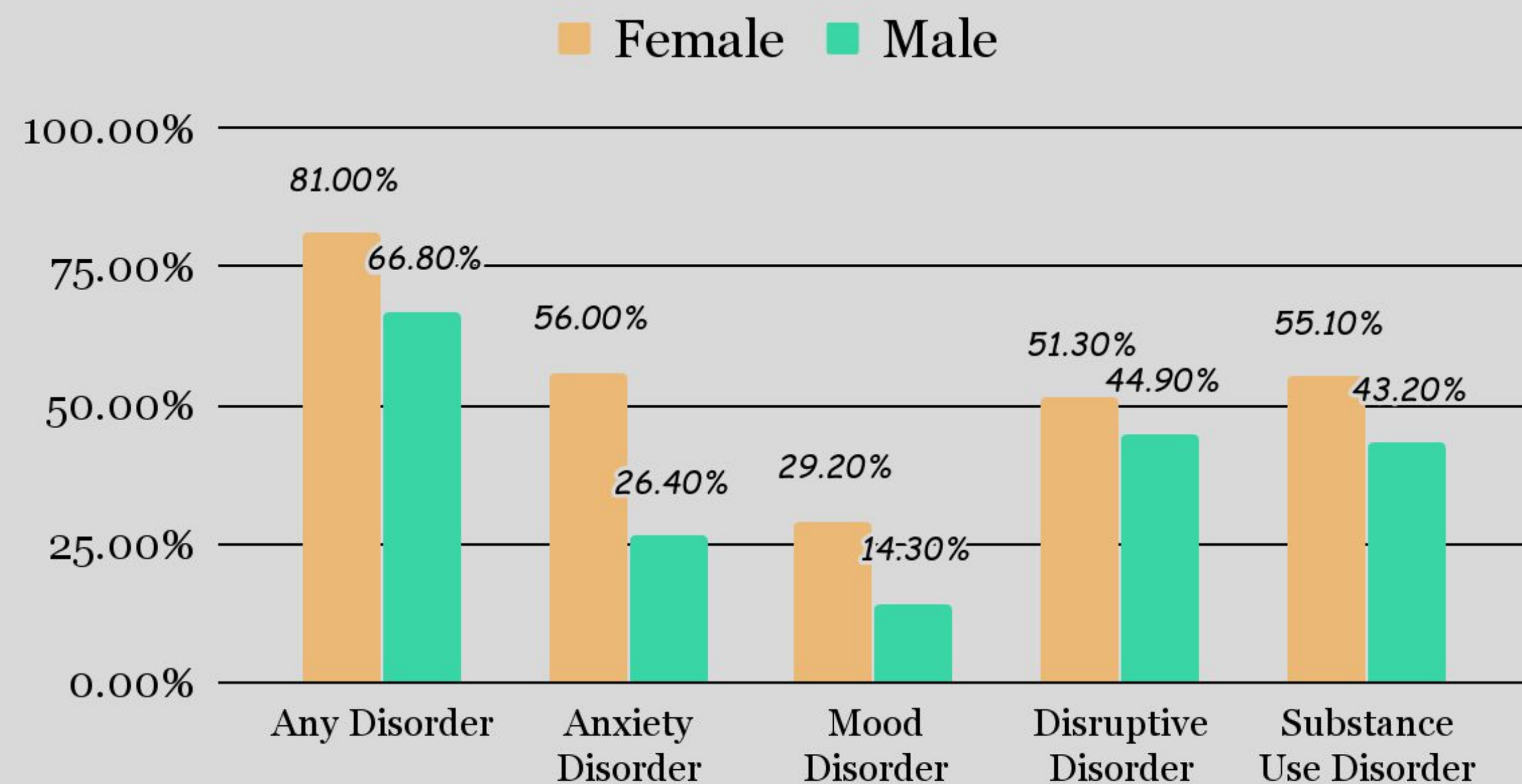
The Unknown Reality of Being the *Wrong* Gender: Health Disparities Among Young Women in the Juvenile Justice System

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How do these Disparities affect Females Overall Health?

Mental Disorders Among Males & Females in the Juvenile System



Alternative Solutions

- Girls Health Screening
 - A test with 117 questions to identify health issues.
- Holistic Enrichment for At-Risk Teens (HEART)
 - A NC program for 14-18 youth girls with a substance abuse disorder.

Conclusions

- The Juvenile Justice system is not designed to address the different and unique needs of young adolescent women, which negatively impacts their mental health.
- These young women are forced to survive in a system that is not designed for them which exacerbates any mental health issues, which leads to the higher likelihood of repeat offenses-effectively trapping these vulnerable, traumatized women in the prison system.
- In order to close this gap I will volunteer at different programs for at-risk girls and I will also educate other on this very important issue.