



Appendix A.

Summary of Findings:
Third-Year Evaluation
of Girl Scouts Beyond
Bars Program



Summary of Findings

Third-Year Evaluation of the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars Program

EVALUATION GOALS

The primary objectives of the third national evaluation of the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars Program were to examine whether the programs were meeting three basic goals:

1. Strengthening the mother–daughter bond,
2. Promoting the girls’ personal growth and development, and
3. Promoting leadership development among the girls.

DATA COLLECTION STRATEGIES

CSR’s data collection strategies during the study included:

- Program leaders’ interview and logic model updates
- Girls’ Outcome Survey (Incarcerated Mother and Released Mother)
- Mothers’ Survey (Incarcerated and Released)
- Troop Leader Rating Form (Girls and Mothers)
- Site visit
- Interviews with incarcerated mothers

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF GSBB PARTICIPANTS

During the third-year study, results showed that:

- The girls were fairly evenly distributed between ages 9 and 18, with the highest proportion in the 13- to 15-year range. The smallest proportion of girls were in the 16- to 18-year range (18 percent).

Distribution of the Girls by Age Group (n=93)

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
9–10 years	21	23
11–12 years	25	27
13–15 years	30	32
16–18 years	17	18
TOTAL	93	100

Distribution of the Mothers by Age Group (n=103)

Grouped Age Categories	N	Percentage
18–24 years	4	4
25–32 years	32	32
33–40 years	30	30
Over 40 years	33	33
Total	99	100
Missing	4	

- The majority of girls identified themselves as black (60 percent).

Race/Ethnicity of Girl Scout Respondents (n=93)

Race/Ethnicity of Girls	Frequency	Percentage
Asian	2	2
Black	56	60
Hispanic/Latina	7	8
Native American	4	4
White	18	19
Other	6	6
TOTAL	93	99

Frequency Missing: 3

- More than half of the mothers identified themselves as black (53 percent).

Race/Ethnicity of the Incarcerated Mothers (n=103)

Race/Ethnicity Categories	N	Percentage
Black	52	53
White	38	38
Asian	2	2
Hispanic/Latina	3	3
Native American	1	1
Other	3	3
Total	99	100
Missing	4	

- The great majority of the girls (85 percent) had been living continuously in the same household throughout the preceding 10 months; only 16 percent of the girls reported any changes in household residence.

Primary Caregiver for Girl Scout Respondents (n=93)

Caregiver	Year 3 Incarcerated Mothers	
	Frequency	%
Grandparent	35	38
Mother		
Father	20	22
A Foster Parent	2	2
Friend of Family	—	—
Aunt or Uncle	21	23
Older Sibling	2	2
Someone Else	12	13
Total	92	100
Missing	1	

- The girls’ most common living arrangement was with a grandparent.
- About 55 percent of the girls reported involvement with other activities through school or in the community in addition to the GSBB program.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM

An important aspect of these programs is participation in the activities by both mothers and their daughters. Results showed that:

- Approximately 28 percent of the girls had been members for one to two years, and more than one-quarter had been members for more than three years.

Length of Membership (n=93)

Length of Membership in GSBB	Year 3 Incarcerated Mothers	
	N	%
First meeting	10	11
Less than 1 month	1	1
A few months	15	17
1 to 2 years	25	28
2 to 3 years	12	13
More than 3 years	27	30
Total	90	100
Missing	3	

- Length of membership was significantly associated with outcomes for the girls, particularly Curriculum-Based Learning, where the mean was slightly higher for those girls who were in the program for more than one year.
- Mothers who had been participating in the GSBB program for more than one year reported significantly more positive effects for themselves and for their daughters than did mothers who had participated for one year or less. However, these findings were not supported by the troop leaders' ratings on observed changes in the mothers.
- In general, mothers rated the program's impact on themselves as highly positive. A substantial majority believed that the program had helped them change "a lot."

WHEN EXAMINING THE THREE OUTCOMES, OVERALL, THE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE STUDY RESULTS SHOWED:

- Participation in GSBB was clearly helping the girls to strengthen their relationships with their mothers, build self-esteem and improve in other areas of personal growth, and develop leadership skills.
- Girls' responses to items that measured affective and attitudinal constructs within these three outcome domains showed very high ratings.
- Girls' ratings for behavioral items, such as "want to do well in school" and "stay out of trouble with the police," also were positive.

Outcome 1: Strengthening of the Mother–Daughter Bond

- Over three-fourths of the girls with incarcerated mothers (85 percent) reported feeling "a lot" closer to their mothers since joining GSBB. More than 81 percent endorsed "a lot" for items reflecting increased feelings of safety, 84 percent hoped that their relationships would continue to improve, and 78 percent reported an increased ability to get along with their mothers.
- Approximately 69 percent of the girls endorsed "a lot" for improvement in communications with their mothers about feelings or about other areas of their lives.
- Similarly, 71 percent of the girls endorsed "a lot" for the item on trust ("my mother knows more about me").

In considering the results for girls with incarcerated mothers, the items that reflect affective and perceptual dimensions are positively skewed.

Outcome 2: Personal Growth and Development

Both the quantitative and qualitative data support the conclusion that the GSBB program promotes personal growth among the girls who participate.

- Close to three-quarters of the girls indicated that they had learned to avoid smoking, drugs, and alcohol, and 65 percent had understood the effects of drugs and alcohol on their lives "a lot."

- Over 70 of girls reported having learned respect for themselves and others.
- Seventy-three percent felt more hopeful about their future “most of the time,” almost 90 percent thought “most of the time” that they would finish high school, and 77 percent reported that they thought they would go to college.
- Mothers perceived the effects of the program on their daughters somewhat less positively and with somewhat greater variability than they viewed the effects for themselves. The two items with the strongest positive endorsements were that the daughter had learned how to take pride in her abilities and accomplishments and the daughter took a more positive attitude toward the future.
- Less than half of the mothers believed that their daughters had shown “a lot” of change for important life skills such as learning to plan and organize one’s time and leading other girls in Girl Scout activities.
- Almost three-fourths of the mothers (72 percent) strongly believed that their daughters had developed positive relationships with other girls in the program.

Outcome 3: Leadership Development

Two dimensions were identified as being especially important for leadership development: increasing social competency and opportunities to lead.

- The results do show that participation in GSBB is helping girls develop leadership skills.
- Close to three-quarters of the girls (77 percent) reported that they had learned “a lot” about leading other girls in Girl Scout activities. Sixty-four percent reported that they have had “a lot” of opportunities to lead.