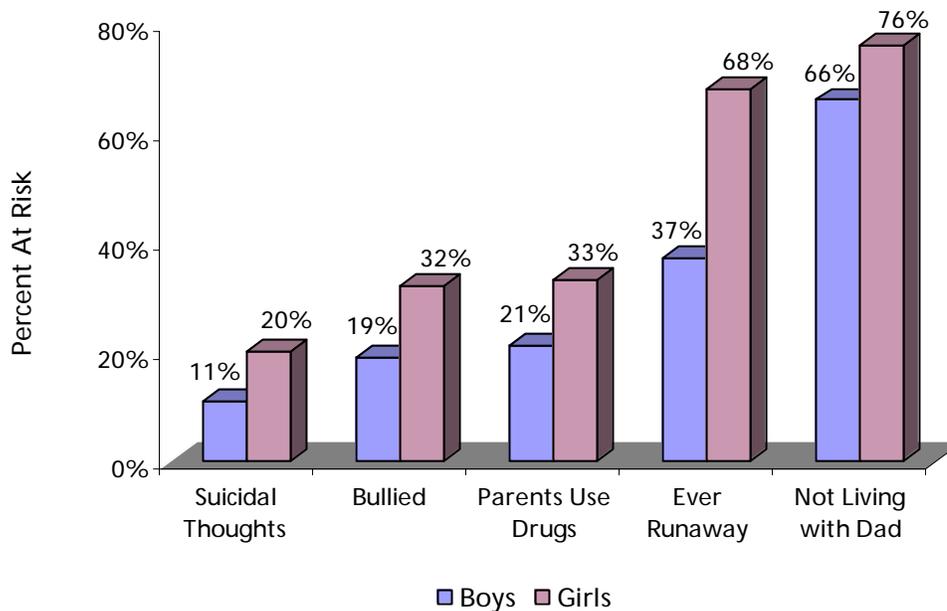


GENDER DIFFERENCES IN SELF-REPORTED RISK

New data available from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) show differences between boys and girls in their self-reported risk. Of the juvenile arrestees interviewed in San Diego as part of the Substance Abuse Monitoring for Youth (SAMY) project, girls were more likely than boys to report they had *ever* had suicidal thoughts, been bullied at school, run away from home, or that their parents used illegal drugs. Girls were also more likely than boys to report that they currently did not live with their father (see figure).

These results are consistent with the literature, which suggests that girls have different life experiences that contribute to the reasons they come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Specifically, their risk for victimization (e.g., sexual abuse) increases as they enter their teenage years and is often the underlying issue of girls who run away from home or have suicidal thoughts. Anecdotally, local service providers and law enforcement have expressed concern with the high number of runaway girls that have engaged in some form of prostitution.

GIRLS ARE MORE AT RISK THAN BOYS
San Diego Region, 2003



SOURCE: SANDAG: Substance Abuse Monitoring for Youth (SAMY)

The SAMY project, currently funded by the California Border Alliance Group (CBAG), involves interviews with youth at Juvenile Hall on a regular basis. Complete analysis of the 2003 SAMY data will be available later this summer. More information on local gender issues is currently available in the report *Addressing the Gender-Specific Needs of Girls, September 2003*, at www.sandag.org/cj. For information about the SAMY project, please contact Lisbeth Howard at (619) 699-6910 or lho@sandag.org.