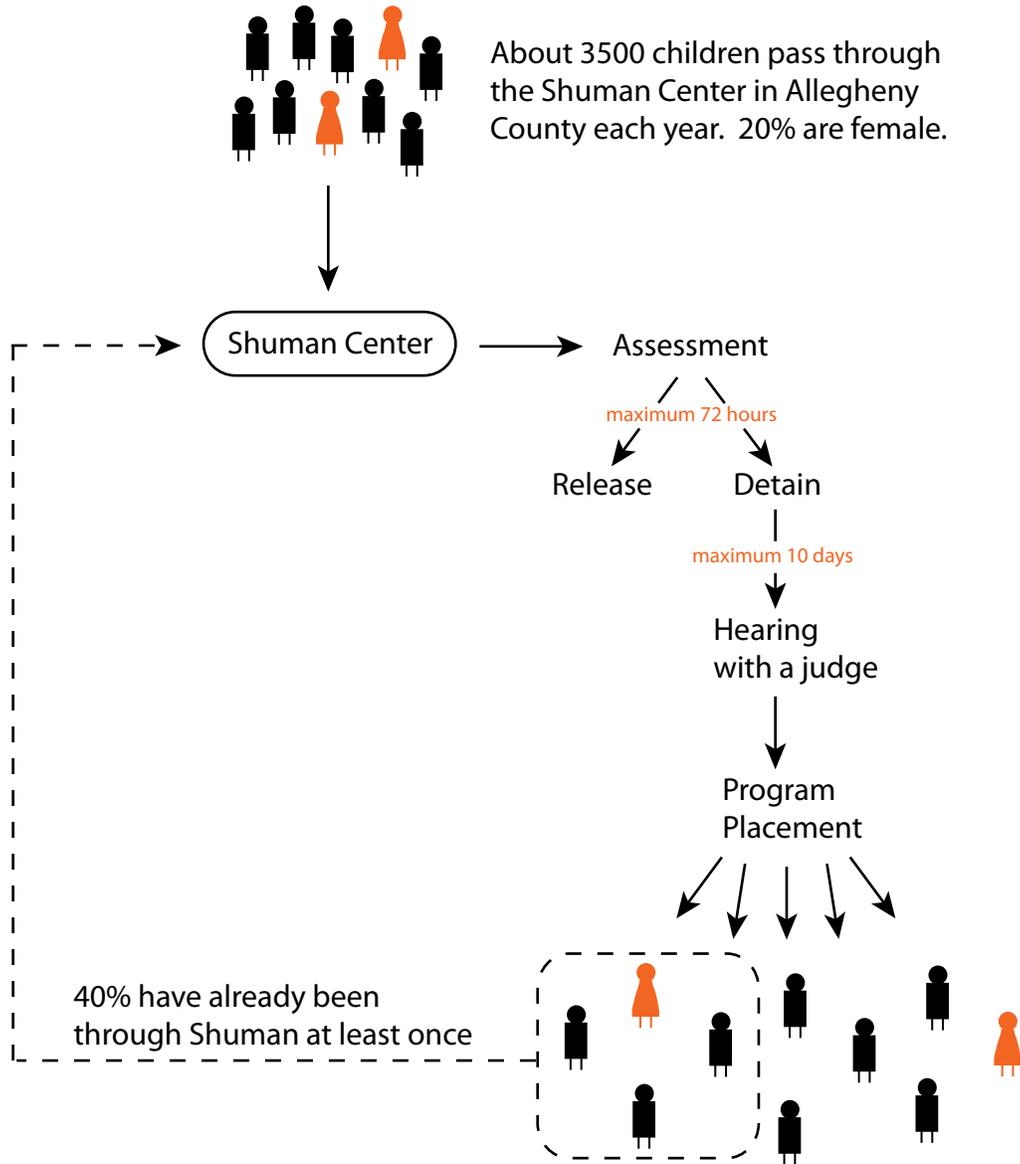


# Fostering An Environment for Rehabilitation

## Treatment for Adjudicated Delinquent Female Youth at Danville

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There are approximately 9,400 girls in juvenile detention centers across the United States. In Allegheny County, about 20% of the 3500 juvenile offenders that pass through the Shuman Center annually are female. The Shuman Center serves as Allegheny County’s primary juvenile detention center and the initial intake center for all juveniles accused of delinquent offense within Allegheny County. It is only intended that juvenile offenders remain at the Shuman Center until they can be properly evaluated and released in an appropriate external program. However, there are fewer programs and facilities that accept delinquent young girls making it more difficult for girls to be placed in a program with facilities and resources to address their needs.



When a juvenile accused of delinquent offenses “fails to adjust” to their placement outside of the Shuman Center, they are sent back to the Shuman Center and must be re-placed in another program. With a limited number of options for female juvenile delinquents as far as appropriate placement, many girls end up at Danville. The North Central Secure Treatment Unit at the Danville State Hospital in Montour County is Pennsylvania’s equivalent to a maximum-security prison for juveniles. Juvenile delinquents are sent to Danville only when no other facility will accept them, and it is essentially the point where society has given up on these children and locked them away behind barbed wire and bars.

*North Central Secure Treatment Unit, Danville State Hospital*

For most juvenile delinquents in Pennsylvania, being sent to Danville is equivalent to the end of the line. There is no place after Danville that offers much promise for rejoining society or regaining any sense of normalcy in life. Danville is especially problematic for the young girls that are sent there because like most of the juvenile justice system, Danville was modeled to accommodate young boys who have historically made up the majority of the juvenile delinquent population. With the recent increase in female juvenile delinquency, experts now have come to the realization that girls require a different type of environment and different types of relationships than boys do to excel in treatment facilities. However, the juvenile justice system has been very slow to adjust to and accommodate those needs throughout their juvenile justice facilities.

Danville for its part in adjusting to the influx of female delinquents in Pennsylvania, has created a faction of the North Central Secure Treatment Unit called “The Girls Program”. The Girls Program at Danville, as they state, aims to “provide gender specific treatment services to adjudicated delinquent female youth” through a supportive environment while “encouraging and empowering young women to lead healthy lifestyles that promote dignity, integrity and responsibility”. The Girls Program philosophy towards treating girls, which also includes education and vocational training as well as emotional and behavioral support, reflects the intentions of a system that has not lost hope in these girls ability to rejoin society. In fact, it seems quite the opposite if they are providing skills and training that would be applicable to someone leaving a controlled institution like Danville. However, it has also been recorded that children being held at Danville are locked in cells behind bars and barbed wire fences more like hardened criminals at a maximum-security prisons than like children who are working to rejoin society outside of Danville.

The somewhat infamous conditions at Danville seem rather counter intuitive to the stated mission of The Girls Program, or any of the other programs that Danville advertises for that matter, and I wonder whether there is not another way to hold or house these young girls as to better facilitate the goals set forth by The Girls Program in rehabilitating the delinquent girls at Danville and reintegrating them into society as positive and productive contributors.

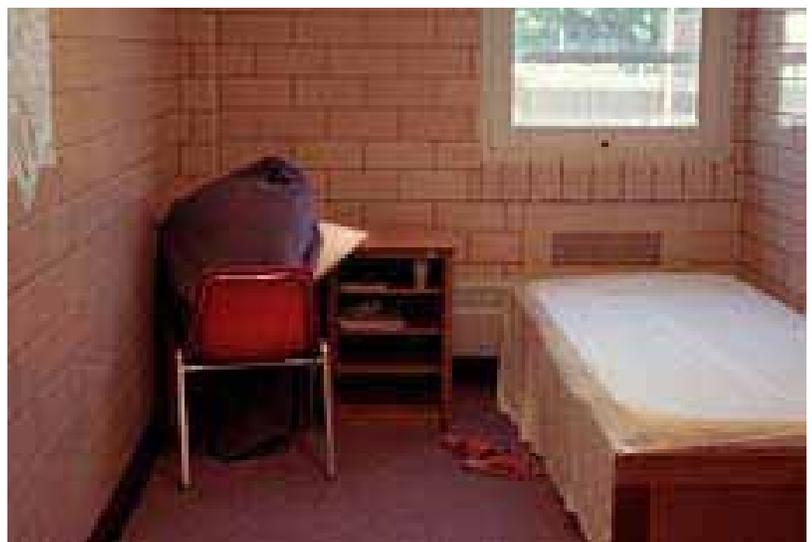


Image showing one girl in her room at Danville

### Research

My research should be focused first on how the girls at Danville are ending up there in the first place. In order to get there, these girls typically have failed to achieve substantial results in other programs. Therefore, in order to understand what Danville needs to do to be successful with these girls, I need to understand what failed in other programs. Research should also aim to better understand the mission of The Girls Program and how it aims to serve the girls at Danville. Lastly, Danville has already established their desired protocol for rehabilitation, but research should address how architecture can aid in achieving real results from The Girls Program.

### Visiting Danville

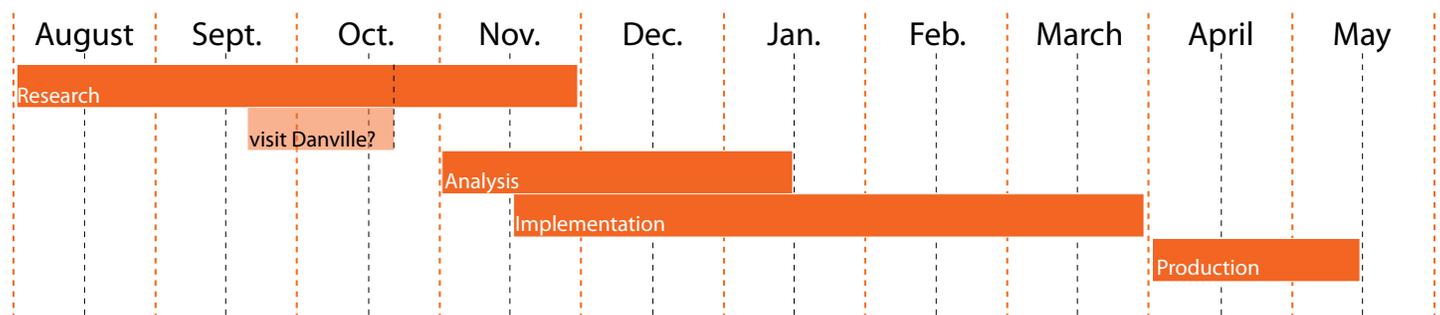
In order to really understand and address the programs and conditions at Danville, I need to see it and talk to the people there. In an institution like Danville where security is paramount, there is only so much information that is made readily available to the public, and I do not believe this limited public knowledge that is available is enough to make any valid assertions.

### Analysis

An analysis of the my research will provided a better-informed direction as to what would make for a successful rehabilitative condition that specifically keeps young delinquent girls in mind.

### Implementation

My objective is to propose an architectural means in which the pre-established goals of The Girls Program can be more successfully implemented within the North Central Secure Treatment Unit at Danville. I think with research on the methods already utilized within The Girls Program as well on the environments in which those methods could be most productive, the Danville facility could be a very successful example of how the juvenile justice system can aide in rehabilitating young delinquent girls and returning them to society.



- "Addressing Girls' Health Needs at Juvenile Detention Centers." Justice Not Jails. 23 Mar 2013. <<http://justicenotjails.org/girls-health-needs/>>. This article brings up some of the issues juvenile justice facilities are facing with an increase in girls in the system. It also provides one example of how the system as it currently operates has failed to adapt to girls needs and as a result many girls are suffering as they are being repeatedly institutionalized.
- Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Shuman Juvenile Detention Center. <<http://www.alleghenycounty.us/shuman/index.asp&xgt;>>. This is Allegheny County's website detailing the function of The Shuman Detention Center and how juvenile delinquency is handled in the county. It provides a general overview of the policies and philosophy of the Shuman Center and how juvenile justice in Allegheny County fits into the state system for juvenile delinquency.
- Cox, Steven M., Jennifer M. Allen, Robert D. Hanser, and John J. Conrad. Juvenile Justice: A Guide to Theory, Policy, and Practice. SAGE Publications, Inc., 2013. 328-355. <[http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/38670\\_13.pdf](http://www.sagepub.com/upm-data/38670_13.pdf)>. This is a particular chapter from a textbook that focuses on the comparison of juvenile justice systems throughout different countries. It also discusses world standards as set by the United Nations regarding dealing with juvenile delinquency.
- Day, Joe. Corrections and Collections: Architecture for Art and Crime. New York: Routledge, 2013. <<http://www.amazon.com/Corrections-Collections-Architectures-Art-Crime/dp/0415534828>>.
- Drachkovitch, Rasha, developer. *Lockup*. MSNBC. Television. This documentary series goes inside prisons around the United States documenting the conditions prisoners live in. It follows both prison staff and inmates for a period of time providing both perspectives on how the facility operates and what are the success and failures of the design of the building and the procedures followed within the prison.
- Foucault, Michel. Discipline & Punish. New York: Vintage Books, 1979.
- Haney, Craig. "Implications for Post-Prison Adjustment." December 2001. University of California, Santa Cruz. <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/prison2home02/haney.htm>. This article addresses the psychological impact that life in prison can have on a human being and how the harsh living conditions and deprivation of normal human contact can have a lasting and damaging impact on prisoners when they attempt to reintegrate into normal society.
- Johnston, Justin, and Sophie Hamilton Grey. "Beyond the Prison Bars: Rehabilitation and the Urban Prison." *insidetime*. <[www.insidetime.org/articleview.asp?a=753&c=beyond\\_the\\_prison\\_bars\\_rehabilitation\\_and\\_the\\_urban\\_prison](http://www.insidetime.org/articleview.asp?a=753&c=beyond_the_prison_bars_rehabilitation_and_the_urban_prison)>. This is an article by a group of architecture students from the University of Liverpool who studied the design of prisons in the United Kingdom.
- Pennsylvania. Department of Public Welfare. North Central Secure Treatment Unit. 2010. <<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/forchildren/juvenilejustice/juvenilejusticenorthcentralsecuretreatmentunit/index.htm>>. This website offers general information about all of the programs the state of Pennsylvania offers with regards to juvenile justice.
- Stott, Rory. "The Architecture of Incarceration: Can Design Affect the Prison System?" *ArchDaily*. 26 July 2013. <http://www.archdaily.com/406790/the-architecture-of-incarceration-can-design-affect-the-prison-system/>. This article briefly discusses how architects can design facilities that are conducive to rehabilitation for the inmates in a humane way that is mindful of human rights. It cites an example of a prison in Norway that successfully balances the need for security and human treatment of inmates.

- Twedt, Steven M. "Juvenile Justice and Mental Health: As Two Worlds Collide, Teen Suffer." Post-Gazette [Pittsburgh] 16 July 2001. <http://old.post-gazette.com/headlines/20010716juvdaytwomainnat2p2.asp>
- Twedt, Steven M. "Juvenile Justice Faces Growing Crisis: What Can We do About the Girls?" Post-Gazette [Pittsburgh] 17 July 2001. <<http://old.post-gazette.com/headlines/20010717juvdaythreemainnat2.asp>>. This is the second of a four part series written about the juvenile justice system in Pennsylvania that is focused particularly on the more recent issue of girls within the juvenile justice system. It addresses some of the issues unique to girls that have troubled the facilities in Pennsylvania as they try to adjust to more girls in the state system.
- Twedt, Steven M. "Lack of Options Keeps Mentally Disturbed Youth Locked Up." Post-Gazette [Pittsburgh] 15 July 2001. <http://old.post-gazette.com/headlines/20010715juvenilejp1.asp>
- Zara, Janelle. "Prison Design and Its Consequences: The Architect's Dilemma." *BlouinArtinfo*. 17 July 2013. <<http://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/930329/prison-design-and-its-consequences-the-architects-dilemma>>. This article describes the perception of American prisons as spaces for killing and torture and addresses some people's desire to ban architects from designing buildings that blatantly violate human rights and the prisoners' dignity. However, it also offers examples of more progressive prisons outside of the United States that have experienced relative success in rehabilitating prisoners without employing such harsh measures.