



# *The State of Girls: Unfinished Business*

*A report by the Girl Scout Research Institute*

# The Girl Scout Research Institute

- Center for original research and evaluation at Girl Scouts of the USA.
- Expert on girls, focusing on the voices of girls.
- Recent reports include girls and financial literacy, STEM, media, leadership, and more.

[www.girlscouts.org/research](http://www.girlscouts.org/research)



# ***The State of Girls Report – What Is It?***

- This is the first report to stake out key issues and major trends focused exclusively on girls' healthy development in the U.S. today.
  - Demographic and economic trends, health, safety, education, extracurricular involvement, and leadership



# Summary of Findings

There is promising news for girls, but there is more work to be done.

+ Educational attainment

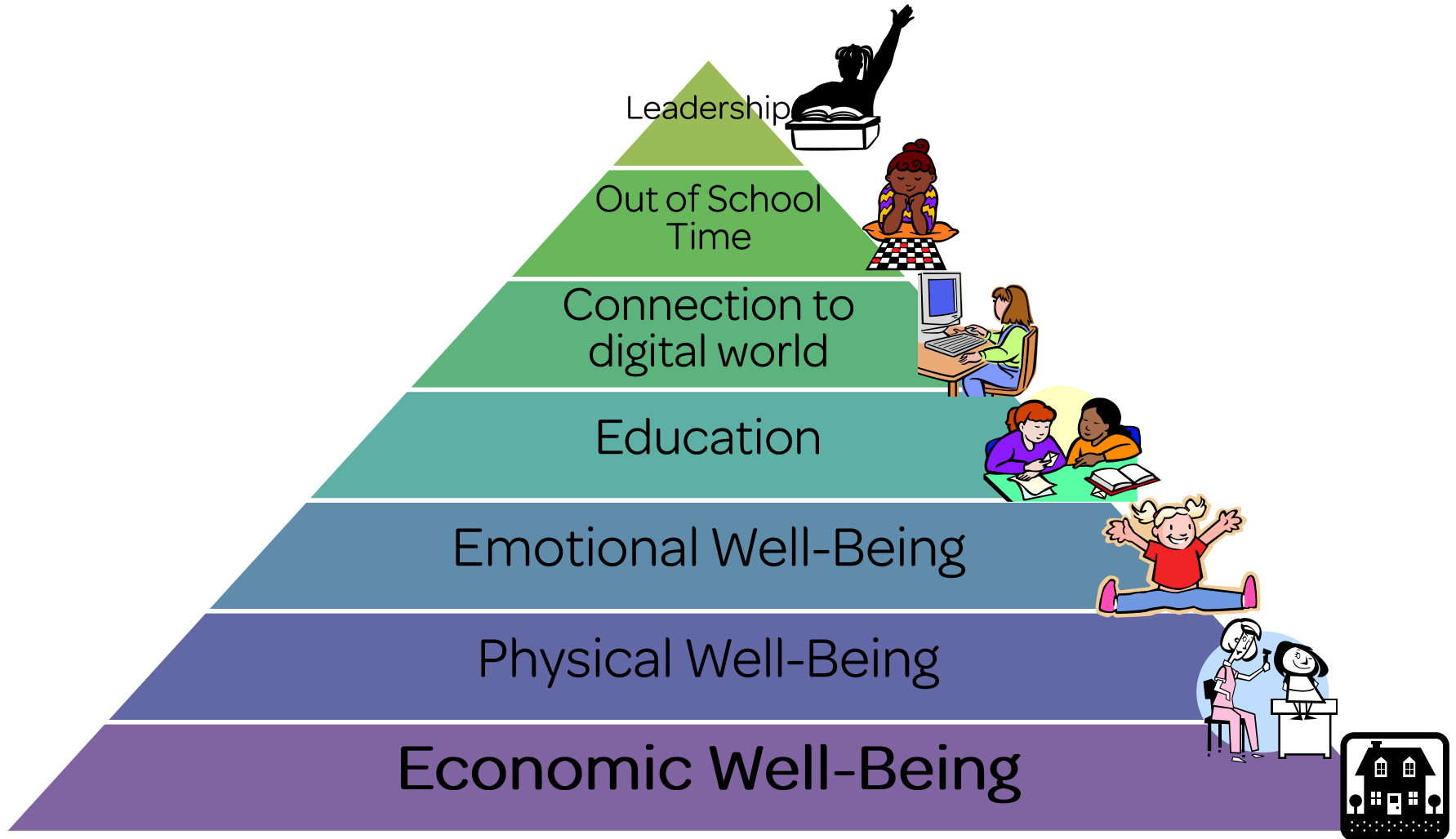
- Emotional health, access to out-of-school time activities

Many girls are being left behind.

- African American and Hispanic girls face significant challenges in making successful transitions to adulthood.



# Summary of Findings





## The Hispanic/Latina girl population is growing.



**Today**

**1 in 5** girls is Hispanic/Latina.

**By 2030**

**1 in 3** girls will be Hispanic/Latina.

## **BUT, Hispanic/Latina girls are at risk.**



**33%**

are impoverished.



**41%**

are overweight or obese.



**16%**

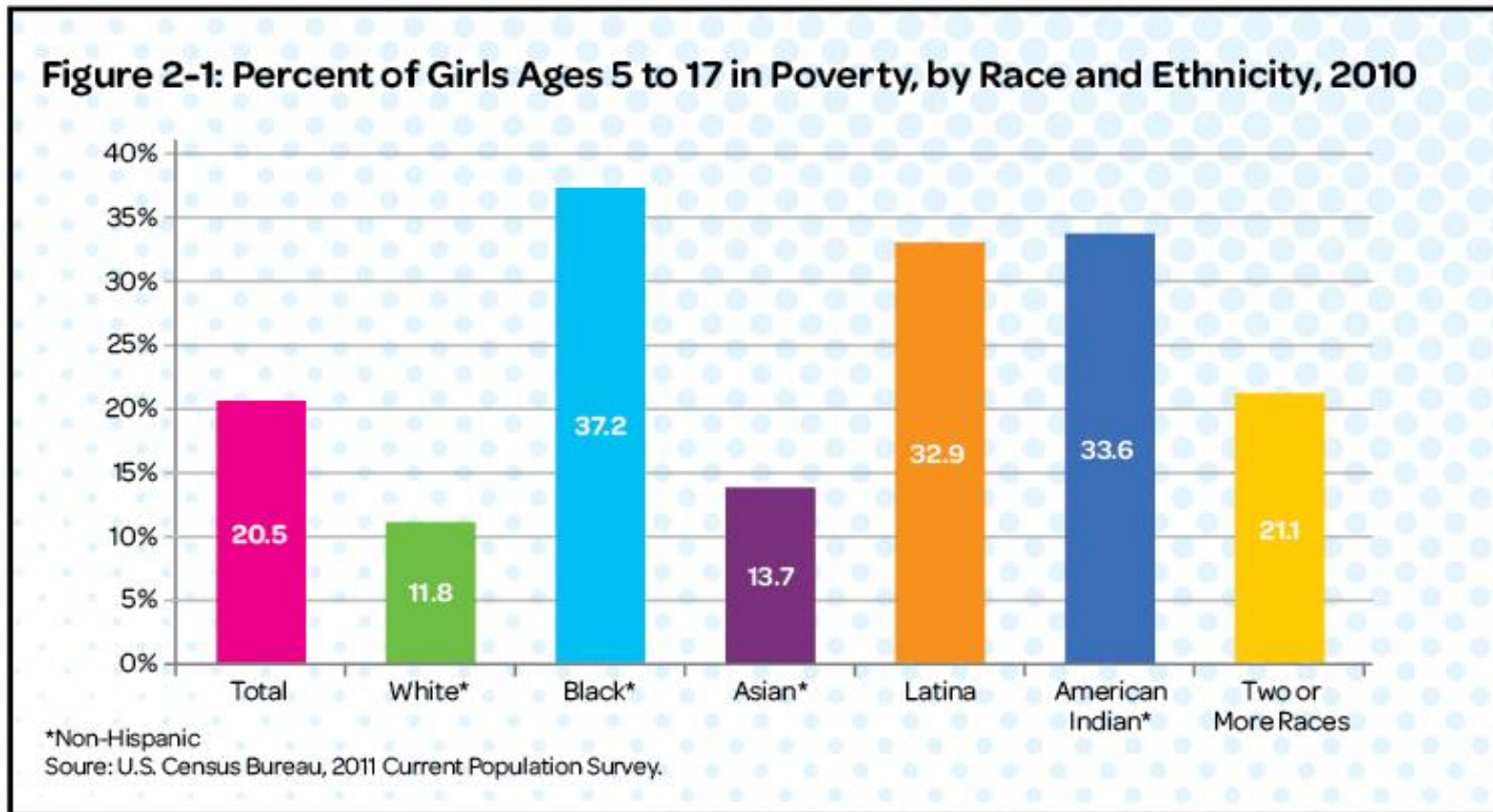
drop out of school.

Data is not destiny! Let's not turn our backs on girls who need us the most!  
Learn more at: [www.girlscouts.org/stateofgirls](http://www.girlscouts.org/stateofgirls).



# Economic Well-being

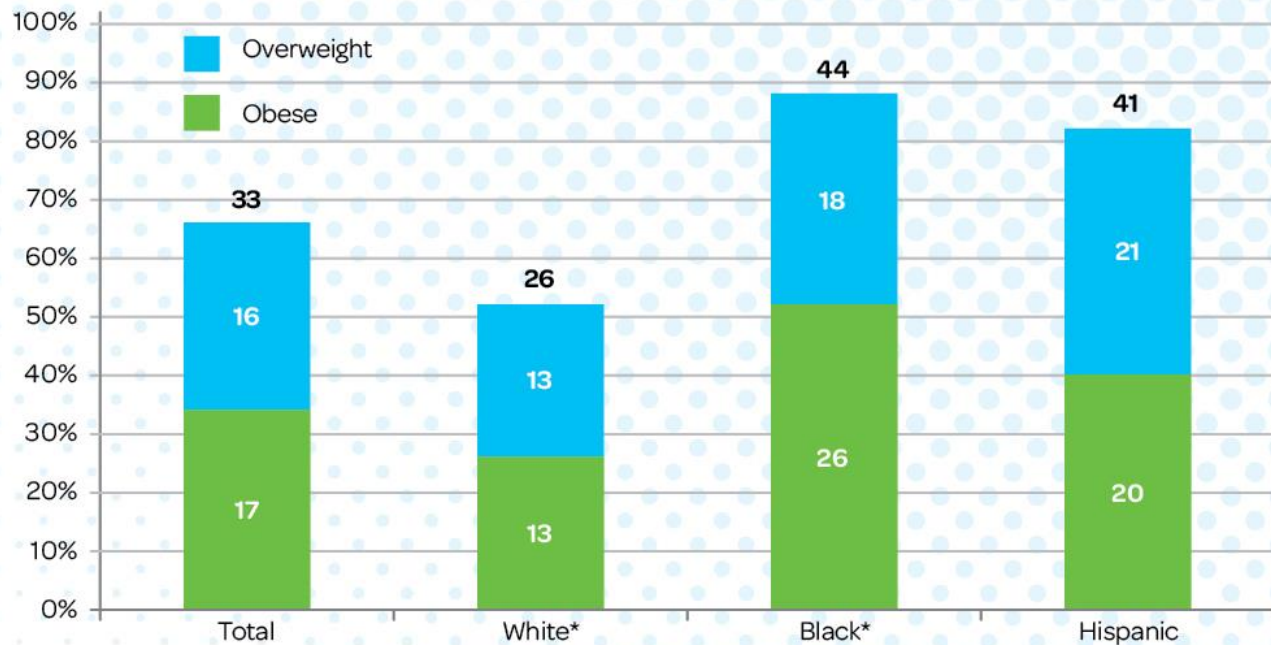
Poverty is a critical issue for girls in this country.



# Physical Health

Childhood obesity rates have risen sharply in recent years.

**Figure 3-2. Percent of Girls Ages 5 to 17 Who Are Overweight or Obese, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010**



\*Non-Hispanic

Source: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2009–2010





# Emotional Health

- About 30% of girls report some sort of bullying or aggression from their peers.
- 34% of girls report feeling sad or hopeless.
- 9% of girls experience partner violence.
  - 16% of black/African American girls report being hit by a boyfriend



# Education



*Progress has been made,  
but not for all girls.*



*There are **130**  
**women** enrolled  
in college **for**  
**every 100 men.***



**BUT**

***16% of Hispanic girls drop out  
of high school—more than  
twice the national average.***



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# STEM

girl scouts

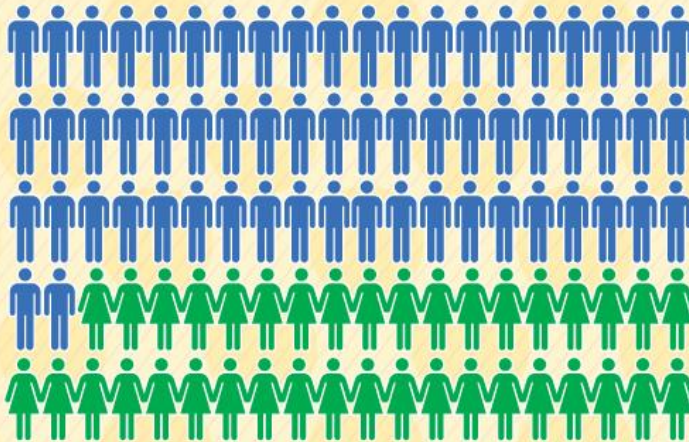


*Progress has been made,  
but not for all girls.*

*Progress has been made for our girls.*

**74%**

*of teen girls are interested in Science,  
Technology, Engineering, and Math*



*But, we still have a  
long way to go.*

*Women make up only*

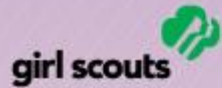
**38%**

*of recent STEM  
college degrees.*

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# Financial Literacy



Girls are optimistic about their financial futures.



**96%**

of girls expect they will be able to provide for their families.

View the full-sized infographic at [girlscouts.org/financialliteracy](http://girlscouts.org/financialliteracy).



Girls see a future where they are financially independent and empowered.



**80%**

would rather make their own money than marry someone who would support them financially.

View the full-sized infographic at [girlscouts.org/financialliteracy](http://girlscouts.org/financialliteracy).

Are girls ready to manage their financial futures?



**ONLY 12%**

of girls today currently feel very confident making financial decisions.

Girls want financial literacy skills to achieve their dreams.

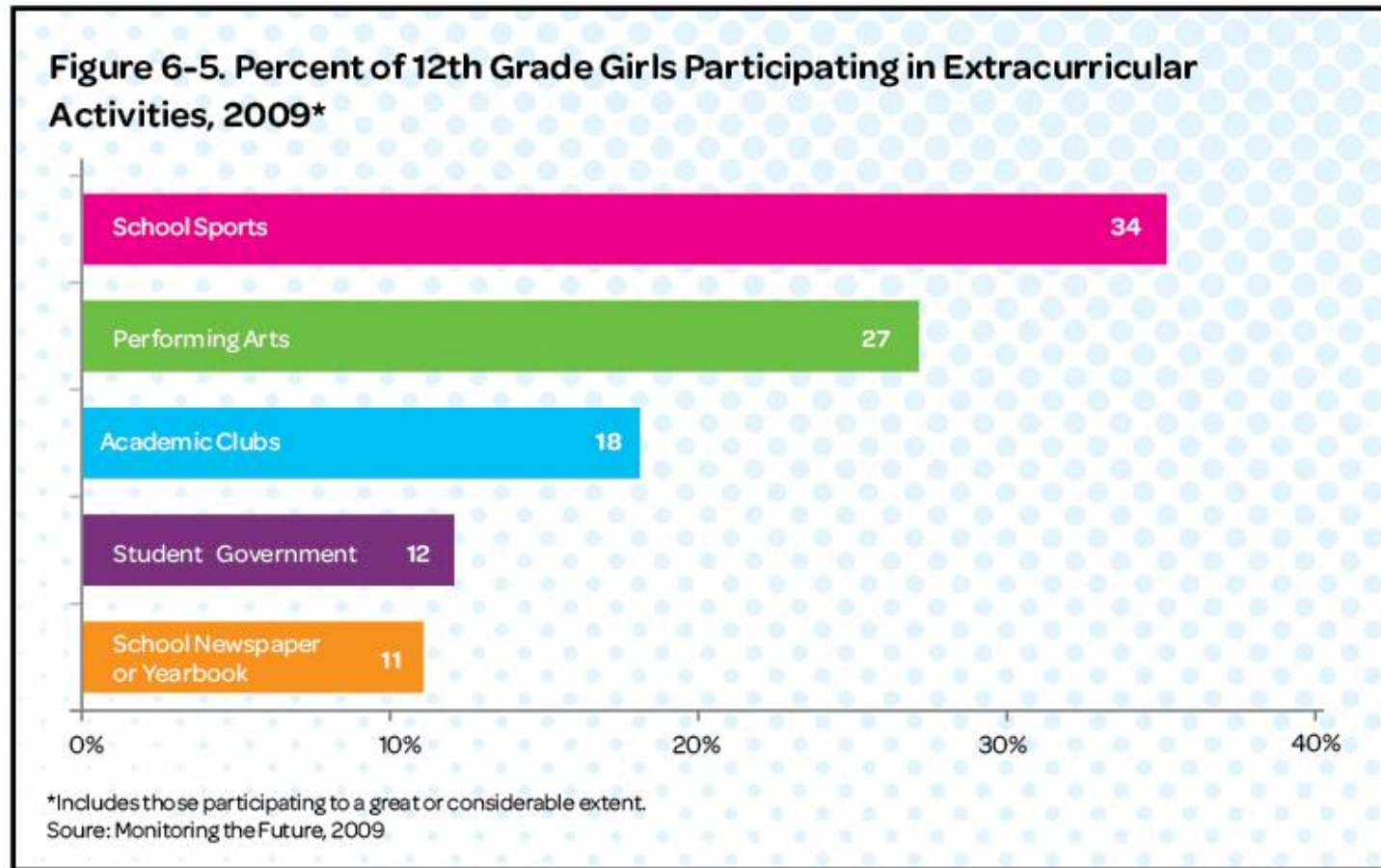


**9 in 10**

girls say it is important for them to learn how to manage money.

# Out-of-School Time

Girls are engaged in sports and extracurricular activities, but many girls are under-scheduled.



# Access to Technology

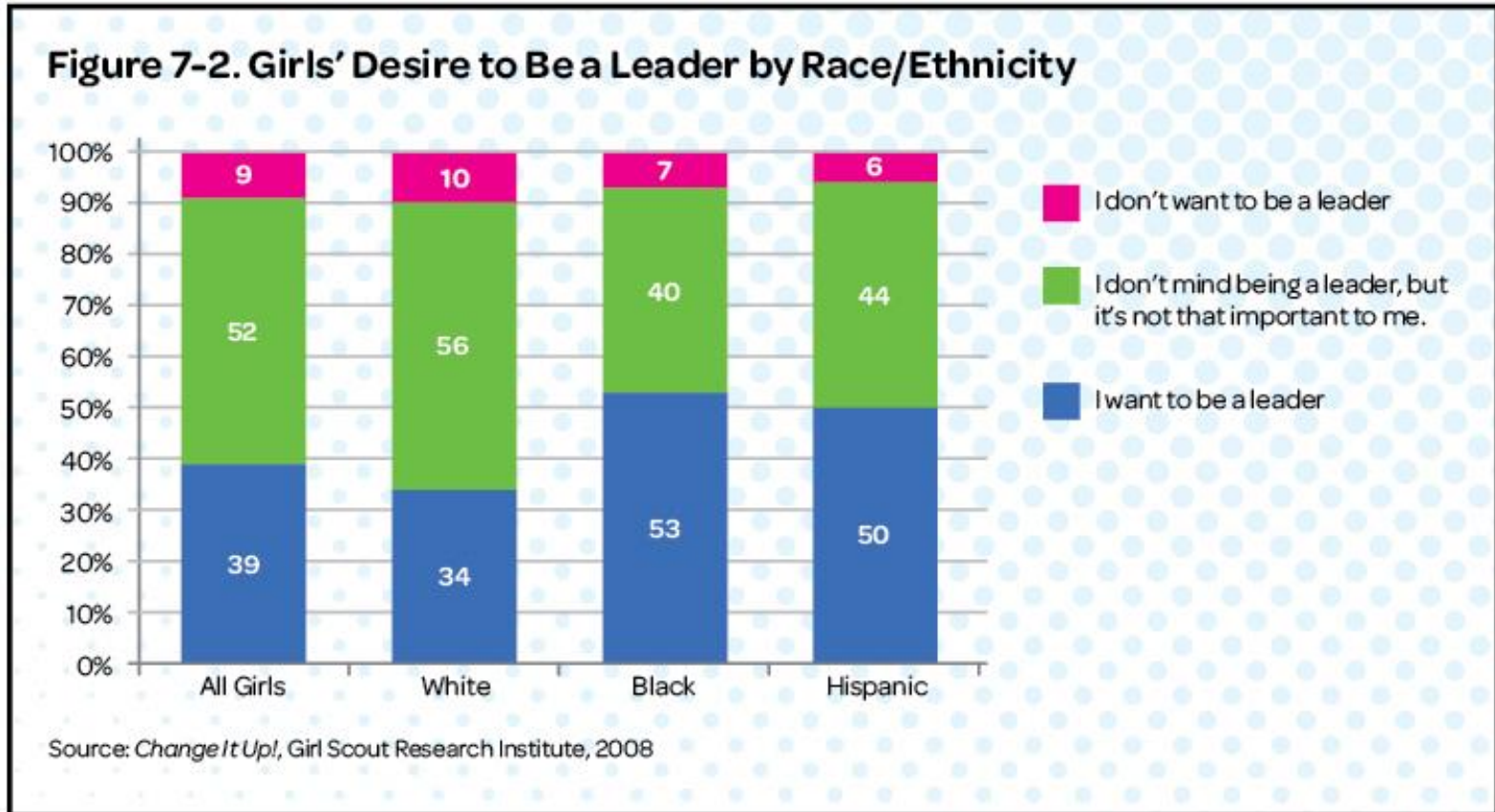
Most girls in this country are connected digitally.

- More than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of girls ages 12 to 17 have a computer or laptop in their home, have a cell phone, and play video games.
- Despite increased use of electronic media, girls still value spending time with their friends.
  - Nearly 60% of all girls spend time doing social activities in person with their friends at least several times a week.



# Leadership

Leadership is not a top goal for girls.



# Conclusion

- *The State of Girls* shows the disparity that exists for girls as it pertains to physical, economic, and emotional well-being is big and is getting worse.
- Demographics and access to resources affect the reach of youth serving organizations.
- No single organization can tackle all the challenges facing girls.





# Call to Action and Next Steps

- Collaborate with Girl Scouts to raise awareness, educate the public, and fund opportunities that can help remedy some of the most pressing challenges girls and communities face today.

