

HOW BEING TRAUMA-INFORMED IMPROVES CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM RESPONSES

Via Hope Offers This Training

SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA), is known nationally for its work regarding people with behavioral health needs involved in the criminal justice system. There is growing recognition that trauma can play a significant role in criminal justice involvement. Although prevalence estimates vary, there is consensus that high percentages of justice-involved women and men have experienced serious trauma throughout their lifetime. The reverberating effects of traumatic experiences can challenge a person's capacity for recovery and pose significant barriers to accessing services, often resulting in an increased risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

As a central component of our efforts to assist communities in moving toward a trauma-informed continuum of services to improve outcomes for individuals who have experienced trauma, the GAINS Center has developed the How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses training. This training program is specifically tailored to assist criminal justice professionals in developing trauma-informed responses to justice-involved adult men and women.

The primary goals of the training are to (1) Increase understanding of trauma, (2) Create an awareness of the impact of trauma on behavior, and (3) Develop trauma-informed responses. Achieving these goals will decrease recidivism, increase safety, and promote and support recovery among justice-involved men and women by linking them to appropriate treatment and support services.

Target audiences for this training program are community-based criminal justice system professionals, including community corrections officers (probation, parole, and pre-trial services), court personnel, law enforcement officers (including local CIT trainers), and human service providers who work with criminal justice-involved adult populations. Participants in training deliveries may be assembled from within a community, county, region, or state, and may also be gathered from outside of the community of the training site.