



How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses

Creating an awareness of the impact of trauma and planning for change

What's at Stake

There is consensus that high percentages of people with criminal legal system involvement have experienced trauma throughout their lives—lifetime trauma among people who are incarcerated has been found to be nearly universal. 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 encountering the criminal legal system.

Criminal legal system professionals are often not aware of trauma's effects and may inadvertently escalate an encounter, leading to worse outcomes.



Our Solution

How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses is a training program for criminal legal system professionals to increase understanding of trauma, create an awareness of the impact of trauma on behavior, and develop trauma-informed responses.

Trauma-informed responses can help to avoid retraumatizing individuals and increase safety, decrease recidivism, and promote and support the recovery of people with criminal legal system involvement.



Our Model

Our 4-hour training is designed to be informative and engaging. We guide training participants through six modules, in which they learn the following:

- Why learn about trauma
- What is trauma
- Trauma's effects
- Individual differences
- Trauma-informed responses
- Trauma-informed systems



Participants

The participants involved in the highly interactive **How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses** training curriculum include the following:

- Criminal legal system professionals (e.g., corrections, court personnel, police)
- Behavioral health providers who work with people with criminal legal system involvement




Get Started With the SMTC

The Systems Mapping and Training Center, operated by [Policy Research Associates](#), uses a public health model to create data-driven systems change. The Systems Mapping and Training Center provides cross-systems mapping and training services on different topics related to behavioral health, the criminal legal system, Veterans, homelessness, and more.

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