TRAUMA INFORMED INVESTIGATIONS
This project is supported by Grant No.#2017-WA-AX-0013 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
“Trauma is not an event, but a response to an event that overpowers people physically and psychologically.” –Dr. Peter Levine
TYPES OF TRAUMA

• Acute trauma
  • Single incident

• Chronic trauma
  • Repeated and prolonged

• Complex trauma
  • Varied, multiple traumatic events

• Historical trauma
  • Passed down trauma in oppressed communities
# ACES- ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACE category</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abuse (emotional, physical, sexual)</td>
<td>13.1%, 27%, 24.7%</td>
<td>7.6%, 29.9%, 16%</td>
<td>10.6%, 28.3%, 20.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witness to abuse</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance abuse</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional neglect</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical neglect</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ace indicators also include: mental illness, parental separation or divorce, incarcerated household member

## NUMBER OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACE Score</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or more</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COST AND PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN TEXAS

6.3 MILLION
ADULT TEXANS HAVE
EXPERIENCED SOME FORM
OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
IN THEIR LIFETIME

that's 33.2%
OF ALL TEXANS

65.2% OF VICTIMS REPORT
MUTLIPLE VICTIMIZATIONS.

413,000
ADULT TEXANS HAVE
EXPERIENCED SOME FORM
OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
IN THE LAST YEAR

★ COSTS THE STATE OF TEXAS ★
$8 BILLION
$42.8 MILLION
ANNUAL EXPENDITURES IN SERVICES FOR VICTIMS

COSTS EACH TEXAN
$340

97% OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS WITH NO WEAPON WAS USED.

10% OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS RESULT IN PREGNANCY.

9.2% OF VICTIMS REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

70% OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS COMMITTED BY A PERPETRATOR KNOWN OR RELATED TO THE VICTIM.

© 2015 The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
OUT OF EVERY 1000 SEXUAL ASSAULTS, 995 PERPETRATORS WILL WALK FREE

230 are reported to police

46 reports lead to arrest

9 cases get referred to prosecutors

5 cases will lead to a felony conviction

4.6 rapists will be incarcerated

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | online.rainn.org
Please visit rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system for full citation.
Estimated 2-8% unfounded accusation*

~11 out of 1000

1.1% chance of false report

INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE AT SFA

962*  <3%  <1%

OUT OF 12,035
Estimated number of students who experienced sexual violence in the 2018-2019 school year

OF TOTAL ESTIMATED INCIDENTS
Reported to the Title IX office in the spring 2019 semester

OF TOTAL ESTIMATED INCIDENTS
Reported to UPD in the spring 2019 semester
IMPACTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DATING VIOLENCE

- Loss of self-esteem
- Suicidal ideations
- Psychological disorders
- Substance abuse
- Impaired memory
- Loss of security/trust in others
- Guilt, shame, and embarrassment
- Loss of appetite

EFFECTS OF TRAUMA

- Increased rates of depression/anxiety
- Substance abuse
- Chronic illness, such as heart disease and cancer
- Dissociation (blank look)
- Not paying attention
- Large reactions to benign events
- Minimization of abuse
- Scattered thinking
- Can’t remember key facts
- Uncooperative
- Failure to follow through

EFFECTS OF TRAUMA

• Reduction in volume of hippocampus
  • Effects memory, including time distortion
  • Difficulty distinguishing past from present

• Change to ventromedial prefrontal cortex
  • Ability to regulate negative emotions

• Increased activity in amygdala
  • Ability to process emotions and fear

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO AN INVESTIGATOR

• There may be a delay in reporting
• The victim may lie, omit, minimize, or exaggerate
• There may be an incomplete recollection or non-linear telling of events
• They may have seemingly inappropriate reactions
• The victim may describe having experienced tonic immobility

https://www.fcasv.org/training/law-enforcement/trauma-informed
TRAUMA SURVIVORS MAY

- Avert their gaze
- Fidget
- Act nervous
- Contradict themselves

RE-TRAUMATIZATION

• “Answer questions, knowing that people are judging you. Think about the last time you had sex. Tell a room full of people about every touch, sight, sound, smell, and taste of that experience. Answer questions, knowing that people are trying to decide if you’re lying.”

BEING TRAUMA INFORMED

• Encourage the survivor to wait one to four days before making a statement
  • The complainant will be more likely to remember more details and remember a more linear timeline

• Demonstrate empathy
  • Be mindful of body language

• Interviews should be conducted in a comfortable setting that feels safe

• Encourage the survivor to do most of the talking
  • Don’t rush the survivor through telling their story

• Take breaks when needed


BEING TRAUMA INFORMED

• Avoid asking “why” questions
  • Instead of “why did/didn’t you ___?” ask, “help me understand your thoughts when ___”

• Ask questions about what the survivor can remember
  • Ask questions that focus on sensory details- these can help to trigger more memories

• Don’t challenge the survivor’s account
  • Ask for more information about what the survivor felt, thought, or did next

• Avoid using legal terminology when possible


BEING TRAUMA INFORMED

• Be present
• Ask directly how you can help
• Watch for triggers, then respond proactively
• Spend time learning about the community you serve
• Be mindful of vicarious trauma
Report it to stop it\nTackling unwanted sexual behaviour on public transport