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News and Information: Child Trauma Treatment and Prevention

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CMHS's [National Center for Trauma-Informed Care](#) (NCTIC) is pleased to call your attention to an important and timely knowledge resource to draw upon in responding to issues related to child trauma treatment and prevention.

NCTIC brings you useful information to stimulate and foster change toward trauma-informed approaches for the health and wellbeing of survivors and consumers in publicly funded systems. Following is a summary of this resource.

The [National Center for Children in Poverty](#) (NCCP) is urging policymakers at all levels to adopt trauma-informed policies and procedures to mitigate the crisis of childhood trauma in the United States.

In its report, ***Strengthening Policies to Support Children, Youth, and Families Who Experience Trauma*** (July 2007), NCCP reaffirms earlier studies and reports on the pervasiveness and impact of child trauma, noting that up to 90 percent of children and youth experience events that leave them traumatized, and that this trauma is directly linked to lifelong health, mental health, and related problems--with increased financial and other costs.

However, the report also offers hope, observing that viable, effective trauma interventions do exist and can provide valuable case studies for creating new policies. It highlights more than 20 tools for screening and assessing children and youth exposed to trauma. The report also provides:

- state-specific information on trauma-informed services and

- infrastructures;
- examples of evidence-based practices to treat trauma; and
- information on federal, state, and tribal policy initiatives that could provide a foundation upon which to build a coordinated, national approach to child trauma.

In its key recommendations, NCCP urges government and healthcare leaders to:

- *Adopt a universal approach* to identify and treat children and youth exposed to trauma;
- *Adequately fund prevention, early intervention and treatment* for trauma victims, while eliminating funding barriers that hinder such strategies and undermine family treatment;
- *Require comprehensive health services plans that address trauma* across systems and funding streams; and
- *Launch a major initiative to improve the quality of care* delivered to those exposed to trauma that addresses the lack of training, competency, and availability of staff who can provide appropriate care.

"Current policy and practice responses do not match in urgency, depth, or quality the epidemic levels of trauma symptoms among children and youth," the report reads, also echoing the growing realization that prior exposure to trauma is particularly high in certain settings--especially the mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems--and that these very systems are often retraumatizing for children.

[Click here](#) to access the full report, *Strengthening Policies to Support Children, Youth, and Families Who Experience Trauma*.

About NCTIC

CMHS' [National Center for Trauma-Informed Care](#) (NCTIC) provides training and technical assistance, education and outreach, a speaker's bureau, and resources to assist publicly-funded agencies, programs, and services in making the important cultural shift to a more trauma-informed environment that benefits both systems and consumers--an environment that is more supportive, comprehensively integrated, and empowering for trauma survivors.

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National Center for Trauma-Informed Care | 4550 Montgomery Avenue | Suite 800 North | Bethesda | MD | 20814