# Welcome! Trauma-Informed Care

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## **Objectives**

- 1. Why TIC and trauma theory
- 2. Prevalence and forms of trauma
- 3. Neuroscience
- 4. Impact of trauma on learning and behavior
- 5. Benefits if every employee uses a TIC lens
- 6. Traditional paradigm TIC paradigm
- 7. Practical interventions to address stress and trauma
- 8. Framework for creating and sustaining a TIC culture





"If we are growing as people, we are always going out of our comfort zone."

"Growth Mindset"



"A trauma-informed school is one in which all students and staff feel safe, welcomed and supported and where the impact of trauma on teaching and learning is addressed at the center of the educational mission. Trauma-informed schools create school policies, practices and cultures that are sensitive to the needs of traumatized individuals and ensure that all individuals (students, families and staff) meet their maximum potential."



http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/School-Safety/Building-Better-Learning-Environments/PBIS-Resources/Trauma-Informed-Schools

## **Universal Approach**



#### **Empathy for all..**

- Students
- Families
- Coworkers
- Neighbors

Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.

Be kind.

Always.

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## **Core Principles of TIC**

- · Positive relationships built on empathy, respect, and trust
- · Respond to behaviors with a TI disposition, approach, and discipline
- Strengths focused differentiated interventions and skill-based education
   self-regulation of emotions
- Voice (active listening) and choice (sense of control)
- Culturally competent
- Address triggers and stress response system

Physical
Emotional
Academic
Social

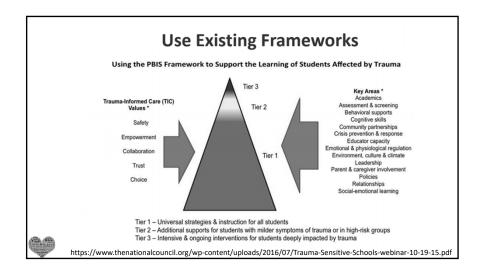
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## TIC is...



Based on positive relationships and safe environments.

- Realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands paths for recovery
- Recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma
- Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices
- Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization



## **Benefits of a TIC Implementation**

Increases - Improves...

Decreases...

Graduation rates

- Special education services
- Academic achievement
- Time out of the classroom
- Employee satisfaction, retention Discipline
- Perception of safety

• Truancy (Oehlberg, 2008)

- Relationships
- Hope and resiliency





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#### Why TIC? Self-fulfillment actualization: achieving one's Compare full potential, including creative Esteem needs: prestige and feeling of accomplishmen Psychological to principles of a Belongingness and love needs: trauma-informed nate relationships, friends organization? Safety needs: security, safety Basic needs Physiological needs: food, water, warmth, rest

## "Why" TIC

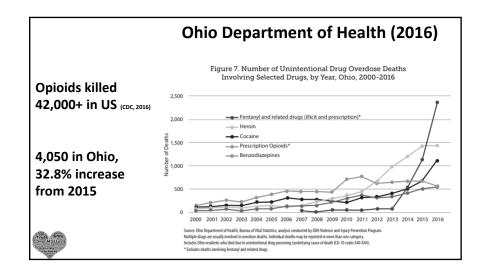
- Law
  - > 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
    - o Section 4018 (Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Students)
- 2015 Compton Unified School District lawsuit
  - > Trauma does NOT guarantee students will...
    - 1) suffer trauma-induced disability
    - 2) be denied meaningful access to their education
- Judge acknowledged that trauma CAN disable a student

## **Economic Impact of Trauma**

- School to Prison Pipeline
- > cost of incarcerating a juvenile is estimated at \$88,000 to \$94,000 /yr.
- > Harvard \$68,000 for tuition, room and board 2018-2019
- Economic costs of untreated trauma-related alcohol and drug abuse alone estimated at \$161 billion in 2000

(National Council for Behavioral Health, 2015)





"Regardless of exposure and the extent of the effects posed on the child, it is important to remember that living in a family with drug abusers is, in itself, a significant risk factor. A child whose parents (or other direct family members) abuse drugs often lives in a chaotic environment."



https://osepideasthatwork.org/sites/default/files/IDEAsIIssBrief-Opioids-508.pdf

Trauma = a set of conditions that produces strong physical, emotional, or stress reactions that has enduring negative effects on the individual's physical, social, or emotional well-being. (SAMHSA, 2014)

## **Types of Trauma**

- Acute Trauma
- Complex Trauma
- Chronic Trauma





### **Trauma in Schools**

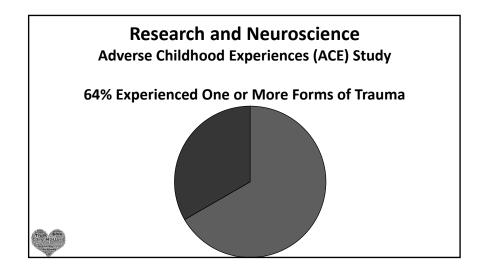
- Violence
- Bullying
- Social exclusion
- Accidents
- Secondary trauma
- Perceived danger (triggers)

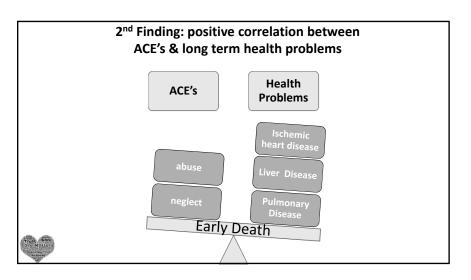


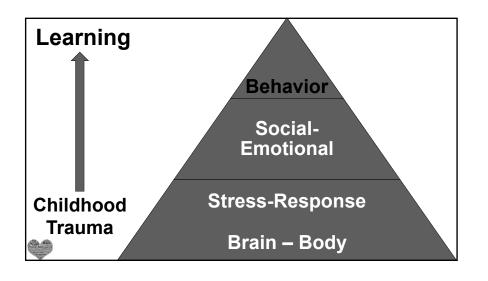
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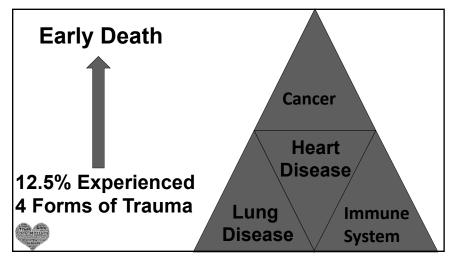
#### Identify, Remove or Manage Triggers Practical and Proactive Intervention

- External and internal triggers
  - > Smells
  - > Sounds
  - > Sights
  - **Emotions**
  - > Thoughts
  - > Tone of voice
  - > Perfume
  - > Interaction style
  - > Gender
  - ➤ Race









Social-Emotional	
FEAR for self and others	Worry about re-occurrence, "racing thoughts"
Constant state of alarm	Feeling isolated, hopeless, helpless
Dissociation: apathetic, in a fog, numb	Feeling not worthy, loveable, expect maltreatment
Lack empathy for others	Difficulty communicating needs & wants
Ability to correctly identify intentions and behaviors of others	Shame, guilt

Social-Emotional		
Interpersonal skills and relationship problems	Lack awareness of acceptable boundaries of others	
Conflict when criticized or teased	Overreact to bells, sirens, touch	
Poor control of emotions	Aggressiveness is "normal"	
Resists or overreacts to change  More time to bounce back  Less tolerant of discomfort or challenges	Difficulty visualizing their future	
Distrust Others TRIJST	Unable to identify, label & control emotions	

## **Impact on Behavior**

- Reaction (physiological) is fast, reflex, unconscious
- > Information from senses to emotional center is faster than to cortex (goal is survival)
- Internalize (withdrawal shut down)
- Externalize (disruptive act out)
- Aggressive, defiant with authority
- Hypervigilant
- Unpredictable, impulsive behavior
- Regress to behaviors of a younger age



#### **Behavior**

- "Act" scared
- Antisocial
- Over or under reacting to noise or contact ("jumpy")
- Perfectionistic
- Lie
- Steal
- Manipulate (ex: to "escape or avoid")

#### **Behaviors Tell a Story**

- A barometer of the development of (or lack of) social and life skills.
- School teaches students how to manage emotions, behaviors, and appropriate social interactions.



"We now know that their behaviors are not the result of moral failings or signs of lack of willpower or bad character – they are caused by actual changes in the brain." (van der Kolk, 2014, p. 3)

- **≻**Compassion for student's "world"
- ➤ Acknowledge student stress



Traumatized youth look over their shoulder

Focus on safety

Lack trust



# How do these challenges impact each of us, students, families, friends, and colleagues?

Incarceration	Rejection or Isolation
Homelessness	Natural Disaster
Bullying	Military
School - Community Violence	Terrorism, War
Domestic Violence	Refugee
Serious Illness (mental) - Surgery	Secondary Trauma
	Homelessness Bullying School - Community Violence Domestic Violence

\*Witness or Victim \*Avoid System-Induced Retraumatization



#### **True or False**

There's no link between stress and learning. Kids "just need to suck it up and deal with it".

Thumbs up if true, down if false, sideway if not sure

False: When kids are stressed, it's tough for them to learn.



## **Educational Impact of ACEs**

	Severe Behavior	Severe Attendance	Academic Failure	Chronic Health
1 ACE	2.4x	2.2x	1.5x	1.8x
3+ ACE	6.1x	4.9x	2.9x	2.5x

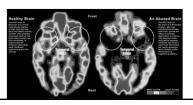
- 4x Depression
- 12x Risk of Suicide (Washington State University)

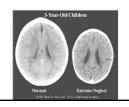


# True or False

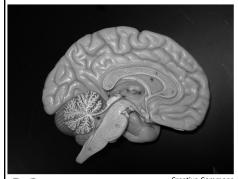
A hurting child's brain looks different from a child's brain who has been loved and cared for consistently.

True: PET Scans and fMRI machines reveal the differences in a "normal" brain and the brain of a traumatized individual.





#### **Impact on Brain Development and Function**



- · Develops over time.
- Different areas of the brain control different functions.
- "Damage" caused by trauma impacts specific structures and functions of the developing brain.



## Limbic System Hypothalamus

hypothalamus thalamus
frontal lobe
olfactory
bulb
amygdala hippocampus

- Prepares body for action
- > Endocrine system to secrete stress hormones (adrenaline and cortisol)
- > Heart rate, blood pressure, breathing increase
- Blood to muscles
- > Digestion and immune system shuts off
  - o Stress responses stays "on", reduces ability to fight illnesses
- > Involved in survival if under perceived or real threat (fight, flight, freeze)

#### **Amygdala**

- "Smoke Detector" (respond to perceived or real threats)
- > Impaired amygdala: hard to recognize the emotions of others
- Central train-routing station: routes information based on emotional state (blocks sensory information to the prefrontal cortex when stressed)

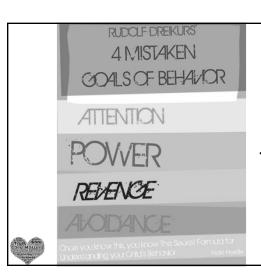


#### **Cerebral Cortex**

- Prefrontal cortex last to fully develop (mid 20s)
- > Continues to change (rewire) throughout lifetime
- > Develops when stimulated with positive learning opportunities
- "Higher-order" thinking, executive functioning, decision making
- > The cortex is off-line during trauma, when triggered, stress
  - Survival response takes over (limbic system)
    - o language center shuts down; cannot explain why...
    - o left hemisphere is inaccessible
    - o cannot use logic, reasoning, or sound judgement



> To learn and "behave," must have access to frontal lobe

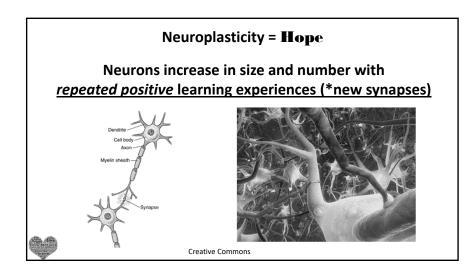


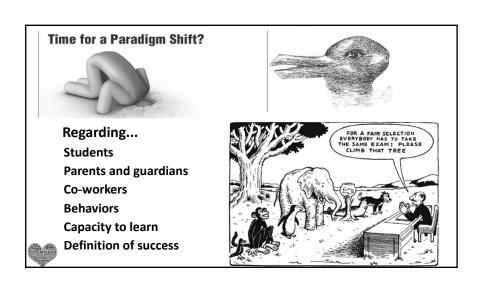
Brain-Based Safety Response = fight, flight, freeze

Behavior is a form of communication  May not feel safe			
Flight	Fight	Freeze	
Withdrawing Fleeing Skipping class Day dreaming Seeming to sleep Avoiding others Hiding or wandering	Acting out Behaving aggressively Exhibiting defiance Being hyperactive Arguing Screaming and yelling	Exhibiting numbness Refusing to answer Refusing to get needs met Giving a blank look Feeling unable to move or act	
	Souers and Hall (2016)		

## Stress before hitting the front door!

- ❖Home, neighborhood, school bus
- **❖**Interpersonal meanness
- **❖**Social media
- Nurse's clinic (somatic symptoms time out of class)
- Impacts emotions, thoughts, & behaviors = learning
- Discipline referral to school office
  - ➤ Time out of the classroom = no learning





#### **True or False**

Discipline is "soft" in a trauma-informed school.

False: There are consequences for all of our behaviors, both "good and bad". Discipline means to teach. Focus on building skills and discovering the underlying reason for the behavior.



Traditional Perspective	Trauma-Informed Perspective
Focus on academics and test scores	Focus on whole-student growth and well-being
Teach reading, writing, math skills	Teach self-care, how to build and maintain relationships, and coping skills
Students should know and follow all rules	Students need to be taught expectations
Students must give respect to authority	Employees choose to respond respectfully
Students should easily adjust to change (substitutes, change in schedule or rules between classrooms)	Communicate with students before change; change may trigger the stress-response
Employee-centered decision making	Student-centered decision making
"Blames" poverty, parents, etc.	Avoids the "blame game," focus on "controllables"

Traditional Perspective	Trauma-Informed Perspective
Students choose behaviors Punish misbehaviors	Students want to do well but lacks skills Discipline means to teach
Behavior is NOT a coping strategy Takes student behavior personally (offended, disrespected)	Understands that behavior communicates "something" and serves a function (escape / safety)
Perceives student behavior negatively (manipulative, "bad")	Perceives student behavior constructively
Labels to describe students (ED, hyperactive, lazy)	Focus on student strengths not weaknesses
Authoritarian approaches "My way or highway"	Collaborative approaches; Gives students a voice and choices
Angry – punishment model (to hurt, creates a power struggle )	Empathy – consequences (to teach) model

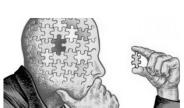
Traditional Perspective	Trauma-Informed Perspective
Sympathy	Empathy
"One upping a student"	Look for win-win, not a win-lose
"They need to snap out of it."	With on-going stressors / trauma, the emotional part of the brain "stays on." It takes time to heal and to learn replacement skills to build resiliency.
"There is no hope for this student." "He/she will never make it."	All students can learn and become resilient. Coming to school IS a form of resiliency.
"They are NOT my students."	"EVERY student is MY student. If not us, then who?"

# First and Last Impressions "You" in a trauma-informed organization



# Trauma-Informed Dispositions Matter





"Knowledge is power, but knowledge about self is the greatest power."

(Rogers & Frieberg, 1994, p. 119)

"Changing the heart."

(Blodgett, personal communication, October, 21, 2015)



TIC Strategies: It starts with you...

- Mindsets, beliefs, and attitudes
- Body language
- Tone and word choice
- Don't take it personally





\*Self-awareness

- Attitudes and beliefs are student-centered and empathetic
- TI disposition influences behaviors toward students
  - ✓ Aware of body language, tone, and choice of words
  - ✓ Manages emotions, calmly seeks to de-escalate
  - ✓ Believes in healing and resiliency
  - √ Self efficacy ("I make a difference.")
  - ✓ Patient and respectful
  - ✓ Predictable and approachable



## **EVERY INTERACTION MATTERS**



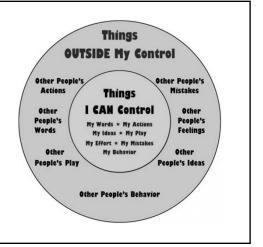
## **Seek First to Understand**



"Before you start to judge me, step into my shoes and walk the life I'm living and if you get as far as I am, just maybe you will see how strong I really am.

# Focus on your control-ables!







## **Secondary Trauma**

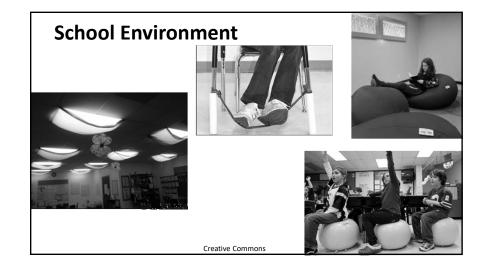




## **Calm the Brain**

- Giving space and time to cool down
- Physical exercise
- Mindfulness practices

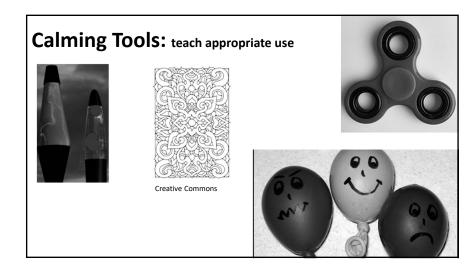






#### **Environment**

- Teach and reinforce structure and routines in ALL locations
- Teach expectations
- Predictable (in all areas all classes)
- Approachable adults
- Conflict resolution skills





## Mindfulness



## **Keep Your Cool... So Students Can Keep Their Cool**

#### **Deep breathing**

- o Breathe in count of 4 (nose)
- Hold count of 4 (deep in belly)
- o Breathe out count of 4 (mouth)



## **Progressive Relaxation**



Rate your level of 1 low - 10 high 10

1

### **Guided Imagery**

Use of visualization.



Give tangible properties to abstract thoughts and feelings. What color?

How big?

Texture?

Guided imagery exercise. Assess again.

What color?

How big?

Texture?



#### Awareness of Emotions and the Physical Body

- 1. Identify an emotion (sadness, anger, fear, frustration, confusion, joy)
- 2. Think about the incident and how it made you feel.
- 3. How did your body feel?
- 4. Identify where the emotion was felt in the body.
- 5. Mark on the picture where the emotion was felt.



## **Teach the Cognitive Triangle**

Situation Thoughts Emotions Behaviors

Manage thoughts to change feelings and behaviors.



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## Practice, Model, and Teach Skills Thought Stopping...

- Avoid "always" "never" "nobody" "black-white" thinking
- Stop runaway thoughts
  - ➤Is it likely?
  - **≻**Cyclical thoughts keeps emotions heightened
- Teach replacement beliefs and behaviors
  - >"I have... I can.... I will..." statements





#### **Teach the Impact of Trauma and Stress**

- · Impact of trauma on the brain and learning
- · Ways to manage stress and self-regulate emotions
- How body and brain responds to fear
- Toxic stress response





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# SAFETY MATTERS

"The school is a safe place. I won't let anyone \_\_\_\_\_ you. So, I can't let you \_\_\_\_\_ because this is a safe place."



• How can I help and support you?

• I am ready to listen.

• I am a safe person for you.

Care Matters - Every Interaction Matters - You Matter

## Resiliency trumps trauma.



Regardless of ACEs, stress, and constant change.

## A Journey of a Thousand Miles...

3-5 year process to implement 6 pillars

Policies and Practices



#### **Trauma-Informed Community**

- **➤ WRAP Services** 
  - o Coordination of services with mental health agencies
- > Findlay PD
  - Communication with schools
  - o Quick response and support





## **Discipline Policies and Procedures**

- Do not "threaten punishment" to prevent or change behaviors
- Discipline is an adult decision
- Reduction in referrals and consequences
  - > Reduction in behaviors? Trauma is still occurring.
  - ➤ Restorative justice
  - **➤** Reverse suspensions
  - ➤ Social suspensions



"We would never send a child home because that child was struggling at reading. We would never send a child home if that child was struggling with math. Why would we send a child home for struggling with social-emotional skills?" Walter Gilliam, Yale School of Medicine





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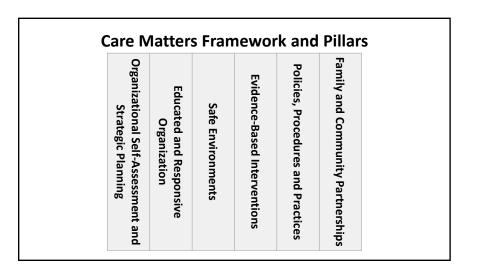
### **Data Connecting Trauma to Behaviors**

- What does your discipline data tell you about safety
  - > Real or perceived?
  - > Students and adults feel safe?
- · Student history?
- Types of behaviors resulting in time out of the classroom and suspension?
- August 2016 March 2017
- > 47 students received OSS; 3 regular education no known traumas



N = 759 in 2016 2797 in 2017 2380 in 2018	Average % 2016-2018	Student Perception Survey Data Grades 3-12
1	93.57	Teachers in my school care about me.
2	89.97	My teachers are available when I need extra help.
3	88.74	The teachers in my school treat me with respect.
4	90.33	I feel physically safe in my classrooms.
5	81.66	I feel emotionally safe in my classrooms.
6	83.15	I feel physically safe outside the classroom at school.
7	89.47	My teachers give helpful feedback and encouragement.
8	94.09	My teachers work well together.
9	66.15	I enjoy coming to school. (lowest %)
10	94.08	I have a positive relationship with at least one adult at my school.
11	90.39	I trust a majority of the teachers in my school.
12	83.95	I trust a majority of the adults, other than teachers, in my school.
13	89.67	I feel like I learn when I am at school.
14	81.53	I like going to school events, such as sports, dances, etc.
15	77.54	I participate in activities at my school such as teams, clubs, etc.
16	75.32	My classmates treat me with respect.





## What is your next step?



- Differentiated PD
- Consultation phone conferences
- Full district implementation coaching



## **Selfie Time**





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