



OCYF *Trauma Team*

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A trauma-informed child welfare system is better able to understand that all families are affected and recover from trauma differently. When child welfare professionals are trauma-informed and healing centered, they are better able to recognize and support families' ability to succeed. ([Trauma-Informed Practice | Child Welfare Information Gateway](#))



Trauma-Informed Child Welfare Practice

Trauma-informed practice involves an ongoing awareness of how traumatic experiences may affect children, families, and the human services professionals who serve them (NCTSN, 2016)

Trauma-informed systems recognize:

- How a family may perceive services and the practice of child welfare.
- How actions or physical places may activate or retraumatize a child or family.
- As a parallel process, it is recognized that secondary stress may affect child welfare staff while working with the family.
- What a child welfare professional may need to feel supported while working with traumatic incidents.

Better outcomes are seen from child welfare agencies that use trauma assessments and screenings and follow-up with evidence-based treatments as needed, including:

- Less crisis interventions
- Decreased use of psychotropic medications for children in care.
- Improvement in the child's overall well-being and functional capabilities.
- Less out-of-home placements.
- Fewer residential placements are necessary (CB, 2020).

For additional resources on screening children for trauma and related assessment tools, visit:

- [Learn: Screening and Assessment for Trauma in Child Welfare Settings \(nctsn.org\)](#)
- [Screening and Assessment | The National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(nctsn.org\)](#)
- [Screening and Assessment | SAMHSA](#)

Children's Bureau (May 2020). The Importance of a Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System. Issue Brief. [The Importance of a Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System \(cwig-prod-prod-drupal-s3fs-us-east-1.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2013, July 11). [Letter to State Medicaid directors]. <https://www.medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/SMD-13-07-11.pdf>

National Child Traumatic Stress Network. (2016). What is a trauma-informed child and family service system? [What is a Trauma-Informed Child and Family Service System? | The National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(nctsn.org\)](#)