

Child Trauma Response Teams and Child-Sensitive Arrests

Training & Technical Assistance Outline

NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME



Abstract

Nearly 52% of individuals currently incarcerated in state systems, and 63% of individuals incarcerated in federal systems, are parents of minor children.

Additionally, about 22% of the individuals in state prison, and 16% of individuals incarcerated in the federal prison system have children under the age of 4. The arrest and subsequent imprisonment of parents and family members can disrupt close familial relationships, alter a child's network of familial support, and place a substantial financial, social, and emotional burden upon the school and judicial system. Furthermore, roughly two out of every five children who witness their parent's arrest or lose a parent to incarceration develop emotional and behavioral issues as they progress into adulthood. That statistic is nearly double the existing rate for children in the general U.S. population who have not experienced a familial arrest. The National Center for Victims of Crime aims to educate law enforcement, criminal justice actors, and organizations on the impacts of parental arrests, as well as effective methodologies for prevention. This course incorporates strategies proposed by the NYPD Safe Horizon Model and provides evidence-backed tools and strategies that are proven to reduce trauma and facilitate trust between law enforcement and children in their local communities.





Learning Objectives

- Providing LE and victim advocates with a background on the effects of witnessing violence and parental arrests on children
- Educating officials on child trauma and reducing its impact on communities as a long-term crime prevention strategy
- Cultivating effective methods for child-sensitive arrests
- Providing steps for implementing child trauma response teams for domestic violence calls
- Educating LE on community-based interventions as alternatives to child trauma response teams (in cases where there is a lack of funding or staffing capacity.)

Methodology

The principles in which this training is centered upon were developed by assessing various training tools and resources focused on witness and victim intimidation prevention and responses, including research conducted by Arizona State University and AEquitas. This training will use research, discussion questions, and videos to present the material in an engaging format, and conclude with a case study designed to summarize and critically think about the topics covered. This training is designed to be presented as a whole or portions of the course can be used on a case-by-case basis depending on what is most relevant to the site seeking technical assistance. Course modules can be presented in person or in a digital format via webinar or other available methods.

Agenda

- Introduction and Brief Discussion
- Modules ~ 1-4
- Discussion Topic
- Modules ~ 5-8
- Discussion Topic
- Break
- Case Study
- Hypotheticals/Quiz
- NCVC Survey and Certification

