**2022 STUDY REVIEWS** 

# EFFECTIVENESS OF PTSD TREATMENT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



### A systematic review of seven trauma-specific treatments

#### Types of treatments evaluated

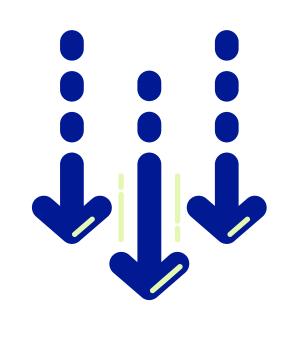


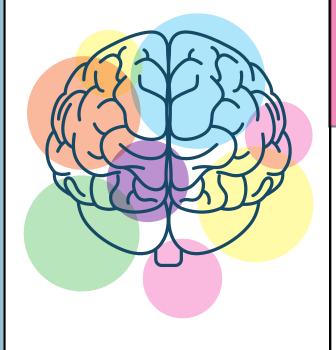
Baetz et al,¹conducted one of the first known systematic reviews to focus exclusively on the effectiveness of trauma-specific treatment for justiceinvolved adolescents and evaluate the impact of the interventions.

- Trauma Affect Regulation Guide for Education and Treatment (**TARGET**)
- Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC)
- Cognitive Processing Therapy (**CPT**)
- Writing and Reflecting on Identity To Empower Ourselves as Narrators (WRITE-ON)

### Decrease in posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms

In many of the studies, trauma-focused treatments led to a significant decrease in PTSD symptoms among adolescents in the juvenile justice system compared with a control group. This finding is consistent with past research demonstrating the effectiveness of other evidence-based PTSD treatments, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).





#### Impacting other mental health outcomes

In many of the studies, trauma-specific treatment was shown to mitigate cooccurring symptoms such as depressive symptoms in adolescents in the juvenile justice system compared with a control group. Targeting traumatic reactions such as fear, anxiety, or behavioral changes, may result in a simultaneous reduction of depressive and other trauma-related symptoms.

## Trauma-focused treatments are effective for adolescents in the juvenile justice system

More research and resources are needed to:

- provide the field with more empirical research on specific treatments
- train professionals on the existing treatments
- implement effective treatment plans in juvenile justice settings

Find more resources for trauma-recovery and juvenile justice on the CTRJJ website.



#### Source: