

## U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

# Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Women's Health (HRSA OWH)

### IMPACT OF TRAUMA

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. HRSA's strategic goals are to: 1) improve access to quality health care and services; 2) strengthen the health workforce; 3) build healthy communities; and 4) improve health equity. HRSA develops an annual publication, *Women's Health USA*, which is an easy-to-use collection of current and historical data related to the most pressing health challenges facing women, families, and communities. The 2012 edition highlighted several new topics including adverse childhood experiences and sexual violence. Additional statistics and sources for further information can be found in the first Federal Partners Report on Women and Trauma <http://nicic.gov/Library/025082>.

### How a Trauma-Informed Approach Can Make a Difference

HRSA focuses on strengthening the workforce through training providers and safety net providers. In addition, HRSA addresses the behavioral health needs of the populations it serves through training on trauma-informed approaches.

In 2011, President Obama challenged HRSA-funded community health centers funded to hire 8,000 veterans (approximately one veteran per health center) over three years. This effort, along with emerging collaborations between HRSA-funded health centers and community based Veteran's Affairs (VA) outpatient clinics will facilitate the provision of primary and behavioral health care to veterans, including trauma-sensitive health care practices.



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### Major Accomplishments 2010-2013

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In 2011, HRSA OWH partnered with the Health Care for the Homeless Program to increase the capacity of primary care providers to provide trauma-informed care to veterans, particularly women, and submitted recommendations resulting in a literature review and needs assessment on veterans and trauma-informed care.

In February 2013, HRSA OWH developed a Veterans Trauma-Informed Protocols Initiative to increase awareness about trauma and training on trauma-informed approaches for HRSA-funded health centers. The project is: 1) reviewing existing trauma-informed practices and service delivery models; 2) disseminating information about the benefits of trauma-informed services; 3) providing recommendations on the feasibility of and mechanisms for health centers to report the integration of trauma-informed approaches into systems of care; and 4) identifying successful examples of health centers using trauma-informed practices.

Also in 2013, HRSA OWH moderated a session on Trauma-Informed Care for Women Veterans Experiencing Homelessness at the National Healthcare for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium. The symposium addressed the prevalence and impact of trauma on women veterans; introduced trauma-informed care; and discussed trauma-informed strategies using the *Trauma-Informed Care for Women Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: A Guide for Service Providers* tool developed by the Women's Bureau in the Department of Labor.

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### New Directions and Collaborations

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In 2013, the HRSA Office of Special Health Affairs will host a Trauma-Informed Care webinar for HRSA-funded safety net providers (with subject matter experts from SAMHSA), and will implement a new project on Meeting the Behavioral Health Care Needs of Veterans that will incorporate trauma-informed approaches. The program will include a Certificate program and a self-directed, 16-hour online course to train civilian behavioral health and primary care providers on military orientation and primary care and behavioral health issues affecting veterans and their families.

To address the behavioral health needs and the impact of trauma on the people they serve, HRSA has partnered with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to establish the Center for Integrated Health Solutions. The Center provides continuing education for civilian, community-based primary care, and behavioral health providers regarding the needs of veterans, service members, and their families, and includes a focus on trauma-informed care. The goal is to train 10,000 providers by the end of FY2013.

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### Additional Resources

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Update contact: [MRice@hrsa.gov](mailto:MRice@hrsa.gov)

<http://www.hrsa.gov/index.html>

<http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/trauma>