Trauma Informed Leadership

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Trauma is...

An **event** or series of events, **experienced** by an individual that has lasting **effects**. Also known as the 3 "Es"



Trauma alters the structure of the brain!

Examples of Trauma:

Abuse

Sexual · Physical Emotional · Bullying Loss

Death · Divorce Natural Disaster · War Ongoing

Poverty · Racism Medical · Domestic Violence

ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Traumatic events experienced before the age of 18
- Associated with problems in adulthood such as PTSD, substance abuse, obesity, cancer, suicidality, decreased life expectancy

Trauma can manifest:

Behaviorally - anger, irritability, reckless or self-destructive actions, suicidal ideation, absenteeism, job problems

Emotionally - nightmares, anxiety, depression, exhaustion, confusion

Psychologically - underestimate danger, hypervigilance, difficulty focusing, lack of motivation, difficulty trusting others, increased risk of victimization



of active duty members have a mental health diagnosis (Psychological Health Center of Excellence, 2020)



of Air Force members engage in binge drinking. (Rand, 2021)



of uniformed members report 4 or more ACEs (Blosnich, 2014)

"What happened to you?"

Instead of What's wrong with you?

Trauma Informed Actions

Learn about trauma & integrate that into
the workplace Be mindful of common
triggers Ensure individuals are contributing
to conversations about themselves
Be clear & predictable in your actions
Care & be connected to the people you
lead Share your story Use positive
methods to motivate, not fear Accept
different ways of doing work
Nurture relationships