

“Why Trauma-Informed Care in Prisons/Jails Isn’t Enough”

Why this Topic is Important

Many individuals enter prison/jail having experienced trauma, and prisons/jails themselves are traumatic.

Prison and jail staff continually express a need for more training on trauma in carceral settings.

Some recent science may help carceral staff better understand trauma and equip them to help residents who are experiencing it.

Key Episode Takeaways

- ✓ We know very little about how the trauma-informed practices (if/when they exist) delivered by correctional staff help (or hurt) individuals in prison/jail.
- ✓ Even when staff try to use a trauma-informed approach in prison/jail they face many challenges in doing so, including: 1) the scale of need; 2) the available resources, and 3) the physical and cultural aspects of the institution.
- ✓ A trauma-aware culture may be more possible in prison/jail.

Research Science Cited in This Episode

Vaswani, N., & Paul, S. (2019). “It’s knowing the right things to say and do”: Challenges and opportunities for trauma-informed practice in the prison context. *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*, 58, 513–534. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hojo.12344>