

Evaluation Findings of a Community-Based Intervention for Holocaust Survivors

Implications for Agencies and Older Adults With a History of Trauma

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Overview

What is Trauma? Individual trauma is a result of an event, series of events, or set of circumstances which present physical or emotional harm to an individual, or are life threatening, and have lasting adverse effects on an individual's functioning and wellbeing. ¹

- 1 Trauma affects the majority of adults in the United States.
- 2 Trauma and health are linked.
- 3 Trauma affects adults as they age.
- 4 Some populations experience trauma at increased rates.

80,000

Holocaust survivors live in the United States ²

46%

Of Holocaust survivors have Posttraumatic Stress Disorder ³

Holocaust survivors in the United States represent one of the most vulnerable older adult populations as their trauma histories are linked to high rates of health decline coupled with challenges in accessing and receiving care.

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2014) SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 14-4884. https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/userfiles/files/SAMHSA_Trauma.pdf

2. Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (2020). Estimated Global Nazi Victim Population. <http://www.claimscon.org/for-agencies/studies/ny-population/>

3. Barak, Y., & Szor, H. (2000). Lifelong posttraumatic stress disorder: evidence from aging Holocaust survivors. *Dialogues in clinical neuroscience*, 2(1), 57–62. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3181591/>

4. Eisinger, M., & Bedney, B. (2018). Teaching about trauma: Models for training service providers in person-centered, trauma-informed care. *Kavod Spring*, 2018(8) <http://kavod.claimscon.org/2018/02/teaching-about-trauma-models-for-training-service-providers-in-person-centered-trauma-informed-care/>



Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed Care ⁴

Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed care (PCTI care) is an innovative approach to service delivery that promotes trust, dignity, strength, and empowerment of all individuals by incorporating knowledge about trauma into agency programs, policies, and procedures.

Critical Supports Program

Program Goals

- 1 Help Holocaust Survivors Age in Place
- 2 Provide Direct Services to Prevent and Resolve Crises
- 3 Strengthen PCTI Care through Communities

Program Reach



Program Structure



Program Evaluation

What

The process and impact evaluation focused on three topics:

1. Impact of the program on participants
2. Impact of the program on Holocaust survivor care
3. Method in which each Leadership Councils was formed, implemented, and governed

When

The evaluation covers the first year of programming (October 1st, 2018 – September 30th, 2019)

Why

The evaluation was conducted to monitor progress and results of pilot year programming

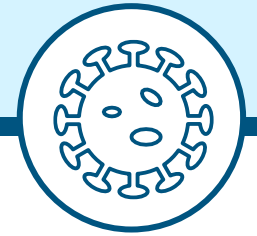
Who

Evaluation collected data from six Leadership Councils active in the first year of programming, including feedback from each Leadership Council's conveners, members, and subgrantees

How

The evaluation was conducted in three phases:

1. Literature review conducted on topics of partnership, trauma, aging, and Holocaust survivors in the United States
2. Data was collected from respondents through:
 - Online surveys (32% response rate)
 - Semi-structured interviews with six convening Federations (100% response rate)
3. Data was analyzed utilizing three methods:
 - Qualitative Analysis
 - Quantitative Analysis
 - Relationship Identification



COVID-19 Challenges

1. Adjustments to evaluation timeline
2. Reduced availability of respondents

COVID-19 Implications

1. Reduced response rates
2. Preliminary findings
3. Lacking Holocaust survivor input and feedback
4. Increased focus on available data

Program Summary

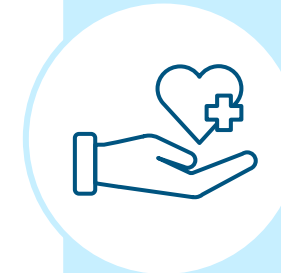
Through the Critical Supports Program:



As a result, program participants demonstrated improved service capacity through positive changes in the following program areas:



Understanding and practice of Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed Care



Understanding and Practice of Holocaust Survivor Care



Ability, Interest, and Use of Community Partnerships

Improvements in PCTI Care



Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed care was integrated into the program through:

- Trainings
- Council Meetings
- Funding Allocations



88%

of participants improved their understanding of Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed care



87%

of participants improved their understanding of how to provide Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed care



60%

of participants integrated or improved Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed care in their organization

Improvements in Holocaust Survivor Care



Holocaust survivor care was integrated into the program through:

- Trainings
- Needs Assessments
- Council Membership
- Funding Allocations



92%

of participants improved their understanding of Holocaust survivors in their community



88%

of participants improved their capacity to provide direct or indirect services to Holocaust survivors in their community



72%

of participants reported improved care of Holocaust survivors through their organization

Improvements in Community Partnerships



Community partnerships were integrated into the program through:

- Council Membership
- Member Demographics
- Council Structure
- Council Functions



87%

of participants built new relationships with individuals in their community



81%

of participants increased their interest to partner outside of the program and in the future



66%

of participants reported increased ability to partner outside of the program and in the future

Implications

- 1 The Critical Supports Program demonstrates a new and promising model for service delivery for Holocaust survivors
- 2 The Critical Supports Program demonstrates effectiveness in activating community capacity to serve Holocaust survivors
- 3 The Critical Supports Program demonstrates applicability for replication with other populations of older adults with a history of trauma
- 4 The Critical Supports Program warrants further research on theory and practice of trauma, aging, and service for older adults with a history of trauma

Disclosures

We have no commercial relationships to disclose

More Information



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Thank You!