



## RESEARCH BRIEF

# INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT ON PTSD AMONG BLACK GIRLS IN JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Black girls in detention are an understudied population who experience high rates of PTSD based on their individual, family, and peer factors.

### About this Study

Black girls bear a higher burden of juvenile justice involvement in the United States, relative to other racial/ethnic female groups. Emerging evidence suggests that system involvement is related to trauma histories and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This study investigated the associations between individual, family, and peer factors and their relationship to PTSD among Black girls with juvenile justice involvement. Cross-sectional data were collected from 188 Black girls in detention. Measures assessed were history of abuse, negative peer norms, future orientation, caregiver support, self-esteem, age, and PTSD symptoms.

The secondary data for the current analysis came from a parent study called Imara that was a randomized controlled study designed to test the efficacy of a sexual risk reduction intervention. Specifically, the intervention intended to decrease the incidence of sexually transmitted infections, improve HIV-preventive behaviors, and enhance psychosocial outcomes for Black females in a juvenile detention center.

### Conclusion

Treatment programs for justice-involved Black girls warrant a multi-systemic approach, which includes caregivers, peers, and bolstering important constructs such as self-esteem and hopefulness.

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### KEY FINDING

*Major regression findings indicated that higher rates of caregiver support, higher negative peer norms, lower self-esteem rates, and lower future orientation rates were correlated with greater PTSD symptoms.*

### ABOUT THE RESEARCHERS

This study was conducted by an interdisciplinary team of researchers from across the nation and was led by **Dr. Camille R. Quinn**, assistant professor of social work at The Ohio State University. Dr. Quinn is a juvenile justice expert who draws from prior clinical and administrative experience in social and health services with children and families involved in the juvenile/criminal and child welfare systems to investigate mechanisms that underlie individual and structural barriers associated with recidivism and comorbid mental health disparities of vulnerable youth. The team also included Dr. Donte Boyd, Dr. B.K. Elizabeth Kim, Mrs. Sujeeta Menon, Dr. Patricia Logan-Greene, Dr. Eseosa Asemota, Dr. Ralph Joseph DiClemente, and Dr. Dexter Voisin.



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