

# **Georgetown University**

## **Center for Trauma and the Community**

### *Center Description*

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The CTC is an interdisciplinary center housed in the Department of Psychiatry. Our goal is to develop culturally appropriate, innovative, and sustainable interventions to address trauma-related mental health needs of low-income and minority populations seen in safety net primary care settings in the Washington DC area. Academic partners include Georgetown's School of Nursing and Health Studies, and its Departments of Family Medicine, with research and/or training relationships with Physiology & Biophysics, Neurology, Pediatrics, and Medicine. The Center provides coordinated research training and mentoring, and maintains ongoing community partnerships to inform its direction and to implement collaborative research activities.

To increase the adoption and sustainability of these interventions, trauma-related intervention research is conceptualized and developed in close collaboration with four community partners:

- The Department of Health (Division of Maternal and Child Health), Prince George's County, MD
- Greater Baden Medical Services, Inc., Prince George's County, MD
- The Primary Care Coalition in Montgomery County, MD
- Unity Health Care, Inc. in the District of Columbia.

The Center's work is conducted through three cores providing administrative oversight, statistical support, and access to expert advisory groups; innovative methods/research designs integrating perspectives from applied anthropology and public health; and expertise and support for the development of promising research. The working partnerships and infrastructure capability fostered through the Center provide support to develop comprehensive trauma intervention models that can be translated to settings serving low-income individuals in the Washington DC area, and elsewhere.

Three *research studies* are formally part of this Center. Study 1 - *Establishing Ethnographic Grounding of Interventions for Trauma-Related Problems: Community and Sociocultural Context* describes the organization of primary care for the underserved, the clinical context of care, and characteristics of the population treated in the three jurisdictions of our community partners through three qualitative research projects that explore three levels of context (institutional/administrative, clinical/provider, individual/patient) across our three primary jurisdictions (completed). Study 2 - *Recruitment and Retention of Low-income African American Women in a Treatment Outcome Study*, examines various strategies of recruitment and retention for low-income minority women (underway). Study 3 - *Effectiveness Trial of a Group Intervention for Interpersonal Trauma*, will develop a modular repeating psycho-education, coping skills, and relationship enhancement group intervention (planned).

We work with the **Center for Mental Health Outreach** in the Department of Psychiatry, which was established to improve the mental health of underserved children, adults, and families in the Greater Washington DC area through education, public awareness, direct clinical care, and collaboration with social service providers. Training, education, and program evaluation, in addition to their connection with the CTC, further strengthen the Center's capacity to serve as a mental health resource for the community.