

GENERAL INFORMATION

Treatment

Description

TARGET-A: Trauma Affect Regulation: Guidelines for Education and Therapy for Adolescents and Pre-Adolescents

Acronym (abbreviation) for intervention: TARGET-A

Average length/number of sessions: 4-12

Aspects of culture or group experiences that are addressed (e.g., faith/spiritual component, transportation barriers):

- Reducing the stigma associated with mental illness: re-framing extreme emotionality/reactivity (e.g., hyporeactivity-dissociation, numbing; hyperreactivity-anxiety, rage) as manageable alterations in the body's self-protective systems;
- Spirituality: the culminating skill in the model is "Making a Contribution," which is designed to help people reflect on how they are living in ways that are consistent with their personal and spiritual values and commitments, and thereby making the world better;
- Spiritual reflection and culture-based meaning-making is facilitated by distinguishing between "reactive" and "main" feelings, thoughts, goals, and behavioral choices (i.e., an approach to cognitive re-structuring that is sensitive to cultural beliefs, strengths-based and dialectical rather than pathologizing/ stigmatizing and dualistic).

Trauma type (primary): Physical abuse

Trauma type (secondary): Domestic violence, emotional abuse, sexual abuse

Additional descriptors (not included above):

TARGET is a promising and acceptable treatment for children or parents experiencing traumatic stress. The primary focus is on recovery from interpersonal trauma. Clinician Manuals and Participant Guides have been developed. TARGET can be provided in individual, conjoint family, dyadic parent-child, group, residential and school milieu, and case management interventions.

Target Population

Age range: 10 to 18+

Gender: □ Males □ Females ☒ Both

Ethnic/Racial Group (include acculturation level/immigration/refugee history-e.g., multinational sample of Latinos, recent immigrant Cambodians, multigeneration African Americans): Not specific to any particular group. Adapted for youth in the juvenile justice, school, child protection, and child mental health/child guidance systems. Used with multinational Latino, African, Southeast Asian, and Eastern European immigrant families and with multi-generational Native American, Latino, and African American families in the U.S. and Canada, and in translation in Israel, the Netherlands, France, and Puerto Rico.

Other cultural characteristics (e.g., SES, religion): Both urban & rural, primarily used with low SES, very frequently with single parents or with families whose children have limited contact with biological parents (e.g., foster kids, residential placements), and diversity of religious affiliations



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Target Population continued	Language(s): Translated into Spanish, Hebrew, Dutch, French
	Region (e.g., rural, urban): Rural & urban
	Other characteristics (not included above): Have had input from parents, children, and providers from a wide range of cultural groups in development of TARGET (African American, Latino/Hispanic, Eastern European, SE Asian) regarding how to express concepts in a linguistically and culturally sensitive and meaningful manner.
Essential Components	Theoretical basis: Cognitive behavioral, self/relational, systems, narrative
	Key components: Self-regulation, affect regulation, autobiographical and working memory (information processing), interpersonal problem solving, stress management, didactic and nonverbal experiential exercises; the skill set is summarized for easy recall and use by an acronym (i.e., FREEDOM)
Clinical & Anecdotal Evidence	Are you aware of any suggestion/evidence that this treatment may be harmful? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Uncertain
	Extent to which cultural issues have been described in writings about this intervention (scale of 1-5 where 1=not at all to 5=all the time). 3
	This intervention is being used on the basis of anecdotes and personal communications only (no writings) that suggest its value with this group. ☐ Yes ☒ No
	Are there any anecdotes describing satisfaction with treatment, drop-out rates (e.g., quarterly/annual reports)? ☑ Yes ☐ No
	If YES, please include citation: Collecting this information now in juvenile detention centers; see Ford & Russo (2006).
	Has this intervention been presented at scientific meetings? ☒ Yes ☐ No
	If YES, please include citation(s) from last five presentations: International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS): Ford, 2008
	American Psychological Association (APA): Ford, 2007
	American Psychiatric Association: Ford, 2007
	National Institute on Drug Abuse Blending Addiction Science & Practice Meeting: Ford, 2006
	National GAINS Center Conference: Rowe, Liddle & Ford, 2006
	Are there any general writings which describe the components of the intervention or how to administer it? \blacksquare Yes \square No
	If YES, please include citation: Ford & Russo (2006).
	Has the intervention been replicated anywhere? ☑ Yes ☐ No



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Clinical &
Anecdotal
Evidence continued

Other countries? (please list)

In learning collaboratives throughout the Network; as part of David Pelcovitz & Ruth DeRosa's SPARCS treatment and Richard Kagan's Real Life Heroes model; Israel, France, the Netherlands, Canada, Puerto Rico

Other clinical and/or anecdotal evidence (not included above):

TARGET is being adopted as an educational and treatment model in statewide trauma initiatives in Connecticut and Florida for use in juvenile justice detention centers, probation offices, and residential and community programs, and in inpatient, residential, child guidance clinics, and community outreach mental health and substance abuse treatment programs for youths and families. The U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs has funded (October 2006-September 2008) a two-year field demonstration study of TARGET in Connecticut juvenile detention facilities.

Research Evidence	Sample Size (N) and Breakdown (by gender, ethnicity, other cultural factors)	Citation
Published Case Studies	N=4	Ford, Chapman, Mack & Pearson, 2006
	By gender: males & females	Ford & Russo, 2006
	By ethnicity: Latino, African American	
Pilot Trials/Feasibility Trials (w/o control groups)	N=24	Ford, 2004
	By gender: males & females	
	By ethnicity: 40% Latino, 25% Black, 35% White	
	By other cultural factors: 33% bilingual	
Clinical Trials	N=248	Ford & Hawke, in preparation
(w/control groups)	By gender: girls	
	By ethnicity: 40% Latina, 30% Black, 30% White	
	By other cultural factors: 40+% bilingual	



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Research Evidence continued	Sample Size (N) and Breakdown (by gender, ethnicity, other cultural factors)	Citation		
Randomized Controlled Trials	N=231 By gender: males & females By ethnicity: 55% White, 25% Black, 11% Latino, 9% American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian/Pacific Islander	Frisman, Ford, Lin & Mallon, in press		
Randomized Controlled Trials	N=32 By gender: all female By ethnicity: 16% African/ Caribbean American, 59% Latina or Mixed Race, 25% European American; By other cultural factors: 45% in residential treatment; 37.5% in DCF guardianship; 37.5% had prior arrest for violent crimes	Ford, Steinberg, Moffitt, Hawke & Zhang, in preparation (research reported at www.nrepp. samhsa.gov)		
Randomized Controlled Trials	N=145 By gender: female By ethnicity: 40% Black, 35% Latina, 25% White By other cultural factors: low SES, primarily single parents	Randomized clinical trial with mothers with PTSD who are caring for a child <5 yrs old. Ford, Steinberg, Moffitt, & Zhang, in preparation (research reported at www.nrepp.samhsa.gov)		



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Outcomes

What assessments or measures are used as part of the intervention or for research purposes, if any?

Many measures are used, core measures include Traumatic Events Screening Inventory (TESI; National Center for PTSD, www.ncptsd.org), UCLA PTSD Reaction Index, UCLA Traumatic Grief Inventory, Post-Traumatic Cognition Inventory, Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children, Negative Mood Regulation Scale, Weinberger Adjustment Inventory, Hope Scale, KidCope, PTSD Checklist (for parents), Clinician Administered PTSD Scale, Expectancies for Negative Mood Regulation Scale, Interpretations of PTSD Symptoms Scale, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory; State-Trait Anger Expression Inventory; Beck Depression Inventory of Interpersonal Problems, Parenting Stress Index, Parenting Practices Inventory.

If research studies have been conducted, what were the outcomes?

Pilot open trial with five groups (gender specific, developmentally specific, i.e., ages 10-14 and 15-18) of juvenile justice probation clients showed reductions in PTSD avoidance/numbing, self-related post-traumatic cognitions, negative coping by self-and parent-report, increased hope /self-efficacy, and no deterioration.

- Results of randomized controlled effectiveness study 1: TARGET compared to trauma-informed outpatient addiction treatment indicated that TARGET and trauma-informed usual services were equivalent in achieving reductions in depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, post-traumatic cognitions, and substance use, which were sustained at an assessment 12-months following entry to the study, but TARGET was superior to trauma-informed usual care in sustaining participants' self-efficacy related to addiction recovery (Frisman et al., in press; research reported at www.nrepp.samhsa.gov).
- Results of randomized controlled effectiveness study 2: TARGET was associated with reductions post-therapy in self-reported PTSD, anxiety, depression, and anger symptoms, and increased self-efficacy/optimism, and with greater improvement than enhanced treatment as usual (ETAU) on PTSD symptoms (primarily Criterion C avoidance and numbing, and Criterion B intrusive re-experiencing). More (77%) TARGET recipients than ETAU recipients (53%) no longer met diagnostic criteria for PTSD or partial PTSD post-therapy.
- Results of randomized controlled effectiveness study 3: Clinically significant reductions post-therapy in self-reported PTSD, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic beliefs, and increased emotion regulation, and sustained or greater improvements at 3-month and 6-month follow-up assessments. TARGET was associated with greater improvement than an active comparison therapy, present centered therapy, on PTSD and anxiety symptoms, PTSD-related cognitions, and emotion regulation, and (at follow-up) physical health-related functioning. Research reported at www.nrepp.samhsa.gov.
- Open trial replications with a quasi-experimental control group in five juvenile
 justice detention facilities indicate that the introduction of TARGET as a milieu
 and group intervention was associated with reduced disciplinary problems vs. the
 prior six months. Research reported at www.nrepp.samhsa.gov.



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Implementation Requirements & Readiness

Space, materials or equipment requirements? Group or individual counseling or school/ educational space. Creative arts materials for experiential exercises. The TARGET manual and handouts have been copyrighted by the University of Connecticut and must be purchased from the University or its licensees. No equipment required.

Supervision requirements (e.g., review of taped sessions)? Consultation by a certified TARGET trainer/consultant is required following initial training, and for continued use of the materials. Consultation includes review by the trainer/consultant of taped interventions and supervision sessions.

To ensure successful implementation, support should be obtained from:

In order for successful implementation, support should be obtained from: Advanced Trauma Solutions www.advancedtrauma.com

Training Materials & Requirements

List citations for manuals or protocol descriptions and/or where manuals or protocol descriptions can be obtained.

- Chang, Augenbraun, Ford & Cruz, in press
- Ford, 2008
- Ford, Chapman, Mack & Pearson, 2006
- Ford & Russo, 2006
- Ford, Russo & Mallon, 2007
- Ford & Saltzman, in press
- Frisman, Ford, Lin, Mallon & Chang, in press

How/where is training obtained?

www.advancedtrauma.com, Tom DeVitto, CEO, 203-232-2437

What is the cost of training?

Trainings are delivered within a package that includes ongoing consultation and quality assurance and license to use copyrighted materials, in order to ensure effective adoption and sustainability with fidelity to the model. Trainings usually are delivered to agencies or systems and costed based on the services required.

Are intervention materials (handouts) available in other languages?

▼ Yes □ No

If YES, what languages? Spanish, Hebrew, Dutch

Pros & Cons/ Qualitative Impressions

What are the pros of this intervention over others for this specific group

(e.g., addresses stigma re. treatment, addresses transportation barriers)?

Provides clinician, case manager or childcare worker and family with way to manage their own and youths' intense reactivity secondary to PTSD hyperarousal and hypervigiliance or hypoarousal associated with PTSD emotional numbing and dissociation, in a practical manner that is not stigmatizing or pathologizing, that increases the sense of self-efficacy and hope, and that is adaptable for a variety of cultural belief systems and practices.



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Pros & Cons/ Qualitative Impressions continued

- Can serve as a phase 1 intervention to set the stage for almost any other trauma intervention by helping adults and youths become sufficiently regulated to be able to use the other skills: one youth described this as, "before I learned to use the SOS (a component in TARGET) to turn down my brain's alarm, I was too angry to use my anger management skills; now I'm not as angry and even when I get angry I remember to use my skills." TARGET is compatible with most evidence-based models, and has been used as the first line intervention to prepare clients for other interventions (e.g., anger management, relational therapies, addiction recovery programs, trauma-focused cognitive-behavior therapy) in numerous programs.
- Readily adapted to settings where youths or families enter and leave services
 rapidly (e.g., detention centers or partial hospital programs with average length of
 stay <14 days) in a modular form that can be completed rapidly (e.g., 4 sessions)
 and introduced to new clients while continuing to be used with ongoing clients
 (e.g., in groups with rolling admissions).
- TARGET has been adapted as a milieu and staff development intervention in several settings (including introduction in intake and use as the behavior management protocol for residential/detention and community-based risk reduction programs, as a crisis management and de-escalation model for acutely distressed or externalizing youths and post-critical incident intervention for staff, as a parent psychoeducation program, and as a staff clinical consultation group protocol).
- TARGET provides a unique sequence of skills designed to address the biological changes caused by stress.
- TARGET can be delivered by line staff, educators, and case managers, enabling
 providers to reduce treatment costs and reach significantly more patients. Other
 therapies must be delivered by highly trained, costly, and scarce mental health
 professionals.
- TARGET is compatible with conventional 3rd party payor systems.

What are the cons of this intervention over others for this specific group (e.g., length of treatment, difficult to get reimbursement)?

TARGET can include trauma memory processing but has been found to work best clinically when used in tandem with Trauma-Focused CBT (pilot clinical testing ongoing at the University of Connecticut Child Trauma Clinic).

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