

PRA ENEWS

JANUARY



SAMHSA's GAINS Center Seeks Experienced Trainers to Participate in Trauma-Informed Responses Train-the-Trainer Virtual Event



SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

SAMHSA's GAINS Center Seeks Experienced Trainers to Participate in Trauma-Informed Responses Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Virtual Event

APPLY BY FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Application due date: February 20, 2024

SAMHSA's GAINS Center is soliciting applications from experienced trainers (individuals) interested in developing their capacity to provide trauma-informed training in their local agencies/communities via the "How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses" curriculum. Selected applicants will learn to facilitate the training via

a virtual Train-the-Trainer (TTT) event and subsequently deliver the training program in their local communities.

The GAINS Center's virtual TTT event is designed to train participants on both in-person and virtual delivery of the training and to equip participants with the skills and resources necessary to deliver the training themselves in either format effectively.

While not a requirement to apply to this opportunity, this year's selection process will place special emphasis on applicants who provide training to drug courts and/or reentry programs. Some preference will be given to applicants that serve marginalized and/or underserved populations.

If this TTT event for individuals is of interest to you, please review the solicitation and submit your completed application form to the GAINS Center no later than February 20, 2024.

[Learn More and Apply Today](#)

Elan Hope Co-authors Study on the Impacts of Sociopolitical Stress on Well-Being, Civic Action, and Social Identity

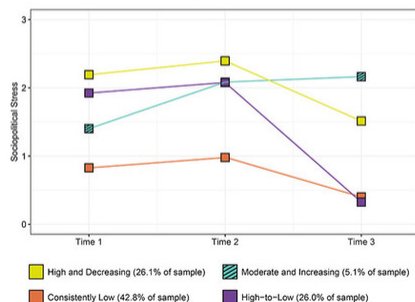
A new article co-authored by Research and Evaluation Director Elan Hope, PhD, explores how the 2020 U.S. presidential elections impacted well-being, civic action, and social identities among college-age youths. National elections create individual impacts through sociopolitical stress. The authors sought to identify how sociopolitical stress was experienced among college students, how that stress changed over time, and what the effects of that stress were on students.

Through their analyses, the authors found that high sociopolitical stress was associated with poorer individual well-being and higher levels of civic action. The authors also found that initially reported high sociopolitical stress was more common among students who identified as women, transgender and gender diverse, and LGBTQ+.



Trajectories of Sociopolitical Stress During the 2020 United States Presidential Election Season: Associations With Psychological Well-Being, Civic Action, and Social Identities

During a 10-week period before, during, and after the 2020 election, four trajectories of sociopolitical stress were identified among young adult college students ($n = 628$):



Higher sociopolitical stress was associated with poorer psychological well-being (lower flourishing, lower optimism, higher anxiety symptoms, higher depression symptoms), and higher levels of civic action.



High and Decreasing



Consistently Low

The *High and Decreasing* subgroup had more women, TGD (transgender and gender diverse), and LGBTQ+ students than the *Consistently Low* subgroup, which had more men and heterosexual students.

Although not statistically significant, *High and Decreasing* also had more students of color than *Consistently Low*.

- Elections, a macro-level event, can have individual-level consequences on psychological well-being through sociopolitical stress.
- The effects of elections and other sociopolitical events may be distributed unequally, and may be particularly elevated among those most engaged in civic action.
- To support civic engagement we must attend to which groups may be vulnerable to sociopolitical stress and why.



Sara Suzuki, Lindsay Till Hoyt, Neshat Yazdani, Mariah Kornbluh, Elan C. Hope, Melissa J. Hagan, Alison K. Cohen, Parissa J. Ballard

Graphical abstract of the paper “Trajectories of Sociopolitical Stress During the 2020 United States Presidential Election Season: Associations With Psychological Well-Being, Civic Action, and Social Identities.”

The authors recommend that colleges attune to their students during moments of high sociopolitical stress to target supportive resources to improve individual student well-being and support increased civic action.

“Trajectories of Sociopolitical Stress During the 2020 United States Presidential Election Season: Associations With Psychological Well-Being, Civic Action, and Social Identities” was published in *Comprehensive Psychoneuroendocrinology*. It was co-authored by Sara Suzuki, PhD, Lindsay Till Hoyt, PhD, Neshat Yazdani, PhD, Mariah Kornbluh, PhD, Melissa J. Hagan, PhD, Alison K. Cohen, PhD, and Parissa J. Ballard, PhD.

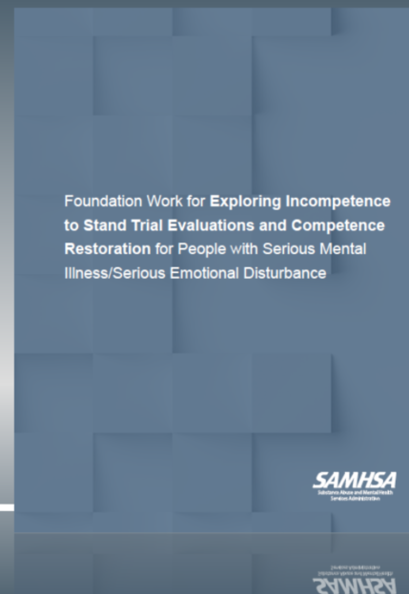
This study is available for free, on-demand access.

[Access the Research](#)

GAINS Center Authors SAMHSA Publication on Competence Evaluation and Restoration

Foundation Work for Exploring Incompetence to Stand Trial Evaluations and Competence Restoration for People with Serious Mental Illness/Serious Emotional Disturbance

NEW RESOURCE



A new, free publication analyzing competence to stand trial and competence restoration within the United States has been published by SAMHSA. Assessing a person's competence to stand trial is a critical issue in both the legal and clinical fields. Across the nation, states and local communities face rising requests for competence evaluations and competence restoration programs. This new publication, co-authored by subject-matter experts from SAMHSA's GAINS Center, Lisa Callahan, PhD, and Shannon Bader, PhD, provides a national view of the field and a foundational understanding of the topic.

Foundation Work for Exploring Incompetence to Stand Trial Evaluations and Competence Restoration for People with Serious Mental Illness/Serious Emotional Disturbance provides readers with the following information:

- Overview of competence to stand trial and competence restoration within the United States
- An environmental scan of pertinent court cases, statutes, and processes surrounding competence to stand trial and competence restoration
- Literature review of significant efforts to advance the competence to stand trial and competence restoration fields, including SAMHSA's GAINS Center's multistate Learning Collaborative
- A review of key challenges within the present competence to stand trial system
- Glossary of assessment instruments
- A chart of adult and juvenile competence standards by state

This publication is available to download for free from the SAMHSA store.

[Download the Publication](#)

Upcoming Webinars

GAINS: Responding to a Growing Demographic: Supporting Older

Adult Populations Within the Criminal Justice System

January 30, 2024, 12:30–2:00 p.m. ET

This webinar will focus on supporting older adults who have criminal justice involvement. Speakers will discuss considerations related to the medical and social care needs of older adults and ways to support this population and improve outcomes.

HHRC: Expanding Harm Reduction Through Increased Syringe

Access

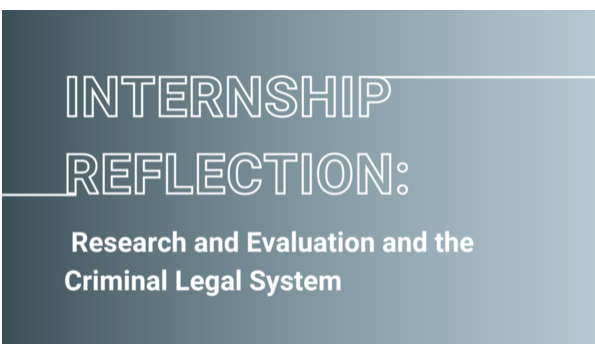
February 28, 2024, 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

This webinar will discuss how health centers and other community-based organizations can expand harm reduction services by offering syringe access to participants through direct service delivery and partnership.

Policy Research in the News

- [The paper chase: Helping applicants navigate the benefits process](#) [The Washington Post, SOAR]
- [Insights from the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#) [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, SMVF]
- [New Jersey and Hospital Association partner to deliver mental health first aid training to veterans and families](#) [Connecting Vets, SMVF]

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Internship Reflection: Research and Evaluation and the Criminal Legal System



Policy Research's 2023 Year in Review



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