

# Trauma-Informed Courts: A Public Health Approach to Juvenile Justice

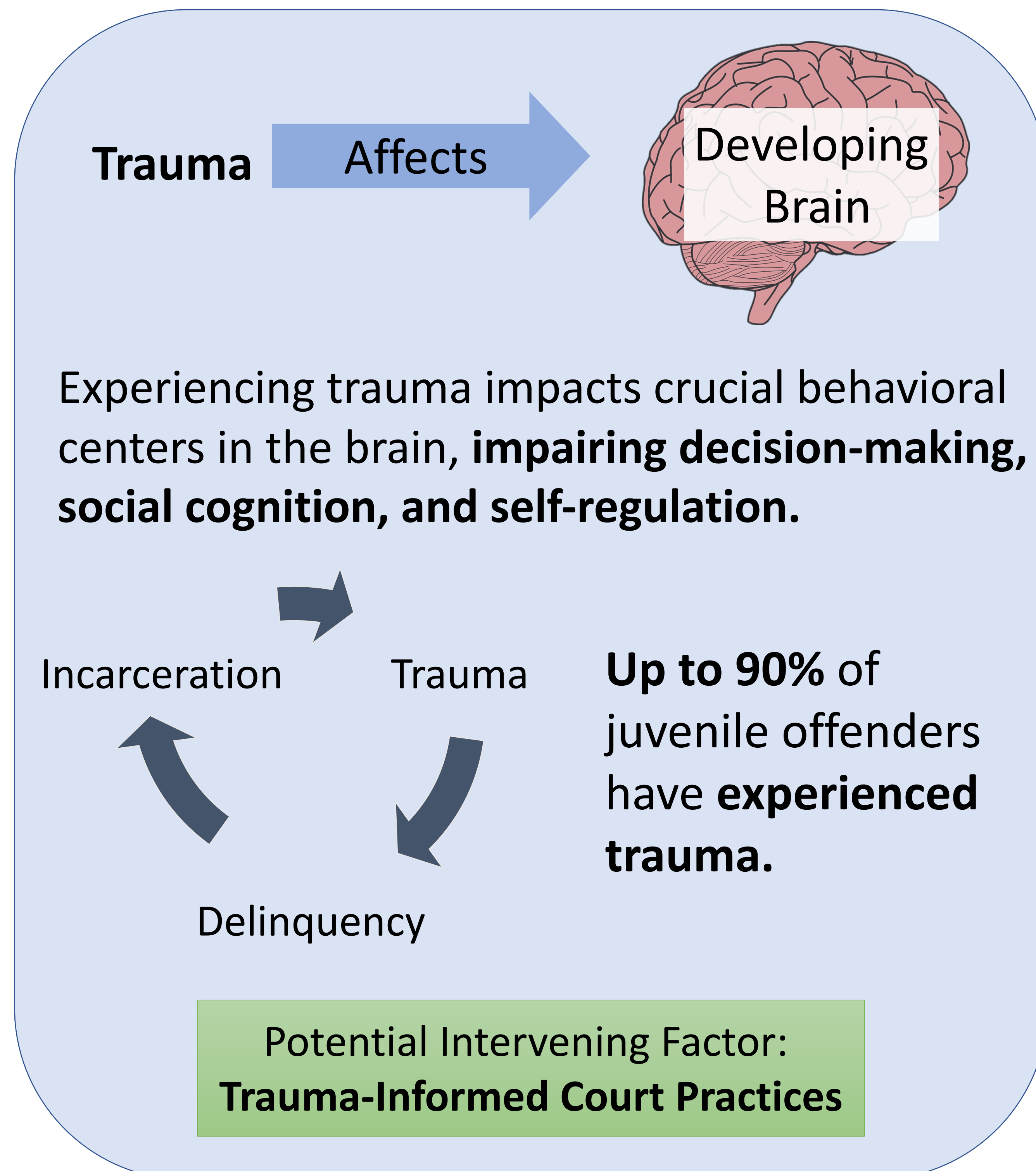


BASS  
CONNECTIONS

Duke Law School, Graduate School, Trinity College

Bass Connections in  
Brain & Society

## OUR FRAMEWORK



This class and the Bolch Judicial Institute, which helps leads this class, provides research and education for the NC Chief Justice’s Task Force on ACEs-Informed Courts.

1. The Bolch Institute has developed and delivers **trauma-informed courts training** to NC Judges.

2. This project is the **first empirical study** on trauma-informed practices.



## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are North Carolina **judges’ attitudes** related to trauma-informed care?
2. In what ways are judges **practicing trauma-informed care** in North Carolina juvenile delinquency court?
3. Are trauma-informed court practices **employed equitably** in North Carolina juvenile delinquency court?
4. To what extent does the employment of trauma-informed court practices **correlate with various outcomes** for court-involved youth?

### BENCH CARD



### TEAM PROFILE



## TIMELINE

### Fall 2022

- Developed three components for IRB approval
  1. Recruitment and consent materials
  2. Court observation tool
  3. Youth survey
- Administered judge survey

### Spring 2023

- Piloted and refined court observation tool
- Developed codebook to guide observations
- Analyzed data from the judge survey

### Summer 2023

- Work toward publication of findings from judge survey
- Conduct court observations

### Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

- Administer youth survey
- Perform analysis on observational & survey data
- Work toward publication in Judicature

## PROJECT COMPONENTS

### Judge Survey

Analyzing data from a survey distributed to approximately 100 district court judges to examine **judges’ experiences with, attitudes toward, and implementation of** trauma-informed practices/care.

### Court Observations

Observing NC courts to determine **how judges are employing trauma-informed practices**, whether courts are **employing such practices equitably** using an observational tool developed by students.

### Youth Data Collection

Collecting data from youth accused of a crime (i.e., juvenile) to **understand their experiences as defendants in court and how they might be related to trauma-informed practices** used in their courtrooms. Measures include perceptions of the court experience and traumatic stress symptoms.