To be read along with SAMHSA’s Fact Sheet on Historical Trauma

SAMHSA’s Fact Sheet on Historical Trauma is a key resource for beginning to understand how historical trauma affects different populations. If we want to improve criminal justice system responses, including prevention strategies, this understanding is crucial.

However, there are a few places in the Fact Sheet where the framing doesn’t help us get to more connected, more effective outcomes.

Specifically, in the “People of Color” and the “Families Experiencing Intergenerational Poverty” sections, can you identify any problems or ideas that could be better explained?

- What underlying frameworks/values could be shifted to move towards better, more connected outcomes when working with people who are part of the named populations?
- Do the statements in these sections accurately reflect the people about whom they are trying to inform us? (Who are “people of color”? Does everyone under that umbrella term have the same experience?)
- Are there statements that place responsibility on to individuals instead of the systems and institutions that perpetrated traumatic acts, and that create barriers in the lives of particular people?

Please read and study the fact sheet and come to the training with at least one area that you think could be shifted to make prevention strategies more connected and trauma-informed.