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Nothing Left to Give: Responding to Secondhand Trauma in K-12 Educators

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Introduction:

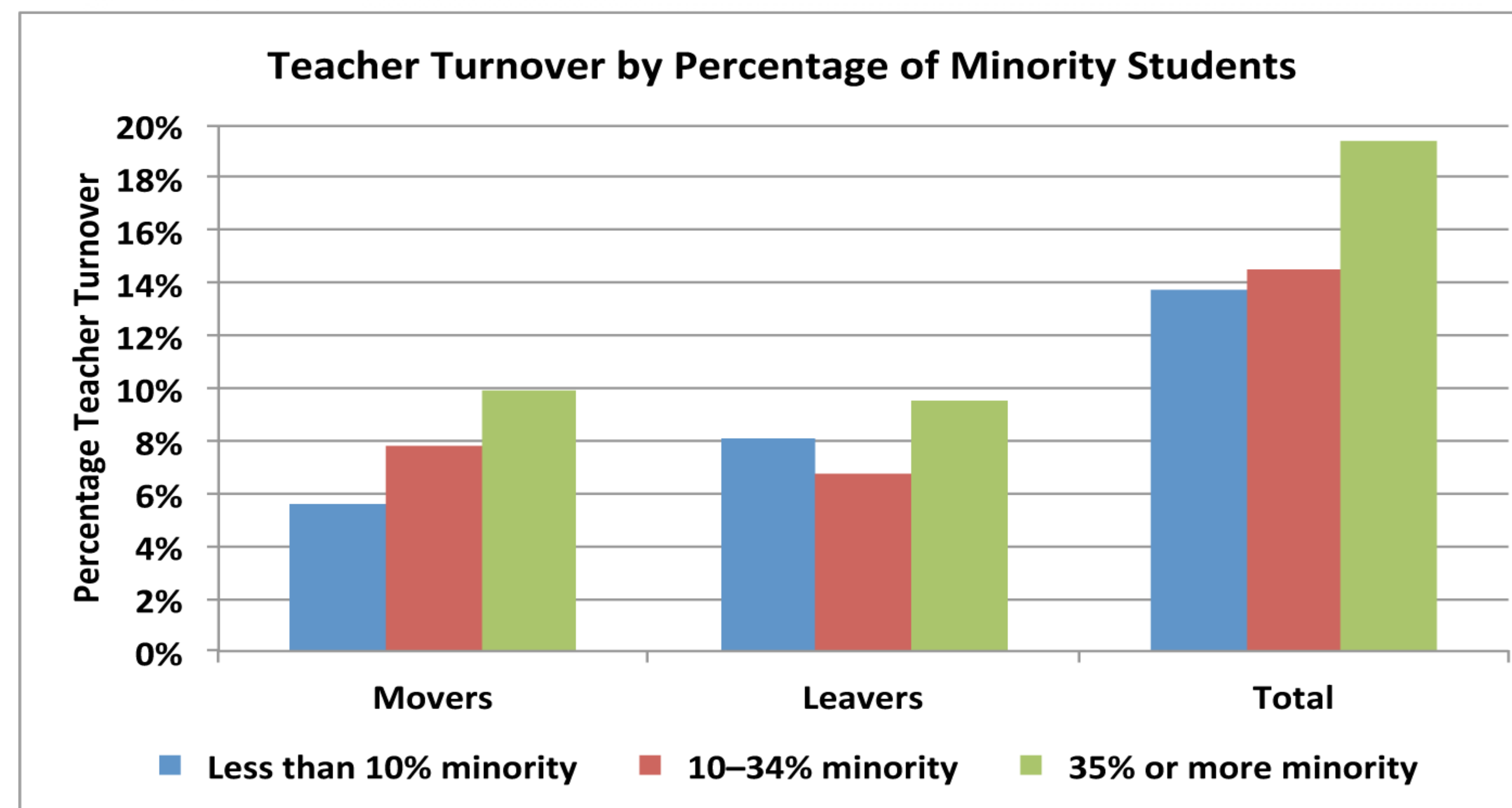
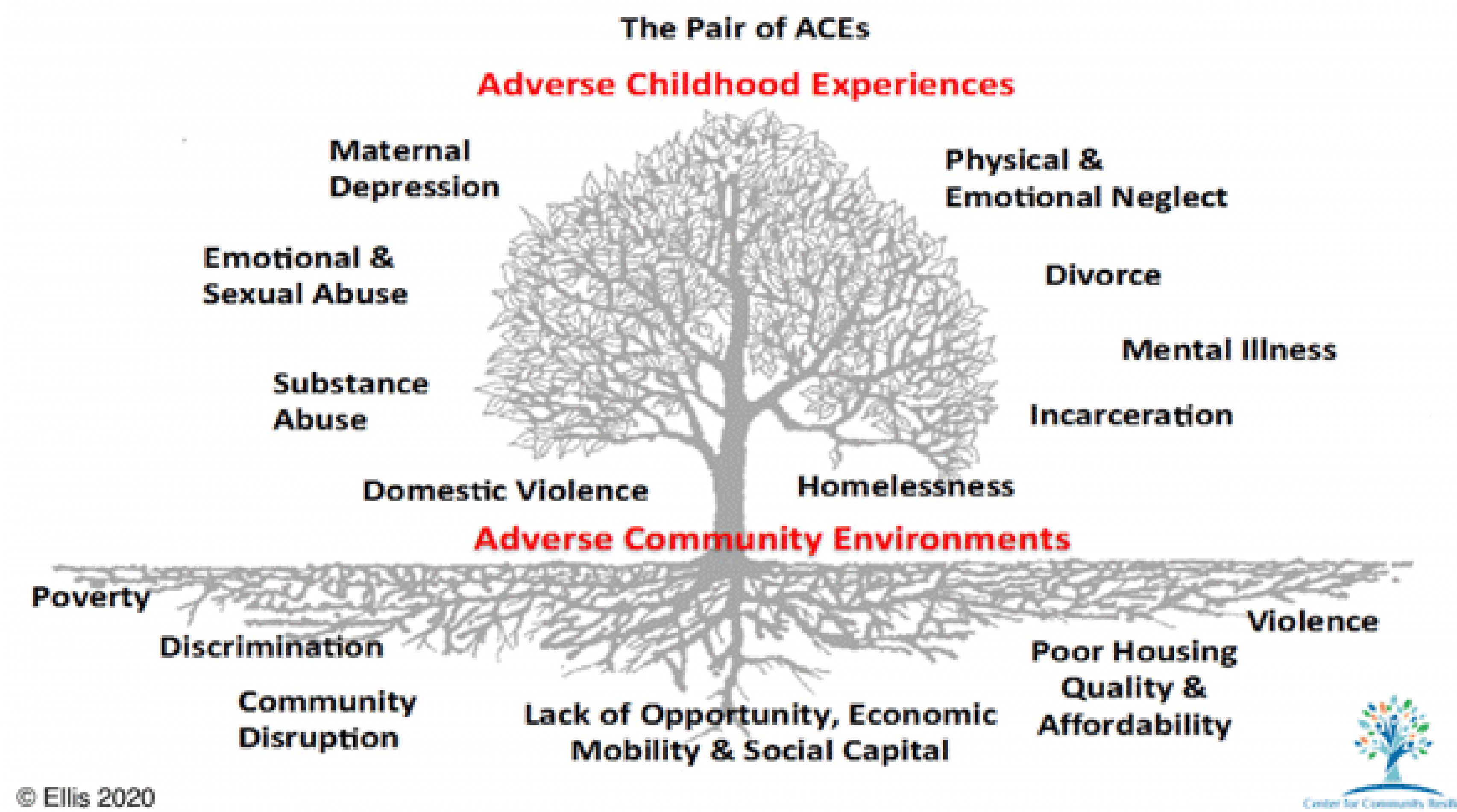
- The extant literature is replete with the effects of trauma on students and trauma-informed practices in schools.
- Teachers working closely with traumatized students are vicariously exposed to the traumatic experiences and, thus, may develop secondary symptoms of trauma (secondhand trauma), including strong emotional reactivity, changes in views of the self or the world, and intrusive thoughts and memories (Figley & Kleber, 1995)
- This may result in high rates of burnout and attrition in the profession.
- My premise is that with adequate training in trauma-informed practices, teachers will be less likely to experience secondhand trauma.

Purpose of Study:

- To explore first and second-hand trauma in schools

Nothing Left to Give: Responding to Secondhand Trauma in K-12 Educators

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≥ 1 Adverse Childhood Experience	48%
≥ 2 Adverse Childhood Experiences	23%
Socioeconomic hardship	29%
Parental separation/Divorce	19%
Household drug or alcohol problem	12%
Household mental illness	11%
Victim/Witness of neighborhood violence	9%
Witness domestic violence	7%
Parental incarceration	5%
Experienced racial prejudice	3%
Death of a parent	3%

Works Reviewed:

- Franco D. (2018). Trauma Without Borders: The Necessity for School-Based Interventions in Treating Unaccompanied Refugee Minors.
- Barr, D. A. (2018). When trauma hinders learning.
- Avery, J.C., Morris, H., Galvin, E. et al. Correction to: Systematic Review of School-Wide Trauma-Informed Approaches.
- Brown, E. C., Freedle, A., Hurless, N. L., Miller, R. D., Martin, C., & Paul, Z. A. (2020). Preparing Teacher Candidates for Trauma-Informed Practices.
- Christine Mayor, Teacher Reactions to Trauma Disclosures from Syrian Refugee Students

Key Findings:

- Consistent access to nurturing and positive adults has been identified as measure to protect children from the negative health effects wrought by toxic stress
- Positive changes in teacher candidates' attitudes, knowledge, and skills following completion of trauma training

Recommendations:

- Increased trauma awareness and training in Providence College's teacher preparation program