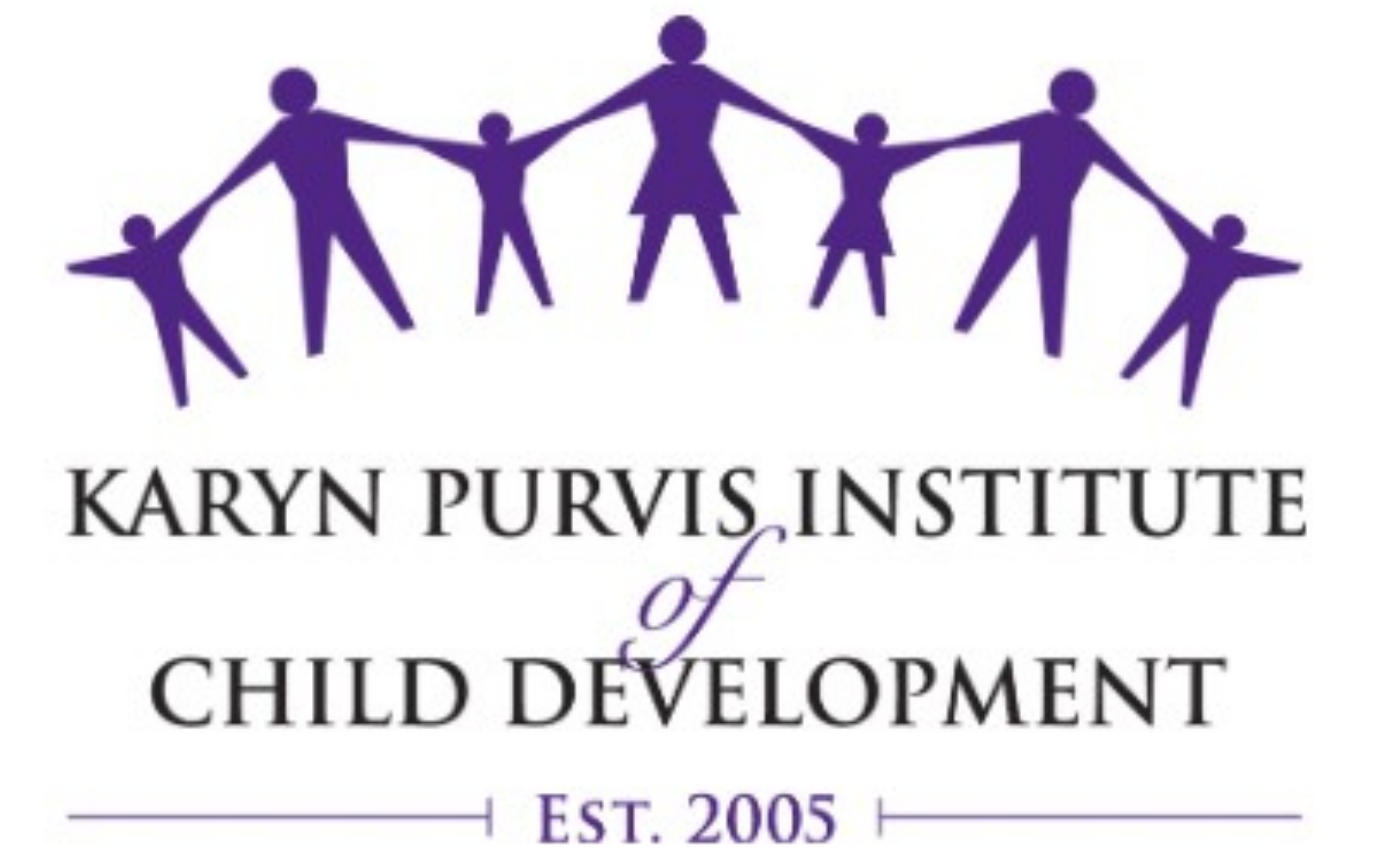




# Impact of Trauma-Informed Training on Police Officer's Rape Myth Acceptance & Attitudes Towards Trauma-Informed Care

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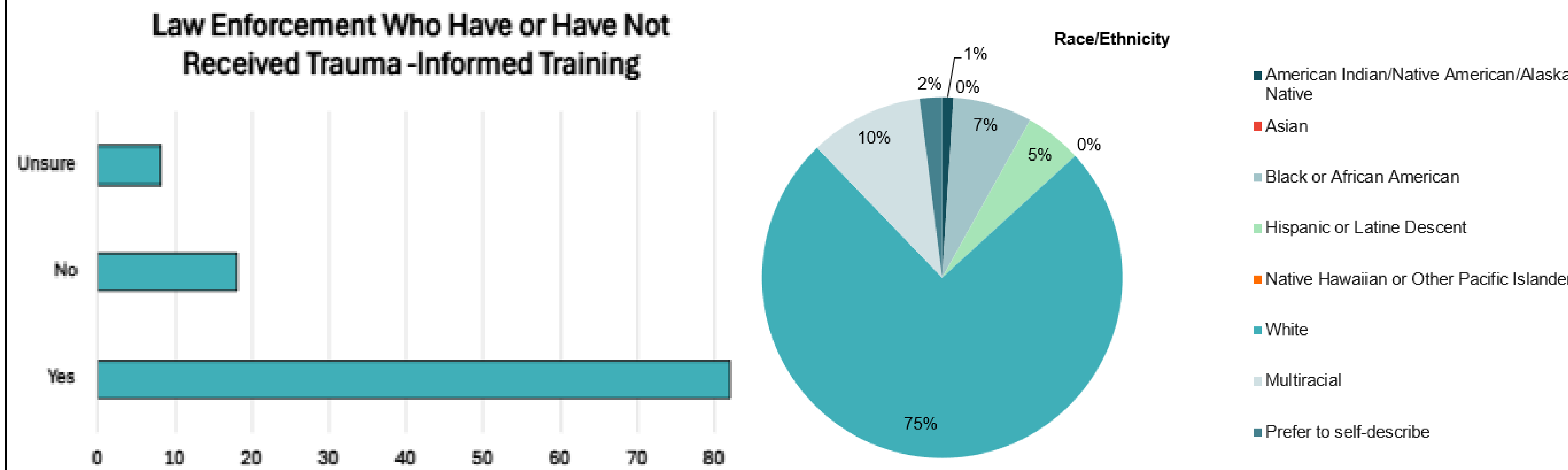
## Background

- Previous research suggests that although police officers tend to show low levels of Rape Myth Acceptance (RMA), belief or endorsement of specific myths, such as victim credibility, are still present.
- Required trainings have been implemented to address sexual assault cases, however there's little research addressing how these trainings affect perceived victim credibility and attribution of blame towards victims of rape.
- Because implementation of trauma-informed care (TIC) is new to policing, there is limited research regarding the effectiveness of TIC trainings for officers.
- This study aims to examine whether being involved in a trauma-informed training influences police officers' endorsement of rape myths and increases positive attitudes towards TIC.

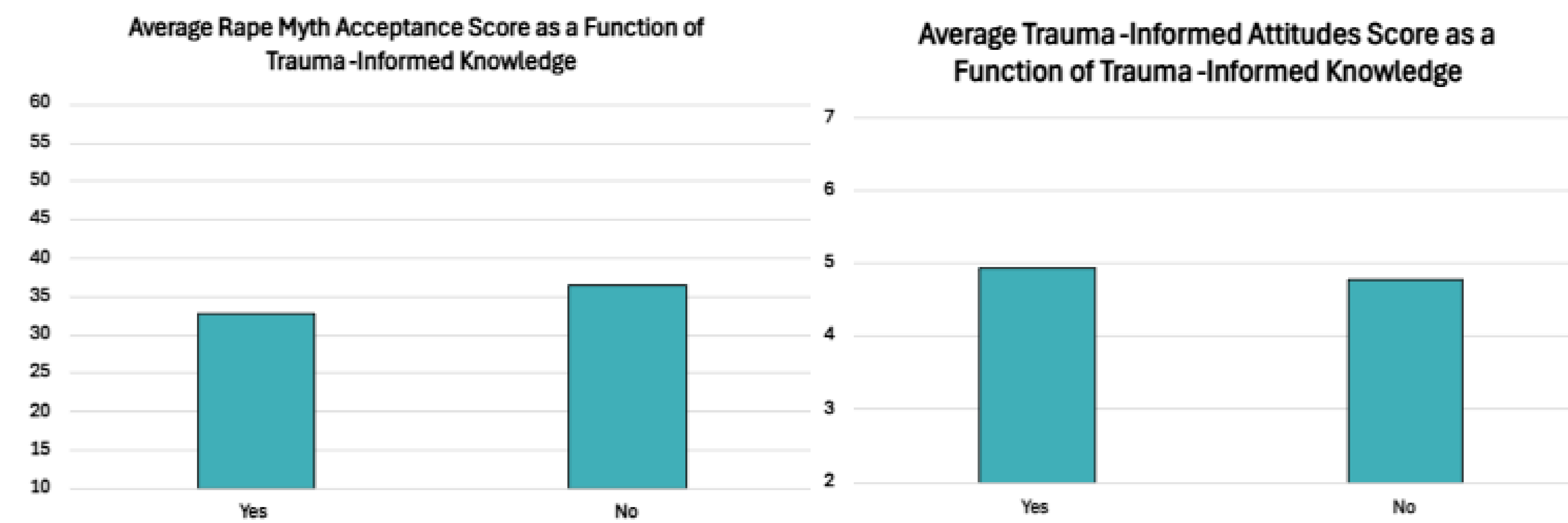
## Method

- This study uses secondary data collected from sworn police officers from across the state of Texas. The sample included 108 police officers from three police departments and one statewide policing agency.
- Data was gathered using a Qualtrics survey, where the previous study was exploring the relationship between individual characteristics and trauma-informed attitudes.
- Participants were 25 to 64 years ( $M = 43.32, SD = 10.26$ ), predominantly male (11.2% female; 3.1% prefer to self-describe), and majority white (74.5%)
- Measures included one single choice question asking if the officer had been involved in a trauma-informed policing training; the Gender Inclusive version of Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale (GIIRMAS), and the Attitudes Related to Trauma-Informed Care-ten item (ARTIC)-10.
- Analytic methods include two independent sample t-tests to explore the differences in RMA and ARTIC scores between the police officers that have received trauma-informed police training and those who have not.

## Results



- Police officers ( $N = 99$ ) had a mean ARTIC score of  $M = 4.89, SD = .785$ , and a mean GIIRMAS score of  $M = 33.35, SD = 8.53$ .
- No significant difference found in average ARTIC scores between officers that had ( $M = 4.93, SD = .704$ ) and officers that had not received trauma-informed training ( $M = 4.79, SD = .827; t(89) = .712, p = .478$ , two-tailed). The magnitude of the differences in the means (mean difference = .142) was very small (eta squared = .007).
- No significant difference found in average RMA scores for officers that had previously received trauma-informed training ( $M = 32.87, SD = 7.73$ ) and officers that had not ( $M = 36.5, SD = 10.88; t(89) = -1.58, p = .12$ , two-tailed). The magnitude of the differences in the means (mean difference = -3.63) was small (eta squared = .027).



## Discussion & Conclusions

- There were no significant differences found in neither trauma-informed attitudes nor rape myth acceptance as a function of involvement in a trauma-informed training.
- These findings suggest that having trauma-informed knowledge does not directly influence police officer's beliefs about rape or attitudes towards trauma-informed care.
- These findings are informative for interventions or trainings centered on TIC, in which having knowledge of trauma-informed care may not be enough to change deeply rooted beliefs

## Limitations & Future Directions

- The outcomes of this study may lack generalizability to most female police officers as well as officers that reside in other states, besides Texas.
- The number of trauma-informed trainings along with the content within these reported trainings was not accounted for. The quantity and quality of trauma-informed trainings could play a mediating role when assessing police officer's endorsement of rape myths and attitudes toward trauma-informed care.
- Future research should aim to address confounding factors, such as the content, quantity, and quality of trauma-informed trainings to further assess the effects of trauma-informed policing .
- Future research endeavors should look to include longitudinal measures to assess change in a police officer's RMA and attitudes toward TIC over time and/or over multiple trauma-informed trainings.

## References

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