



# We can start Handle With Care to support kids exposed to trauma.



The "Handle With Care" program enables schools to be notified if police encounter a student at a scene, so schools and mental healthcare leaders can provide trauma-sensitive support right away.

## The Problem: Childhood Trauma

- **Childhood trauma, or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), occurs when kids experience stressful events (such as witnessing domestic violence.**
- 60% of U.S. children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse.
- These students still have to go to class, carrying a burden of stress/trauma that can interfere with their behavior/grades in schools that aren't even aware there's an issue.

## A Solution: Handle With Care



**1. Police encounter student(s) at scene and add a Special Attention Code to their report.**

DAC then connects this information with what school the student attends and sends a HWC notification to their school via CrisisGo.



**2. Schools prep trauma-sensitive support for student(s).**

A school will create a process to triage "Handle With Care" notifications. The process will involve notifying the appropriate teacher or counselor to observe the student's behavior/learning and be prepared to provide trauma sensitive support. A follow-up survey is to be completed for each notification.



**3. Mental health providers partner for on-site therapy.**

When school interventions are not sufficient, mental healthcare professionals from Crosswinds are able to provide free therapy on site at school at a designated time (with consent from parents/guardians).

## How Do We Start Handle With Care?

**We are using the free "Handle With Care Action Pack" from Salud America.**

They will guide us as we unite police, schools, and mental healthcare to create our own Handle With Care program. We will use examples from the West Virginia Center for Children's Justice, which launched Handle With Care in 2013. Since then, over 65 cities have started their own such program. We can be next!