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Topic: Implementing YMHFA Training with Law Enforcement Officers: A Mixed Methods Study.

Project Summary

Law enforcement officers (LEOs) regularly encounter youth experiencing mental health challenges. As a result, there has been a recent push for LEOs to complete the Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training program.

This mixed-methods study analyzes data from LEOs completing the YMHFA training and the certified Instructors facilitating the training within law enforcement agencies in Florida. Using a pretest/post-test survey design, the quantitative strand of the study assesses the effectiveness of YMHFA and the LEOs' satisfaction with the training. The qualitative strand involves interviews with the LEOs who are also certified as Instructors to provide further context by exploring their perspectives and experiences implementing and facilitating the training within their agencies.

Results from the study will provide critical information regarding whether YMHFA training meets the training expectations and needs of LEOs, as well as provide guidance to Instructors conducting this training with law enforcement personnel.