

BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS’ TRAINING AND PRACTICE REGARDING TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

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INTRODUCTION

Trauma exists and may impact future behavioral functioning, potentially resulting in the referral of the individual for behavioral services. The responsibility of behavior analysts working with this population includes the expectation to provide appropriate care for individuals with diverse needs or backgrounds, within which sits a trauma history, as well as a need to practice within one’s scope of competence. Yet these discussions are often elusive in behavior analysis.

METHODS

Participants:

- 232 BCBA’s
- Majority were White (84.4%), non-Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish origin (84.0%) females (85.7%) between the ages of 20-39 (52.3%)

Measures:

The survey consisted of 78 questions asking about

- demographics;
- importance of training on TIC;
- comfort level for working with individuals with exposure to adverse experiences;
- training experience in TIC, including pre-certification supervision, post-certification continuing education

Data Analysis:

- Descriptive
- Chi-square test of independence
- OLS linear regression

RESULTS

- Majority = no coursework related to TIC during ABA or non-ABA master’s program.
- Same with doctoral ABA
- Majority = **little-to-no** pre-cert supervision on TIC
- Continuing education in TIC (post-cert)
 - 52.7% reported receiving only 0-5 hours of continuing education in TIC, with 14.5% receiving no continuing education (i.e., 0 hours).
- Majority = **very familiar** with the concept of trauma
- Most = **moderately comfortable with a moderate scope of competence** providing TIC

OLS Linear Regression:

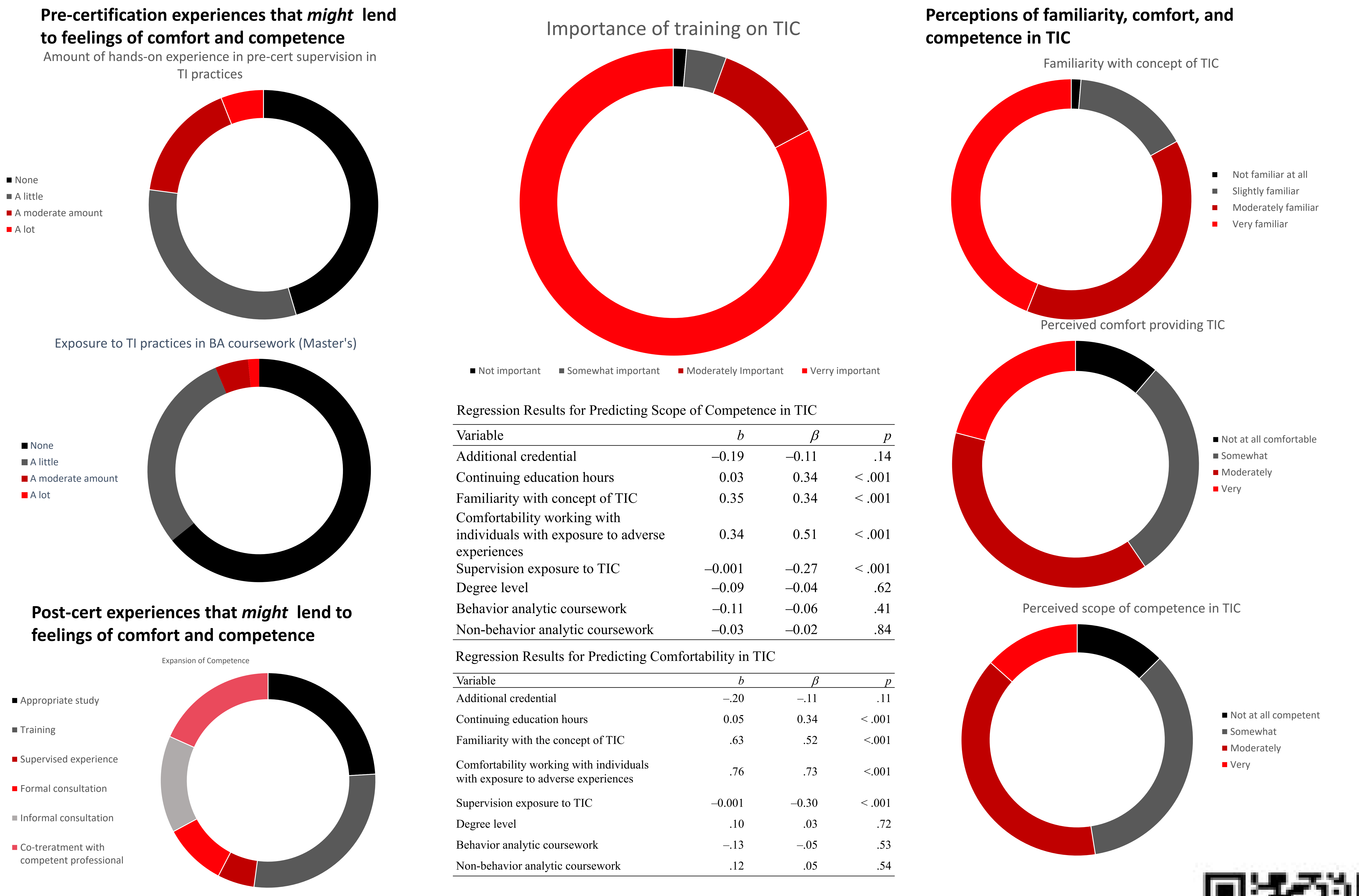
- Significant *positive* relationship between:
 - CEs and competence ($\beta = 0.34, p < .001$)
 - CEs and comfort ($\beta = 0.34, p < .001$)
 - Familiarity and comfort ($\beta = 0.52, p < .001$)
- Significant *negative* relationship between:
 - Pre-cert supervision and competence ($\beta = -0.27, p < .001$)
 - Pre-cert supervision and comfort ($\beta = -0.30, p < .001$)
- Non-significant relationships:
 - Additional credential
 - Degree level

LIMITATIONS/FUTURE RESEARCH

This survey did not delve deeper into expansion of competency, which limits the current study’s ability to determine whether individuals who said they “sought” expansion of competency simply considered it or actively pursued expansion. Future research may benefit from a qualitative approach to identify themes in comfortability and perceived scope of competence and how these perceptions manifest in various practitioners.

Behavior analysts understand the need for training in TIC. Yet, most have received minimal-to-no pre-certification coursework or supervision on TIC. Further, most have reported only 0-5 CEs in TIC. Yet reports indicate high familiarity and moderate comfort and competence in conducting TIC.

Where is this perceived comfort and competence coming from...



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