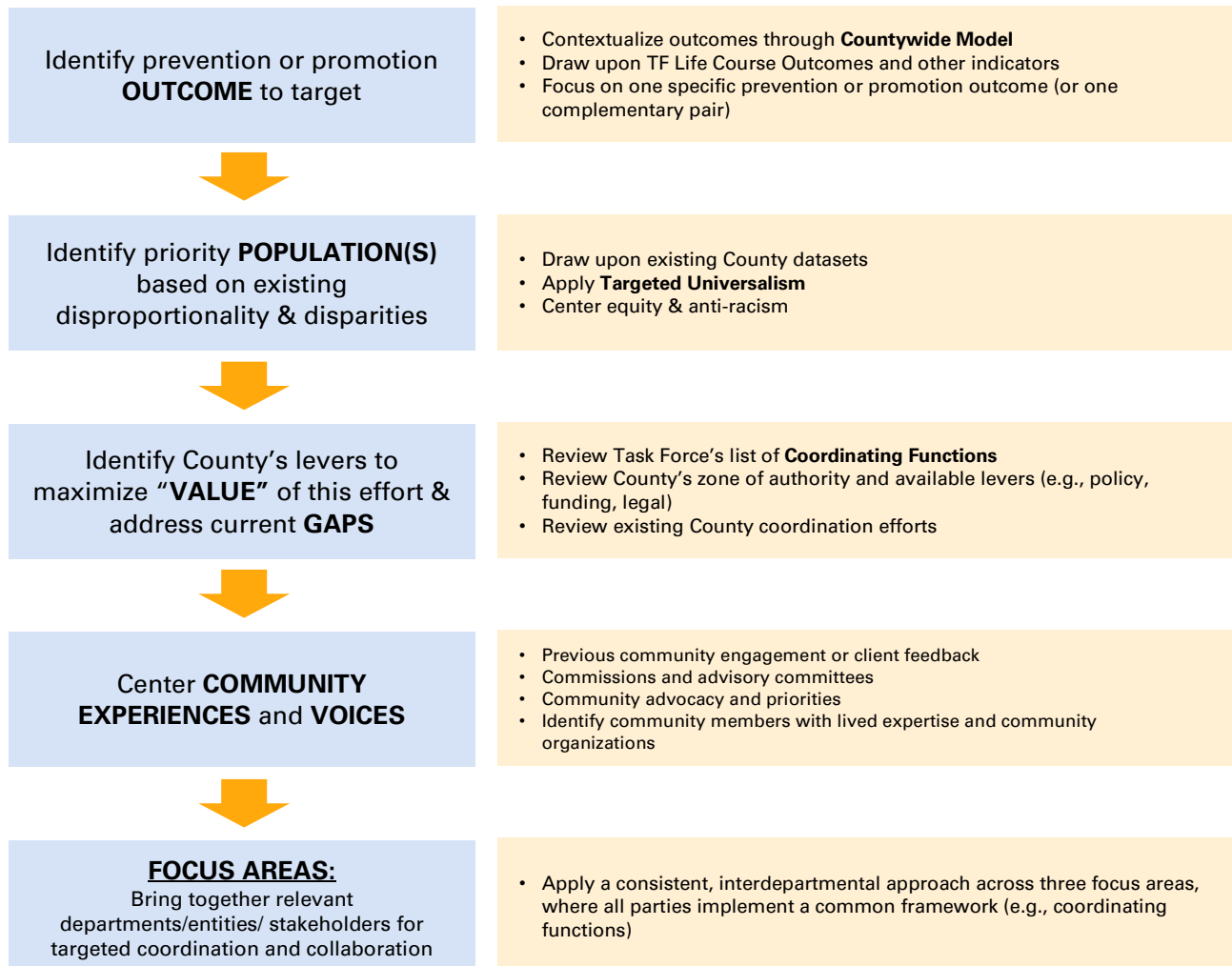


FOCUS AREA RESEARCH AND PROGRAM INVENTORY

At the request of Task Force members, ARDI has conducted research, gathered data and identified key inputs to inform domain selection. This included various discovery related activities to inform Task Force decision making in order to identify and select priority domains for which the Task Force will conduct a Countywide assessment of strengths, opportunities, and barriers on issues previously discussed by the Task Force (e.g., coordinating functions discussed during Phase 1, racial disproportionality, metrics, and data integration).

The shortlist of focus areas presented in this document was selected based on previous Task Force surveys and discussions regarding priority domains. Information and data is organized based on the Task Force’s framework for focus area selection:



A. Homelessness Prevention & Housing Promotion

Prior to the April Task Force meeting, members ranked “Homelessness” and “Housing,” respectively, as two of the top focus areas for prevention and promotion. 12 out of 15 members indicated it was “most important” for the County to collaborate across departments/regional entities to address urgent issues in Homelessness, with the remaining three indicating it was “very important.” Similarly, six members indicated it was “most important” and 5 members indicated it was “very important” for the County to collaborate on issues relating to Housing. At least ten members also selected Homelessness to be within their top three domains for the Task Force’s Phase 2 efforts.

As a result of recent Task Force discussions, Homelessness and Housing were merged into one singular, complementary focus area detailed below.

OUTCOME: Preventing homelessness / Promoting housing stability

Context: Social and systemic conditions (e.g., racism; labor exploitation; immigration systems; rising rents and cost of living; employment discrimination; lacking, hard to access, and underutilized public benefits; lacking mental health, behavioral, and primary care resources for co- and tri-morbid; mass incarceration; insufficient tenant protections) increase barriers to individuals and families having the resources and supports to maintain stable housing.

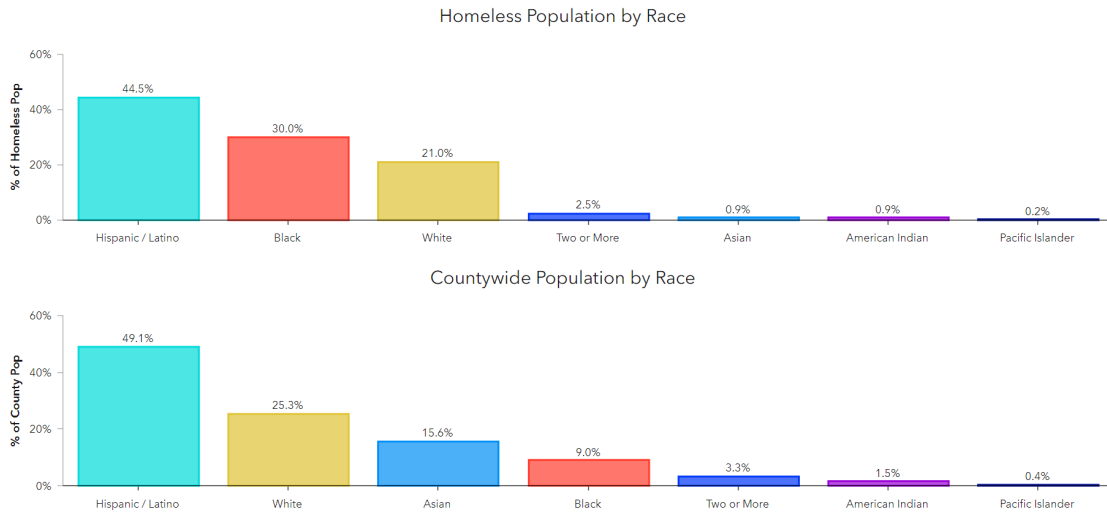
Critically, although the County and regional partners have invested heavily in tertiary supports for unhoused and homeless individuals, including emergency and interim housing, there are still major opportunities for the County to strengthen coordination to proactively strengthen housing stability for individuals before they become homeless.

POPULATION(S): (TENTATIVE/SAMPLE) Older adults and those entering older adulthood

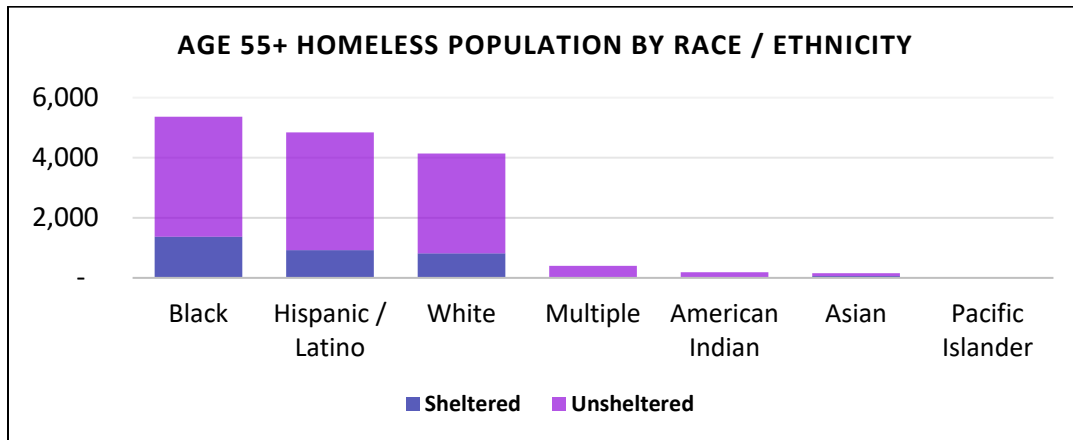
Approximately 69,000 individuals are currently unhoused in Los Angeles County. There are many populations with heightened risk and incidence of homelessness and housing instability. Based on existing data but also Task Force member feedback, there is a particular opportunity to focus on older adults and those entering older adulthood. These individuals are particularly vulnerable when they have also experienced the lifetime impacts of racism, denied economic opportunity/wealth accrual, and other harms that destabilize an individual’s economic wellbeing by the time they enter older adulthood. Ageism in employment and rising costs of living (especially in health care and housing) increase the likelihood that older adults – especially those without the access to support from higher-income family or loved ones – lose economic footing and become homeless.

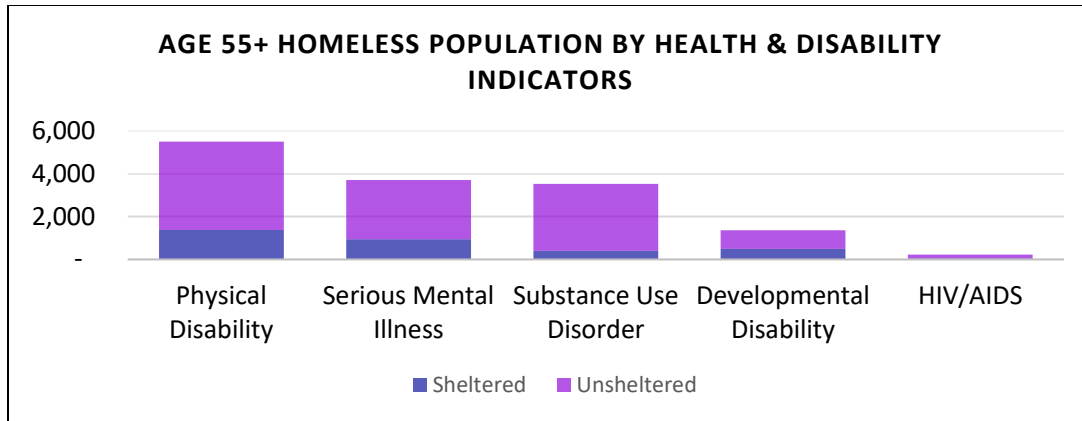
In addition, we can apply targeted universalism to especially support:

- Black older adults, who are particularly disproportionately represented among LA County’s homeless population
- Older adults with physical disabilities, serious mental illness, and/or substance use disorders, who are also overrepresented among the County’s homeless population
- Latina/o/x older adults, who prior to the COVID-19 pandemic were underrepresented among LA County’s homeless population relative to other racial and ethnic groups, but have since seen a concerning and sharp increase in homelessness



Data Source: LAHSA (2022)





Data Source: Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

EXISTING INVENTORY, VALUE ADD, AND GAPS

The County holds several authorities, levers, and responsibility relating to homelessness and housing, though this often is conducted in partnership with cities. Existing lead agencies for Homelessness include the Chief Executive Office’s [Homeless Initiative](#) (CEO-HI) and the [Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority](#) (LAHSA), a joint authority between the County and the City of Los Angeles. Meanwhile, the [Los Angeles County Development Authority](#) (LACDA) serves as the County’s public housing authority, administering housing subsidies, public housing, and affordable housing programs.

Based on departmental responses to the Task Force’s Funding Streams Analysis, which was conducted in the summer of 2022 and summarily submitted to the Board in Phase 1’s [Attachment III](#), the County administers (and/or has recently administered) several prevention and promotion programs relating to homelessness and housing, including but not limited to:

PRIMARY PREVENTION

- Housing Alternatives for Seniors (LACDA): provides a housing counseling/home sharing program for seniors, 55 years of age and older
- Various LACDA services especially targeted to supporting seniors in accessing housing, food, and other community resources
- Homeless Education (LACOE): Provides training and support to improve the identification, educational stability, access, support, and academic achievement of children and youth experiencing homelessness

SECONDARY PREVENTION

- Various emergency rental and utilities assistance administered during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Homeless Prevention Program for Families / Adults (LAHSA, CEO-HI): provides people with short-term rental and legal assistance to maintain their housing or find new housing to avoid entering the emergency shelter system
- Supervised Independent Living Program Plus (DCFS): Program that provides non-minor dependents the opportunity for highly independent living experiences while

they receive foster care payments and Supportive Transition services; funding is used to assist recipients with move-in assistance

TERTIARY PREVENTION

- Recovery Bridge Housing (DPH): provides safe interim housing for people experiencing homelessness or unstably housed, including those existing institutions such as jails, public and private hospitals, mental health facilities, residential substance use disorder treatment facilities, and the foster care system
- Rapid Rehousing and Temporary Emergency Shelters programs (LACDA, LAHSA, DHS): supported by federal and state funding to support persons experiencing homelessness and who continue to be vulnerable from the ongoing impact of COVID-19; provided short-term and medium-term rental assistance and temporary shelter in hotels and motels
- Bringing Families Home (DCFS, LACDA) provides rental assistance and supportive services to DCFS families who are homeless or facing housing instability
- Various emergency and immediate response programs to provide housing for individuals already or imminently homeless (note: these may more appropriately fall under “Remedy” rather than Tertiary); e.g., LAHSA’s coordinated entry system, continuum of care, DHS Housing for Health, CalWorks Homeless programs (DPSS), Housing and Job Development Division (DMH), Office of Diversion & Reentry Housing Program, etc.

The Board has passed several relevant motions in recent months, most notably a [Declaration of Local Emergency](#) which has resulted in a significant expansion of the Homeless Initiative and its collaboration across various departments and regional entities across three strategic missions: (1) Encampment Resolution, (2) Housing, and (3) Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services.

Other relevant Board motions and actions include:

- Motion #54-A (3/21/23): [Homelessness Prevention – Critical Tenant Protections](#)
- Motion #2-D (3/7/23): [Bringing Families Home Program Funds](#). “...allocation of BFH funds to agencies that will provide rental assistance, prevention and legal services for families in the child welfare system who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Los Angeles County.”
- Motion #5 (2/28/23): [Improving Housing Affordability and Reducing Homelessness for Youth in Foster Care](#)
- Administrative Matter #22 (2/7/23): [Fiscal Year 2023-24 Homeless Initiative Funding Recommendations](#)
- Administrative Matter #57-A (2/7/23): [Report Back on the Review of Local Homeless Emergency Order and Tenant Protections](#)
- Motion #13 (1/24/2023): [Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program Agreements with L.A. Care and Health Net](#)
- Misc. Addition #41-A (1/24/23): [Affirming Rights of Tenants and Property Owners and Extending Protections and Assistance to Prevent an Increase in Homelessness](#)
- Misc. Addition #41-F (1/24/23): [Establishing A Safety Inspection Team for Interim Housing and Shelter Sites](#)

In addition to these emergency efforts, there remains an opportunity for the Task Force, Homeless Initiative, LAHSA, and other County departments to advance prevention and promotion strategies, especially to serve upstream populations who may be accessing, navigating, and touching other County systems, supports, and resources but have not “formally” become homeless or lost their housing.

- This includes potentially partnering and collaborating to implement prevention-centric recommendations developed through two intersectional ARDI initiatives, [Black People Experiencing Homelessness](#) (BPEH) and [Latinos Experiencing Homelessness](#) (LPEH), both of which center equity and upstream preventive resources and supports in light of ongoing and worsening racial disproportionality
- Stemming the inflow of homelessness has elevated importance given statements made by elected officials and County leaders that it is important for regional governments to demonstrate the efficacy of [Measure H](#) (and the City’s Measure HHH) funds.
- In addition to economic and housing supports/security, there is an opportunity to deepen inroads with social and health services including behavioral health and substance use disorder to ensure that a greater number of departments are able to effectively collaborate to provide wraparound services

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES AND VOICES

Many community organizations and residents have expressed a desire for reform and policy change in this space. These perspectives have been shared and summarized through various County, City, and community-based spaces, including:

COMMISSIONS AND ADVISORY BODIES (with community representation and/or engagement)

- Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (final meeting held on 3/30/22, publishing a [Final Report and Recommendations](#))
- [Measure H Citizens Oversight Advisory Board](#)
- [Los Angeles Regional Homelessness Advisory Council](#)
- [Homeless Health Advisory Committee](#)
- [LACDA Housing Advisory Committee](#)
- [Black People Experiencing Homelessness Steering Committee](#)
 - [2018 Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homeless](#) (LAHSA)

HIGHLIGHTED THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES (PREVENTION/PROMOTION EMPHASIS)



Should the Task Force pursue this focus area in Phase 2, it may consider:

- Identifying community members with lived experience navigating housing subsidies, affordable and public housing, eviction and rental support, shelters, and interim housing, and other systems, with an emphasis on upstream experiences (given the Task Force’s prevention emphasis)
- Community organizations and philanthropic partners with extensive experience providing direct resources and supports to individuals experiencing housing instability (e.g., evictions, affordable and public housing tenants, low-income populations) or homelessness

STAKEHOLDERS

- Existing County leads, including CEO-HI and LAHSA, as well as LACDA and other health and human services agencies administering direct services and programs relating to housing and economic stability services, especially for older adults (e.g., Aging, DPSS, DHS, etc.)
- Additional departments or entities with programs that provide resources and supports to bolster economic and housing security (e.g., DEO, DCFS, etc.) as well as address physical and behavioral health needs, including substance use disorder (e.g., DPH, DMH, DHS, etc.)
- Ongoing commissions and recent initiatives (see list of commissions and advisory bodies above)
- Administrative departments/entities with authorities and expertise relating to coordinating functions (e.g., CIO, County Counsel, CEO, contracting)
- Per previous section, community members with lived expertise, community organizations, and philanthropic partners

B. Child and Family Well-Being

Prior to the April Task Force meeting, members ranked “Children, youth, and families/child welfare” as one of the top focus areas for prevention and promotion. 10 out of 15 members indicated it was “most important” for the County to collaborate across departments/regional entities to address urgent issues in this space, with four more indicating it was “very important.” At least twelve members also selected children, youth, and families to be within their top three domains for the Task Force’s Phase 2 efforts, the highest of any option choice.

As a result of recent Task Force discussions, this focus area was renamed “Child and Family Well-Being,” reflecting a prevention and promotion lens for children and their families.

OUTCOME: Promoting child and family wellbeing and preservation (specifically mitigating and addressing the impacts of child poverty)

Context: Social conditions (e.g., racism, labor exploitation, sexism, immigration systems, quality of education systems, inflation and rising costs of living and childcare) increase barriers and make it harder for parents and families to ensure that their children have the resources and supports to thrive. Cultural stigma, overcomplexity and siloing of public systems, and poor and/or disrespectful customer service also serve as barriers for families as they navigate DCFS systems but also various other resources and supports currently offered by the County and other public agencies.

Should the Task Force collaborate on this focus area in Phase 2, it may seek to further define measures for wellbeing (e.g., to include [protective factors](#)), especially for infants and toddlers who sadly comprise the largest share of the [child fatalities](#) recorded in the DCFS system. It may also identify upstream contributing outcomes that the County can impact, including increasing utilization of community and faith-based resources. Promoting the wellbeing of children and families may also have the secondary effect of reducing interactions with child welfare systems, especially when such cases are due to alleged “neglect.”

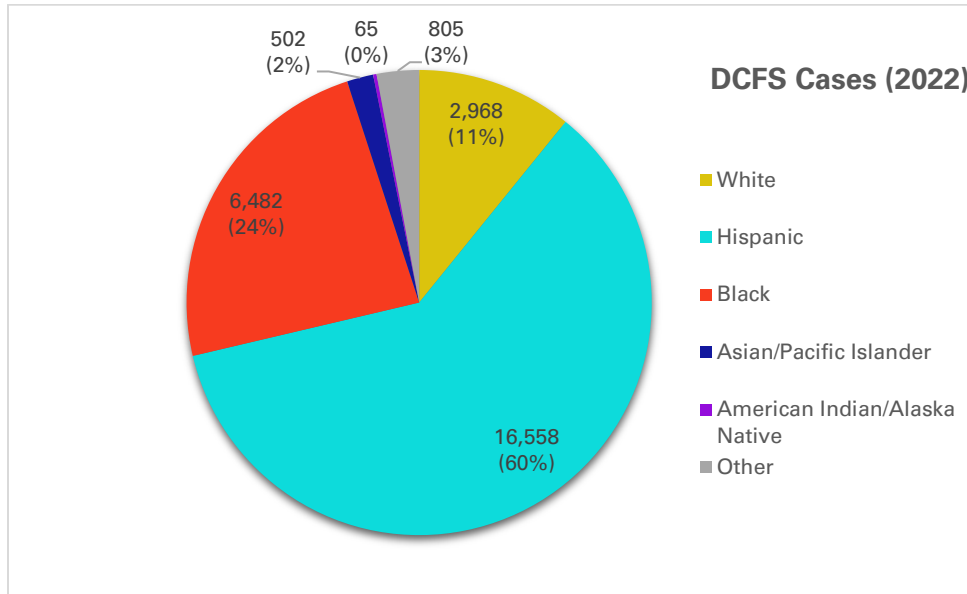
See also:

- [Countywide Prevention Metrics](#) for child and family wellbeing, developed by OCP and OCIO in December 2022.
- California Department of Social Services (CDSS) [County Prevention Dashboard](#)
- First5LA [Impact Framework](#) and [Indicators Report](#)
- [California Strong Start Index](#) developed by the First 5 Center for Children’s Policy and Children’s Data Network

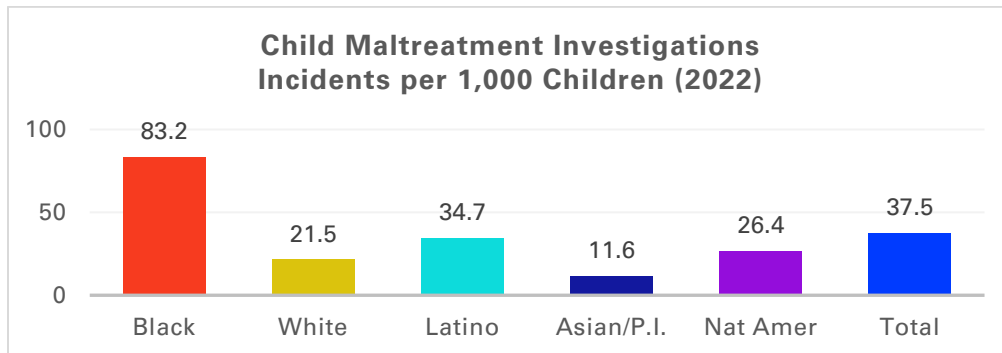
POPULATION(S): Children and families, especially those who are lower income and face greater economic insecurity and barriers to wellbeing

In addition, we can apply targeted universalism to especially support Black, Latino, and Native families given:

- Existing racial disproportionality in DCFS (e.g., # of cases, maltreatment allegations/investigations/substantiations, and # of children first entering foster care, etc.)
- Historical racism documented across U.S. child welfare systems (see: [Attachment III, page 24](#): Contextualizing LA County's Previous Efforts in Child Welfare

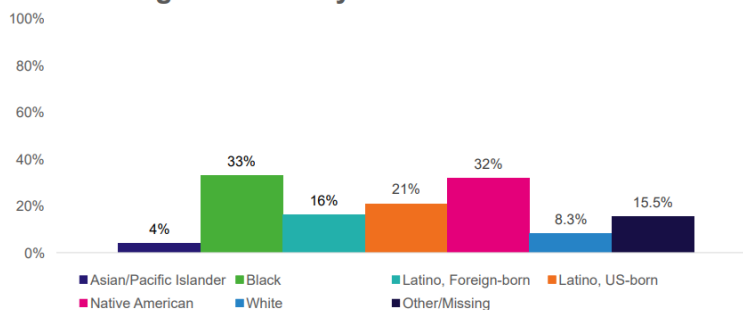


Data Sources: Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) Datamart History Table.



Data Source: University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators

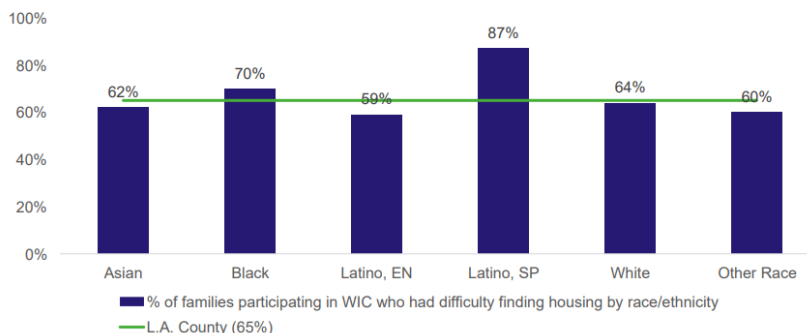
1 out of 3 Black and Native American children who turned 5 in 2020 in L.A. County were Referred to CPS at least once during their first 5 years of life



% of children who turned 5 in 2020 who were Referred to CPS at least once for each race/ethnicity

Data source: First5LA, Linked Administrative Records, Children's Data Network

Spanish-speaking Latino families participating in WIC in L.A. County are substantially more likely to have difficulty finding housing



Data Source: First5LA, LA County WIC Survey (2020), WIC Data Mining Partnership

The State of California's [5-year Prevention Plan](#) (officially released in March 2023) lists several priority populations deemed to be at "imminent risk" of entering foster care. While some of these populations are quite "downstream" or tertiary in nature, there are several listed by the State that are further "upstream" that the Task Force may additionally consider as it aims to improve coordination of primary prevention and promotion services, including LGBTQ children, children who have siblings in foster care, children whose caretakers experience a substance use disorder, and other designations.

EXISTING INVENTORY, VALUE ADD, AND GAPS

The County holds several authorities, levers, and responsibility relating to child welfare/wellbeing and prevention. Existing lead agencies and entities include the [Department of Children and Family Services](#) (DCFS), [Office of Child Protection](#) (OCP), [Commission for Children and Families](#) (CCF), and First 5 Los Angeles (First5LA). In addition, several other health and human services agencies administer direct services and programs for children, youth, and families, including the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Youth Development (DYD), and Youth Commission.

Based on departmental responses to the Task Force's Funding Streams Analysis, which was conducted in the summer of 2022 and summarily submitted to the Board in Phase 1's [Attachment III](#), the County administers (and/or has recently administered) several prevention and promotion programs relating to child and family wellbeing, including but not limited to:

PRIMARY PREVENTION

- Various programming and activities for children and families across County community services departments, including Parks and Recreation (e.g., Parks After Dark, Our SPOT for teens)
- Various Home Visitation Programs (managed by DPH, various other agencies including DPSS and DMH): supports positive health development and well-being outcomes for

pregnant and parenting people, families, and infants born into poverty, expand their future educational, economic, and financial capability opportunities, and improve the likelihood that they will exit poverty

- Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program – Child Wellbeing (DPH): provides comprehensive prenatal care, health educational, nutritional assessment and education services, and psychosocial assessment and referral support for up to 60 days after delivery
- SIDS Program (DPH): provides outreach, education, and direct supports to child care providers, pregnant & parenting teens, high schools, health care providers, home visiting programs, and others to prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- Welcome Baby Hospitals (First5LA): voluntary, universally provided program for pregnant and postpartum women, to maximize the health, safety, and security of the baby and parent-child relationship
- Prevention and Aftercare (P&A) services contracted and spread among SPAs
- Community Schools Initiative (LACOE, DPH, DMH): supporting students with community resources to ensure they are healthy, prepared for college, and ready to succeed in the workplace and civic life
- Head Start and Early Learning (LACOE): provides a wide variety of services, programs, and educational activities across topics such as nutrition, developmental disabilities, family & community engagement, mental health, education, physical health, and inclusive early childhood education; this program is also secondary and tertiary as children and families with greater needs are also provided downstream services tailored to their needs

SECONDARY PREVENTION

- DPSS/DCFS Linkages program; focuses on assisting families mutually known to both agencies and who are eligible for DPSS benefits and/or services
- Help Me Grow Los Angeles (DPH, First5LA): promotes cross-sector collaboration to implement and strengthen early screening and surveillance of developmental and behavioral delays for young children and links children at risk for delays and conditions to appropriate intervention services and support
- Alternative Response Services (DCFS): provides in-home services to children and families who are in need of prevention services, but who have a CPS referral that is scheduled to close (e.g., due to investigation result being unsubstantiated, or substantiated with low to moderate risk)
- Select Home Visiting Programs (First5LA): voluntary, home-based intervention programs for families identified as high risk and residing within a Best Start Community; provides information and support for positive parenting behaviors and child development
- Youth Development – Arts for Justice Involved Youth (Arts & Culture)

TERTIARY PREVENTION

- Adoption Promotion & Support Services (DCFS): provides adoption-focused services to children, non-minor dependents, and families who are in permanent placement with an open DCFS or Probation case, with adoption as the identified case plan goal
- Family Visitation Centers/Safe Child Custody Exchange (DCFS): provides coached monitored visitation services in SPAs 1 and 2, to court-monitored, DCFS children andk

families receiving Family Reunification Services, with the goal to improve parenting skills, decrease timelines to reunification, and decrease re-entry rates post reunification.

- Incarcerated Parents Program (DCFS): Provides case management and in-person visitation services to incarcerated mothers at LA County Century Regional Detention Center, with the goal to maintain family relationships, improve timelines to reunification, and prevent re-entry post reunification

The Board has recently passed relevant motions and actions, including:

- Motion #25 (4/4/23): [Proclaiming “Los Angeles County Home Visiting Day”](#)
- 5/2/23: [Evolving from Mandated Reporter to Mandated Supporter](#)
- 6/28/22: [Blind Removal Pilot](#) for the Department of Children and Family Services
- 3/7/23: [Bringing Families Home Program](#) to provide rental assistance, prevention, and legal services for families in the child welfare system who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in LA County
- 9/15/21: [Establishing the Los Angeles County Office of Prevention Services](#), the motion which established this Task Force which acknowledged prior and ongoing prevention efforts in LA County, especially those rooted in child and family wellbeing.

There are also multiple report backs that members indicated may be helpful to understanding recent and ongoing prevention initiatives in this focus area:

- July 1, 2018 – Moving Families From The Hotline To The Helpline Initiative
- April 16, 2019 – Ensuring Successful Transition To The Family First Prevention Services Act
- April 20, 2021 – Successful Implementation of Family First Prevention Services Act
- May 4, 2021 – Supporting Innovative Mentorship Programs for At-risk Black Male Youth in South Los Angeles
- August 10, 2021 – Workforce Services For Los Angeles County Foster Youth
- January 25, 2022 – Reimagining The Department Of Children And Family Services (DCFS)
- April 4, 2023 – Expanding Breathe: LA County’s Guaranteed Income Program

Some of the County’s most extensive and impactful prevention initiatives over the last several decades have occurred in the child welfare space. This includes several efforts that have prioritized upstream supports and pioneered community-based delivery of services, including Countywide home visitation programs, early care and pre-school education programs, and community-level child abuse prevention efforts aimed at increasing whole family supports. These initiatives provide important case studies and learnings for prevention efforts in other domains, while also progressively increasing the likelihood that children can remain safe and thrive in their own families and communities.

There remains an opportunity for the Task Force to support and uplift ongoing prevention and promotion efforts in this focus area, especially in ensuring that coordination across all relevant health and human service entities can more smoothly and easily serve LA County’s children and families. Members leading efforts in this space highlight opportunities in better engaging community members in policy and program decisions, improving resource

navigation and access, addressing legal and technical barriers to data sharing, and advancing a policy agenda at the federal and state levels to address common issues relating to funding and program requirements.

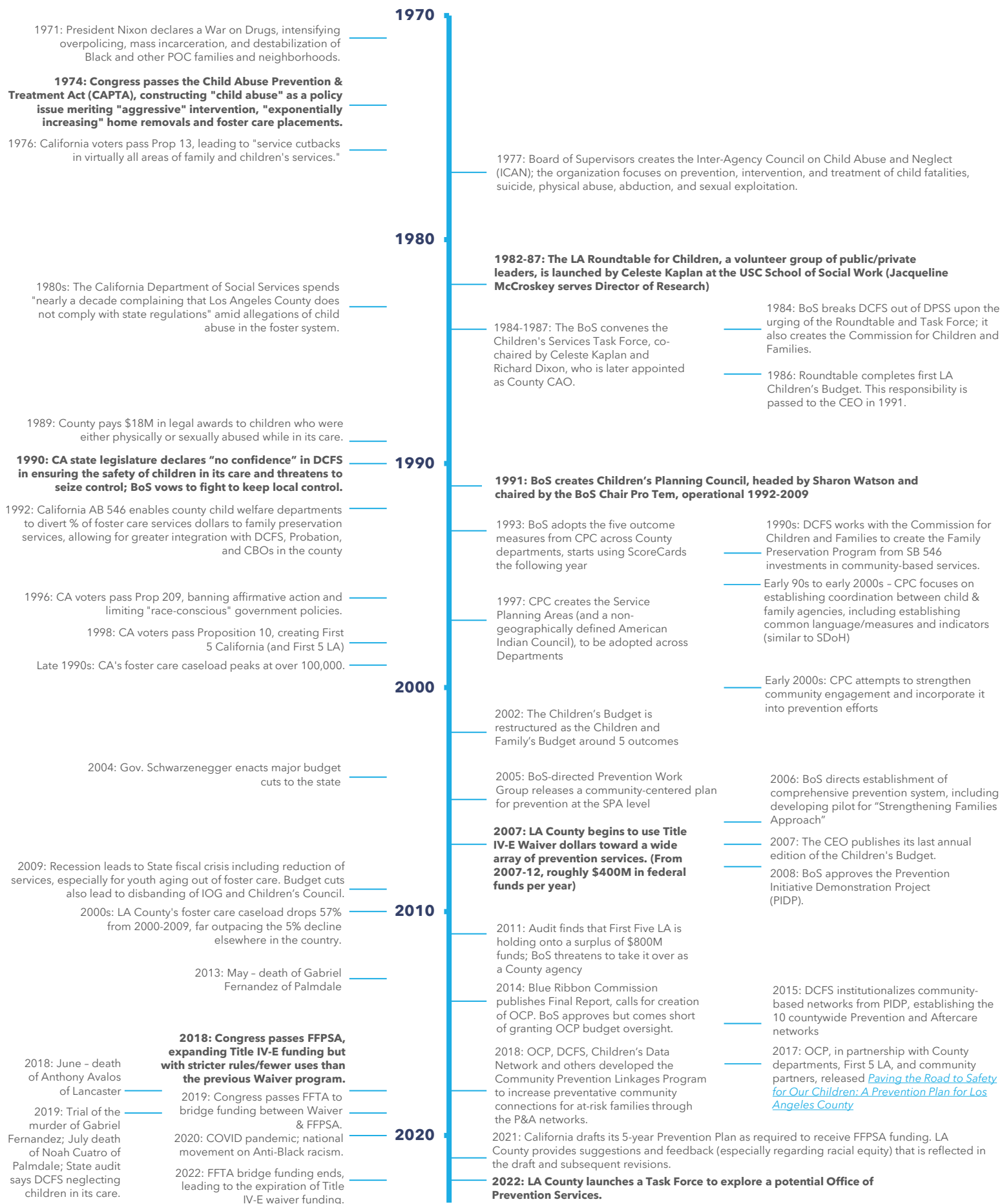
- In particular, the Task Force can support and bolster the recently launched [Mandated Supporting Initiative](#), by bridging additional departments and programs to connect families to resources through coordinating functions as well as ensuring the long term sustainability of these resources.
- The Task Force can also build upon the efforts of the [Thriving Families, Safer Children](#) program, launched in 2020
- OCP's Plan of Safe Care planning group, which includes case planning for substance exposed births
- The County's Center for Strategic Partnerships, which is leading initiatives such as [Fostering Together Network](#) and the [Antelope Valley Resource Infusion](#) Project
- There is an opportunity to support ongoing initiatives and policy changes relating to funding, including [FFPSA](#), [CDSS State Block Grant](#), [ACEs Aware](#), [CA Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative](#), [CalAIM](#) (Medi-Cal funding waiver), [Community Schools Initiative](#), etc., many of which may entail new opportunities to source, braid, and blend County funding sources to provide families resources.

For more information about LA County's prior and ongoing efforts in prevention and promotion in child and family wellbeing, please see the timeline on the following page, which was enclosed on [page 26 of Attachment III](#) submitted to the Board in April 2023.

Child Welfare & Prevention Services in Los Angeles County, 1970-2022



ANTI-RACISM, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVE
OFFICE OF PREVENTION SERVICES TASK FORCE



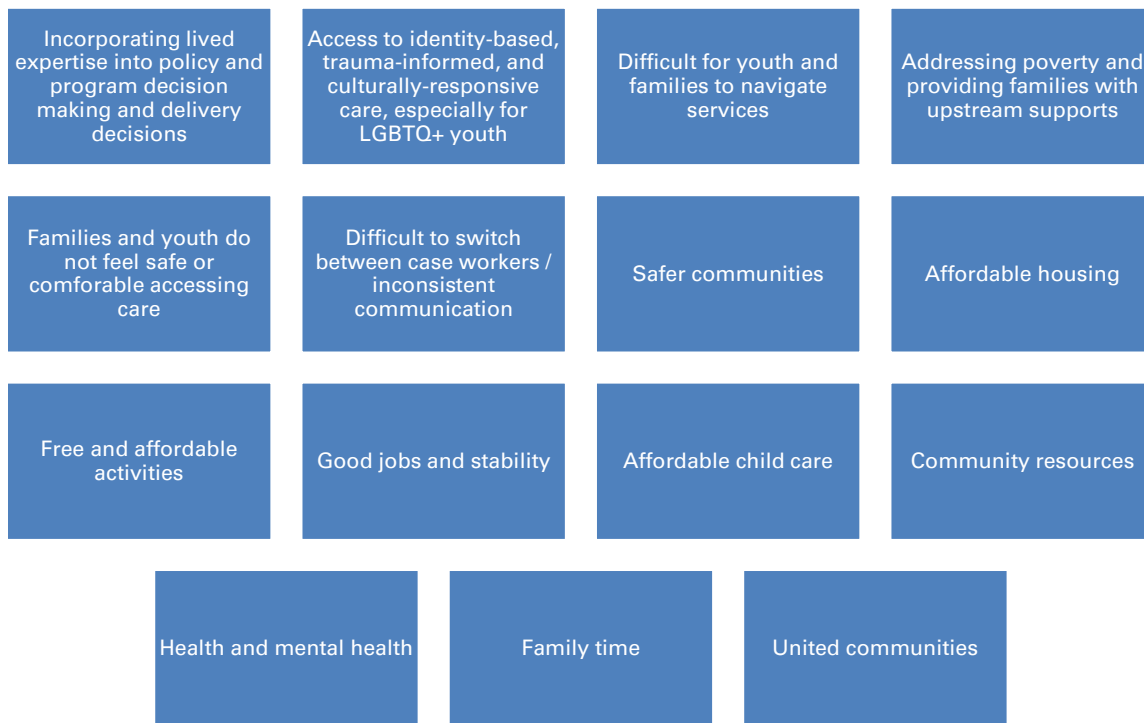
COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES AND VOICES

Many community organizations and residents have expressed a desire for reform and policy change in this space, as expressed through the [Reimagining Child Safety Coalition](#), a group of advocates, organizations, and impacted families that includes more than 40 regional and community-based advocacy and service organizations.

Several County organizations and programs, including DCFS, OCP, First5LA, Thriving Families, Safer Children, and others have conducted extensive community engagement and feedback in this focus area, which the Task Force can continue to leverage and uplift. Another effort that members wish to highlight include the [Community Pathway Recommendations](#) made by the Prevention and Early Intervention Committee of the California Child Welfare Council, calling for changes to incorporate youth and parents with lived expertise, community residents, and community partners into accountability and oversight for the State’s Family First Prevention Services.

Meanwhile, while the Task Force should continue to center and learn about “downstream” experiences of children and families involved in DCFS cases, there is also opportunity to learn more from programs like First5LA’s [Best Start Communities](#) and [Thriving Families, Safer Children](#), both of which have worked with families, parents, and children to identify community priorities further upstream to in turn enact changes in systems to respond to those priorities.

HIGHLIGHTED THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES (PREVENTION/PROMOTION EMPHASIS)



Should the Task Force pursue this focus area in Phase 2, it may consider:

- Identifying community members with lived experience navigating child welfare systems and other County systems – especially prior DCFS “general neglect” cases who may be able to inform how resources and supports may have played a role in their experience
- Community organizations and philanthropic partners with extensive experience providing direct resources and supports to children and families, including those who are DCFS-involved or referred out through the DCFS hotline.

STAKEHOLDERS

- Existing leads, including DCFS, OCP, CCF, and First5LA, as well as other health and human services agencies administering direct services and programs to children, youth, and families, including LACOE, DHS, DMH, Youth Commission, etc.
- Additional departments or entities with programs that provide resources and supports to bolster family wellbeing (e.g., DPH, DPSS, DEO, Aging, LACDA, Library, Parks and Recreation, Arts and Culture), but also those outside of County such as school districts, cities, and workforce development boards, etc.
- Administrative departments/entities with authorities and expertise relating to coordinating functions (e.g., CIO, County Counsel, CEO, contracting)
- Per previous section, community members with lived expertise, community organizations, and philanthropic partners

C. Justice Reform & Public Safety

Prior to the April Task Force meeting, members ranked “Justice and safety” as a high priority focus area for prevention and promotion. Seven out of 15 members indicated it was “most important” for the County to collaborate across departments/regional entities to address urgent issues in Homelessness, with another three indicating it was “very important.”

OUTCOME: Preventing adult first-time felony convictions

Context: As described in the County’s [Racial Equity Strategic Plan](#), the scale of prison incarceration in the U.S. has changed dramatically over the past 50 years, increasing by 430% since the early 1970s. However, this explosion in incarceration has been experienced unevenly across race and levels of educational attainment. Accordingly, “reduce adult first-time felony convictions” is one of Los Angeles County’s Racial Equity 10-Year Strategic Goals, which have been adopted by the Board.

Felony convictions are a key driver of long-term negative outcomes in other life areas because of the array of exclusions it can confer from employment, housing, and other opportunities in life. One study found that those who experienced a felony or misdemeanor conviction saw significant reductions in job earnings over the subsequent 30-year period. Those that were incarcerated experienced a 52% reduction in annual earnings, those with felony convictions but no incarceration experienced a 22% reduction, and those with a misdemeanor conviction experienced a 16% reduction.

Being incarcerated has also been shown through multiple studies to be strongly associated with worse long-term mental and physical health, especially for those incarcerated between the ages of 18 and 24.

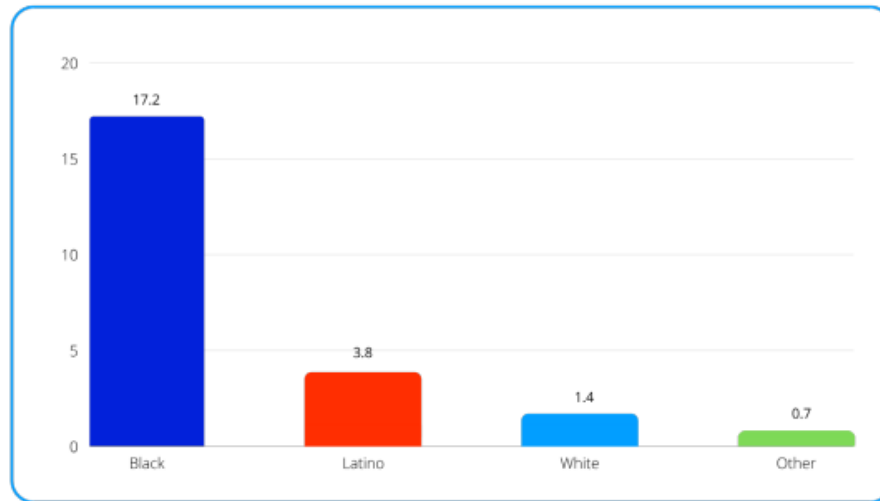
POPULATION(S): Young adults with attributes or experiences that are shown to be correlated with higher rates of subsequent incarceration or justice involvement

According to research studies compiled during the development of the County’s Racial Equity Strategic Plan, there are several contributing population outcomes that influence this outcome, including high school dropout, high school grade point average, juvenile detention, and early substance use disorder. Applying a prevention lens to this outcome justifies a focus on resources and supports for youth and young adults.

In addition, we can apply targeted universalism to especially support young Black and Latino men, who are disproportionately represented in felony convictions and other outcomes across the criminal justice system. For the U.S., the lifetime risk of imprisonment for males born 1975 to 1979 was 27% for Black men, 12% for Latinos, and 5% for white men. In California, approximately 90% of Black men that dropped out of high school have gone to prison in recent decades.

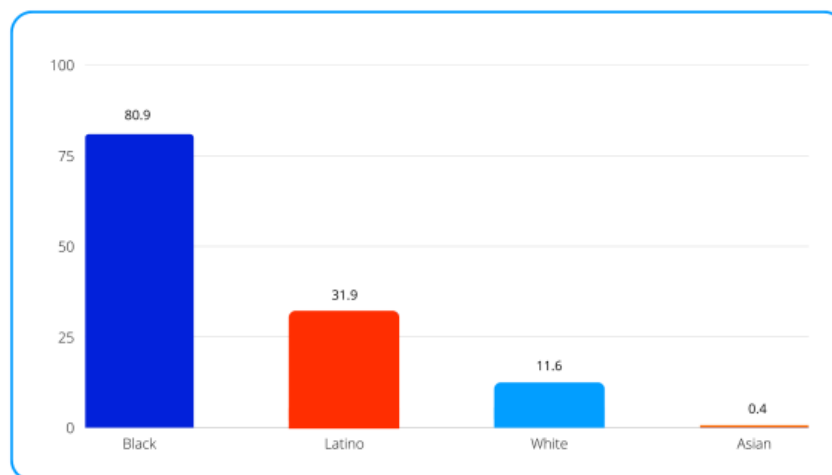
While all populations lose out on income after a felony or misdemeanor conviction, men of color experience the greatest losses, with Black and Latino men losing \$358,900 and \$511,500 in lifetime earnings, respectively, compared to \$267,000 for their white counterparts. A compelling study conducted in Harris County, Texas showed that being incarcerated and/or receiving a felony conviction reduced employment by 49% and total earnings by 93% over the next 10 years. The largest effects were recorded for young Black men with misdemeanor criminal records.

Figure 3. Juvenile Felony Arrest Rate by Race/Ethnicity per 1,000 (2019) 8⁶



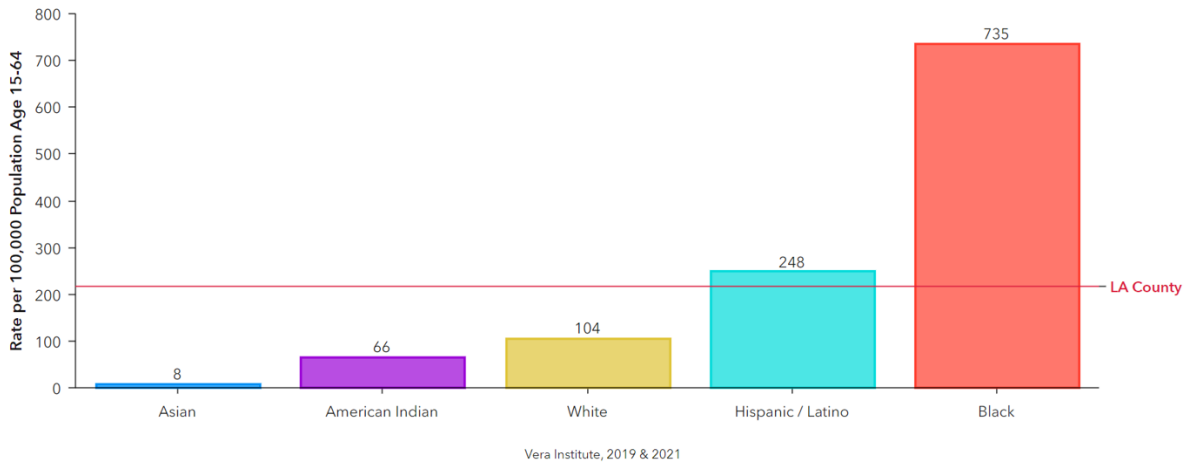
Source: Kidsdata.org (Data Source: California Dept. of Justice, Crime Statistics: Arrests; California Dept. of Finance, Population Estimates and Projections (May 2020)).

Figure 4. First-Time Adult Felony Convictions by Race/Ethnicity per 10,000 (2019)⁷

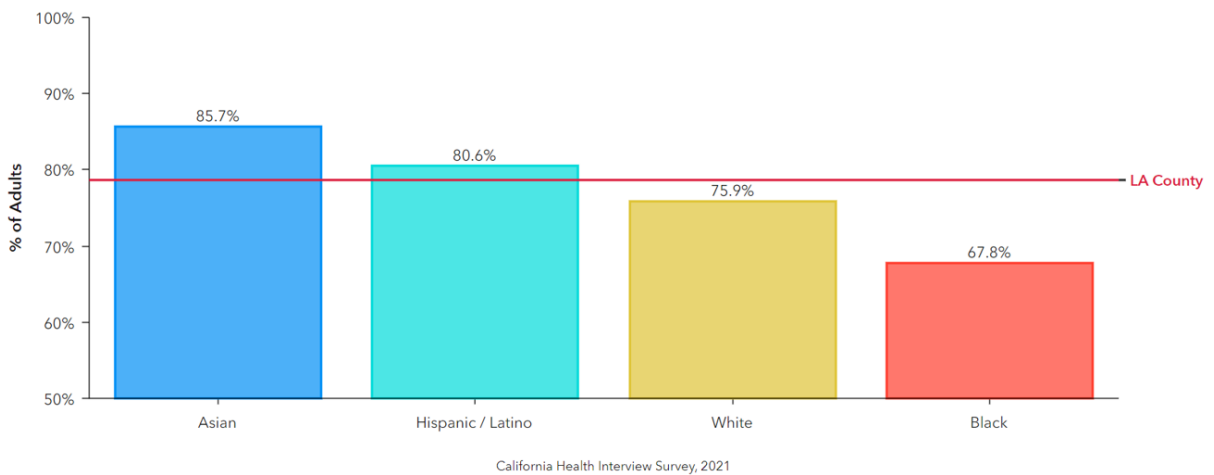


Source: LA County Racial Equity Strategic Plan | Data from Los Angeles County Court Data.

Incarceration Rate (Jail) Per 100,000 Population Age 15-64



No Stops by Law Enforcement in Last Three Years



See also: [YDD's Quarterly Data Dashboards](#).

EXISTING INVENTORY, VALUE ADD, AND GAPS

While the County holds some levers and authority relating to policing and incarceration, there is an opportunity to more effectively utilize preventative supports and resources, including diversion but also other upstream strategies. Existing lead agencies for Justice and Safety include two newly formed County departments: [Justice, Care, & Opportunities Department](#) (JCOD) and [Department of Youth Development](#) (DYD), both of which include programs and activities previously managed by the CEO's [Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative](#). This notably includes the Los Angeles County [Care First and Community Investment](#) (CFCI) initiative, a voter-approved measure that allocates funds for alternatives to incarceration and programs that serve under-resourced communities across the County.

Based on departmental responses to the Task Force's Funding Streams Analysis, which was conducted in the summer of 2022 and summarily submitted to the Board in Phase 1's [Attachment III](#), the County administers (and/or has recently administered) several prevention and promotion programs relating to justice and safety. (In addition, there are multiple additional programs from the newly formed JCOD and DYD which may not be represented below.)

PRIMARY PREVENTION

- Office of Violence Prevention (DPH): coordinated public health approach to prevent violence countywide and to advance trauma informed and healing systems change. The OVP Strategic Plan builds on an infrastructure that will advance this work through the collection and sharing of data through an open data portal, through support of efforts to mobilize against violence at community and county levels through the Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI), and through a communications effort aimed at broader community dialogue about the root causes of violence and the efficacy of a preventive, public health approach.

SECONDARY PREVENTION

- Client Assessment Recommendation and Evaluation (CARE) (Public Defender): early intervention program for delinquency system-involved youth, including dual status clients with special education needs, development disabilities, and mental illness
- Youth Pre-Filing Diversion (DA): pre-filing diversion pathways for traditionally serious and violent offenses that advance the Care First, Jails Last goal of the County by intervening with eligible candidates from ages 14-25 to teach accountability and provide case management. Participants can avoid court involvement and earn the promise from LADA that no formal charges will be brought against them after successful completion

TERTIARY PREVENTION

- Partners for Justice (Public Defender): non-legal holistic advocates providing support to clients to address the collateral impacts of detention (e.g., loss of employment, asset forfeiture, benefits, etc.)
- Teen Court (Court Program) (Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender): Court-monitored diversion program for young people who commit non-serious crimes
- Prison2Employment Program (DEO): Improves employment outcomes for justice-involved individuals by establishing and maintaining a partnership between workforce and corrections agencies, providing career centers and providing individual services, supportive services, transitional subsidized employment, and system navigation and support from individuals with lived experience
- Mental Health Court Linkage (DA): A collaboration between DMH and the LA County Superior Court to provide mental health clinicians who provide on-site outreach and consultation to defendants and the Court

With the Board's motion [Establishing a Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department to Promote Collaboration and Transparency in a Person-Centered Justice System](#), the Board has once again signaled its efforts to reduce the County's over-reliance on incarceration of justice-impacted populations, and especially that of youth and young people. To quote the former

motion, “beginning in 2015 with its decision to establish the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) and continuing through its more recent actions to create the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative (ATI) and the Jail Closure Implementation Team (JCIT), this Board has recognized that the carceral system is often ill-equipped to respond to human conditions such as homelessness, poverty, mental illness, and substance use dependencies.”

Additional motions (non-exhaustive):

- [Maintaining the Decreased Population of Incarcerated Youth in Los Angeles County \(6/9/20\)](#) and subsequent [Report Back \(8/7/20\)](#)
- [Decarceration of Girls and Young Women: Addressing the Incarcerated Youth Population in the Los Angeles County Camps and Halls \(11/30/21\)](#)
- [Care First, Jails Last: Holding the Probation Department Accountable and Advancing Youth Justice Reimagined \(3/21/23\)](#)

Meanwhile, this booklet developed in May 2022 by the LA County Division of Youth Diversion & Development (YDD) provides a brief historical overview of organizing and policy in YDD over the past decade: [Designing Youth Diversion & Development in Los Angeles County](#), a Collaborative History Told With Youth Leaders. These efforts led to recommendations published in [A Roadmap for Advancing Youth Diversion in Los Angeles County](#), the YDD model, and ultimately the creation of the Department of Youth Development.

In addition to these efforts, there remains an opportunity for the Task Force to advance and bolster prevention efforts led to date by JCOD and DYD. The Task Force can work to bridge additional departments and programs to connect individuals to economic supports and diversion resources, especially by addressing coordinating functions.

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES AND VOICES

Many community organizations and residents have expressed a desire for reform and policy change regarding carceral policies, including during community engagement that shaped the CFCI initiative.

HIGHLIGHTED THEMES AND PERSPECTIVES (PREVENTION/PROMOTION EMPHASIS)



Should the Task Force pursue this focus area in Phase 2, it may consider:

- Identifying community members with lived experience regarding justice system interactions, diversion resources, and other County health and human service systems
- Community organizations and philanthropic partners with extensive experience providing direct resources and supports to justice-impacted individuals, including during pre-trial, diversion, incarceration, reentry, and other experiences.

STAKEHOLDERS

- Existing leads, including JCOD and DYD as well as other health and human services agencies administering direct services and programs relating to economic opportunity, mental health, and overall wellbeing for young people (e.g., DEO, DMH, LACOE, etc.)
- Additional departments or entities with programs that provide resources and supports to bolster economic and housing security (e.g., DPH, DEO, DCFS, DHS, etc.)
- Administrative departments/entities with authorities and expertise relating to coordinating functions (e.g., CIO, County Counsel, CEO, contracting)
- Per previous box, community members with lived expertise, community organizations, and philanthropic partners