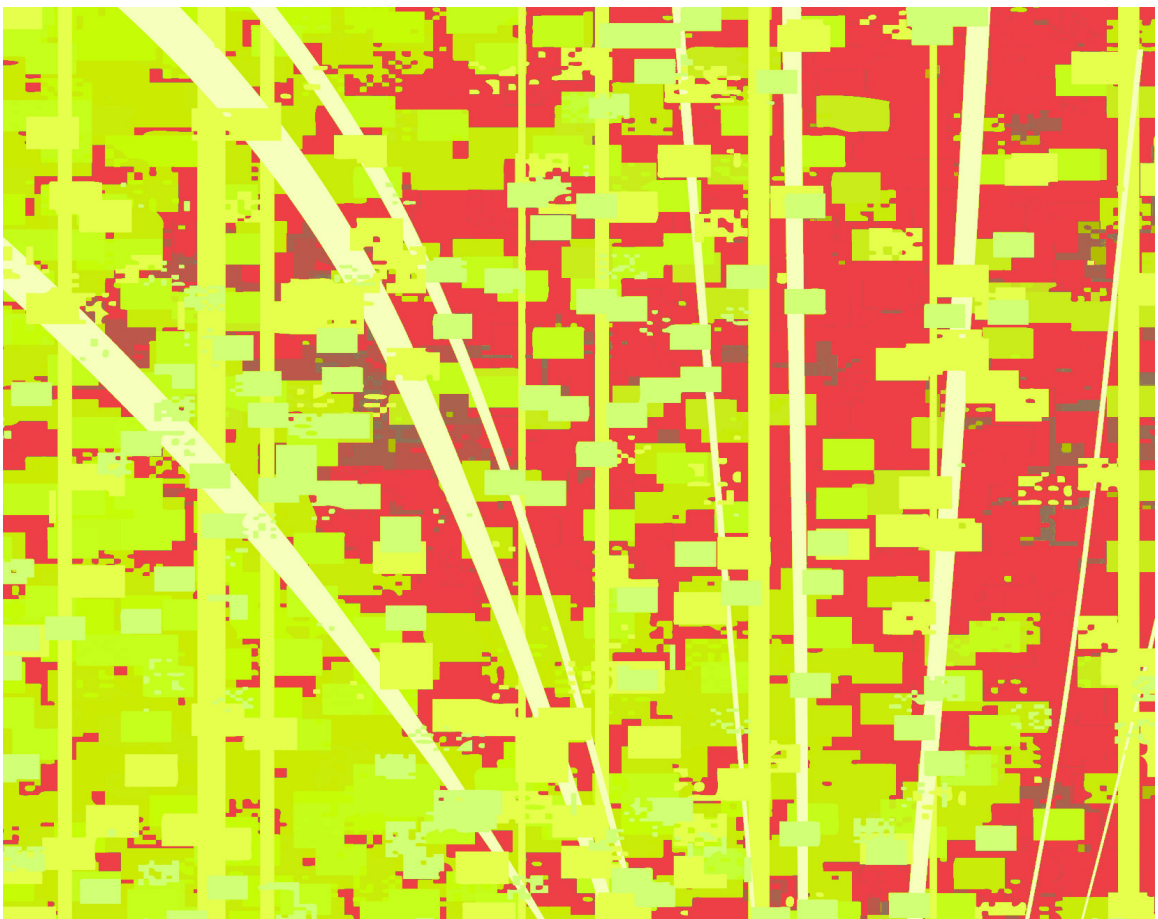VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

SERVICE AREA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

San Fernando
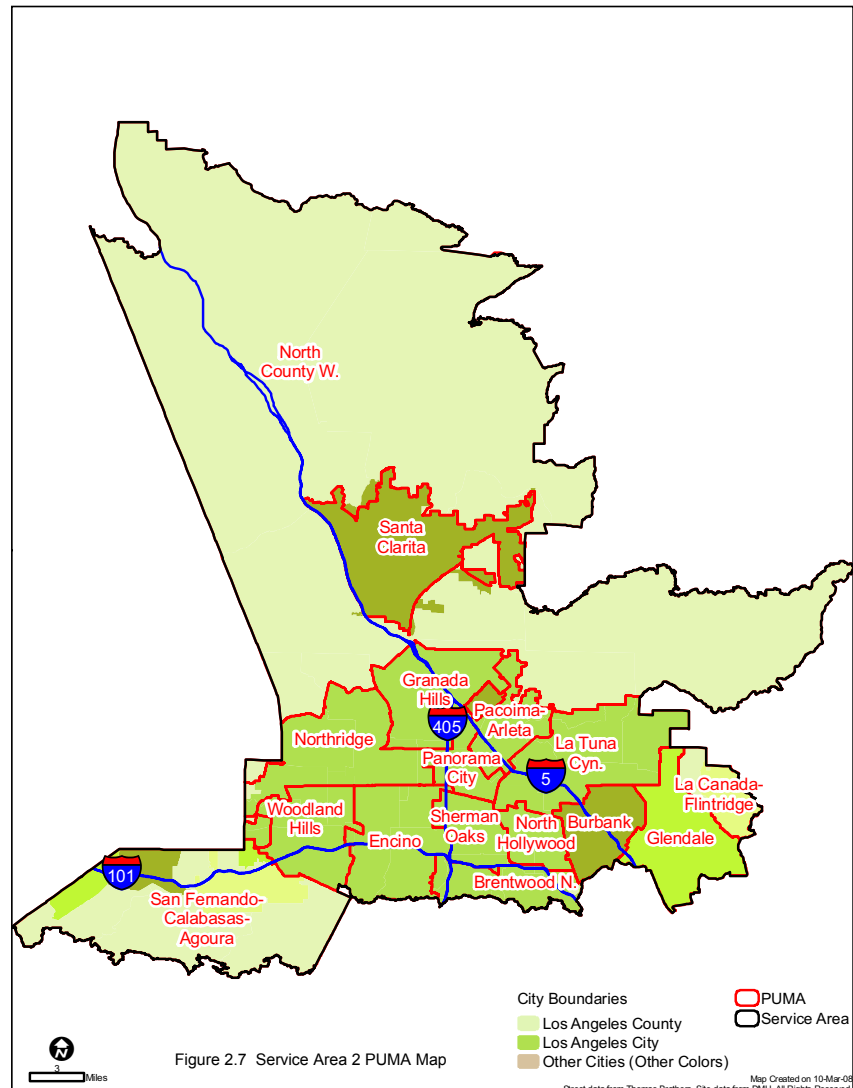

County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health   550 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90020

Prevention and Early Intervention, Mental Health Services Act

Service Area 2: San Fernando

Communities

Santa Clarita

Burbank

Glendale

Northridge

Granada Hills

Pacoima-Arleta

La Tuna Cyn.

Panorama City

North Hollywood

Sherman Oaks

Encino

Woodland Hills

Brentwood N.

North County W.

La Canada
-Flintridge

San Fernando
-Calabasas-Agoura

ZIP Codes

90290	91203	91302	91324	91343	91364	91394	91412	91504
91011	91204	91303	91325	91344	91365	91395	91413	91505
91012	91205	91304	91326	91345	91367	91396	91416	91506
91020	91206	91305	91327	91346	91371	91399	91423	91507
91021	91207	91306	91328	91350	91372	91401	91426	91508
91023	91208	91307	91329	91351	91376	91402	91436	91510
91040	91209	91308	91330	91352	91380	91403	91470	91521
91041	91210	91309	91331	91353	91381	91404	91482	91522
91042	91214	91310	91333	91354	91383	91405	91495	91523
91043	91221	91311	91334	91355	91384	91406	91496	91526
91046	91222	91312	91335	91356	91385	91407	91497	91601
91050	91224	91313	91337	91357	91386	91408	91499	91602
91051	91225	91316	91340	91361	91388	91409	91501	91603
91201	91226	91321	91341	91362	91392	91410	91502	91604
91202	91301	91322	91342	91363	91393	91411	91503	91605

Figure 2.7 Service Area 2 PUMA Map

Demographic Profile

Ethnic Diversity:

Large Population and Language Diversity

Service Area 2 (SA2) is the most populous service area in Los Angeles County; it is comprised of the San Fernando Valley, the cities of Santa Clarita, Burbank, Glendale, and northern parts of the City of Los Angeles. Latinos account for 38.4% of the population, followed by Western European Whites (35.4%), Asians (8.6%), Armenians (5.6%), and African-Americans (3.9%). Across the service area, it is possible to identify areas where ethnic minorities have settled in large numbers. The Pacoima-Arleta community, for example, is populated predominately by Latinos (86.8%); the Glendale community is home to almost half of all Armenians (49%) within the service area; Western European Whites predominately populate the Santa Clarita community; and Asians are most numerous in Northridge.

English and Spanish are the predominate languages spoken at home in 42.8% and 31.4% of households, respectively. This means that a full quarter of the remaining population speak other languages. Armenian is spoken in 5.5 % of households and Tagalog in 2.2% of homes. Like other parts of the county, ethnic groups tend to form communities where their native language is spoken. The Glendale area is a good example of this where 28.9% of the residents speak Armenian and 4.7% speak Korean. Farsi is spoken by 6.1% of the population in the Encino area. Spanish is predominately spoken in the areas of Pacoima-Arleta and Panorama City, which also has a large number of Tagalog speakers (6.5%)

Age Distribution:

Large Numbers in Proportion to County

The percentage of children ages 0-15 living in SA2 (23.9%) is about county average (25%), but because of the population size, SA2 has more children in this age category than the other service areas. SA2, for example, has over 400,000 more children in this age category than SA5. The percentage of persons ages 60 and older in SA2 (14%) is identical to the county average (14%). Again, due to differences in population size, SA2 has more

older adults than any other service area. For example, SA2 has over a quarter million more older adults than SA1.

Economic Diversity:
Higher Incomes than Average

Average median household income in the service area of $55,036 was higher than the county median of $48,282. Similarly, the mean household income of $71,839 was higher than the county mean of $63,244. It is important to consider both median and mean statistics when examining incomes. The median, or mid-point, gives a better indication of the typical level of income reported by individuals within the service area. The mean or arithmetic average, however, is a better statistic to compare different geographical areas, such as between and across service areas. Examining the composite communities revealed that there was a great discrepancy between them in terms of two indicators of wealth: income and home ownership. Mean household incomes ranged from the low $40,000s in a number of communities to over $120,000 in the San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura area. Similarly, parts of the service area were marked by a high number of rental properties, such as in the North Hollywood and Sherman Oaks areas; home ownership in Santa Clarita at 74.1% was quite a bit above the county average of 48.9%.

In terms of household size, the Pacoima-Arleta area had households that tended to be larger than other parts of the service area (3.7 individuals/household).

Memory Problems and Educational Attainment: Gaps in Education across Service Area

In terms of memory problems as measured by the ACS, 4.7% of individuals in Service Area 2 reported memory problems, identical to the countywide average of 4.6%. As in the other demographic measures, the service area was marked by diverse figures. The West Valley area of San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura had one of the lowest rates of self-reported memory problems (2.5%) while the areas of Glendale (6.7%), Granada Hills (6.4%), and La Tuna Canyon (6.2%) had much higher rates. Educationally, Service Area 2 had a college graduation rate of 30.7% (in adults 25+), exceeding the countywide average of 27.8%. The community of Brentwood N. had the highest number of college graduates in the service area (59.5%) while the Pacoima-Arleta area had the fewest college graduates (6.5%).

Key Indicators: Summary and Excerpts

Underserved Cultural Populations

Ethnicity

As the largest service area, it is not surprising to see that several ethnic groups have large populations throughout the San Fernando Valley area. Western European Whites have the highest proportion of its population in the San Fernando Valley as do Armenians, Russians, South Asians, and American Indians/Alaskan Natives. The San Fernando Valley is home for the majority of Armenians residing in the county with 69.7% of its overall population contained within its boundaries. Nine of the ten largest Armenian communities are located within the San Fernando Valley; together they account for 5.6% of the service area's population. Similar to this, Russians, Iranians and South Asians have 42.9%, 50%, and 31.7% of their respective populations living in the San Fernando Valley area. American Indians/Alaskan Natives have close to 30% of their population living within the San Fernando Valley. It should be noted that although non-White/non-Hispanic groups are *relatively* numerous, they make up a fraction of the total population in the service area. Within the service area, a handful of communities are noteworthy in their ethnic diversity. The Glendale and Encino areas, for instance, have six different ethnic groups with relatively large numbers residing within its boundaries; the communities of Northridge, Sherman Oaks, and Woodland Hills have five.

Primary Language

Five language groups (English, Armenian, Farsi, Arabic, and Russian) have their largest proportion of speakers residing in the San Fernando Valley. Across the service area, English is the most common Primary Language (42.8%), followed by Spanish (31.4%), Armenian (5.5%), Tagalog (2.2%), Farsi (1.8%), Korean (1.7%), and Russian (1.1%). Drilling down into the service areas composite communities indicates that seven communities are predominately English-speaking; two are Spanish-speaking, and seven others have no clear majority of speakers. Large communities of Armenian speakers are found in the Burbank, Glendale, La Tuna Cyn., and North Hollywood areas. In the Encino area, 6.1% of the residents report Farsi as their Primary Language and in Panorama City, 6.5% of the population are Tagalog speakers.

Linguistic Isolation

Service Area 2 had an overall Linguistic Isolation score of 6.9%, which was lower than the countywide figure of 7.8%. Examining the composite communities with the San Fernando Valley area indicated that there was a great deal of variability in isolated households. The Brentwood N. area, for example, had an isolation score of 1.2%, whereas the Pacoima-Arleta area (11.5%) and the Panorama City area (18.2%) had isolation scores much higher. Because the Pacoima-Arleta area reported a primary language of Spanish in over 72.9% of the population, it seems

likely that most isolated households are primarily monolingual Spanish-speaking. This would also seem to hold for the Panorama City area, as well, with 80.2% of its population reporting Spanish as their primary language. Additionally, in the Panorama City area, there were large numbers of Koreans and Filipinos who spoke their heritage language at home and undoubtedly these households also contributed to the high isolation score for the service area. The Glendale area (9.7%) had nearly 10% of its households reporting Linguistic Isolation, as well. One might be tempted to attribute this to the large population of Armenians living in the area who report Armenian as their primary language (28.9%), but a more careful inspection of the primary language table indicates that several other ethnic groups may contribute to this figure, as well, (e.g., Spanish, Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Russian, and Tagalog speakers account for well over 10% of the community's population).

Individuals Experiencing Onset of Serious Psychiatric Illness

Serious Mental Illness Penetration Rate
The overall Penetration Rate for Service Area 2 was 0.18 and was well below the county-wide rate of 0.34. Such a figure suggested that the local mental health resources may have a smaller reach into the SMI population than other parts of the county. Across ethnicities, Asians (0.05) were the least-served by county mental health services. Following this, in order of Penetration Rates, were the White population (0.14), the Latino population (0.18), the Native American population (0.27) and the African-American population (0.62).

Depressive Disorders
Age Groups
Service Area 2 clients accounted for 18.5% of depressed clients in the county. In general, composite communities saw either the majority of depressed clients coming from either the Child (0-15) group, (the Burbank, Northridge, Encino, San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura areas), or the Adult (26-59) Group, (the Santa Clarita, Granada Hills, North Hollywood, Woodland Hills areas). Similar to the county numbers, 50% of all depressed clients in the service area were in the Adult group. Across the service area, the largest proportion of clients (25.9%) were served in the Granada Hills area.

Ethnicity
No one ethnic group constituted a majority of depressed clients served in Service Area 2. Across all ethnicities, Latinos comprised the largest proportion of depressed clients, 41.9%, followed by White clients, 29.2%, African-American clients, 10.7%, and Asian clients, 1.8%. Native American and Pacific Islander clients each accounted for less than 1% of the depressed clients served in the service area. Examining the composite communities revealed that in six areas, Latinos were the majority of clients served (the Burbank, Northridge, Pacoima-Arleta, Panorama City, Encino, and San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura areas). Whites were a majority of depressed clients served in the Santa Clarita area.. No other ethnic group constituted a majority of depressed clients in any other Service Area 2 community.

Co-occurring Disorders (COD)

Age Groups

Service Area 2 clients accounted for 18.9% of individuals with COD treated in the county's mental health system. Within the service area, and similar to the county as a whole, the majority of clients with a COD were adults (26-59). However, examining the composite communities revealed that certain areas treated a majority of other age groups for CODs. Two communities, the Burbank and San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura areas, for example, treated a majority of children (0-15) for CODs. Two other areas focused on a majority of TAY (16-25) clients with a COD, the Panorama City and Encino areas. Finally, seven communities provided treatment to a majority of adults with CODs (the Santa Clarita, Glendale, Pacoima-Arleta, North Hollywood, Sherman Oaks, Woodland Hills, and La Canada-Flintridge areas). Across the service area, 39.9% of clients with a COD were treated in the Granada Hills area. This was followed by the Woodland Hills area (14.9%), the Pacoima-Arleta area (11.9%), the Sherman Oaks area (9.6%), and the Santa Clarita area (9.0%).

Ethnicity

White clients accounted for 39.1% of the COD population treated in Service Area 2. This was followed by Latino clients (35.0%), African-American clients (14.1%), and Asian clients (1.4%). Native American and Pacific Islander groups each accounted for less than 1% of the COD population in the county's mental health system. When compared with population estimates for these groups, Latino and White groups appeared to be represented close to their population counts. Afri-

can-American clients appeared to be over-represented when compared to their population share of 3.9%. Examining the service area composite communities revealed two areas where White clients were a majority of the COD population, the Santa Clarita and Woodland Hills areas. Three areas saw a majority of Latino clients with a COD (the Burbank, Encino, and San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura areas). No other ethnic group constituted a majority of COD cases in the Service area.

Children/Youth in Stressed Families

Poverty

The overall poverty rate in Service Area 2, 30.8%, was below the county average of 38.7%. Overall, the Panorama City area had the highest rate of individuals living beneath the 200% FPL, 52.9%. Examining the ethnic groups within the service area indicated that the Hispanic population were a majority of the poverty population (60.6%). Over 50% of the Hispanic population in six communities in the San Fernando Valley were living below the 200% FPL: the Pacoima-Arleta area (52.2%), the La Tuna Cyn. area (50.0%), the Panorama City area (63.1%), the North Hollywood area (54.4%), the Encino area (51.3%), and the Woodland Hills area (54.4%). In two communities, over 50% of African-Americans were living under 200% FPL, the North Hollywood area (66.9%) and the North County W. area (51.6%). In one community, the Panorama City area, 55.8% of the American Indian population was living below this level. It should be noted that, in actual num-

bers, the African-American and American Indians living in poverty accounted for only 1.2% of the service area's total population.

Unemployment Rate

Service Area 2 had a self-reported unemployment rate of 6.9%, which was below the countywide average of 7.4%. Two communities, the Pacoima-Arleta (10.2%) and the North Hollywood (11.1%) areas, had rates in excess of 10%. Two other communities, the La Tuna Cyn. (9.8%) and the Panorama City (9.6%) areas were close to the 10% mark, as well. The Granada Hills area saw the lowest unemployment rate in the service area (5.1%).

Disrupted Families

Service Area 2 had an overall DF ratio of 2.3 similar to the countywide average of 2.2. Across the service area, there was a broad range of scores with some areas, such as Panorama City (1.3) having close to a 1:1 ratio of two-parent to single-parents households. Four other communities saw DF ratios below 2.0: the Granada Hills area (1.6), the Sherman Oaks area (1.6), the La Canada-Flintridge area (1.8), and the San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura area (1.7). On the other end of scale, the Brentwood N. area had a DF ratio of 5.6, indicating over a 5:1 ratio of two-parent to single-parents households.

Safe Place to Play (Countywide Summary Only)

Age Groups

Across the three age groups reported, there appeared to be a trend in parent-report. Parents were more likely to report that a safe place to play was less available for older children than for younger ones.

Ethnicity

There did not appear to be any significant difference between parent reports across ethnicities.

Trauma-exposed Individuals

Child Abuse

Child Abuse and Neglect Base Rates

Service Area 2 had an overall CAN Rate of 0.75, which was below the county rate of 0.96. Within the service area, the North Hollywood area (1.26) and the Pacoima-Arleta area (1.22) had the highest CAN Rates. Overall, 17.3% of all SCAN reports were eventually substantiated.

Triage Response Acuity

Service Area 2 had an overall Acuity score of 0.12, which was below the countywide score of 0.15. Five communities had Acuity scores which were at or above this figure: the Pacoima-Arleta area (0.18), the La Tuna Cyn area (0.15), the Panorama City area (0.17), the North Hollywood area (0.18), and the Sherman Oaks area (0.15).

Ethnicity

Across Service Area 2, 90.8% of SCAN Reports involved four ethnic groups: African-American, White, Hispanic, and Mexican. Overall, African-American children accounted for 8.3% of SCAN Reports, White children, 21.7%, Hispanic children, 55.2%, and Mexican children, 5.6%. Hispanic children were a majority of victims in eight communities: the Granada Hills area, the Pacoima-Arleta area, the La Tuna Cyn area, the Panorama City area, the North Hollywood area, the Sherman Oaks area, the Encino area, and the San Fernando-Calabasas-

Agoura area. White children were the majority of victims in three communities: the Brentwood N. area, the North County W. area, and the La Canada-Flintridge area.

Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse
Service Area 2 had an APS Rate[1] of 2.3, which was below the countywide rate. Within the service area, the Sherman Oaks area (3.0), the Panorama City area (2.7), and the North Hollywood area (3.0) had the highest APS Rate[1] scores.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
Age Groups
15.5% of the county's PTSD cases came from Service Area 2. Though no age group constituted an overall majority of PTSD cases in the Service Area 2, the Child group (0-15) accounted for the largest proportion of cases (45. 9%). However, drilling down into the composite communities did show that the Child group were a majority in seven areas (the Burbank, Northridge, Pacoima-Arleta, Encino, North County W., La Canada-Flintridge, and San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura areas). Only one community, the Granada Hills area, saw a majority of TAY clients (16-25) with PTSD and only one community, the Santa Clarita area, saw a majority of Adult clients (26-59). Across the service area, about half of all PTSD cases were treated in the Glendale, Granada Hills, and Sherman Oaks areas. The Sherman Oaks area saw about a quarter of all PTSD cases in the San Fernando Valley.

Ethnicity
Latino clients (50.7) accounted for a majority of the PTSD population treated in Service Area 2. This was followed by White clients (18.2%), African-American clients (16.7%), and Asian clients (4.6%). Native American and Pacific Islander groups each accounted for less than 1% of the PTSD population in the county's mental health system. When compared with population estimates for these groups, Latino, Asian, and White groups appeared to be underrepresented relative to their population counts. African-American clients appeared to be overrepresented when compared to their population share of 3.9%. Examining the service area composite communities revealed seven communities where Latino clients were a majority of PTSD cases (the Burbank, Northridge, Pacoima-Arleta, Panorama City, North Hollywood, Encino, and La Canada-Flintridge areas). In one community, the Santa Clarita area, White clients constituted a majority of the PTSD population. No other ethnic group constituted a majority of PTSD cases in the Service area.

Homelessness
Age Groups
In Service Area 2, annual homeless estimates for 2007 indicated that the 25-55 Age Group constituted a majority (69.9%) of the homeless population. This was followed by the Under 18 Age Group at 15.7%, the 56+ Age Group at 9.9%, and the 18-24 Age Group at 4.6%.

Ethnicity
Within Service Area 2, Black/African-Americans accounted for 26.2% of the homeless population. Hispanic or Latinos accounted for 25.0%, Whites, 42.7%, and Multi-Racial or Others accounted for 6.1% of the homeless population.

Sub-populations

In Service Area 2, 38.6% of the homeless population reported that they had a mental illness; 33.3% of homeless individuals reported they were substance abusers; and 10.4% reported they were victims of domestic violence.

Children/Youth at Risk for School Failure

4-year Dropout Rate (Countywide Summary Only)

State figures indicated that over a quarter of all students in Los Angeles County drop out of high school over a four-year period. Examining ethnic categories indicated that African-American students were most at risk for not finishing high school, followed by Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic or Latino Students. 15.5% of White students drop out of high school. Two ethnic groups had dropout rates below this: Asian, 7.4%, and Filipino, 12.8%.

High School Graduation Rates

Across the service area, two ethnic groups, African-Americans and Hispanic students, had the lowest graduation rates seen with both under 70%. Examining the service area's composite communities indicated that the Burbank area had the lowest overall graduation rate in the service area, 57.7%. Additionally, several ethnic groups had especially low rates in particular communities. For example, Hispanic students in the Burbank and La Canada-Flintridge areas were more likely to drop out than graduate. African-American students in the North Hollywood area and La Canada-Flintridge areas were similarly at

risk for not graduating. American Indians/Alaskan Natives in the Burbank and La Tuna Cyn areas were also more likely to not graduate than graduate from high school.

English Fluency

Service Area 2 had an overall fluency rate of 70.2% within its student population, slightly above the county average of 68.3%. Two communities, the Pacoima-Arleta area (49.6%) and the Panorama City area (42.5%) dipped below 50% indicating that one of two students had difficulty with speaking English. Spanish was the most common primary language spoken at home in both of these communities.

3rd Grade Reading Level

Overall, 35.9% of Service Area 2 third graders were reading at or above the 50th percentile. This mark was still higher than the countywide figure of 22.4%. The Panorama City area (18.4%), followed closely by the Pacoima-Arleta area (18.9%), had the lowest reading rates in the service area. This appeared to be associated with the language barrier identified above. Both areas had the lowest English Fluency rates in the service area, as well. Although third grade is a long way from high school graduation, these data indicated that the Panorama City area, with the lowest reading scores in third grade, also had the lowest high school graduation rate in the service area.

Children/Youth at Risk of or Experiencing Juvenile Justice Involvement

School Discipline

Service Area 2 had an overall suspension rate

of 2.7, which was below the countywide rate of 3.7%. Only one community, the North County W. (8.5%), area saw a suspension rate above 5% -- this particular area was also marked by the highest expulsion rate for the service area, (0.5%, or one out of every two hundred students).

Juvenile Felony Arrests (Countywide Summary Only)

Of the 23,787 youths arrested on felony charges during the reporting period, 84.2% were males, 15.8%, females. Ethnically, Hispanic youths were involved in the majority of felony arrests (57.2%), followed by Black/African-American youths (30.3%) and Whites (9.1%). All other ethnicities combined accounted for less than 4% of the juvenile felony arrests.

Youths on Probation

Camp Population

Service Area 2 had 196 youths in camp. A large majority of these were Hispanic youth, who accounted for 73% of the population, followed by Whites (14.8%), and African-Americans (10.2%).

Supervised Youths

Across the service area, the Santa Clarita and Panorama City areas had the largest numbers of youths under supervision. Within the service area, 63.3% of youths under supervision were Hispanic, 23.2% were White, and 9.1% were African-American. The San Fernando Valley had the largest group of White youths under supervision across the county.

Key Indicators of Stigma and Discrimination

Language Capacity of Mental Health Providers

Across the service area, overall staffing ratios indicated that Armenian (4), Arabic (4), and Chinese speakers had the least resources available to them. Staffing ratios for Spanish speakers were low in the Panorama City area (3), Encino area (3) and North County W. area (0). Staffing ratios for Armenian speakers were low in virtually all communities where sizeable numbers of Armenian speakers resided with the exception of the Granada Hills and Woodland Hills areas. Staffing ratios for Farsi speakers were 0 in the Burbank, La Tuna Cyn., Brentwood N., and San Fernando-Calabasas-Agoura areas where there were over 1000 Farsi speakers in each of these areas. Staffing ratios for Arabic speakers was 0 in the Burbank and Granada Hills areas. Staffing ratios for Russian speakers were lowest in the Burbank area (3), North Hollywood area (4), and the Encino area (3). Chinese speakers in the Northridge and Encino communities had a staffing ratio of 0. Staffing ratios for Korean speakers was 0 in the Santa Clarita, Burbank, Panorama City, Encino, and North County W. areas. Staffing ratios for Vietnamese speakers was 0 in the North Hollywood and Woodland Hills areas. Staffing ratios for Tagalog speakers were 0 in the Panorama City, North Hollywood, Encino, and Woodland Hills areas.

Key Indicators of Suicide Risk

Deaths by Suicide

Service Area 2 had an overall suicide rate of 7.7, which was above the countywide rate of

7.0. Summary tables indicate that Whites, Males, Adults, and Older Adults are at most risk for committing suicide. The suicide rates were particularly high for Whites residing in the Panorama City. Other ethnic groups with elevated suicide rates include African-Americans residing within the Brentwood N. area and Asians residing within the La Can-ada-Flintridge area.

Mental Health Emergency Statistics
Service Area 2 had the largest number of psychiatric emergency calls placed through-out the county (consistent with its largest population size). However, its MHE-Rate was 5.4, which was below the countywide figure of 5.9. Within the service area, the North Hollywood (1,008) and Sherman Oaks (1,279) areas had the most calls placed and also had the highest MHE-Rates, 7.5 and 7.7, respectively.