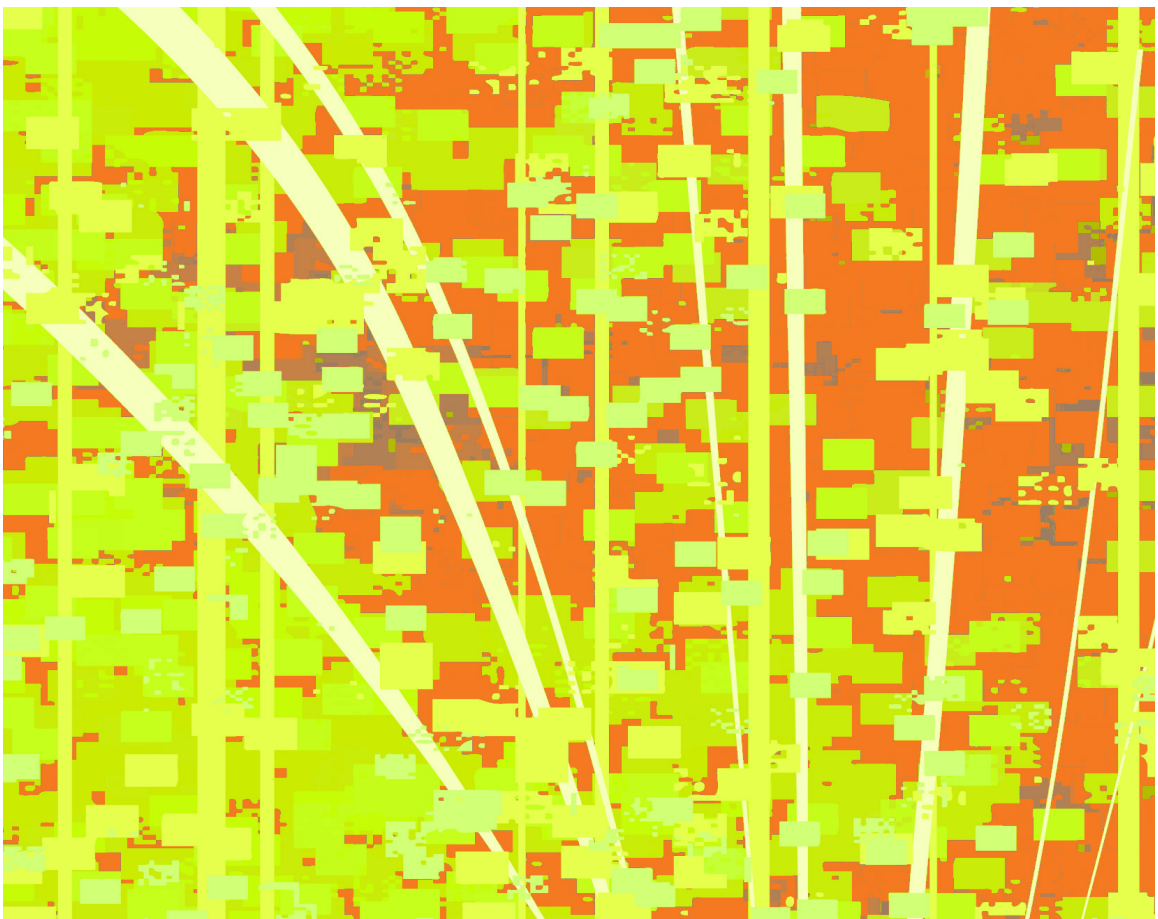VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

SERVICE AREA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro

Service Area 4: Metro

Communities

Wilshire La Brea E.

Hollywood

Pico Heights

Echo Park

Highland Park

Downtown

USC N.

West Adams

West Hollywood

ZIP Codes

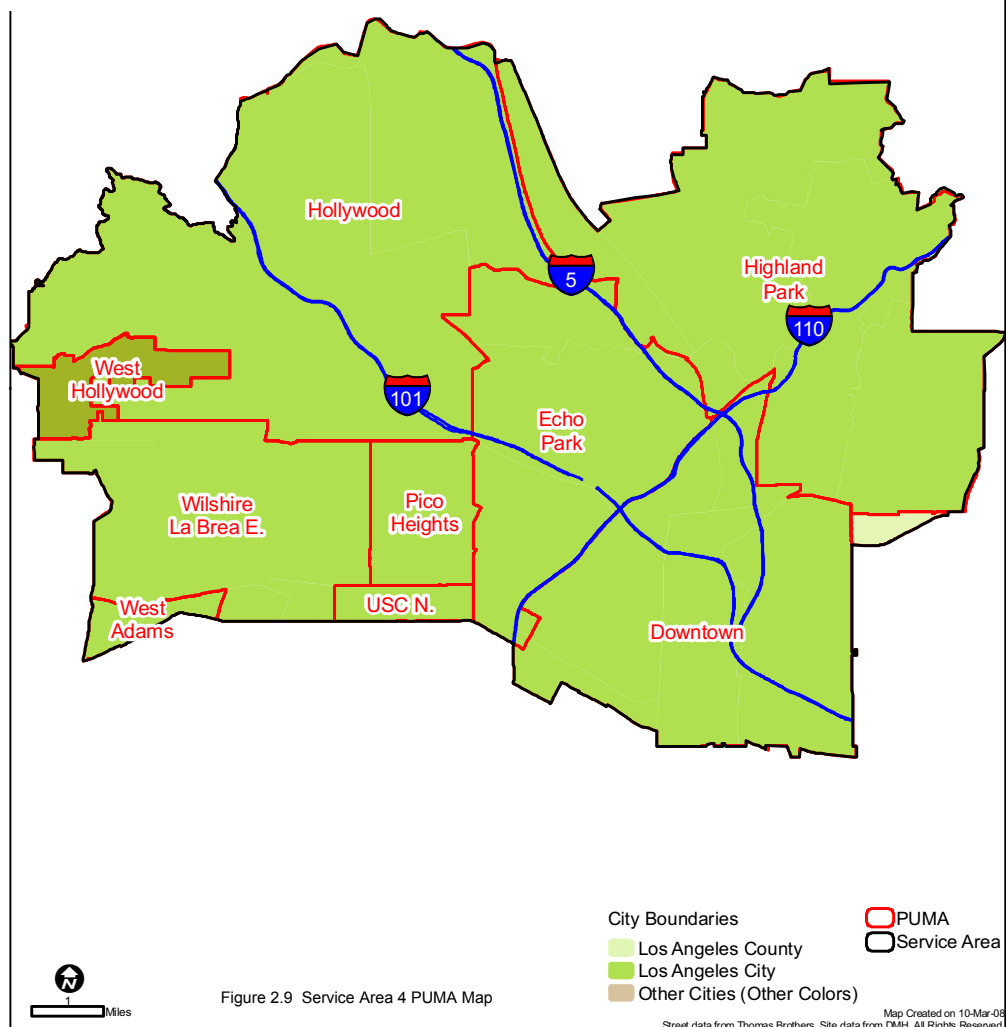|								
90004	90014	90023	90031	90041	90053	90068	90075	90086
90005	90015	90026	90032	90042	90054	90069	90076	90087
90006	90017	90027	90033	90046	90055	90070	90078	90088
90010	90019	90028	90036	90048	90057	90071	90079	90093
90012	90020	90029	90038	90050	90060	90072	90081	90096
90013	90021	90030	90039	90051	90065	90074	90084	90102

Figure 2.9 Service Area 4 PUMA Map

City Boundaries

Los Angeles County

Los Angeles City

Other Cities (Other Colors)

PUMA

Service Area

Map Created on 10-Mar-08
Street data from Thomas Brothers, Site data from DMH, All Rights Reserved.

Demographic Profile

Ethnic Diversity: Latino Majority

Service Area 4 (SA4) is comprised primarily of the cities of Los Angeles and Hollywood, and the Pico Heights, Echo Park, Highland Park, Boyle Heights, and Wilshire La Brea E. communities. The majority of the population in SA4 is Latino (54.1%), followed by Western European Whites (17.3%), Asians (16.8%), and African-Americans (5.1%). Russian, Iranian, Armenian, Other Middle Eastern, South Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, and Multi-ethnic Individuals are other ancestry groups numbering over 1,000. Latinos are a majority in the Pico Heights (60.1%), Echo Park (58.3%), Highland Park (66.6%), and Downtown (82.9%) communities.

Service Area 4 residents reported that Spanish was the most common language they spoke at home (46.1%). This was followed by English (26.0%), Korean (5%), and Tagalog (4.7%) speakers. The Downtown area has the highest Spanish-speaking rate in the service area (68.7%). English speakers are primarily located in the West Hollywood area (68.9%), Korean speakers in the Pico Heights area (17.8%) and Wilshire La Brea E. (12.0%), and Tagalog speakers in smaller numbers in the Echo Park (11.2%) and Highland Park (6.1%) areas.

Age Distribution:
Uneven Distribution of Children

The percentage of children ages 0-15 in SA4 (23%) is slightly lower than the county average (25%). The percentage of persons aged 60 and older in SA4 (12%) is also slightly lower than the county average (14%). SA4 communities vary with regard to the numbers of children who reside there. The Downtown community, for example, has a child population that is 28.7% of their total numbers. In contrast, children in the Wilshire La Brea area account for 18% of the area's respective total. Overall, the service area's older adult population is 12.2%. In the West Hollywood area, older adults account for 21% of the community's population.

Economic Diversity: Low Incomes and Low Homeownership for Most

The average median household income in the service area was $34,652, substantially lower than the county median of $48,282. Similarly, mean incomes were also lower than the county mean. 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. Mean household incomes ranged from the low of $25,658 in the USC N. area to $80,019 in the West Hollywood area. Home ownership of 24.3% was well below the county average of 48.9% and was the lowest home ownership rate in the county. Fewer than 5% of the Pico Heights population own a home.

In terms of household size, the West Hollywood area had households that tended to be the smallest within the county (1.6 individuals/household).

Memory and Educational Attainment: Education Gaps

In terms of memory problems as measured by the ACS, 4.9% of individuals in Service Area 4 reported memory problems, a bit more than the countywide average of 4.6%. The USC N. area had the lowest rates of memory problems reported at 2.9% while the West Adams area reported the highest levels of memory problems in the service area and across the county (7.6%). Educationally, Service Area 4 had a college graduation rate of 29.4% (in adults 25+), slightly higher than the countywide average of 27.8%. The community of West Hollywood had the highest number of college graduates in the service area (55.1%) while the Downtown area had the fewest college graduates (10.1%).

Key Indicators: Summary and Excerpts

Underserved Cultural Populations

Ethnicity

In Service Area 4, over half of the population is Hispanic and four of the largest Hispanic communities in the county are contained within the service area boundaries. Western European Whites are the next most numerous group with a large community in the Hollywood area. Nearly equal to Western European Whites, Asians have three of their largest communities within the service area. African-Americans account for about 5% of

the service area population. Looking within the service area reveals communities which are ethnically diverse and relatively large. The Hollywood area, for instance, is home to seven ethnic groups with respectively large populations. In these terms, across the entire county, no other community is as diversely populated as the Hollywood area. Similar but to a lesser degree, the Echo Park and Highland Park areas are also quite ethnically diverse.

Primary Language

Overall, the Metro area has no clear majority of speakers for any language group, although like the other service areas, most of the population have listed English (26%) or Spanish (46.1%) as their Primary Language. This is followed by Korean (5%), Tagalog (4.7%), Armenian (1.2%), and Chinese (1.2%). This particular service area demonstrates why it is important to drill down to the community level data. Examining the service area composite communities reveals that, in fact, five communities do have a majority of Spanish speakers contained within their boundaries (the Pico Heights, Echo Park, Highland Park, Downtown, and USC N. areas); two communities have a majority of English speakers (the West Adams and West Hollywood areas); and two other communities have no majority (the Wilshire La Brea E. and Hollywood areas). Clearly the service area level data, in this instance, does not tell the whole story. Two language groups, Korean and Tagalog, have their largest proportions of speakers in the county contained within the service area. Korean speakers are located in the Wilshire La Brea E. and Pico Heights areas. And Tagalog speakers are found in most numbers in the Pico Heights (Koreatown), Echo Park, and Highland Park areas.

Linguistic Isolation

In the Metro area, 14% of households reported that they were Linguistically Isolated, almost twice the county percentage and the highest percentage in the county. Six communities reported over 10% of their households were isolated and two of these were over 20%: the Echo Park area (21%) and the Pico Heights area (25.5%). Examining the Echo Park area indicates that the majority of the population regard Spanish as their primary language. There is also a sizeable Tagalog-speaking population there. This is similar to the Pico Heights area where, in addition to Spanish and Tagalog, there is a large Korean-speaking population (17.8% of the community). Moreover, the Pico Heights area has the highest level of Linguistic Isolation found within all county communities, (i.e., PUMAs), with one out of four people in the area unable to converse in English. With the relatively large and varied ethnic population in the service area, it is not surprising to see a language barrier this high. One would also expect to see a large and recent immigrant population (within two generations) in the various communities who were unfamiliar with English.

Individuals Experiencing Onset of Serious Psychiatric Illness

Serious Mental Illness Penetration Rate

The overall Penetration Rate for Service Area 4 was 0.31, slightly below the countywide rate of 0.34. Across ethnicities, Asians (0.16) were the least-served by county mental health services, though for the Asian population this was the highest Penetration Rate obtained across all service areas. Following this, in order of Penetration Rates, were the Latino population (0.23), the White population (0.26), the Native American population (0.67) and the African-American population (1.28). This was the highest Penetration Rate seen for the African-American population across all service areas.

Depressive Disorders

Age Groups

Service Area 4 accounted for 21.6% of depressed clients served in the county. The majority of depressed clients in the service area were from the Adult age (26-59) group (50.2%). In all but two communities, the adult population was the most commonly treated depressed client. The exceptions were the Wilshire-La Brea E. area where 52.0% of depressed clients came from the TAY (16-25) group and the Pico Heights area where 37.9% of depressed clients were from the Child (0-15) group. Across the service area, 41.6% of all depressed clients were treated in the Downtown area.

Ethnicity

No one ethnic group constituted a majority of depressed clients served in Service Area 4. Across all ethnicities, Latinos made up the largest proportion of clients, 44.0%, followed by African-Americans clients, 22.3%; White clients, 16.7%; and Asian clients, 5.7%. Native American and Pacific Islander clients accounted for less than 1% of all depressed clients served in the service area. Drilling down into the composite communities indicated that that two areas treated a majority of African-American clients: the USC N. and West Adams areas. Two other areas treated a majority of Latino clients: the Echo Park and Highland Park areas. No other ethnicity constituted a majority of depressed clients served in any other community in the service area.

Co-occurring Disorders (COD)

Age Groups

Service Area 4 clients accounted for 28.3% of individuals with COD treated in the county's mental health system. The majority of clients with COD in the service area were adults (26-59). Examining the composite communities revealed that in all but two areas, adults were the majority of COD clients treated. In two communities, this percentage was above 80%: the Hollywood area, 80.5%, and the West Adams area, 82.2%. In the two communities which did not have an adult majority, TAY (16-25) and children (0-15) accounted for a majority of clients diagnosed with a COD. The Pico Heights area and the Highland Park area saw 62.0% and 60.6%, respectively, of its COD population under the age of 26. The majority of COD clients were treated in the Downtown area (65.1%) followed by the Hollywood area (13.7%) and the Echo Park area (9.5%).

Ethnicity

In Service Area 4, no ethnic group constituted a majority of COD clients. Latino clients accounted for 33.6% of the COD population treated in the area. This was followed by African-American clients (31.0%), White clients (18.4%), and Asian clients (2.0%). Native American and Pacific Islander groups each accounted for less than 1% of the COD population in the Service area. When compared with population estimates, it is clear that African-American (5.1%) were overrepresented in the COD client counts, whereas, Latino (54.1%) and Asian (17.9%) clients were underrepresented. Examining the composite communities revealed that two areas, USC N. and West Adams, treated a majority of African-Americans within the COD population. Latinos were a majority of COD cases within the Highland Park area. No other ethnic group constituted a majority in any other area.

Children/Youth in Stressed Families

Poverty

The Metro area had the second-highest poverty rate in the county with a majority (51.3%) of its residents living beneath the 200% FPL. This figure is considerably higher than the county–wide rate of 38.7%. Across the service area, the USC N. community experienced the highest levels of poverty with 72.3% of its residents living below the 200% FPL. Additionally, four other communities had overall poverty rates in excess of 50%: the Pico Heights area (64.2%), the Echo Park area (62.8%), the Downtown area (68.7%), and the West Adams area (54.0%). Examining poverty across ethnicities revealed that all groups were affected to varying degrees. 65.1% of the Hispanic population within the service area were living beneath the 200% FPL; seven communities had a poverty rate over 50%: the Wilshire La Brea E. area (54.7%), the Hollywood area (66.3%), the Pico Heights area (76.6%), the Echo Park area (73.4%), the Downtown area (68.7%), the USC N. area (72.3%), and the West Adams area (54.0%). 40.6% of African-Americans living within the service area were beneath the 200% FPL with three communities seeing rates in excess of 50%: the Pico Heights area (54.8%), the Downtown area (70.4%), and the USC N. area (59.4%). Three communities saw over 50% of their respective Asian populations living below the 200% FPL: the Echo Park area (63.2%), the Downtown area (62.9%), and the USC N. area (76.8%). Three communities saw over 50% of its American Indian population living below the 200% FPL: the Pico Heights area (100%), the High-land Park area (78.1%), and the USC N. area (51.5%). A majority of Whites were living below the 200% FPL in one community, the USC N. area (71.4%).

Unemployment Rate

Service Area 4 had a self-reported unemployment rate of 9.1% which was above the countywide rate of 7.4%. Four communities reported unemployment rates over 10%: the Hollywood area (10.3%), the Pico Heights area (13.6%), the USC N. area (11.7%), and the West Adams area (11.7%). The Pico Heights area had the second highest unemployment rate reported in the county across all communities. The Echo Park area (5.7%) had the lowest self-reported unemployment rate in the service area.

Disrupted Families

Service Area 4 had an overall DF ratio of 1.6, which was below the countywide average of 2.2. This figure indicated that Service Area 4, along with Service Area 5, had the highest rate of disrupted families in the county. Looking within the service area indicated that six communities had a DF less than 2.0; the West Adams and Pico Heights areas both had a DF ratio of 1.0 meaning that there were equal numbers of intact families and single parent families in those areas. The other four communities included the Echo Park area (1.6), the Highland Park area (1.7), the Downtown area (1.9), and the USC N. area (1.2). Only the West Hollywood area (4.3) had a DF ratio that exceeded the county average; there, intact families were four times as numerous as single parent families.

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 4 had an overall CAN Rate of 1.20, which was greater than the county Rate of 0.96. Two communities, the Downtown area (1.92) and the USC N. area (1.61), had CAN Rates greater than 84% or more of the county's communities, (i.e., greater than 1 standard deviation from the mean). 25.2% of SCAN reports were substantiated in the Downtown area and 22.8% were substantiated for the USC N. area.

Triage Response Acuity
Service Area 4 had an overall Acuity score of 0.18, which was above the county score of 0.15. Many communities within the service area had scores above this figure and two had very high scores (greater than 84% of all other county communities): the Echo Park area (0.25) and the Downtown area (0.23).

Ethnicity
Across Service Area 4, 86.1% of SCAN Reports involved three ethnic groups: African-

American, White, and Hispanic. Overall, African-American children accounted for 10.6% of SCAN Reports, White children, 4.7%, and Hispanic children, 71.1%. Only two other ethnic groups accounted for more than 1% of victimized children: Central American, 1.5%, and Mexican, 3.6%. Within the service area, Hispanic children were involved in a majority of SCAN Reports in six areas: the Hollywood area, the Pico Heights area, the Echo Park area, the Highland Park area, the Downtown area, and the USC N. area. African-American children were a majority of victims within the West Adams area. White children were nearly a majority of victims (49%) in the West Hollywood area.

Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse
Service Area 4 had an APS Rate[1] of 3.1, which was above the countywide rate. Within the service area, the Downtown area had the highest APS Rate[1] score (4.6).

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
Age Groups
Service Area 4 accounted for 18.5% of the county's PTSD cases, the largest proportion between service areas. Children (0-15) accounted for a majority of PTSD cases treated in Service Area 4 (59.2%). Examining the service area composite communities revealed that children were a majority in six areas: the Wilshire La Brea E., Hollywood, Pico Heights, Downtown, USC N., and West Hollywood areas. One community, the West Adams area, saw a majority of adult (25-59) clients with PTSD. In two other communities, the Child group accounted for the largest proportion of cases but did not constitute a majority (the Echo Park and Highland Park areas). Across the service area, the Down-

town area accounted for 41.0% of the total PTSD cases seen. This was followed by the Pico Heights area, 21.6%, the Echo Park area, 12.7%, and the Hollywood area, 10.9%.

Ethnicity
In Service Area 4, Latino clients (59.1%) accounted for a majority of the PTSD population treated in the area. This was followed by African-American clients (18.9%), White clients (6.1%), Asian clients (7.9%), and Native American clients (1.2%). The Pacific Islander group accounted for less than 1% of the PTSD population in the Service area. When compared with population estimates, the African-American (5.1% of population) , Latino (54.1% of population), and Native American (0.3% of population) clients were overrepresented in the PTSD client counts, while Asian (17.9%) clients were underrepresented. Examining the composite communities revealed that one area, West Adams, treated a majority of African-Americans. All other communities, with the exception of the USC N. area, treated a majority of Latino clients.

Homelessness
Age Groups
In Service Area 4, annual homeless estimates for 2007 indicated that the 25-55 Age Group constituted a majority (64.8%) of the homeless population. This was followed by the Under 18 Age Group at 13.8%, the 56+ Age Group at 12.7%, and the 18-24 Age Group at 8.7%.

Ethnicity
Within Service Area 4, Black/African-Americans accounted for the majority of the homeless population (56.8%). Hispanics or

Latinos accounted for 17.3%, Whites, 16.3%, and Multi-Racial or Others, 9.6% of the homeless population.

Sub-populations
In Service Area 4, 45.1% of the homeless population reported that they had a mental illness; 38.1% of homeless individuals reported they were substance abusers; and 10.5% 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 from 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
Service Area 4 had the lowest graduation rates across all ethnic groups within the county without exception. Overall, 59.4% of students graduated with communities ranging from a low of 42.5% in the Downtown area to a high of 95.4% in the Pico Heights area. Ethnic groups within the Downtown area were particularly at risk. African-American students, for example, graduated at a rate of 20.7%, or about one out of every five students. For American Indian or Alas-

kan Native and Pacific Islander students, this rate was about one out of four. Similarly, Hispanic and White students in the Downtown area were more likely to drop out than graduate.

English Fluency

Service Area 4 had a fluency rate of 54.3% in its student population, which was the second lowest figure in the county. As mentioned above, Service Area 4 also had the second lowest graduation rate among the county service areas. Examining the composite communities does not always yield a simple one-to-one correspondence between English Fluency and graduation rate. Consider the Pico Heights area, for example, which held the *lowest* fluency rate in the service area at 36.8% but also held one of the *highest* graduation rates in service area. In a similar vein, the West Adams area, which held one of the *highest* fluency rates in the Service at 74.5%, also held one of the *lowest* graduation rates in the service area. These figures suggested that variables other than fluency, such as Ethnicity, Poverty, School Quality, etc., are associated with graduation rates in complex ways.

3rd Grade Reading Level

Overall, 23.3% of third graders in Service Area 4 scored at or above the 50th percentile in reading. Only one community, the West Hollywood area (50.6%), had over 50% of its third graders scoring above the 50th percentile. This community also held the highest English Fluency rate and the highest high school graduation rate. All other communities had less that 40% of its third graders performing at or above the 50th percentile. The lowest performing community, the Downtown area (16.4%), 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 4 had an overall suspension rate of 2.5%, which was below the countywide rate of 3.7%. The West Adams area (5.6%) had the highest suspension rate in the service area. Very few students are expelled in the service area; the West Hollywood area (0.1%) had the highest rate for this.

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 Probability

Camp Population

Service Area 4 had a total of 222 youths consigned to camp, with the greatest numbers coming from the Echo Park, Highland Park and Downtown areas. The overwhelming majority of these youths were Hispanic (85.7%), followed by African-Americans (12.3%).

Supervised Youths

Over 1,000 youths in Service Area 4 were under supervision and a large majority of these individuals were Hispanic (82.7%).

This was followed by African-American youths (11.2%) and White youth (2.6%). The Highland Park area had the largest number of youths under supervision, followed by the Downtown and Echo Park areas.

Key Indicators of Stigma and Discrimination

Language Capacity of Mental Health Providers

Across the service area, staffing ratios for English speakers were six times greater than ratios for Spanish speakers; seven times greater than ratios for Armenian speakers; two times greater than ratios for Farsi speakers; two times greater than ratios for Arabic and Cambodian speakers; four times greater than ratios for Russian speakers; five times greater than ratios for Korean speakers; eight times greater than ratios for Chinese speakers; and twelve times greater than ratios for Tagalog speakers. Of the thirteen threshold languages, Tagalog speakers had the fewest resources allocated to them (8). About a quarter of all Tagalog speakers reside within Service Area 4, the largest Tagalog community in the county. Only Vietnamese speakers had resources allocated to them at a level similar to English speakers.

Key Indicators of Suicide Risk

Deaths by Suicide

Service Area 4 had an overall suicide rate of 8.4, which was above the countywide rate of 7.0. Males, Whites, and Older Adults had the highest suicide rates within their respective categories. The West Hollywood area (39.9) had the highest rate within the gender category. Six areas saw White rates exceeding 25.0 and two areas saw African-American rates exceeding 25.0. Whites in the Pico Heights (92.7) area had the highest suicide rate in any category across the county. Four communities within the service area had overall suicide rates in excess of 50.0. Two of these areas, Pico Heights (77.0) and Hollywood (72.8), had exceptionally high rates (above 70).

Mental Health Emergency Statistics

Service Area 4 had an overall MHE-Rate of 6.6, which was above the countywide rate of 5.9. Four communities generated more than 1,000 psychiatric emergency calls each: the Hollywood area (1,382), the Echo Park area (1,250), the Highland Park area (1,199), and the Downtown area (1,774). The Downtown area had the highest MHE-Rate recorded in the County, 13.2.