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January 3rd, 2024

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

SUBJECT: PRIORITIZING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY (ITEM 9, BOARD AGENDA OF DECEMBER 5, 2023)

On December 5, 2023, the Board approved a motion by Chair of the Board, Supervisor Horvath, titled "Prioritizing Gender-Based Violence Prevention in Los Angeles County," that directed the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), in collaboration with the County's Domestic Violence Council (DVC) and Office of Women's Health, the Commission on Sexual Assault, and the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to report back to the Board of Supervisors in writing in 30 days, with a report describing: a) How OVP has fulfilled its mission to date as originally envisioned by the Board; b) whether the Board has allocated adequate resources and/or authority to do the work with which OVP was charged; c) how OVP has integrated, uplifted, and led on gender-based violence prevention and are these efforts informing prevention methodologies as well as service delivery to survivors of violence; d) what data/metrics are being used to define and measure OVP's work and success; and e) recommendations for improved coordination and integration of gender-based violence, and needed resources and funding. The Board also directed the Executive Office, in coordination with the Board Chair's staff, the CEO, and all relevant departments, to establish and convene a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Board Deputies Meeting, beginning January 2024, to focus on County policy development and implementation in partnership with OVP. This report includes OVP's response to the above directives, including a summary of OVP's work to date; an overview of Public Health's current gender-based violence (GBV) work; and recommendations to enhance OVP's capacity to prevent and address GBV in Los Angeles County.

The 2016-2017 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey shows that 47% (almost 1 in 2) of women in the US report having experienced sexual violence, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner. The scale of GBV was also evidenced in OVP's Violence Hope and Healing Storytelling Project, a collection of 100 interviews with County residents impacted by violence. In reading the stories, it is striking how often a lifetime of exposure to violence began with intimate partner violence in the home at a young age.

Prevention of and response to GBV in Los Angeles County is a matter of human rights, justice, and equity. We look forward to the opportunity to lead efforts to address and prevent GBV through targeted OVP efforts and through leadership for a common vision for preventing GBV and coordination of broader County efforts.

Background: OVP's Establishment and Mission

On February 19, 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established OVP within the Department of Public Health to bring together County Departments and community partners – including those with lived experience of violence, advocates and activists, philanthropy, nonprofits, and academia – to develop an action plan to keep communities safe and free from violence. The Board called on OVP to apply a public health framework to identify and advance policies and programs needed to prevent violence and to promote healing when violent incidents occur. OVP's first task was to establish its core infrastructure, including staff, space, and the transition of ongoing Public Health violence prevention efforts into the Office. In parallel, OVP convened a County Leadership Committee and a Community Partnership Council to inform and guide OVP's work with the input of County Departments and key community partners. The OVP 2020-2024 Early Implementation Strategic Plan was released in August 2020 and is housed on OVP's website: <http://ph.lacounty.gov/ovp/strategicplan.htm>.

Despite the challenge of establishing a new office during the global COVID-19 pandemic, OVP was able to achieve several key milestones in support of our mission - *"to strengthen coordination, capacity, and partnerships to address the root causes of violence, and to advance policies and practices that are grounded in race equity, to prevent all forms of violence and to promote healing across all communities in LA County."* Key priorities and accomplishments are summarized below, while a more detailed table of OVP milestones can be found in Appendix A.

OVP Implementation Priorities and Accomplishments

Since 2019, with the support and direction of the Board, OVP has made significant progress towards its mission of preventing and mitigating the impacts of violence in Los Angeles County. Since OVP's establishment in February 2019, the Board has passed 20 motions with directives for OVP, including 12 with OVP as the lead department. Find below an overview of these priorities and OVP's progress. Please refer to Appendix B for a full list of all relevant motions and OVP reports back to the Board that include updates on our relevant programming.

OVP PRIORITY: OVP INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

Establishing a County Leadership Committee and Community Partnership Council

In 2019 the Board directed OVP to establish a County Leadership Committee (CLC) and Community Partnership Council (CPC) to advise on the priorities of the office and guide early implementation of those priorities. In response OVP created a governance structure that included leadership tables for both County departments and community stakeholders. The CLC – comprising representatives with decision-making authority from 30 County departments – was established in February 2019. The CLC serves as a forum to align work across County departments, leverage resources and advance system change. For example, in January 2024 the CLC meeting will focus on engagement of all participant agencies in work around the OVP Gun

Violence Prevention Platform as the platform relates to each department's mission. The CPC was established in August of 2019. It includes 25 individuals representing the diversity of Los Angeles County across regions, populations, and expertise in multiple forms of violence, including GBV. CPC members provided input on the OVP Early Implementation Strategic Plan, served as liaisons with local violence prevention networks, and helped to shape county and community violence prevention efforts. CPC members have been identified for the second cohort of this key advisory body, with GBV representation, which will launch in 2024.

Developing a 5-Year Strategic Plan

To develop its first [OVP Early Implementation Strategic Plan](#), OVP engaged in an extensive process of securing input from key stakeholders, including county department leaders, community-based organizations, relevant staff of other jurisdictions, community residents, and violence prevention experts. The plan was finalized and publicly presented in August 2020. It provides a broad framework for prevention and intervention strategies focused on multiple forms of violence and their root causes. This framework emphasizes upstream violence prevention and equity as central areas of focus. OVP's strategic plan recognizes and responds to the fact that certain Los Angeles County communities experience elevated levels of actual and threatened violence as a result of discrimination, marginalization, and historical oppression.

Establishing and Supporting Local Efforts

OVP's core infrastructure budget includes funding to contract with community-based organizations to establish Regional Violence Prevention Coalitions (RVPCs) in each of the eight County Service Planning Areas (SPAs) to coordinate service delivery at the local level, and to identify priority local violence prevention needs. Since their launch in 2021, each RVPC has analyzed data provided by OVP to jointly develop a violence prevention action plan with local stakeholders. These action plans include mini-grant projects that fund grassroots organizations and activities responsive to local needs. OVP continues to invest in RVPC capacity and leadership through ongoing technical assistance and training. In January 2022, OVP began a monthly learning collaborative to provide technical assistance to RVPC lead agencies on coalition development and the public health approach to violence prevention. Beginning in January 2023, the RVPC lead agencies worked with OVP to align their work around a common goal of gun violence prevention.

Building Collaboration and Coordination

Throughout the process of establishing OVP and designing the countywide strategic plan, the office prioritized building strong relationships with county and community partners through bi-monthly county and community meetings, community listening sessions, conference presentations, community summits, trainings, and establishment of ad hoc workgroups. OVP has also developed partnerships with cities to promote regional coordination, including executing an MOU with the City of Los Angeles in November 2022, and with the City of Long Beach in May 2023.

OVP PRIORITY: VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACTION AGENDA

Gun Violence Prevention Platform

In June 2022, OVP finalized a 40-point [Gun Violence Prevention Platform](#) to address the epidemic of gun violence in Los Angeles County across multiple forms of violence including homicide, suicide, and domestic violence. County and community partners prioritized four areas for action:

Supporting robust, common sense gun safety legislation; promoting social connection and healing through programs that address harm, trauma, and the impact of violence; increase awareness of Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) and other legal tools that prevent a person who is a risk to themselves or others from possessing a gun; increase school safety for all students K-12, including access to culturally and linguistically relevant physical and mental health services. In 2023, OVP organized a variety of public events to lift-up gun violence as a public health issue, including Mental Health First Aid trainings for community members and a gun violence prevention teach-in implemented in partnership with Charles R. Drew University. OVP, along with community partners and advocacy organizations, also successfully recommended the Board's position of support for CA Assembly Bill 28 (by Assemblymember Gabriel) (moved by Board motion on June 6, 2023). AB 28, enacted into law by the Newsom Administration last September, imposes an excise tax on firearm dealers and manufacturers beginning in July 2024 and will allocate \$160 million annually for school mental health and community safety measures. Next, OVP will be organizing five Youth Mental Health Summits across the County and working with county and community partners, including the Department of Health Services, to distribute 20,000 gun safety locks to local physicians, county medical centers, county libraries, and OVP contracted community agencies. With new funding provided by the Board, OVP will hire two GVRO system navigators in 2024 to conduct outreach and education and to assist community members in obtaining the appropriate restraining order for their situation.

Suicide Prevention

Since 2022, OVP has worked closely with DMH, the Veteran's Administration, the Medical Examiner and other county and community partners to establish Los Angeles County's first ever Veteran Suicide Review Team (VSRT). In December 2023, OVP co-chaired the first Los Angeles County Veterans Suicide Death Case Review meeting in partnership with DMH, the Veteran's Administration, and the Medical Examiner. The VSRT will identify, report, and make recommendations to minimize risk for suicidal behavior for veterans and increase protective supports at the systems, policy and practice change level.

In June 2023, OVP received a grant from the California Department of Public Health to pilot the Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program in Los Angeles County through 2025. This pilot program will develop and test a model for making youth suicide and attempted suicide a health event that must be reported to Public Health, prompting a rapid and comprehensive response that ensures local crisis services and follow-up support in school and community settings for impacted, family, friends, educators, and others in the community.

American Rescue Plan Act – Trauma Prevention Partnerships

In 2021, the Board allocated \$25 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to OVP to support grants to more than 50 community-based organizations to implement violence intervention, a peer-to-peer learning community, trauma informed care, healing services, crisis response, and youth programs. Next year, ARPA funding will also enable OVP to support five grants of \$1,000,000 each for CBO-School District partnership pilot programs for School Safety Transformation.

Positive Youth Development

Since 2019, OVP has received funding from Probation to coordinate a Positive Youth Development Evaluation, to evaluate the impact of county programs serving youth, improve coordination of youth programs, develop mutual goals and guiding principles, and standardized practices and tools related to positive youth development.

OVP PRIORITY: COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION & CRISIS RESPONSE INITIATIVES

Trauma Prevention Initiative

OVP has built the infrastructure for a comprehensive, countywide violence prevention initiative by investing in place-based, community-driven public safety, including community, hospital, school, and park strategies. The Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) began in 2016 in four South Los Angeles communities and later expanded to nine communities in 2021. It invests in Street Outreach and Community Violence Intervention, Hospital Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs), Community Action for Peace stakeholder networks, and OVP's first peer staff including four Community Health Workers and a Community Violence Intervention Specialist. OVP has collaborated with Parks and Recreation's Parks After Dark program since it began in 2010, transforming 34 parks into safe havens for free recreation and services. OVP works closely with Parks and Recreation to provide safe passages to Parks After Dark and Our SPOT youth programs in many of the nine TPI communities. OVP also partnered with the Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies in TPI communities to develop an incident response protocol that engages Community Intervention Workers and established an HVIP Consortium in partnership with Health Services. TPI collaboration with the Departments of Youth Development and Justice Care Opportunities promotes the alignment of services and referrals for system-involved youth.

Crisis Response Program

In October 2022, the Board allocated permanent funding for crisis response programming. The OVP Crisis Response Pilot Program offers services and supports to patch and heal the ruptures that are created when violent incidents such as mass shootings, multiple homicides, school incidents, domestic violence, and suicides tear the fabric of a community. OVP's crisis response model includes three critical components: (1) rapid response to individuals and families most immediately impacted, (2) prompt communitywide communication, and (3) linkages to providers and services through ongoing follow-up and referrals. OVP began a soft launch of the Crisis Response Program in August 2023, and has responded to 20 incidents to provide individual and community supports and connections to healing services.

Family Assistance Program

The Family Assistance Program (FAP) provides families impacted by deputy-involved shootings or in-custody deaths with reimbursement of burial costs, system navigation and counseling. In 2022, the Board approved a motion to move the pilot FAP from DMH to OVP and Public Health continues to provide quarterly updates to the Board on the program's transition and implementation.

OVP PRIORITY: TRAUMA INFORMED CARE SYSTEMS CHANGE

Trauma Informed Care Capacity Building

OVP's Trauma Informed Care Specialist serves as a trainer and internal County consultant on trauma informed approaches to service delivery. Since their start, the specialist has engaged in deep systems-change work with the departments of Parks and Recreation and the District Attorney's Bureau of Victim Services and created a [webpage](#) making transformative tools available to County and community service providers.

Workplace Violence Prevention Training

In 2019, OVP launched a Workplace Violence Prevention workgroup in partnership with the Department of Human Resources, resulting in the implementation of a mandatory countywide workplace violence prevention training for all county staff and a second training for managers and supervisors.

Violence and Racism Workgroup

In 2020, in partnership with the Center for Health Equity, OVP launched a departmental Violence and Racism Workgroup engaging a diverse group of Public Health staff to lead systems change work in the department. Addressing racism and systemic violence is part of its scope and strategic plan. The Workgroup aims, in partnership with Public Health leadership, to develop and implement policies and practices that acknowledge and eliminate racism, with a focus on anti-Blackness, and to promote a work culture that supports, affirms, and values workforce members who identify as Black. The Workgroup firmly believes that dismantling discriminatory structures that may have originated with anti-Black racism will benefit all groups who may experience discrimination—for instance, other people of color, women, lower-paid workers, older people, members of other protected categories, and others who have experienced prejudice and discrimination. This Workgroup allows Public Health to look internally and implement anti-racist policies and practices with the intention of supporting the recruitment and retention of a more diverse and equitable workforce where employees feel physically, psychologically and emotionally safe. Learnings from this effort will inform future systems change to address the link between racism and violence across the County.

OVP PRIORITY: SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE

Violence Hope and Healing Storytelling Project

In Fall of 2020, OVP launched the Violence, Hope, and Healing Storytelling Project in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture, collecting more than 100 stories of survivors of violence that highlight the physical and psychological toll of violence including GBV, root causes such as racism, sexism, and systemic failures, and the healing journeys of interviewees. The stories were released as a book in Fall of 2022, available in all county libraries and on the [OVP website](#).

Standardizing Practices and Messaging across Jurisdictions

OVP participates in local and national networks to keep informed of new policies and innovative programs and best practices related to violence prevention. OVP also receives inquiries from similar offices across the country and internationally, including the Cities of San Jose and San Diego CA, Houston TX, Portland OR, Louisville KY, the Harvard Kennedy School, and violence experts from Sweden and Brazil. In October 2023, OVP met with representatives from the newly established White House Office of Violence Prevention, as the office seeks to form close

connections with local violence prevention initiatives and offices, to share their priorities and learn about work taking place and needed resources and policy change.

OVP PRIORITY: DATA & EVALUATION

A critical role of OVP is to conduct research and evaluation for a data-driven approach to the work of the office and for county and community partners. Since the office's inception in 2019, it:

- Developed a [Service Planning Area \(SPA\)-level data package](#) with data on over 90 indicators, created a score incorporating multiple measures to identify cities and communities with high rates of violence, and systematically identified school districts in areas with higher levels of violence to help prioritize program investments.
- Created an open data portal with dashboards and maps which is in the final stages of development. The initial dashboards will be focused on firearms related data. It will include Gun Violence Prevention Platform metrics, trends in firearm injuries and deaths, demographics of individuals killed or injured by firearms, and a map showing the locations of gun dealers and schools.
- Responded to data requests from internal and external county partners, community groups, and others and has created an email address to make the process for requesting data as simple as possible.
- Coordinated evaluations of partner initiatives, such as Parks After Dark, Our SPOT, and the Positive Youth Development Evaluation highlighted above; and integrated evaluation contracts for its place-based initiatives.

OVP Authority and Resources

OVP AUTHORITY

The Board placed OVP within Public Health to assure a public health approach to violence prevention that addresses the root causes of multiple forms of violence. Prior to OVP's launch, County violence prevention efforts composed part of the scope of work of Public Health's Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. Being established as an independent office within Public Health has afforded OVP greater flexibility and connection with Department and County leadership, which has provided significant support to advance violence prevention, intervention, and healing priorities. OVP has experienced rapid growth in its short five years with support from the Board; and as the services and scope of the office continue to expand it will be necessary to reassess OVP's position within the County structure to ensure that it has the resources, staffing levels, and authority it needs to address evolving violence prevention priorities.

OVP RESOURCES

OVP's focus areas have been guided by the charge of the Board in establishing the Office, in subsequent motions or grants, and by ongoing consultation with County and community partners. In 2019, the CEO allocated \$3 million in annual funding for two years. This funding allowed Public Health to build the infrastructure for the office, including nine staff positions, operating costs, and contracts establishing RVPCs in each of the County's eight SPAs. After much internal advocacy and county leadership support, OVP received permanent ongoing funding for the office in 2022. As of this report, OVP has a total of 37 permanent staff positions including seven positions that transitioned from the Injury & Violence Prevention Program, and an additional eight temporary personnel supporting various projects. Additional positions have been requested for FY 24-25 in

response to board motions. A copy of OVP's current organizational chart can be found in Appendix C.

In addition to Measure B funding that supports OVP infrastructure, staff continue to foster relationships with philanthropic and County partners to obtain funding for priority efforts. From an initial Measure B budget of \$5 million (including \$2 million in annual TPI funding secured in 2015), OVP currently has over \$45 million in both one-time and ongoing funding that includes federal, state, and local dollars for key initiatives. See the table below for funding highlights. A complete list of one-time and ongoing funding allocations is provided in Appendix D.

Funding Source	Amount	Funding Purpose	Timeframe
Measure B	\$6,985,000	To support OVP core infrastructure, and fund TPI Base and Expansion	Ongoing
AB 109 Public Safety Realignment	\$4,074,000	To implement TPI Expansion and the Family Assistance Program).	Ongoing
Blue Shield Foundation	\$150,000	To implement a place-based demonstration project to address the intersection of gender-based and other forms of violence.	One-time (2023-2025)
Probation Department, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)	\$1,765,000	To build capacity among grassroots organizations that serve system-involved youth; and support a positive youth development evaluation.	One-time; renews annually (2019-present)
California Department of Public Health (CDPH)	\$5,185,185 <i>*total over 2 years</i>	To develop and test a model for making youth suicide and attempted suicide a reportable health event, triggering a rapid and comprehensive crisis response.	One-time (2023-2025)
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding	\$25,000,000 <i>*total over 2 years</i>	To respond to the increase in violence as the result of the Covid-19 pandemic, by investing in youth, community healing, and violence prevention and intervention, and school safety programs.	One-time (2023-2025)

RECENT PAST ASSESSMENTS OF RESOURCE NEEDS

In response to a November 2022 Board request during a set matter discussion of ARP funding, Public Health submitted recommendations for additional programming and budget needs in our [March 14, 2023 Board report](#) for resources to address domestic violence prevention. These efforts included resources to address teen healthy relationship curriculum, contracts for public health healing centers, and mini-grants to community-based DV prevention efforts. The report was submitted in conjunction with the Office of Women's Health (OWH) and the Domestic Violence Council (DVC), to support DV prevention, services, and supports. Public Health is continuing to submit resource needs through the County's unmet needs budget process beginning with the Recommended phase. CEO indicates that an unmet needs request should be submitted through the budget process for any funding consideration pursuant to this report.

OVP GBV Prevention and Integration

In Los Angeles County, the prevalence of GBV remains high, justice and healing resources for survivors and accountability for perpetrators are often lacking, and organizations working to prevent and respond to GBV in their communities too often lack sufficient funding.

Three units within Public Health's Health Promotion Bureau share responsibility for programs and initiatives to prevent and mitigate the impact of GBV on survivors. OVP consults regularly with the OWH and the DVC to maximize resources and identify gaps around GBV. These units have collaborated on responses to eight Board motions related to GBV where Public Health (OVP, DVC, and/or OWH) were named (see Appendix B) addressing GBV prevention and intervention services, data collection, education, and training, building public awareness, and policy, practice, and system change.

It is worth highlighting that to date, County efforts around GBV has largely focused on DV intervention and response services. While these services are crucial to support survivors of GBV, there is also a critical need to invest in GBV prevention. OVP was specifically established to strengthen coordination, capacity, and partnerships to address the root causes of violence and connections between multiple forms of violence and is well positioned to take on additional prevention efforts to complement the work led by OWH and the DVC.

OVP GBV PREVENTION EFFORTS WITH THE OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH (OWH)

OWH administers County contracts with community-based providers that operate shelters and provide other support services for DV survivors. OWH actively collaborates with OVP to raise awareness of GBV, improve access to services for DV survivors, and to improve policies and protocols to prevent, intervene, and end violence. The two offices have:

- Collaborated on a 2020 data report providing an estimate of DV prevalence through assessment of current data sources. Additionally, the report aimed to identify persistent data gaps around DV and provide new recommendations for improved data collection.
- Worked together to raise the profile of GBV and to conduct analysis of available GBV data in Los Angeles County, identify data limitations, and opportunities to improve data collection. Served as part of a workplace violence prevention initiative to define, develop, and implement a universal workplace violence prevention training program for all employees of Los Angeles County.

For more information regarding OWH funded programs and services, see Appendix E.

OVP GBV PREVENTION EFFORTS WITH THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

The DVC was created by the Board in 1979 and transferred to Public Health in 2018. The DVC provides leadership in the creation and support of a survivor centered, county-wide, and coordinated approach to educate, prevent, and respond to domestic/intimate partner violence. The DVC has many subcommittees to guide its work, including the LGBTQI+ Issues Committee which works to raise awareness of the high rates of DV and multiple forms of violence impacting LGBTQI+ communities.

The DVC and OVP collaborate in efforts to raise awareness about the intersectionality between gun violence and DV, to improve access for DV survivors to obtain GVRO and DVROs, and to improve policies and protocols to prevent, intervene, and end violence. For example:

- OVP and DVC collaborate to provide updates to the community and seek input on initiatives and program strategies for the OVP workplan. In June 2023, OVP presented the “Platform to Address Gun Violence” at the DVC General Membership Meeting, which was attended by 75+ GBV providers and key stakeholders. In September 2023, OVP presented “The Right Tool for the Right Situation”, a presentation about GVROs at the DVC General Membership Meeting, which was attended by 90+ GBV providers and key stakeholders.
- The roll out of OVP’s “Right Tool for the Right Situation” [website](#) provides information for survivors and providers on the various restraining orders available to prevent gun violence when someone is at risk of harming themselves or others. The roll out was accompanied by a series of trainings for law enforcement personnel and the public. In November 2023, OVP hosted a training specifically for the general public and DV service providers focused on a broad spectrum of restraining orders including GVROs, DV restraining orders (DVROs), and other types of protective orders.
- To further improve GVRO access and response, OVP and DVC are partnering on a “Systems Mapping Project” in 2024, funded by the Blue Shield Foundation, which will review the current process for obtaining GVROs and DVROs and will identify opportunities for system change that will increase access to GVROs and DVROs.

For more information on DVC’s work to address GBV, see Appendix F: *DVC 2023 Annual Report*.

OVP DATA AND METRICS TO MEASURE IMPACT

OVP has established three performance goals to measure the specific impact of the Office’s work in our cities and communities. These goals include:

- Support local leadership in decision-making and adapt violence prevention efforts to the unique needs of each region or community.
- Expand supportive policies and hubs that connect community members to services and resources and create healing spaces as well as opportunities for dialogue.
- Expand violence intervention and crisis response resources and programs to additional communities that have high rates of violence.

Each of these goals is assessed using multiple metrics designed to measure OVP program success. The metrics answer the following questions:

- How productive was OVP?
- How effective were OVP projects? and
- Are communities better off because of OVP’s efforts?

Additionally, OVP has established a population goal to show how we anticipate our program’s work will impact the well-being of Los Angeles County residents:

- Decrease rates of homicide in LA County.

A full list of metrics associated with OVP performance and population goals are listed in Appendix G. This appendix includes our program's target for each metric and the most recent data available to show how close we are to achieving those targets. We have included metric highlights in the table below:

OVP Performance/Population Metric	Target Value	OVP Data	
		Year	Value
Number of SPAs and TPI communities with an established coalition or Community Action for Peace (CAP) group	13	2023	12
Number of county staff trained in trauma informed care	100	2023	220
Number of incidents for which Crisis Response program provides services for annually	50	2023 ^{*1}	15
Number of incidents responded to by Street Outreach	N/A ^{a2}	2022	221
Number of victims of violence referred to Hospital Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) services annually	600	2022	1,225
Reduce the Los Angeles County homicide rate by 10%	5.0 per 100,000	2022 ³	6.6 per 100,000
Reduce the gap in homicide rates between African Americans and the Los Angeles County overall homicide rate by 50%	6.8 per 100,000	2022 ³	20.2 per 100,000

While none of OVP's overall metrics are specifically related to GBV, OVP uses different data sources to monitor trends and patterns of GBV in Los Angeles County. This includes data related to intimate partner violence, rape/sexual assault, and violence among LGBTQ+ populations. OVP will work with county and community partners to identify specific GBV metrics to include as part of our open-data portal including looking at the percent of homicides related to intimate partner violence using the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF GBV

There is a long history of GBV work in LA County led by CBOs, survivors and advocates, County departments, and Public Health programs. While progress has been made, especially in efforts to address sexual violence and intimate partner violence, rates of GBV remain high. And the local landscape is shifting. New challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have exacerbated the "shadow pandemic" of GBV here in LA County and around the world. At the same time, programs supporting DV survivors, child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking and more, which have been chronically underfunded, now face new threats such as the proposed cuts to Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, which was recently addressed by the Board.⁴ The following set of

¹ Data as of December 12, 2023.

² Not previously included in OVP's performance metrics; no target currently established.

³ Preliminary mortality data for 2022.

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recommendations outlines OVP's proposal to address the factors that increase the risks of GBV and undermine access to services and safety, particularly for the most marginalized groups; support approaches for addressing GBV priorities across a range of areas; and strengthen the commitment and work of county government to scale what works, enhance our partnerships, and improve our capacity to prevent and respond to GBV. It outlines recommendations for improved coordination and integration of GBV, as well as needed resources and funding.

- 1. Improve research and data collection about the nature and scope of GBV victimization and perpetration. Support innovative ways to collect GBV data in a consistent, confidential and trauma informed manner and to share this information more broadly across communities.**

Action: Work with County and community partners to enhance data collection and build OVP's data and reporting capacity as a centralized online location for publicly accessible research, data, and other information to support GBV prevention. Develop online data and report sharing capacity to ensure data can be accessed and used by interested community members and organizations.

It is crucial that Los Angeles County continues to reduce barriers for survivors to make disclosures of violence in both formal health care and informal community settings. It is also crucial to ensure that accurate, comprehensive, and recent data are collected in a confidential and trauma-informed manner. OVP will work with County and community partners to develop protocols and best practices for GBV data collection and identify system barriers that discourage disclosure of violence. OVP will also work to build our website to include accessible research, data, and other information on GBV.

- 2. Increase support for GBV prevention strategies that are proven, adaptable to local contexts, trauma informed, culturally responsive and survivor-centered.**

Action: Allocate funding for OVP implementation of GBV Prevention Services and establishment of the Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Council.

As stated above, resource allocation in GBV has been weighted towards response services for survivors (e.g., DV survivor services, shelter). This critical funding should be paired with investment in GBV prevention. OVP recommends an ongoing investment of \$5,122,205, which expands on the original DV Prevention Services recommended budget provided to the Board in March 2023 by addressing multiple forms of GBV and to reflect the programmatic recommendations in this report. This is an initial recommendation and OVP will evaluate over time the need for additional resources. OVP recommends that the Board fund community grants that support contracted program work in four areas:

- a) Enhance education and training efforts that promote healthy and respectful relationships among youth and young adults to address and break cycles of GBV.
- b) Fund contracts to advance community-based solutions that work with multiple stakeholders, including men and boys, as essential participants in GBV prevention.
- c) Provide funding for innovative solutions to GBV tailored to specific populations, including LGBTQ+ Youth Peer Leaders, Economic Empowerment for Young Women and people who are unhoused.

- d) Provide flexible funding to support service providers and survivors.

OVP also recommends hiring 2 staff positions to coordinate this work. OVP would work with CEO to identify the appropriate staffing positions. However, the preliminary recommendation would be for a Public Health Nurse to serve as the program coordinator and subject matter expert and provide oversight and clinical guidance to inform policy work related to all GBV initiatives within Public Health. A Health Program Analyst II would provide overall project management, including workplan development and monitoring, community engagement, and management of programmatic contracts.

OVP will also be submitting a request for \$1,766,000 in funding and five staff positions to establish the Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Council (SAC). The SAC will be responsible for examining service accessibility to sexual assault victims, including disparities in service wait times; counseling; healing; and assistance for survivors from the justice system in seeking criminal justice for harm experienced. The SAC will serve as the central coordinating entity in County government responsible for influencing service delivery outcomes by educating County departments and providers on appropriate trauma-informed approaches and by facilitating data collection and analysis to close service delivery gaps and foster equitable outcomes. The SAC staffing structure is similar to that of other Councils housed in Public Health and will complement and work closely with the proposed GBV Prevention staff. OVP would work with CEO to identify the appropriate staffing positions. However, find below the preliminary recommendations. A Health Program Analyst III would serve as the Executive Director of the SAC, provide oversight, serve as a subject matter expert, work with partners to develop a strategic plan, identify high-level policy recommendations, and liaise with county department leadership. Two Health Program Analyst II staff would be assigned: 1) to lead capacity building and coordination, facilitate collaboration across council partners and through community engagement, collect and synthesize information about best practices and local initiatives, and develop presentations and reports; and 2) to develop prevention programs and communications materials, conduct outreach and education, and provide contract management of funded prevention and communications programs. A Research Analyst would collect and analyze data on council activities and the prevalence of sexual assault and other forms of GBV in the County, and the Management Analyst would provide general assistance to the team, assist with meeting logistics and communications for the Council, and processing contractor invoices.

3. Strengthen interagency coordination and support for trauma informed, accessible and culturally responsive services to GBV survivors.

Action: OVP will work with Public Health, county, and community partners to strengthen coordination across sectors and further provide support through training, technical assistance, and centralized communications.

Building and strengthening the capacity and agency of stakeholders across government, GBV serving organizations, and other partners that are committed to ending and preventing GBV requires a whole systems approach. In supporting GBV organizations and other partners, OVP is committed to using an intersectional approach, sharing the knowledge we have while learning from those leading this work within local communities.

We will seek to strengthen existing partnerships to increase the support of GBV programming with input from diverse county and community leadership. This includes providing training and technical assistance to organizations and partners that address and respond to GBV. This also means coordinating across divisions/departments, multiple county motion reports related to GBV, connecting with the new LGBTQI+ Commission once established, the Human Relations Commission hate violence prevention work, and across equity initiatives, programs, and networks.

Required Resources and Funding

Strategy	Funding Request	Key Partners
GBV Prevention Services	\$5,122,205	OWH, DVC, Community Partners, and Service Providers
Establishing a Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Council	\$1,766,000	Sexual Assault Commission, OWH and DVC, law enforcement, healthcare providers, sexual assault crisis agencies
Peer to Peer Learning Academy one-year pilot (cross training among peer specialists on a wide range of topics including domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking)	Existing Resources (ARPA)	California Community Foundation, CBOs and peer specialists including promotoras, interventionists, Community Health Workers, and others
GBV Data Collection, Research and Evaluation	Existing Resources and Grant Opportunities	County Departments and Community Partners
Coordination and Capacity Building	Existing Resources	Public Health Programs and Offices, County Departments and Community Partners
Building Awareness and Access to Centralized GBV Data, Research, and Information	Existing Resources	Public Health Programs and Offices, County Departments and Community Partners

DPH plans to submit a formal unmet needs budget request for any proposed staffing and/or operational needs cited in this report that have yet to be funded.

Each Supervisor
January 3, 2024
Page 15

Public Health is grateful for the Board's ongoing support of OVP and the opportunity to build infrastructure to prevent GBV in LA County in coordination with county Departments and other government and community partners.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

BF:da:aw

Cc: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Office
Office of Women's Health
Domestic Violence Council
Women's Commission Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Assault

Appendices

- A. OVP Detailed Milestones Timeline
- B. OVP and Gender-Based Violence Board Motions List
- C. OVP Current Organizational Chart
- D. OVP Detailed Funding Sources List
- E. OWH Program Services Funding Table
- F. DVC 2023 Annual Report
- G. OVP Data Sources and Metrics, Benefits and Limitations

Appendix A. OVP Timeline of Activities and Milestones

* Beige entries highlight especially noteworthy items.

Date	GBV?	Milestone
March 13, 2018		Board motion directing Public Health to develop recommendations for an Office of Violence Prevention.
2019		
February 19, 2019		Board Motion establishes OVP in Public Health
January 2019	GBV	OVP establishes the County Leadership Committee , including leadership representatives from over 30 different county departments and offices, to guide the work of the office.
March 2019		Public Health partnered with California Wellness Foundation to host a convening of violence prevention and intervention experts, Building a Movement for Violence Prevention in LA County
May 2019		OVP, in partnership with Parks and Recreation and Probation, launches the Countywide Youth Networking Group to improve coordination of youth programs, develop mutual goals and guiding principles, standardized practices and tools, and develop a countywide positive youth development framework.
June 2019		Board recognizes June 2 nd as Gun Violence Awareness Day in partnership with Public Health.
June 2019		LA County Parks After Dark program expands to 33 parks countywide, with support from OVP building the evidence base and continuing to coordinate annual evaluations.
August 2019	GBV	OVP establishes the Community Partnership Council , including representatives of survivors of multiple forms of violence across the county, to guide the work of the office.
October 2019		OVP launches a workplace violence prevention training workgroup in partnership with the Department of Human Resources.
November 2019		CDPH renews contract with OVP to participate in the National Violent Death Reporting System , a surveillance system for LA County that helps understand the circumstances of violent deaths using data from death certificates, law enforcement, and medical examiner. Partnership renews annually.
December 2019		Convene a workplace violence prevention training with representatives of multiple county departments, including a presentation from San Bernardino County to share lessons learned from a mass shooting event.
July 2019		CEO allocates 2 years of funding for OVP. OVP begins hiring process of additional staff.
2020		
April 2020		OVP launches Nonprofit Impact Team , with funding from the Probation Department, to provide capacity building technical assistance workshops to 101 grassroots violence prevention and intervention agencies.

June 2020		OVP launches Hospital Violence Intervention Consortium , in partner with Department of Health Services, private hospitals, and community- based agencies implementing the model, to establish standard protocols and support peer learning and collaboration.
June 2020		OVP launches Public Health Violence and Racism Workgroup in partnership with the Center for Health Equity, bringing together various staff to develop strategies to advance inclusion, diversity, and equity in the department
July 2020		OVP launched multi-year Positive Youth Development Evaluation (PYDE) through Probation-JJCPA funding to identify JJCPA-funded programs to serve as pilot sites to test the framework.
July 2020		OVP launches multi-year evaluation of Parks and Recreation's Our SPOT program , with funding from the Probation-Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, to assess impact of county programs on positive youth development.
August 2020	GBV	OVP finalizes Early Implementation Strategic Plan for a Violence Free LA County, 2020-2024.
Fall 2020	GBV	OVP launches the Violence, Hope, and Healing Storytelling Project , in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture, collecting more than 100 stories of survivors of violence that highlight the physical and psychological toll of violence, root causes such as racism sexism, and systemic failures, and their healing journey.
September 2020		Board motion to develop and implement a Crisis Response Violence Intervention pilot in South LA, and to expand the Trauma Prevention Initiative .
September 2020	GBV	Collaborated with Office of Women's Health on journal article looking at media portrayals of domestic violence homicides, September 2020 (Perras, N., Sternfeld, I., Fei, S., Fischer, B., Richards, G., & Chun, K. (2021). Analysis of domestic violence related homicides in Los Angeles County: Media portrayals, demographics, and precipitating circumstances. Journal of family violence, 36, 629-636.)
September 2020		OVP staff co-leads implementation of the Public Health COVID-19 Community Health Worker Outreach Initiative , and was instrumental in bringing community violence intervention organizations to the project as credible messengers to provide PPE and accurate information to communities most impacted by the pandemic.
2021		
March 2021		OVP establishes a Street Outreach incident response protocol with the Sheriff's Department to support implementation of the Trauma Prevention Initiative.
October 2021		Board motion to expand the Trauma Prevention Initiative to 5 new communities and increase investment in initial 4 South LA communities.
November 2021		Released OVP data package to support RVPC work, including detailed data regarding social determinants of health and violence by Service Planning Area.

November 2021	GBV?	OVP awards contracts to 7 community-based organizations to establish Regional Violence Prevention Coalitions (RVPC) throughout LA County. The primary goal is to engage a diverse, multi-sector group of community stakeholders and residents including youth and parents to form a coalition that identifies and addresses issues relating to violence within their specific Service Planning Area (SPA).
2022		
January 2022		OVP launches Trauma Informed Care webpage including resources on Understanding Trauma, a Trauma Informed Care Glossary, Best Practices for Hosting Trauma Informed Meetings, and Supporting Children After A Public Act Of Violence Or Community Tragedy.
January 2022		Trauma Prevention Initiative expansion launches in 9 communities countywide, including contracts for Street Outreach, HVIP, and Community Engagement; and hiring of OVP's first team of peer specialists, including 4 Community Health Workers, and 1 Community Violence Intervention Specialist.
January 2022		Having identified a significant need for technical assistance, leadership development, and violence prevention capacity building OVP launches monthly Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention Learning Collaborative for RVPC Contractors .
March 2022		OVP launches Trauma Informed Care Pilot program with the Department of Parks & Recreation.
May 2022		OVP creates new suicide prevention website to improve awareness and education, including revised comprehensive prevention resources for all populations (including under resourced groups), and portal for data and research information.
May 2022		OVP launches the Parks Are Safe Zones media campaign , to support Trauma Prevention Initiative efforts to promote safe passages at county parks, including graphics at billboards and bus-stops.
June 2022		OVP finalizes a 40-point Gun Violence Prevention Platform for LA County developed with diverse county and community partners, and prioritizing: social connections and healing, Gun Violence Restraining Orders, legislation, and school safety and services.
July 2022		Trauma Prevention Initiative receives the Outstanding Teamwork Award at LA County's 24 th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards.
August 2022		Trauma Prevention Initiative received a Model Practice Award from the National Association of City and County Health Officials
August 2022	GBV	OVP revises an MOU with the Medical Examiner to include sharing of new data about the sexual orientation and gender identity of victims of violent deaths, to support NVDRS.
September 2022		OVP partners with LAC Human Resources (DHR) and partners to launch a Workplace Violence Prevention training for all county staff.
September 2022		LA County launches the first Veteran Suicide Review Team in partnership with Mental Health, Medical Examiner, Military and Veterans Affairs, and others.
Fall 2022	GBV	OVP releases the Violence, Hope, and Healing Storytelling Book , available in county libraries and on the OVP website.

October 2022		OVP receives confirmation from CEO of ongoing funding for core infrastructure, and for CRVIP, TPI Expansion, and the Family Assistance Program
October 2022		OVP partners with Parks and Recreation to launch Parks Safe Passage contracts (funded through Probation-JJCPA funding) at 3 County parks highly impacted by violence in South LA.
November 2022		Presentation at LAC GIS Day on the development of crime hot spot maps and how they are used by community, November 2022 (Hot Spot Analysis of violent crimes in the Antelope Valley TPI Community. Presented by Alfonso Martin, Ricardo Contreras, and Andy Estrada)
November 2022		OVP implements Capacity Building Technical Assistance Project , with increased funding from Probation, to provide technical assistance to 14 grassroots agencies and provide mini grants.
November 2022		OVP receives an award from Public Health for the Storytelling Project
November 2022		OVP Executes an MOU with the City of Los Angeles to coordinate on violence prevention, intervention, and gun safety initiatives.
December 2022		OVP hosts a Gun Violence Prevention Summit in partnership with LA Care Health Plan.
December 2022		OVP releases Firearm Data in LA County fact sheet.
2023		
January 2023	GBV	OVP launches Trauma Prevention Partnerships initiative , with \$25M in American Rescue Plan Act funding, to invest in community-based organizations to provide innovative violence prevention, intervention, crisis response, youth and healing programs, a training academy for peer specialists, and school safety transformation grants.
January 2023		OVP pilots Gun Violence Prevention Platform (GVPP) initiative with RVPC agencies to align around a common goal of gun violence prevention within each Service Planning Area. All agencies create new action plan strategies aligned with key areas under this platform to address firearm safety, mental health and wellbeing, social connection and healing, and youth engagement as key strategies.
January 2023		OVP publishes report on youth suicide, titled “Youth Suicide and Suicide Attempts in LA County [2016-2020].”
April 2023		OVP publicly releases 40-point Gun Violence Prevention Platform for LA County developed with diverse county and community partners at a press event attended by the Board of Supervisors and community partners.
May 2023		OVP executes an MOU with the City of Long Beach to coordinate on violence prevention programs and initiatives.
May 2023		OVP trained 49 LA County residents in Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid as part of May Mental Health Month Activities within launch of Gun Violence Prevention Platform.
June 2023		OVP facilitates a full-day Trauma Informed Care Symposium for over 200 DPR staff.

June 2023		Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Conference Presentation, June 2023 (Firearm Assaults Appear to Have Increased Since the COVID-19 Pandemic in Los Angeles County (LAC): A Community-Level Analysis, 2019-2021.
July 2023		Soft launch of Crisis Response Violence Intervention Program in South LA
July 2023		OVP begins transition of Family Assistance Program from Department of Mental Health.
July 2023		OVP is awarded funding from California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to pilot the Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot Program in Los Angeles County. OVP will develop and test models for making youth suicide and attempted suicide reportable events that initiate rapid and comprehensive crisis response to reported youth suicide deaths and attempted suicides. Funding through June 2025.
Summer 2023		OVP joined gun safety groups, family members of people lost to gun violence, and elected officials in the successful effort to persuade Governor Newsom to sign <u>AB-28</u> , securing a county support position for the bill , which would set aside \$160 million annually for school mental health and safety measures, firearm safety education, and other vital programs to build more peaceful communities. OVP drafted a support letter for Dr. Ferrer's signature that was included among several letters from gun safety groups and public health agencies submitted to the governor's office.
August 2023		Launched webpage with info on Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRO) and other restraining orders for LA County.
September 2023		OVP launches monthly Trauma Informed Care training series for District Attorney Bureau of Victim Services.
September 2023		OVP hires its first clinical position, a Clinical Social Worker Supervisor II, to lead the Family Assistance Program , and support the development of Crisis Response Protocols.
September 2023		OVP partners with Parks and Recreation to launch Parks Safe Passage contracts (funded through Probation and Mental Health) at 9 County parks highly impacted by violence in South and East LA.
October 2023		OVP meets with the new White House Office of Violence Prevention , to learn more about the office priorities and to share our work in LA County, beginning an ongoing relationship with the office.
October 2023		Co-hosted 2 GVRO trainings led by San Diego City Attorney for community members and for law enforcement.
October 2023		OVP and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science co-hosted a day-long Gun Violence Prevention Teach-in at the Drew campus in Willowbrook. The event, which drew several hundred students throughout the day, addressed such issues as organizing and advocacy, the role of community and hospital-based providers in reducing gun violence, and the ways in which community organizations and gun safety groups mobilize to reduce gun violence.

November 2023		Developed and hosted training “ Figuring Out the Right Tools: Firearm Safety and Restraining Orders ”, for community and county partners.
November 2023		OVP in partnership with L.A. Care Health Plan sponsored a conference for physicians and other members of the medical profession focused on gun safety. Entitled “ Prioritizing Patient Safety by Reducing Firearm Injury and Death ,” the event included three presenters: Jeffrey Birnbaum, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, USC Keck School of Medicine, Dr. Amy Barnhorst, Vice Chair for Community Mental Health at the UC Davis Department of Psychiatry and Director of the Bullet Points Project., and Danielle Jaymes, media relations spokesperson with Poway Weapons and Gear Range.
November 2023		Poster at LAC GIS Day on the change in firearm assaults at the community level, November 2023 (Firearm Assault Change, Area-Level Analysis in Los Angeles County, 2019-2021)
November 2023		Poster at American Public Health Association Annual Conference on: the effectiveness of the Parks are Safe Zones campaign, November 2023. (Investigating the perceived effectiveness of a grassroots media campaign to promote peace and safety at local parks through an intercept survey); and the differences in violent death incidents with single and multiple victims, November 2023. (Differences in Single Violent Deaths and Multiple Violent Death Incidents, Los Angeles County, 2017-2020).
November 2023	GBV	OVP plans training on the intersection between gang and community violence and gender-based violence , for OVP staff and TPI Street Outreach and HVIP agency staff, planned for January 2024 in partnership with DVC and OWH.
December 2023		Public Health contracts with a technical assistance consult for the Violence and Racism Workgroup , on organizational leadership, professional development and policy solutions. Consultant convenes the first face-to-face retreat with workgroup members to reexamine mission, vision, and purpose.
December 2023		OVP co-chairs first ever LA County Veterans Suicide Death Case Review meeting , in partnership with DMH, Veteran’s Administration, and Medical Examiner.
December 2023		OVP develops plan to distribute 20,000 gun locks to physicians, county libraries, and contracted agencies in 2024, part of a movement to encourage the screening of patients for safe gun storage in the home.

Appendix B. OVP Board Motions and Gender-Based Violence Motions (2019-Present)

Motions listed below list OVP as the lead unless otherwise noted.

Current OVP & Related Motions

[Providing Free Gun Locks at Los Angeles County Hospitals](#) – (Item 4, Board Agenda of Nov 21, 2023)

[Addressing Physical Safety and Mental Health for Women Fleeing Domestic Violence](#) – (Item 18, Board Agenda of October 3rd, 2023)

- DPH, OWH and DVC collaborate as leads and supports for various directives.

[Addressing Illegal Street Takeovers and Racing in Unincorporated Los Angeles County](#) – (Item 6, Board Agenda of September 12, 2023)

- OVP supportive role

[Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies](#) (Item 3, Board Agenda of July 11, 2023)

- DVC supportive role

[Creation of Sexual Assault Council Within the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention](#) – (Item 12, Board Agenda of June 27, 2023)

OVP Motions

Reports have been linked

[Coordinating of Los Angeles County's Response to Incidents of Mass Violence](#) (Item 42-A, Board Agenda of January 24, 2023)

- OVP supportive role, including release of Gun Violence Prevention Platform.

[Enhancing School District Capacity to Protect Student Safety](#) (Item 13, Board Agenda of July 12, 2022)

[Permanent Funding and Implementation of the Family Assistance Program](#) (Item 19, Board Agenda of April 19, 2022)

[Permanent Support for Families Affected by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department: Identifying Sustainable Funding for and Streamlining the Family Assistance Program](#) (Item 9, Board Agenda of October 19, 2021)

[Taking Action: Further Protections for Surviving Families from Law Enforcement Harassment and Retaliation](#) (Item 14, Board Agenda of July 27, 2021)

[Reducing Violence Countywide](#) (Item 15, Board Agenda of Jul 13, 2021)

Community-Based Crisis Response and Violence Interruption Pilot Program (Item 21, Board Agenda of Jul 13, 2021)

[Implementing the Los Angeles County Veteran Suicide Review Team](#) (Item 3, Board Agenda of May 4, 2021)

- OVP supports as co-chair of review team.

[Los Angeles County Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders](#) (Item 5, Board Agenda of April 6, 2021)

- Mentions funding for OVP storytelling project (note: other OVP funding categories re-assigned to HRC)

[Piloting a Crisis Response and Trauma Informed System of Care](#) (Item 57-A, Board Agenda of February 9, 2021)

[Implementing the Office of Violence Prevention's Strategic Plan and Creating a Coordinated Community-Based Crisis Response System](#) (Item 11, Board Agenda of Sept 29, 2020)

[Exploring the Feasibility of Establishing a Los Angeles County Veteran Suicide Review Team](#) (Item 22, Board Agenda of Sept 29, 2020)

- OVP supports as co-chair.

[Advancing Effective Strategies to Prevent Mass Shootings in Los Angeles County](#) (Item 16, Board Agenda of August 13, 2019)

[Supporting Families Following an In-Custody Death or Fatal Use of Force](#) (Item 13, Board Agenda of July 19, 2019)

[Supporting Efforts for the Prevention of Violence in Our Communities - Establishing the Office of Violence Prevention](#) (Item 12, Board Agenda of Feb 19, 2019)

- OVP foundational motion - <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/133180.pdf>

[Protecting Vulnerable Communities from Hate Crime](#) (Item 7, Board Agenda of July 17, 2018)

- Mentions hate crimes as a focus for planning of the OVP.

[Addressing the Epidemic of Gun Violence in Our Communities](#) (Item 2, Board Agenda of March 13, 2018)

- OVP foundational motion - <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/121584.pdf>

Other Relevant Motions Pertinent to Gender Based Violence

DVC Annual Report (Item 6, Board Agenda of Nov 7, 2017) (annual reports submitted, 2018-2023)

Domestic Violence Programming (Set Item 1, Board Agenda of Nov 15, 2022)

- Public Health lead, includes OVP, OWH, DVC as partners.
- This report is in response to the November 15, 2022, directive by the Board of Supervisors during the Set Matter on the American Rescue Plan Funding Report, directing Public Health to work with the CEO to report back to the Board with a projection on domestic violence programs for next year, including any funding needs.

Creating a Sexual Assault Council in Los Angeles County to Support Survivors and Prevent Sexual Violence (Item 28, Board Agenda of Sept 27, 2022)

Stabilizing Support and Programs for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence/Domestic Violence (Item 27, Board Agenda of May 17, 2022)

- Recommended additional sustained funding for OWH's operation of the DV Shelter system.

Addressing the Needs of Unaccompanied Women Experiencing Homelessness (Item 8, Board Agenda of September 29, 2020)

- DPH and OVP not mentioned in this motion. However, OWH supported this effort.

CARES Act Funds for Programs (Item 75-A, Board Agenda of Aug 4th, 2020)

- Funds DV shelter programs.
- Motion - <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/147888.pdf>

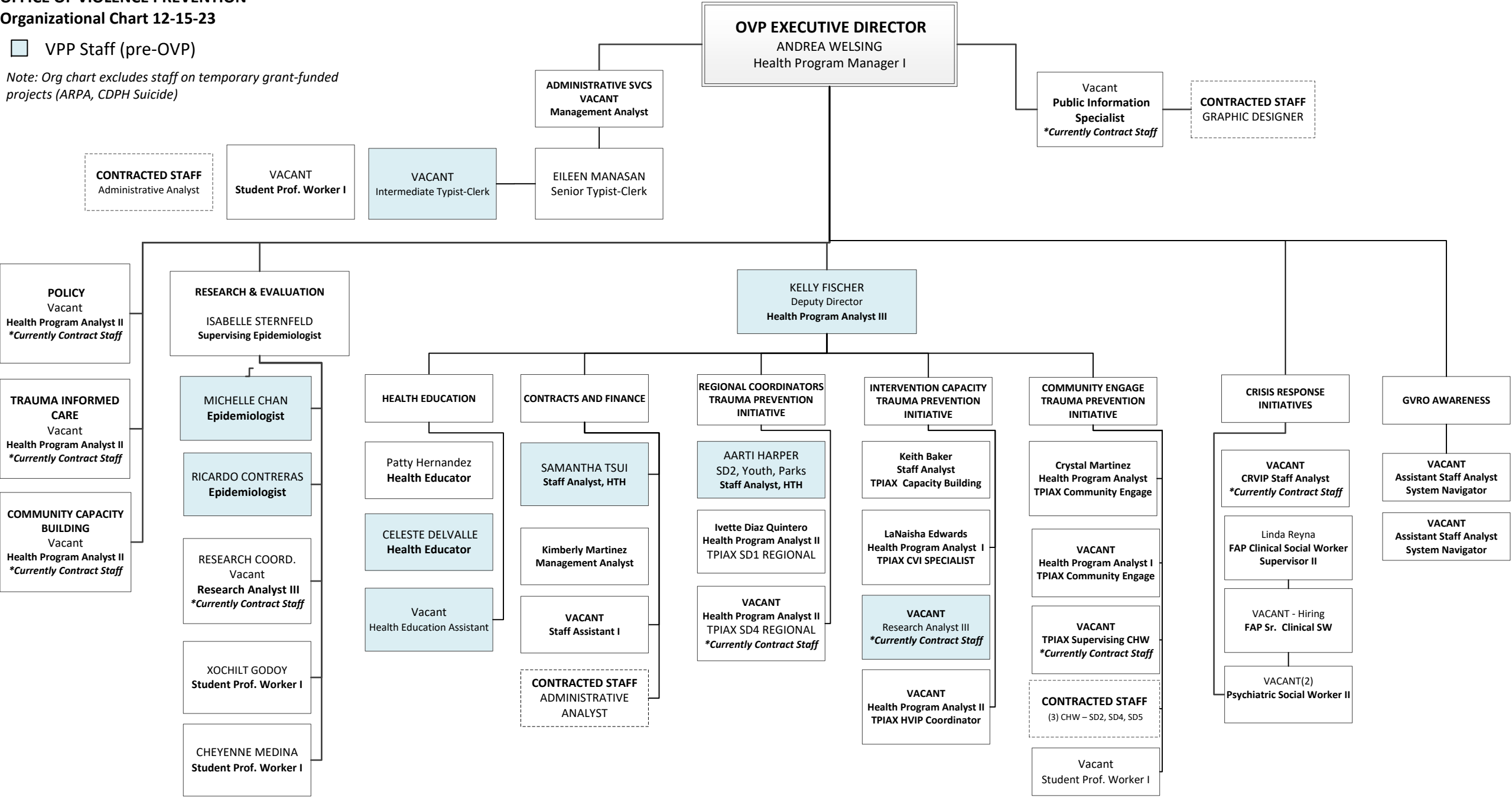
Reconsideration of Funding Allocation for Domestic Violence Providers (Item 41-D, Board Agenda of June 23, 2020)

- Motion: <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/146809.pdf>

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION
Organizational Chart 12-15-23

VPP Staff (pre-OVP)

Note: Org chart excludes staff on temporary grant-funded projects (ARPA, CDPH Suicide)



Appendix D. OVP Detailed Funding Sources List

Initiative	Total funding	Timeframe	Sources
Violence Prevention Program: 7 staff	\$837,018	Ongoing	NCC
OVP Core Infrastructure: 9 staff; 8 RVPC contracts, operating costs	\$3,000,000	Ongoing	Measure B
Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI)	\$6,985,000	Ongoing	Measure B, AB109, NCC
Crisis Response Violence Intervention Program	\$440,000	Ongoing	NCC
Family Assistance Program	\$1,530,000	Ongoing	AB109
TPI Capacity Building Technical Assistance	\$1,550,000	One-time, annual renewal	Probation JJCPA
Positive Youth Development Evaluation	\$215,000	One-time, annual renewal	Probation JJCPA
Parks After Dark Evaluation and Public Health Programs	\$208,000	One-time, annual renewal	Parks and Recreation
Our SPOT Evaluation	\$40,000	One-time, annual renewal	Parks and Recreation
TPI Peer Learning and Trauma Informed Supports	\$107,617	One-time, annual renewal	Justice Assistance Grant
Violent Death Surveillance System	\$81,148	One-time, annual renewal	CA Public Health Grant
Youth Suicide Reporting and Crisis Response Pilot	\$2,592,592	One-time, 2 years	CA Public Health Grant
Domestic Violence and Gang Violence Landscape Analysis, South LA	\$150,000	One-time	Blue Shield Foundation
Trauma Prevention Partnerships	\$25,000,000	One-time	Federal ARPA
Total	\$42,736,375		
Total Ongoing	\$12,792,018		
Total One-time	\$29,944,357		

Appendix E: Office of Women's Health

Table 1. DV Shelter Based Programs and Supportive Services Contracts for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Contract Type	Allocated Funding	Number of Contracted Agencies	Client Eligibility	Clients Served	Funding Period
Domestic Violence Shelter Based Programs (DVSBP)	4 million (NCC + fees mentioned above)	18 with 29 sites	All	1,108 Adults 1,588 Children	Ongoing
Domestic Violence Supportive Services (DVSS)	20 million	39	CalWORKs only	3,005 case management 1,171 legal services	Ongoing
American Rescue Plan (ARP)	11.1 million	27	Non-CalWORKs negatively impacted by COVID-19 pandemic		Ends June 30, 2024



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Director

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December 14, 2023

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director 

**SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL REPORT (ITEM 6,
BOARD AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 7th, 2017)**

This is in response to the Board of Supervisor's November 7th, 2017, Motion requesting that the Domestic Violence Council (DVC), through its Executive Director, report back annually describing strategic initiatives, accomplishments, and outcome metrics for the DVC.

During the reporting period, Ms. Lan Pham was appointed as permanent Executive Director of the DVC on April 18th, 2023. Ms. Pham's appointment in April assured the continued successful operations of the DVC as a voice framing domestic violence as a public health issue and a convening body for domestic violence survivors and service providers. Ms. Pham has maintained day to day DVC operations while expanding its collaborative reach and community engagement. The DVC continues to remain as a strong, unified, and responsive body within LA County seeking to address all needs of domestic violence survivors and service providers.

Key achievements of the DVC described in this report include the continued activities of the DVC as a vital, thriving body with an active committee structure and an engaged membership, the elevation of survivor voices in domestic violence policy and planning, and the centering of antiracism across all DVC efforts. The report also details DVC engagement with the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention on their work on gun violence restraining orders, and with Public Health's Office of Women's Health on their work on abortion safety and reproductive coercion. Additionally, the DVC has continued to work and advocate around the identification and response to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) cases involving domestic violence.

Public Health will report back to the Board of Supervisors at the end of 2024 to provide an update and describe new and ongoing strategic initiatives, accomplishments, and outcome metrics of the DVC.

Attachment

BF:da:lp

Cc: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Office of the District Attorney
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Mental Health

ATTACHMENT

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

PREPARED BY: LAN PHAM, DVC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This annual report responds to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' Motion on November 7th, 2017 requesting that the Domestic Violence Council (DVC), through its Executive Director, report back annually to the Board of Supervisors and describe strategic initiatives, accomplishments, and outcome metrics.

This report describes DVC activities from February 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. This report includes a period during which the DVC Director's position and that of the Council's program staff person were vacant (one due to retirement, the other to COVID reassignment) and were temporarily filled by an Interim Executive Director (through May 30, 2022) and a contract employee (through June 31, 2022). The new permanent Executive Director, Lan Pham, was hired by the Department of Public Health (Public Health) on April 18, 2023.

I. OVERVIEW

The DVC envisions a community free from violence, abuse, and exploitation. It acknowledges that violence, abuse, and exploitation thrive in isolation and separation. It believes that responding to domestic violence requires a united, coordinated community response and the framing of domestic violence and intimate partner violence (referred to in the report as simply DV) as a public health issue.

The DVC provides leadership in the creation and support of a victim/survivor centered, county-wide, and coordinated approach to educate, prevent, and respond to domestic/intimate partner violence. This work is carried out while upholding key values like being community-informed, customer service centered, and data driven. The responses to domestic violence endorsed by the DVC are centered on equity, innovation, partnership, stewardship, and victim/survivor centered approaches.

The DVC works to reduce incidents of DV in Los Angeles County by:

- Convening forums for the interaction and exchange of information between public, private, and non-profit agencies that provide services, resources, support, and education to individuals to end domestic/intimate partner violence;
- Identifying and elevating best practice prevention, intervention, and treatment techniques related to DV for LA County implementation;
- Sharing critical analysis of current and proposed legislation and policies to the DVC membership, the the Board, and other interested parties; and
- Creating a repository of DV related data and resources for use by DVC members, public, private, and non-profit agencies, the media, educational sources, and other interested parties.

There are 70 DVC member agencies and many more participants who are not formal members. Member agencies are public, private, or non-profit organizations that provide services specific to DV, including direct services, legal services (including prosecuting and/or defending DV cases), advocacy, systems review, public education, training, self-help, and community organizing. DVC membership also includes organizations that work to end DV by serving survivors, and those who provides education to perpetrators and potential perpetrators to end abusive behaviors.

The DVC currently has six (6) standing committees:

- ❑ **Committee on Systems Improvement (CSI)** implements DV laws and policies, provides resources and support to community partners, and address emerging issues that impact victims of DV.
- ❑ **Health Committee** promotes collaboration between the health care and DV advocacy fields to improve and develop policy and systems change.
- ❑ **Interfaith Committee** informs, educates, and support the faith community in the prevention and response to DV, inclusive of all religions.
- ❑ **LA Regional Policy Committee (LARP)** works to evaluate and recommend appropriate legislations to its membership and the LA County Board of Supervisors.
- ❑ **LGBTQI+ Issues Committee (LGBTQI+)** raises awareness of the high rates of DV and multiple forms of violence impacting LGBTQI+ communities by engaging those community members. The Committee also works to educate service providers about the barriers that the LGBTQI+ community faces when trying to access services.
- ❑ **Shelter Directors Committee** strengthens the network of DV shelters and provides comprehensive support to survivors.

II. KEY INITIATIVES

1. ASSESSING AND RESPONDING TO LA COUNTY DV NEEDS AND GAPS

One of the key priorities for the DVC in 2023 was collecting data from the DV community to: (a) identify new, critical, and emerging issues for the community related to DV, (b) assess the quality of services that the DVC provides to the community as leader of DV response for LA County, and (c) identify opportunities for partnership, and systems improvement to increase access and response for survivors and providers.

During the reporting period, the DVC collected this data via: (a) key stakeholder interviews to assess the quality of services provided by the DVC, areas for improvement, and opportunities for partnership; (b) listening sessions to identify key needs and gaps for victims/survivors of LA County; and (c) a survey to assess potential risks/impact due to impending reduction in federal funding for victims of crime.

Findings are described below; these data will inform DVC priorities and activities in 2024 and beyond.

KEY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

During the months of April through June 2023, the DVC conducted 1:1 key stakeholder interviews with more than 50 individuals representing community-based victim service organizations, coalitions, and government agencies and other members and partners of the DVC. The purpose of the interviews were to collect data and feedback on areas where the DVC might improve services, responses, and partnerships to coordinate LA County's response to domestic violence.

Stakeholder interview participants included: DVC Co-Chairs, Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), Domestic Violence Alliance (DVA), LA Domestic Abuse Response Team, City of LA Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD), City of LA City Attorney's Office, City of LA Police Department, Inter-Agency Council on Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), Public Health's Office of Women's Health (OWH), Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), District Attorney's Office, LA Bureau of Victim Services, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), LA County Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), Public Health's Office of Advancement for Early Care and Education (OAECA), Public Health's Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) program, Sheriff's Department (LASD), East LA Women's Center, Haven Hills, Jenesse Center, Jewish Family Services of LA, Legal Aid Foundation of LA, LA Center for Law and Justice, Rainbow Services, South Asian Helpline and Referral Agency (SAHARA), and the YWCA.

In general, the feedback regarding DVC's services to the public was positive. Many found the general membership meetings and committees to be of value in building relationships, exchanging updates and information, and troubleshooting new and critical issues. While the DVC's role as lead convener has been successful, there are identified needs and gaps identified by key stakeholders which are/will be integrated into the DVC's 2024 workplans.

Key themes from key stakeholder interviews:

- (1) DVC meetings moved back to being in-person in April 2023. Participants expressed the need for improved accessibility to DVC meetings, including options for hybrid/remote meetings to increase participation.
- (2) Staff turnover in community and systems is frequent. There are protocols and policy changes that may happen independently and/or accompany these changes. Improved relationship building between systems and community is needed to account for this turnover. This includes improved communication about changes in procedures, policies, staffing for agencies which interacts directly with victims/survivors (i.e., Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, DCFS) and agencies which administers DV funding agencies (i.e., DCFS, OWH).
- (3) There is a lack of DV funding for the region, and most of the existing funding is challenging to access for providers and clients. There is a need for increased flexible funding for DV services and survivors including flexible client assistance and/or funding for services with waitlists such as shelter/housing, mental health, and legal services.
- (4) Ending domestic violence includes prevention. Work to change/modify offender behavior is a part of that work. There is a need to invest in/expand/explore offender accountability and community-based restorative justice models for LA County implementation.
- (5) The DVC represents 88 cities, yet not all cities are represented in DVC membership or attendance. There is a need to share data across the region and improve collaboration across jurisdictions. Certain cities such as Pasadena and Long Beach have dedicated DV units but are not active with the DVC.
- (6) Language access, cultural and linguistically relevant services, and services for specialized populations need to be better integrated into systems response and community-based services and programming. There is a need for improved training, protocol/policy implementation, and integration of voices from specialized populations (i.e., LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, immigrant/refugee/undocumented, people with lived DV experience.)

LISTENING SESSIONS

DVC led ten (10) listening sessions during August 21st through August 25th, 2023. The focus of the listening session was to identify service gaps as well as possible solutions to improve services for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, trafficking, and other violent crimes. A total of 135 people attended the 10 listening sessions. Most were service providers, largely working in the nonprofits. Attendees represented 58 agencies and organizations.

Listening session participants included: 1736 Family Crisis Center, Adult & Youth Program, California Family – PACT, California Mental Health Connection, CAPC, Casa De La Familia, Cedars-Sinai, Child and Family Policy Institute of California, Children's Law Center of California, City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Domestic Violence Alliance (DVA), Downtown Women's Center, East Los Angeles Women's Center (ELAWC), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Gethsemane Christian Love Church, Human Services Association, Interval House, Jenesse Center, Korean American Family Services, CEO – Homeless Initiative, County Counsel, DCFS, Department of

Mental Health, District Attorney's Office (LADA), OIA, Probation, Public Health, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA), Little Tokyo Service Center, Los Angeles Center for Law & Justice, Los Angeles Family Housing, LAHSA, Los Angeles LGBT Center, Loyola Law School, Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA), Mental Health of Los Angeles, Neighborhood Legal Services, NOW, Peace Alliance, Peace Over Violence, Qualified Women, Rainbow Services, South Asian Helping and Referral Agency (SAHARA), SPIRITT Family Services, St. John's Community Health, Strength United, Thai Community Development Center, The Network, The People's Concern, The Sidewalk Project, Women Shelter of Long Beach, YWCA Glendale and Pasadena, and YWCA San Gabriel Valley.

Key themes from listening sessions:

DOMAIN	KEY THEMES
FUNDING	<p>(1) There are long waitlists for shelter/housing, legal services, mental health services, and other client assistance services. Long waitlists are a product of both limited resources and a lack of staffing. Community-based DV providers help clients navigate systems and identify solutions even when there are waitlists. Investment in direct service staffing will help increase capacity of organizations to respond/triage and support more clients. Further, this would alleviate staff burnout and increase retention, and improve quality of services for survivors. Frequent staff changes also add to waitlists and system inefficiencies.</p> <p>(2) Survivors from marginalized populations lack information about victims' rights, resources, and benefits which they may be eligible for. There is a need for investments in community outreach, education and prevention that are linguistically and culturally relevant to increase awareness about domestic violence and the resources that are available to survivors.</p> <p>(3) Services such as the Language Line exist to assist providers and community members. However, they are limited in the languages that are available and staff of the Language Line are not trained on DV and the nuances of DV. There is also a long wait time for interpreters speaking certain languages/dialects. This sometimes results in mistranslation/interpretation which negatively impacts services provided to survivors. There is a need to invest in language access services for community-based providers to increase capacity to work with limited English populations. Training and special requirements would also be helpful for Language Line employees.</p>
SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT	<p>(1) Accessibility to resources and benefits for survivors heavily depends on the service provider. With high turnover in both systems and community-based agencies, training is a crucial component. At times, survivors are unable to obtain services afforded to them because the provider is not versed on the policies, protocols, and/or nuances of victimization. Investment in trauma-informed training of community and systems service providers on the nuances of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking and its intersectionality with language access and legal status would assist in quality of services and quantity of successful client outcomes.</p>

	<p>(2) Navigating the DV service system is challenging for survivors and service providers. Participants expressed the need for more centralized information sharing and services (a “one-stop-shop”) for survivors and their advocates to learn about navigating available resources and services.</p> <p>(3) Survivors are sometimes denied DV services/benefits for which they are eligible due to staff’s lack of training on T and U Visa policies. There is a need for agencies who issue T and U Visas to review existing policies and protocols, and regularly train staff to ensure DV services are received by eligible survivors.</p>
POLICY	<p>(1) Undocumented survivors are unable to work while awaiting their U and T visas. There is a need for flexible client assistance to this population, and/or implementation of temporary work visas or permit for those awaiting U and T visas so they are not working illegally which would place them at risk for exploitation and/or lose their U/T visa application status.</p> <p>(2) LA County administers DV contracts. However, the funding available is not fully accessible. There is a need to review/implement/advocate/modify existing funding guidelines to increase flexibility for programs to better meet the needs of their clients. Examples provided by providers include: (a) removing limitations on the number of counseling sessions for survivors; (b) revisiting guidelines for short term or long-term shelter/housing stays; and (c) revisiting legal services contracts to allow flexibility for organizations to hire Legal Advocates and Attorneys to support with systems navigation.</p>

SURVEYS

Most recently, the DVC was informed of a potential reduction to the Federal Crime Victims Fund (CVF). CVF (which funds several California Office of Emergency Services/CalOES victim services programs) is a critical funding source for LA County DV, sexual assault, and human trafficking victim services. Any reduction of the CVF will increase barriers in a DV system that is already taxed with lengthy victim services waitlists for advocacy, shelter/housing, mental health, and legal services.

DVC issued surveys to 40 LA County service providers on proposed CVF changes; 10 agencies responded within the designated survey response window. Survey responses provided insights into the impact of CVF fund reductions across several key areas:

1. **STAFFING:** Respondents estimated that, among their organizations, approximately 52 full time employees (FTEs) might be lost due to proposed funding cuts. Positions impacted include managers, clinicians, mental health counselors, residential counselors, housing navigators, case managers/client advocates, staff attorneys, paralegals, and housing navigators.
2. **OPERATIONS:** CVF reductions would impact operations in client assistance funding, food for clients, personal items for clients, operational costs for agencies, rent, utilities, healthcare benefits for staff, shelter maintenance, and furnishings for client’s shelter/transitional housing.
3. **SERVICES:** Core DV services would be negatively impacted by funding changes, including rape crisis centers, youth advocacy services, victim advocacy/case management, systems navigation, shelter and transitional housing, and legal services for particularly vulnerable subpopulations.
4. **CLIENT POPULATIONS IMPACTED:** Reductions in CVF funds were seen as potentially having a disproportionate impact on populations at increased risk of the negative consequences of DV:

e.g., LGBTQIA+ individuals, members of certain racial/ethnic communities. The most impacted will be survivors from historically marginalized communities.

5. NUMBER OF CLIENTS IMPACTED: 2,800+

6. FUNDING REDUCTION: CVF funding for LA County is more than \$1,734,000.

Survey responses were shared by Public Health with the CEO Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations unit to help inform the County's position to oppose the federal funding reductions and to request State support for these funding streams.

RESPONDING TO STAKEHOLDERS FEEDBACK

In response to issues raised by the community, the DVC is implementing the following strategies in response to key stakeholders' feedback:

(1) **HYBRID MEETINGS:** In September 2023, DVC implemented its first DVC General Membership hybrid meeting (accessible both in person and virtually). Although all DVC meetings are still held in person, a hybrid option increases accessibility for members of the public to also participate remotely. DVC Monthly General Membership meeting participation ranges from 40-57 individuals from May to July 2023. In contrast, the first hybrid format meeting in September 2023 had an attendance of over 100 participants.

(2) **CONNECTING SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY PROVIDERS:** The DVC General Membership meetings are formatted to connect systems and community providers. This allows for improved relationship between systems and community and improve communication about changes in procedures, policies, staffing for agencies which interacts directly with victims/survivors, and those that administers DV funding. This also provides an opportunity for training on specific issues raised by the membership.

(3) The following are a sample of topics and presenters featured in DVC General Membership meetings for 2023:

TOPICS	INVITEES
LGBTQIA + ISSUES COMMITTEE	Giovanna Martinez, Co-Chair & Jaye Prado, Co-Chair LGBTQIA+ Issues Committee, Domestic Violence Council (DVC), Los Angeles County
PLATFORM TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE	Andrea Welsing, Director Office of Violence Prevention, Los Angeles County
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY – FAMILY VIOLENCE DIVISION	Stephanie Pearl Mire, Head Deputy District Attorney Office of the District Attorney, Family Violence Division, Los Angeles County
BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES	Lanishia G. Wright, Director Bureau of Victim Services, District Office of the District Office, Los Angeles County
CHILD PROTECTION HOTLINE – DV/IPV PROJECT	Shiloh Davenport, Assistant Regional Administrator & Carlos Torres, Division Chief

	Child Protection Hotline, Dept. of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles County
LA COUNTY MANDATED SUPPORTING INITIATIVE	Tamara Hunter, Executive Director LA County Commission for Children and Families, Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County
LA VAWA NETWORK - IMMIGRATION ISSUES	Mahsa Maleki, Sr. Staff Attorney Community Legal Aid SoCal
DVC INTERFAITH COMMITTEE	Varsha N., Cecelia Walker, and Bernita Walker Co-Chairs Interfaith Committee, Domestic Violence Council (DVC), Los Angeles County
HEALTH COMMITTEE	Barbara Kappos and Kate Marr, Co-Chairs Health Committee, Domestic Violence Council (DVC), Los Angeles County
REPRODUCTIVE COERCION	Dr. Susie Baldwin, Medical Director Office of Women's Health, Los Angeles County
GVROS - FIND THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE RIGHT SOLUTION	Andrea Welsing, Director Office on Violence Prevention, Los Angeles County
LA COUNTY WOMEN'S NEEDS ASSESSMENT	Amy Turk, Chief Executive Officer Downtown Women's Center & Sofia Herrera, Research Partner The Hub for Urban Initiatives
LOS ANGELES DV AND HOMELESS SERVICES COALITION	Amy Turk, Chief Executive Officer Downtown Women's Center
COUNTYWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOMELESSNESS COORDINATION	Sarah Whitman, DV Systems Coordinator Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)
SHELTER/HOUSING COMMITTEE	Krysta Warfield & Veronica Sandoval, Co-Chairs Shelter Directors Committee, Domestic Violence Council (DVC), Los Angeles County

- (4) **FUNDING:** The DVC connected with local funders (City of LA Community Investment in Families Division, Office of Women's Health, Blue Shields, UCLA Pritzker/Pritzker Family Foundation) to assess an interest in a regular meeting of funders and administrators of DV funding to (a) share data regarding investments in DV in the region, (b) discuss/share best/promising practices, and (c) strategize opportunities for collaboration. The first meeting is to be scheduled for Q1 2024.
- (5) **BATTERER INTERVENTION:** The DVC is now attending the monthly Batterer Intervention Program meetings where therapists convene to discuss batterer intervention and best/promising practice models. DVC will be hosting a webinar with Colorado State and City of Seattle on best/promising practice Batterer Intervention Models in Q1 and Q2 of 2024.

- (6) **MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT AND EXPANSION:** The DVC most recently reached out to and re-engaged over 40 community-based agencies in LA County through the October 18th, 2023, Domestic Violence Awareness Month breakfast. The event was attended by over 170 key stakeholders representing service providers, systems partners, and survivors. Supervisor Hilda Solis joined the meeting, as well as representatives from other Board offices. Since the event, the DVC has witnessed an increase in participation, especially from agencies which have not been active in DVC events.
- (7) **CENTERING EQUITY:** In response to the need for improved language access, cultural and linguistically relevant services, services for specialized population, and connected to the need for improved training, protocol/policy implementation, and integration of voices from specialized populations (i.e., LGBTQIA+, BIPOC, immigrant/refugee/undocumented, people with lived experiences), DVC is standing up the quarterly Access to Advocacy (ATA) Meetings. The first meeting is scheduled for December 2023. ATA will be solely focused on identifying and addressing issues of access for survivors, especially those from marginalized communities. Invitees will include survivors, service providers, and systems partners.

2. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GUN VIOLENCE

DVC is collaborating with OVP on a six-month systems mapping project where 25 key stakeholders will convene to discuss the process for accessing gun violence restraining order (GVRO) and domestic violence restraining order (DVRO). The result is a visual map which identifies areas of gaps for systems improvement and policy implementation. The project is set to begin in January 2024.

3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

DVC is collaborating with OWH in its roll out of materials and trainings related to reproductive coercion. A presentation was provided to DVC membership in September 2023. Additional opportunities include an event in April 2024 related to National Sexual Violence Awareness Month.

4. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD WELFARE

DVC is standing up the DV and Child Maltreatment workgroup in December 2023. The purpose of the workgroup is to operationalize the recommendations provided in the DVC's 2022 Domestic Violence and Child Welfare Report. The group will be meeting monthly to identify and implement a related workplan.

5. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Although anyone can fall victim to domestic violence, African American survivors are disproportionately overrepresented in domestic violence victimization. At the June DVC General membership meeting, the District Attorney's Office elevated this issue, and members of the DVC also proposed that the DVC take a leadership role in addressing DV victimization and the African American community. DVC is standing up a DVC African American Caucus in partnership with the Association of African American Social Workers. The first meeting is December 2023. The Caucus will serve to highlight the unique needs and gaps in services for survivors who identify as Black/African/African American. This is in response to the disproportionate victimization of survivors in this community. The group serves to identify opportunities to build and strengthen support for Black/African/African American Survivors.

6. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND EQUITY

DVC is standing up the quarterly Access to Advocacy meeting for survivors, providers, and systems partners to address and improve access to services (in community and in systems), especially improving access for those from historically marginalized populations – LGBTQIA+, people living with disability, immigrant/refugee/undocumented, BIPOC, etc. The first meeting is in December 2023.

III. DVC OPERATIONS

The DVC actively works to increase the reach and collaboration with community members, service providers and systems partners.

DVC EMAIL: To expand its reach, the DVC maintains a bi-weekly email blast that provides information on domestic violence best/promising practice, policies, data, funding opportunities and announcements from members. These emails are currently distributed to over 650 recipients directly through the DVC. They are also sent to the LA City DV Alliance's 250 email recipients. The DVC Executive Director also includes messages recognizing events and awareness months such as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Teen Dating Awareness Month.

DVC WEBSITE: The DVC website has remained as a valuable resource for the community. It provides hotline and resource information, a calendar of DVC general and committee meetings, reports, and research findings along with other information for the field. Annually, the website has an average of 22,000 views per year.

LA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE: The DVC manages the LA County DV Hotline. Although an increase in hotline calls may represent an increase in need, it also reflects an increase in awareness of available resources and individuals reaching out for assistance. The average is approximately 600 calls per month.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: As a result of active DVC outreach and hybrid participation options, we have seen an increase in DVC meetings attendance. General monthly DVC meetings range between 75 to 100. Committee attendance has also increased.

DVC STEERING COMMITTEE: Committee Co-Chairs expressed interest in resuming Steering Committee meetings to discuss their committee priorities, structures, and operations with the DVC Executive Director and Co-Chairs. The goal of these meetings is to coordinate efforts when opportunities arise, stay abreast of the activities of each committee, maintain a regular and direct line of communication to the Executive Director and with each other, and to raise committee issues that would benefit from being highlighted during the DVC General meetings. The DVC Steering Committee meeting's annual retreat is scheduled for December 12, 2023. The agenda includes review of the By-Laws, identifying key priorities for 2024, and approving the DVC workplan.

RECOGNITION OF SURVIVORS CONTRIBUTION: DVC held its annual DV Awareness Month Breakfast event on October 18, 2023, at Almansor Court. The event was attended by 170 individuals including community-based service providers, systems partners, survivors, and Board of Supervisors Offices. The event recognized 40 community-based domestic violence agencies, 15 DVC Co-Chairs, and honored 4 "Survivor Activists" who led changes in LA County and/or State policy, practice, and programming. Honorees of the Breaking Silence Survivor Activist Awards included CA State Senator Rubio, Tina Rios, Sandra Ross, and Ana Esteves.

IV. CONCLUSION

2023 has been an exciting and productive year for the DVC. The DVC acknowledges the leadership of Nicolle Perras in the Interim Executive Director role which ended in May 2023.

During 2023, the DVC engaged its existing base and expanded its constituents to include new partners. Re-energized conversations with these stakeholders has identified DV system gaps and opportunities for improvement. The extensive data collected by the DVC in this reporting year has resulted in tangible

changes. For example, DVC plans to stand up several new committees to focus on improved regional funding, continuing the important work to improve systems for DV and Child Welfare, highlight the importance of improving access for marginalized populations, and creating space for the Black/African/African American Caucus to partner and spearhead work which addresses the intersectionality between DV and racism.

The DVC continues to strengthen partnerships with other Public Health allies including OVP and OWH on key initiatives to address gun violence and reproductive coercion.

While continuing these efforts, the DVC will also be focusing on updating DVC By-Laws and strengthening the LA County DV service safety net to improve response and access for survivors and providers.

Lan Pham
Executive Director, Domestic Violence Council

Appendix G. OVP Data Sources and Metrics, Benefits and Limitations

OVP Population Indicators/Performance Goals & Associated Metrics

OVP Performance/Population Metric	Target Value	OVP Data	
		Year	Value
Performance Goal: <i>Support local leadership in decision-making and adopt violence prevention efforts to the unique needs of each region or community.</i>			
Number of SPAs and TPI communities with an established coalition or CAP group	13	2023	12
Percent of regional coalitions and CAP groups with at least 20 stakeholders who regularly participate in monthly meetings	75%	2023	58%
Percent of established coalitions and CAP groups that implement a mini-grant process annually.	100%	2023	92%
Percent of established coalitions and CAP groups that develop an action plan.	100%	2023	83%
Performance Goal: <i>Expand supportive policies and hubs that connect community members to services and resources and create healing spaces as well as opportunities for dialogue.</i>			
Number of county departments participating in trauma informed care trainings and/or system change efforts annually	2	2023	2
Number of community members from communities with high rates of violence receiving trauma informed care training annually	100	2023	0
Percent of PAD Parks and Our SPOT programs implementing healing programming	60%	2022	100%
Number of county staff trained in trauma informed care	100	2023	220
Percent of trainees in county departments and local communities who indicate greater awareness of trauma informed care concepts and develop at least one self-care practice	75%	--	--
Percent of PAD and Our SPOT participants reporting improved social connections, support, and well-being	75%	2022	88%
Performance Goal: <i>Expand violence intervention and crisis response resources and programs to additional communities that have high rates of violence.</i>			
Number of incidents for which Crisis Response program provides services for annually	50	2023*	15
Number of incidents responded to by Street Outreach	N/A ^a	2022	221
Number of communities in which Street Outreach services are implemented	12	2023	9
Number of victims of violence referred to HVIP services annually	600	2022	1,225
Percent of referred clients for Crisis Response, Street Outreach, and HVIP who receive services for a minimum of 3 months	50%	2022	77% ^b
Population Goal: <i>Decrease rates of homicide in Los Angeles County.</i>			
Reduce the LA County homicide rate by 10%.	5.0 per 100,000	2022*	6.6 per 100,000
Reduce the gap in homicide rates between African Americans and the LA County overall homicide rate by 50%.	6.8 per 100,000	2022*	20.2 per 100,000

-- Data not previously collected.

* As of 12/12/2023

^a Not previously included in OVP's performance metrics; no target currently established.

^β Does not include crisis response since program was not in operation for entire year of 2022.

[¥] Preliminary mortality data for 2022.

Data Sources for Gender Based Violence

While none of OVP's established metrics are specifically related to gender-based violence, OVP does use several different data sources to look at trends and patterns of gender-based violence in LA County. This includes data related to intimate partner violence, rape/sexual assault, and violence among LGBTQ+ populations. The table below summarizes the benefits and limitations of the different data sources used by OVP; more detailed information about the various data sources is provided in the sections that follow. The data sources included here provide county or sub-county level data; while other data sources exist that provide state and/or national level data, we do not include them here since those sources do not allow us to look at local, LA County information.

Type of data	Benefits	Problems/Limitations
Mortality data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data on intimate partner homicides• Data on sexual orientation and gender identity• Data on victim-suspect relationship• Related deaths are linked into a single incident.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only includes incidents involving a fatality.• Time lag before data are available.• Lack of consistency across jurisdictions – not all law enforcement agencies report to the system.
Healthcare data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes non-fatal incidents• Specific codes available to identify visits related to sexual assault/rape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substantial underutilization of codes used to identify relationship of victim and perpetrator• Does not include individuals who chose not to receive medical care.
Law enforcement data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calls for service related to domestic violence• Hate crimes• Includes data on rape/sexual assaults• Local data on crimes related to domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substantial underreporting of crimes to law enforcement• Lack of consistency in reporting by different law enforcement agencies• Minimal demographic information available
Survey data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can capture DV victims who do not report to other sources (health care, law enforcement, etc.)• Can provide estimates of lifetime impact of DV, not just annual prevalence.• Some surveys include data on sexual orientation/gender identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Target populations of surveys vary; need to understand survey population.• Surveys are subject to sampling and reporting bias• Sample size not always large enough for reliable estimates from smaller populations.

Mortality Data

1. National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

Description

NVDRS is a national system funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It combines multiple data sources (death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports) to get more complete information about circumstances involved in violent death incidents.

Gender-based violence data

- Includes data about the sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender of victims of violent deaths.
- Includes data on the relationship between the victim/suspect.
- Includes circumstances relevant to gender-based violence:
 - o Intimate partner violence
 - o Prostitution
 - o Stalking
 - o Precipitating crime of rape/sexual assault
- Includes data on victims of incidents related to intimate partner violence who are NOT the intimate partner of the suspect (e.g. children killed during a fight between their parents).
- Links multiple violent deaths that are part of the same incident, which includes data on incidents where the suspect in a homicide goes on to die by suicide.

Limitations

Not all law enforcement agencies participate in NVDRS, so reporting may not be consistent countywide. Additionally, the data abstraction process for the system is labor intensive, so there is a significant time lag before the data become available. Data abstractors are currently working on deaths that occurred during 2022, with 2022 abstraction expected to be complete in May 2024.

Healthcare Data

1. California Department of Health Care Access & Information (HCAI)

Description

HCAI provides data on inpatient visits to California hospitals and data on visits to Emergency Departments in California. Data is available on Los Angeles County residents treated anywhere in the state. Diagnosis codes in the data are used to identify which injuries were caused by violence. Generally to avoid counting the same injury multiple times, we report 1) numbers of non-fatal inpatient hospitalizations and 2) numbers of patients who were treated and released from emergency departments without being admitted to a hospital.

Gender-based violence data

- Includes data on patient demographics including gender.
- Diagnosis codes exist to identify injuries caused by rape/sexual assault.
- Diagnosis codes exist to identify the relationship between victim and perpetrator in cases of abuse

Limitations

Not all victims of rape/sexual assault may seek treatment in hospitals and/or emergency departments. Coding of the relationship between victim and perpetrator is not consistently reported in hospital/emergency department data and likely substantially undercounts the true scope of the problem.

Law Enforcement Data**1. California Department of Justice*****Description***

The California Department of Justice's OpenJustice portal includes county level data on several criminal justice related topics. Three data sets with relevant gender-based violence data are the Crimes and Clearances, Domestic Violence Related Calls for Assistance (DVRCA), and Hate Crimes.

Gender-based violence data

- Number of rapes reported to law enforcement agencies in LA County.
- Number of calls related to domestic violence to law enforcement agencies in LA County.
- Reports of hate crimes related to gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation made to LA County law enforcement agencies.

Limitations

All three of the datasets mentioned are subject to underreporting. In particular, when comparing DVRCA data to reports directly from local county law enforcement agencies, the numbers of domestic violence related calls in the DVRCA are substantially smaller.

2. Los Angeles Sheriff Department***Description***

The Los Angeles Sheriff Department (LASD) makes individual-level crime data publicly available on their website. The data are updated monthly and include information about type of crime and the location where the crime occurred. Data cover all unincorporated areas of the county and cities for which LASD provides law enforcement services.

Gender-based violence data

- Rape/sexual assaults
- Aggravated assaults related to domestic violence
- Simple assaults related to domestic violence

Limitations

The data does not include information about demographics of the victim or about the relationship between victim and suspect. Codes indicating which assaults are related to domestic violence may be underutilized. Underreporting of crimes is likely and may vary from community to community.

3. Los Angeles Police Department

Description

The Los Angeles Police Department makes individual-level crime data publicly available on their website. The data are updated weekly and include information about victim demographics, weapon used, type of crime, location of crime, and codes that provide related information such as victim-suspect relationship or domestic violence. Data includes crimes that occurred in the city of Los Angeles.

Gender-based violence data

- Rape/sexual assaults
- Codes to identify victim-suspect relationship and/or domestic violence involvement

Limitations

Codes identifying victim-suspect relationship and domestic violence may be underutilized. Underreporting of crimes is likely and may vary from community to community.

Survey Data

1. Los Angeles County Health Survey (LACHS)

Description

LACHS is a survey implemented by the LA County Department of Public Health. LACHS is a population-based survey with a large sample size that allows reliable estimates at the sub-county (SPA) level. The most recent data currently reported are from 2018; however, the 2022-2023 survey was recently completed and data should be available soon.

Gender-based violence data

- Gender at birth, current gender identity, sexual orientation
- Ever experienced physical violence by an intimate partner
- Ever experience sexual violence by an intimate partner

Limitations

Underreporting of violent experiences is possible. Questions in the survey focus on lifetime experience rather than annual incidence so data are not comparable to annual reports from other sources.

2. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)

Description

YRBSS is a set of surveys administered every other year by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to track health behaviors in high school students. In Los Angeles County, LA Unified School District participates in the survey.

Gender-based violence data

- Data on student's sexual orientation and gender
- Experienced sexual violence/physically forced to have sex
- Experienced physical/sexual dating violence
- School safety variables include:
 - o Threatened with a weapon/in a fight at school
 - o Bullying at school/cyberbullying
 - o Carried a weapon at school

Limitations

Underreporting of violent experiences is possible. Sample size may not be large enough to look at differences reported by sexual orientation. LAUSD is the only district to participate in the survey so results may not be representative of the entire county.

3. California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)***Description***

The CHKS survey is run by the California Department of Education, and reports data for 7th, 9th, and 11th graders. County-level data are available. The survey includes information on student demographics, student connectedness, school safety, physical and mental well-being, and other topics.

Gender-based violence data

- Includes data on student's reported gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
- School safety variables included in the survey are:
 - o Afraid of being beat up
 - o Been in a physical fight
 - o Cyberbullying
 - o Any harassment at school
 - o Perceived safety at school
 - o Verbal harassment at school
 - o Weapons at school

Limitations

Underreporting of violent experiences is possible. Sample size may not be large enough to look at differences reported by sexual orientation.