

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

February 4, 2025

Los Angeles County Gender-Based Violence Prevention Services

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most common human rights violations worldwide.¹ The Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors has defined GBV as violent acts or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation, and intimidation or other abuses that are used to harm, punish, or frighten due to a person’s identified or perceived gender or sexual identity. GBV includes, but is not limited to, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, gendered cyber abuses, sexual harassment, sexual assault and exploitation, trafficking, homophobic, and transphobic abuses. It is rooted in structural gender inequalities, patriarchy, and power imbalances. Prevention is key to eliminating GBV.

In the County, there is a long history of GBV work led by community-based organizations, survivors and advocates, County departments, and the Department of Public Health (DPH) programs. While progress has been made, especially in efforts to address sexual violence and intimate partner violence, GBV rates remain high, as indicated in the data below.

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 1 in 2 women (47.3%) and over 40% of men in the United States reported experiencing contact

¹ United Nations Population Fund. Gender Based Violence Dashboard. Mapping UNFPA Leadership on Ending Gender-Based Violence: Getting to Zero. Available: https://www.unfpa.org/modules/custom/unfpa_global_gbv/assets/pdf/Report_GBV_Gender%20Mapping_final.pdf

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sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime. This amounts to over 100 million individuals.² .

- Locally, 11.2% of adults in the County reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner; this is an estimated 878,000 adults Countywide.³
- In 2023, law enforcement agencies in California received 160,357 domestic violence-related calls for assistance, 101,624 of which included a weapon.⁴
- According to the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence,⁵ in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, domestic violence programs in California answered 213,674 hotline calls, and provided 608,658 bed nights for survivors and their children. Programs provided services to 2,161 LGBTQ individuals – who, according to UCLA’s Williams Institute, are nine times more likely than non-LGBTQ people to be victims of violent hate crimes⁶ – and 401 youth victims of dating violence.
- Between 2018 and 2022, residents in the County visited the emergency department more than 6,000 times for sexual assaults. This is an average of over 3 visits daily.⁷
- The majority of all sexual assault victims who were treated in emergency departments were female, but each year, there were over 140 visits for sexual assaults among males.⁷
- The Human Relations Commission’s 2022 Hate Crime Report showed that sexual orientation and gender were the 2nd and 4th most reported motivations for hate crimes in the County during 2022.⁸

² Leemis R.W., Friar N., Khatiwada S., Chen M.S., Kresnow M., Smith S.G., Caslin, S., & Basile, K.C. (2022). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 Report on Intimate Partner Violence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

³ 2023 Los Angeles County Health Survey. Available: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/LACHSDataTopics2023.htm#11_Fin

⁴ California Department of Justice. Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance. Available: <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/exploration/crime-statistics/domestic-violence-related-calls-assistance>

⁵ California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. California Domestic Violence Factsheet. Available: https://cpedv.memberclicks.net/assets/PolicyDocs/Domestic%20Violence%20Fact%20Sheet_2022_update_.pdf

⁶ Flores AR, Stotzer RL, Meyer IH, Langton LL (2022) Hate crimes against LGBT people: National Crime Victimization Survey, 2017-2019. PLoS ONE 17(12): e0279363. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0279363>

⁷ California Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch. (2023, December 15). *EpiCenter: California Injury Data Online*. Retrieved September 2024, from <https://skylab4-dev.cdph.ca.gov/epicenter/>.

⁸ Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, 2022 Hate Crime Report

- Additionally, the number of crimes motivated by sexual orientation revealed an increase of 20% from the previous year.⁸
- 72% of hate crimes reported were violent in nature in 2022. Violence was more common in hate crimes motivated by gender, (91% were violent), or sexual orientation (85% were violent).⁸

To date, County efforts around GBV have largely focused on Domestic Violence intervention and response services. While these services are crucial to support survivors, there is also a critical need to invest in GBV prevention services. To respond to this gap, DPH, through its Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), is investing \$2,055,000 in prevention services in four categories:

1. Healthy Relationship Education and Training
2. Engaging Men and Boys
3. Innovative Programs to Engage LGBTQ+ Youth
4. Economic Empowerment Strategies for Girls

DPH is currently working with County and community partners to: strengthen partnerships and coordination across sectors; provide support through training as well as technical assistance; and create a centralized hub for easy access to GBV data, resources, and communications. To support GBV organizations and other partners, OVP is using an intersectional approach, sharing knowledge, engaging multiple sectors, and learning from those leading this work within local communities. OVP is also conducting an analysis that will capture information on the landscape of GBV prevention services provided by County departments; the type of data that is collected and how it is shared; budgets and funding streams; and gaps, needs, and opportunities for enhancing service provision by geography.

As OVP begins building the infrastructure to strengthen the work of County government to scale what works, enhance our partnerships, and improve our capacity to prevent and respond to GBV, there is a need to invest more immediately in critical prevention services. DPH has funding for a Third Party Administrator to lead solicitation activities and serve as the project manager and fiscal intermediary for a pilot funding phase for critical prevention services.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Authorize the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH) or designee, to negotiate and execute a contract with the Southern California Grantmakers for gender-based violence (GBV) prevention services in the following four categories: Healthy Relationship Education and Training; Engaging Men and Boys; Innovative Programs to Engage LGBTQ+ Youth; and Economic Empowerment Strategies for Girls, and to cover the contractor's administrative fee of ten percent (10%), in an amount not to exceed \$2,260,500. The term of the agreement shall not exceed 15 months. Funding for the agreement shall be 100 percent funded from the Fiscal Year 2024-25 DPH Budget, utilizing Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) net County cost (NCC) funds. The agreement must be approved as to form by County Counsel.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DPH or designee, to execute amendments to the agreement in order to; add, delete, modify, or replace the statement/scope of work; make corresponding pricing schedule changes that do not increase the maximum contract sum; and/or make changes required to comply with Federal, State, and County regulatory and/or policy changes, subject to review and approval as to form by County Counsel with notification to the Board of Supervisors and the Chief Executive Officer.
3. Instruct the Director of DPH to collect data and provide a report on target outcomes for the GBV pilot prevention services that will support and inform future funding for GBV prevention services, utilizing the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative's equity analysis tool to specifically examine disproportionate impacts across racial and ethnic demographics. The analysis should include particular attention to the disproportionate impact on women of color while maintaining inclusive gender-based definitions.

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(VG/EA)