

FAMILY VIOLENCE DIVISION

Advocating for the most vulnerable victims



Empowerment through Justice

FVD WILL REVIEW FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS FOR FILING EVALUATION:

Intimate Partner
Homicide

Intimate Sexual Abuse
(including lived
together > 6 months or
dated for 1 yr)

Intimate Partner
Violence (IPV)

Elder Abuse Physical -
involving IPV

Child Homicide

Child Physical
Abuse/Endangerment

Other Family Member
Homicide – lived
together > 6 months

Other Family Member
Violence (lived together
> 6 months, those not
in EAS review)

Stalking – involving
intimate partners

AHT Fatal – refer to
Complex Child Abuse
Section

AHT Non-Fatal – refer
to Complex Child Abuse
Section

FVD Mission

- 1) Vertically prosecute cases alleging the most severe and complex intimate partner abuse, assaultive conduct between household family, and child abuse.
- 2) Provide training, consultation, and support services for DDAs, DCFS, law enforcement, and wide variety of organizations covering the spectrum of domestic violence and child abuse.

FVD Cases Countywide

North Region

Central

Antelope Valley

San Fernando
Santa Clarita

Van Nuys

East Region

Alhambra/Pasadena
Glendale
Burbank

Norwalk
Bellflower
Downey

Pomona
El Monte
West Covina

South Region

Airport

Compton

Long Beach

Torrance
Inglewood

CCAS

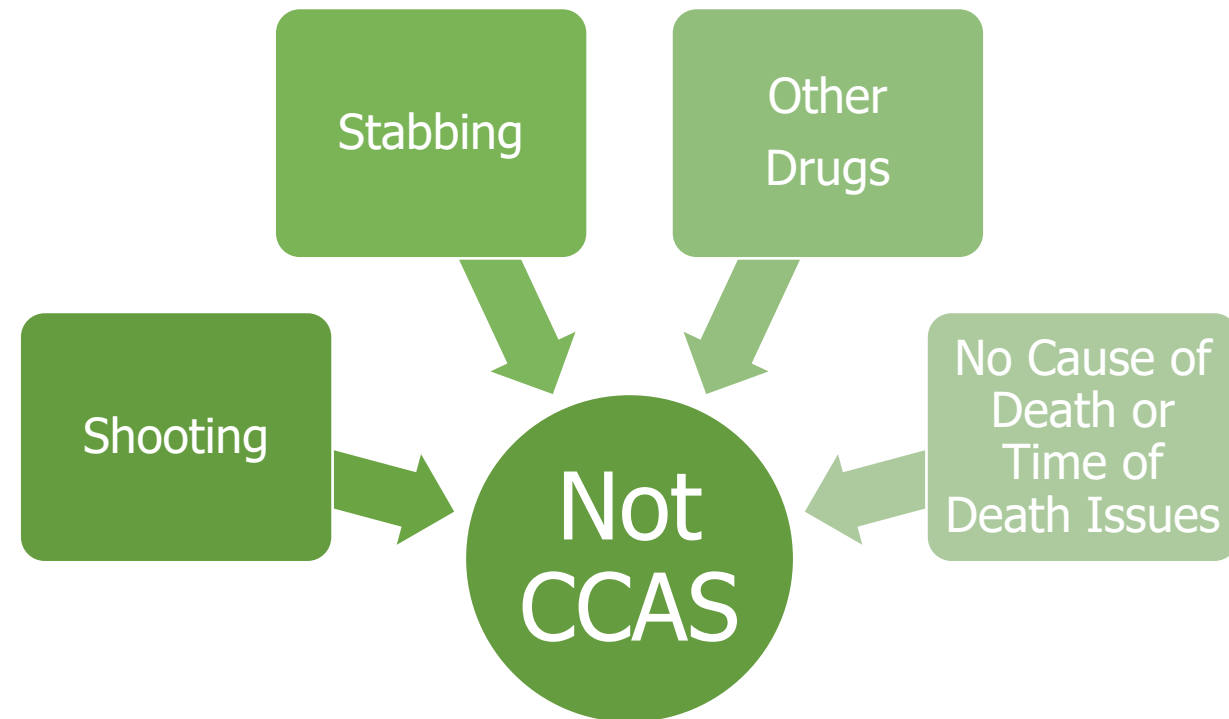
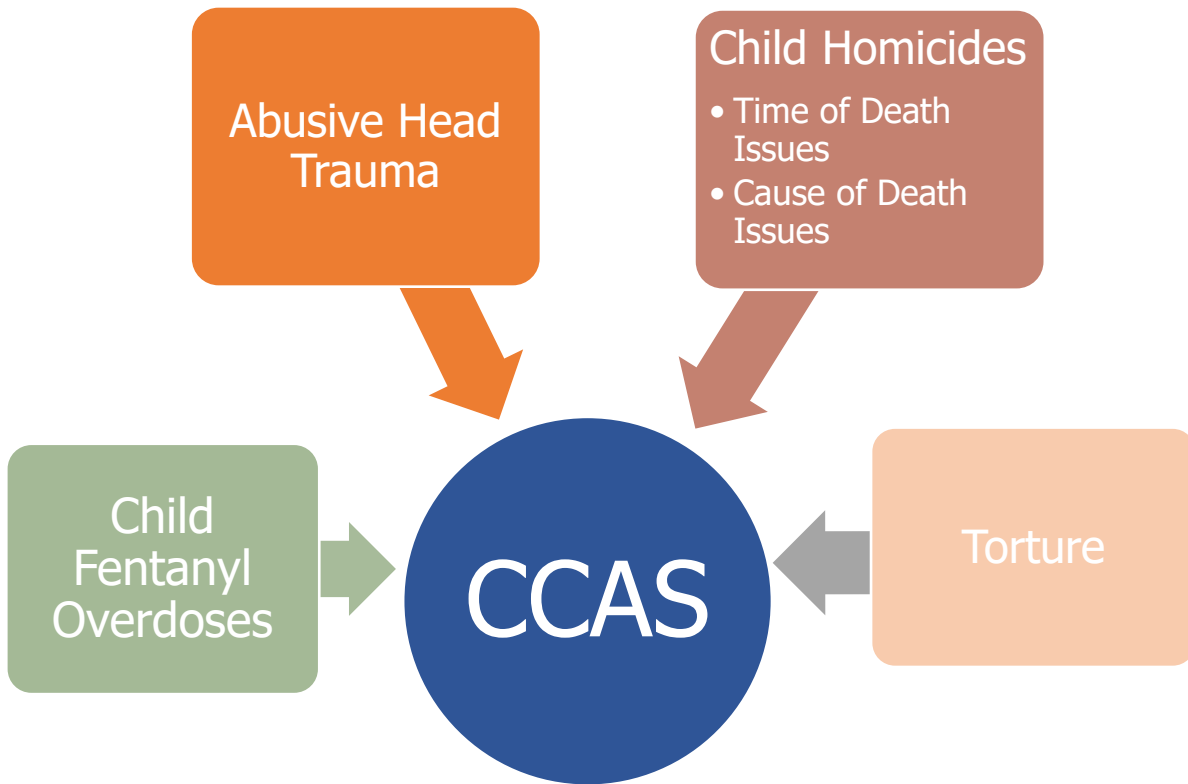
Entire County

State of California Department of Justice - OpenJustice

Domestic Violence-Related Calls for Assistance Counties: Los Angeles County. Years: 2015 - 2024. 1 Penal Code section 13730 does not require that the type of weapon involved in a domestic violence-related call be reported.2 Hands, feet, etc.3 Data for cases with strangulation or suffocation are not available prior to 2018.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
TOTAL CALLS	41,534	42,148	42,702	38,190	36,707	35,498	36,947	37,614	37,816	36,720
Weapon Involved ¹	27,456	27,955	28,167	29,428	28,715	27,711	28,567	30,010	31,951	22,858
Firearm	323	391	369	381	379	515	938	695	684	611
Knife or Cutting Instrument	1,022	1,139	1,081	1,060	1,049	1,092	1,040	1,066	1,071	1,030
Other Dangerous Weapon	3,243	3,439	3,579	3,461	3,202	3,041	3,321	3,546	3,786	3,613
Personal Weapon ²	22,868	22,986	23,138	24,526	24,085	23,063	23,268	24,703	26,410	17,604
Not Reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Strangulation and Suffocation ³	0	0	0	2,402	2,773	2,541	2,817	2,651	2,797	3,128
Cases with Strangulation	0	0	0	2,348	2,642	2,450	2,685	2,550	2,717	2,666
Cases with Suffocation	0	0	0	54	131	91	132	114	163	462

COMPLEX CHILD ABUSE SECTION





ELECTRONIC SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT SYSTEM

County of Los Angeles



jjohnson@da.lacounty.gov

LOG IN

Auditing & Steering

Trainings (DDAs & LEAs)

Coffee with ESCARs

Letters to the Chiefs



ELECTRONIC SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT SYSTEM



eSCARS Dashboard

Date Range

September 26, 2025 - October 26, 2025

Organization

LEA

Agency

All LA County

Agency Status

28

Critical / Fatal

40

Unopened

+ 1 CPH Updated

417

Pending

79

LEA Generated

6

Forward Request Received

6

Forward Request Submitted

Rerouted S

5

Missing Inform

7

Deferred

Los Angeles County

ELECTRONIC – SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT SYSTEM (E-SCARS)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between County Departments and Operational Agreement (OA) with all independent city agencies is to establish defined policies and procedures for all participating agencies with Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (E-SCARS).

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). For example:

- experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect
- witnessing violence in the home or community
- having a family member attempt or die by suicide

Also included are aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding, such as growing up in a household with:

- substance use problems
- mental health problems
- instability due to parental separation or household members being in jail or prison



Domestic Violence is Coercive Control



- custody battles
- indoctrination
- neglect
- harm

Los Angeles County District Attorney's
Office
BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

with a special emphasis on

**CERTIFIED CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST &
MDT FORENSIC INTERVIEW/
CHILDRENS'S ADVOCACY CENTERS**


Jasmine Gaytan Victim Service Representative II
Representative II

Jgaytan@da.lacounty.gov
czamora@da.lacounty.gov

O: 213-257-2173
213-257-2172


Cecilia Zamora Victim Service

O:

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LADA BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

The Bureau of Victim Services (BVS) provides essential services to victims of crime that are mandated by the California Constitution, Penal Code and Government Code. BVS has been designated by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as the major provider of comprehensive services to victims and witnesses in Los Angeles County. (Penal Code 13835 and 13835.2).

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I. Direct Services

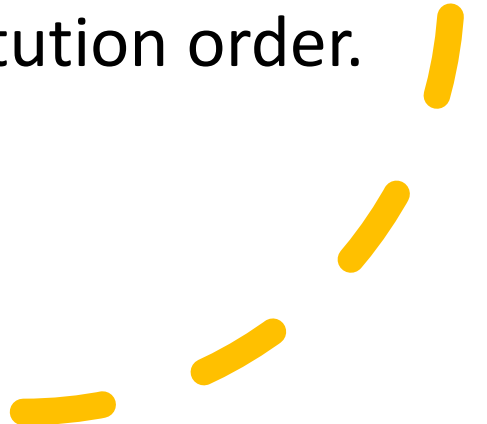
-51 Direct Service VSRs are in DA offices and police stations throughout LA County.

II. Claims' Verification Unit


-17 VSRs work in the Claims Verification Unit (CVU) assist victims pursuant to Government Code 13950 et seq. Our Claims' Service Representatives determine CalVCB eligibility and compensation amounts for victims based on statutory guidelines and limitations.

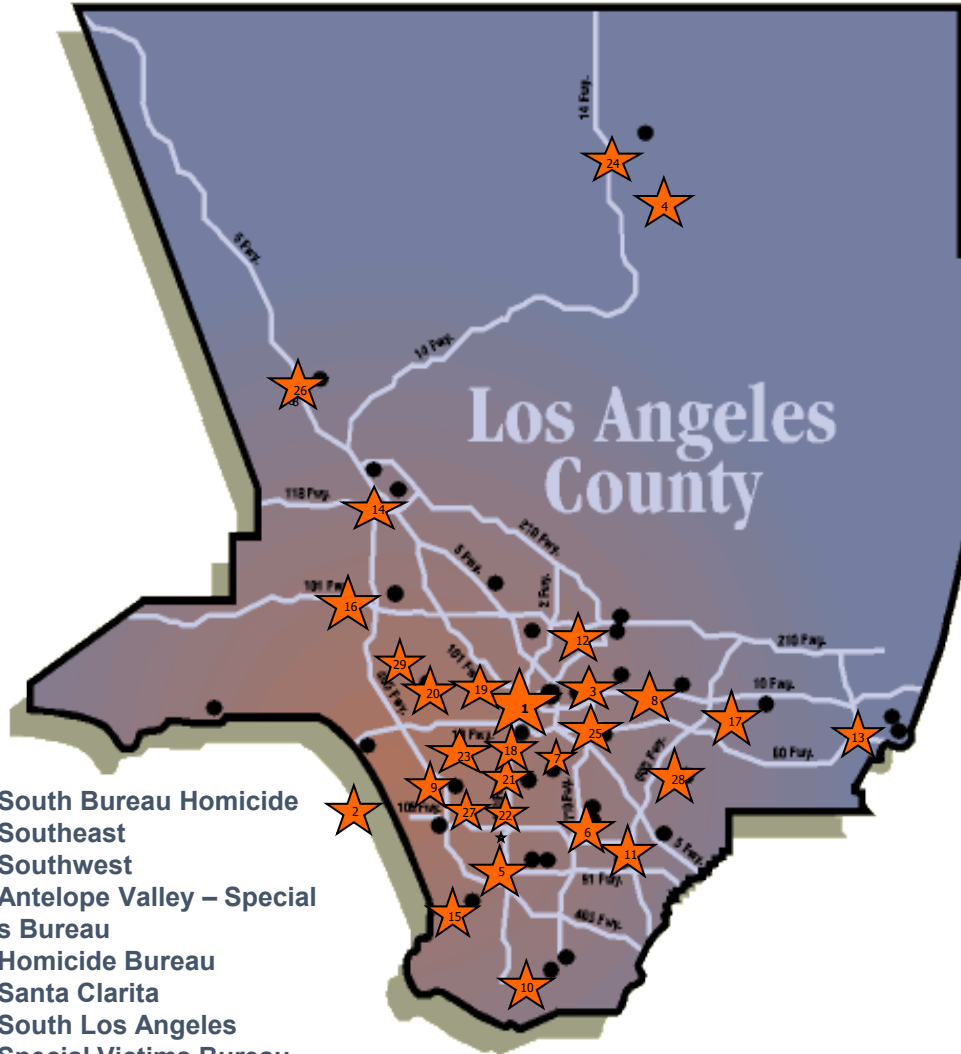
III. Restitution Enhancement Program

-Restitution paralegals assist victims in determining an amount for a restitution order.



Los Angeles District Attorney Victim Sites

- 1) **Criminal Justice Center/HOJ**
 - a) Central
 - b) Elder Abuse
 - c) Family Violence
 - d) Human Trafficking
 - e) Realignment Victim Services Program / Post-Conviction Proceedings
 - f) Sex Crimes
 - g) Community Violence Reduction
 - h) Victim Services K-9 Unit
 - i) Victims' Rights Assistance
 - 2) **Airport**
 - 3) **Alhambra**
 - 4) **Antelope Valley**
 - 5) **Compton**
 - a) Community Violence Reduction
 - 6) **Downey - Victims' Rights Assistance**
 - 7) **East Los Angeles Juvenile**
 - 8) **El Monte**
 - 9) **Inglewood**
 - 10) **Long Beach**
 - a) Elder Abuse
 - b) Juvenile Advocacy Services
 - 11) **Norwalk**
 - 12) **Pasadena**
 - 13) **Pomona**
 - 14) **San Fernando**
 - 15) **Torrance**
 - 16) **Van Nuys**
 - 17) **West Covina**
 - a) Victims' Rights Assistance
 - 18) **LAPD Central**
 - 19) **LAPD Hollywood**
 - 20) **LAPD Rampart**
 - 21) **LAPD South Bureau Homicide**
 - 22) **LAPD Southeast**
 - 23) **LAPD Southwest**
 - 24) **LASD Antelope Valley – Special Victims Bureau**
 - 25) **LASD Homicide Bureau**
 - 26) **LASD Santa Clarita**
 - 27) **LASD South Los Angeles**
 - 28) **LASD Special Victims Bureau**
 - 29) **LASD West Hollywood**
- 





“How can we assist a crime victim and their family?”

MANDATORY VICTIM SERVICES

Penal Code § 13835.5

- Crisis Intervention
- Emergency Assistance
- Resource & Referral Counseling
- Victim Compensation Assistance
- Return of Property
- Orientation to the Criminal Justice System
- Court Escort/Support
- Case Status/Disposition Information
- Restitution Assistance



OPTIONAL VICTIM SERVICES

Penal Code § 13835.5

- **Creditor/Employer Intervention**
- **Restitution Information & Referral**
- **Notification Court Calendar Changes**
- **Funeral Arrangement Assistance**
- **Temporary Restraining Order Information**
- **Witness Protection Assistance/Relocation**

VICTIM SERVICES (VS) K9 Unit



3 VSRs are dog handlers for our Facility Dogs Skippy, Lennox and Nora.

Assist children and other victims while they testify.

Penal Code Section 868.4 allows facility and therapy dogs to assist crime victims while they testify in the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency process.

Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS)

- The Bureau of Victim Services would like to make sure every child who survives fatal family violence is cared for given the trauma they've experienced.
- CCLS provide Grief-Trauma Informed Services for minor victims/witnesses. This includes making home visits and attempting to meet the child and family where they are at in their trauma and in the comforts and safety of their home.

In the event a Certified Child Life Specialist is needed for grief counseling. Please contact Certified Child Life Specialist,

- Linda Garcia lgarcia1952@att.net
- 818-406-3723

Certified Child Life Specialists

Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS) who are certified by the Association of Child Life Professionals, operate under the supervision of a licensed mental health provider. They qualify as mental health treatment providers and are eligible for reimbursement from the California Victims of Crime Program. - Assembly Bill 1187 (2023)



"Here is what we know about the future, it is a result of what we do today."

-Anonymous



Bureau of Victim Services
Admin (800) 380-3811

Family Violence Division
(213) 257-2185



Trauma & Grief
Informed
Services for
Child & Teen
Survivors of
Fatal Family
Violence

Who Can Receive Services?

Victims/Witnesses

Children, teens, and young adults traumatized by fatal family violence, either as a victim or witness.

Non-Witnesses

Children, Teens, and Young adults not present during a fatal or violent family crime but are negatively affected.



The Impact of Childhood Trauma

- Research shows early trauma negatively affects brain development, cognition, behavior, mental health, relationships, emotions, and physical health. (Barlett & Steber, 2019)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) is a tool to assess and define negative events of childhood which have been shown to result in higher incidences of concerns related to health, mental health, and the legal system.
- According to The National Child Traumatic Stress Network, children continually exposed to traumatic events are more likely to develop traumatic stress reactions.
- Providing support and age-appropriate explanations about death and traumatic loss can facilitate understanding, provide hope, and develop resilience.
- Grief support can help emotional healing and restoration leading to healthy lives for generations to come.



How Child Life Specialists Help Children and Teens

Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLS) provide specialized trauma and grief support based on Child Development theories. CCLS are Grief-bereavement trained, providing family support, trauma/grief counseling and medical expertise in addition to:

- Home visiting sessions
- Private setting sessions
- Coping and expressive interventions
- Accompanying and supporting child or family to related environments (foster placement, court, funeral, jail, etc.)
- Providing support to legal guardians
- Acting as family's liaison for school and community

Forensic Interview/ Children's Advocacy Centers

The first Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) started in Huntsville, Alabama in 1985 in response to child **sexual** abuse.

Now over 1000 CACs operating in the United States and in more than 34 countries throughout the world.

The CAC Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) includes law enforcement, prosecution, child protection, advocates, medical (SART), and mental health as one coordinated team.

Goal to minimize trauma and lead to more effective and thorough investigations

Penal Code Section §11166.4

- Each county *may* use a CAC to implement a coordinated multidisciplinary response to investigate child abuse.
- A CAC shall meet the following standards (largely follows NCA's accreditation standards):
 - (1) Multidisciplinary Team
 - (2) Cultural Competency and Diversity
 - (3) Organizational Capacity
 - (4) Child-focused setting
 - (5) Written protocols for case review and a case tracking system.
 - (6) Medical professional must have specific training in child abuse or child sexual abuse examinations.
 - (7) Mental Health must be trained in/deliver trauma-focused, evidence-supported mental health treatments.
 - (8) Forensic Interviews conducted in forensically sound manner. Interviews confidential and not public records.
 - (9) All recordings released only in response to court order.**Court shall issue protective order.**

National Children's Alliance

- The National Children's Alliance sets accreditation standards for CACs:
- - Multidisciplinary Team
 - Cultural Competency and Diversity
 - Forensic Interviews – trained in best practices and conduct peer review
 - Victim Support and Advocacy
 - Medical Evaluation
 - Mental Health
 - Monthly Case Review
 - Case Tracking
 - Organizational Capacity
 - Child Focused Setting



**National
Children's
Alliance®**

*The Force Behind
Children's Advocacy Centers*

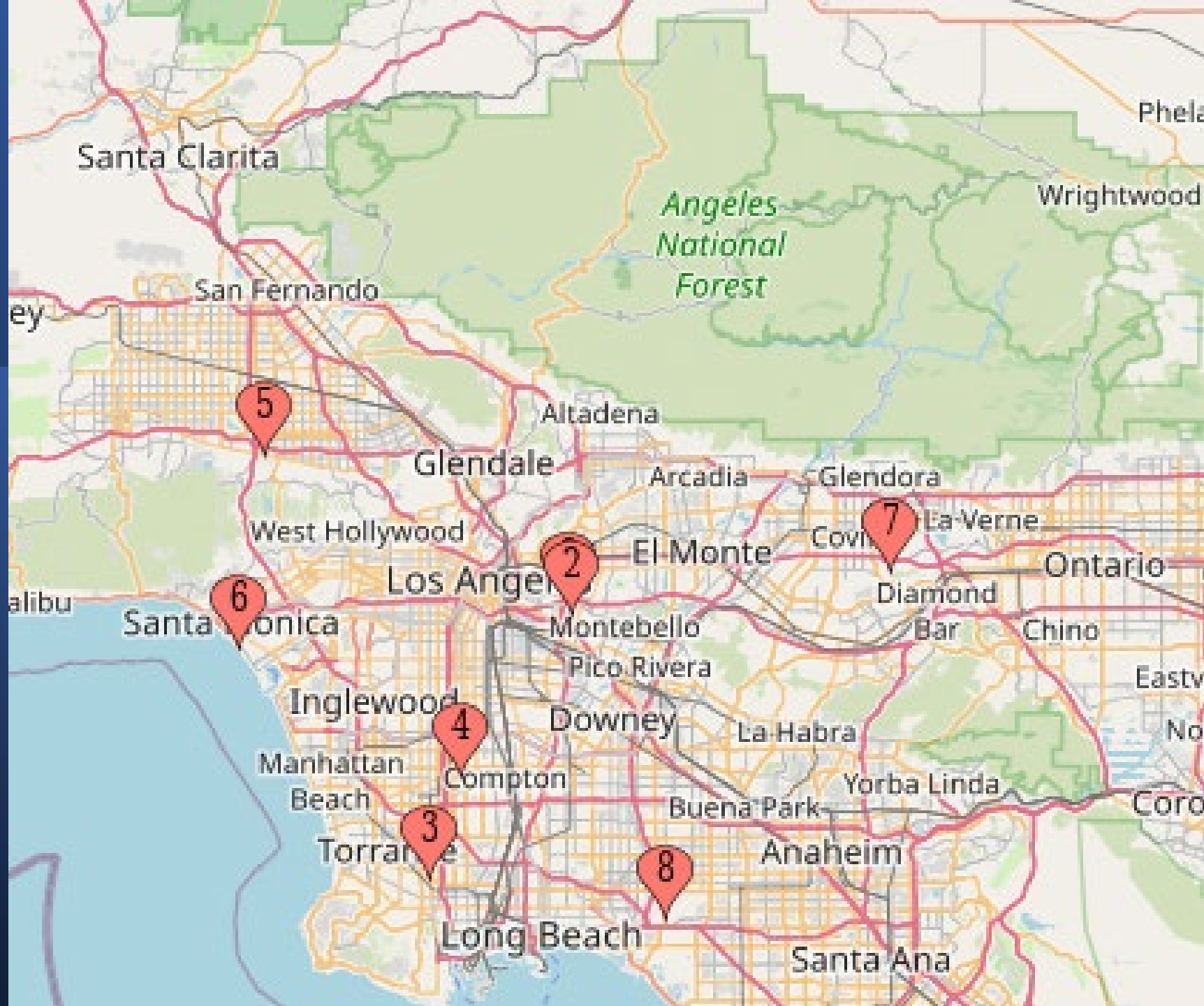
Los Angeles Forensic Interview Centers “The Collaborative”

- Since 2019, all Centers meet regularly, coordinate services and collaborate efforts to benefit all children in Los Angeles County.
- Some Centers function as a multidisciplinary team (MDT) of law enforcement, DCFS, and LADA
- Some are CACs accredited by the National Children’s Alliance.
- Four are hospital based, two are non-profits and one is university based.
- Some provide forensic interviews for children who have been sexually abused; some for children who have been physically and/or sexually abused; and some provide interviews of children who have witnessed acts of violence.
- Some also provide interviews of adults with developmental disabilities.
- LADA is part of the MDT for each center
- Any MDT members may use any Center.

7 Child Forensic Interview Centers (9 locations) in Los Angeles County

1. **Inner Circle Children's Advocacy Center** 1216 W. Ave. J, Suite 500, Lancaster, CA 93534
2. **Inner Circle Children's Advocacy Center** 1000 Corporate Center Drive, Ste. 308, Monterey Park, CA 91754
3. **Los Angeles County Harbor – UCLA Medical Center Kids HUB Clinic**, 21840 Normandie Avenue, Torrance, CA 90502
4. **Martin Luther King, Jr. Pediatric Hub CAC** 1721 East 120th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90059
5. **Strength United Family Justice Center/Center for Assault Treatment Services (CATS)** 14651 Oxnard Street, Van Nuys, CA 91411
6. **Stuart House Rape Treatment Center Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center** 1317 15th Street, Santa Monica, California 90404
7. **The Children's Advocacy Center for Child Abuse Assessment and Treatment** 1650 E. Old Badillo St. #C3, Covina, CA 91724
8. **The Children's Advocacy Center for Child Abuse Assessment and Treatment** 10413 Los Alamitos Blvd., Los Alamitos CA 90270
9. **USC Gould School of Law Child Interviewing Lab** Edelman's Children's Court, 201 Centre Plaza Drive, Monterey Park, CA 91754 (behind #2 on map)

Map of all Centers in Los Angeles County



Victim-Centered Approach

Collaboration with local community resources, law enforcement agencies, certified child life specialists, and child advocacy centers to help “victims become survivors.”

Kathy Cady

Director, Bureau of Victim Services

kcady@da.lacounty.gov

Questions?



FVD CHALLENGE COIN