



Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention

Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention Policy Deputies Meeting

February 20, 2025





Federal Updates



Partnerships for Prevention



Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee



OVP Prevention Framework

Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

Is Comprehensive:
includes prevention,
intervention and
healing strategies

Reduces Risk Factors
and Increases
Protective Factors

Focuses on Population
Health, not just
Individuals

Uses the Socio-
Ecological Model to
address violence at
multiple levels

Is Data-Driven: to
understand the
circumstances of
violence and to
evaluate strategies

Facilitates Multi-Sector
Collaboration and
Coordination

Engages those most impacted, survivors or perpetrators, in
developing and implementing solutions

Social Determinants of Health (Root Causes)

Growing Communities: Social Determinants, Behavior and Health

Our environments cultivate our communities and our communities nurture our health.

When inequities are high and community assets are low, health outcomes are worst.

When inequities are low and community assets are high, health outcomes are better.



Prevention Framework

Prevention/Social change is a long-term process that requires change at the individual, family, community and societal levels to prevent violence before it occurs.

Prevention is not:

- A one-time program or event
- One skill-building session
- One Protocol

Prevention is:

- An ongoing process, requiring leadership and commitment.
- Integrated into community infrastructure.
- Integrated into county systems of care.



OVP Prevention Strategies

GBV Budget FY 24-25

Budget Item	Amount
Personnel (APS PHN + HPA II)	\$445,000
Operating Expenses	\$87,815
Contracted Services:	\$2,055,000
Healthy Relationships Training and Education	\$1,000,000
Community Based Solutions to Engage Men & Boys	\$350,000
Innovative Programs to Engage LGBTQ+ Youth Peers	\$500,000
Economic Empowerment for Girls	\$205,000
Indirect Cost	\$107,184
Total:	\$2,695,000

Healthy Relationships Education & Training:

- When we teach teens skills for healthy relationships, we create safer, healthier communities for everyone.
- Positive, healthy, and safe teen dating and peer relationships have many benefits for youth and communities, such as:
 - Improved school performance.
 - Reduced antisocial and unhealthy behaviors, such as drug and alcohol use.
 - Positive self-image and leadership skills.
 - Improved interpersonal skills, communication and negotiation skills, and empathy.

Engaging Men and Boys

- Acknowledges men's unique opportunity to end men's violence against women and the collective responsibility to do so.
- Invests in safe spaces/healing circles where men can come together to process life issues, sexual trauma, childhood trauma, and discover tools for healing and stress relief.
- Invests in programs that focus on building, strengthening and maintaining positive and healthy relationships between fathers and their children, partners, families and community.

Programs to Engage LGBTQ+ Youth

- Fills a gap in critical services by focusing a lens on our LGBTQ+ communities and young people. By centering the experiences and perspectives of our LGBTQ+ youth, we can increase access to services, and advance stronger, more resilient communities where everyone can live free from harm.
- At a time when the LGBTQ+ community is being targeted, these efforts can help to support the County's efforts to promote inclusivity and build trust in public services and programs.

Economic Empowerment for Women & Girls

- This investment is essential to achieving women's rights and gender equality.
- Women's economic empowerment means ensuring women can equally participate in and benefit from decent work and social protection; access markets and have control over resources, their own time, lives, and bodies; and increased voice, agency, and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels from the household to local, national and international institutions.

Partnerships for Prevention

1. OVP will continue to expand partnerships for GBV prevention with county and community partners.
2. Engage with others to collectively envision and align on a desired future state.
3. Develop comprehensive strategies, identify priorities, and take specific actions to achieve the future state.
4. Focus resources on high need populations and communities to shift current state.



Teen Dating Violence Month

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



UNDERSTANDING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

Teen dating violence, also known as adolescent relationship abuse, is a pattern of behavior where one person uses intimidation, threats of or actual physical, emotional or sexual violence to maintain power and control over their partner. Research shows that during 2021, 13.6% of U.S. high school students who had dated during the past year reported experiencing physical and/or sexual dating violence.

RECOGNIZING WARNING SIGNS

- Extreme jealousy
- Controlling or possessive behavior
- Quick involvement
- Unrealistic expectations and dependencies
- Isolation
- Blaming
- Hypersensitivity
- Cruelty to animals
- "Play" fighting
- History of violence
- Threats
- Breaking or throwing objects
- Any force during an argument
- Any physical harm
- Pressuring to have sex
- Abrupt, explosive outbursts, temper, or mood changes

SUPPORTING YOUTH: BEST PRACTICES FOR ADULTS

Guidelines for Conversations | Check your own biases and assumptions. It's important to acknowledge our own biases when working with youth regarding teen dating violence. What are our experiences with interpersonal violence? What stake do we hold in traditional gender roles? How do we feel about youth/youth relationships based on our adult assumptions?

- Understand your limits and comfort level.
- Clearly explain confidentiality and reporting requirements.
- Affirm that our roles as adults require us to place safety as our number one priority.
- Talk to youth about skill-building and building support systems.
- Validate experiences and feelings.
- Address issues of self-blame.

Because of the modeling that often takes place in the home, media and in the broader culture, a critical part of intervention with youth is deconstructing unhealthy behavior patterns and gender norms.

UNDERSTANDING CONSENT

Healthy consent means respecting boundaries and never making assumptions. Consent should be clear, enthusiastic, and freely given.

Green Flags that indicate your partner respects your consent include:

- "Is this okay?"
- "Do you want to slow down?"

Red Flags that suggest your partner is not respecting your consent:

- Pressure to do unwanted activities.
- Claims of "owing" due to gifts or previous actions

- February Newsletter highlighted TDVAM including handout on teen dating violence and resources.
- Information is posted on OVP website.
- Distributing handout at health education events and resource fairs countywide.



Update: Landscape Analysis

GBV Landscape Analysis

As of 2/19/25 OVP has responses from the following 8 departments:

- Arts and Culture
 - Animal Care and Control
 - DHS
 - DMH
 - DPSS
 - DCFS
 - Human Relations Commission
 - Regional Planning
- Staff will begin phone follow-up with these departments as well as DYD, JCOD, Military and Veteran Affairs, Libraries, Parks and Recreation, Probation and DA beginning 02.24.25 through mid-March. A preliminary report should be available to share in April.



Update: Grant Funding

GBV Prevention Grants

- The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved Supervisors Mitchell and Horvath's [motion](#) for an initial allocation of \$2.2 million from the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention to pilot gender-based violence (GBV) prevention services.
- TPA contract being drafted and prevention strategies scopes of work are being updated with input.
- **Funding Timeline:**
 - February 2025: Board Motion
 - April 2025: Contract with TPA
 - May/June 2025: Grant Awards to CBOs



Update: Staffing

GBV Staffing

- During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Final Changes budget phase, the Board approved 1.0 Staff Analyst and 1.0 Assistant Program Specialist, Public Health Nurse to begin coordination of activities and development of workplan.
- OVP identified a candidate end of January 2025 and submitted the information to HR for processing.



Andrea Welsing, MPH, OVP Director

Email: awelsing@ph.lacounty.gov

**For more information about OVP,
please visit:**

**<http://ph.lacounty.gov/ovp/> or
scan the QR code**

Phone: 626.293.2610

Email: ovp@ph.lacounty.gov

