

Preventing Intimate Partner Violence for Child and Family Well-Being

Dr. Tamara N. Hunter

Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee

Mandated Supporting Initiative

About the PPSGC

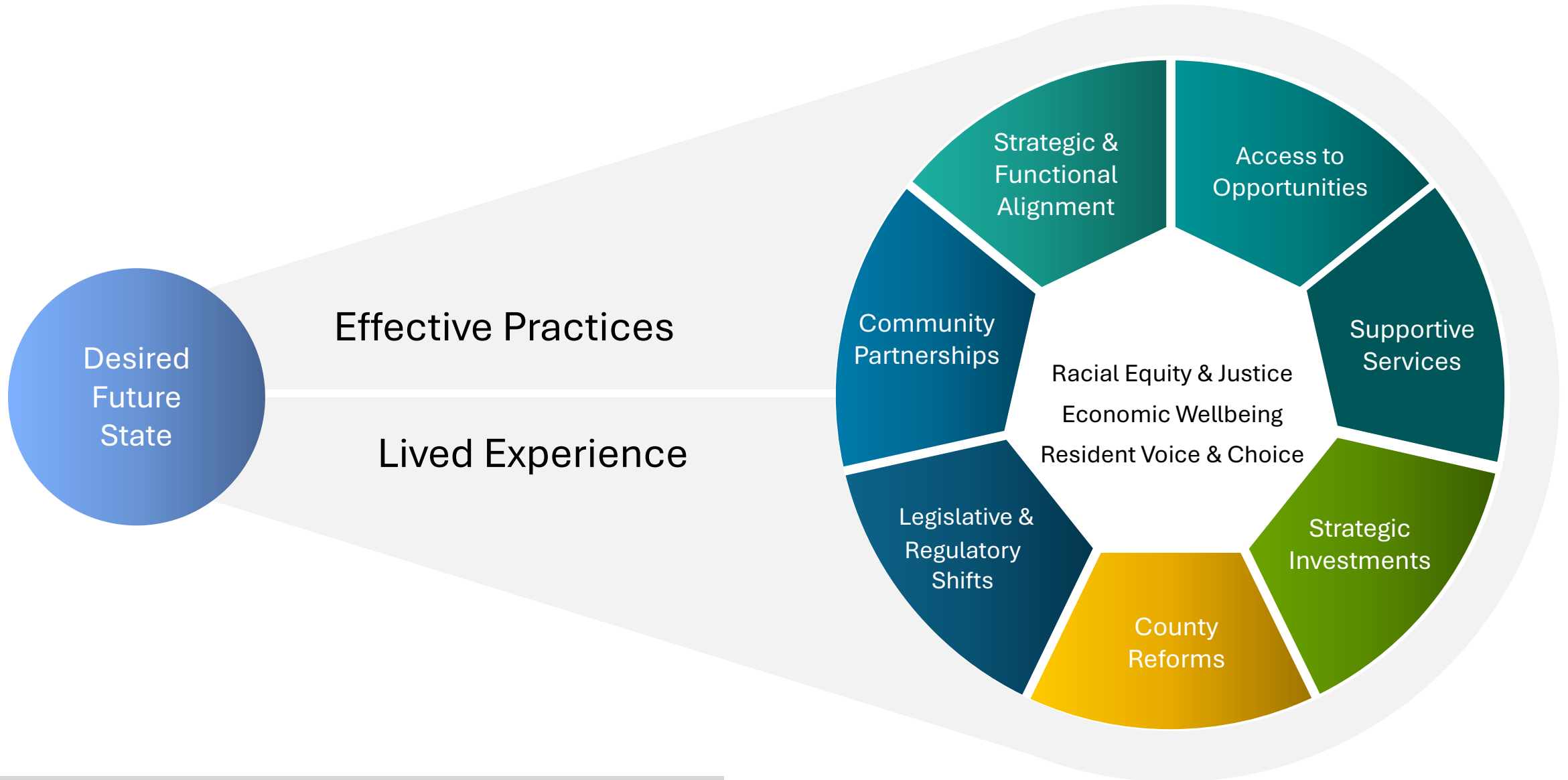
On July 25, 2023, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors created the PPSGC to improve collaboration, coordination, and strategic investments into the resources, infrastructure, and opportunities that **prevent negative outcomes** *and* **promote positive outcomes that help residents thrive.**

The PPSGC's domains of focus are Child Welfare and Family Well-Being, Behavioral Health, and Homelessness and Housing.



Preventing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among families with young children and mandated reporting reform are areas of focus in our Child Welfare and Family Well-Being Domain.

PPSGC Approach





Reactive by design.

Not proven to prevent child abuse and neglect.



Disrupts trust.

Creates a chilling effect on help-seeking, which increases risk.



Driver of racial disproportionality in the child welfare system.

Manifestation of the criminalization of poverty.



System pits best interests of mandated reporters and their organizations *against* the families we serve



Mandated Reporters feel – and are – inadequately prepared and supported.

Most of their allegations are not substantiated.



Reporting decisions often influenced by factors that are distinct from child safety concerns.

Results in overreporting and underreporting.

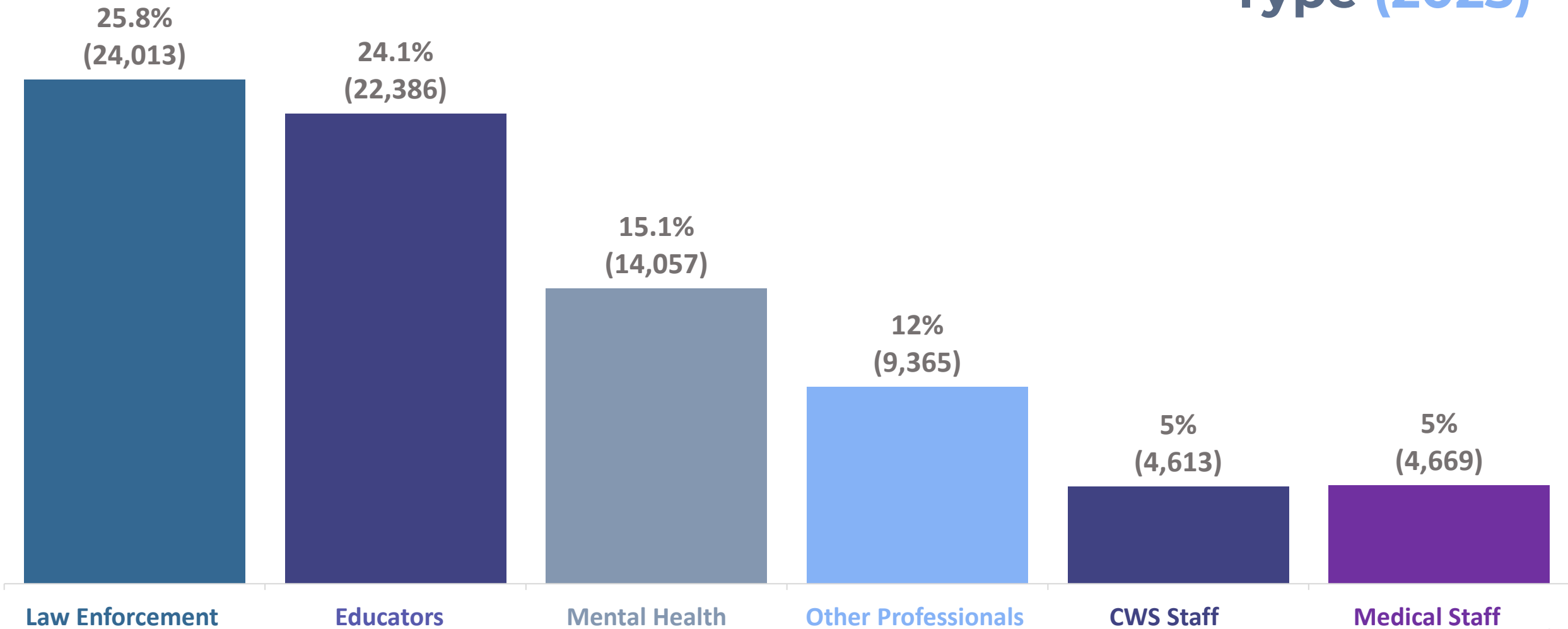
Chilling Effect on Help Seeking

Society's approach to IPV within families is harmful to children and families

- Disrupts trust in institutions that should be sources of aid and support, including IPV-focused organizations
 - › Supported by numerous studies on help seeking and domestic violence
- 2020 national study of 2,462 survivors found that:
 - › 35% of respondents did not ask for help from at least one person because of mandatory reporting laws
 - › Fear of having children removed and placed in foster care was the 2nd most common fear
 - › Involvement with the child protective services system was associated with negative consequences, including survivors being charged with “failure to protect”



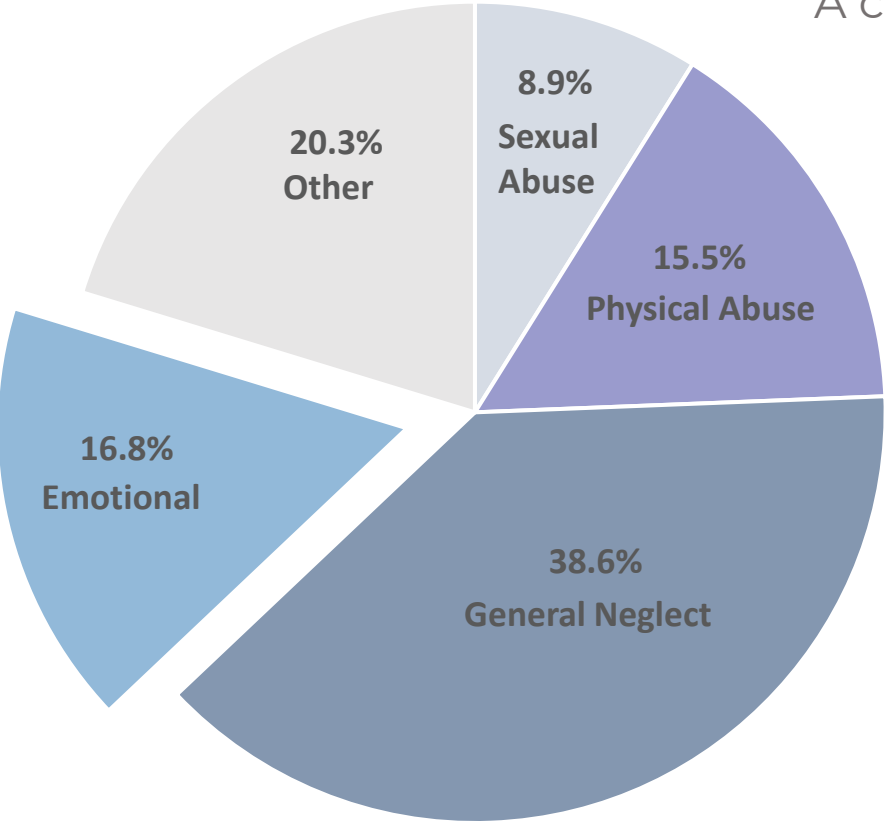
Los Angeles County Allegations by Reporter Type (2023)



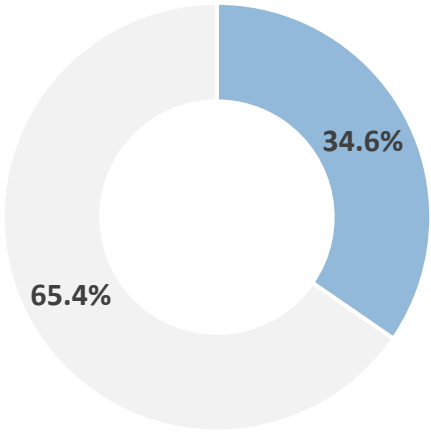
Los Angeles County Emotional Abuse Allegations (2023)

A child's exposure to IPV is reported as Emotional Abuse

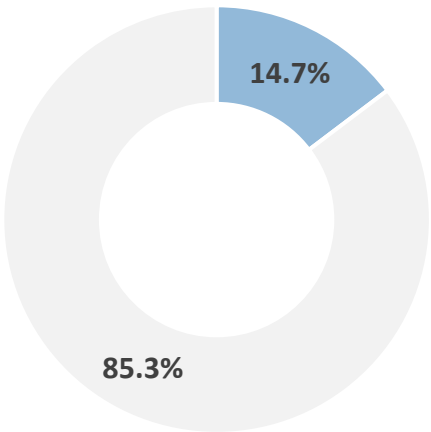
A child's injury or risk of injury due to IPV is reported as Physical Abuse



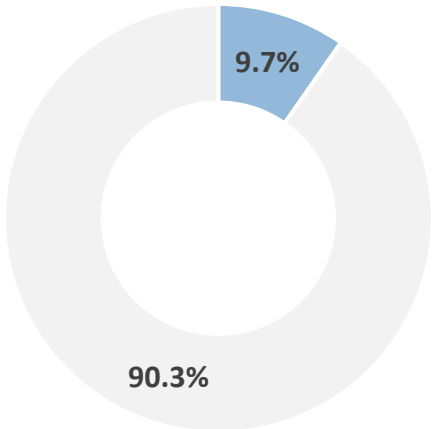
Emotional Abuse Allegations



Law Enforcement



Mental Health Providers



Educators

Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Among Families with Young Children **Convening**

Half-day convening in Spring 2025

- Use data to further unpack intersection of mandated reporting and IPV
 - › Type of IPV reported
 - › Reported/observed impacts on the child
 - › Reported/observed protective factors
- “Meaning making” of findings

Pivot to upstream prevention, with focus on families with young children

- Co-create a desired future state for family-centered IPV prevention in LA County
 - › Policy and practice shifts within our locus of control



Next Steps

- Reform of mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect is ongoing
 - › LA County Mandated Reporter Training and Mandated Reporter Decision Support Tool/Decision Tree are under development
- Community Pathway 2.0 Collaborative aims to build and further bolster the type of child and family well-being prevention and promotion eco-system that can address root causes of IPV
- OVP's landscape analysis will be tremendously beneficial in informing strategic next steps as a County
- Areas of Interest
 - › Targeted interventions for at-risk young families
 - › Targeted interventions for youth and young adults who witnessed IPV in their homes to disrupt the generational cycle
 - › Shifting law enforcement approach through a multi-disciplinary approach, inclusive of IPV experts
 - › Adequately funding non-profits doing transformational work



on the horizon