

TRAUMA PREVENTION INITIATIVE



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) partners with community residents and stakeholders to implement the Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) to reduce violence-related injuries and deaths. Launched in 2015, TPI aligns County services and initiatives to build a comprehensive, place-based approach through innovative programs, policies, and partnerships.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AND PROMOTE HEALING IN SOUTH LOS ANGELES

Violence impacts individuals and communities in many ways, whether they directly experience or witness a single violent incident or many throughout their lives. Forms of violence are often interrelated within communities, individual experiences, and between generations, causing lasting trauma. Childhood exposure to violence can impact brain development and result in chronic traumatic stress. Victims of violence are often revictimized or become perpetrators later in life.

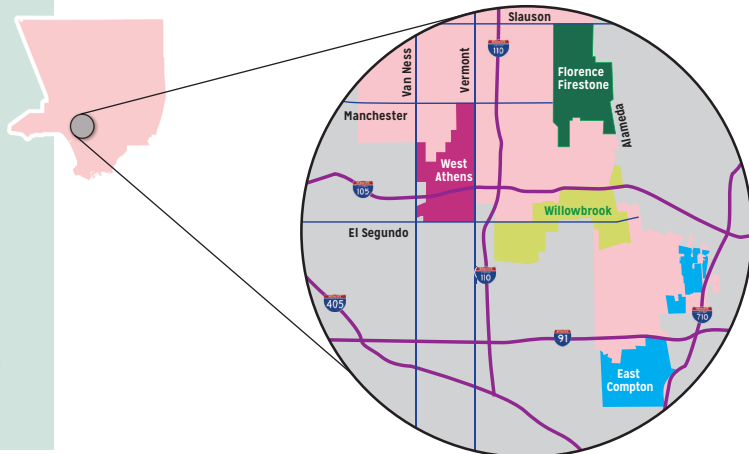
In LA County, homicide rates have declined overall, but youth and young adults, Latinos and African American males, and certain communities continue to be disproportionately impacted by violence. Many of these communities are also disproportionately affected by other health and social issues.

EXPOSURE TO ONGOING VIOLENCE:

- Prevents safe access outside and in between neighborhoods to shop, play, worship or to travel to schools or parks
- Keeps people isolated and breaks down social networks
- Associates with risk-taking behaviors such as substance use
- Inflicts physiological and psychological stress, resulting in a higher risk for chronic disease
- Is a symptom of disinvestment in communities with limited services, fewer parks and public spaces, and lack of economic investment

VIOLENCE CAN TAKE MANY FORMS:

- child abuse and neglect
- sexual assault
- intimate partner violence
- bullying
- suicidal ideation
- gang violence
- youth violence
- hate crime
- human trafficking
- elder abuse



Violence is preventable. Multisector collaboration is required to address root causes and symptoms of violence. Intervention strategies that address the immediacy of violence are critical to enable prevention strategies to take root. Through a public health approach, TPI is building a model through community empowerment and systems change that includes intervention, capacity building, and prevention strategies.

TPI is working in four unincorporated communities with the highest disparities in violence and other health and social indicators: **Westmont West Athens, Willowbrook, Florence Firestone, and Unincorporated Compton.** Other communities across the County can adopt the TPI model and tailor it to their local needs.



INTERVENTION

HOSPITAL BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION (HBVI)

Culturally competent case managers provide 24/7 response to victims of violence at St. Francis Medical Center and Harbor UCLA Medical Center during a teachable moment in the hospital setting. In the months following a patient's release, they engage, assess, and link individuals to services such as education, counseling, employment, and victim services. Protocols for these services are being developed to expand the model to other hospitals.

STREET OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION SERVICES

Community intervention workers and ambassadors in the four TPI communities mediate conflicts, control rumors, stop retaliatory violence, ensure safe passages to and from schools and parks, promote peace in the community, and link youth and adults to social services, health services, and mental-health services.



CAPACITY BUILDING

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

Pilot program's team of consultants provides community workshops and one-on-one consultations to support grassroots organizations with violence prevention and intervention programs. Trainings take a trauma-informed approach to capacity building and cover resource development; non-profit infrastructure; data and evaluation; community engagement; and marketing.

PEER TO PEER (P2P) VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEARNING ACADEMY

P2P will develop infrastructure to support peer specialists such as promotoras, peer advocates, and community health and intervention workers. P2P will pilot a curriculum to cross-train peer specialists in healing, self-care, trauma-informed practice, and connections between forms of violence. Peer-system navigation teams will be established in TPI communities to improve access to services and build career pathways.

PREVENTION

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED STRATEGIES

Community stakeholders prioritize strategies that build leadership capacity and promote dialogue and healing. Examples include: group facilitation training, healing informed arts instruction and community storytelling in partnership with LA County Arts Commission, peace-building activities, and mediation and implicit bias training in partnership with LA County Commission on Human Relations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

Community engagement in TPI communities builds local leadership, promotes positive identity, and develops priorities to guide violence prevention work through Community Action for Peace groups, community events and summits. Community engagement also provides avenues for other departments and initiatives to get involved in the communities.



SYSTEMS CHANGE

- Develop innovative programs
- Align resources and initiative
- Invest in peer approaches
- Promote equitable policy
- Focus on prevention



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

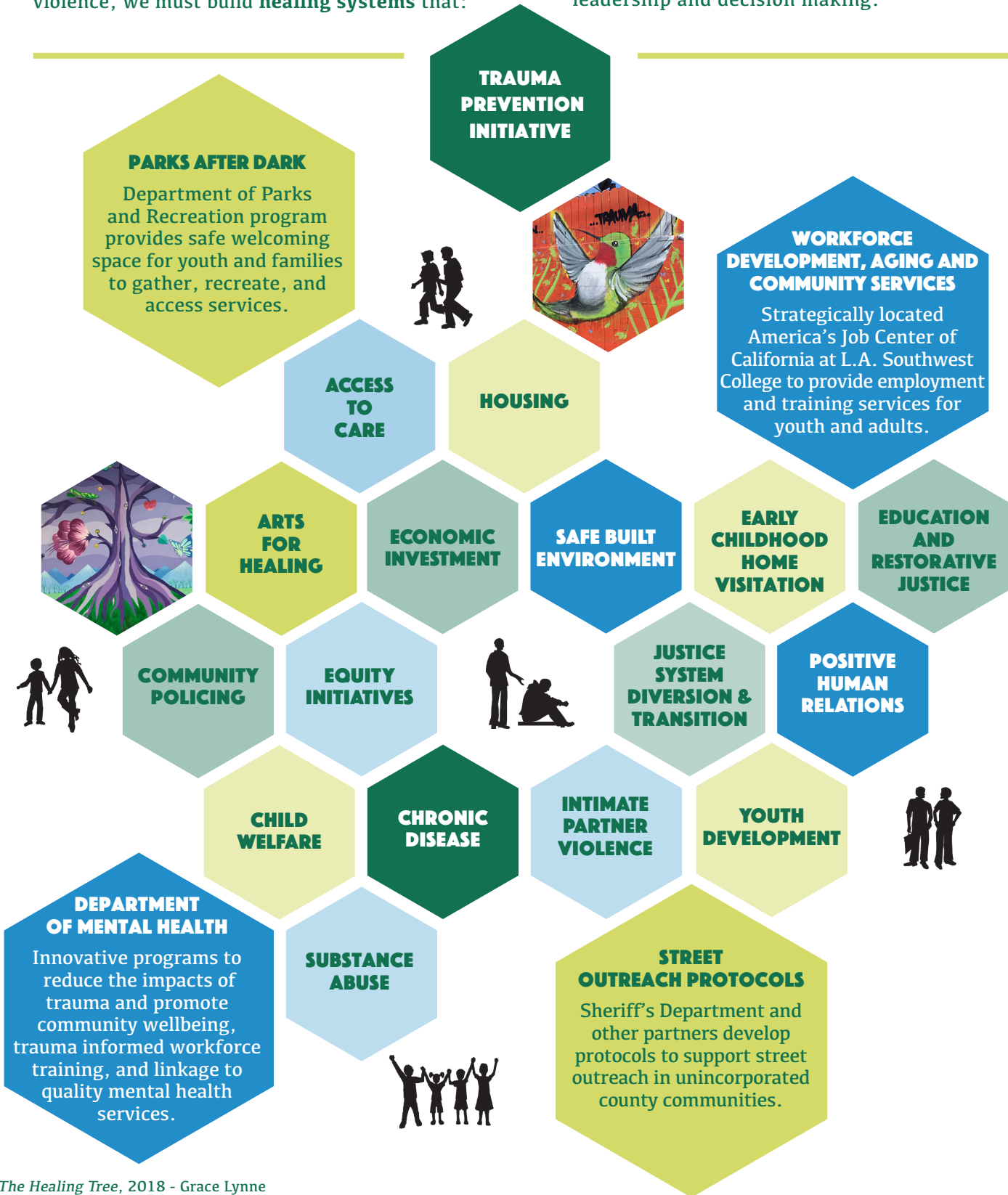
- Empower disenfranchised communities
- Shared decision making
- Leverage community strengths
- Reflect community goals and priorities

PUTTING PIECES TOGETHER FOR A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

TPI is one piece of the puzzle and is actively forging connections with community partners and LA County initiatives to strengthen community assets, reduce violence and trauma, and promote healing.

To address the root causes and symptoms of violence, we must build **healing systems** that:

- Acknowledge trauma and promote healing.
- Support cultural norms that facilitate healthy relationships and dialogue.
- Are equitable and well-coordinated in response to individual and community needs.
- Empower community members, build local leadership and decision making.



CONNECT WITH TPI

- Access data on the impact of violence in Los Angeles County.
- Learn more about core TPI strategies and progress.
- Find out how TPI can support your work.
- Connect with a local Community Action for Peace group or another violence prevention coalition.
- Participate in the TPI Advisory Committee.

TPI provides a framework for other organizations and initiatives to meet their goals by aligning resources in high-need communities.

Learn more at publichealth.lacounty.gov/ivpp/tpi or call (213) 351-1901.

Freedom Wings, 2018 - Bryant Mangum

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Thank you to the many community members, grassroots organizations, and city and county partners who have built a foundation of meaningful collaboration. **Thank you** to the communities of Westmont West Athens and Willowbrook for welcoming us and working hand in hand to develop community driven strategies to prevent violence. **Thank you** to our contracted agencies and the many grassroots organizations and nonprofits who work tirelessly to intervene and break the cycle of violence. **Thank you** to the City of Los Angeles Gang Reduction and Youth Development Office for their partnership and insights. **Thank you** to the Department of Public Health and the Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Administration and Communications teams for making this work possible behind the scenes.

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Design by Mary Sutton.

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