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.

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.

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 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.

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
**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
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.

**PUTTING PIECES TOGETHER FOR A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH**

**TRAUMA PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

**PARKS AFTER DARK**
Department of Parks and Recreation program provides safe welcoming space for youth and families to gather, recreate, and access services.

**EDUCATION AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITATION**

**SAFE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

**JUSTICE SYSTEM DIVERSION & TRANSITION**

**POSITIVE HUMAN RELATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**
Innovative programs to reduce the impacts of trauma and promote community wellbeing, trauma informed workforce training, and linkage to quality mental health services.

**STREET OUTREACH PROTOCOLS**
Sheriff’s Department and other partners develop protocols to support street outreach in unincorporated county communities.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**
Strategically located America’s Job Center of California at L.A. Southwest College to provide employment and training services for youth and adults.

**ACCESS TO CARE**

**HOUSING**

**COMMUNITY POLICING**

**EQUITY INITIATIVES**

**ECONOMIC INVESTMENT**

**ARTS FOR HEALING**

**CHRONIC DISEASE**

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The Healing Tree, 2018 - Grace Lynne
Hummingbird, 2018 - Bryant Mangum
The Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) is supported in part by Measure B (a county parcel tax funding trauma centers, emergency medical services, and bioterrorism response). DPH coordinates with the Department of Health Services (DHS), the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS), and many other county partners to implement TPI, with support from the Board of Supervisors. Trauma visits include severe injuries that are transported to hospitals with a trauma center designation, where individuals receive specialized care for violence related injuries, including shootings, stabbings, and blunt force.

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.

Thank you to the funders and thought partners that have helped us build innovative community engagement and systems change, including A Better LA, American Institutes for Research, California Community Foundation, Californians for Safety and Justice, California Wellness Foundation, First5LA, Hope and Heal Fund, Kaiser Permanente, LA Care, Prevention Institute, Urban Peace Institute, and Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles. Thank you to Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and his staff for supporting this work.

Design by Mary Sutton.