



# PUBLIC HEALTH IS WHERE YOU ARE!



## PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

April 4 - 8, 2022

### DAY 3: Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI): LA County Invests in Community Driven Public Safety

Mona Park  
2291 E 121st St,  
Compton, CA 90222

Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

#### Increase in Violence and Trauma in LA County

Los Angeles County has seen an increase in violence over the past two years. Homicides rose 41% and gun homicides rose 39% in Los Angeles County in 2020 compared to 2019. The number of homicides in the first quarter of 2021 (n=227) was 54% higher than the number of homicides in the first quarter of 2020, and 67% higher than in the first quarter of 2019. The effects of violence on the lives of individuals, families, and communities in the County are physically, socially, and emotionally devastating. They are also unequal. County data on violence related injuries and deaths makes it clear that people of color and people in communities that have borne the brunt of poverty, divestment, and racism are disproportionately impacted by violence. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing violence and trauma in many historically marginalized and oppressed communities.

#### The Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

DPH's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) is advancing policy, practice and system change that works to increase access to safety, health and healing services and resources to all individuals regardless of race or zip code. This is best achieved by centering the voices of those most impacted by violence, investing in peer approaches and grassroots organizations, and uplifting trauma prevention and healing for both survivors of violence and those who work to address violence. OVP aligns county and community partners to bring a healing-centered and equity lens to address multiple forms of violence.

The Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) is a priority of OVP's strategic plan and provides a comprehensive, place-based model for violence prevention and intervention that invests in community driven safety solutions, including peer outreach and community leadership. TPI was first implemented in South Los Angeles communities in 2016. On July 13th, 2021, the LA County Board of Supervisors

approved a motion to expand TPI to five new communities across the county and provide additional resources to South LA communities, including Westmont West Athens, Willowbrook, Florence Firestone, and unincorporated Compton. OVP partners with community members and stakeholders to adapt evidence-based violence prevention and intervention strategies to the unique needs of each community. TPI aligns with the national movement to invest in community-led public safety.

#### TPI in Action: Public Safety = Safe Community Hubs

On April 6th, 2022, OVP will bring together community leaders, intervention workers, and County partners to discuss increases in violence and share OVP's public health approach to address violence including the Countywide expansion of TPI which includes the following strategies:

- Establishing Community Action for Peace Networks to build leadership, identify community priorities, and promote peace.
- Street Outreach and Community Violence Intervention to respond to violent incidents and promote peace.
- Hospital Violence Intervention to engage victims of violence in the hospital setting.
- Hiring Peer Specialists with lived experience to support community engagement and intervention in each region.

TPI collaborates with partners to support safe community hubs like the DPH Wellness Communities and School-based Wellbeing Centers, Libraries, and Parks and Recreation.

#### Need for sustained local investment

LA County is transforming violence prevention and public safety to be survivor centered, focused on equity, healing-informed and community-driven. Sustained local investment is needed to advance equity and peace across LA County at a time when the social and economic crisis





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caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has strained an already frail safety net. Increasing housing costs, job insecurity, and social isolation of people who are grieving contribute to high stress levels across all communities. The communities hit hardest by COVID-19 are the same communities that are hit the hardest by violence. It is important at this time, to continue to invest in community members most impacted by violence to develop the solutions and align our work to build a stronger and deeper social safety net.

### Event Summary

Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI): LA County Invests in Community Driven Public Safety

The event will be a celebration of community partners where TPI began in South LA, the importance of meaningful partnerships with community leaders,

and investing in Peers approaches to promote peace and reduce retaliatory violence. County partners representing safe community hubs supporting this work will be in attendance and highlight the grassroots Parks Are Safe ones campaign.

In addition, we will be conducting interviews with OVP staff and county leadership, will discuss the impact of violence, the public health approach, LA County's investment in community-driven public safety via the Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI), and the need for institutionalized investment in LA County. Community and county partners will share why this work is important and how they collaborate to promote peace and well-being in communities.

