

LOS ANGELES COUNTY - OFFICE OF VOILENCE PREVENTION  
**TRAUMA PREVENTION INITIATIVE (TPI)**  
**IMPACT REPORT: 2020**

SOUTH LOS ANGELES

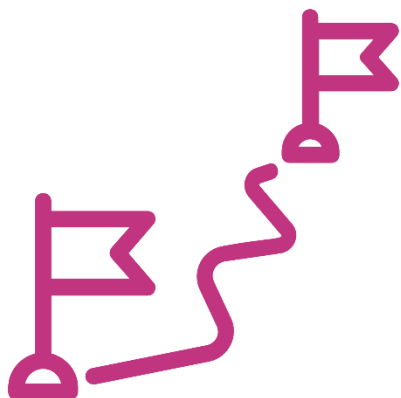


TPI is a comprehensive, place-based initiative that seeks to reduce community violence through innovative strategies and collaborations that empower communities and advance systems change. TPI was established in 2015 and began funding strategies in 2016 in unincorporated communities of South Los Angeles with the highest rates of violence including: **Westmont West Athens, Willowbrook, Florence Firestone** and **unincorporated Compton**. This report highlights TPI's impacts in 2020. TPI community partners and agencies united to adapt their work to help communities that were devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic and increased violence.



TPI invests in three key areas: **1) Intervention**, using a peer approach to break the cycle of violence in hospital and community settings; **2) Prevention Infrastructure**, facilitating community dialogue and decision making, and funding community identified strategies; and **3) Capacity Building**, providing technical assistance for grassroots organizations and multi-disciplinary training opportunities. In 2020, TPI also supported **Positive Youth Development**, including evaluation and capacity building in partnership with county departments, and providing safe passages support for a new youth program at Parks and Recreation, Our SPOT.

**TPI MILESTONES in 2020**



- A formal **Incident Response** protocol was developed between the Sheriff's Department and TPI Street Outreach agencies.
- **Community Action for Peace (CAP) Mini Grants** were used to address immediate community needs.
- The **Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)** team conducted COVID-19 assistance projects to support organizational challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis.

For more information: <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/ovp/TPI.htm>

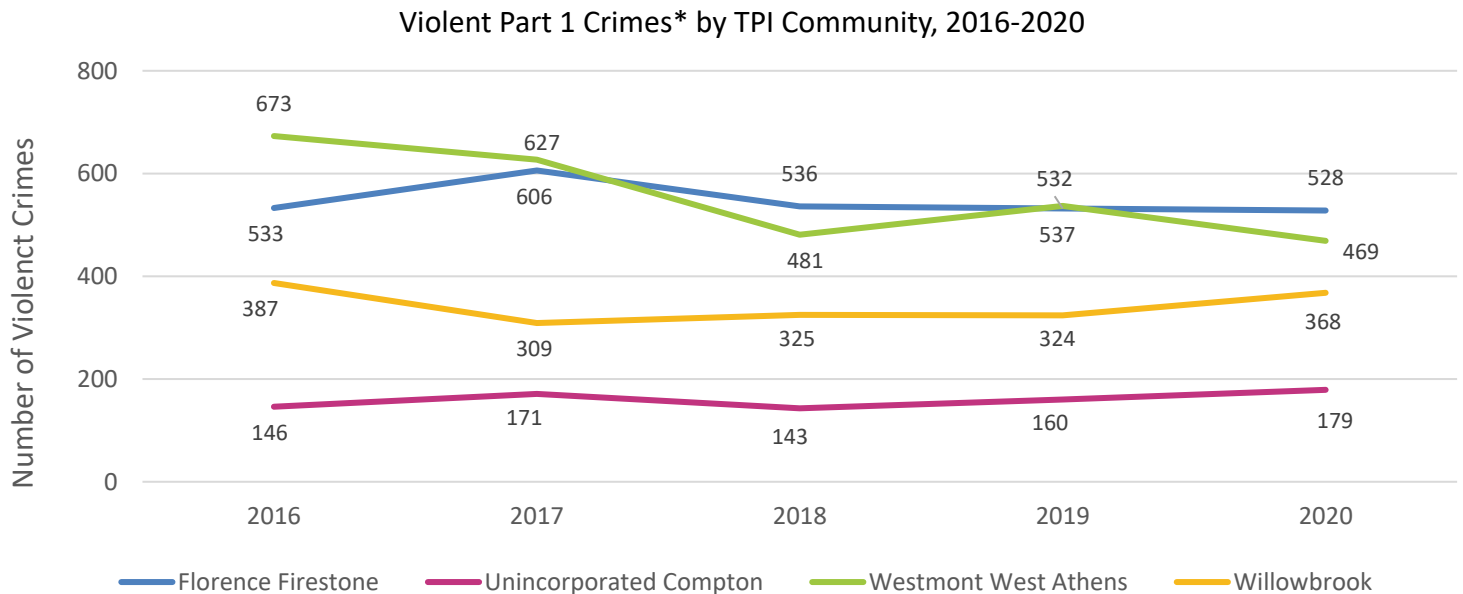


# Intervention

TPI invests in a peer approach that employs credible messengers to address the immediacy of violence, promote peace, and enable prevention strategies to take root.

## Decreased Violent Crimes

Between 2016 (the year before Street Outreach implementation) and 2020, violent crimes in 2 communities declined, while numbers in unincorporated Compton increased and Florence Firestone remained steady. Westmont West Athens, which has had ongoing community engagement infrastructure, saw the greatest declines.

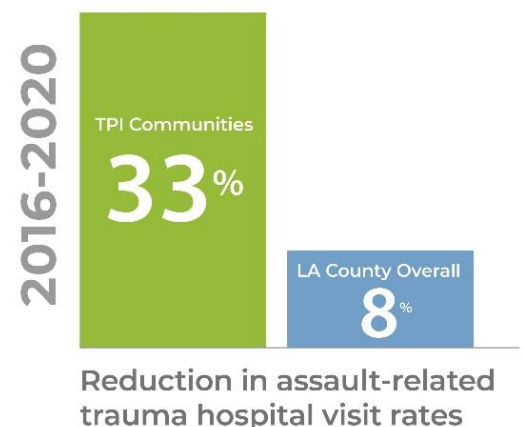


\*Violent part 1 crimes include aggravated assault, criminal homicide, forcible rape, and robbery. Annual crime files provided by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

## Hospital Violence Intervention Program (HVIP)

Between 2016 and 2020, year four of HVIP implementation, TPI communities saw a 33% reduction in assault-related trauma hospital visit rates (from 142 in 2016 to 95 in 2020\*\*), compared to an 8% rate reduction in LA County overall (from 45 in 2016 to 41 in 2020\*\*). HVIP clients received case management services, including referrals to counseling, employment, housing, substance use treatment, and financial compensation.

\*\*Assault-related trauma hospital visit rates per 100,000 people.



484

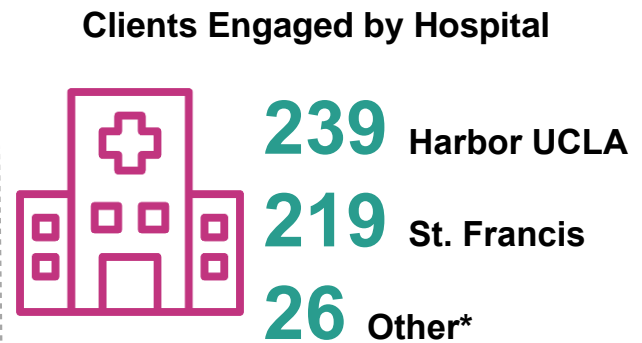
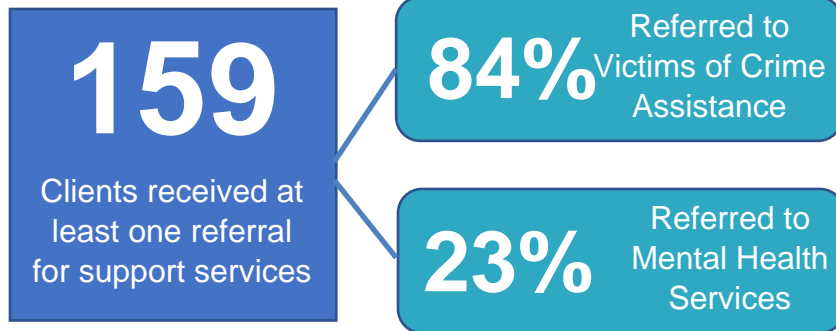
Victims of violence were engaged in the Hospital Violence Intervention Program

159

Clients were enrolled and received case management services

# Intervention

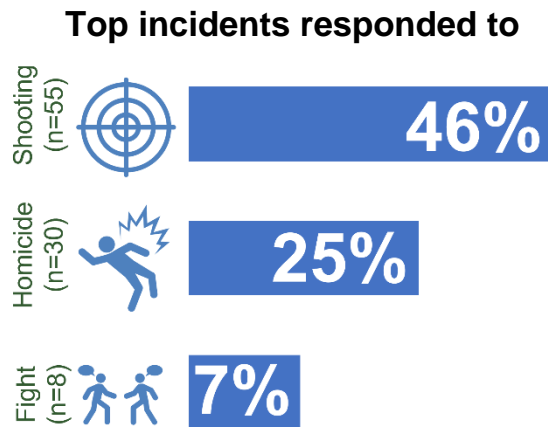
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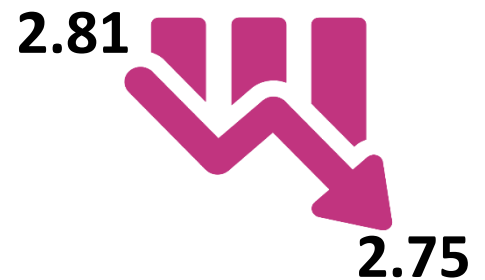
\*Includes Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center, community referrals, and street outreach referrals

## Street Outreach & Community Violence Intervention Services

In 2020, a formal Incident Response protocol was developed between the Sheriff's Department and TPI agencies in order to coordinate efforts in response to violent incidents. As part of the protocol, whenever a serious incident occurs the Sheriff's office contacts TPI agencies to respond to incidents in the community. During 2020, agencies conducted **4,048** activities in order to minimize incidents and across the four TPI communities.



Community Intervention Workers' (CIWs) perception of community safety\*\* did not change much in 2019 and 2020.



\*\*CIWs gage the overall perception of safety in the community daily on a 5-point scale; 1=Very unsafe, 5=Very safe



During the COVID-19 pandemic the LA County Department of Public Health prioritized intervention agencies to receive Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and distributed masks and other items monthly to different agencies across the County. This served as a critical lifeline to address basic needs of isolated individuals and impacted community members during the pandemic.

# Prevention

TPI invests in community leadership and empowerment, leverages parks as community hubs for innovative programming, and advances community priorities such as healing arts.

## Community Action for Peace (CAP)

**CAP Mini Grants.** Grant funds were used to address needs in the community as identified and agreed upon by CAP members. Westmont West Athens CAP members prioritized youth and families and the provision of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).



**220**

Westmont West Athens families received PPE, food, and cleaning supplies



**15**

Willowbrook male CAP members completed the program

Willowbrook CAP members focused on male engagement. CAP members completed the Promundo Manhood 2.0 Program, an 8-week program designed to engage young men and those around them in promoting healthy ideas and practices related to manhood.

## MLK Healing Center

TPI partnered with the MLK Community Healing and Trauma Prevention Center and community residents to provide healing services and safe spaces for dialogue and peer support and increase access to trauma prevention and intervention services.

**2,458**

Number of visits

## Park Therapy

TPI partnered with the Department of Mental Health to continue Park Therapy, which uses innovative, non-traditional approaches to engage residents in positive mental health discourse, and create a safe, nonjudgmental environment for residents to be connected to mental health services.

**370**

Total participants

**15**

Number of referrals

**5**

Number linked to services

# Capacity Building

TPI provides technical assistance to help strengthen grassroots organizations and fund multi-disciplinary trainings for community partners to promote collaboration and healing.

## Training and Technical Assistance

Community-based organizations faced unprecedented organizational challenges due to the COVID-19 crisis. To address these urgent challenges, with funding from the Probation Department, the Nonprofit Impact Team (NIT) completed **108 COVID-19 short term Technical Assistance projects in 2020**, supporting **101 organizations across the County**. The most common services provided by participating organizations included youth tutoring/mentoring (**58%**), counseling (**51%**), food assistance (**46%**), and the arts (**42%**).

### TTA's Geographic Reach



Populations served by the 101 organizations include:



**79%**

Individuals impacted by trauma



**70%**

Juvenile/Criminal justice involved youth

Participating organizations were highly satisfied with the technical assistance provided. Nearly two thirds (65) of the organizations submitted responses to the satisfaction survey. 97% of survey respondents agreed that they found the technical assistance useful, 87% indicated that their issue was resolved, and 99% plan to participate in future training by the NIT.

## Peer to Peer Training Piloted to address COVID-19

Public Health contracted with 16 CBOs through the COVID-19 Community Health Worker (CHW) Outreach Initiative, using federal funding, including 4 violence intervention agencies that hired more than 180 credible messengers to promote COVID-19 safety in communities across LA County between October – December 2020.

The CHW Initiative also piloted Peer-to-Peer trainings, training more than 1,000 CHWs, including violence intervention workers, promotores, and essential worker advocates, in topics including field safety, soft skills\*, and trauma informed resilience-oriented practice.



## Evaluation and Safe Passages Support for Our SPOT

The Department of Parks and Recreation's Our Social Places and Opportunities for Teens (Our SPOT) Program is a year-round county initiative that takes place at ten (10) parks in vulnerable communities throughout Los Angeles County. Our SPOT provides a structured youth development program through collective experiences, recreational parks activities, art workshops, and leadership training(s) that are developmentally and culturally relevant. TPI staff coordinate evaluation of Our SPOT to understand its impact on positive youth development and coordinate safe passages services, funded by Probation, at 3 parks to improve youth safety and participation in the program. During the 2019-2020 program year, curriculum offered included Youth Engaged in Leadership from the Department of Public Health, Mental Health Promoters from the Department of Mental Health, Resilience and Intergroup Solidarity Education (RISE) from the Human Relations Commission, and artist experiences from the Department of Arts and Culture.



1,176

youth participated in Our SPOT

10

Participating parks

## Positive Youth Development

The Positive Youth Development evaluation project emerged from a multi-sector LA County Youth Networking Group (YNG) that began convening in Spring 2019 to improve coordination of youth initiatives, develop mutual goals and guiding principles, and standardize practices and tools related to positive youth development. OVP coordinates this evaluation with funding from the Probation Department with the goal of identifying and elevating promising practices for further investment and creating a positive youth development framework for LA County, including needed systemic and policy changes.

10

County Departments and programs are part of the YNG

- Probation
- Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
  - Office of Violence Prevention (OVP)
  - Substance Abuse Prevention & Control Program (SAPC)
  - Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Program (MCAH)
- Department Mental Health (DMH)
- Human Relations Commission (HRC)
- Commission on Children and Families
- Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services (WDACS)
- Public Library
- Arts and Culture (DAC)
- Department of Health Services (Youth Diversion and Development)