

Youth Suicide Prevention Pilot Program Outcomes

SUMMARY

In June 2023, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) was awarded funding from the California Department of Public Health to implement a Youth Suicide Prevention Pilot (YSPP) program in Los Angeles County. The main goals of the program were to; **1) rapidly identify youth suicide deaths and suicide attempt incidents, and 2) develop approaches and models to respond to youth and their families after a suicidal crisis.** During the two years of the YSPP, staff collaborated with local county and community partners to first identify gaps in existing services, and then to implement a wide variety of activities and services to address these gaps. Funding for this pilot ended on June 30, 2025.

YSPP activities can be divided into three main areas:



Highlighted below are key outcomes and successes of the YSPP program in each of these three areas. This report is meant to provide a high-level overview of the YSPP program outcomes, reflecting the successes that occurred between July 2023 through June 2025 and illustrating how efforts to collaborate with diverse partners have shaped the implementation of youth-focused suicide prevention efforts in Los Angeles County.

Surveillance & Reporting

ACTIVITY

OUTCOME

Identify sources of data related to youth suicidal behavior

YSPP focused on identifying and utilizing data sources to understand the scope of youth suicidal behavior in Los Angeles County. This includes identifying existing data sources and establishing systems to access new data sources.

This data supported the work of our crisis response contractors and was used to prepare data reports and an interactive dashboard to increase awareness and educate the public.



6 existing data sources identified and used:

- Hospital Data
- Emergency Department Data
- Medical Examiner Data
- Death Certificate Data
- California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) Data
- Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) Data

New data source developed and used: **Syndromic Surveillance Data**

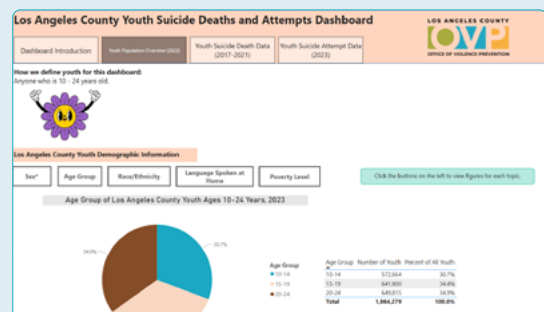
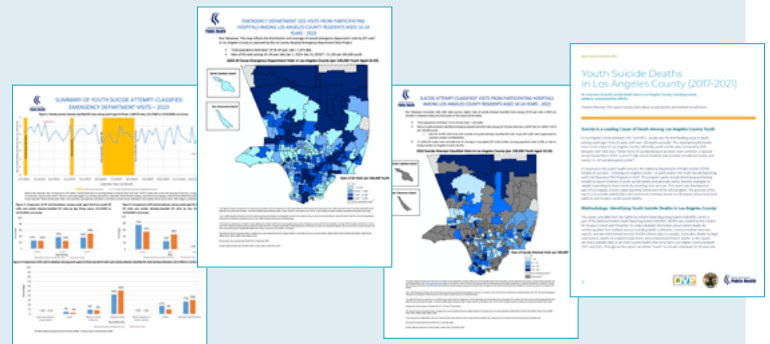
Use data to raise awareness of suicidal behavior among youth

As part of this program, YSPP staff developed several data documents and an interactive dashboard to provide access to data about youth suicidal behavior in an understandable and user-friendly format.

The materials included information on a wide array of topics including the geographic prevalence of suicide attempts treated in emergency departments, demographic data of youth suicide deaths and attempts, and best practices for presenting data related to suicidal behavior.

To access information on youth suicide deaths and attempts, please visit OVP's data and reports page: http://ph.lacounty.gov/ovp/Data_Reports.htm.

To access the interactive dashboard, please visit the Youth Suicide section of OVP's Open Data Portal: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp/OpenDataPortal.htm>.



Crisis Response

ACTIVITY

Suicide Loss Peer Grief Support Groups

YSPP funded two community-based agencies (Antelope Valley Partners for Health and San Fernando Valley Partnership, Inc.) to facilitate weekly peer support grief groups for youth who had experienced the loss of a loved one to suicide. These groups were held in Los Angeles County communities impacted by suicide, with support groups beginning in March 2025.



OVP has secured funding to continue these groups in the same high-need communities for another fiscal year.

OUTCOME

31 support group sessions held

80% of post-session evaluations showed that participants learned at least one coping skill during that session

- Between **one and six youth** attended each in-person support group session
- **14 staff trained** to assist with the development, preparation, and facilitation of support groups

Suicide Prevention/Community Education Media Campaign

YSPP funded a media campaign to enhance awareness of youth suicide prevention and postvention resources throughout Los Angeles County.

This media campaign was shaped by input from local youth to adapt CDPH's Never a Bother Campaign to resonate with Los Angeles County audiences.



Over **14.5 million** views of posts and local messaging

Outdoor ad placements in **1,921 locations** (gyms, grocery stores, retail areas, etc.)

- Engaged **18 youth** in interviews to guide the development of the media campaign
- Media messaging through **259 billboards and transit shelters**
- **65 gaming apps** within gaming mobile ads
- **5 different social media posts**
- **1,149 30-second spots** aired on local radio
- Partnered with **4 local news publishers** (i.e. local news publication partners)
- **200 websites reached** with digital ads

ACTIVITY

OUTCOME

Department of Health Services Care Coordinator Initiative

YSPP collaborated with Department of Health Services (DHS) to strengthen DHS' capacity to support youth and families who have been impacted by a youth's suicidal behavior, suicide attempt, or suicide death.

In March 2025, Care Coordinators began working at two local emergency departments to provide support to youth and their families after an emergency department visit for suicidal behavior. The Care Coordinators filled a gap by working with youth after their discharge from the emergency department and providing ongoing support with connections to resources. OVP is actively working to secure funding to reinstate the care coordination initiative.



71 youth referred to Care Coordinators

- **33 youth** enrolled in services
- **10 referrals** made to outside support services. These services included:
 - Local mental health providers
 - Regional Centers
 - Medical clinics

Capacity Building for Healthcare Provider Staff through One Degree



YSPP funded enhancements to an existing DHS digital referral platform to support a new network of youth mental health providers, including those offering suicide crisis response, prevention, and postvention services.

This funding included creating 30 agency licenses for providers to join a closed-loop referral system. These licenses will be active for 3 years, through June 2028, enabling improved referral tracking and care coordination. Additionally, DHS staff and other participating organizations will receive training on how to effectively use the platform.

65 resource agencies added to the One Degree YSPP collection

31 of these are Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

- **9 CBOs onboarded** in the closed-loop referral network
- **21 additional CBOs identified for inclusion** in the closed-loop referral network
- **165 staff trained** in how to use the referral system, including:
 - **2 OVP-funded Care Coordinators**
 - **Approximately 100 DHS staff**, including Emergency Department staff, Primary Care staff and Specialty Clinic staff
 - **Approximately 63 CBO staff** (about 3 staff per CBO)
 - **5 One Degree trainings** completed by June 30, 2025.

ACTIVITY

Collaboration with Public Health Student Wellbeing Centers

YSPP partnered with the Department of Public Health's Student Wellbeing Centers (SWBC) to purchase health education materials and testing kits related to reproductive and sexual health to be used in the SWBCs. Reproductive and sexual health concerns were identified as a major stressor for youth visiting the centers.

Mental health resources, including *Never a Bother* materials highlighting suicide warning signs, where to seek help, and youth-specific crisis services, are being distributed to students alongside reproductive and sexual health resources. OVP has secured funding to continue supporting the SWBC with additional materials and will provide mental health and youth suicide prevention capacity-building trainings to their workforce personnel.

OUTCOME

47,000
"Never
a Bother"
materials
provided



Materials provided to 50 Student Wellbeing Centers

- **10,000** Teen Mental Health Toolkit bookmarks
- **150** Pregnancy Test Kits
- **108** STI Test Kits
- **200** Sexual health education tools

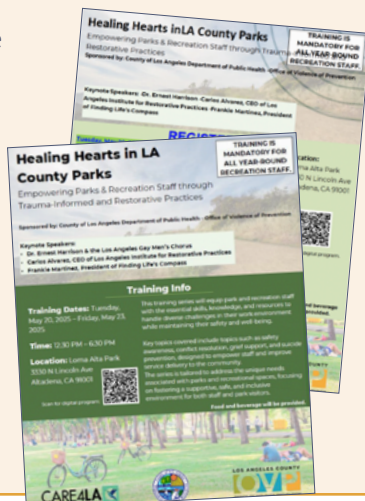


Department of Parks and Recreation Trauma Informed and Restorative Practice Trainings

YSPP funded trainings provided through Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to equip DPR staff and the youth workers assigned to DPR facilities with the essential skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to promote safety and mental wellbeing.

992 park staff
attended training

- **123 DPR staff certified** in Restorative Practices for Communities
- **5 training days for DPR staff:**
 - The Resilient Recreation Professional: Preventing Burnout
 - Building Community through Care and Connection
 - Restorative Practices: Restorative Approaches Rooted in Science & Culture, Day 1
 - Restorative Practices: Restorative Approaches Rooted in Science & Culture, Day 2
 - Trauma-Informed Community Safety Awareness and Violence Prevention Training



Suicide Prevention & Outreach

ACTIVITY	OUTCOME
“Never a Bother” Material Distribution YSPP disseminated resources from the state’s <i>Never a Bother</i> campaign throughout the greater Los Angeles County community. This campaign was launched in 2024 by California Department of Public Health’s Office of Suicide Prevention. The goal is to prevent suicide among teens and young adults in California. It strives to reduce self-harm while encouraging friends to recognize the power they have to support someone in crisis. <i>Never a Bother</i> materials can be accessed online at neverabother.org.	• 39,920 palm cards and posters distributed by the YSPP team • Provided materials to 65 community agencies and county partners 
Collaboration & Coordination YSPP collaborated with local agencies to improve suicide prevention efforts countywide. YSPP hosted partners at regular meetings focused on both crisis response and rapid reporting, and held quarterly partner meetings to provide general updates about the work. The input provided by partners during these meetings guided YSPP efforts in developing both data and reporting systems and implementing crisis response programming. The YSPP team also regularly participated in smaller meetings with partner agencies to discuss opportunities for collaboration and alignment.	50 individuals representing 10 county departments and community agencies attended at least one partner meeting • 18 YSPP partner meetings • 9 quarterly partner meetings • 4 crisis response workgroup meetings • 5 rapid reporting workgroup meetings
Mental Health Training/Community Education Opportunities YSPP sponsored several trainings on suicide prevention for community members. These trainings included Mental Health First Aid and Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR). Trainings provided information on how to identify signs of suicidal behavior and how to provide support. Additionally, a series of youth mental health summits were held throughout LA County. These full day events were designed to help youth learn about mental health and provide them with information about where they can find support in their local communities.	9 mental health community education/suicide prevention trainings with 182 participants 5 youth mental health summits with 460 youth attendees 