



PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

April 1 - 5, 2019

DAY 5: The Office of Violence Prevention

MLK Center for Public Health

April 5, 11 am – 1 pm

Violence in LA County: Multi-Faceted and Complex

Violence remains one of the most complex social problems facing our communities today. Violence can take on different forms from gun violence to domestic violence to elder abuse but the underlying contributors to violence are often the same – poverty, discrimination, income inequality, and substandard housing. Reducing violence in LA County requires understanding it as a health equity issue. Homicide/assault has been the second leading cause of premature death in our county for the past 10 years. Young Black and Latino men experience the highest rates of homicide death, and our county's South Los Angeles residents experience homicide and assault death rates more than three times the county average. A history of marginalization and structural racism has manifested in neighborhood segregation, discriminatory policies, and an unequal distribution of opportunities and resources; all these factors contribute to cycles of violence and community-wide trauma.

The DPH Approach to Preventing Violence

On March 13, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors introduced a motion, that passed unanimously, directing the Department of Public Health and Chief Executive Office to develop a comprehensive plan to address violence in LA County. Planning began immediately to create a comprehensive public health approach that includes:

- Addressing violence prevention across the lifespan. Violence can include child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, sexual violence, suicide prevention, youth violence, gang violence, gun safety and policy, elder abuse, and

systemic violence. People are vulnerable to different types of violence at different stages of life.

- Implementing multiple strategies for prevention and intervention including trauma-informed and place-based approaches.
- Incorporating best and promising practices and strategies designed for specific populations.
- Strategic use of data, research and communications.
- Centralized coordination, community engagement and capacity building.
- Advancing policy and systems change to reduce violence and promote healing.

The Office of Violence Prevention

On April 5, 2019, the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) will be established. The launch of OVP marks a significant expansion in resources and activities within the County to reduce violence, address trauma and promote healing. The OVP is a multidisciplinary effort that seeks to build local place-based efforts while focusing on how system and policy changes can reduce violence.

Violence is preventable and creating solutions to the sweeping problem of violence requires the participation of public health, mental health, law enforcement, violence prevention experts and community stakeholders. By addressing multiple forms of violence and their shared risk and protective factors, we can improve the health and wellbeing of all LA County residents. The OVP will coordinate efforts, strengthen partnerships, and leverage expertise and resources. This comprehensive strategy will move LA County closer to preventing violence and building peace.

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

