



# Domestic Violence Council (DVC)

**General Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**12:00pm – 2:00pm (Pacific Time)**  
**Department of Mental Health**



# Welcome Remarks



# Land Acknowledgment

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants — past, present, and emerging — as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands.

We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

**Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians**

**Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council**

**Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians**

**Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation**

**San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

**San Fernando Band of Mission Indians**

*To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website at [anaic.lacounty.gov](http://anaic.lacounty.gov).*



# Welcome and Introductions

- Your name
- Pronouns
- Title/Role
- Agency or Affiliation



# Meeting Protocol

- ❑ Please be reminded that this is an open and public meeting.
- ❑ Therefore, anything discussed in this space is not protected nor confidential.
- ❑ Any client or survivor identifying information should not be presented. Thus, please avoid discussion of personal cases.
- ❑ If you need additional resources, please connect with myself or Cindy Hernandez after the meeting. Thank you!



# Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Presentation: Child Protection Hotline – DV/IPV Project
3. Presentation: New System for Mandated Reporting to Support Families
4. Update: LA VAWA Network
5. Update: DVC Interfaith Committee
6. Board Action – Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies.
7. Announcements and Public Comments



# Child Protection Hotline: DV/IPV Project

Shiloh Davenport, Assistant Regional Administrator

&

Carlos Torres, Division Chief

Child Protection Hotline

Dept. of Children and Family Services

Los Angeles County



Los Angeles County Department of

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES**

Child Safety • Permanency • Access to effective and caring services

# Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence Project

DEPT. OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY – CHILD PROTECTION HOTLINE

Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services  
The Child Protection Hotline





# The Scope of Los Angeles County

## Geography and Economics

- 88 cities, more than 10 million people
- 5 supervisory districts, 38 departments, and 8 service planning areas
- \$43 billion county budget (bigger than Kansas, Montana, and Vermont combined)
- 7<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world

## Law Enforcement

- Sheriff's Office is largest in the US with 9,000+ sworn deputies, serve as police for 42 cities in LA
- LAPD is 3<sup>rd</sup> largest LE agency in US with 9,900+ officers in 21 divisions
- 45 additional municipal police departments

## Education

- Over 80 public school districts, LAUSD is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the nation, serves 429,000 students

## Mental Health

- Served 236,557 distinct clients from April 2023-June 2023
- \$3.37 billion budget

## Medical

- County hospital system operates 26 health centers and 4 acute care hospitals with 23,000 staff and \$6.2 billion budget
- Hundreds of privately operated hospitals and community health care providers

## DCFS

- 17,000+ children in out-of-home care, \$3.2 billion budget with 9,700+ positions

# CPH Domestic Violence Project

## What is it?

- An additional tool for Hotline staff in assessing the complexity of domestic violence
- Enhanced training provided by our domestic violence experts, YWCA San Gabriel Valley.

## Why is it important?

- Investigating Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV) is a complex matter.
- Better assessments = Better Outcomes
  
- CPH Domestic Violence Team partnered with YWCA San Gabriel Valley will scan DV intake information to provide referral resources that best meet the family need.
- Early Linkage = Better Outcomes

# Number of Referrals with DV/IPV Allegations by Month (Total: 1050)

○ April 2023 - 136



○ May 2023 - 472

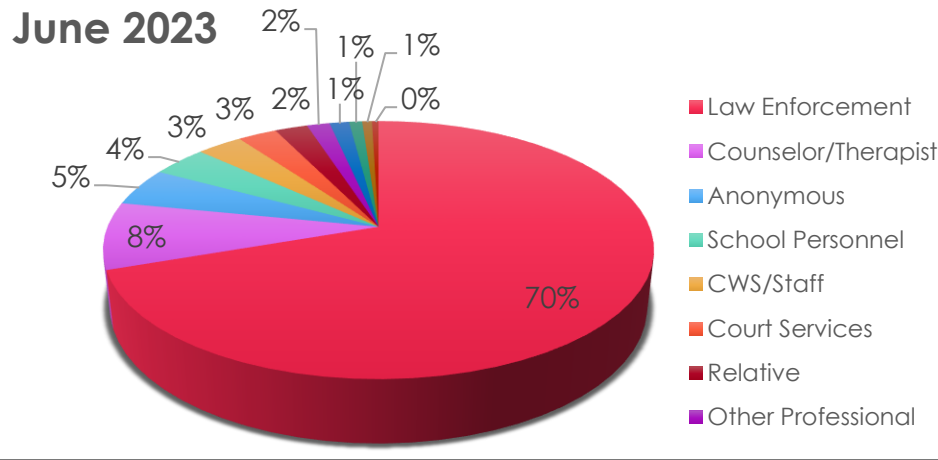
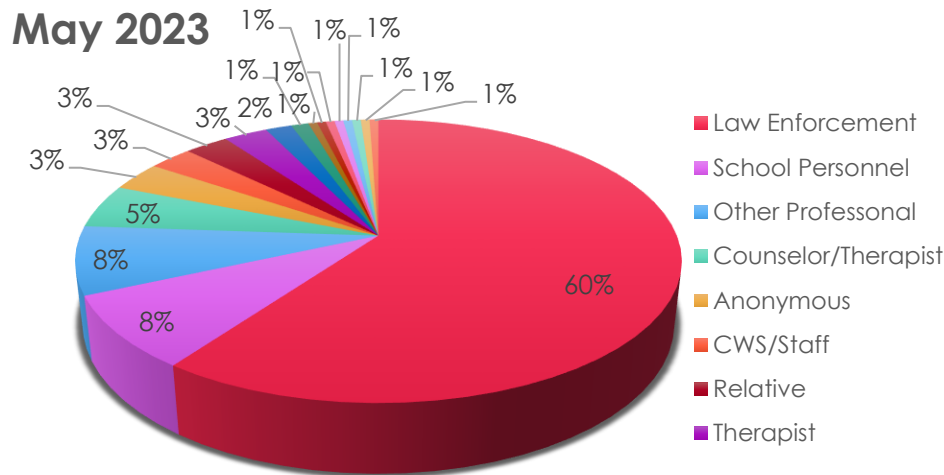
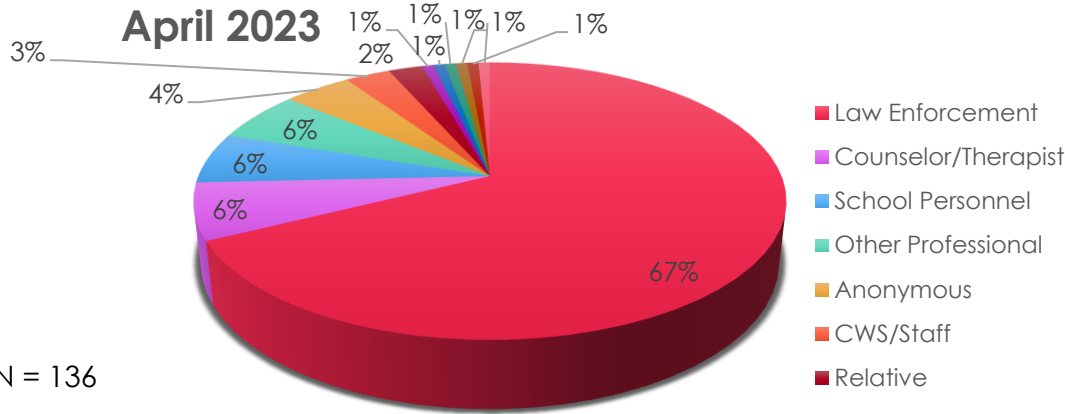


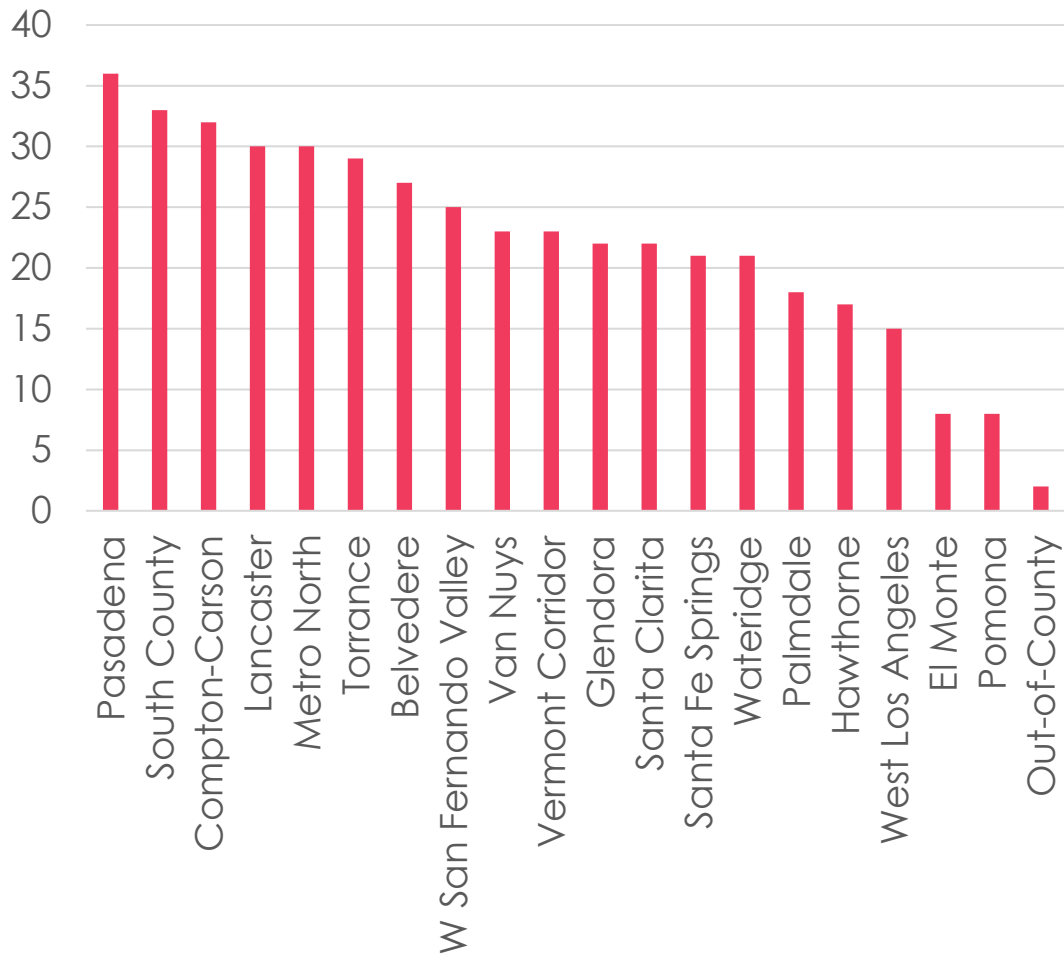
○ June 2023 - 442



# Domestic Violence Referrals sorted by Reporting Party Type

Top Reporter:  
Law Enforcement  
67-70%

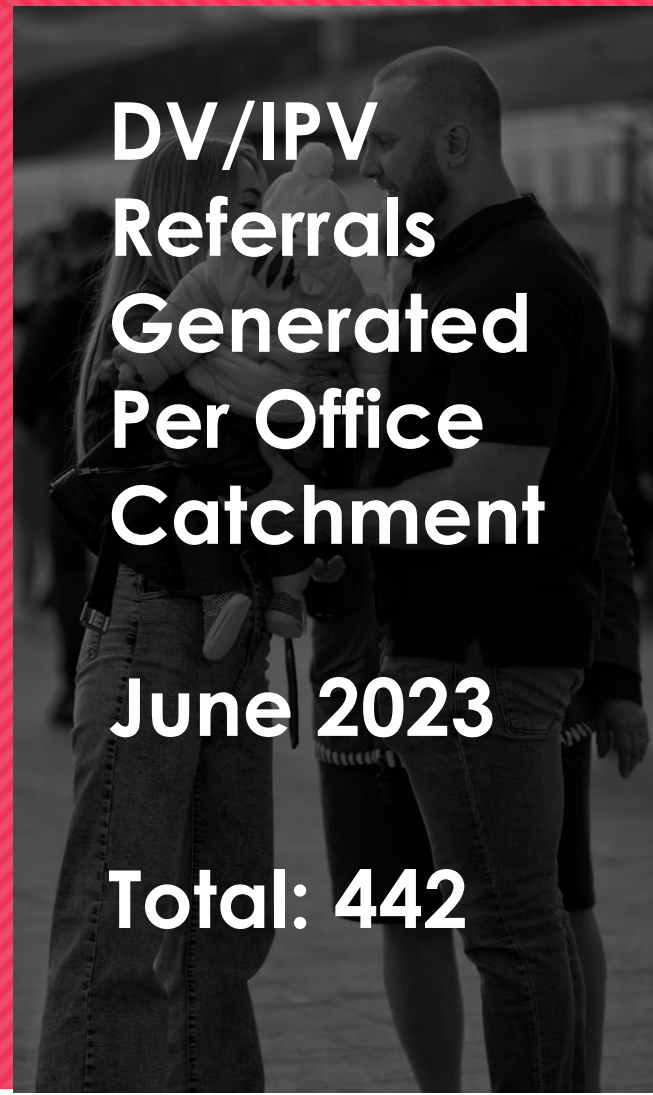




# DV/IPV Referrals Generated Per Office Catchment

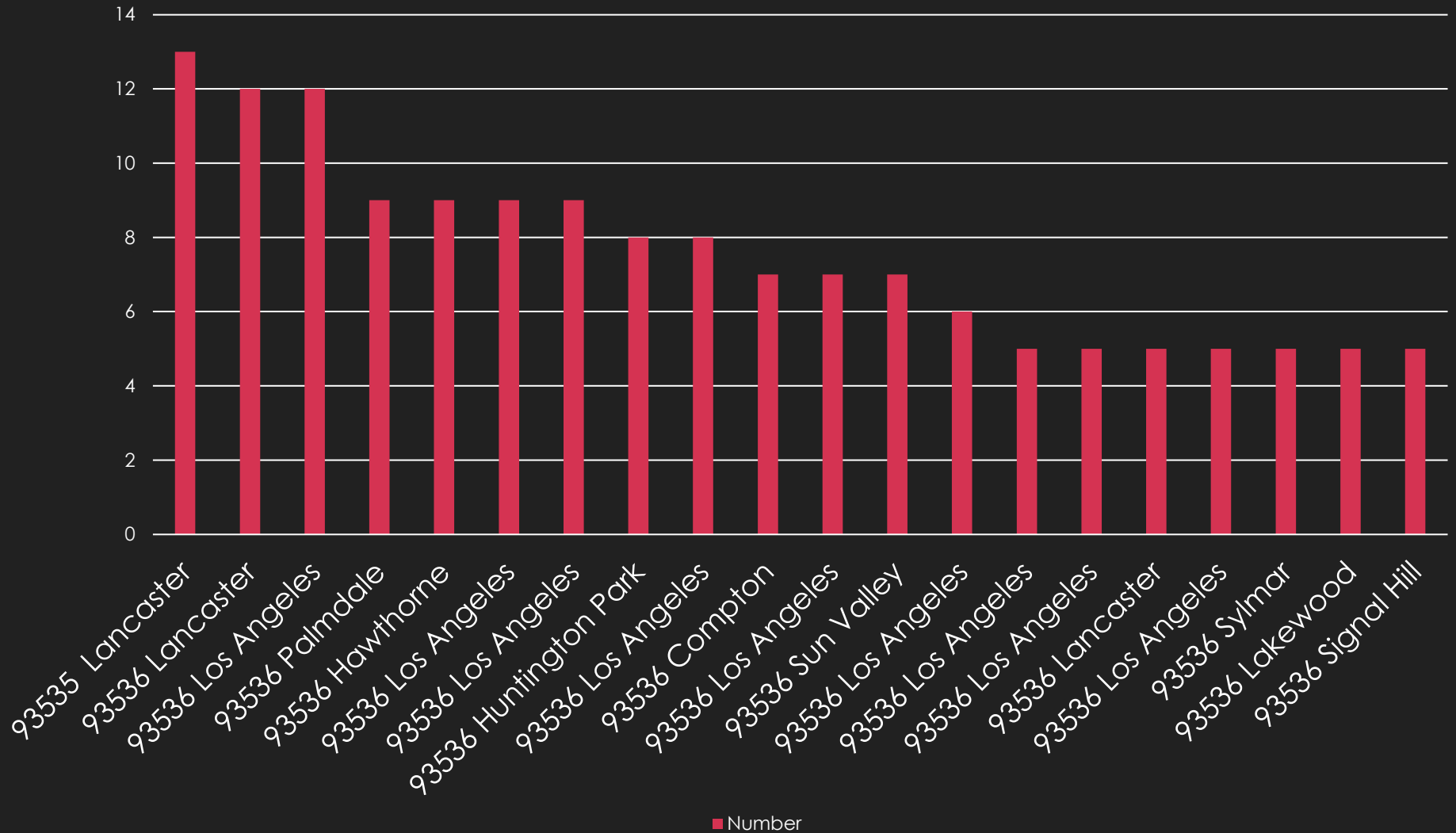
June 2023

Total: 442



# Referrals with DV/IPV by Zip code with City

## Top 20 zip codes June 2023





Carlos Torres, Division Chief  
Shiloh Davenport, Assistant Regional Administrator

# Thank You

Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services  
The Child Protection Hotline





# LA County Mandated Supporting Initiative



**Tamara Hunter, Executive Director**

LA County Commission for Children and Families

Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles County





LA COUNTY MANDATED  
**SUPPORTING INITIATIVE**

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# A SHIFTING PARADIGM

- Federal Family First Prevention Services Act – Federal funding for prevention
- California’s Five-Year Prevention Plan
- County Comprehension Prevention Plan
- AB 2085 – Changed reportable general neglect only include circumstances where “no physical injury to the child has occurred but the child is substantial risk of suffering serious physical harm or illness” and provides that “general neglect does not include a parent’s economic disadvantage”
- California Child Welfare Council established a Task Force on mandated reporting reform
- LA County Board of Supervisors directs the County’s evolution from mandated reporting to mandated supporting

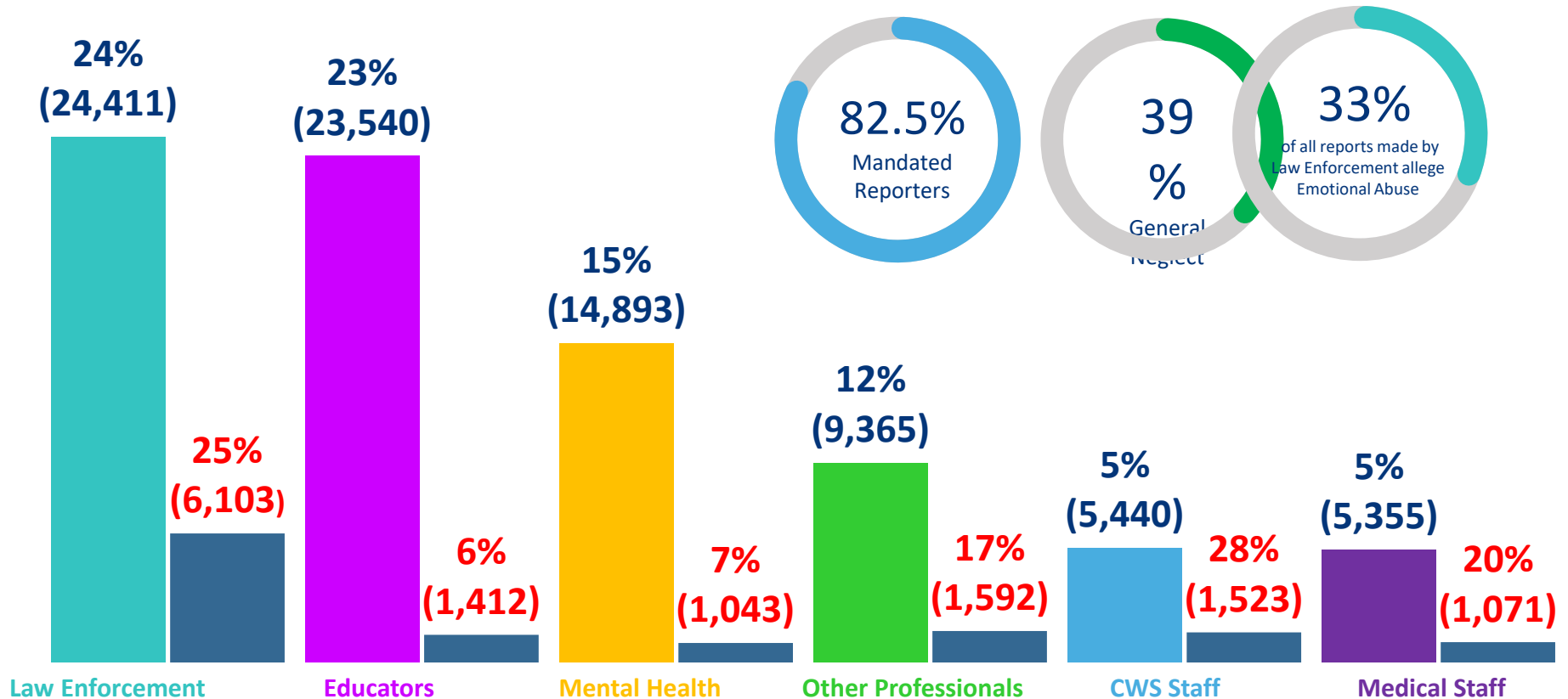


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# THE DATA

## Reports Made & Substantiations by Mandated Reporter Type

(2022)



# NOT HARM NEUTRAL...

## Fear + Toxic Stress + Trauma

- weaponized family separation
- generational trauma
- compounding effect

## Disrupted Trust

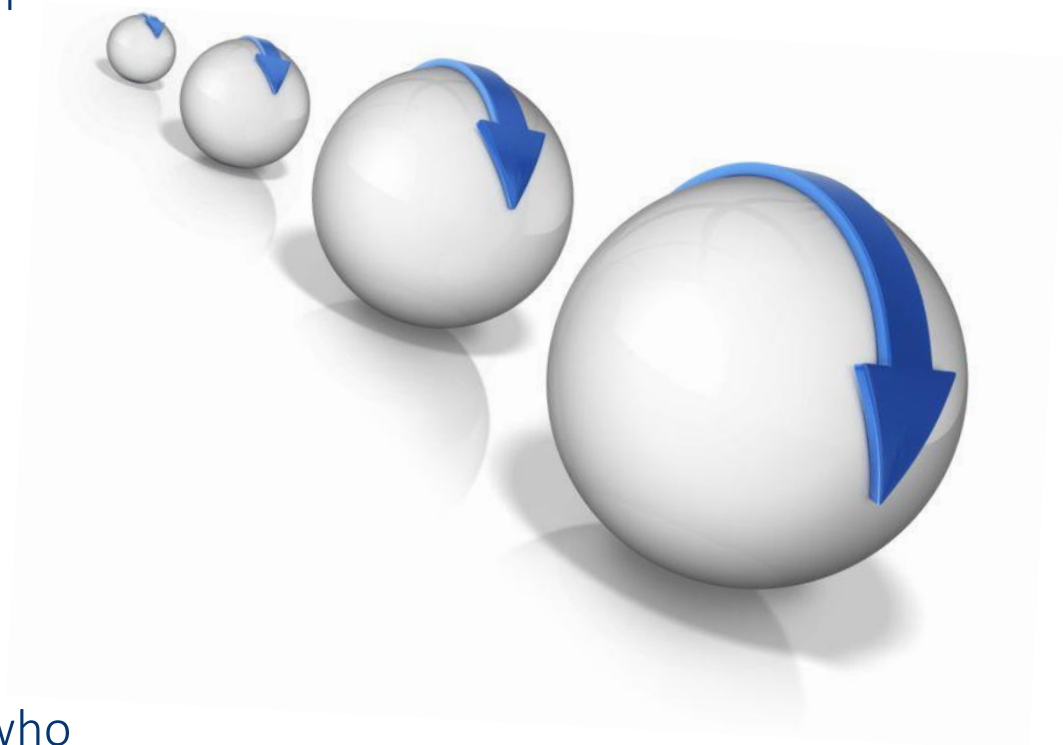
- less likely to seek help

## CPS Record

- strike against the family

## Overburdening the System

- fewer resources for children who truly are unsafe



*LA County Mandated  
Supporting Initiative*

# NOT HARM NEUTRAL...

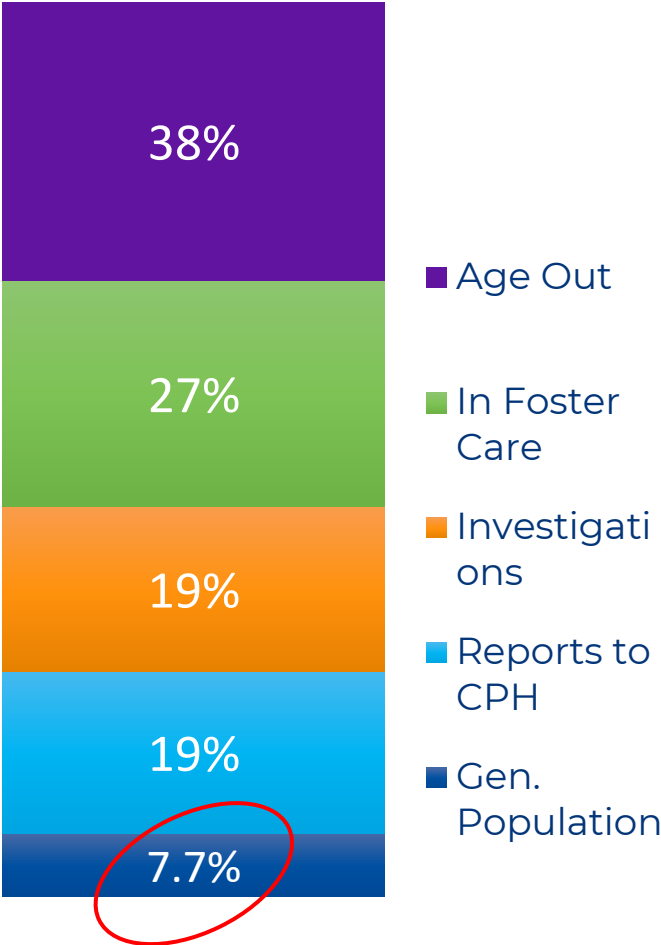
In Los Angeles County,



1 in 3 Black and Native American children who turned five-years-old in 2020 were referred to CPS at least once during their first 5 years of life

LA County Mandated Supporting Initiative

## Black Children



Putnam-Hornstein, 2021; Children's Data Network; California Child Welfare Indicator's Project

# GOAL

## LA County Mandated Supporting Initiative

Transform to a system of mandated supporting, which:

- *prevents* harm and *promotes* fair well-being;
- provides high quality *support to families* in need; and,
- eliminates mandatory reporting a driver of *racial disproportionality*.



# OUR STRATEGY

## Strategic Collaboration

- Align, leverage, & coordinate locally
- Partnership with CWC Task Force and statewide coalition/table

## Narrative Change

- To counter dominant narratives undergirding mandatory reporting
- De-emphasize reliance on the child welfare system as the best & only pathway to ensuring that children are not harmed

## Policy & Legislative Advocacy

- Implement AB 2085
- Resolve issues that are codified in law
- Align organizational policy with emerging paradigm

## Front-End Redesign

- Safely defer more families from the Hotline to CBOs
- Build on and expand existing successful efforts, such as Hotline 2 Helpline/Community Prevention Linkages
- Explore innovative or “new-to-LA County” approaches



## Community Response Guide

- Decision support tool for Mandated Reporters
- Brings accuracy, consistency, & equity to MR's decision-making process
- Bridge to connect families in need to the Community Response Network

## Community Response Network

- A component of the broader Community Pathway
- Services navigator receives families identified by CRG & connects to an array of high-quality, community-based services and supports

## Gold Standard Training & Curriculum Development Guide

- Equip Mandated Reporters to make better decisions
- Standardize content & quality of MR training
- Reflect current law & best practices

*LA County Mandated Supporting Initiative*



# Immigration Issues Update

**Mahsa Maleki, Sr. Staff Attorney**  
Community Legal Aid SoCal  
LA VAWA Network







# DV Interfaith Committee Update



**Cecelia Walker**  
**DV Interfaith Co-Chair**  
**Coordinator**  
**Angel Step Inn**

&



**Bernita Walker**  
**DV Interfaith Co-Chair**  
**CEO and Co-Founder**  
**PeaceMakers, Inc.**

## **Board Action No. 3 July 11, 2023:**

*Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*



**Lan Pham, Executive Director**

LA County Domestic Violence Council

LA County Dept. of Public Health



## **Board Action No. 3 July 11, 2023:**

### *Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*

#### **BACKGROUND**

- **Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (VTVPA)** of 2000 created the U Visa for victims of certain crimes, and the T Visa for victims of human trafficking.
- **Enacted by Congress**, these visas are to (a) enhance law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute crimes, while (b) furthering humanitarian protection for survivors of serious crimes.
- This legislation (**followed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994, which**) creates a path to citizenship for battered spouses and children of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.



## **Board Action No. 3 July 11, 2023:**

### *Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*

#### **PROCESS**

- In order to submit an approvable U Visa application to the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), an applicant must first obtain a signed certification form from a law enforcement agency certifying that (a) the individual suffered the relevant crime and (b) is willing to assist with the investigation and potential prosecution of the crime.
- In recent years, California has enacted legislation to facilitate gathering of evidence for undocumented crime survivors and to clarify certain aspects of the law enforcement certification process, including the timeframe in which law enforcement agencies must respond to U and T Visa certification requests.
- Pending legislation – AB 1261 (Santiago) – would further strengthen and clarify the certification process.



## **Board Action No. 3 July 11, 2023:**

### *Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*

#### **IDENTIFIED ISSUES**

- **However,** U and T visas remain an underutilized tool by law enforcement.
- **Although local agencies have enacted specific U and T Visa certification policies,** inconsistencies and insufficient public education about these policies often create confusion for the victims of crime they intend to benefit.



## **Board Action on July 11, 2023:**

### *Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*

#### **BOARD DIRECTIVE #1:**

- ❑ Direct departments that maintain records related to the certification of U and T visas – including the Sheriff’s Department (LASD), District Attorney (LADA), and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) – In consultation with the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) in the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council (DVC), and **County Counsel**, to review existing policies and practices relating to the access of police reports and other records impacting crime victims, including (a) identification documents required of the victim to access such records, as well (b) as the ability of legal representatives of the victim to access the records.



## **Board Action on July 11, 2023:**

### *Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*

#### **BOARD DIRECTIVE #2:**

- ❑ Direct departments with authority to certify U, T and/or S visas, including the LASD, LADA, and DCFS, in consultation with OIA, DVC and County Counsel, to assess current policies and procedures related to visa certification to ensure that (a) there is adequate access, consistency, and uniformity for eligible individuals to obtain visa certifications, and (b) said policies and procedures are effectively disseminated to the public in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.



## **Board Action on July 11, 2023:**

### *Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*

#### **BOARD DIRECTIVE #3:**

- ❑ Direct departments with authority to certify U, T and/or S Visas, including the LASD, LADA, and DCFS, in consultation with OIA, DVC and County Counsel, to (a) assess current training protocols for impacted department staff and (b) determine how to strengthen training standards to ensure that eligible individuals obtain visa certifications in a consistent and uniform manner.





## **Board Action on July 11, 2023:**

### *Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*

#### **BOARD DIRECTIVE #4:**

- ❑ Direct OIA, in collaboration with the DVC, County Counsel, LASD, LADA, and DCFS, to report back to BOS in writing within 180 days on the above directives, as well as (a) recommendations on how to standardize certification requests, (b) establish uniform procedures to certify requests, and (c) implement a clear and uniform appeals process for certification denials across all certifying County departments.



## **Board Action on July 11, 2023:**

### *Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*

#### **BOARD DIRECTIVE #5:**

- ❑ Direct OIA, in collaboration with Chief Executive Officer and the departments of Public Social Services and Public Health (including their DVC and Office of Women's Health), and in consultation with other relevant County departments, to identify gaps in services for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, trafficking, and other violent crime, and report back in writing within 120 days with recommendations to address identified service gaps.
- ❑ Such recommendations should include, but not be limited to, (a) legislative solutions to allow State funding to support legal and social services for immigrant domestic violence survivors, and (b) solutions leveraging existing County programs to bridge identified service gaps by providing necessary County resources and funding.



## **Board Action on July 11, 2023:**

### *Improving the Process for Undocumented Immigrant Victims and Survivors to Request Immigration Visa Certifications from County Agencies*

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- ❑ **August 2023** – DVC will host a series of virtual listening sessions (with some in – person sessions) to collect recommendations and feedback on the needs and gaps for immigrant and undocumented survivors of DV.
  
- ❑ **September 2023** – OIA will host a series of virtual listening sessions with SMEs on U and T visa certification policy, protocols, and trainings.
  
- ❑ **How will you hear about these opportunities?** Email, DVC website, and other ways to broadcast the opportunities far and wide.
  
- ❑ **Who may participate?** DV Services providers, DV first responders, survivors and/or family members, community leaders, and community members who are interested in the issue.



# Announcements and Public Comments

- ❑ We are now inviting attendees to share announcements, updates, and public comments not to exceed two (2) minutes per person.
- ❑ Public comments be on items of interest which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the DVC.



# Closing Remarks

- ❑ **There will NOT be an in-person DVC General Membership Meeting in August 2023.**  
However, there may be a Special Virtual Presentation. Stay tuned.
- ❑ **Next DVC General Meeting:**
  - ❖ September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023; from 12pm to 2pm, at the Department of Mental Health – 9<sup>th</sup> Floor/Terrace Conference Room B and C.
  - ❖ Tentative Agenda: (1) Office on Women’s Health - *Abortion and Reproductive Coercion* (2) DVC Health Committee - *Medical Pilot Project, Annual Symposium and Listening Sessions on Healthcare and DV* (3) Universal DV Screening for LA County; and (4) Update from LA VAWA Network on Immigration Issues.
- ❑ **Remember to sign-in if you have not; however, is not required.** Names on sign-in sheet will be added to DVC email listserv to receive information, meeting reminders for future DVC meetings and events.
- ❑ **For more information on DVC, you may contact us at:**
  - ❑ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dvcouncil>
  - ❑ Email: [dvc@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:dvc@ph.lacounty.gov)
  - ❑ Call: (213) 974-2799