Comprehensive Violence Reduction Strategy

Preventing Violence in Latino Communities

Advancement Project
LCHC Regional Network Presentation
April 2014

Championing the struggle for greater equity and opportunity for all, APCA fosters upward mobility in communities most impacted by economic and racial injustice.

We build alliances and trust, use data-driven policy solutions, create innovative tools and work alongside communities.

We ignite social change.
EDUCATIONAL EQUITY
Ensures school facilities for all and expands educational opportunities for low-income children from birth through high school graduation.

EQUITY IN PUBLIC FUNDS
We reveal significant discrepancies between the allocation of public funds and the needs of low-income communities and communities of color.

HEALTHY CITY
We transform how people access and use information about their communities. Healthy City is an information + action resource that unites community voices, rigorous research and innovative technologies to solve the root causes of social inequity.

URBAN PEACE
We reduce and prevent community violence, making poor neighborhoods safer so that children can learn, families can thrive and communities can prosper.

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**Agenda**

- Interactive Presentation
- Comprehensive Violence Reduction Strategy activity
Open Question

What sector do you represent?

Los Angeles Gang Violence Epidemic

Scale and Scope of Problem
Failure to Confront the Size of the Problem

The City of Los Angeles had approximately:

- **850,000** children living in violent crime areas
- **300,000** children living in gang hot zones
- **120,000** children living in high poverty, gang hot zones

The City’s gang prevention and intervention addressed less than:

- **3%** of the 300,000 children trapped in gang hot zones
- **4%** of gang members

A Call to Action

A Case for a Comprehensive Solution to L.A.’s Gang Violence Epidemic
Call to Action Report

- Findings
  - Failure to adequately invest in gang prevention and intervention
  - Yet, the City spent $56 million in gang suppression
  - Funding invested in prevention and intervention was highly uncoordinated

Overall, the Call to Action report called for a strategy that did not focus on gangs, but targeted underlying conditions that fuel and sustain violence.
If a public health approach is the solution...

How does it work?

Violence is preventable and treatable.
A Public Health Approach

How can public health methods lead to violence reduction?

- Reduce risk factors and increase protective factors by using evidence-based tactics.
  - Analyze the data
  - Identify the risk
  - Reduce the risk
  - Evaluate tactics and adjust

Violence occurs when many known risk factors interact at four levels
Violence in gang-entrenched communities is fueled by 10 root conditions

To combat the 10 root conditions, a sustainable violence reduction strategy must target five key elements:
Guiding Principles

- Community-Based & Culturally Competent Service Delivery
- Data-Driven Policy Making
- Built-In Accountability

Prevention
Primary Prevention Infrastructure

- Culturally competent services accessible to all
- Safe public spaces for youth and families
- Community institutions are linked to a health and safety network
- Coordinated efforts to avoid duplication and gaps

Intervention
Community Violence Intervention

- Culturally competent intervention services from providers with a neighborhood-based “license to operate”
- Mission of violence (not crime or gang) reduction
- Coordination with prevention, suppression, & re-entry
- Trained in a public health approach, with strict standards of practice and professionalism

Targeted Suppression
Targeted Suppression

- Community policing that partners and builds relationships with community leaders and institutions
- Data sharing across different jurisdictions and agencies to narrowly target suppression efforts
- Constitutional practices and problem-solving instead of arrest-only

Re-entry
**Re-entry Services**

- Comprehensive plan to transition ex-offenders and system-involved youth back into the community
- Tailored services for ex-offenders and at-risk individuals in the community
- Emphasis on community-based rehabilitative supports based on relevant data

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**Re-entry: Shifting the Approach**

- Use probation notifications to reject potential students for enrollment. **VS**
- Use probation notifications to partner a student with a caring adult and to prepare a graduation plan for the student.
Equity and Access

- Public and private sector investment in each element must match the scale and scope of the community need
- Investment should go to the highest need communities
- All segments of the community must have equal access to services and resources
Open Question

What is the comprehensive violence reduction strategy in your community?

The LA Model
Why is the model a success?

- Sustained political will
- Increased coordination among sectors
- Technical assistance delivery
LAPD Reform

“We can’t arrest our way out of this problem.”
- William J. Bratton, Former Chief of LAPD

No More Divide by 15

Local elected city council officials came together to rebuff the traditional political funding distribution and redeploy resources in hot zones.
The LA Mayor’s Political Will

Sustained political will during the fiscal crisis of 2013 and among citywide budget cuts

City of Los Angeles budget proceedings

Increased Coordination Across Sectors
Gang Reduction and Youth Development Office

Mayor called for a change in policy on the issues of youth development and gang violence which led to the creation of the GRYD office.

An Intentional Focus on High Gang Violence Areas

GRYD Zones

Central L.A.
Rampart

East L.A.
Boyle Heights-Hollenbeck
Ramona Gardens-Hollenbeck
Cypress Park-Northeast

South L.A.
Baldwin Village-Southwest
Southwest II
Newton
Florence-Graham/7th
/7th II
Watts-Souththeast

Valley:
Pacoima-Foothill
Panorama City-Mission

Other Communities
Harbor-Gateway
Venice
Canoga Park
Belmont
Sun Valley
Watts
Highland Park
Wilshire
Urban Peace Academy

- UPA is the only rigorous training program for gang interventionists in the country that sets professional standards and trains law enforcement.
  - Los Angeles
  - Inglewood
  - Long Beach
  - Sacramento
  - Fresno
  - Memphis
  - Columbus

- 1200 gang intervention workers trained
- 400 law enforcement trained
Stakeholder Capacity Building

Building violence reduction stakeholder capacity on the ground to advocate for a coordinated citywide strategy

Annenberg Foundation • Aztecs Rising • Chapter Two • Communities in Schools • Community Build • Going Beyond Boundaries • H.E.L.P.E.R. Foundation • KUSH Inc. • LA City Attorney’s Office • LA County Human Relations Commission • LA County Sheriff’s Department • Los Angeles Police Department • Mayor’s Office of Gang Reduction & Youth Development • Ralph M. Parsons Foundation • Rose Hills Foundation • Soledad Enrichment Action • The California Endowment • The California Wellness • Toberman Neighborhood Center • UCLA Downtown Labor Center • USC School of Policy, Planning & Development • Violence Prevention Coalition • We Care Outreach Ministries • Weingart Foundation
**Stakeholder Network Development**

- Identify key champions of violence reduction
- Help forge partnerships between community stakeholders and public sector champions
- Identify policy levers to enhance public sector participation
- Broaden the network to include previously uninvolved stakeholders

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**Multi-Sector Collaboration**

- Watts Latino Leadership
- Summer Night Lights
- Community Safety Partnership
- Safe Passages
- School Safety
The LA model is working...

- Assaults with a deadly weapon against law enforcement in GRYD zones have declined by 48% vs. 9% outside of GRYD zones
- Homicides in GRYD zones have declined by 50% more than reductions in the rest of the city.
The Summer Night Lights program keeps 32 city parks open after dark during peak hours of gang activity and offers free food and programming.

### Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Continued fiscal tightening in public sector
- Need is greater than resources and funding that is available
- Multi-jurisdictional & regional coordination (e.g., schools and county)
- Mission-alignment is still a challenge
- Developing community capacity
- Ensuring real community input
- Sustaining political will
Through this and other work...

Now LA has a growing platform for people who do not usually work together to come together to achieve community safety.

Building A Movement for Peace

- Long Beach
- Sacramento
- South Los Angeles
- Santa Ana
- Santa Rosa
- Fresno
Technical Assistance

- Training & Leadership Development
- Community Violence Needs Assessments
- Community Safety Scorecard
- Stakeholder Network Development
- Strategic Planning Support

Urban Peace Vision

“We are catalyzing an urban peace movement that engages multi-disciplinary, cross-sector practitioners, experts, public sector, and community stakeholders. Together, we elevate research-based practices and community-based knowledge, empowering communities to implement action and policy-oriented public health solutions to reduce violence. Through community transformation, we will ensure that every individual has the opportunity to succeed.”
Questions

Find out more at AdvancementProjectCA.org

Thank You & Keep in Touch

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