



## REGIONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITIONS LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS TEMPLATE

### INTRODUCTION

Violence is preventable. However, if we are to effectively prevent violence, it will require implementing strategies at the local level using a multi-sector, multi-level approach, that integrates coordinated community-driven solutions. On February 19, 2019, the LA County Board of Supervisors established the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) within the County's Department of Public Health (DPH) to bring together county departments and community partners to create a common vision and to coordinate efforts for a violence free LA County where all children, families, and communities are safe, healthy, and thriving. The Board called on OVP to use a public health approach to identify and advance policies, practices and programs needed to prevent violence and to promote healing when violence does occur. The Regional Violence Prevention Coalitions (RVPCs) are a key priority of OVP's Strategic Plan to ensure that violence prevention and healing efforts are locally based, survivor centered, trauma informed and community driven. Regional Violence Prevention Coalitions will engage a diverse group of community members and key stakeholders to develop a violence prevention action plan that reflects the strengths and the needs of the community it serves.

**As a RVPC Lead Agency you are being asked to conduct a landscape analysis to help identify the violence prevention priorities that will guide the development of your violence prevention community action plan.** Your landscape analysis should include issues of violence your region is facing, strengths and resources that help to address violence, as well as challenges and areas where there is a need for more support for individuals and communities. **The landscape analysis must be informed by community members from your SPA, including youth and parents.**

The following template is to be used primarily as a guide to assist with your landscape analysis/needs assessment with the exception of the information about population demographics and defining issues of violence in your Service Planning Area (SPA). The questions outlined here are intended to serve as prompts and a beginning to help you identify and lift up priorities related to key health and violence issues, community resources and assets, as well as violence prevention gaps and challenges. While some questions relate directly to experiences of violence, others relate more specifically to individuals, assets, resources and needs throughout your entire region. The template is divided into the following sections: Demographics, Health and Wellbeing, Issues of Violence, and the Built Environment. The template concludes with a section examining the specific data collection methods used to gather the information needed to complete the landscape analysis which should be included as an attachment to your written report.

Each RVPC should use their judgement to determine which questions are most important and relevant to their community. In addition to this template, we have provided a data package that can help each RVPC gather and understand the data as it pertains to demographics, health issues, crime, and violence in your community. The data provided should be combined with other means such as interviews, photovoice, listening and walking tours, focus groups, and/or community surveys to complete your landscape analysis. The OVP team is available to assist you and answer any questions you may have throughout this process and to provide support as needed. Please contact Research and Evaluation Coordinator Nana Sarkodee-Adoo at [nsarkodee-adoo@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:nsarkodee-adoo@ph.lacounty.gov) with questions.



## WHO LIVES IN YOUR SPA?

Please describe the residents of your SPA and the top challenges individuals face.

**Regional Overview:** Each Service Planning Area is unique and filled with diverse groups of people who have distinct identities and experience different challenges. Consider the following populations that live in your region and their unique needs as you review this list of questions. Question 1 of this section must be included in your landscape analysis.

1. Provide a demographic picture of the people that live in your Service Planning Area (SPA). What is the breakdown by age, race/ethnicity, gender, etc.? This can be done in narrative form with the data provided in the data package or you can represent visually through photocollage, drawing, or by using some other creative form. This section must be included in your landscape analysis.

**Different Populations:** Some groups experience violence or are exposed to violence differently than other groups. As you think of violence and violence prevention in your community, consider how violence has different impacts on some of unique groups and individuals, such as:

- Foster Youth
  - Teens
  - Immigrants and Refugees
  - Individuals with Disabilities (Intellectual, Physical, Developmental, etc.)
  - Older Adults/Seniors (including their caregivers)
  - LGBTQ+ Individuals
  - Justice Involved Individuals (including those on probation and those in the juvenile justice system)
  - People of Color, including Native Americans and Indigenous Populations
  - Veterans
2. When you talk with individuals in these groups, what concerns do they raise about their health, safety, and wellbeing?
  3. What challenges do different populations face in accessing services?
  4. What programs or agencies in your communities are currently addressing some of the risks or challenges that these different populations face?
  5. What critical needs have not been met?

**Children and Adolescents:** The first five years of life are critical for the overall development and trajectory of an individual throughout their life course. For young children and teens, schools, afterschool programs, and community-based activities can play a large role and have a distinct impact on health, safety, and wellbeing as these are often spaces where children spend most of their time outside of the home.



6. Is it hard for families and caregivers in your SPA to find affordable childcare?
7. Other than childcare, what programs or forms of assistance are needed by caregivers/families of young children in your SPA?
8. What are some barriers facing parents in this region that make it harder for their children to participate in activities like after-school clubs, sports teams, mentorship programs, or vocational training programs? What barriers do students face in public or private school settings?
9. What services are available for older youth in your SPA? What programming/services/resources do older youth want in their communities as they move into adulthood? What services and organizations already exist to serve their needs?

**Community Connectedness, Representation, and Civic Engagement:** Community connection and civic engagement can improve health outcomes and provide protection from harm.

10. Do most individuals living in your region feel like they are an important part of the greater community? Do individuals feel connected to one another, or do people feel isolated and alone?
11. Do individuals living in your region feel heard by politicians and local government? Are individuals civically engaged? What does this look like?
12. How is information shared/distributed in your community? What methods of communication do residents feel are effective, and which are not? Are there any methods of communication that are not currently used that community members would like to see? Consider some of the following examples in your response:
  - Social Media Posts
  - Print and Online Newspapers
  - Fliers and Postcards (distributed or posted)
  - Word-of-mouth
  - Community Listserv Texts, Emails, and Newsletters
  - Nextdoor and Citizen Apps
  - Others



## HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN YOUR SPA

Please describe the health and wellbeing of residents in your SPA.

**General Health Issues:** Violence, health, and wellbeing are all connected to one another. Identifying the mental and physical health issues impacting a community can help us to better understand the additional challenges people may face throughout their life course. Consider the following health and wellbeing topics that may be relevant in your SPA.

1. What are the top health issues impacting residents of your SPA? Please describe how you identified these as the top issues related to health and wellbeing.
2. Are residents of your SPA, including individuals and families, able to receive healthcare and mental health services when they need them? Are healthcare and mental health services affordable and accessible? What are some of the challenges individuals and families face when accessing care?

**COVID-19:** The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for individuals and communities that are both unexpected and long lasting. This includes a direct impact on health and wellbeing, as well as impacts on education and learning, job security, housing security, childcare and more.

3. What specific challenges (in terms of mental and physical health, psychological, social, educational and/or economical) has your SPA faced due to COVID-19?



## ISSUES OF VIOLENCE IN YOUR SPA

Please describe the impact of interpersonal violence, self-inflicted violence, and the use of firearms and guns within your SPA. What work is being done to address violence? Where are there gaps?

Consider the following types of violence that are relevant to your SPA and the subsequent questions that relate to them. This section addressing issues of violence must be included in your landscape analysis.

- Intimate Partner Violence/Domestic Violence/Dating Violence
- Suicides and Self-Harm (including non-fatal suicide attempts)
- Sexual Assault/Sexual Violence
- Homicides and Assaults
- Physical, Mental, and Emotional Abuse (Child, Partner, Elder)
- Bullying (including cyber bullying and via social media)
- Human Trafficking/Sex Trafficking
- Threats of Violence/Intimidation and Stalking
- Hate Crimes and Hate-motivated Violence
- Gang Violence/Community Violence
- Firearm/Gun Violence

Consider the following questions as it relates to various forms of violence impacting your SPA.

1. What does violence look like in your SPA? In addition to injuries and deaths, what other consequences are associated with violence in your community?
2. What are the drivers of violence in your SPA? How does violence affect different populations, groups, and areas within your SPA?
3. How do firearms impact violence in your SPA?
4. What violence prevention efforts currently exist in your SPA? Are any of these efforts specifically aimed at youth?
5. What forms of violence tend to be connected to one another? Are there any existing efforts targeting multiple forms of violence at once?
6. What healing and trauma-informed services are available in your SPA?
7. What additional services/resources would be useful to address violence in your SPA?

## WHAT DOES YOUR COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE?

What does the built environment and community space look like in your SPA?

**The Social Environment, Perceptions of Community Safety and Community Conditions:** Feelings of safety impact the way we build community and connect with others. Similarly, perspectives about the condition of the environment we live in impacts our behaviors. Consider the following topics and questions that are relevant to the physical and built environment and safety of your region.

1. Do residents generally feel safe in their neighborhoods? Why or why not?
2. How much of a law enforcement presence is there in this region? Does it differ by community? Is there a higher presence in certain neighborhoods compared to others? How do residents feel about the role of law enforcement and interactions with law enforcement in their community?
3. Do residents have concerns about the number and/or types of commercial establishments in your SPA? This may include liquor stores, cannabis outlets, or others. What are residents most concerned about?
4. How much trash, littering, graffiti and/or vandalism do residents see in their neighborhoods? Does this vary by neighborhood? Who is most impacted?

**Community Spaces:** Individuals thrive when they have spaces to gather and connect with others. Indoor and outdoor spaces, especially when they reflect the culture and diversity of communities, can serve as meaningful assets, resources, and a counter to hate and violence. Consider the types of spaces and questions below as you think about safe, accessible, and meaningful indoor and outdoor spaces in your community. These may include some of the following spaces:

- **Libraries:** City and county public libraries, including their online and in person programming.
- **Parks:** Public spaces with playgrounds, open green spaces, hiking trails, etc.
- **Community Healing Centers:** Places intentionally created for individuals and groups to heal emotionally and mentally after traumatic experiences.
- **Schools:** Public schools, private schools, charter schools, adult schools, alternative schools, night schools, etc.
- **Community Centers:** Public spaces where communities gather for large events or activities
- **Arts and Cultural Centers:** Public spaces that offer programming to celebrate arts, cultures, and unique identities; also includes other physical spaces in the community that integrate art that reflects the community or serve as catalysts for inclusivity.
- **Faith-based Centers:** Spaces for worship, healing, and/or spiritual practices.



5. Are there enough of these community spaces? Are community spaces well utilized? Do they feel safe to residents? Are there disparities in terms of who accesses public spaces and community centers?
6. What programs are offered in the community? Is programming of value? Why or why not? Is there enough programming in public spaces? Is there a cost or is programming free?
7. What issues make it difficult to utilize some of the community spaces and programs? This might include poor lighting at parks, high tuition costs at schools or for programs, limited hours at community centers and more. What would make it easier to utilize these spaces?
8. What kind of programming do community members and residents in your SPA want more of?

**Employment:** Job security and stability have always been a challenge for some communities, but the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated some of these challenges.

9. Are there enough workforce centers and vocational training opportunities in your region to help with job readiness, interview preparation, and more? Which agencies/programs are helpful?

**Housing and Homelessness:** Housing is a basic need and difficulty finding safe, secure, and affordable housing can impact individuals and families in a myriad of ways.

10. What are some issues residents face finding, paying for, and maintaining their housing? What agencies help with housing in your region?
11. What are some agencies within your SPA that provide free meal distribution, meal delivery, community fridges/pantries, food vouchers, or other helpful services?

**Substance Use:** Accessible services and resources for substance use, which includes both alcohol and other drugs, is necessary for both adults and youth.

12. Briefly list some of the agencies and organizations who provide substance use treatment services in your region. What types of substance use issues exist in your community?

**Built Environment and Food Access:** The built environment of each community can directly impact not only individual wellbeing, but the likelihood of violence within a specific area. The physical environment refers to the natural environment whereas the built environment refers to all of the buildings, roads, and streets that are man-made. Issues may include:

- Damaged and poorly lit walkways, sidewalks, and bicycle/running paths
- Lack of access to healthy food options within one mile (food deserts/food swamps)
- Proximity to pollutants (oil refineries, shipping ports, flight paths, etc.)
- Lack of access to metro/public transportation



- Minimal green space along streets/sidewalks (providing shade and visual support)
- Vacant buildings and/or vandalized buildings
- Traffic safety measures (roundabouts, speed bumps, crosswalks)

13. Generally, what issues are there with the built environment in your area?

14. Are there specific locations where these issues are most problematic?



## METHODOLOGY

How did you collect information about your SPA for this landscape analysis?

**Information Gathering Methods:** Use the table below to identify what methods you used to gather the information needed to complete the landscape analysis. This section should be included as an attachment to your written landscape analysis.

Check if Yes	Information Gathering Method	Quantity	Describe Method
<input type="checkbox"/>	Focus Groups		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Listening Sessions		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interviews		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking Tours		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Surveys		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Forums		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RVPC Data Package	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	PhotoVoice	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct Observation	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Methods/Data Sources	N/A	

**Diverse Perspectives:** What specific steps did your coalition take to ensure you were considering a wide range of voices and diverse perspectives when completing the landscape analysis? This includes the perspectives of youth, parents, unique populations, or individuals who live or work in different cities or communities within your SPA. This section should be included as an attachment to your written landscape analysis.