The UCLA Health and Social Justice Partnership

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Health and Social Justice Partnership
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The UCLA Health and Social Justice Partnership is a multidisciplinary research, evaluation and policy collaborative at UCLA, drawing staff from the UCLA Schools of Public Affairs, Public Health, Education and Medicine. As a collaborative, the Partnership has extensive experience in research and evaluation in public health, education, and social welfare focusing on gang violence prevention, government-community collaboration, public health and social welfare policy.

The mission of the Partnership is to prevent violence and provide children and families with the best opportunities for health and well-being within their communities.

At the local, state, national and international level, Partnership staff design and develop participatory research and evaluation initiatives to help:
- Prevent violence
- Foster community capacity-building
- Develop innovations in service delivery and positive system change

As part of these initiatives, the Partnership conducts applied research and evaluation to examine violence prevention strategies and to support the evidence base so that best practices can thrive in frameworks that focus on results-based accountability.

The UCLA Health and Social Justice Partnership is responsible for:
- The development of an international network of gang violence prevention
- Cross-site evaluation of collaborative efforts at violence prevention
- Qualitative interviews with at-risk youth, survivors and perpetrators of violence to understand individual and cultural dynamics in planning violence prevention programs and creating an archive of life histories
- Partnerships involving government, law enforcement and community-based organizations/NGOs, including those in post-war settings
- Exploring the nexus of domestic violence, interpersonal violence and gang violence in planning, implementing and evaluating gang prevention programs.
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Jorja Leap has been a member of the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Social Welfare since 1992. As an anthropologist and recognized expert in trans-national gangs, crisis intervention and post-war conflict resolution, Dr. Leap applies the public health, community-based approach to her research and developmental work. She has worked on issues related to violence prevention both nationally and internationally. Her current efforts focus on gangs and youth development in multi-cultural settings, criminal justice and prison reform, and the dilemmas faced by individuals reentering society after incarceration, including women, a group often overlooked.