

HEALING THE HOOD

Evaluation Summary

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation's Black Child Legacy Campaign (BCLC) developed its Healing the Hood strategy to reduce gun violence in Sacramento County through an integrated, collaborative approach to prevention, intervention, and crisis response. Healing the Hood, launched in 2018, is funded by the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CaVIP) program through the California Board of State and Community Corrections.

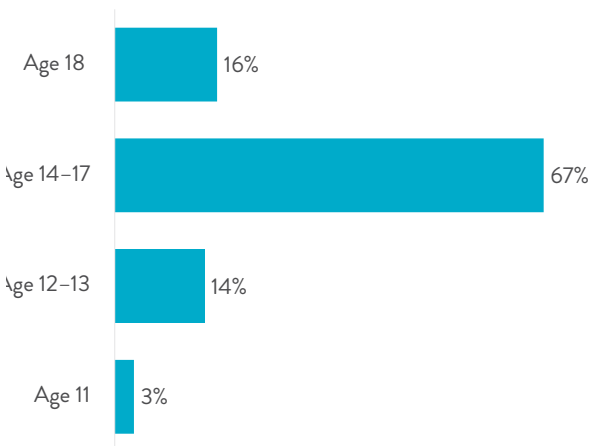
The Healing the Hood strategy is based on the Los Angeles Gang Reduction and Youth Development model, adapted for Sacramento's local context and needs. Trusted community-based organizations, known as community incubator leads (CILs), implemented the strategy in seven neighborhoods that experience high levels of violent crime and third-party homicides.¹ Crisis intervention workers connected participants with positive youth development services and helped them avoid gang involvement and violence, serving 117 youth across the sites from October 2020 to June 2023. CILs also implemented a crisis response protocol to decrease and mediate youth violence.

The Center contracted with Evident Change to conduct a two-and-a-half-year evaluation of Healing the Hood, which focused on improving the strategy's implementation, describing its community contributions, and assessing changes in participant outcomes. Data sources included participant data, crisis response data, and interviews and focus groups with 18 program staff (CILs, external partners, and The Center). This summary highlights evaluation findings.

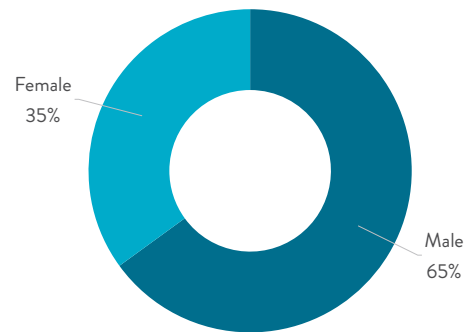
PARTICIPANTS SERVED

117 youth enrolled across the sites. Out of these, 37 youth (37%) successfully completed the program (based on the 99 youth for whom completion data was available). Healing the Hood reached the intended youth of color.

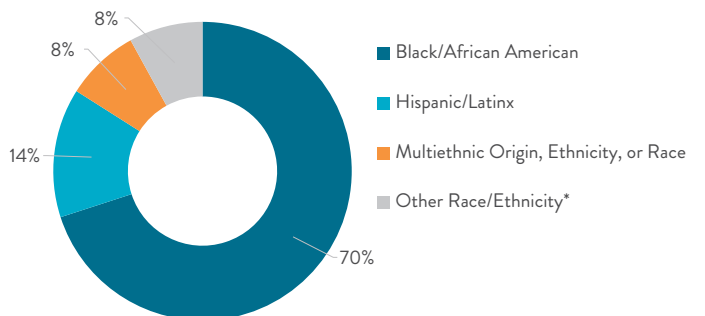
Youth Who Completed Healing the Hood by Age Range (N=37)



Youth Who Completed Healing the Hood by Gender (N=37)



Youth Who Completed Healing the Hood by Race/Ethnicity (N=37)



* Includes youth who identified as Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, or other race/ethnicity not specified here.

OUTCOMES FOR SUCCESSFUL EXITS

Youth showed improvement in resilience and prosocial tendencies since enrollment. Assessment data (available for 86% of the youth who successfully exited) indicate the percentage who showed an increase in the following areas.

91% Ability to make good choices and manage daily life

90% Participation in school and other positive activities

88% Ability to adapt and persevere through adversity

Youth showed reductions in gang involvement since enrollment. Of the youth with assessment data, 47% were assessed as being involved in a gang or at risk of involvement. Results for this group show the following.

80% Decreased gang involvement or risk of involvement

CRISIS RESPONSE OUTCOMES

Healing the Hood's crisis response team responded to 189 crisis incidents, 70% of which were shootings.

A comparison of crisis response team activities (from October 2020 to September 2021 and from October 2021 to September 2022) shows the following reductions, suggesting that while other factors may also support these observed decreases, Healing the Hood is contributing to noticeable decreases in community violence in the BCLC focus neighborhoods.

62% Decrease in response to crisis incidents overall

58% Decrease in response to shooting incidents

IMPLEMENTATION FACILITATORS



CILs' community connectedness. The CILs are established, respected community-based organizations that understand community dynamics and politics and maintain long-term, trusted relationships with youth and families.



Collaboration among CILs and with other agencies. CILs' efforts included coordinating with law enforcement and hospitals for crisis response and support and partnering with the probation department and schools for program referrals and service linkages.



It's about knowing who to go to in the community, knowing who to talk to. . . getting other people in the community involved to help us to calm down the violence. — Crisis Response Lead



IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Programmatic challenge: Additional service needs. About two fifths of youth (37%) successfully exited Healing the Hood. Access to more resources might support increased youth engagement and retention.



Organizational challenge: Staff capacity. Issues included limited case management and crisis response staffing, staff training, self-care needs, and compensation concerns. These challenges can contribute to staff burnout and turnover.



[T]he fluctuation of resources is definitely a challenge because we're not able to consistently offer the very thing that we have experienced to be most successful.

— CIL Lead

LESSONS LEARNED

The CIL sites, The Center, and organizations that may implement similar strategies should consider the following.

- Enhance support of youth and families in areas like youth outreach and retention and expand partnerships to meet service needs.
- Provide additional opportunities for staff, with a focus on self-care and training.
- Diversify funding sources to support needs, such as meaningful incentives for youth and increased staff capacity and compensation.

¹ The following Sacramento neighborhoods and associated CILs participated in Healing the Hood: Arden Arcade and North Highlands/Foothill Farms—Mutual Assistance Network, Del Paso Heights/North Sacramento—Roberts Family Development Center, Oak Park—Greater Sacramento Urban League, Fruitridge/Stockton—Sacramento Building Healthy Communities, Valley Hi—South Sacramento Christian Center, and Meadowview—Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center.