

North Advocate Hub (N.A.H.)
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INTRODUCTION

Project Purpose & Description

The purpose of the project was to provide data to guide City of Long Beach decision-makers as they distribute funds for much needed services for justice-impacted individuals. 96 bilingual surveys were distributed to justice-impacted individuals and service providers to identify the needs, strengths, and barriers they face in accessing services. The survey for service providers identified challenges, resource gaps, and opportunities to improve support systems for this population.

Social Problem & Focus Population

Through interviews with residents and stakeholders, observations, and data analysis, N.A.H. identified public safety and access to resources as two core challenges that significantly impact residents’ advancement in the community.

Scope of Social Problem

Community Stakeholder Interviews

- During interviews with community residents, it was shared that there are frequent shootings and people who commit crime and do not care. Additionally, another community resident shared that “better precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of those in the community.”

Secondary Data

- Compared to 2023, data provided by the North Division Long Beach Police Department, revealed a 90% increase in kidnapping/abduction, 70.9% increase in intimidation, 120% increase in murder, and a 26.7% increase in robbery in 2024 (City of Long Beach 2024).

Alignment to Specialization

By assessing the needs and strengths of justice-impacted individuals, re-entry programs help connect them to essential services that reduce family disruption and foster healthier family environments. This project focuses on understanding the preferred integration services of justice-impacted individuals in 90805, with an emphasis on strengthening family stability and supporting child welfare. The goal is to ensure that future grants and services are more closely aligned with community priorities, promoting successful reintegration and enhancing family well-being.

PROJECT OVERVIEW, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

PROJECT GOAL

To improve the community reintegration of the justice-involved population in the 90805 community.

LONG-TERM OUTCOME OBJECTIVE

By April 2026 the sense of public safety among residents residing in Long Beach 90805 will be increased by 3% as indicated by Long Beach Police Department North Division Crime Statistics.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME OBJECTIVE

By April 2026 the of rate of recidivism among justice-impacted individuals residing in Long Beach 90805 will be decreased by 3% as indicated by Long Beach Police Department North Division Crime Statistics.

INITIAL OUTCOME OBJECTIVE

#1: By April 2025 re-entry service providers will increase their knowledge regarding the re-entry population’s needs and barriers by 25% as indicated by an evaluation survey of N.A.H.’s presentation.

#2: By April 2025 re-entry service providers will increase their efforts to ensure that they prioritize the re-entry population’s needs by 25% as indicated by an evaluation survey of N.A.H.’s presentation.

#3: By April 2025 re-entry service providers will increase their ability to provide services that meet the needs of the re-entry population by 25% as indicated by an evaluation survey of N.A.H.’s presentation.

PROCESS OBJECTIVE #1:

By mid-February 2025 a survey on re-entry population services will be designed to gather insight into the strengths and challenges the reentry population faces when accessing and receiving services as documented by the creation of the survey.

PROCESS OBJECTIVE #2:

By late February 2025 and early March 2025, individuals who were previously incarcerated or justice-involved residing in Long Beach 90805 will be outreached to for the purpose of distributing the designed survey as documented by a survey database.

PROCESS OBJECTIVE #3:

By end of April 2025, the analyzed results of the survey will be presented to the City of Long Beach Re-entry Advisement Committee as indicated by their scheduled monthly meetings.

STUDY RESULTS

Outreach Survey Participant Characteristics

Table 1. Justice-Impacted Demographic Information (N=65)

Variables	n	%
Gender		
Male	42	64.6%
Female	17	26.2%
Perfer not to say	6	9.2%
Race and Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	32	49.2%
African American or Black	18	27.7%
More Than One Race	9	13.8%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1	1.5%
Native American or Alaska Native	1	1.5%
Asian	1	1.5%
Prefer not to say	3	4.6%

Table 2. Service Provider Demographic Information (N=31)

Variables	n	%
Gender		
Male	16	50.0%
Female	14	43.8%
Non-binary	1	3.1%
Race and Ethnicity		
Black or African American	15	46.9%
Hispanic or Latino	8	25.0%
White	5	15.6%
Multiracial or Mixed	1	3.1%
Arab	1	3.1%
Asian	1	3.1%

Outreach Survey Quantitative Results

Justice-Impacted Populations’ Urgent Needs

Physical health services

Substance use services

Mental health services

Case management

Educational/ Vocational attainment

Housing services

Employee Support

Mental Health Treatment

Housing Assistance

Domestic Violence

Family Reunification

Legal Aid

Most Common Needs of Justice-Involved Individuals Based on Service Provider Responses

Study Findings

Community Members

- Most urgent needs reported include workforce services (resume building, interviewing skills), housing services, and educational/vocational attainment (GED, trainings)
- Assistance reported during justice-involvement process mostly derives from family/peer support, transportation, community centers/programs, and access to stable housing
- Barriers when accessing services include cost, transportation limitations, and time

Service Providers

- Most reported need among justice-involved individuals is housing assistance.
- Most frequently reported types of services provided by organizations include employment support, housing assistance, and mental health treatment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Advocate Hub would like to thank Teresa and Lexus for their support, time, and collaboration in making this a successful project. We'd also like to thank Whole Systems Learning for opening their doors and distributing the survey to their youth, community, and service providers, as their continuous dedication to justice-impacted individuals.

RESOURCES

City of Long Beach. (2024). *Long Beach Police Department Citywide Crime Statistics*. Retrieved November 9, 2024 from https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/police/media-library/images/crime-info/2024-09_monthly_ibr.

EVALUATION METHODS

Results of both surveys were shared with the Re-entry Advisory Committee with a total of 19 service providers being present. Using convenience sampling, a mixed-methods evaluation was conducted to assess changes in the participants’ knowledge after sharing the results of both the surveys. The electronic evaluation (Microsoft Forms) was made available through a QR code and a link, which was sent on the Teams chat. A total of 5 participants completed the evaluation and data was analyzed via an Excel spreadsheet.

EVALUATION RESULTS

Table 3. Post presentation evaluation survey responses to outcome questions on increasing service providers’ knowledge regarding justice-impacted population’s needs and barriers. (N=5)

As a result of N.A.H.’s presentation...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. I learned something new regarding the re-entry populations’ needs from this report... (n=5)	0% n= 0	0% n= 0	60% n= 3	40% n= 2
2. My knowledge of re-entry population has changed... (n=5)	0% n= 0	20% n= 1	60% n= 3	20% n= 1
3. I believe service providers in the City of Long Beach are currently meeting the needs of the re-entry population... (n=5)	0% n= 0	40% n= 2	20% n= 1	40% n= 2

Participant Responses

"I really appreciated how you shared stories so we can hear about the individuals behind the numbers and data"

"Great presentation, especially the qualitative information"

"Everything said was very informational and very much appreciated"

CONCLUSION

Evaluation Limitations & Improvements

Challenges Encountered

- Our efforts to promote the evaluation survey to the Long Beach Re-entry Advisory Committee were hindered by the meeting’s tight schedule
- Emailing the survey to our partner after the presentation resulted in fewer responses
- Conducting the session virtually created accessibility challenges

Recommendations for Future Evaluations

- Present findings in person and provide participants with paper copies of the evaluation survey
- Inform attendees about the survey at the start of the session to boost participation
- These strategies address accessibility, reduce technical issues, and enhance community connection

Recommendations & Implications

Practice

- Implication: The qualitative findings highlighted the importance of including the voices of justice-impacted individuals in the design and delivery of community services.
- Recommendation: Invest programs led by formerly incarcerated or justice-impacted individuals, that reflect the cultural backgrounds of the communities they serve.

Policy

- Implication: The data revealed systemic challenges and reinforced the need for policy reform, increase funding, and holistic approaches to support the re-entry population.
- Recommendation: Require public agencies and funded service providers to receive trainings in trauma-informed care and culturally responsive service delivery.

Research

- Implication: By including both community members and service provider perspectives, the data highlighted the needs, strengths, and challenges from both perspectives.
- Recommendation: Use of community-based data to inform the design and funding of re-entry programs.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

City of Long Beach: Department of Health & Human Services, Human Dignity Program

This program promotes encouragement of positive human relations among citizens, groups and institutions to consider the reduction of tension, conflict, or violence which may arise from intolerance, prejudice and discrimination based upon race, religion, national origin, age gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability.

Name of Collaborator	Contributions
<div>Teresa M. Gomez, <i>Human Dignity Program Manager</i> Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Teresa.Gomez@longbeach.gov</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided feedback for both surveysAssisted with approval of flyers, translation for surveysProvided reentry t-shirts and other materials needed for outreach (i.e., clipboards, pens)Provided network opportunities with community members and service providers
<div>Lexus Llamas, <i>Re-Entry Coordinator</i> Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Lexus.Llamas@longbeach.gov</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided feedback for both surveysAssisted with outreach email to service providersComplied and provided service provider listProvided feedback on presentation slides