

SAPC PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS)
September 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention & Control (SAPC) Prevention Services Division (PSD) is responsible for the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of effective, relevant, and culturally competent substance use prevention services and initiatives. SAPC aims to reduce the burden of substance abuse by reducing the individual and community level availability and accessibility of alcohol and other drugs through implementing effective, equitable, comprehensive, and culturally and linguistically competent evidence-based prevention programming countywide.

The 2023-24 SAPC Prevention Annual Report highlights key prevention strategies and initiatives implemented in Los Angeles County (LAC) to reduce the burden of substance abuse, and includes accomplishments and adjustments made to regular programming to address post pandemic programmatic challenges, advances in technology, and lessons learned through evaluating prior years' efforts, countywide. Additionally, there are recommendations for next steps in accordance with Federal and State guidelines and the Los Angeles County's Strategic Prevention Plan¹ to reduce underage drinking and binge drinking among youth and young adults, decrease prescription drugs and over-the-counter medication misuse and abuse, reduce marijuana use by youth, and decrease availability of and access to methamphetamine and other illicit drugs by youth and young adults.

In 2024, despite a 22% decrease in drug overdose deaths, there were still 2,438 LAC residents who lost their lives due to drug overdose, of which 52% involved fentanyl and 62% involved methamphetamine.² In 2022, on average, each alcohol or other drug (AOD) related hospitalization cost over \$65,000.³ Similarly, the cost of medical care for people with substance use disorders is 2-3 times higher on average, compared to individuals without AOD issues.⁴ In LAC, AOD accounted for \$1.48 billion in hospital spending alone in 2022.⁵

SAPC has continued investing in effective, localized and community-driven substance use primary prevention programs as both a cost-saving strategy and public health necessity. For every dollar invested in prevention, there is a cost savings of \$7.40-\$36 in future substance use-related health, social, and criminal costs.⁶ SAPC remains committed to ensuring that LAC receives comprehensive, data-driven, and community-led primary prevention initiatives that reduce the overall burden and risk of addiction, while protecting and promoting individual health and the health of communities.

¹ http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/prevention/PP/Strategic_Prevention_Plan_072820.pdf

² <http://ph.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Fentanyl-Overdoses-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf?v=25>

³ <https://lacountydphsapc.inzatastories.com/aod-hospitalizations>

⁴ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/MDBrief/CostDataBrief.pdf>

⁵ <https://lacountydphsapc.inzatastories.com/>

⁶ *ibid*

Through a myriad of partnerships, SAPC continues to deliver relevant, evidence-based, and innovative substance use disorder (SUD) prevention services across the county. This fiscal year, over 148,000 youth and adults were served through community collaborations⁷ with various community-based organizations, County agencies, and educational institutions.⁸

- Services are aimed at specific populations in multiple settings, such as schools, after-school programs, and faith-based organization that match the needs, resources, and cultural requirements of community(ies) they serve.
- SAPC contracted SUD prevention providers offer prevention services through culturally competent coalition-building and network development to engage all community groups in policy advocacy solutions to minimize the risks and harms associated with substance use.
- Our prevention providers' civic engagement efforts include informing the community on the public health issues and local policies, providing testimonials, engaging elected officials, and encouraging communities to be involved in conversations with their local representatives to advocate on behalf of their communities.
- Strategic educational partnerships are built to ensure positive youth development, engaging middle and high school youth as active leaders, mentors, and advocates to reduce access to and availability of alcohol and other drugs.
- Positive youth development initiatives expand partnerships with public health community resource centers, public parks, local universities, and libraries to broaden the reach of substance use prevention education and positive youth development opportunities to at-risk youth, utilizing evidence-based curriculum that is both developmentally and culturally relevant. Youth voices are elevated to improve awareness, outreach, and education of substance use prevention issues affecting adolescents and communities-at-large.
- Large-scale media campaigns provide countywide awareness and education regarding priority substances that most affect local communities through data informed messaging that involve the most relevant forms of media and include a significant call to action.
- Evidence-based programs (EBPs) and local innovative strategies were used to address substance misuse through numerous interagency collaboratives countywide.

⁷ Reported by prevention providers, obtained through annual progress report at the end of each fiscal year.

⁸ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/prevention/PV/PreventionStandardsManual.pdf>

Los Angeles County (LAC) has been divided into 8 Service Planning Areas (SPA) due to its large size. The Department of Public Health (DPH) develops and provides relevant public health and clinical services targeted to the specific health needs of the residents in these geographic areas.



SPA 1: 352,679	SPA 4: 995,415	SPA 7: 1,101,449
SPA 2: 1,911,427	SPA 5: 585,846	SPA 8: 1,339,842
SPA 3: 1,543,250	SPA 6: 849,377	

Population data citation: County of Los Angeles, Internal Services Department, Information Technology Service, Urban Research-GIS Section, July 1, 2022, Population Estimates (provisional) for Los Angeles County Tract-City and Countywide Area Splits by Age, Sex and Race/Ethnicity, Los Angeles, CA, March 2023. SPA and SD geographies integrated in by Population Health Assessment Team, Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology. The population of 12 years and above by GIS section. Health Outcomes and Data Analytics (HODA) at SANC.

Los Angeles County (LAC) is divided into 5 Supervisorial Districts (SD), with each County Supervisor representing a district of approximately 2 million people.



SD 1: 1,729,742	SD 4: 1,798,105
SD 2: 1,706,063	SD 5: 1,654,475
SD 3: 1,790,900	

The Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) is committed to promoting health equity and ensuring optimal health and well-being for all our residents. Substance Abuse Prevention & Control (SAPC) is one of the five Bureaus within LAC DPH, funding over 150 prevention and treatment community-based organizations aimed at addressing alcohol and other drug-related problems in the county through prevention initiatives and community partnerships. Through the application of inclusive and equitable best practices, SAPC aspires to prevent and reduce the burden of substance use in LAC through collaboration with multiple public and private entities. Our community partners and agencies enhance substance use prevention by affecting the social norms and built environments that promote substance use in communities, especially at-risk populations.

Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS)

SAPC administers the operation of a network of contracted community-based agencies and County-based initiatives, utilizing the Strategic Prevention Plan (SPP) and the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). SAPC works collaboratively with a network of community and County partners to assess community needs and resources and develop effective and culturally responsive prevention strategies to promote community engagement and build capacity at the local level, enhancing the overall delivery of primary prevention services.

About SAPC

- The Department of Public Health's Division of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) oversees the most diverse and comprehensive continuum of SUD services in California.



- SAPC is committed to innovative, equitable, and quality-focused substance use **prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services.**

**SAPC is committed to:
INNOVATIVE, EQUITABLE AND QUALITY-FOCUSED
SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION, HARM REDUCTION,
TREATMENT. AND RECOVERY SERVICES.**

Prevention First Treatment Works, and Recovery is Possible.

This report represents accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities encountered during the 2023-24 fiscal year. Service data were summarized based on community partner self-reports and entries into the state data reporting system. Effective interventions impacting substance use prevention have also been showcased. In general, substance use prevention services continue to address individual and community-level public health issues of drug access and availability, initiation of use, and positive and healthy activities that serve as alternatives to drug misuse and abuse among youth and adults.



OUR VISION AND MISSION

SAPC's Vision:

Healthy communities that are safe and free from substance use problems.

SAPC's Mission:

Implement effective prevention initiatives, guided by best practices and data in order to systematically reduce community substance use problems.



SAPC Strategic Prevention Plan
SAPC Prevention Provider Manual

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

SAPC addressed the following four priority area goals and objectives through collaboration with the local community and County partners to design and implement data-driven and community-based strategies, addressing priority AOD-related issues and their associated risk factors in target communities.

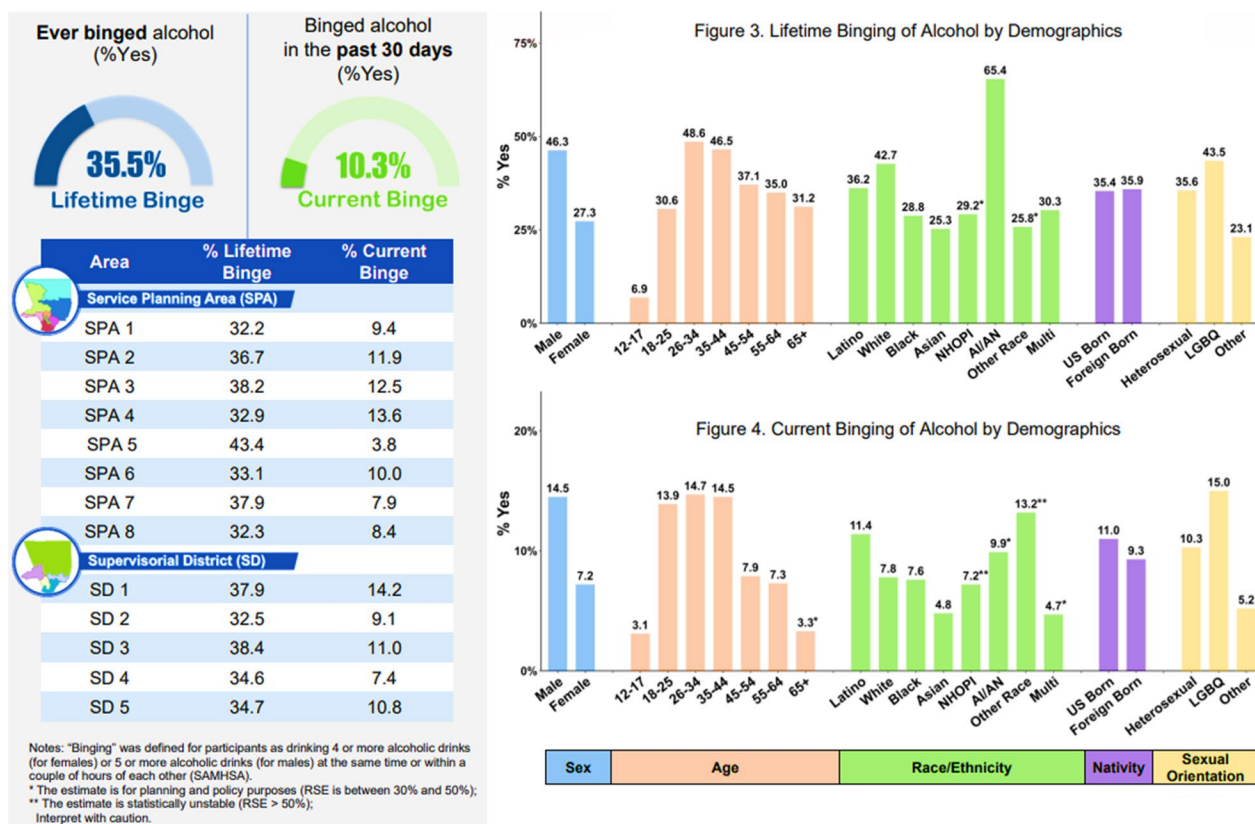
1. Decrease alcohol use among youth
2. Decrease cannabis use among youth
3. Decrease methamphetamine use among youth and adults
4. Decrease prescription drug misuse and abuse among youth and adults

DATA SNAPSHOT

Alcohol

According to the 2022 SAPC Community Needs Assessment (CNA)⁹, an estimated 69.8% of LAC residents reported having used alcohol and 35.5% reported binge drinking^{10,11}, at least once in their lifetime. Current alcohol use was reported at 39.2% and current binge alcohol use was at 10.3%.¹² Among youth between the ages of 12 and 17, over 23.0% reported having tried alcohol and 8.2% reported current use of alcohol. Age of initiation was highest among Asians (19) and lowest among Native American/Alaska Natives (13).¹³ Current alcohol use was highest in SPA 5 (48.7%), SPA 2 (42.7%), and SPA 3 (41.5%). Current binge drinking was reported by 10.3% of LAC respondents and was highest in SPA 4 (13.6%), SPA 3 (12.5%), and SPA 2 (11.9%).

Binge Alcohol Use by Demographics, Los Angeles County, 2022



⁹ <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Alcohol-Use-and-Public-Perceptions-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf>

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ Binge drinking—Four or more drinks for women, or five or more drinks for men during an occasion as reported by CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/about-alcohol-use/index.html#:~:text=Binge%20drinking%E2%80%94Four%20or%20more,by%20people%20younger%20than%2021.>

¹² <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Alcohol-Use-and-Public-Perceptions-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf>

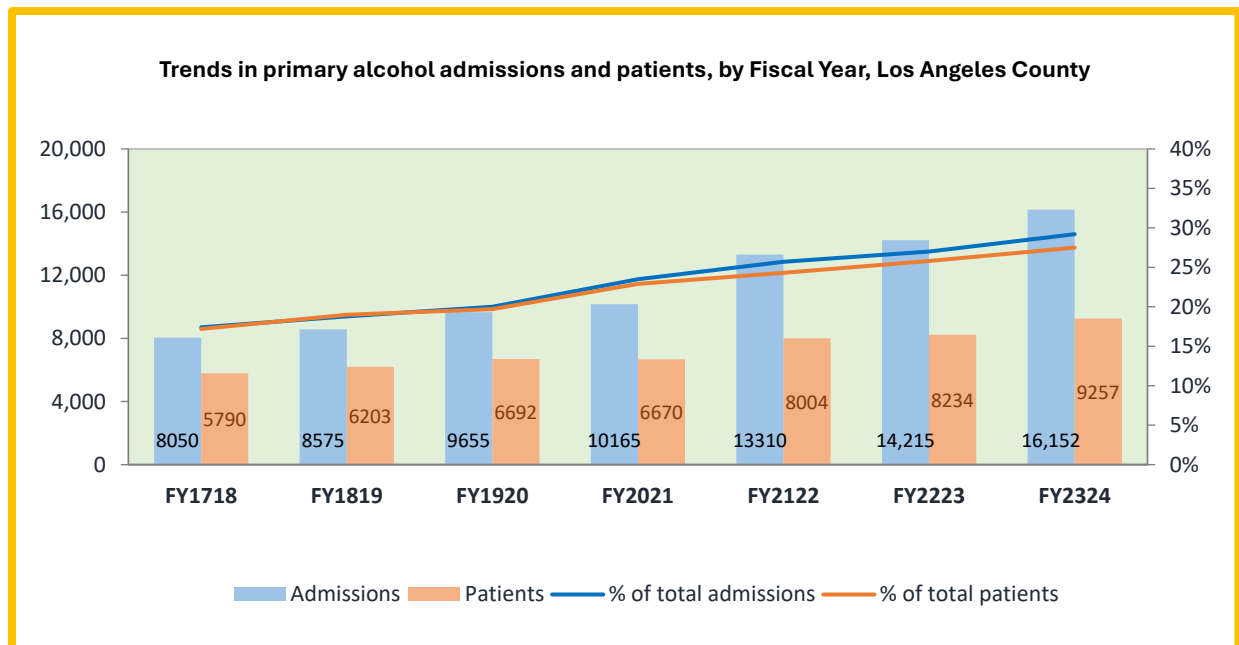
¹³ *ibid*

**Substance Use
Prevention Services
(SUPS)**

The perceived risk of harm to youth from regular alcohol use and binge drinking was lowest among youth, ages 12-17 34.6% and 50.1% respectively. Over 75% of all survey respondents reported easy access to alcohol and 8.6% reported using delivery services to purchase alcohol. Of those using alcohol delivery services, about 70% reported age verification by the drivers.¹⁴

High availability of alcohol and low perception of risk of harm has been associated with increased alcohol use,¹⁵ driving communities to develop public health policies and interventions to change risk perception and curb alcohol use.

Alcohol related treatment admissions at LAC's publicly funded treatment centers have been steadily rising since 2017.¹⁶ In FY2324, alcohol was reportedly the primary substance for 29.2% of admissions.



¹⁴ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Alcohol-Use-and-Public-Perceptions-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH099a/NSDUH099a/sr099a-risk-perception-trends.pdf>

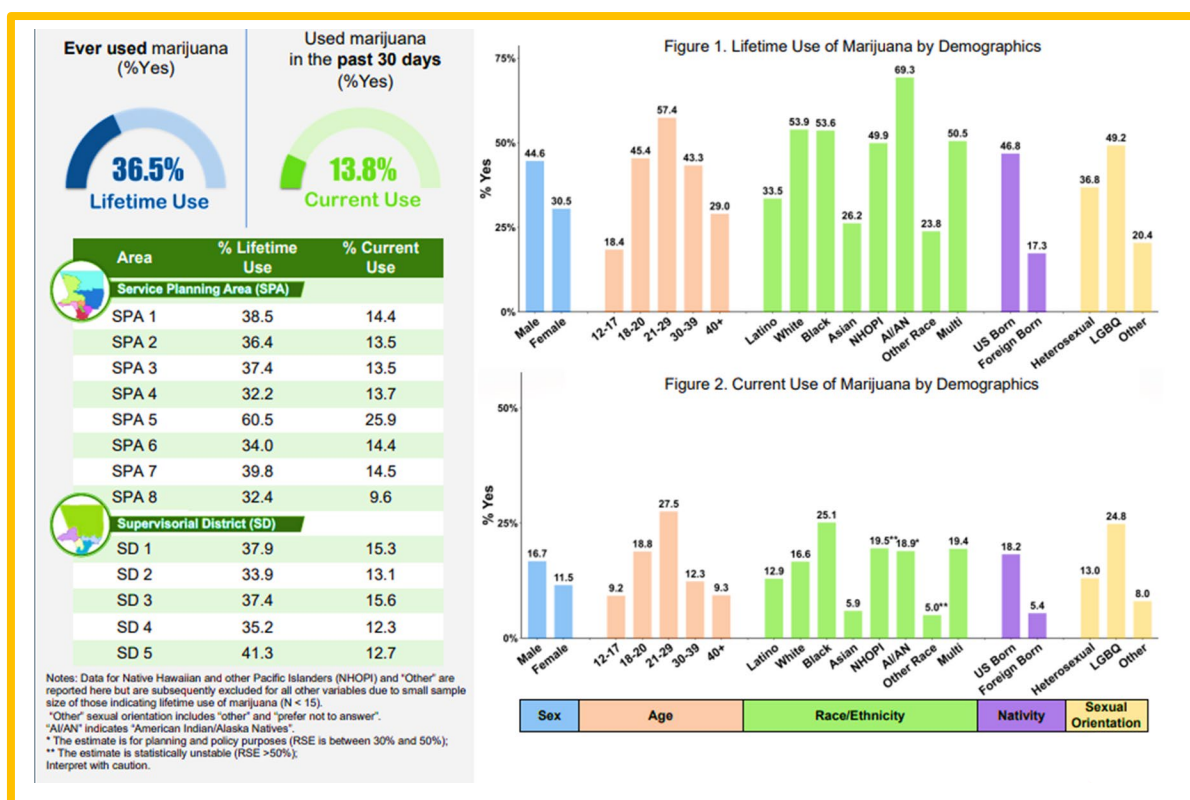
¹⁶ <http://ph.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Annual-Tx-Report-FY2324.pdf>

Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS)

Cannabis

Cannabis use has been consistently increasing¹⁷, since the legalization of cannabis in California. According to the 2022 CNA¹⁸, 36.5% of residents reported having tried cannabis at least once in their lifetime, and 13.8% reported current cannabis use.¹⁹ Current cannabis use was reported highest among those between the ages of 21-29 at 27.5%, followed by young adults between the ages of 18-20, at 18.8%.²⁰

Among youth (Ages 12-17), 9.2% reported current cannabis use. Across LAC, the highest current cannabis use was reported in SPA 5 (25.9%), followed by SPAs 7 (14.5%), SPA 6 and SPA 1 at 14.4% each. Mean age of initiation was 17 and over 93% reported easy access to cannabis.²¹



Over 28% of respondents reported having gone to school or work under the influence of cannabis.²² This was highest among youth ages 12-17 (48.4%), and geographically in SPA 1, 6, and 5 at 34.6%, 33.7%, and 31.0% respectively.

¹⁷ <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt56287/2024-nsduh-annual-national-report.pdf>

¹⁸ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Marijuana-Use-and-Public-Perceptions-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf>

¹⁹ ibid

²⁰ ibid

²¹ ibid

²² ibid

Perception of risk of harm is a protective factor against substance use.²³ Perceived risk of harm associated with marijuana use increased, while the perceived availability of marijuana declined significantly from 2023 to 2024.²⁴ The increased perception of harm, coupled with the decreased perception of availability has been associated with reductions in marijuana use among this age group.²⁵ Additionally, positive youth development programs have the potential to reduce vulnerability to cannabis use.²⁶

Prescription (Rx) Drugs

Results from the 2022 CNA²⁷ indicate that 12.7% of LAC residents misused prescription (Rx) drugs at least once in their lifetime and 2.1% reported current Rx misuse. Average age of initiation in LAC was 21 where 38.1% of survey respondents reported initiation Rx misuse before age 18.

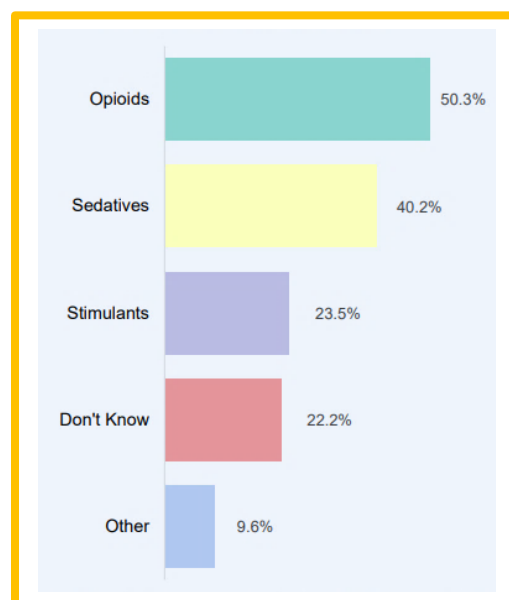
Men reported higher current misuse of Rx drugs at 3.1% vs. women at 1.4%. Among LGBTQ, Rx misuse was reported at 4.7% and highest among young adults, ages 18-25, at 3.4%.²⁸

The SPAs with highest proportion of residents with current Rx misuse were SPA 6 at 3.3%, followed by SPA 1 at 2.9%, at SPA 5 at 2.6% and SPA 4 at 2.5%.

Perception of harm to youth from regular Rx misuse was lowest among youth ages 12-17, with 53.6% and young adults ages 18-25, with 59.6%. Perception of harm to youth from regular Rx misuse was lowest among LGBTQ compared to heterosexuals at 70.3%.

Median age of initiation was 19 for men and 22 for women. An estimated 40% of men and 35.7% of women first misused Rx drugs before age 18. About 52.8% of men and 41.7% of women reported easy access to Rx medications without a prescription.

Easy access to Rx drugs without a prescription was reported higher among Black/African American, at 57.7%, followed by Asians 51.9%, and Latinos by 49.5%. Within LAC, 58.9% of SPA 6, 54.7% of SPA 5 and 54.3% of SPA 1 residents reported an easy access to Rx drugs.²⁹ The most frequently misused Rx drugs include opioids at 50.3%, followed by sedatives at 40.2%, and stimulants at 23.5%.



²³ <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt56484/NSDUHDetailedTabs2024/NSDUHDetailedTabs2024/2024-nsduh-detailed-tables-sect3pe.htm#tab3.1a>

²⁴ *ibid*

²⁵ <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-021-11906-2>

²⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-youth/what-works-in-schools/index.html>

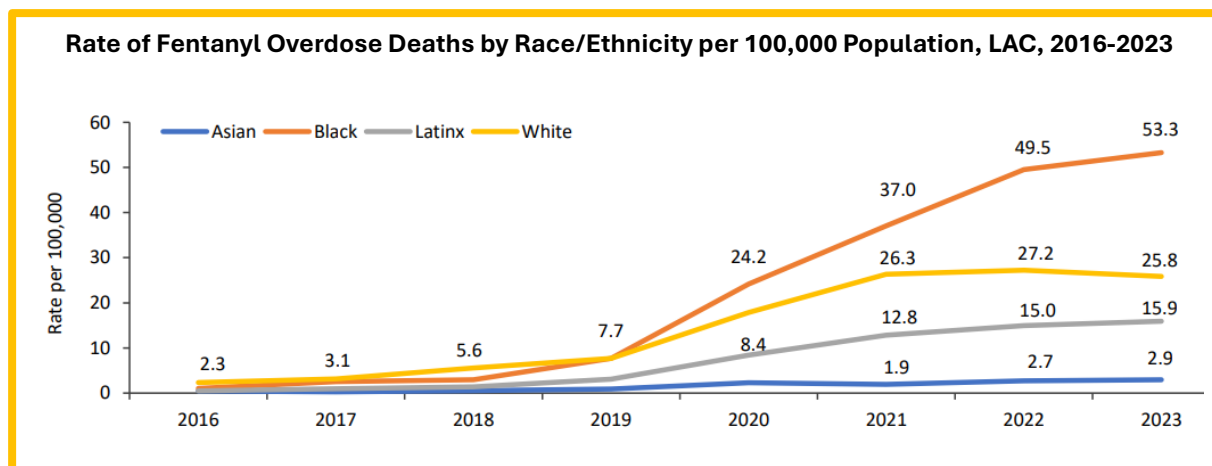
²⁷ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Prescription-Misuse-and-Public-Perceptions-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf>

²⁸ *ibid*

²⁹ <http://ph.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Prescription-Misuse-and-Public-Perceptions-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf>

Fentanyl

Opioid related overdose deaths, especially those involving fentanyl have experienced sharp increases since the start of the pandemic. In 2023, fentanyl accounted for 64% of all alcohol and other drug overdose deaths, surpassing methamphetamine for the 2nd year consecutive year.³⁰



Due to the unique risks associated with fentanyl exposure, overdose prevention education and naloxone distribution became a vital part of our prevention practices. In 2024, fentanyl overdose deaths declined sharply by 37%, dropping to 1,263 deaths. In 2024, fentanyl overdose deaths remained highest for Black/African Americans (29.0), followed by Whites (17.4), Latinos (10.5), and Asians (1.7).³¹

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine (meth) has continued to be a major public health concern in LAC and the most seized drug by law enforcement agencies.³² Over 36% of violent crimes and 32% of property crimes have been attributed to meth.³³

According to the 2022 LAC CNA, 8% of LAC residents 12 or older reported having used meth in their lifetimes and 1.6% reported using meth within 30 days. Average age of meth initiation was 20 and about 48% first used meth before age 18.³⁴ The most common reasons reported for meth use were for fun (48%), enhanced mood (44%), increased energy (42%), and getting more done (35%). About 77% reported easy access to meth and 46.7% reported obtaining meth from friends and 31.9% reported getting meth from dealers.³⁵

³⁰ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Fentanyl-Overdoses-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf>

³¹ <http://ph.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Fentanyl-Overdoses-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf?v=25>

³² <https://lacountydphsapc.inzastories.com/meth-availability>

³³ https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/DIR-040-17_2017-NDTA.pdf

³⁴

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/MDU/SpecialReport/Methamphetamine-Use-and-Public-Perceptions-in-Los-Angeles-County.pdf>

³⁵ *ibid*

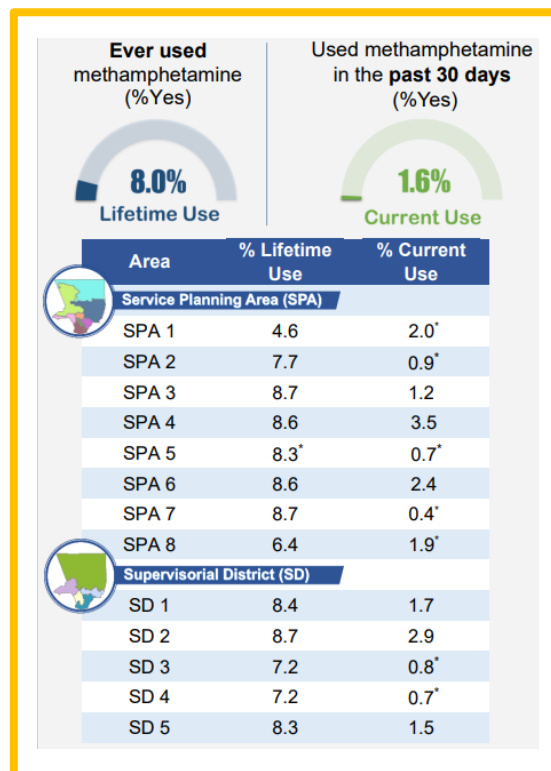
Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS)

Within the 8 SPAs, the highest current meth use was reported in SPA 4 (3.5%), SPA 6 (2.4%), and SPA 1 (2.0%). The 2nd supervisorial district reported the highest current use of meth at 2.9%.³⁶

In 2022, there were 20,429 meth-related ED visits, including 4,982 primary meth visits in LAC. This included meth abuse, dependence, use, and poisoning.³⁷ The highest rates of meth ED visits were seen in SPA 1 (351.8 per 100,000 persons), followed by SPA 6 (290.9) and SPA 4 (283.9).³⁸

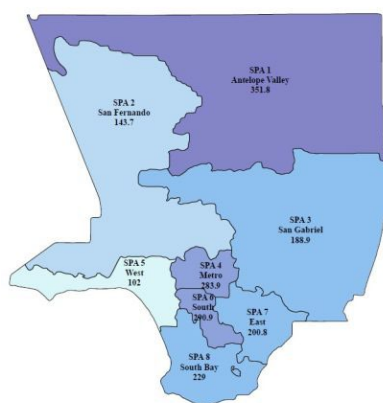
The highest number of meth-involved fatal crashes occurred in SPA 2 (129), followed by SPA 3 (126), and SPA 1 (90).³⁹

An analysis of 2012-2022 drug overdose death rates per 100,000 by Service Planning Area revealed highest meth related deaths occurred in SPA 4 (50), SPA 1 (21.7), SPA 6 (18.5), and SPA 5 (18) respectively.⁴⁰



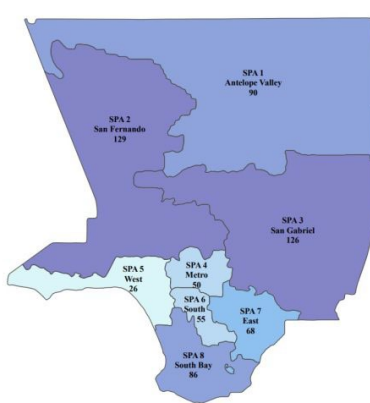
Methamphetamine-related ED Visits, DUI Fatalities, and Overdose Deaths by SPA, LAC

ED Visits (2022)



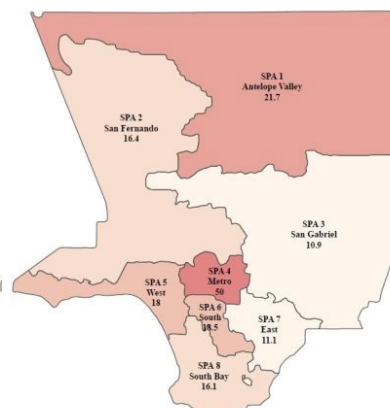
(Source: HCAI)

DUI Fatalities (2001-2022)



(Source: FARS)

Overdose Deaths (2023)



(Source: LAC Coroner)

<https://lacountydphspsc.inzastories.com/meth-spa>

³⁶ ibid

³⁷ <https://lacountydphspsc.inzastories.com/meth-availability/>

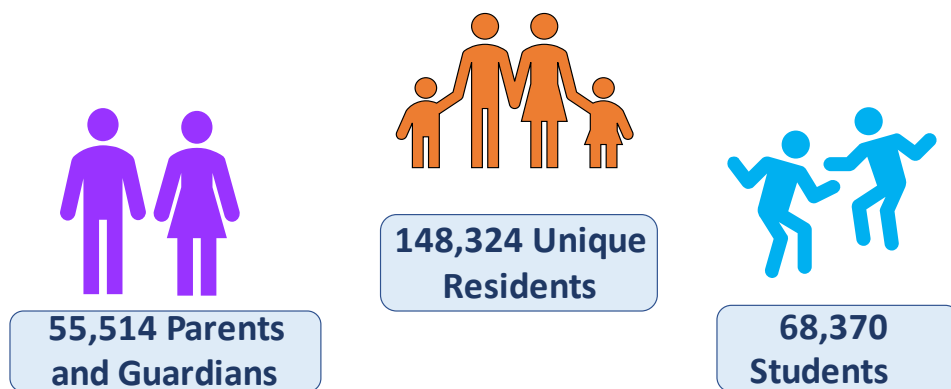
³⁸ <https://lacountydphspsc.inzastories.com/meth-spa/>

³⁹ ibid

⁴⁰ <https://lacountydphspsc.inzastories.com/meth-spa>

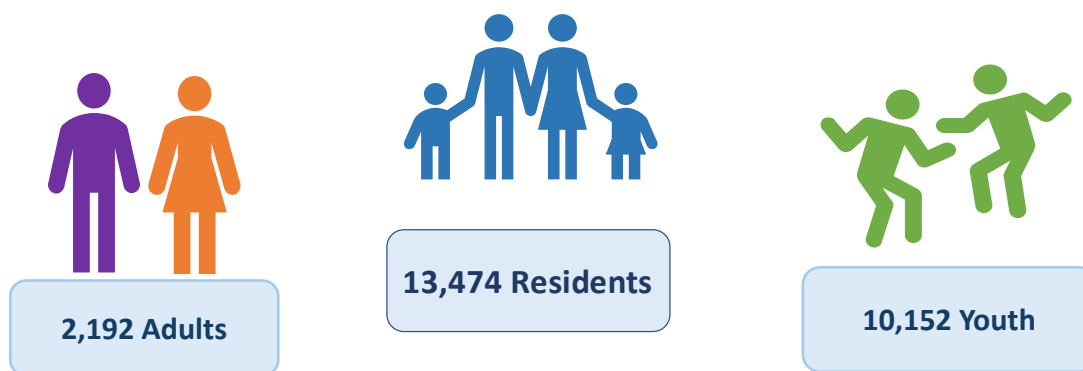
PREVENTION SERVICES

Residents Served, Los Angeles County, FY 23-24



Source: FY2324 Year-end Prevention Progress Report

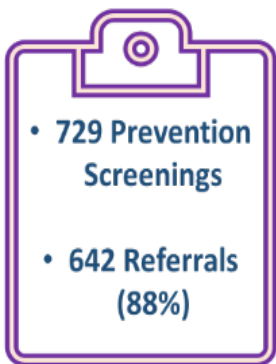
Individual* Prevention Services, Los Angeles County, FY 23-24



• Includes educational, alternative, and screening services only

Source: ECCO, CA Prevention data collection for Los Angeles County

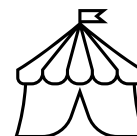
**Substance Use
Prevention Services
(SUPS)**



Prevention Activities, Los Angeles County, FY 23-24



- 1,404 Community Presentations



- 1,416 Outreach Events



- 3,034 student education sessions
- 401 parent education sessions

- 543 Environmental Scans



- Provided programming in over 375 schools

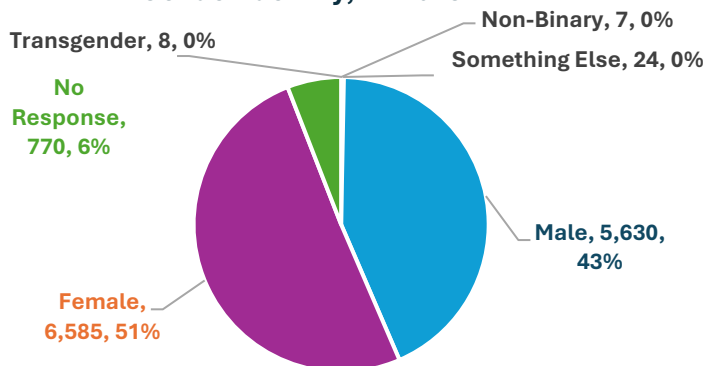


Source: FY2324 Year-end Prevention Progress Report

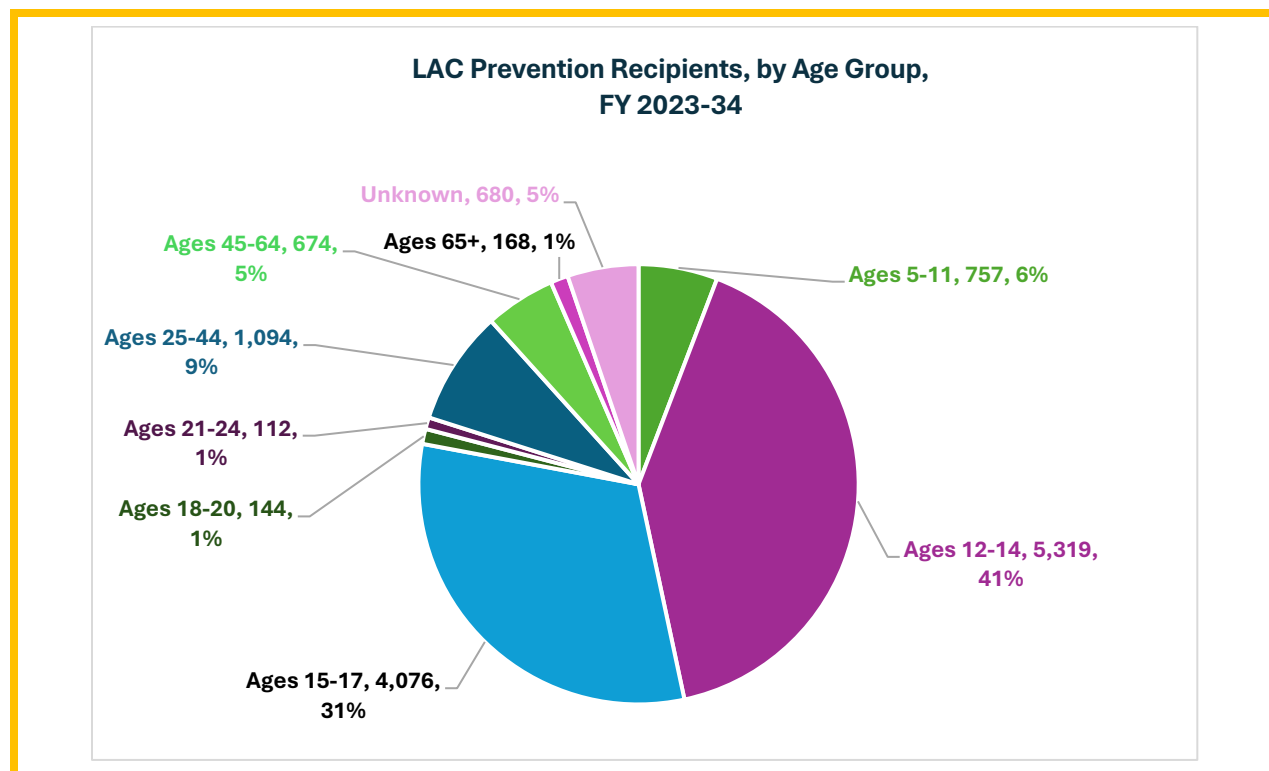
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

During FY2023-24, SAPC-contracted prevention providers offered individualized services (i.e. educational sessions, alternative activities, and screening & referral services) to 13,024 Los Angeles County residents, including 10,152 youth. Overall, there were 5,630 males, 6,585 females, and 39 who self-identified as gender non-binary, transgender, or 'something else'. Gender was unknown for 770 residents served during this fiscal year.

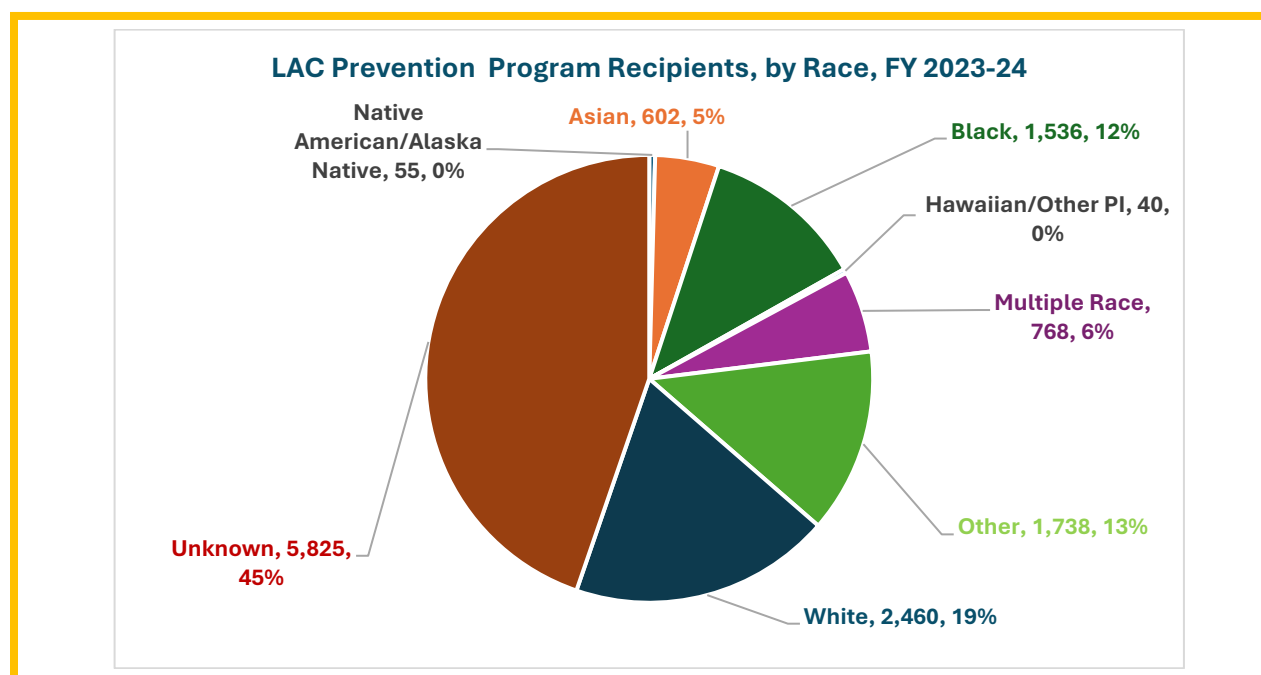
LAC Prevention Program Recipients, by Gender Identity, FY 2023-24



**Substance Use
Prevention Services
(SUPS)**

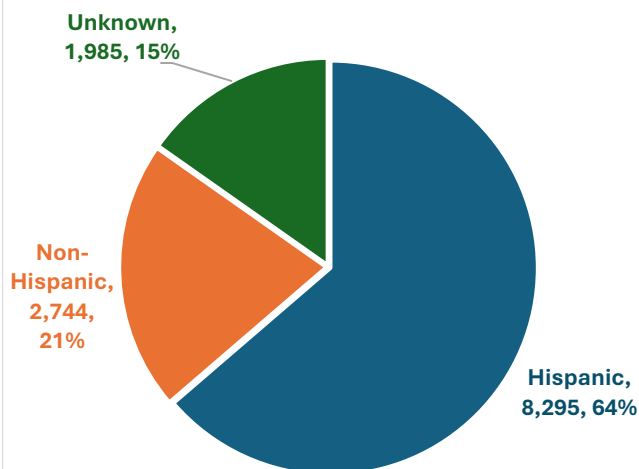


Most of the participants (78%) were youth; (41%) were between the ages of 12 and 14, 31% were youth ages 15-17, and 6% were under the age of 12.



Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS)

**LAC Prevention Program Recipients,
by Ethnicity, FY 2023-24**



An estimated 64% of residents served, were reported to be of Latino/Hispanic ancestry. Participants⁴¹ included 19% White, 12% Black/African American³⁵, 5% Asian²⁷ less than 1% for both American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islander. 6% were identified as Multi-racial.

The majority (53%) of services provided during the fiscal year were information dissemination strategies, followed by community-based strategies (29%), educational (10%), alternative (7%), environmental (1%), and problem identification & referral. About half of our educational interventions were evidence-based strategies.

Evidence-Based Educational Strategies

[Life Skills Training or LST](#) is an evidence-based program that has proven to be effective in increasing protective factors against substance use for middle-school and high-school students. This year, over 1,000 persons received LST in their schools or after school programs. LST has accounted for over 56% of evidence-based educational activities countywide. Over 10% of interventions revolved around “[2 smart 2 Start](#)” which is a public education initiative that provides evidence-based strategies to professionals and volunteers to help implement an underage alcohol use prevention program at the community level. Over 8% of interventions included “[RISE](#)”, 7% included “[Guiding Good Choices](#)”, about 2% “[Keeping it Real](#)”, 2.4% “[Project Towards No Drugs](#)”, 1.3% “[Drugs True Stories](#)”, and less than 1% included other evidence-based programs to increase protective factors and reduce the risk factors that lead to substance use. Less than 2% of programs included mentoring.



Courtesy of Avalon Carver

⁴¹ We estimate a large proportion of those reporting as ‘Other’ or ‘Unknown’ for Race, reported Latino/Hispanic for Ethnicity.

Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS)

Local Innovative Program Highlight: Our SPOT (Social Places and Opportunities for Teens)

LA County OUR SPOT is a joint venture between DPH and the LAC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), providing positive youth development to teens in grades 7-12, through free recreational programs, in a safe space at 13 local and regional county parks in the unincorporated areas of LAC with higher levels of poverty. Through trauma informed care, social-emotional learning, mindfulness, and self-care, youth gain the opportunity for self-exploration, self-empowerment, and healthy development. They participate in leadership building activities, career pathway exploration, educational and recreational field trips, gain skills to improve their emotional health and resiliency, and lead healthier lives free from substance abuse and violence.

During the FY 23-24, OUR SPOT served 1,623 youth and registered over 41,508 visits. Latino/Hispanic youth represented the largest ethnic group at over 68%. Attendance by racial distribution (may include Latino/Hispanic) included 41% White, 11% African American, and 1% Asian.

Program evaluation results indicated significantly higher scores, based on a pre and post survey, in all six of youth asset domains which indicates positive change. There were improvements in self-worth, their sense of empathy, connecting with mentors, and interest in their future. They felt more effective in school and social settings, and the capacity to make the right choices and be more accountable to themselves and others. On average, program satisfaction score was 4.6 (out of 5).



Photo courtesy of LA County OUR SPOT Program

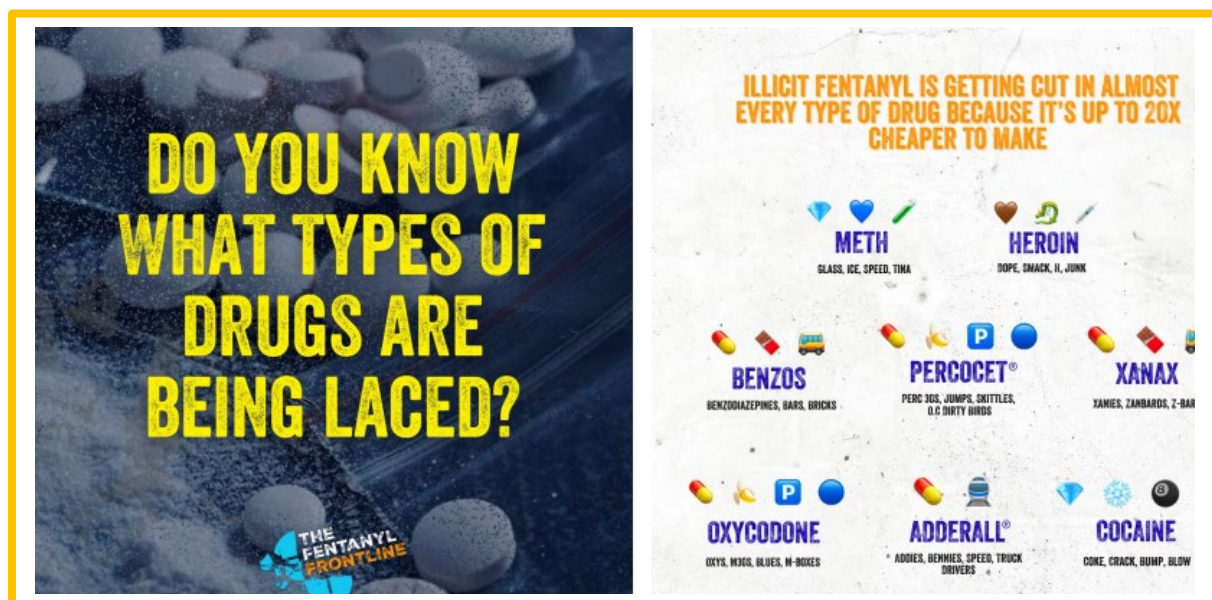
Local Innovative Program Highlight: LAC Media Campaigns and Social Media Activities

SAPC launched the Countywide media campaign Fentanyl Frontline in July 2023 to address the fentanyl overdose epidemic plaguing the County, where 7 in 10 street purchased drugs (during FY2324) contain deadly amounts of fentanyl. This was the longest running media campaign for SAPC, scheduled to run for 12 months to reach Angelinos through social and digital media, radio, connect tv, billboards, bus kings, metro kiosks, etc. Social and digital media platforms include Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, Snapchat and others.



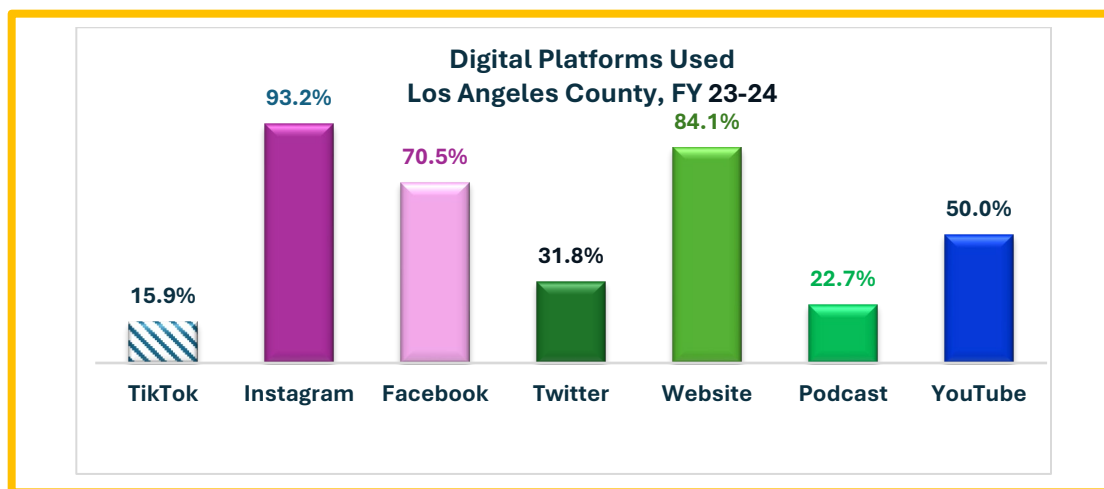
**Substance Use
Prevention Services
(SUPS)**

The campaign intended to bring awareness to the entire County regarding the overdose crisis where fentanyl has become the leading cause of overdose deaths, compared to all other substances. The campaign stressed to reach all vulnerable Angelinos and their friends, families, and other agents of change. Strategic messaging was designed to reach four groups including: 1) at-risk (i.e. young adults aged 18 to 24 who engage in experimental or social substance use, where unintentional fentanyl exposure is likely. etc.) 2) high-risk (i.e. those aged 25 to 39 who regularly use substances that may be adulterated with fentanyl) 3) those susceptible (i.e. adolescents aged 13 to 17 who were either susceptible to or beginning to experiment with substances that could be laced with fentanyl) and 4) community (i.e. the general population, with a focus on loved ones of individuals who may be using fentanyl-laced substances.). The campaign also stressed the importance of harm reduction strategies and recognizing & responding to overdose events. A major portion of the campaign was devoted to underlining the importance of naloxone and where it may be obtained at no or low cost.



Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS)

The most frequently used platform to reach out to LAC residents was Instagram (93.2%), followed by Facebook (70.5%), YouTube (50.0%), Twitter (31.8%), and TikTok (15.9%). Collectively, community partners shared over 2,880 posts, with 13,798 followers on Instagram, over 2,470 posts and 30,742 followers on Facebook, and over 1,500 tweets and 16,600 followers on Twitter.



PREVENTION EFFORTS BY PRIORITY SUBSTANCE

ALCOHOL

LAC prevention providers addressed alcohol access and availability to youth through a variety of strategies. Youth and family education programs helped communities build resiliency and experience healthy alternative activities free from substance use.

Community engagement efforts aimed at educating families to raise community awareness about alcohol-related harms, discuss the social and economic factors that contribute to substance misuse, and encourage civic participation and advocacy efforts to support alcohol use prevention.

Environmental prevention strategies, such as Merchant Committed, Project Sticker Shock, Alcohol social host liability, and nuisance abatement were implemented to decrease the negative impact of alcohol on public health and safety.



Alcohol Environmental Strategies:
Photo courtesy of Koreatown Youth and
Community Center

Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS)

Increase healthy social connection, our providers planned various activities to bring community members together to learn about the negative impacts of excessive alcohol use, while celebrating local and national events – including Red Ribbon Week, Alcohol Awareness Month, and National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, and holidays during which alcohol use is increased.

Local prevention providers addressed alcohol access and availability to youth through a variety of strategies that included youth and family education programs and community engagement efforts to raise awareness about alcohol-related harms and help communities build resiliency and engage in healthy alternative activities free from substance use.

Targeted messaging was sent to communities to empower them to advocate for healthier, more protective alcohol-related regulations, and stand against permissive alcohol policies and increases in alcohol outlet concentration, especially in areas where greater numbers of vulnerable populations tend to reside. Overall, 477 alcohol specific messages were sent through digital media. A media campaign for alcohol awareness was launched in April 2024 to advocate for awareness around the impact of alcohol on health and safety, including issues related to driving under the influence of alcohol and other substances.

Policy advocacy efforts included public education and meeting with community partners and stakeholders and elected officials to advocate for the approval or enforcement of state and assembly bills, such as [SB 969](#) (Alcohol consumption at entertainment zones), [SB 1028](#) (additional alcohol licenses for bona fide eating places), AB 2375 (alcoholic beverage lid), [AB 2389](#), [AB 2402](#), AB 2865, AB 2890, AB 3195, AB 3206, and AB 1013 (on alcohol sale, RBS training inclusions, as well as local social host ordinances in select cities, such as Pomona, Pasadena, Long Beach, and Carson to discourage serving alcohol to minors or serving excessive alcohol to create public nuisances.

The Responsible Alcohol Delivery Project (RADP)

RADP aims to document and address youth access to alcohol via third-party delivery services originating at off-sale retail outlets to prevent youth access to alcohol and reduce citations for sales to minors. The project aims to increase transparency and accountability to document identification verification by third-party delivery service providers at participating off-sale retail outlets, to increase universal compliance. The efforts are focused on educating retailers to demand identification checks from their delivery service partners to reduce Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) citations, and make recommendations for alcohol delivery, and address 3rd party delivery service provider policies.

San Fernando Valley Partnership provided support for this project through training and evaluation of countywide efforts by SPA. Overall, our providers engaged 146 alcohol retailers, organized 230 follow up visits, and disseminated almost 13,000 information stickers to alarm the public about alcohol sales to minors.



Courtesy of National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of East San Gabriel Valley (NCADD-ESGV)

CANNABIS

With the passing of AB 45, the sale of intoxicating industrial hemp products containing THC levels above 0.3% or 3 mg, including derivatives such as delta-8, has been prohibited. Due to regulatory gaps, most edible products do not list the suggested serving size on the packaging labels, which may lead to poisoning, particularly among youth. Cannabis products are required to cap the THC levels at 10 mg per serving, but industrial hemp products are not subjected to the same regulatory oversight. There is a clear need for comprehensive policies, educational initiatives, and enforcement strategies to protect youth from the risks associated with Delta-8 and other intoxicating hemp-derived cannabinoids. Additional oversight and enforcement are needed to ensure the final products contain less than 0.3 % or 3 mg of THC concentration limits and product packaging does not appeal to youth.

During FY 2023-2024, many of our partner agencies participated in the implementation of the Smoke Shop Project (SSP). Through collaboration with RAM and the support from the San Fernando Valley Partnership, the participating community coalitions and agencies conducted 89 environmental scans of smoke shops/hybrid stores located within a one-thousand-foot radius of middle schools and high schools, to document the proliferation of smoke shops near schools and other sensitive use locations. A 15-item assessment modeled after the State and Community Tobacco Control Research was conducted. The environmental scans involved in-person smoke shop visits that were prioritized by proximity to school campuses. Data were collected digitally through Google Forms, ensuring smartphone and online accessibility.

Rethinking Access to Marijuana (RAM)

RAM is a countywide coalition aimed at reducing youth's access to marijuana through education and policy efforts. For the FY 23-24, RAM collaborated with the San Fernando Valley Partnership and other prevention providers across the county to implement the Smoke Shop Project (SMP).

RAM Research provided considerable support to list and organize the illegal products identified at local smoke shops. Education committee focused on developing educational materials to increase community awareness of harms and risks associated with the use Delta-8 products found.

Together, RAM participants successfully visited 125 smoke shops, conducted 45 retail protocol assessments and 14 school interviews, and submitted 49 complaints about the illegal products identified, to the local authorities.



Courtesy of RAM

Substance Use Prevention Services (SUPS)

In addition to implementing the Smoke Shop Project (SSP), SAPC funded prevention agencies participated in various prevention campaigns to curb cannabis industry marketing efforts directed towards youth and educated community stakeholders on relevant cannabis related issues. Community partners focused on advocacy efforts to educate and inform the community and the elected officials about the impact of cannabis related regulations, such as AB 1775 allowing the sale of non-cannabis food and beverages at businesses and events where cannabis consumption is allowed. Additionally, providers informed their community constituents about AB 2223 prohibiting manufacturers from producing or selling unregulated cannabis products, and AB 2711 to revise school suspension and expulsion policies for voluntary disclosure of substance use and shift from punitive measures to a public health approach to address underlying issues and reduce recidivism among students.

Positive youth development (PYD) programs focus on increasing protective factors and decrease risk factors to reduce substance use among youth. Utilizing evidence-based practices, PYD initiatives have the potential to reduce substance use and vulnerability to cannabis use among youth, especially those at-risk, linking them to supportive adults and opportunities for healthy connectedness. These initiatives have shown promise across a range of health outcomes.⁴²



Courtesy of National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of San Fernando Valley (NCADD-SFV)



⁴² <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-youth/what-works-in-schools/index.html>

OPIOIDS - PRESCRIPTION DRUGS & FENTANYL

For the past several years, our local coalitions have partnered with local law enforcement agencies, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), community clinics, and service providers on the bi-annual National Take Back Day (NTBD) campaigns. These events support the promotion of safe medication practices and collecting unused or expired prescription drugs all to help prevent prescription drug misuse.

Providers engaged in extensive outreach to communities for the planning and execution of county-wide drug take-back events occurring on the last Saturdays in April and October. Many agencies developed prescription drug kits including educational brochures that encouraged safe dispensing, storage, and disposal practices, pill boxes, and deactivation pouches.

Local coalitions launched campaigns to raise awareness of the risks and harms associated with opioid misuse and abuse, worked with schools and colleges/universities to increase access to naloxone, trained school staff on opioid prevention and lifesaving measures, and informed community members about the availability of naloxone and the Sharps Disposal Program and expanded the network of take-back day collection sites.

Through a local innovative project, “Let’s Make a Difference” (LMD), developed and supported by the San Fernando Valley Partnership, our contracted providers engaged 192 pharmacies, organized 142 pop-up events and collected 958 boxes of Rx/OTC medications. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), during the FY 23-24, LAC partners collected 10,970 pounds of medication across the county.

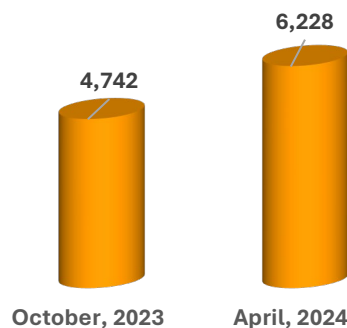


Courtesy of AADAP



Courtesy of Day One

POUNDS OF MEDICATIONS COLLECTED
DEA DRUG TAKE BACK DAYS, FY 23-24



METHAMPHETAMINE

To address increases in meth related Emergency Department (ED) visits and overdose deaths, SAPC continues to provide a broad range of prevention services targeting youth, general population, and persons who are at risk for methamphetamine abuse. The SAPC contracted prevention network has been providing evidence-based programs and interventions for high-risk individuals, including those using and at-risk for meth use.

Starting in 2021, DPH SAPC conducted a landscape analysis on meth to better understand the issue and assess the County's ability to respond to the epidemic using upstream prevention strategies. This analysis included collecting existing data on meth related health indicators, creating a meth prevention resource inventory, collecting community-level data as part of the LA County Community Needs Assessment, and subsequently providing recommendations. Informed by this analysis, DPH SAPC also led efforts to identify effective prevention strategies and interventions to prevent meth use and prioritize vulnerable and under-resourced populations. Using the available data, the network has focused on gauging our ability to respond to the epidemic using upstream prevention strategies, informed by meth-related indicators and community level data, the network created a meth prevention resource inventory and has provided recommendations on best practices to prevent meth use and its negative outcomes.

The network supported a SAPC led effective education and awareness media campaign, to prioritize target populations at highest risk for meth use. The Meth Free LA County media campaign focused on at-risk populations through strategic placement of media and promotional events in highly impacted neighborhoods.^{43,44} Examples included extensive work with the cities of West Hollywood and Los Angeles to promote healthier social norms, especially in bars and clubs, as well as adopting a motion requiring that Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks staff make naloxone available in Skid Row area parks.

Since 2022, our meth related interventions have included 675 outreach events, delivering over 370 educational presentations to over 14,000 parents, students, and school faculty throughout Los Angeles County. Additionally, the network trained bar, night club, comedy club establishment owners and staff on the dangers of methamphetamine laced with fentanyl, including how to administer naloxone and provide drug test strips that detect fentanyl. Programs similarly provided trainings at food banks and for rideshare drivers. Interventions delivered to at-risk individuals include linkages to SAPC's Early Intervention Services Program for youth (ages 12-17) and young adults (ages 18-20) who are screened and determined to be at risk of developing a substance use disorder.

DPH Student Wellbeing Centers (SWBC) have scheduled 146 classroom education sessions involving over 2,900 students addressing substance use and overdose prevention, including methamphetamine. The Peer Health Advocate Program at eight campuses chose to focus on substance abuse prevention for their culminating projects resulting in a health fair, flyers, skits, and other peer-to-peer outreach.

⁴³ <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/public/meth2020>

⁴⁴ www.methfreelacounty.org

EVENTS

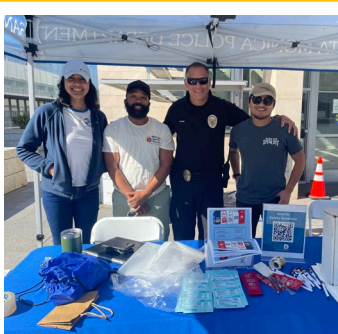
Prevention agencies across the county either hosted or participated in over 900 community events, distributing almost 200,000 printed materials, to engage their communities and bring awareness to unhealthy cultural norms as well as identify individual and environmental practices that lead to increased alcohol and drug use.

These included Drug Take Back events, National Prevention Week, Red Ribbon Week, Recovery Month, and Drug Overdose Prevention Day, collaborating with local parks, schools, faith-based agencies, pharmacies, and community medical providers to enhance prevention goals across the county.

Forty percent of our providers offered youth leadership or peer support programs to provide opportunities for youth to become SUD prevention ambassadors in their community and schools.



Courtesy of Korean Family Services



Courtesy of Institute for Public Strategies



Courtesy of Parents Anonymous

Through resource fairs and cultural celebrations, social media messaging, and advocacy efforts, our providers continued to engage and mobilize their communities to increase awareness of substance use and its negative impact on the community. To address the fentanyl overdose crisis, providers continued to inform youth and families, collaborated with local law enforcement, government, schools, and health care providers to inform residents about this issue.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

SAPC's prevention community and County partners continued to cultivate existing relationships and explore new partnerships with community stakeholders, school administrators, faith-based community, charter schools, and decision makers, to enhance community connections and reinforce regulations to limit availability and access to substances.

Besides the overwhelming increases in the drug-related overdose deaths, additional support was needed in many communities to continue to engage youth and retain them once engaged. Community partners rose to the challenge and provided several community education and outreach opportunities within their communities to educate youth and families about the risks associated with using illegally obtained prescription drugs and address community concerns and teach them to prevent or reverse opioid overdoses through naloxone.

Our network implemented three collective impact projects, Responsible Alcohol Delivery Project Initiative (RADP), Let's Make a Difference Campaign (LMD), and the Smoke Shop Initiative, countywide. Despite the challenges, our providers successfully implemented all three programs across LAC to impact the availability of alcohol, Rx drugs, and cannabis derivatives to youth and young adults. SAPC provided support through a contracted agency to enhance capacity building across all SPAs. Securing access to the local schools continued to be challenging but providers implemented Botvin Life Skills Training (LST) in charter schools and youth serving organizations. Through sound strategic engagement efforts, our prevention providers successfully implemented LST to middle and high school youth.

Staff turnover, fluctuating job market, and shifts in program management, compelled some of our community-based providers to re-strategize their prevention approach. Through on-going recruitment, outreach, and training, our partners met the challenge and implemented their intended programs in their respective communities.

Competing priorities among youth and lack of transportation posed additional challenges. Additionally, limited access to reliable internet and devices, especially in communities experiencing higher poverty levels, lower socioeconomic standings, or those with lower literacy levels or technical acuity remained challenging. Through school-based programs and age-appropriate incentives, some of those challenges were met.

Pervasive socioeconomic issues such as poverty, unemployment, housing crisis, and homelessness have inevitably increased the overall burden of substance use/misuse countywide. Providers adjusted their program plans to increase efforts towards addressing social determinants of health pertinent to their service area. Addressing the individual and community-level risk factors for substance use, such as poverty, violence, low neighborhood attachment and community pride, favorable alcohol laws, and the social norms that encourage substance use is vital in improving community conditions that protect against substance misuse. The network of community and County partners worked diligently to increase community engagement, learning opportunities, as well as prospects for collaboration and policy support through both in person and digital platforms. Additionally, SAPC offered a robust media campaign to address methamphetamine use countywide.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This report represents a snapshot of key prevention strategies and initiatives implemented, the challenges imposed, and adjustments made to address substance use issues exacerbated by post pandemic economic and societal stressors, as well as new less limiting alcohol regulations expected to boost the state economy.

Environmental prevention approaches, including policy initiatives, can continue to be utilized as one of the most effective prevention strategies used to reduce access and availability of alcohol and other substances. Community and County partners can continue to inform and mobilize residents to advocate on behalf of their own communities for more protective regulations that reduce the availability to alcohol and other substances, empowers communities to improve their local conditions, enabling them to live healthier and more productive lives.

Recommendations on next steps are to continue engaging local populations, to promote social connection and community pride, address negative health and societal impacts of substance misuse, and increase access to supportive services for youth and families to enhance resiliency and improve overall health. Offering youth opportunities to engage and access healthier alternatives to substance misuse, can continue to inspire them to tap into their own creativity and resiliency to rise above substance use.



Thank you, prevention providers for your hard work, vision, passion, and expertise.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

To achieve comprehensive, effective, and culturally competent AOD prevention services, SAPC uses a combination of the following three frameworks:

1. Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) planning process.
2. SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) prevention strategies.
3. Institute of Medicine (IOM) classification system.

The use of these frameworks is required by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and is part of the mandatory reporting requirements for primary prevention services electronic data system.

SAMHSA'S Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)⁴⁵

The SPF is a five-step planning process that systematically guides the development of prevention services and includes two guiding principles to ensure cultural competency and sustainability:

- Step 1:** Assess Needs - What is the problem, and how can I learn more?
- Step 2:** Build Capacity - What do I have to work with and how can I make it stronger?
- Step 3:** Plan - What should I do and how should I do it?
- Step 4:** Implement - How can I put my plan into action?
- Step 5:** Evaluate - Is my plan going as intended and is it succeeding?

By addressing each step, prevention services would address the needs of their target communities and populations by reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors, build community capacity and collaboration, develop goals and measurable objectives, and evaluate their efforts to ensure the prevention program achieves the intended outcomes.



⁴⁵ Strategic Prevention Framework. (n.d.). Retrieved from: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/20190620-samhsa-strategic-prevention-framework-guide.pdf>

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Strategies and Activities⁴⁶

The SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) has classified prevention strategies into six major categories. An effective prevention program utilizes these strategies and activities to comprehensively address the needs of the target communities through evidence-based interventions and services.

1. **Environmental Strategy** – establishes and/or changes community standards, codes, and attitudes, thereby influencing the prevalence of alcohol and other drug use within the community through engaging a broad base of community partners, interventions, and policies.
2. **Community-Based Process Strategy** – enhances the community’s capacity to address AOD issues through organizing, planning, collaboration, coalition-building, and networking.
3. **Information Dissemination Strategy** – improves awareness and knowledge of the effects of AOD issues on communities and families through “one-way” communication with the audience, such as speaking engagements, health fairs, and distribution of print materials.
4. **Problem Identification and Referral Strategy** – identifies individuals who have infrequently used or experimented with AOD who could change their behavior through education. The intention of the screening is to determine the need for indicated prevention services, not treatment services.
5. **Education Strategy** – encourages “two-way” communication between the facilitator and participants. This strategy aims to improve life and social skills, such as decision-making, refusal skills, and critical analysis.
6. **Alternative Strategy** – redirects individuals from potentially problematic situations and AOD use by providing constructive and healthy events/activities.

Institute of Medicine (IOM) Classification System⁴⁷

The prevention classifications are subdivided into universal, selective, and indicated categories. The IOM category is assigned by looking at the risk-level of the individual, or group, receiving the service. Federal prevention funding allows for the delivery of services for universal, selective, and indicated populations. The funding is not intended for those who need or receive AOD (ab)use treatment or recovery services.

Universal

Universal prevention targets the entire population (national, local community, school, and/or neighborhood) with messages and programs aimed at preventing or delaying the (ab)use of AOD. All members of the population share the same general risk for substance (ab)use, although the risk may vary among individuals.

⁴⁶ Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Strategies and CSAP Activities Definitions (Approved July 24, 2017, Updated August 17, 2017). Retrieved from: <http://www.ca-cpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CSAP-Strategies.pdf>

⁴⁷ Center for Applied Research Solution | Fred Springer, J., & Phillips, J. (n.d.). The Institute of Medicine Framework and its Implication for the Advancement of Prevention Policy, Programs, and Practice. Retrieved from: http://ca-sdfc.org/docs/resources/SDFC_IOM_Policy.pdf

Universal prevention programs are delivered to large groups without any prior screening for substance abuse risk.

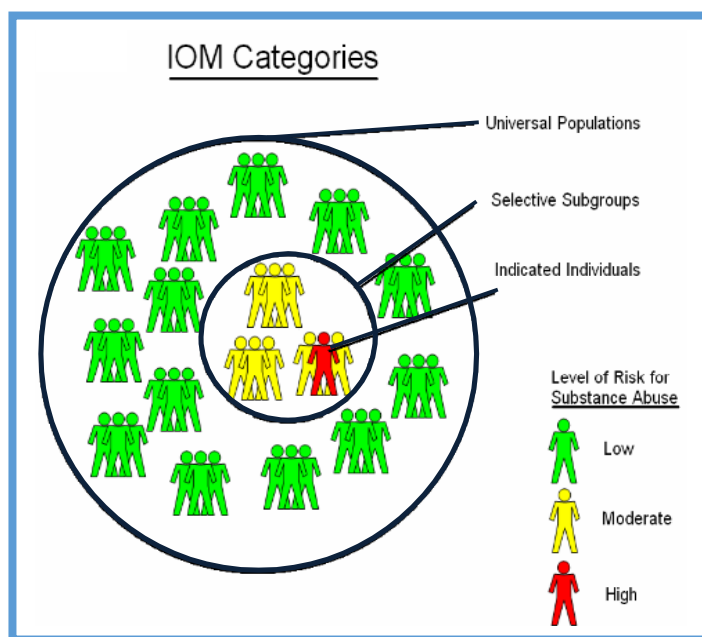
- **Universal Direct**
Interventions directly serve an identifiable group of participants but who have not been identified based on individual risk (e.g., school curriculum, afterschool program, parenting class). This also could include interventions involving ongoing or repeated contact (e.g., coalitions).
- **Universal Indirect**
Interventions supporting population-based programs and environmental strategies (e.g., establishing ATOD policies, modifying ATOD advertising practices). This may include programs and policies implemented by coalitions.

Selective

Selective prevention targets subsets of the total population at risk for substance abuse by virtue of their membership in a particular population segment. Selective prevention targets the entire subgroup, regardless of the degree of risk of any individual within the group.

Indicated

Indicated prevention is designed to prevent the onset of substance abuse in individuals who do not meet Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition (DSM-V) criteria for abuse or dependence, but who are showing early danger signs, such as failing grades and consumption of alcohol and other gateway drugs. The mission of indicated prevention is to identify individuals who are exhibiting potential early signs of substance abuse and other problem behaviors associated with substance abuse, and to target them with special programs.



APPENDIX B

FY2022-2023 PREVENTION PROVIDER NETWORK SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION SERVICES CONTRACTED PROVIDERS

SPA	Contracted Substance Use Prevention Services Providers
8	Asian American Drug Abuse Program
6	Avalon Carver Community Center
8	Behavioral Health Services, Inc. (Gardena)
4	Behavioral Health Services, Inc. (Hollywood)
8	Cambodian Association of America
1	Change Lanes
1	Child and Family Center (almdale)
2	Child and Family Center (Santa Clarita)
4	Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
6	Community Coalition for Substance Abuse
3	Day One, Inc.
3	HealthRight 360 - Prototypes
7	Helpline Youth Counseling, Inc.
4	Institute for Public Strategies
5	Institute for Public Strategies
4	Korean American Family Services, Inc.
4	Koreatown Youth & Community Center
7	Los Angeles County Office of Education
3	NCADD of East San Gabriel and Pomona
2	NCADD of San Fernando, Inc.
3	Pacific Clinics
1	Parents Anonymous
3	Parents Anonymous
6	People Coordinated Services of Southern
2	Phoenix House of Los Angeles
3	Prototypes a Center for Innovation
1	Pueblo Y Salud, Inc. (Palmdale)
2	Pueblo Y Salud, Inc. (San Fernando)
All	Rescue Agency
All	San Fernando Valley Partnership, Inc.
6	Shields for Families, Inc.
4	Social Model Recovery Systems, Inc.
6	South Central Prevention Coalition
6	Special Services for Groups
1	Tarzana Treatment Center
2	Tarzana Treatment Center
4	The Wall Las Memorias Project
7	The Wall Las Memorias Project
6	Watts Health Foundation, Inc.

APPENDIX C

FY2022-2023 PREVENTION PROVIDER NETWORK SPA COALITIONS

There were many community coalitions at work, including Service Planning Area (SPA) Coalitions, neighborhood councils, and youth coalitions. Other collaboratives including youth and adult leadership groups, the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance (LA DAPA), community prevention councils, “Manos Unidos con la Esperanza para la Comunidad” (MUEC), Marijuana Public Smoking Initiative (MPSI), and Rethinking Access to Marijuana (RAM), to name a few.

SPA 1: Antelope Valley Marijuana, Alcohol, & Pharmaceutical Prevention Coalition (AVMAPP)
SPA 2: Communities in Action
SPA 3: Rethinking Alcohol and Other Drugs (RAD)
SPA 4: Coalition to Prevent Alcohol-Related Harms in LA Metro (COPALM)
SPA 5: Westside Impact Project
SPA 6: South LA Movement Prevention Coalition (SLAM)
SPA 7: South-East Community Alliance (SECA)
SPA 8: South Bay Communities Creating Change (SBC 3)



APPENDIX D

ENVIRONMENTAL PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Alcohol Restricted Use Sub-Districts (ARUS)

City motion (Council File 17-0117) instructs the Planning Department, in consultation with the LA City Attorney, to prepare a report on the feasibility of establishing a process to create Alcohol Restricted Use Sub-districts (ARUS). ARUS would allow communities and their representatives to identify vulnerable areas in city council districts where restrictions could be applied on the future issuances of off-sale or on-sale alcohol licenses. ARUS zones will protect communities and families while encouraging healthier retail options to open in the area.

Civil Social Host Liability Laws

Civil liability ordinances are designed to deter underage drinking parties. Through civil social host liability laws, adults can be held responsible for underage drinking parties held on their property, regardless of whether they directly provided alcohol to minors. To date, more than 150 cities or counties have social host liability ordinances in place. The research on this strategy is still emerging, but findings currently show that social host liability reduces alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes as well as other alcohol-related problems.⁴⁸

Community Events Policies on the Promotion, Sales and Service of Alcohol

Alcohol restrictions at community events include policies that control the availability and use of alcohol at public venues, such as concerts, street fairs and sporting events. These policies may reduce youth access and the occurrence of alcohol-related problems such as binge drinking, sales to minors, traffic crashes, vandalism, fighting, and other public disturbances.

Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Ordinances

CUPs can be used to effectively address problems of crime and violence by structuring land use to allow less density of outlets and by holding merchants accountable for operating conditions in and around their premises. The CUP is a powerful tool in regulating the availability of alcohol by requiring spacing or distance requirement between outlets, regulating proximity to sensitive land uses such as a schools, churches, parks, and residential neighborhoods, and allowing outlets only in specific areas of the city or county.

Deemed Approved Ordinance (DAO)

DAO is a nuisance abatement tool designed to address public health and safety problems created by alcohol outlets, both on-sale (bars, restaurants) and off-sale (markets, supermarkets, drugstores, etc.). It changes the legal status of existing alcohol beverage establishments, granting them “Deemed Approved” status, permitting them to operate as usual as long as they do not create a public nuisance or violate any state or local laws.

⁴⁸

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4211332/#:~:text=One%20study%20examined%20effects%20of,the%20presence%20of%20SH%20laws.>

Let's Make a Difference (LMD)

The overall purpose of the LMD program is to reduce the impact of prescription drug misuse. The program highlights how access contributes to use, the dangers of Rx misuse, the harms associated with sharing medications and how to communicate 3-core messages/behaviors. Activities include engaging pharmacies (large and small scale) and other strategic partners (medical groups, LAUSD schools/parent centers, childcare centers, and other strategic partners) to "Let's Make a Difference" through the distribution of "safe home pledge cards" and promotion of the overall campaign to their constituents/target communities. Measuring impact/reach is done by documenting the number of participating pharmacies, organizations, schools, and potential partners, number of pledge cards collected at each location, number of Rx medications collected at DEA take back events within the geographic area of the campaign and documenting increase in disposal boxes at smaller pharmacies, along with increased utilization of LAC Safe Centers within the initiative implementation areas.

Merchant Committed

The Merchant Committed campaign encourages retailers to fully adopt preventive practices as part of their business operations and encourage the city to improve its oversight of off-sale outlets through community policing and CUP administration. The goal of this strategy is to reduce underage drinking and youth access to alcohol by increasing alcoholic beverage establishment compliance.

Minor Decoy Operations

The Decoy Program allows local law enforcement agencies to use persons under 21 years of age as decoys to purchase alcoholic beverages from licensed premises. As of 10/01/04, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has used decoys to regulate businesses selling alcohol to underage individuals. The Decoy Program has been recognized as a method to attack the problems associated with the unlawful purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by young people.

Preventing Prescription Drug Misuse (Safe Med LA)

Safe Med LA addresses the prescription drug misuse/abuse epidemic in the county, guided by its five-year strategic plan. Safe Med LA employs a "9-6-10" approach organized into 9 Action Teams focusing on 6 priority areas with 10 objectives. SUPS are members of the Community Education Action Team they provide community education and awareness of the risk of prescription drug misuse, safe use/storage, and available resources for help with disposing their medications.

Project Sticker Shock (PSS)

PSS capitalizes on community activism, cooperative efforts, and collective responsibilities to combat underage drinking and its related problems. The project not only educates citizens, businesses, educational institutions, health organizations, law enforcement and governmental authorities on the problems of underage drinking, but also ensures a consistent message about the law exists, increasing efforts to bring about change.

Responsible Alcohol Delivery Project (RADP)

The emergence of alcohol delivery services has raised concerns about the increased accessibility and availability of alcohol to underage youth. The ease of ordering alcohol online and having it delivered to one's doorstep has created new opportunities for youth to obtain and consume alcohol, bypassing traditional age verification methods. The Responsible Alcohol Delivery Project aims to document and address youth access to alcohol via third-party delivery services originating at off-sale retail outlets and minimize citations issued to

alcohol retailers by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) for selling alcohol to minors via third party delivery services (alcohol delivery apps). The project is shaped by three key elements, including retailer engagement, in-store signage, and documenting compliance for retail alcohol deliveries, combined to prevent youth access to alcohol and reduce citations for sales to minors. Clerk training will increase delivery driver engagement to ensure identification verification via QR code on all alcohol deliveries.

Responsible Beverage Server (RBS)

RBS training is a community-based approach to promote public safety and to reduce risks associated with the retail alcohol environment. RBS has three essential elements: the adoption of alcohol-service policy for ABC-licensed establishments; the providing of server education and guidance; and the development of partnerships between law enforcement, local government, and community groups.

Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP)

The Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP)⁴⁹ offers qualifying sit-down restaurants, within LA City Council designated RBP-Eligible geographic areas⁵⁰, special provisions to serve alcoholic beverages, assuming they comply with 50 community friendly standards which includes limited hours of operation, outdoor seating limitations, and other noise and security requirements. RBP approval is also based on robust enforcement requirements to provide community protections, such as mandatory inspections and enforcement, to ensure that after three violations are issued within two years a restaurant would be disqualified from the program for a period of five years. The RBP eliminates the need to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP), reducing cost and required processing time to obtain which significantly shortens the processing time and lowers the cost of obtaining the City's approval.

Retail Framework

The Retail Framework provides a gradual, eight stepwise approach that methodically documents problems at the outlets, recruits retailers to participate directly in prevention actions, mobilizes concerned community groups to act, and approaches city agencies to carry out their oversight responsibilities for off-sale alcohol outlets.

Rethinking Access to Marijuana (RAM)

The RAM Coalition was formed in 2015. The RAM Coalition educates elected officials, parents and other caregivers as well as those with relationships with young people such as teachers, coaches, and others about marijuana's effects on the developing brain of youth between the ages of 12-26.

Smoke Shop Project (SSP)

The Smoke Shop Project was developed to address the growing availability of illicit cannabis, Delta-8 THC, and other intoxicating products being sold at smoke shops, particularly near schools and in underserved communities. Through this project, a comprehensive assessment of access points and availability of illegal and quasi-legal cannabis products across targeted communities is conducted. The results of these environmental scans will be utilized to submit violations to the appropriate governmental agencies, draft retailer notification letters, community trainings, and school-based meetings, as well as mobilize coalitions to advocate for increased enforcement requirements and prompt policy decisionmakers to take greater action. Data findings

⁴⁹ Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP) | Los Angeles City Planning (lacity.org)

⁵⁰ https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/777a537e-bb22-4571-ae8f-e01f2ce838f6/RBP_City_Wide_SP.pdf

**Substance Use
Prevention Services
(SUPS)**

will further launch an implementation plan to explore local control solutions through land-use planning and zoning ordinances, engaging smoke shop operators to adopt safe operations and responsible sales practices, and establishing local requirements that prohibit an industrial hemp food and beverage product from being labeled, marketed, or advertised as a product intended to create an intoxicating effect.

Social Host Ordinance (SHO)

Preventing Underage Drinking Parties- Social Host Ordinances (SHO) prevent underage drinking parties by holding the host (e.g., parents or other adults) accountable for the negative alcohol related issues resulting from these parties. A social host ordinance sends the clear message to parents and other adults that it is not acceptable to give alcohol to teens.

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