

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PREVENTION SERVICES



The Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control's (SAPC) Prevention Service Division is responsible for program planning, development, implementation, and evaluation for the contracted alcohol and other drug (AOD) prevention services provided through grass-root efforts countywide addressing the following goals and objectives:



SAPC's Goals: To reduce underage and binge drinking, marijuana availability and accessibility among youth, prevent prescription medication, over-the-counter (OTC) misuse, and reduce methamphetamine and other illicit drug use among youth residing in cities and communities in Los Angeles County.

SAPC's Objectives: To reduce the access, availability, social norms, and community conditions that contribute to use and misuse of these priority substances within cities and communities in Los Angeles County. Research suggests that strategies intended to impact environmental factors, such as alcohol access and community norms, are necessary to sustain reductions in AOD use community-wide.



SAPC Prevention System

The SAPC Prevention Services is comprised of a network of community-based organizations implementing evidence-based community and individual-level services to address SAPC's Goals and Objectives. Prevention contractors determine which of the County's Goals and Objectives are of greatest priority in their target city(ies) and/or community(ies) based on data gathered during a local needs assessment and by implementing the Strategic Prevention Framework Steps: Assessment, Capacity, Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation. The current system allows contractors to focus prevention efforts and resources on specific needs within their own community. SAPC focuses on three distinct prevention efforts and other specialized programs countywide:

Environmental Prevention Services (EPS): The purpose is to address AOD availability and accessibility through environmental efforts that change policies, ordinances, and practices that facilitate AOD use within the target Service Planning Area (a specific geographical region in Los Angeles County). EPS program staff generally work with local citizens and leaders, government officials, and businesses/organizations to change local conditions that contribute to underage AOD associated problems.

Comprehensive Prevention Services (CPS): The purpose is to 1) change the local conditions that facilitate AOD use, 2) identify individuals who could benefit from prevention services or contribute to prevention efforts, and 3) change the knowledge and behaviors of youth and adults that contribute to community norms about AOD use. Depending on the program, services may focus on individual level activities such as school-based prevention, or on community-level services such as making changes to the local environment or changing policies/practices that contribute to substance use and/or norms favorable to substance use.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Specialized Prevention Programs

Adolescent Prevention Services (APS): Aims to provide prevention services targeting youth and their families/caregivers, who are at risk of or who have already initiated experimentation and use of illicit substances yet do not meet the criteria for a substance use disorder (SUD) diagnosis. APS is a comprehensive service approach to align with the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention strategies: 1) Information Dissemination, 2) Education, 3) Alternative Activities, 4) Problem Identification and Referral, 5) Community-Based Process, and 6) Environmental and the associated activities.

Friday Night Live (FNL): Aims to build partnerships for positive, healthy youth development and engage youth as active leaders, mentors, and advocates in county and statewide efforts to reduce access to and availability of alcohol and other drugs. Services are provided through the Los Angeles County Office of Education in various middle schools and high schools. Youth-adult partnership activities include educating policy-making officials, providing safe social outlets for youth, and hosting trainings and conferences on varying issues from leadership to social factors that contribute to substance abuse.

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department – Success through Awareness and Resistance (STAR): Aims to prevent or decrease alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and violence by targeting youth who live in poverty-stricken areas that have higher rates of crime, substance abuse, and gang involvement. This is achieved by implementing the three pronged program that includes a school curriculum, after-school activities, and a summer program.

Community Centered Emergency Room Project (CCERP): Aims to bridge the gap among health services, public health services, mental health services, and community prevention services. The CCERP is part of the Needs Special Assistance (NSA) care coordination efforts to reduce the large number of NSA individuals who frequently use the LAC+USC Medical Center Emergency Department (MC ED). CCERP was funded to provide a comprehensive, community-based approach with specific strategies aimed at engaging homeless individuals, creating cooperative relationships with organizations, coordinating care, while building leadership, improving community conditions and reducing the overuse of LAC+USC MC ED.