



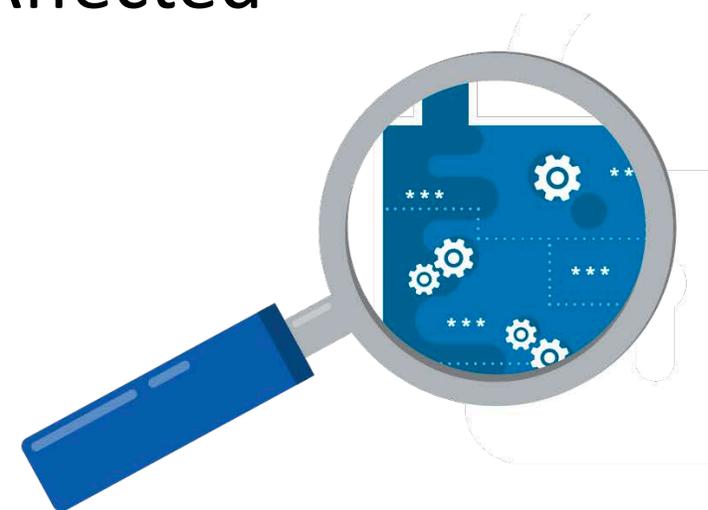
# Impact of COVID-19 on the Specialty Substance Use Disorder (SUD) System

**November 13, 2020**

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Community & Youth Engagement  
Prevention Services**

# Outline

1. Introduction to SAPC
2. Alcohol and Drug Use in the COVID-19 Pandemic
3. How SAPC Services Have Been Affected
4. Resources





# Introduction to SAPC

# Department of Public Health - Substance Use Prevention and Treatment (SAPC)

- *SAPC's mission leads and facilitates the delivery of a **full spectrum of prevention, treatment and recovery support services** proven to reduce the impact of substance abuse and addiction.*



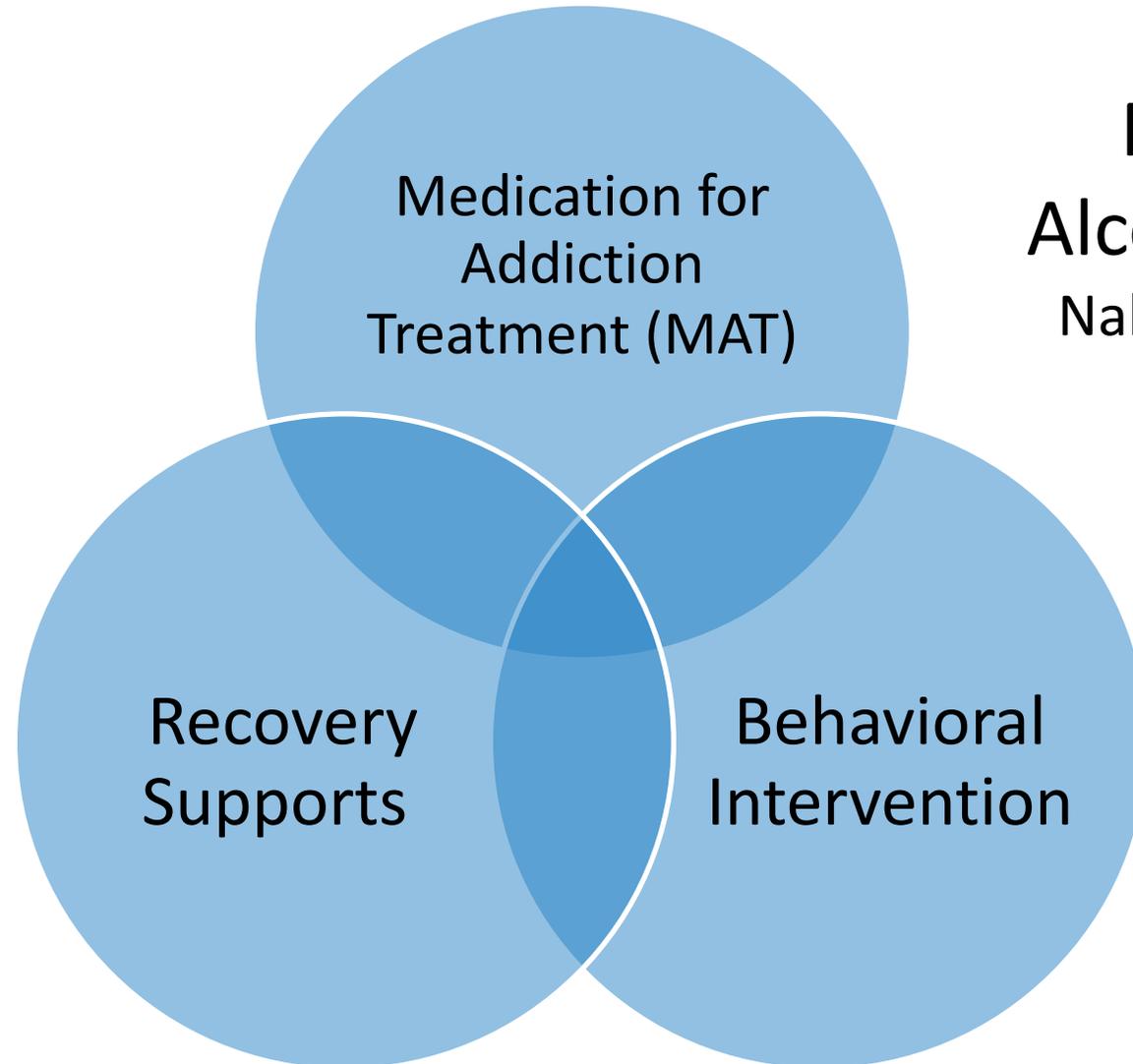


## Substance Abuse Prevention & Control

**Prevention First, Treatment Works,  
& Recovery is Possible!**

- Committed to reducing the impact of substance use, abuse and addiction in Los Angeles County
- Lead and facilitate the delivery of a full spectrum of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.
- Maintain a Network of contracted agencies that provide easily accessible, effective, and patient-centered services.
- Over **80 contracted providers** in more than County **355 locations** throughout Los Angeles County.

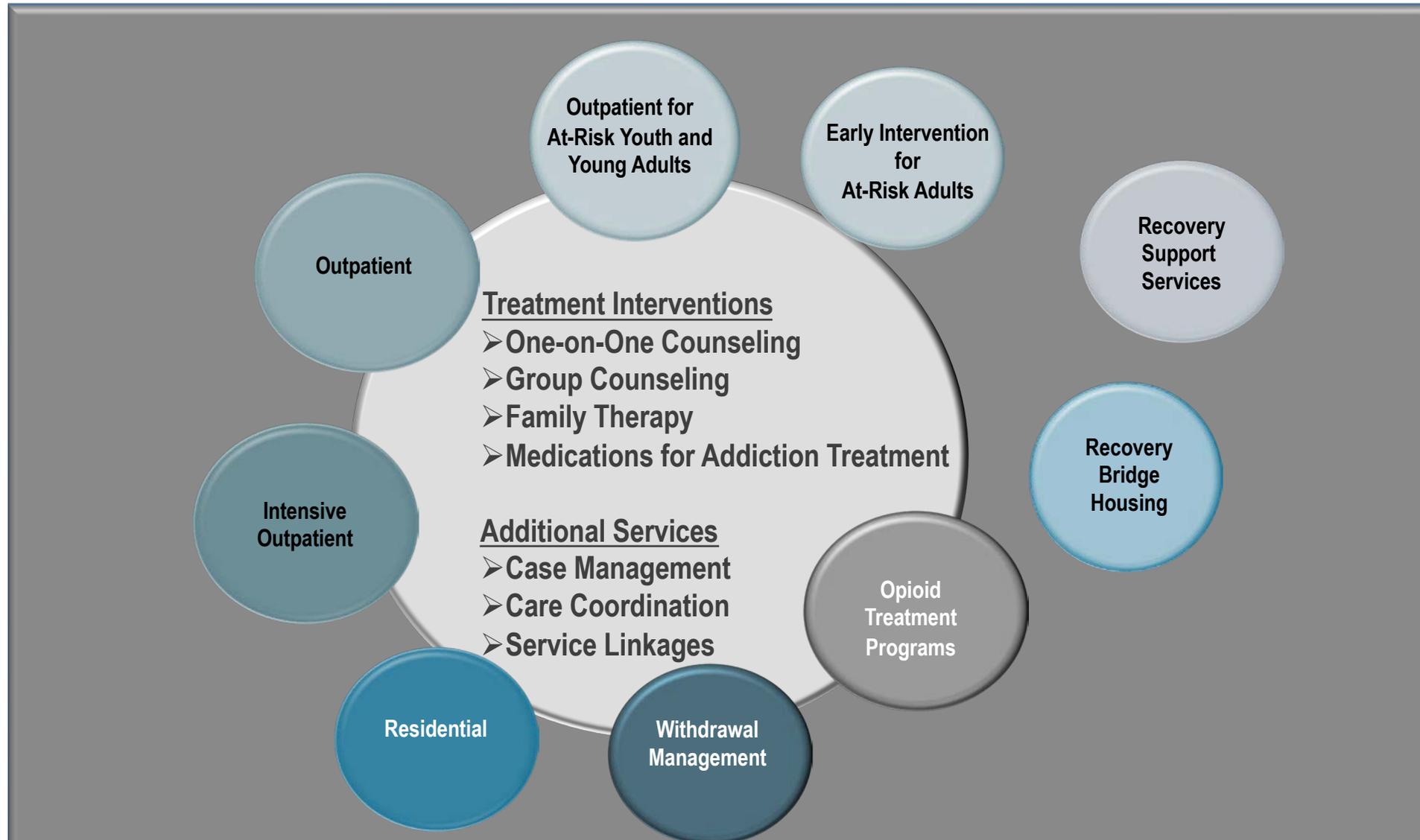
# What is the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder?



Medications for  
Alcohol Use Disorder:  
Naltrexone, Acamprosate,  
Disulfuram



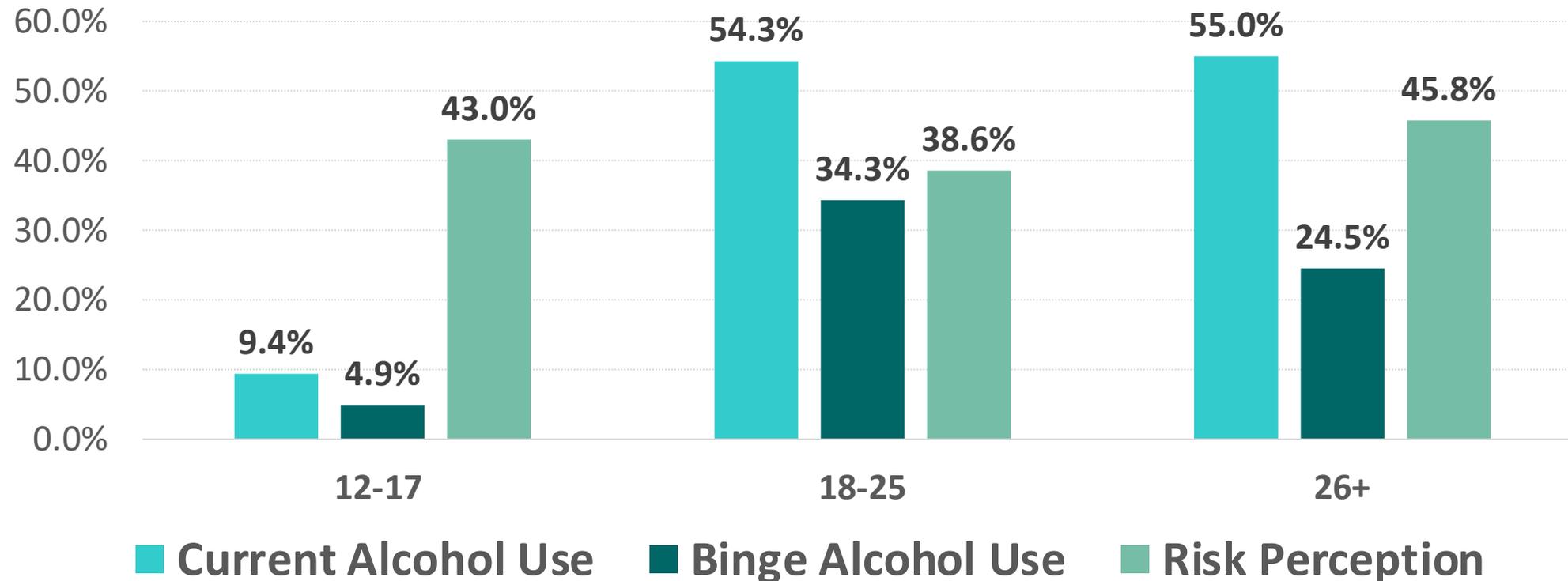
# Los Angeles County's Available SUD Benefits



# The Pandemic and Alcohol & Drug Use

# Alcohol Use & Perception, Pre-pandemic

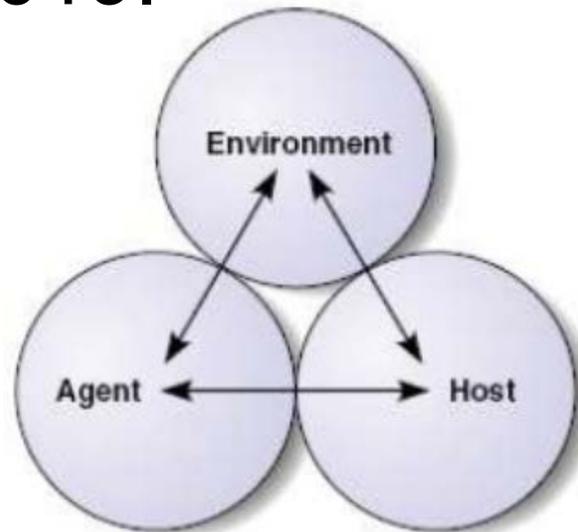
Current Alcohol Use, Binge Drinking,  
& Perception of Risk of Drinking 5 or More Drinks,  
By Age Group, Los Angeles County:  
Annual Averages, 2019\*



\*National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2019

# Illicit Substance Use During Pandemic

- Two national studies suggest **increased** illicit drug use
- Nationally, suspected overdose submissions rose by 18% in March, 29% in April, and 42% in May 2020 compared to same months in 2019.



# Alcohol Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Early national studies indicate:

- Alcohol consumption has gone up overall and among women.
- Teen alcohol use has not gone up however frequency and parental permissiveness has increased.
- Alcohol sales have increased.

# Alcohol Use During the Pandemic, locally

In Los Angeles County, one study (1) indicated:

- Binge drinking increased among all populations
- 42% of respondents made use of regulatory relief measures (buying alcohol through delivery or to-go from an on-sale licensee).

# **Factors Potentially Driving Increased Use - Policy**

- **Are local and state alcohol policies and regulations shifting to accommodate businesses during COVID-19 restrictions without public health considerations?**
- Relaxed restrictions on alcohol retailers
- Home delivery options (reduced ID, no contact delivery)
- Alcohol take-out, and curbside pickup in their community

# Factors Potentially Driving Increased Use - Individual

- Unemployment
- Mental illness
- Social isolation
- Change in treatment seeking behavior

# **COVID-19 and SAPC Services – Treatment and Prevention**

# Treatment Services During the Pandemic

- Modest **reductions** in both *clients* and *claims* across LOC and age groups overall.
  - Significant **increase** in claims for Recovery Support Services
  - Modest **increase** in claims for Intensive Outpatient Services
  - Modest **increase** in Recovery Bridge Housing Clients and Claims

# Challenges to SUD Treatment Services

- Eligible clients including symptomatic or positive for COVID-19
- Arriving at facilities without prescreening
- Opioid Treatment Program and take-home medications
- Relocation of CENS counselors
- Suspended DUI program activities

# SAPC Treatment Services **Response**

- Providing remote services
  - Telehealth for Outpatient Services
  - In-person group sessions
  - ASAM assessments are available via telephone or telehealth.

# Challenges to SUD Prevention Services

- Restrictions to Services
  - Youth Education and Alternative Efforts
  - Providing Outreach to the Community
  - Meth Media Campaign
- Added Risk Factors
  - Reduced Regulations / Relaxing of Restrictions
  - Lack of already scarce resources, especially in underserved areas
  - Additional stress and mental health issues

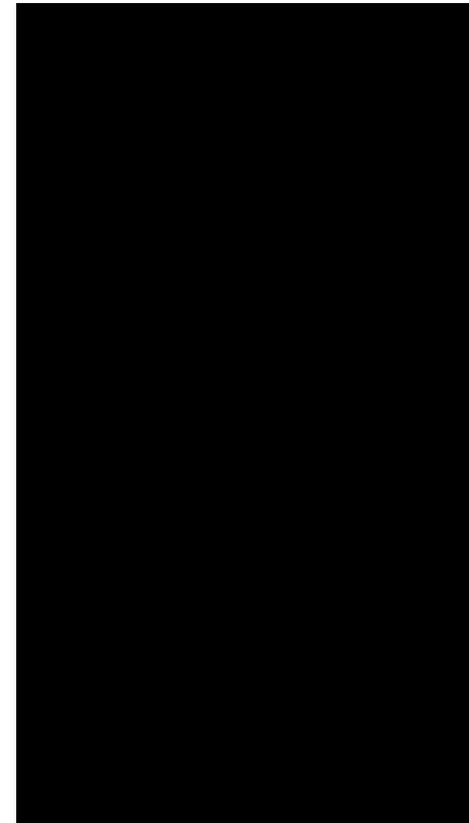


# SAPC Prevention Services **Response**

- Be innovative
- Stay Connected to the Community
- Virtual Engagement
  - Youth Leadership Meetings
  - Community Activation
- Continue policy efforts



# Prevention Services – Innovative Approaches



# Virtual Efforts and Events

- National Prevention Week
- Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- National Recovery Month
- Drug Take Back Day
- Red Ribbon Week
- Conduct Alcohol Shelter in Place Survey



JOIN THE VOICES FOR RECOVERY:  
CELEBRATING CONNECTIONS

**JOIN US**  
Wednesday, Sept. 2  
10:00am-10:30am  
[bit.ly/nrm\\_kickoff](http://bit.ly/nrm_kickoff)

L.A. County Prevention Providers presents  
**National Recovery Month**  
**PRESS KICK-OFF**  
with Guest Host Jacki Jing

Press Kick-Off: Youth Recovery & Connection during COVID-19 will feature the following:  
- Mellissa McCracken, an addiction counselor and survivor  
- Youth sharing inspiring messages of recovery  
- Launch of Countywide TikTok Video Recovery Campaign  
- LA County Resources for Recovery  
**Join us to celebrate the voices of recovery.**

This event was made possible with funding from the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control.

**NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH 2020**  
SEPTEMBER  
[www.LACPP.org](http://www.LACPP.org)  
[@LACountyPP](https://twitter.com/LACountyPP)  
[#recoverymonthLA](https://twitter.com/recoverymonthLA)

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

**VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY**

SUBSTANCE USE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Save The Date  
Wednesday, May 27 | 2-3:15 PM  
Join Us on ZOOM:  
Meeting ID: 836 6255 0426

**AADAP**  
People Need People

**KY CIC**  
KOREAN YOUTH COMMUNITY CENTERS

Funded by County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention & Control

**DEA NATIONAL RX TAKEBACK**

Saturday,  
October 24, 2020  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Los Angeles County  
**NPW**  
national prevention week  
A Series of Virtual Celebrations

#NPW2020 @LACountyPP  
**MAY 10-16 2020**  
[www.LACPP.org](http://www.LACPP.org)

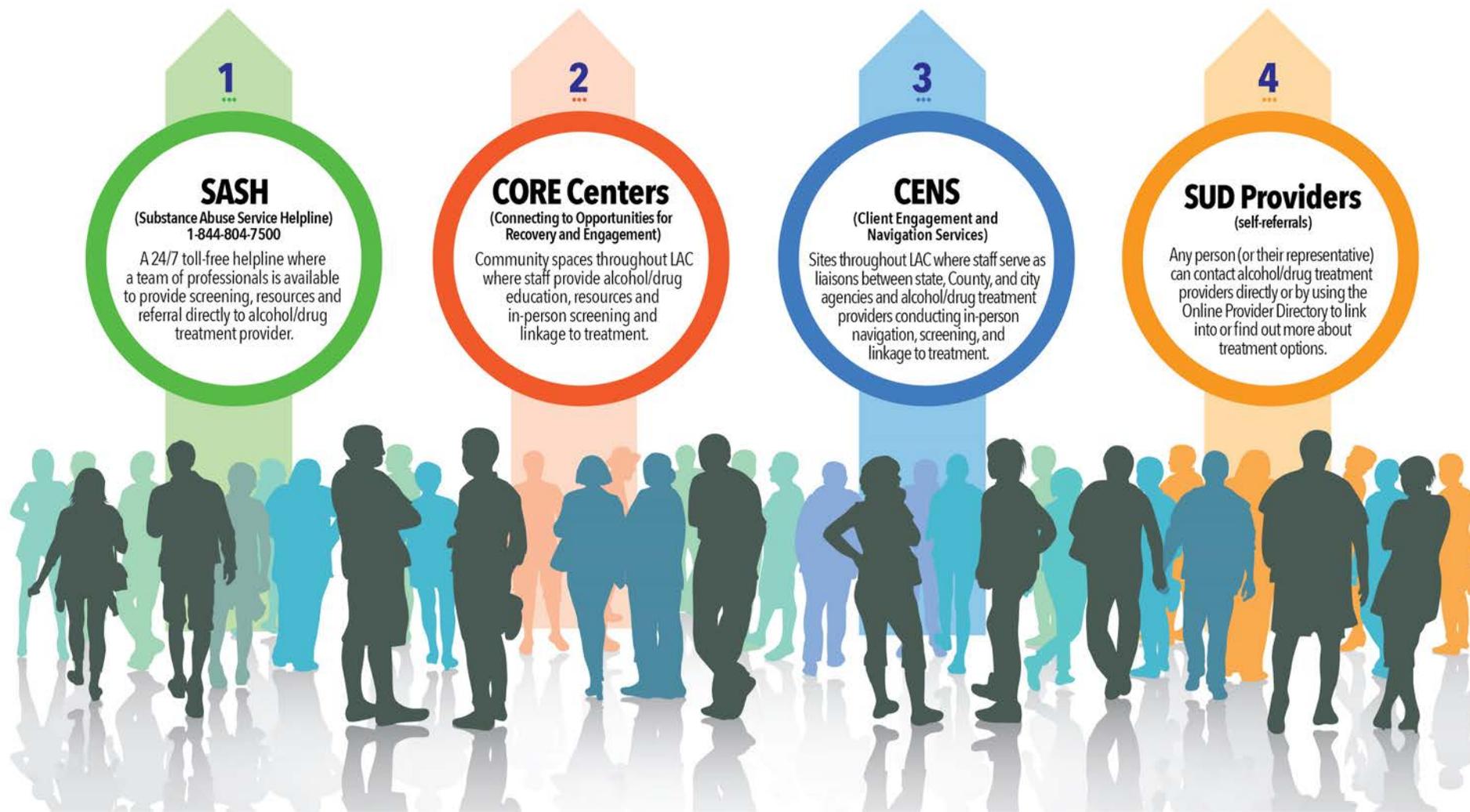
Made possible by funds from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

# LA County's DPH-SAPC support of new alcohol & SUD related State legislation

- AB 82: State government
- SB 855: Health coverage: mental health or substance abuse disorders
- SB 803: Mental health services: peer support specialist certification
- AB 1544: Community Paramedicine or Triage to Alternate Destination Act

# Resources

# NO WRONG DOOR PATHWAYS TO ACCESS ALCOHOL/DRUG TREATMENT

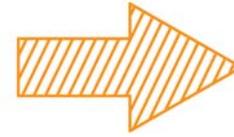


## SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICE HELPLINE



**1.844.804.7500**

- Toll-free, **available 24/7, year-round**
- Interpretation available, including TTY



**1. Anyone** can call the SASH (adults, youth 12+), but for referrals, the person needing treatment must also be present

**2. Professional staff** (clinician or counselor) conduct a screening and helps to connect the caller to a treatment provider that meets their needs.

**3. An appointment** can be scheduled with the provider while both the person and the SASH operator are on the line.

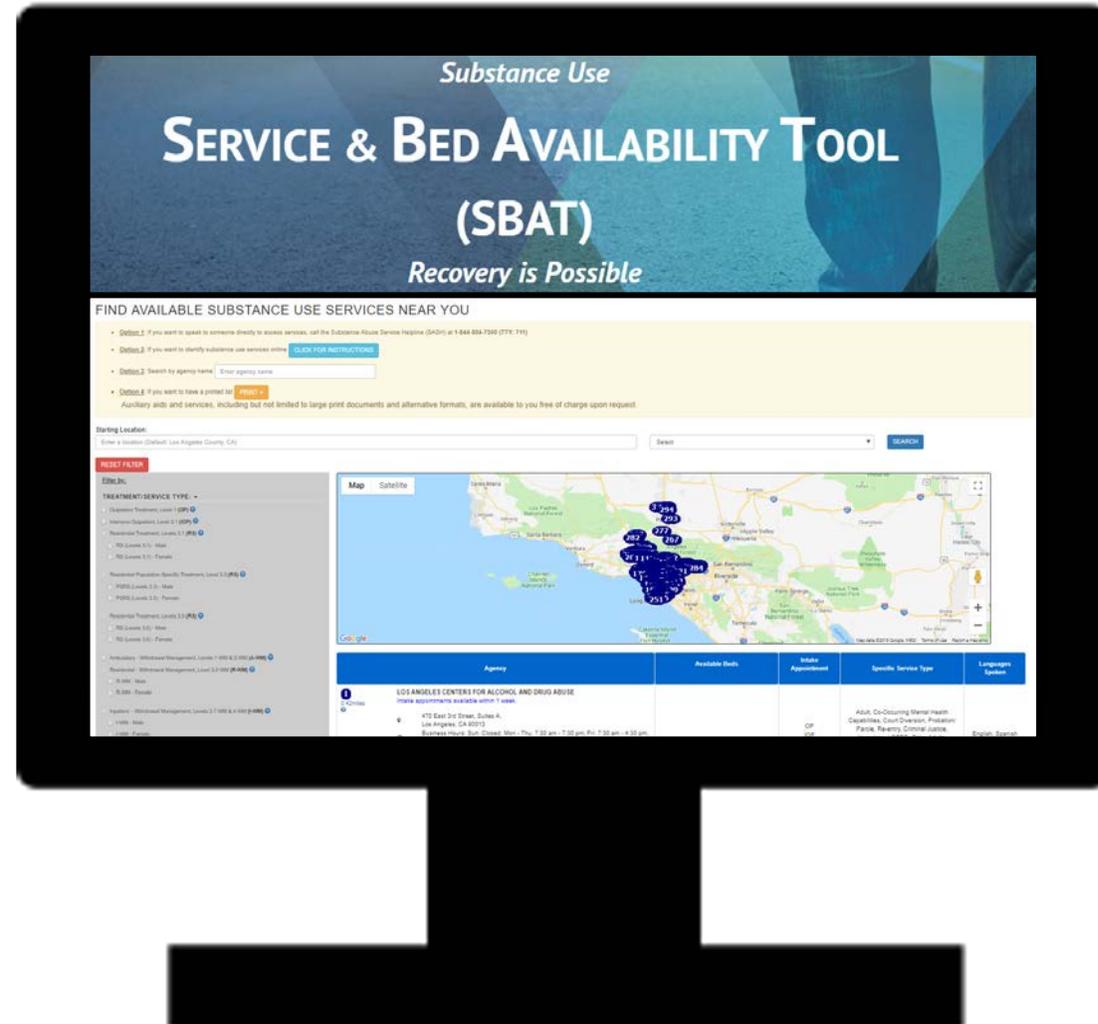
(During provider's normal business hours)

<https://sapccis.ph.lacounty.gov/sbat/>

**SBAT Website allows anyone with an internet connection to find treatment services and site contact information.**

Filter by:

- Distance
- Treatment/Service Type
- Languages Spoken
- Clients Served (e.g. youth, perinatal, visually impaired/deaf, LGBTQIA, homeless, re-entry, etc.)
- Night/Weekend availability



# If you, a loved one, or someone you know needs help here is how they can connect

- Substance Abuse Services Hotline (SASH):

**1-844-804-7500**

- SAPC Email

[SUDTransformation@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:SUDTransformation@ph.lacounty.gov)

- SAPC Website's Public and Patient Portal:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/PatientPublic.htm>

- Service and Bed Availability Tool:

<http://sapccis.ph.lacounty.gov/sbat/>



