



SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION TO ADVANCE RECOVERY AND TREATMENT

Los Angeles County's Substance Use Disorder Organized Delivery

Prevention Services Fact Sheet

The substance abuse prevention field now has an unprecedented opportunity to align with larger prevention efforts and to explore how programs, policies and practices aimed at substance abuse prevention can contribute to overall health and lifelong wellness for individuals and communities.

Health Outcomes

Adverse Childhood Experiences:

The CDC and Kaiser conducted several longitudinal studies showing how exposure to adverse childhood experiences can cause later health problems, including, in some cases, alcohol dependence and substance abuse.¹

Children of Alcoholics: Children of alcoholics typically have healthcare costs 32% higher than children from non-alcoholic families, with a 24% higher rate of hospital admissions, hospital stays that are 29% longer, and in-patient drug costs that are 39% higher. These Children without effective preventative interventions, are considerably more likely to **experience their own substance use or mental health disorders later in life**. They may also experience academic and social challenges including scholastic performance and truancy.²

Opportunities for Prevention

Health Promotion: These strategies are designed to create environments and conditions that support behavioral health and the ability of individuals to withstand challenges. Promotion strategies also reinforce the entire continuum of behavioral health services.

Screening and Brief Interventions

- CAGE Substance Abuse Screening Tool
- CRAFFT

School-Based Prevention Partnerships

- Co-locate to provide prevention services to high risk populations
- Extended afterschool activities
- Youth development and leadership programs

Environmental Prevention

- Improve conditions that contribute to alcohol and other drug problems
- Establish and enforce policies to create safer neighborhoods
- Built environment opportunities for health and wellness
- Engage community members with determining how to improve community wellness

Partnerships with Treatment and Recovery Services

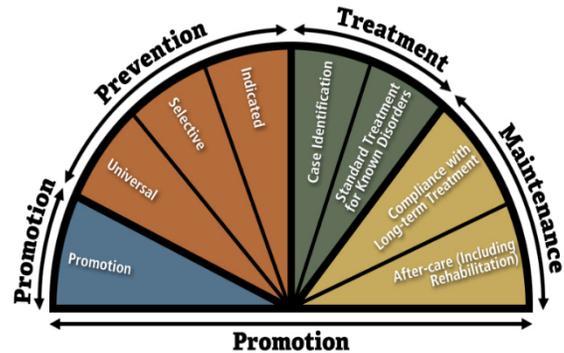
- Individuals in recovery can get involved with community engagement, mobilization and advocacy efforts that work to improve health and wellness
- Create regional learning communities that can promote wellness and address SUD problems

Best Practices for Prevention in the DMC-ODS

Universal Examples: community policies that promote access to early childhood education, implementation or enforcement of anti-bullying policies in schools, education for physicians on prescription drug misuse and preventive prescribing practices, social and decision-making skills training for all sixth graders in a particular school system.

Selective Examples: prevention education for new immigrant families living in poverty with young children, peer support groups for adults with a history of family mental illness and/or substance abuse.

Indicated Examples: information and referral for young adults who violate campus or community policies on alcohol and drugs; screening, consultation, and referral for families of older adults admitted to emergency rooms with potential alcohol-related injuries.³



Technical Assistance and Training

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¹ Felitti, V., Anda, R., Nordenberg, D., Williamson, D., Spitz, A., Edwards, V., Koss, M., Marks, J., Relationship of Child Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults; the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. American Journal of Prevention Medicine, 1998; 14 (4)

² Children of Alcoholics: Important Facts. Publication No. (ADP) 99-2567, CA State of California Alcohol and Drug Programs

³ O'Connell, M. E., Boat, T., & Warner, K. E. (Eds.). (2009). preventing mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders among young people: Progress and possibilities. National Research Council and Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press.