

# Alcohol Outlet Density and Alcohol-Related Consequences

by City and Community in Los Angeles County, 2020





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## Objective

This report aims to examine and identify the spatial pattern and relationships between alcohol outlet density and alcohol-related consequences or harms, specifically violent crimes, vehicle crashes, emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths across Los Angeles County (LAC) cities/community jurisdictions.

## Introduction

Excessive alcohol consumption is one of the leading causes of premature death and disability in LAC, and is a serious public health concern with major health, economic, and social consequences or implications.<sup>1</sup> Each year, approximately 2,100 people die from alcohol-related causes, with approximately 41,000 years of potential life lost (YPLL),<sup>2\*</sup> costing LAC an estimated \$11.4 billion annually.<sup>3</sup> A review of scientific literature found that alcohol outlet densities are positively associated with alcohol consumption<sup>4</sup> and related harms, including violent crimes,<sup>5</sup> vehicle crashes,<sup>6</sup> emergency department (ED) visits,<sup>7</sup> hospitalizations,<sup>8</sup> and deaths<sup>9</sup>, among other adverse outcomes.

In this report, alcohol outlet densities and the rates of the five consequences were examined for 78 cities, 31 unincorporated areas or communities, 8 Service Planning Areas (SPA), and 5 Supervisorial Districts (SD) in LAC.

## Study Methods

### Defining Cities and Communities in Los Angeles County

A total of 88 cities and 54 unincorporated communities in LAC were identified using the Census 2020 Incorporated Places and Census Designated Places.<sup>10</sup> Ten cities and 23 communities with less than 10,000 residents produced unstable estimates and were excluded from this report. Data for the City of Los Angeles was further divided into its 15 city council districts to provide more local information.<sup>11</sup>

### Determining Alcohol Outlet Densities

Information on alcohol outlets within LAC in 2020 was obtained from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).<sup>12</sup> ABC categorizes alcohol outlets as follows:

- On-premises – outlets where alcohol is served to be consumed on site (bars and restaurants).

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\* Years of potential life lost (YPLL) is an estimate of the average time a person would have lived had he or she not died prematurely (before age 75 years). This measure is used to help quantify social and economic loss due to premature death, and it has been used to emphasize specific causes of death affecting younger age groups. YPLL incorporates age at death, and its calculation mathematically weights the total deaths by applying values to deaths at each age, retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25759821>.

- Off-premises – outlets where alcohol is sold in original, sealed containers to be consumed off site (e.g., liquor stores, convenience stores such as gas station stores, and grocery stores).

The 2020 population estimates for each city and community were used to calculate the alcohol outlet densities.<sup>13</sup> The density (number of outlets per 10,000 residents) of on-premises and off-premises alcohol outlets was calculated separately and categorized into three equal groups (tertiles): “low,” “medium,” or “high” density.

### Measuring Alcohol-Related Harms/Consequences

Five harms associated with alcohol consumption (violent crimes,<sup>14</sup> vehicle crashes,<sup>15</sup> ED visits,<sup>16</sup> hospitalizations,<sup>16</sup> and deaths<sup>17</sup>) were examined using 2020 data. Violent crimes included homicide/murder, sexual assault (rape and attempted rape), all other assaults (including domestic violence), and robbery. Alcohol-involved vehicle crashes included any motor vehicle crashes in which a driver, pedestrian, or bicyclist had been drinking, and excluded motor vehicle crashes with property damage only. Alcohol-related ED visits and hospitalizations included records listing any alcohol-related condition as the principal or other diagnosis. Alcohol-related deaths included all deaths that listed an alcohol-related condition as the underlying or contributing cause of death on the death certificate.

Geographic information for alcohol-related vehicle crashes and violent crimes were based on the location of the incident, and were based on residence for ED visits, hospitalizations, and deaths. If decedent residence data was missing, death location was used.

Rates per 10,000 residents for each of the five alcohol-related consequences were calculated using 2020 population estimates for each city/community, SPA, and SD, and were categorized into three equal groups: “low,” “medium,” or “high” rate.

### Determining the Relationship between Alcohol Outlet Density and Alcohol-Related Consequences.

Logistic regression modeling was performed to examine the associations between on- and off-premises alcohol outlet densities (high – values above the County median; low – values below the County median) and alcohol-related harms (high – values above the County; low – values below the County median) adjusting for the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)<sup>18</sup> to account for neighborhood socioeconomic conditions, household composition and disability, minority status and English language proficiency, and housing type and transportation. Statistical significance was determined using  $p < 0.1$ .

## Findings

### Alcohol Outlets

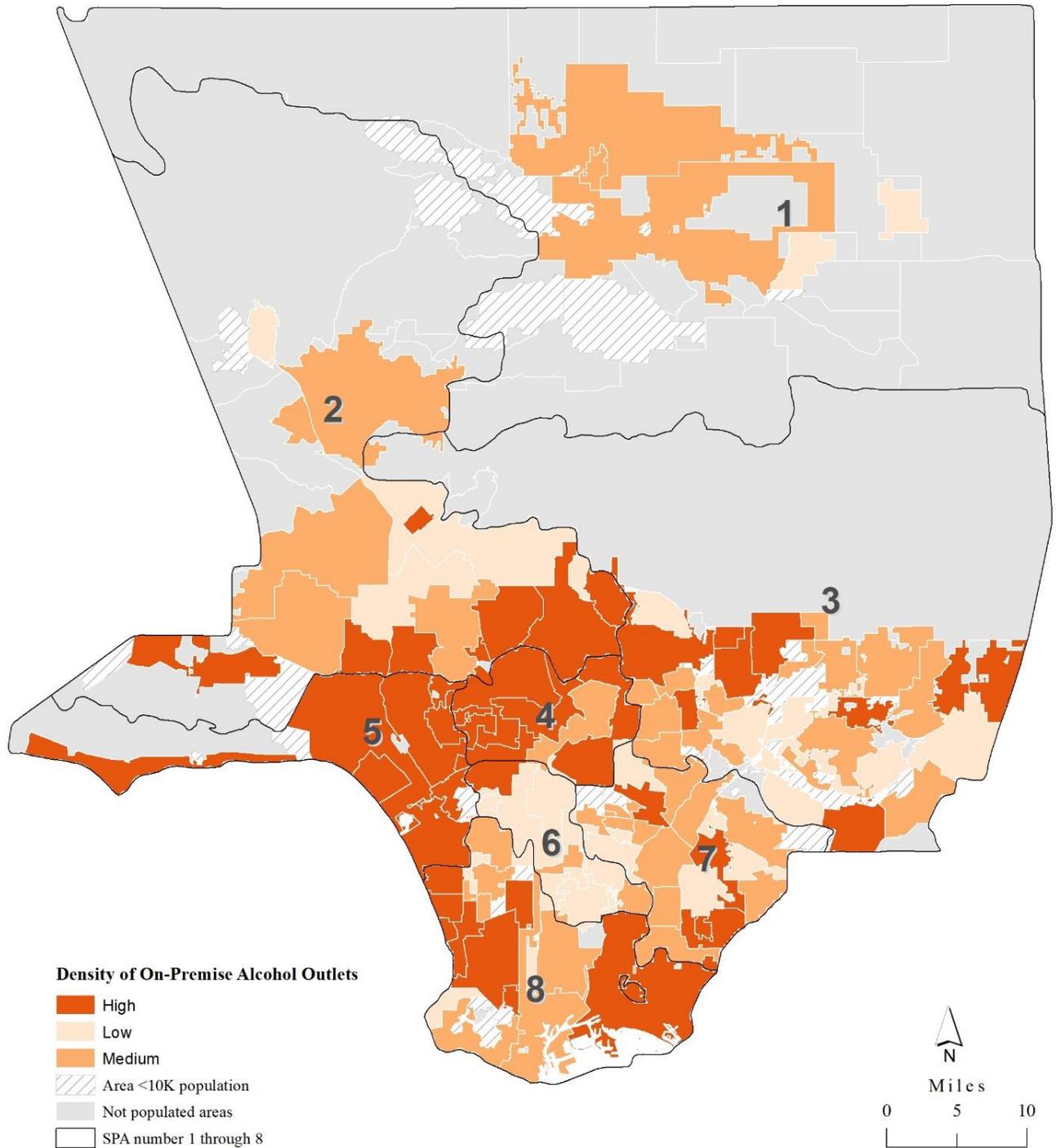
A total of 16,416 active alcohol outlet licenses were identified in LAC in 2020, of which on-premises outlets accounted for 10,577 (64%) and off-premises outlets accounted for 5,839 (36%). In 2020, the density of on-and off-premises alcohol outlets in LAC was 10.4 and 5.7 per 10,000 residents, respectively. Compared to the 2013 data<sup>19</sup>, the overall number of

alcohol outlets increased by 1,163 (7.6%). The number of on-premises alcohol outlets increased by 1,552 (17.2%), while off-premises alcohol outlets decreased by 389 (-6.2%). Consequently, in LAC, the overall density of on-premises alcohol outlets increased from 8.9 in 2013 to 10.4 in 2020 per 10,000 residents, while that of off-premises alcohol outlets declined from 6.2 in 2013 to 5.7 in 2020 per 10,000 residents.

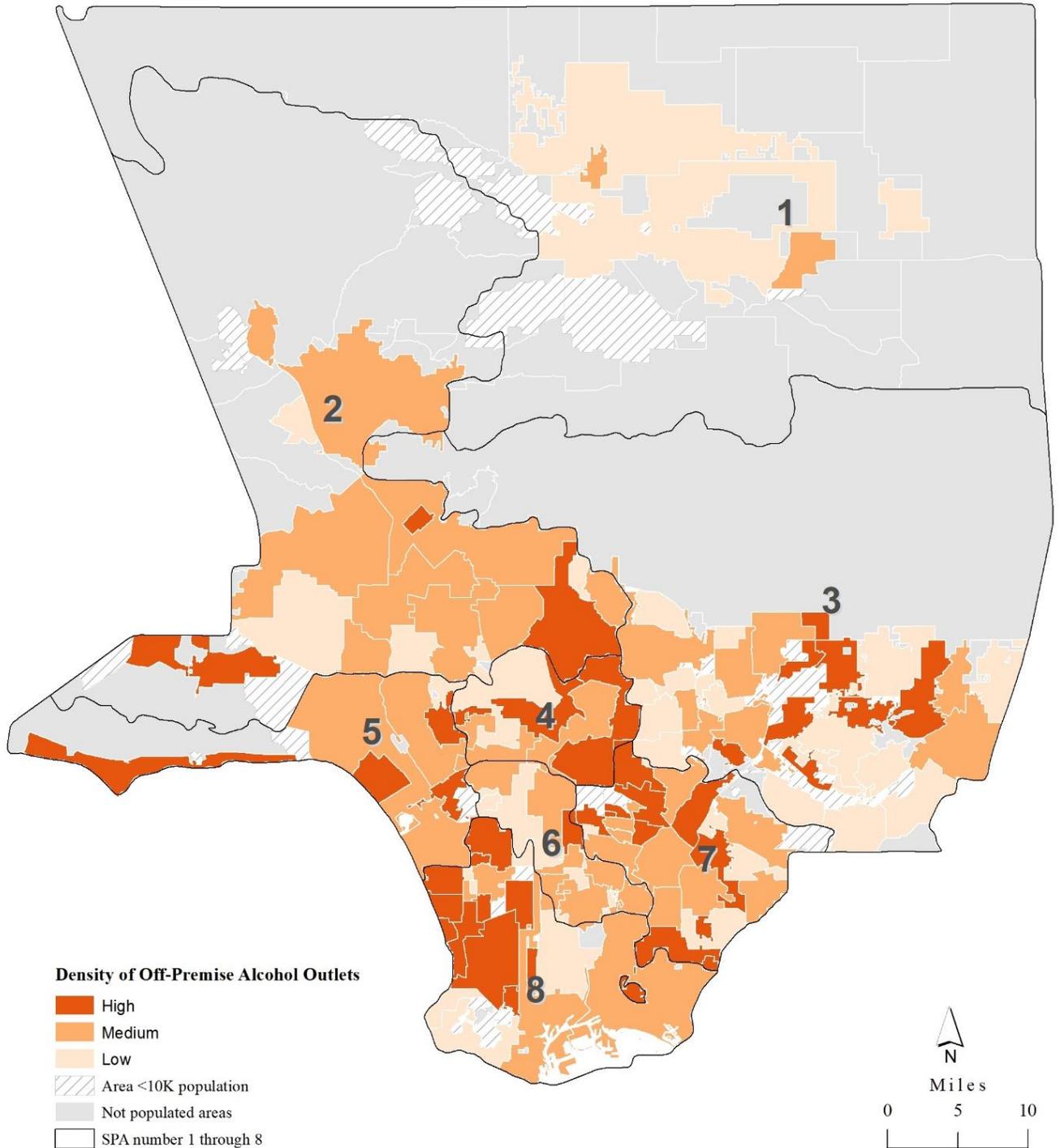
The density of on-premises alcohol outlets varied widely among cities and communities across the County, ranging from zero (Citrus, Sun Village, West Puente Valley) to 63 (West Hollywood), with 47 (38.2%) cities/communities above the countywide density of 10.4 per 10,000 residents. Off-premises alcohol outlet densities ranged from zero (San Marino, Citrus) to 14.8 (Santa Fe Springs), with 54 (43.9%) cities/communities above the countywide density of 5.7 per 10,000 residents. Tables 1A, 1B, and 1C present the densities of on-premises and off-premises alcohol outlets by cities and communities, SPAs, and SDs, respectively. Among on-premises alcohol outlets, 6,656 (62.9%) were in the cities and communities with high outlet density (Map 1, and Table 1A). Among off-premises outlets, 1,783 (30.5%) were in the cities and communities with high outlet density (Map 2, and Table 1A).

The geographical distribution of on- and off-premises alcohol outlets varied across LAC (Maps 1 and 2). A higher density of on-premises alcohol outlets was associated lower SVI or more affluent communities, such as West Hollywood, El Segundo, Beverly Hills, Malibu, Marina del Rey, Santa Monica, and Culver City (Map 1,  $p < 0.1$ ). On the other hand, a higher density of off-premises alcohol outlets was associated with higher SVI or less affluent communities (Map 2,  $p < 0.02$ ), such as the City of Commerce, Santa Fe Springs, and South El Monte City.

**Map 1. On-Premises Alcohol Outlet Density (per 10,000 population) among Cities, Communities, and Service Planning Areas (SPA), Los Angeles County, 2020**



**Map 2. Off-Premises Alcohol Outlet Density (per 10,000 population) among Cities, Communities, and Service Planning Areas (SPA), Los Angeles County, 2020**



## Association Between Alcohol Outlet Density and Alcohol-related Consequences

The rates of alcohol-related consequences (violent crimes, vehicle crashes, ED visits, hospitalizations, and death) are presented by each city and community (Table 2A, Maps 3 to 7), SPA (Table 2B), and SD (Table 2C). The associations between on/off-premises alcohol outlet density and various alcohol-related consequences (e.g., violent crimes, vehicle crashes) were tested and accounted for the Social Vulnerability Index.

### *Violent Crimes*

The violent crime rate within Los Angeles County cities/communities ranged from 2.9 (Stevenson Ranch) to 177.3 (Council District 8), with 25 (20.3%) cities/communities above the overall County rate of 53.6 per 10,000 population (Table 2A, Map 3).

The associations between **on/off-premises** alcohol outlet density and violent crimes were not statistically significant.

### *Alcohol-involved Vehicle Crashes*

The alcohol-involved vehicle crash rate within Los Angeles County cities/communities ranged from zero (Artesia, East Whittier, Lomita, Palos Verdes Estates, and Sierra Madre) to 15.1 (City of Commerce), with 37 (30.1%) cities/communities above the overall County rate of 4.0 per 10,000 population (Table 2A, Map 4).

Cities and communities with a high density of **off-premises** alcohol outlets were 2.1 times more likely to have high alcohol-involved vehicle crashes than cities and communities with a low density of off-premises alcohol outlets, even after accounting for the Social Vulnerability Index ( $p < 0.1$ ).

The association between **on-premises** alcohol outlets density and alcohol-involved vehicle crashes was not statistically significant.

### *Alcohol-related ED Visits*

The alcohol-related ED visit rate within Los Angeles County cities/communities ranged from 1.6 (Sierra Madre) to 120.8 (West Rancho Dominguez), with 33 (26.8%) cities/communities above the overall County rate of 49.4, per 10,000 population (Table 2A, Map 5).

The associations between **on/off-premises** alcohol outlets density and alcohol-related ED visits were not statistically significant.

### *Alcohol-related Hospitalizations*

The alcohol-related hospitalization rate within Los Angeles County cities/communities ranged from 2.0 (Sierra Madre) to 103.5 (View Park-Windsor Hills), with 42 (34.1%) cities/communities above the overall County rate of 44.7 per 10,000 population (Table 2A, Map 6).

Cities and communities with a high density of **on-premises** alcohol outlets were 2.6 times more likely to have high alcohol-related hospitalization rates than cities and communities with a low density of on-premises alcohol outlets, even after accounting for the Social Vulnerability Index ( $p < 0.1$ ).

Cities and communities with a high density of **off-premises** alcohol outlets were 2.1 times more likely to have high alcohol-related hospitalization rates than cities and communities with a low density of off-premises alcohol outlets, even after accounting for the Social Vulnerability Index ( $p < 0.1$ ).

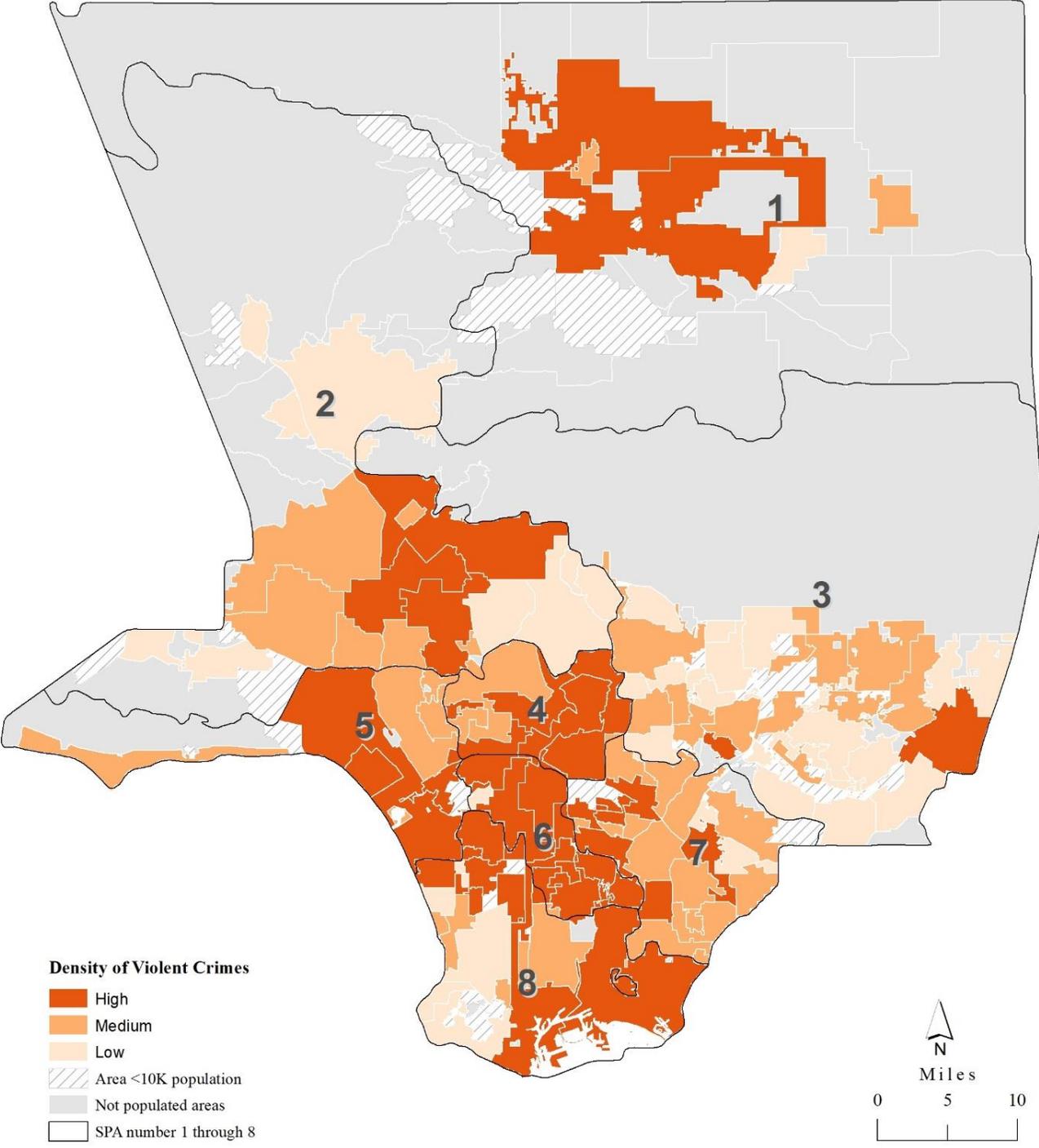
### *Alcohol-related Deaths*

The alcohol-related death rate within Los Angeles County cities/communities ranged from 0.0 (Palos Verdes Estates, Calabasas, San Marino, View Park-Windsor Hills, Citrus, and Stevenson Ranch) to 5.2 (Lake Los Angeles, and Marina del Rey), with 64 (52.0%) above the overall County rate of 2.5 per 10,000 population (Table 2A, Map 7).

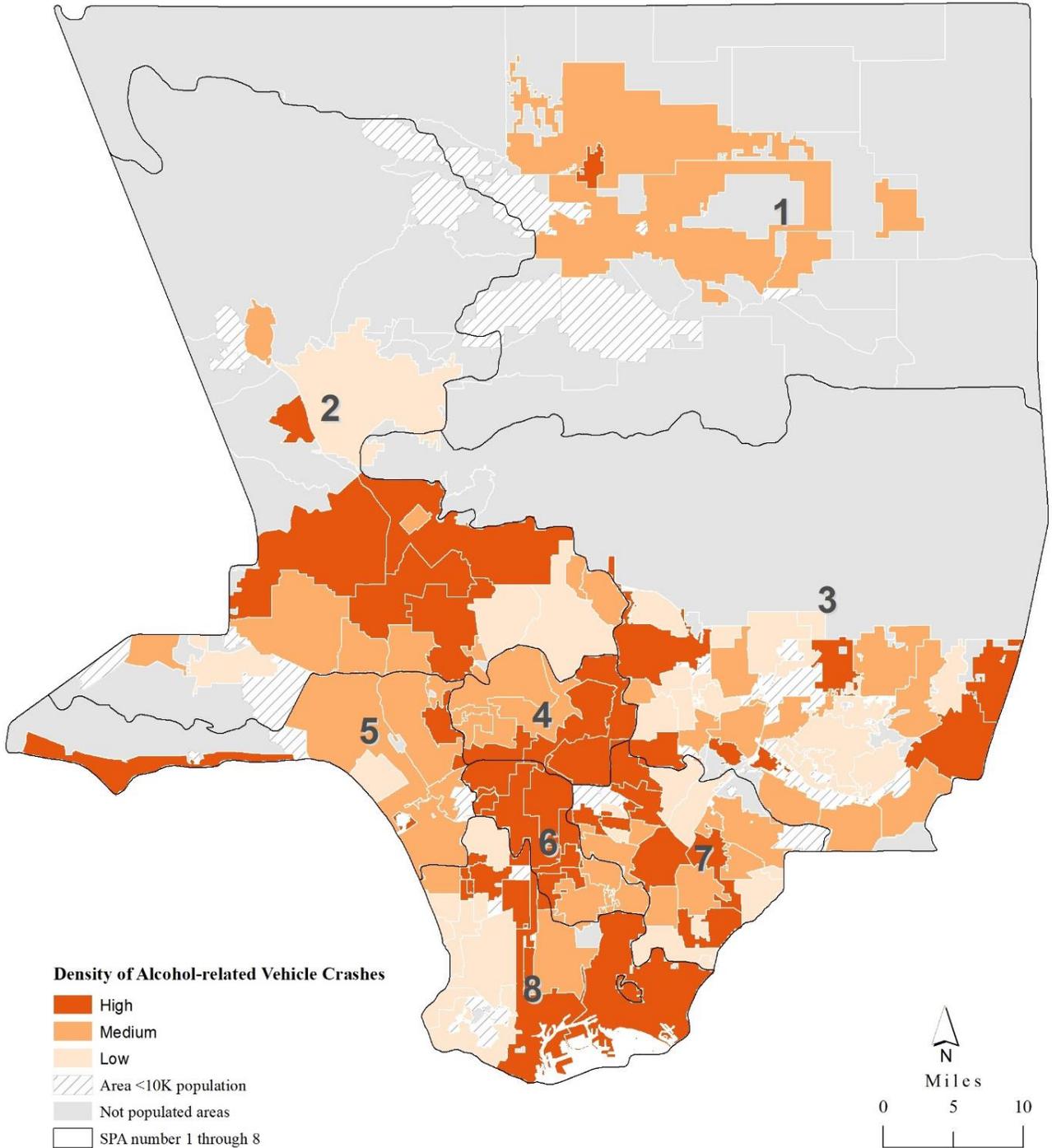
Cities and communities with a high density of **off-premises** alcohol outlets were 2.1 times more likely to have high alcohol-related death rates than cities and communities with a low density of off-premises alcohol outlets, even after accounting for the Social Vulnerability Index ( $p < 0.1$ ).

The association between **on-premises** alcohol outlets and alcohol-related deaths was not statistically significant.

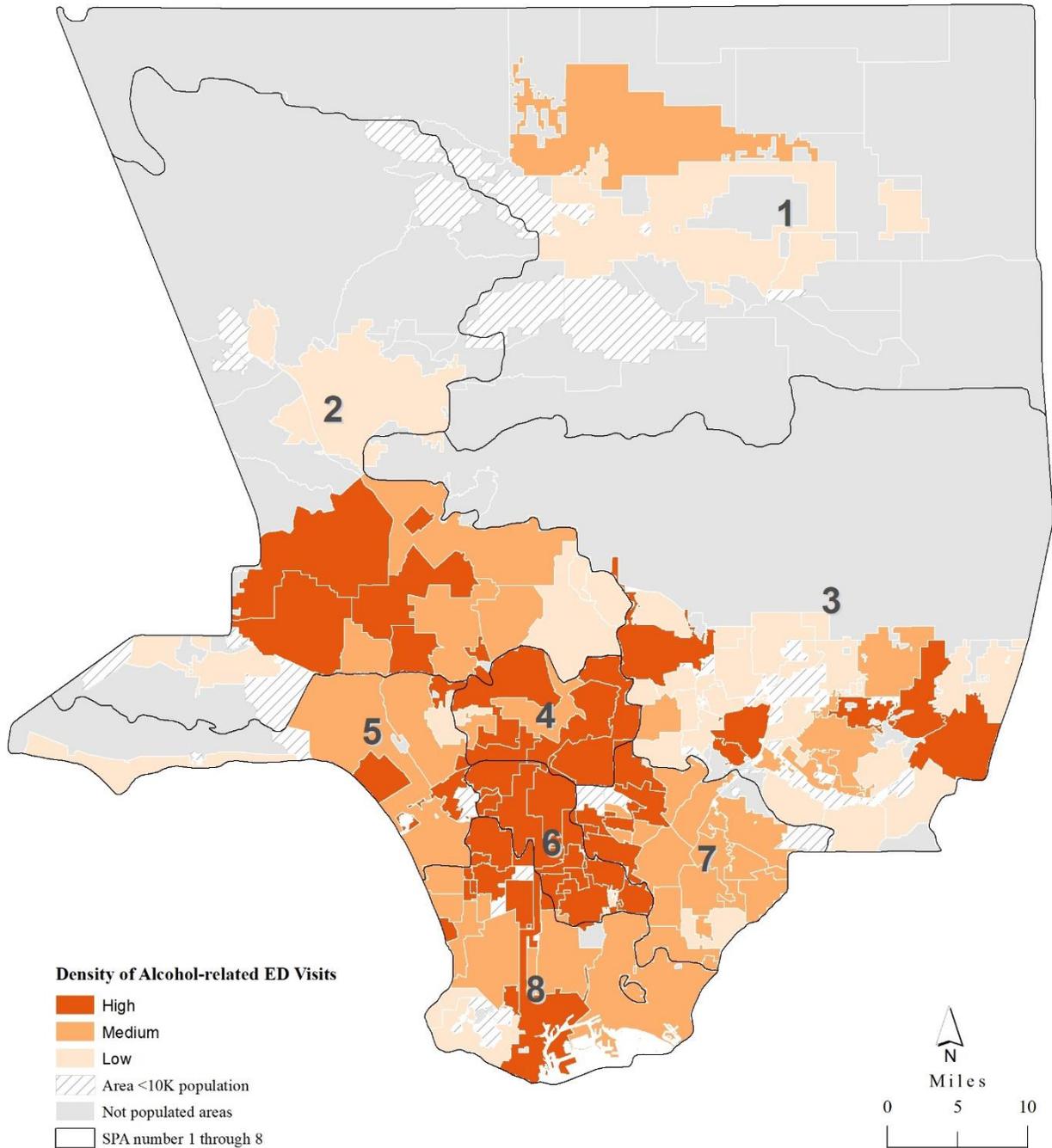
**Map 3. Violent Crime Rates (per 10,000 population) among Cities, Communities, and Service Planning Areas (SPAs), Los Angeles County, 2020**



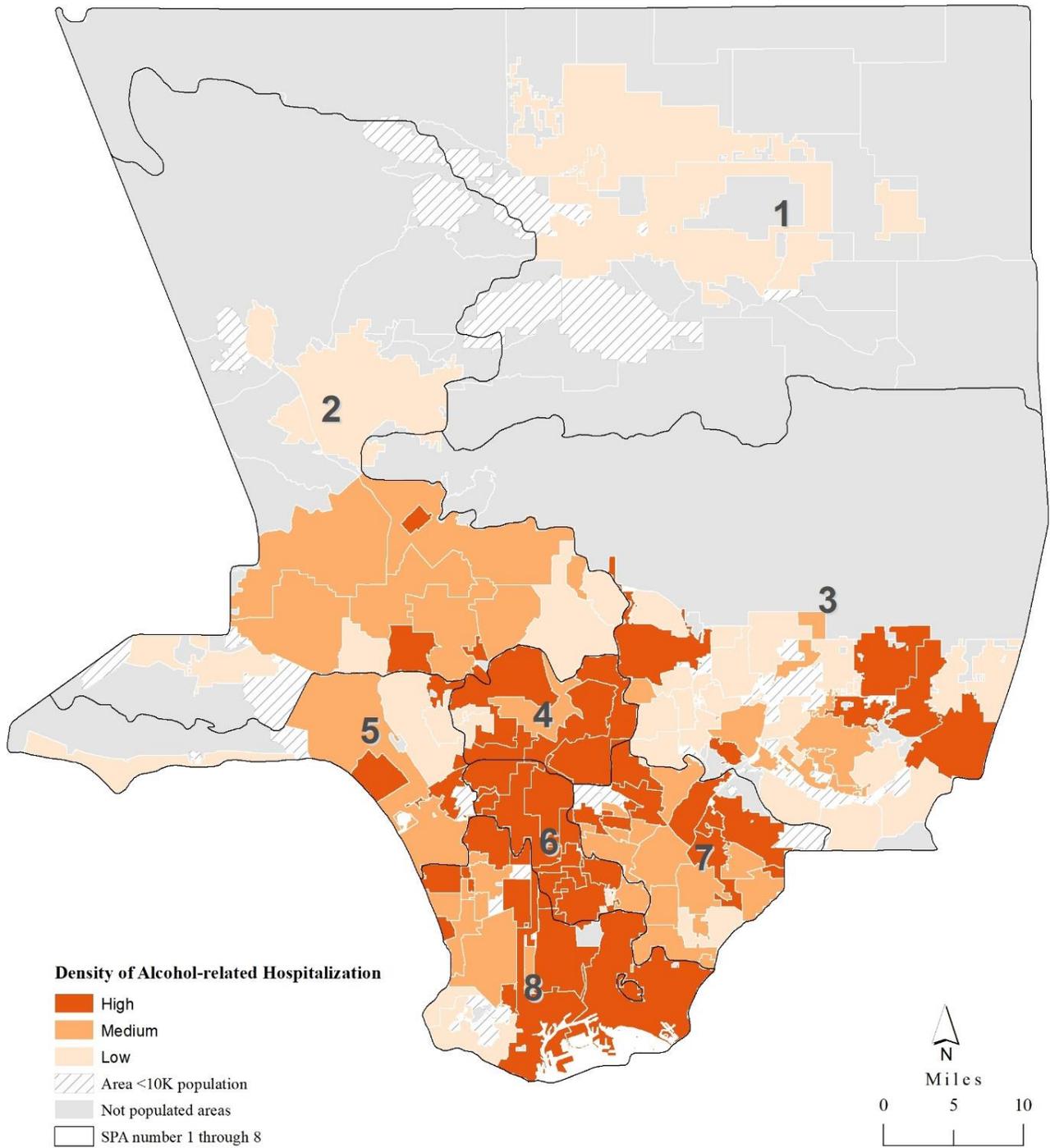
**Map 4. Alcohol-related Vehicle Crash Rates (per 10,000 population) among Cities, Communities, and Service Planning Areas (SPAs), Los Angeles County, 2020**



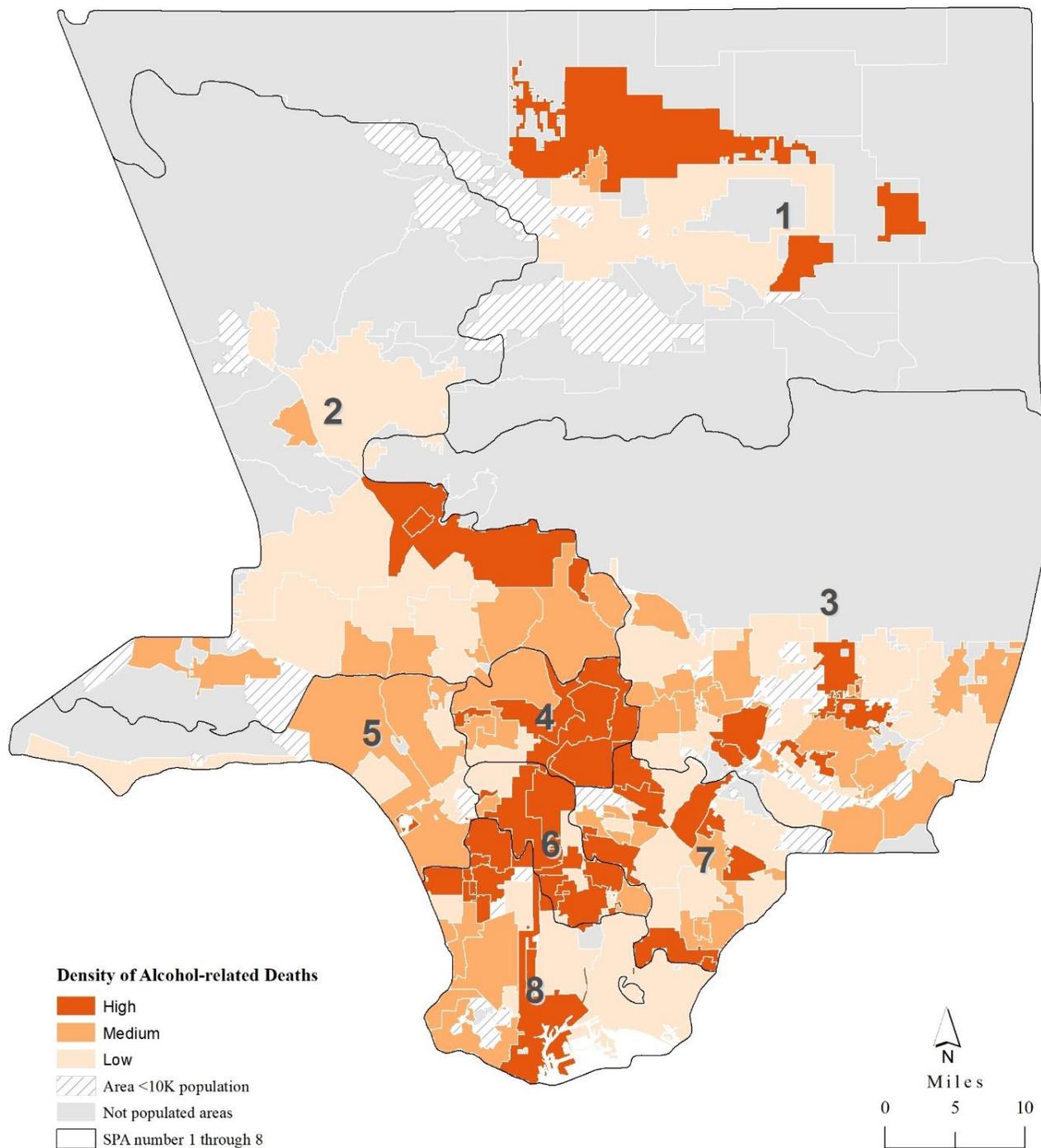
**Map 5. Alcohol-related Emergency Department Visit Rates (per 10,000 population) among Cities, Communities, and Service Planning Areas (SPAs), Los Angeles County, 2020**



**Map 6. Alcohol-related Hospitalization Rate (per 10,000 population) among Cities, Communities, and Service Planning Areas (SPAs), Los Angeles County, 2020**



**Map 7. Alcohol-related Deaths Rate (per 10,000 population) among Cities, Communities, and Service Planning Areas (SPAs), Los Angeles County, 2020**



**Table 1A. On-Premises and Off-Premises Alcohol Outlet Density (AOD) by City and Community, Los Angeles County, 2020\***

City/Community	On-Premises AOD		Off-Premises AOD		City/Community	On-Premises AOD		Off-Premises AOD	
	Value	Category	Value	Category		Value	Category	Value	Category
<b>Los Angeles County</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>-</b>	Glendale	11.7	High	6.6	High
Agoura Hills	26.2	High	7.3	High	Glendora	10.3	Medium	4.5	Medium
Alhambra	8.7	Medium	4.5	Medium	Hacienda Heights	4.7	Medium	4.0	Medium
Altadena	3.9	Medium	3.7	Medium	Hawaiian Gardens	13.2	High	7.0	High
Arcadia	16.0	High	5.0	Medium	Hawthorne	5.4	Medium	5.5	Medium
Artesia	26.4	High	9.6	High	Hermosa Beach	31.9	High	9.5	High
Avocado Heights	3.7	Medium	5.9	Medium	Huntington Park	7.0	Medium	9.3	High
Azusa	7.3	Medium	7.1	High	Inglewood	5.2	Medium	7.1	High
Baldwin Park	4.0	Medium	6.1	High	La Cañada Flintridge	16.7	High	4.8	Medium
Bell	5.9	Medium	5.9	Medium	La Crescenta-Montrose	2.0	Medium	3.4	Medium
Bell Gardens	4.7	Medium	10.7	High	La Mirada	7.4	Medium	4.9	Medium
Bellflower	5.5	Medium	5.8	Medium	La Puente	5.7	Medium	8.3	High
Beverly Hills	43.9	High	8.7	High	La Verne	15.4	High	5.7	Medium
Burbank	16.8	High	6.0	Medium	Lake Los Angeles	1.5	Medium	4.5	Medium
Calabasas	12.7	High	6.3	High	Lakewood	7.5	Medium	6.6	High
Carson	6.2	Medium	4.5	Medium	Lancaster	6.8	Medium	4.3	Medium
Castaic	3.1	Medium	5.2	Medium	Lawndale	4.9	Medium	7.4	High
Cerritos	16.5	High	4.2	Medium	Lennox	1.9	Medium	6.3	High
Citrus	0.0	Medium	0.0	Medium	Lomita	14.1	High	6.1	High
Claremont	16.9	High	3.2	Medium	Long Beach	13.2	High	6.0	Medium
Commerce	14.3	High	11.9	High	<b>Los Angeles†</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>-</b>
Compton	1.6	Medium	5.5	Medium	Council District 1	7.5	Medium	5.9	Medium
Covina	11.7	High	7.7	High	Council District 2	8.4	Medium	6	Medium
Cudahy	1.7	Medium	6.0	Medium	Council District 3	8.5	Medium	4.6	Medium
Culver City	33.3	High	11.8	High	Council District 4	15.7	High	4.6	Medium
Del Aire	3.8	Medium	2.9	Medium	Council District 5	18.9	High	4.8	Medium
Diamond Bar	7.0	Medium	4.1	Medium	Council District 6	3.9	Medium	5.0	Medium
Downey	10.8	Medium	5.4	Medium	Council District 7	1.6	Medium	4.7	Medium
Duarte	7.2	Medium	6.3	High	Council District 8	1.3	Medium	4.6	Medium
East Los Angeles	3.7	Medium	7.5	High	Council District 9	3.3	Medium	5.4	Medium
East Rancho Dominguez	0.7	Medium	3.3	Medium	Council District 10	12.2	High	5.3	Medium
East San Gabriel	1.3	Medium	1.7	Medium	Council District 11	18.9	High	5.3	Medium
East Whittier	1.9	Medium	2.8	Medium	Council District 12	6.4	Medium	5.2	Medium
El Monte	4.7	Medium	5.9	Medium	Council District 13	20.2	High	6.4	High
El Segundo	47.3	High	8.5	High	Council District 14	22.1	High	7.6	High
Florence-Graham	2.5	Medium	7.8	High	Council District 15	5.3	Medium	5.5	Medium
Gardena	16.1	High	7.7	High					

Low (0-33%)    Medium (34-66%)    High (67-100%)

\* Cities/communities with less than 10,000 residents were excluded

† For the City of Los Angeles, both on-premises and off-premises Alcohol Outlet Densities were medium (61<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively)

**Table 1A. On-Premises and Off-Premises Alcohol Outlet Density (AOD)  
by City and Community, Los Angeles County, 2020\* (continued)**

City/Community	On-Premises AOD		Off-Premises AOD		City/Community	On-Premises AOD		Off-Premises AOD	
	Value	Category	Value	Category		Value	Category	Value	Category
Lynwood	3.9	Low	5.1	Low	Santa Monica	34.1	High	6.6	High
Malibu	39.7	High	12.9	High	Sierra Madre	14.0	High	1.7	Low
Manhattan Beach	28.3	High	7.2	High	Signal Hill	12.5	High	6.6	High
Marina del Rey	35.6	High	5.2	Low	South El Monte	10.6	Low	11.6	High
Maywood	7.4	Low	10.2	High	South Gate	4.7	Low	5.9	Low
Monrovia	18.2	High	5.7	Low	South Pasadena	10.6	Low	4.0	Low
Montebello	7.9	Low	5.5	Low	South San Jose Hills	0.5	Low	1.0	Low
Monterey Park	10.5	Low	4.0	Low	South Whittier	1.6	Low	4.5	Low
Norwalk	3.7	Low	5.2	Low	Stevenson Ranch	9.3	Low	3.4	Low
Palmdale	4.9	Low	3.3	Low	Sun Village	0.0	Low	4.8	Low
Palos Verdes Estates	4.5	Low	1.5	Low	Temple City	8.4	Low	4.3	Low
Paramount	6.4	Low	6.0	Low	Torrance	14.3	High	7.0	High
Pasadena	20.3	High	4.9	Low	Valinda	0.9	Low	3.1	Low
Pico Rivera	7.9	Low	7.0	High	View Park-Windsor Hills	1.7	Low	3.4	Low
Pomona	4.7	Low	5.1	Low	Vincent	2.5	Low	4.4	Low
Quartz Hill	6.0	Low	6.0	Low	Walnut	4.2	Low	4.2	Low
Rancho Palos Verdes	5.1	Low	2.8	Low	Walnut Park	3.9	Low	3.9	Low
Redondo Beach	20.8	High	6.5	High	West Carson	3.4	Low	7.3	High
Rosemead	8.8	Low	5.2	Low	West Covina	6.8	Low	3.7	Low
Rowland Heights	11.8	High	2.9	Low	West Hollywood	63.0	High	9.9	High
San Dimas	11.0	Low	6.5	High	West Puente Valley	0.0	Low	1.3	Low
San Fernando	11.5	High	8.2	High	West Rancho Dominguez	2.0	Low	4.8	Low
San Gabriel	15.4	High	5.7	Low	West Whittier-Los Nietos	2.3	Low	3.5	Low
San Marino	6.3	Low	0.0	Low	Westmont	0.3	Low	4.4	Low
Santa Clarita	9.5	Low	4.9	Low	Whittier	10.8	Low	6.1	Low
Santa Fe Springs	13.8	High	14.8	High	Willowbrook	0.4	Low	4.5	Low

Low (0-33%)    Low-Medium (34-66%)    Medium (67-100%)    High (100%)

\* Cities/communities with less than 10,000 residents were excluded

**Table 1B. On-Premises and Off-Premises Alcohol Outlet Density (per 10,000 population) by Service Planning Area (SPA), Los Angeles County, 2020**

SPA	On-premises AOD		Off-premises AOD	
	Value	Category	Value	Category
<b>Los Angeles County</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>-</b>
Antelope Valley (SPA 1)	6.0	Low	5.0	Low
San Fernando (SPA 2)	7.4	Medium	5.1	Low
San Gabriel (SPA 3)	9.8	Medium	5.5	Medium
Metro (SPA 4)	19.5	High	7.0	High
West (SPA 5)	25.5	High	6.5	High
South (SPA 6)	2.1	Low	4.5	Low
East (SPA 7)	7.0	Low	6.3	Medium
South Bay (SPA 8)	11.7	Medium	6.3	Medium

**Table 1C. On-Premises and Off-Premises Alcohol Outlet Density (per 10,000 population) by Supervisorial District (SD), Los Angeles County, 2020**

SD	On-premises AOD		Off-premises AOD	
	Value	Category	Value	Category
<b>Los Angeles County</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>-</b>
District 1	10.2	Medium	5.8	Medium
District 2	8.2	Low	6.0	Medium
District 3	13.2	High	5.5	Low
District 4	9.4	Low	6.3	High
District 5	10.2	Medium	5.0	Low

Low (0-33%)    Low    Medium (34-66%)    Medium    High (67-100%)    High

**Table 2A. Alcohol-Related Consequences (rates per 10,000 population) by City and Community, Los Angeles County, 2020\***

City/Community	Violent Crimes		Vehicle Crashes		ED Visits		Hospitalizations		Deaths**	
	Rate	Category	Rate	Category	Rate	Category	Rate	Category	Rate	Category
<b>Los Angeles County</b>	<b>53.6</b>	-	<b>4.0</b>	-	<b>49.4</b>	-	<b>44.7</b>	-	<b>2.5</b>	-
Agoura Hills	11.1	Low	2.4	High	11.1	Low	10.1	Low	0.5	Low
Alhambra	20.8	High	2.3	Low	30.9	High	28.2	Low	1.4	Low
Altadena	14.5	Low	1.1	Low	15.1	Low	18.1	Low	0.9	Low
Arcadia	15.1	Low	2.6	High	20.4	Low	24.7	Low	1.7	Low
Artesia	30.0	High	0.0	Low	32.4	High	34.2	High	1.2	Low
Avocado Heights	18.5	Low	4.4	High	36.7	High	34.7	High	0.7	Low
Azusa	30.5	High	4.9	High	11.8	Low	10.9	Low	3.1	High
Baldwin Park	21.9	High	2.9	High	23.8	Low	21.1	Low	2.7	High
Bell	53.4	High	7.3	High	49.0	High	50.7	High	2.6	High
Bell Gardens	37.4	High	3.0	High	38.3	High	39.7	High	0.5	Low
Bellflower	43.2	High	3.0	High	40.4	High	38.6	High	2.0	High
Beverly Hills	33.4	High	5.7	High	20.1	Low	27.3	Low	2.7	High
Burbank	15.9	Low	1.0	Low	35.9	High	33.5	High	1.4	Low
Calabasas	16.5	Low	1.7	Low	15.2	Low	10.8	Low	0.0	Low
Carson	40.4	High	3.0	High	41.0	High	45.1	High	2.1	High
Castaic	4.7	Low	2.6	High	3.1	Low	2.3	Low	2.6	High
Cerritos	19.8	Low	3.8	High	17.1	Low	27.9	Low	1.0	Low
Citrus	18.2	High	1.0	Low	15.7	Low	12.0	Low	0.0	Low
Claremont	13.5	Low	6.6	High	13.4	Low	23.7	Low	0.3	Low
Commerce	108.1	High	15.1	High	102.5	High	92.0	High	3.2	High
Compton	115.6	High	2.9	High	68.7	High	56.6	High	3.2	High
Covina	29.2	High	2.1	Low	60.1	High	57.2	High	3.5	High
Cudahy	39.2	High	2.2	Low	33.8	High	34.8	High	1.3	Low
Culver City	47.3	High	3.1	High	55.9	High	61.9	High	2.7	High
Del Aire	18.1	Low	3.8	High	81.4	High	59.6	High	3.8	High
Diamond Bar	11.1	Low	2.7	High	16.6	Low	14.4	Low	0.7	Low
Downey	25.9	High	4.6	High	36.9	High	37.5	High	2.5	High
Duarte	23.1	High	2.3	Low	28.4	Low	29.9	High	2.7	High
East Los Angeles	36.4	High	4.7	High	49.0	High	45.0	High	3.2	High
East Rancho Dominguez	67.7	High	3.3	High	30.1	Low	29.3	Low	2	High
East San Gabriel	6.0	Low	1.7	Low	14.0	Low	20.1	Low	0.9	Low
East Whittier	13.3	Low	0.0	Low	40.4	High	56.0	High	0.9	Low
El Monte	31.3	High	3.4	High	59.7	High	41.9	High	3.0	High
El Segundo	64.9	High	2.8	High	32.5	High	45.6	High	3.4	High
Florence-Graham	52.7	High	7.8	High	68.1	High	56.1	High	2.7	High

Low (0-33%)    Low-Medium (34-66%)    High (67-100%)

\*Cities/communities with less than 10,000 residents are excluded.

\*\* Death rates by cities/communities were based on residential addresses of decedents. If residential address was missing, death location or event address was used.

**Table 2A. Alcohol-Related Consequences (rates per 10,000 population) by City and Community, Los Angeles County, 2020\* (continued)**

City/Community	Violent Crimes	Vehicle Crashes	ED Visits	Hospitalizations	Deaths**
Gardena	43.4	4.5	61.8	48.0	2.7
Glendale	10.3	1.4	27.2	27.3	1.5
Glendora	18.9	2.8	42.7	49.6	2.8
Hacienda Heights	9.4	2.5	30.2	22.3	2.2
Hawaiian Gardens	36.2	0.7	43.4	37.2	3.5
Hawthorne	75.4	4.0	58.3	42.1	3.0
Hermosa Beach	23.4	1.5	49.4	49.4	1.0
Huntington Park	75.5	5.0	72.8	45.5	1.1
Inglewood	62.0	2.0	69.6	55.6	3.8
La Canada Flintridge	4.3	2.4	5.8	7.5	1.0
La Crescenta-Montrose	3.0	3.0	18.3	30.3	3.0
La Mirada	18.9	2.0	31.0	37.7	2.5
La Puente	32.1	1.8	37.2	35.4	2.8
La Verne	13.8	1.6	4.4	5.9	1.3
Lake Los Angeles	29.1	3.0	10.4	5.5	5.2
Lakewood	28.1	1.7	32.1	41.2	3.2
Lancaster	67.9	3.1	32.0	12.7	2.9
Lawndale	47.6	0.6	42.6	36.3	4.0
Lennox	42.6	5.3	53.8	43.5	3.4
Lomita	36.7	0.0	73.2	65.7	2.8
Long Beach	49.4	6.1	43.1	52.4	2.7
<b>Los Angeles†</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Council District 1	79.0	5.2	51.5	53.7	3.3
Council District 2	44.4	4.4	45.2	40.5	2.5
Council District 3	41.4	3.2	56.7	37.5	2.1
Council District 4	35.9	3.4	53.3	47.8	1.6
Council District 5	32.9	2.8	32.8	27.2	1.3
Council District 6	56.7	5.3	49.6	39.8	2.6
Council District 7	43.8	4.2	36.0	30.7	3.1
Council District 8	177.3	9.1	70.3	64.3	3.8
Council District 9	139.9	7.2	61.6	61.8	3.6
Council District 10	83.9	4.7	49.6	46.4	2.7
Council District 11	42.6	3.0	31.0	32.6	1.4
Council District 12	26.0	4.0	54.5	39.1	1.8
Council District 13	85.0	3.3	43.6	44.8	3.0
Council District 14	130.5	6.5	72.7	68.0	3.3
Council District 15	96.9	4.5	68.2	53.2	3.2

Low (0-33%)    Medium (34-66%)    High (67-100%)

\*Cities/communities with less than 10,000 residents were excluded.

\*\* Death rates by cities/communities were based on residential addresses of decedents. If residential address was missing, death location or event address was used.

† For the City of Los Angeles, most alcohol-related consequences measures ranked high (violent crimes, vehicle crashes, ED visits, and hospitalizations were at 90<sup>th</sup>, 81<sup>st</sup>, 76<sup>th</sup>, and 70<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively), and deaths ranked medium (52<sup>nd</sup> percentile).

**Table 2A. Alcohol-Related Consequences (rates per 10,000 population) by City and Community, Los Angeles County, 2020\* (continued)**

City/Community	Violent Crimes		Vehicle Crashes		ED Visits		Hospitalizations		Deaths**	
Lynwood	64.5	High	3.7	Medium	61.6	High	54.5	High	4.2	High
Malibu	36.9	Medium	7.4	High	14.1	Medium	13.4	Medium	1.8	Medium
Manhattan Beach	12.7	Medium	1.9	Medium	33.9	Medium	34.5	Medium	2.5	Medium
Marina del Rey	25.2	Medium	4.3	High	45.7	High	29.5	Medium	5.2	High
Maywood	45.8	High	1.6	Medium	43.4	Medium	34.9	Medium	1.2	Medium
Monrovia	17.9	Medium	1.8	Medium	30.5	Medium	28.4	Medium	2.6	Medium
Montebello	28.0	Medium	0.8	Medium	43.0	Medium	42.7	Medium	2.8	Medium
Monterey Park	18.2	Medium	4.2	High	24.1	Medium	20.5	Medium	1.9	Medium
Norwalk	41.8	Medium	2.4	Medium	42.5	Medium	42.1	Medium	2.0	Medium
Palmdale	43.2	High	3.1	Medium	17.7	Medium	11.2	Medium	2.7	Medium
Palos Verdes Estates	3.0	Medium	0.0	Medium	13.0	Medium	25.4	Medium	0.0	Medium
Paramount	48.2	High	2.9	Medium	47.9	High	37.4	Medium	1.6	Medium
Pasadena	29.4	Medium	3.8	High	54.0	High	51.2	High	2.1	Medium
Pico Rivera	27.4	Medium	1.1	Medium	41.2	Medium	51.4	High	4.0	High
Pomona	50.7	High	4.5	High	46.2	High	46.3	High	2.6	Medium
Quartz Hill	24.1	Medium	6.9	High	5.1	Medium	3.0	Medium	1.7	Medium
Rancho Palos Verdes	10.0	Medium	0.2	Medium	18.4	Medium	19.9	Medium	1.6	Medium
Redondo Beach	23.0	Medium	1.6	Medium	36.1	Medium	43.0	Medium	1.6	Medium
Rosemead	36.3	Medium	3.3	Medium	29.9	Medium	27.3	Medium	2.5	Medium
Rowland Heights	16.9	Medium	3.1	Medium	13.8	Medium	13.6	Medium	0.8	Medium
San Dimas	23.4	Medium	3.1	Medium	48.5	High	53.0	High	2.0	Medium
San Fernando	35.3	Medium	2.5	Medium	50.6	High	45.4	High	4.1	High
San Gabriel	18.6	Medium	2.2	Medium	15.1	Medium	23.0	Medium	0.7	Medium
San Marino	9.4	Medium	1.6	Medium	5.2	Medium	12.3	Medium	0.0	Medium
Santa Clarita	12.5	Medium	1.9	Medium	28.4	Medium	22.5	Medium	2.2	Medium
Santa Fe Springs	47.1	High	7.7	High	41.2	Medium	50.9	High	0.5	Medium
Santa Monica	57.2	High	0.5	Medium	57.0	High	50.8	High	2.7	Medium
Sierra Madre	12.2	Medium	0.0	Medium	1.6	Medium	2.0	Medium	2.6	Medium
Signal Hill	78.1	High	4.2	High	38.3	Medium	54.9	High	2.5	Medium
South El Monte	59.3	High	5.5	High	78.7	High	52.6	High	3.0	High
South Gate	67.6	High	3.3	Medium	45.4	High	41.6	Medium	3.0	High
South Pasadena	9.5	Medium	3.3	Medium	28.6	Medium	29.7	Medium	1.5	Medium
South San Jose Hills	12.9	Medium	1.0	Medium	31.7	Medium	30.1	Medium	2.5	Medium
South Whittier	16.9	Medium	2.6	Medium	32.7	Medium	42.6	Medium	3.1	High
Stevenson Ranch	2.9	Medium	4.4	High	20.9	Medium	17.5	Medium	0.0	Medium
Sun Village	14.3	Medium	3.2	Medium	8.0	Medium	7.9	Medium	3.2	High
Temple City	13.2	Medium	0.8	Medium	18.2	Medium	27.2	Medium	1.3	Medium

Low (0-33%)    Medium (34-66%)    High (67-100%)

\*Cities/communities with less than 10,000 residents were excluded.

\*\*Death rates by cities/communities were based on residential addresses of decedents. If residential address was missing, death location or event address was used.

**Table 2A. Alcohol-Related Consequences (rates per 10,000 population) by City and Community, Los Angeles County, 2020\* (continued)**

City/Community	Violent Crimes		Vehicle Crashes		ED Visits		Hospitalizations		Deaths**	
Torrance	18.3		2.1		42.5		41.3		1.7	
Valinda	14.5		1.3		38.9		37.3		3.1	
View Park-Windsor Hills	18.1		5.2		108.5		103.5		0.0	
Vincent	14.4		2.5		45.0		31.2		3.8	
Walnut	13.2		0.3		13.5		13.3		1.4	
Walnut Park	33.0		2.6		67.3		41.6		3.9	
West Carson	24.1		6.5		39.5		29.8		3.9	
West Covina	18.5		2.3		32.1		34.7		1.3	
West Hollywood	56.4		3.6		29.1		23.6		3.6	
West Puente Valley	18.4		1.3		26.7		24.8		3.0	
West Rancho Dominguez	61.0		12.5		120.8		96.7		3.2	
West Whittier-Los Nietos	16.3		3.5		38.7		50.2		3.1	
Westmont	79.2		5.2		63.9		62.2		3.8	
Whittier	26.7		2.9		42.7		55.4		2.9	
Willowbrook	66.8		8.1		82.4		62.7		2.4	

**Table 2B. Alcohol-Related Consequences (rates per 10,000 population) by Service Planning Area (SPA), Los Angeles County, 2020**

SPA	Violent Crimes		Vehicle Crashes		ED Visits		Hospitalizations		Deaths**	
Antelope Valley (SPA1)	54.2		5.2		69.0		36.1		3.0	
San Fernando (SPA2)	34.5		3.6		44.5		35.9		2.2	
San Gabriel (SPA3)	25.6		3.3		45.0		43.2		2.0	
Metro (SPA4)	88.9		4.5		55.1		53.0		2.8	
West (SPA5)	45.1		2.9		37.7		37.0		1.8	
South (SPA6)	123.3		6.6		65.7		59.2		3.2	
East (SPA7)	59.3		3.3		42.9		44.0		2.5	
South Bay (SPA8)	40.2		4.0		52.0		49.8		2.7	

**Table 2C. Alcohol-Related Consequences (rates per 10,000 population) by Supervisorial District (SD), Los Angeles County, 2020**

SD	Violent Crimes		Vehicle Crashes		ED Visit		Hospitalization		Deaths**	
District 1	49.7		3.5		40.5		37.9		2.3	
District 2	107.8		6.2		72.4		66.0		3.6	
District 3	37.0		3.3		39.7		32.6		1.9	
District 4	47.8		3.7		45.0		45.9		2.5	
District 5	36.8		3.9		58.6		48.7		2.4	

Low (0-33%) Medium (34-66%) High (67-100%)

\*Cities/communities with less than 10,000 residents were excluded. \*\* Death rates by cities/communities were based on residential addresses of decedents. If residential address was missing, death location or event address was used.

## Discussion

Excessive alcohol consumption continues to be a serious public health concern with substantial implications for disease, violent crimes, traffic collisions, work loss, and social relationships.<sup>2</sup> During 2020 in Los Angeles County, alcohol was involved in an estimated 4,060 motor vehicle crashes, 5,745 motor vehicle injuries, 123 motor vehicle fatalities, 50,600 ED visits, 45,726 hospitalizations,<sup>3</sup> and 2,498 alcohol-attributable deaths.<sup>17</sup>

Drinking among youth and adults is strongly influenced by environmental or structural factors, such as alcohol control policies, retailer marketing strategies<sup>20</sup>, as well as alcohol access and availability. The findings of this report are consistent with the research literature on the positive relationship between alcohol availability, measured by alcohol outlet density, and alcohol-related adverse public health consequences. LAC communities and cities with higher alcohol outlet densities were more likely to have higher rates of alcohol-involved vehicle crashes, alcohol-related hospitalizations, and alcohol-related deaths even after accounting for the social vulnerability index (SVI). Although the literature as well as in the 2013 report<sup>19</sup> indicated positive associations between alcohol outlet density and violent crime and emergency department (ED) visits, these associations were not statistically significant in this report, which may be partially attributable to differences in methodological approaches. The impact of COVID-19 on the on-premises alcohol outlet closures may potentially have contributed to the pattern of alcohol consumption and its consequences<sup>21</sup>, and warrants further research.

This report has several limitations. Some data on alcohol outlets and alcohol-related harms were aggregated to city, community, and/or other geographical boundaries based on zip codes due to data availability, which may have led to a loss in precision in assigning incidents to geographic areas when the zip codes are shared with multiple areas. Binary logistic regression may have reduced power to detect statistically significant associations and potential unknown or unmeasured confounders were not controlled for in this study. In addition, this type of ecological analysis cannot be used to infer causality and thus findings should be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless, the findings in the report suggest there are potential harms associated with higher alcohol outlet density. A high alcohol outlet density can increase alcohol consumption and its consequences by increasing local availability of alcohol, reducing alcohol prices due to retailer competition, and establishing and reinforcing drinking behavior norms.<sup>22</sup>

Alcohol misuse and abuse is highly preventable and treatable. The findings in this report underscore the need to take targeted preventive actions to reduce alcohol outlet density and adverse alcohol-related consequences among adults and youth, especially among those cities/communities that had particularly high alcohol outlet densities and rates of alcohol-related social and health consequences.

## Recommendations

Policymakers, schools, businesses, health care providers, and other community stakeholders can collaborate and implement a more comprehensive array of the following strategies to reduce the burden of excessive alcohol consumption in our cities and communities.

## 1. Limit Alcohol Outlet Density

Limiting alcohol outlet density has been found to be effective in limiting the availability of alcohol and reducing harms in communities. For example, eliminating one bar per zip code was estimated to lead to 290 fewer serious assaults per year in California.<sup>4</sup>

Although the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has sole authority over the issuing and renewal of alcohol retail licenses in California, local jurisdictions, law enforcement, and community advocates can play an important role in the ABC decision-making process, including commenting on or protesting an application, and informing or working with ABC to identify problem outlets and encouraging revocation of an existing ABC license for continued violations.<sup>23,24</sup> Further, local jurisdictions can apply land use powers to influence the process by limiting the number of new alcohol outlets allowed by the city or county general plans or by imposing operating restrictions on new or existing outlets.<sup>4</sup>

***New Alcohol Outlets:*** Local jurisdictions can require applicants to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) or implement zoning ordinances prior to new ABC license approval, which place legal conditions on the operation of alcohol outlets, such as restrictions on locations/density, hours of sale, training of staff, types of beverages sold, alcohol ads on public property, and business operations (e.g., no drinking allowed outside of the premises).<sup>25</sup>

***Existing Alcohol Outlets:*** Local jurisdictions can implement “deemed approved” ordinances that require off-premises outlets to comply with business performance standards (e.g., properly maintained premises that do not adversely affect the surrounding community), require owner/employees not to permit or facilitate unlawful behavior (e.g., alcohol sales to minors, public consumption on property or surrounding sidewalk, or conducting other illegal activities),<sup>26</sup> and recommend replacement of strong alcohol beverages with products of lower alcohol content and alternative drinks.

## 2. Enforce Restrictions on Alcohol Availability and Accessibility to Minors

Early initiation and use of alcohol by youth increase the risk of alcohol-related problems in adulthood.<sup>27</sup> Restricting the ability of minors to obtain alcohol at home or in the community can change perceived norms regarding the permissibility of underage drinking and may delay early initiation of alcohol use.<sup>28</sup> Parents and guardians should closely monitor alcoholic beverages in the home and ensure underage drinking does not occur at family events. Cities can implement and enforce social host ordinances that increase consequences for parents, guardians, or adults who knowingly permit underage drinking in private settings, such as parties. Cities can also influence the availability and accessibility of alcohol to minors by enforcing regulations focused on commercial availability (e.g., restricting alcohol sales at community events),<sup>29</sup> social/public accessibility (e.g., implementing teen party ordinances, highly visible enforcement of youth access sales laws), and possession (e.g., banning false identification). Further, enforcing geographic buffer zones (e.g., 600 feet<sup>30</sup>) between alcohol outlets and schools or other youth facilities may also reduce the accessibility of alcohol for minors.<sup>31</sup>

### **3. Enforce Restrictions on Alcohol Marketing to Minors**

A substantial body of scientific research establishes a positive link between youth exposure to marketing and early initiation and consumption.<sup>32</sup> Restrictions on marketing ads in public places (e.g., billboards, sporting events, street-front stores) or enforcing signage restrictions at liquor and convenience stores (e.g. no more than 33% of square footage of window ads, specific area for alcohol product placement) can help reduce youth exposure to alcohol marketing.<sup>33,34,35</sup> In addition, restrictions for alcohol ads on social media may also be important in limiting alcohol exposure among youth.

### **4. Expanding Available Community and Social -Support Programs for Alcohol Consumers and Their Families**

Community-wide efforts have been shown to effectively reduce alcohol consumption and its consequences<sup>36</sup> by developing and expanding community programs and social groups to provide emotional support for alcohol drinkers and their families and decreasing stigmatization or discrimination against affected groups or individuals who are struggling with addiction. Through these awareness and educational programs, communities can also help to change social norms about drinking, raise awareness and recognition of alcohol-related harms, and promote alcohol use disorder treatment programs.

Workplaces can play an important role in reducing alcohol-related harms among employees through prevention and intervention programs, such as implementing policies restricting alcohol use in workplaces, creating health and wellness programs, and providing support for screening and brief interventions.<sup>37</sup> These programs may benefit workers and reduce productivity loss.

### **5. Provide Educational Services for Minors Regarding the Risks of Substance Abuse**

Educating the public on recognizing substance misuse and abuse, skills in dealing with alcohol issues and concerns, along with educating on the short-term effects and long-term dangers of alcohol, is a key tool to reduce alcohol use and alcohol-related harms. Schools can provide education-based curricula (e.g., Building Skills, Creating Lasting Family Connections) to help youth develop personal and social skills, to help students identify internal stressors (e.g., fears, anxiety) and external pressures (e.g., peer pressure, advertising) to use alcohol, and to give students the skills to resist these pressures while maintaining relationships.<sup>38</sup> School-based educational programs that have parental or community involvement (e.g., Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol) can play an important role in reducing alcohol use among youth.<sup>39,40</sup>

### **6. Increase Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment.**

Early screening and intervention are cost-effective in helping individuals with or at risk of developing alcohol use disorders recognize and avoid problem alcohol use. A substantial body of evidence supports using universal Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to reduce alcohol consumption and heavy drinking, particularly in the primary care setting. SBIRT for alcohol is recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force,<sup>41,42</sup> and ranks among the best in return on investment of preventive services.

Although SBIRT can easily be incorporated into clinical workflows, it is currently not commonly practiced in primary care.<sup>43</sup> Health care providers who are unable to directly provide alcohol use disorder treatment should refer patients that screen positive to further assessment and treatment services and follow up with patients to ensure that necessary services were received.

## **7. Increase Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services.**

Alcohol use disorder treatment can be provided in a variety of health settings, including substance use disorder treatment clinics, primary care, or mental health clinics. As such, it is important for health care providers and the community to be aware of where they can receive treatment services for alcohol and other drugs. Importantly, alcohol use disorder treatment is effective and can reduce alcohol-related hospitalizations<sup>44</sup>, ED visits, homelessness<sup>45</sup>, and motor vehicle accidents<sup>46</sup>, and improve productivity and quality of life.<sup>47</sup> Ensuring access to necessary substance use disorder treatment can help to prevent alcohol-related individual and societal impacts.

In LAC, individuals with alcohol problems, including persons eligible for Medi-Cal or without insurance, can call the Substance Abuse Service Helpline at (844) 804-7500 to find the nearest appropriate treatment centers.

In summary, alcohol outlet densities were significantly associated with a variety of alcohol-related consequences. However, by working together, policymakers, health care providers, schools, and community stakeholders can reduce the burden of these human, economic, and societal repercussions by focusing on strategies to limit alcohol outlet densities, reducing access/availability/marketing to minors, ensuring access to educational services and community/social support programs, and increasing access to necessary substance abuse screening and treatment.

## **Notes**

This is an ongoing report on alcohol density, alcohol-related consequences, and their association in Los Angeles County. Some results from this report may not be comparable to the results from previous reports due to the use of different data sources or measurement methods. This report is subject to limitations due to data availability (e.g., aggregated city level of data based on zip codes, use of de-identified data precludes data verification, potential unknown or unmeasured confounders not controlled for), and thus results should be interpreted with caution. It is important to note that COVID-19 may also impact the alcohol outlet figures and related consequences.

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11. Boundary data for City of Los Angeles Council Districts was obtained from the Los Angeles County GIS Data Portal and retrieved from <http://egis3.lacounty.gov/dataportal/2012/08/07/la-city-council-districts-2012/>
12. 2020 Active License data by State of California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) were retrieved from <http://www.abc.ca.gov/datport/DataExport.html>. Records of active licensed retail businesses authorized by the State of California to sell alcoholic beverages for either on- or off-premises retail consumption in Los Angeles County (LAC) were included in this report. Please note the ABC license dataset represented all active ABC licensed businesses in LAC as of June 30th, 2020.

13. 2020 Population Estimates by Hedderson Demographic Services and Los Angeles County Internal Services Department Social Services Division and retrieved from <https://egis-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/lacounty::census-blocks-2020/explore?location=33.983372%2C-118.426298%2C14.76>. Population estimates are based on 2020 U.S. Census population counts and adjusted for projected annual demographic changes in LAC.

14. 2020 Violent Crime data for Los Angeles County were retrieved from three different sources - (1) Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Data for City of Los Angeles where the LAPD is the law enforcement agency; (2) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) data for unincorporated areas and 42 cities where the LASD is the law enforcement agency; and (3) Data on all other cities with independent police departments ( $n = 45$ ) were obtained from the California Department of Justice in aggregate count format at the city-level. Violent crimes include homicide/murder, sexual assault (rape and attempted rape), all other assaults (including domestic violence), and robbery.

15. 2020 Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) by University of California Berkeley Transportation and Injury Mapping System were retrieved from <http://tims.berkeley.edu/>. SWITRS records about persons involved in alcohol-related vehicle crashes for 2020 from Los Angeles County include time and date of accident, whether alcohol was involved, number of injuries and fatalities, and the latitude (Y) and longitude (X) points for each reported vehicle accident.

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