



Substance Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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OUTLINE

- **Substance Abuse Prevention and Control – Who We Are and What We Do**
- **Substance Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic – By the Numbers**
 - Methamphetamine, Fentanyl, Counterfeit Pills
- **Substance Use During the Pandemic – Role of Clinics and Health Providers**
- **Referring into Los Angeles County’s Specialty Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment**
- **Q&A / Discussion**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICE HELPLINE



1.844.804.7500

Substance Abuse Prevention & Control

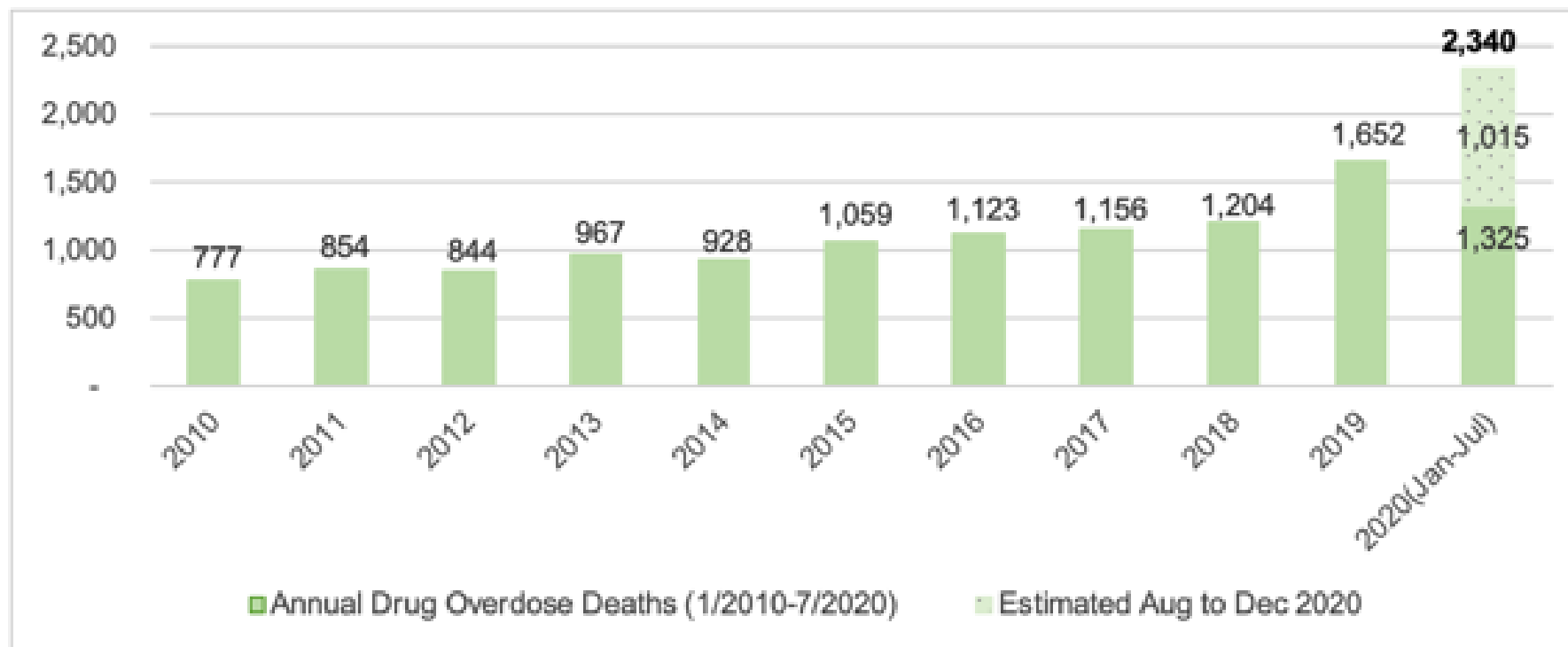
**Prevention First, Treatment Works,
& Recovery is Possible!**

- The **Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)** is a Division within the Dept of Public Health committed to reducing the impact of substance use in Los Angeles County.
- Leads the delivery of a full spectrum of substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.
 - Importantly, SAPC services are specific to the specialty substance use system and SUD services are also available in other Medi-Cal carve outs (physical health systems and specialty mental health systems).
- Over 80 contracted SUD treatment providers in over 350 locations throughout Los Angeles County.

Substance Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Los Angeles County – By the Numbers



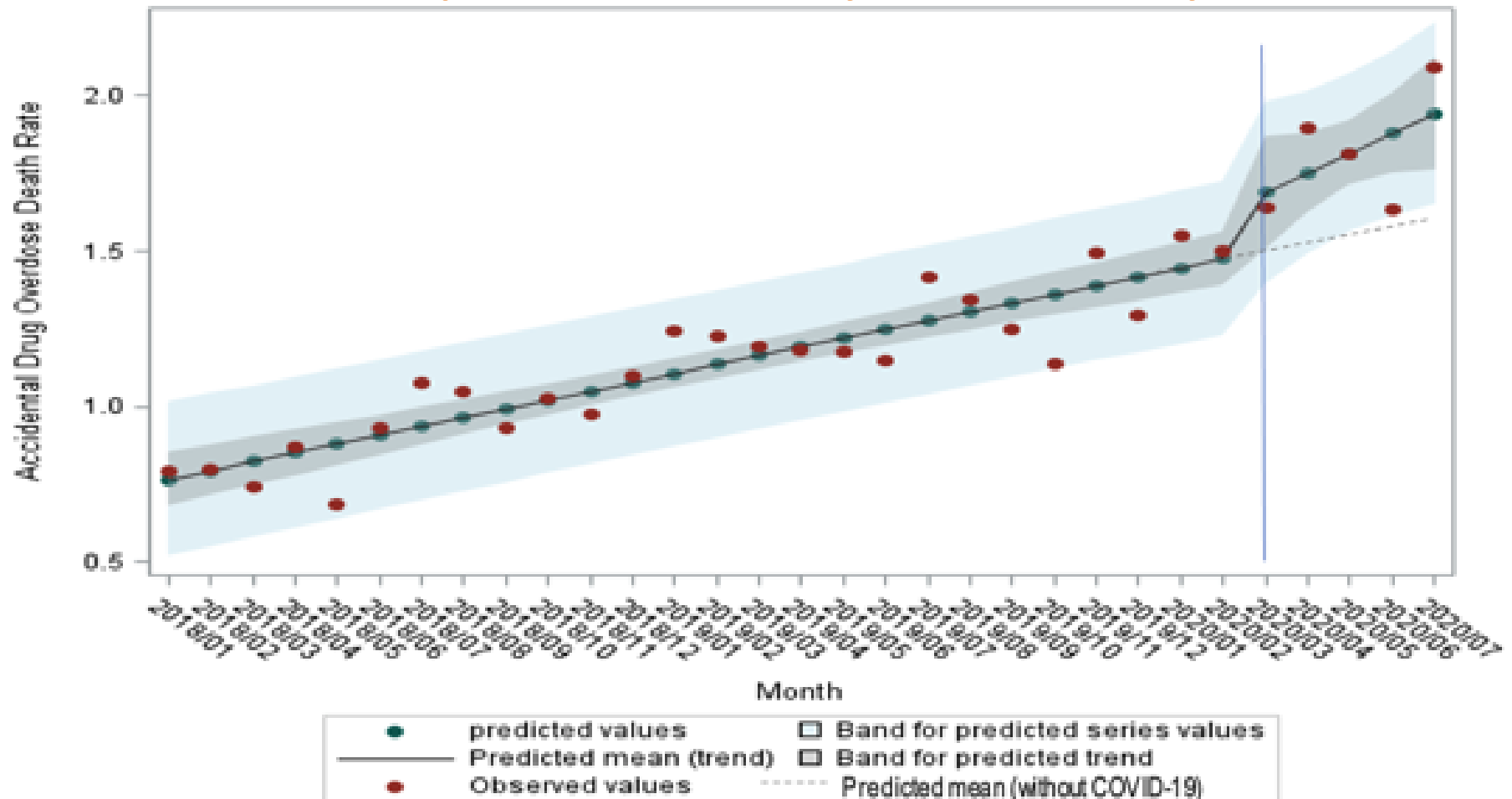
of Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths by Year, 2010 – 2020*



*Preliminary, non-finalized data.

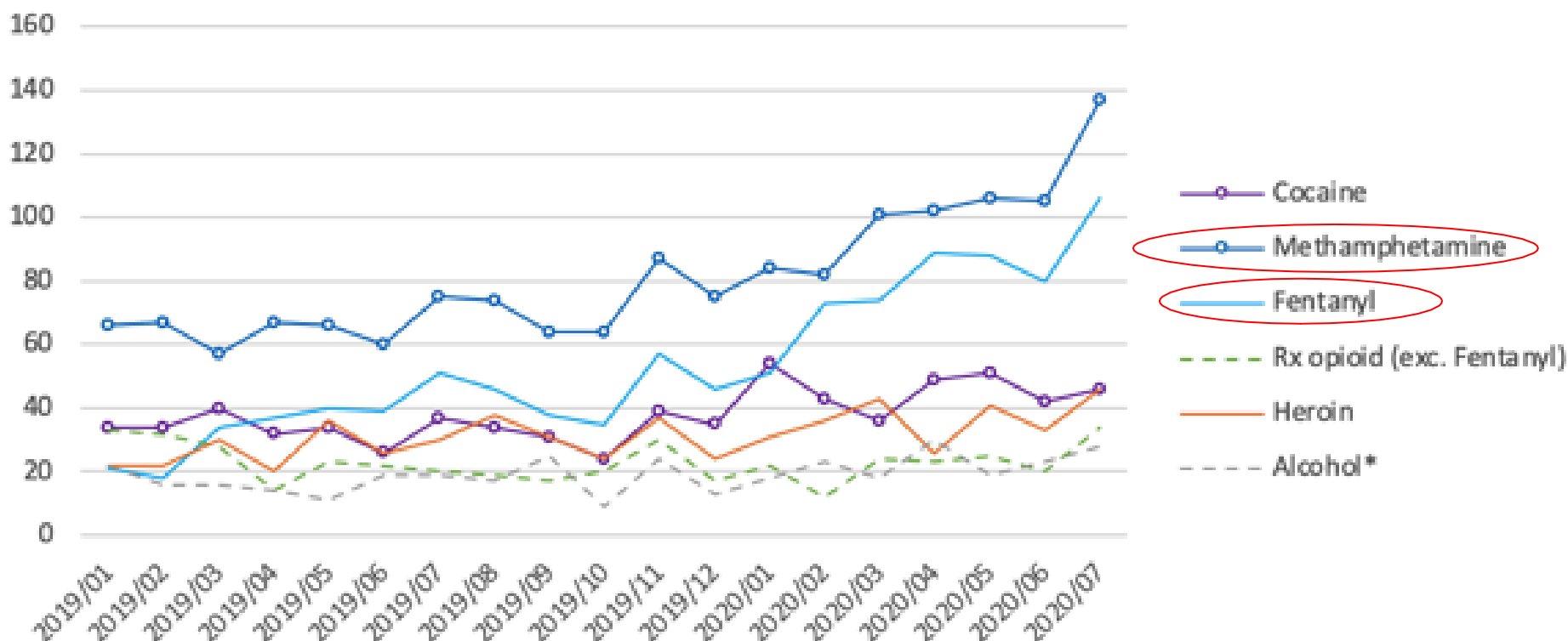
COVID-19 Impact on Accidental Drug Overdoses in Los Angeles County*

Interrupted Time Series Analysis, Jan 2018 – July 2020



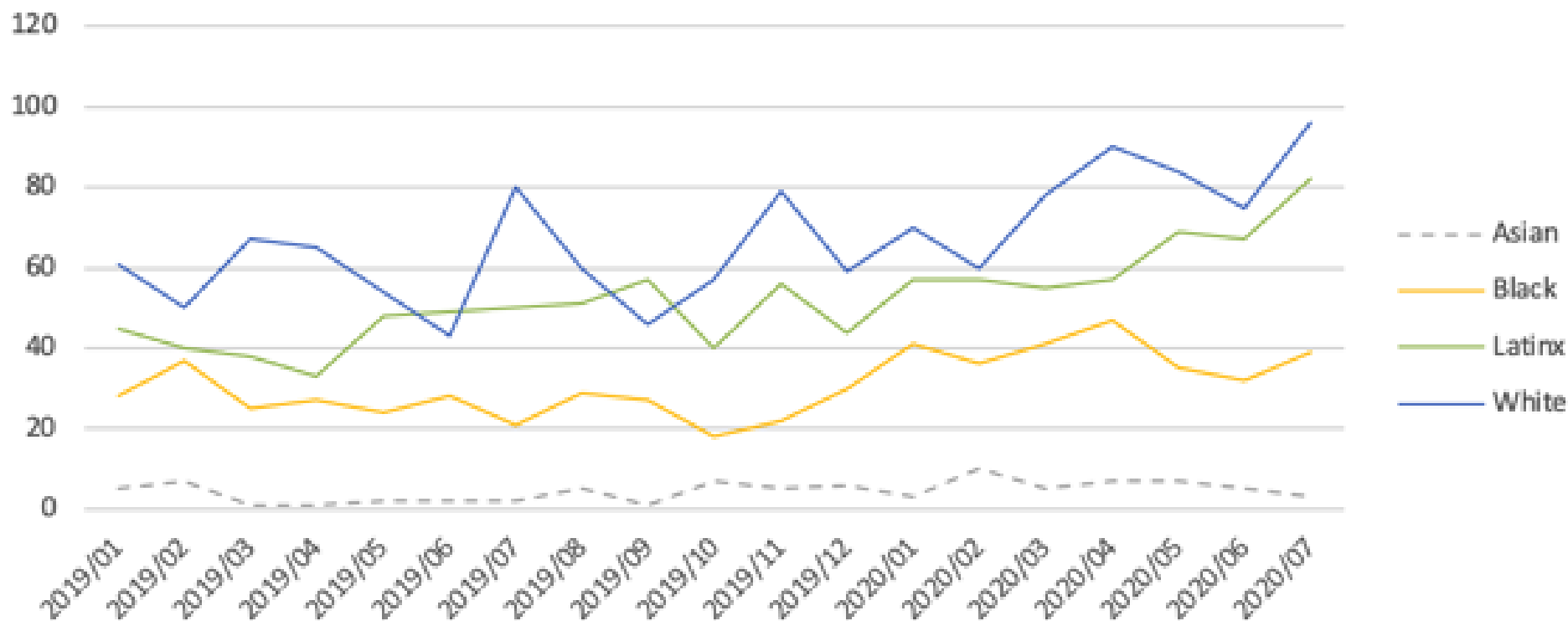
*Preliminary, non-finalized data.

of Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Category, Jan 2019 – July 2020*



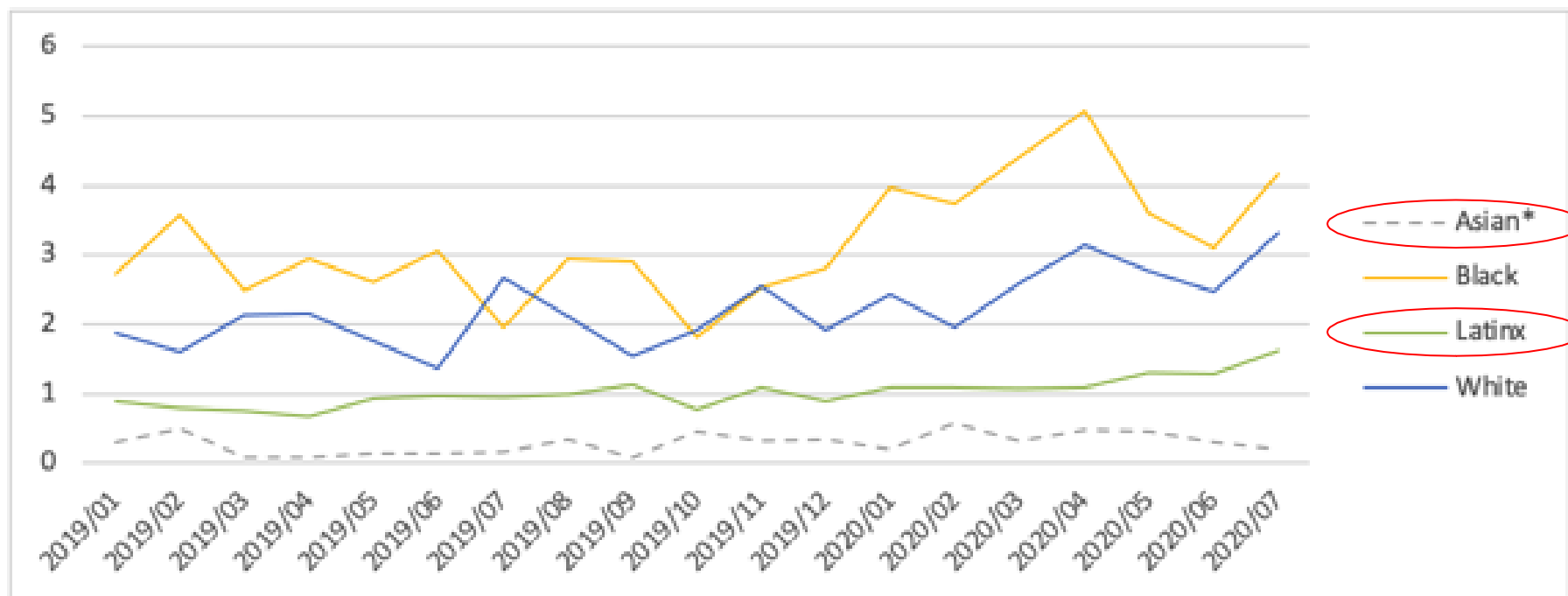
*Preliminary, non-finalized data.

of Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, Jan 2019 – July 2020*



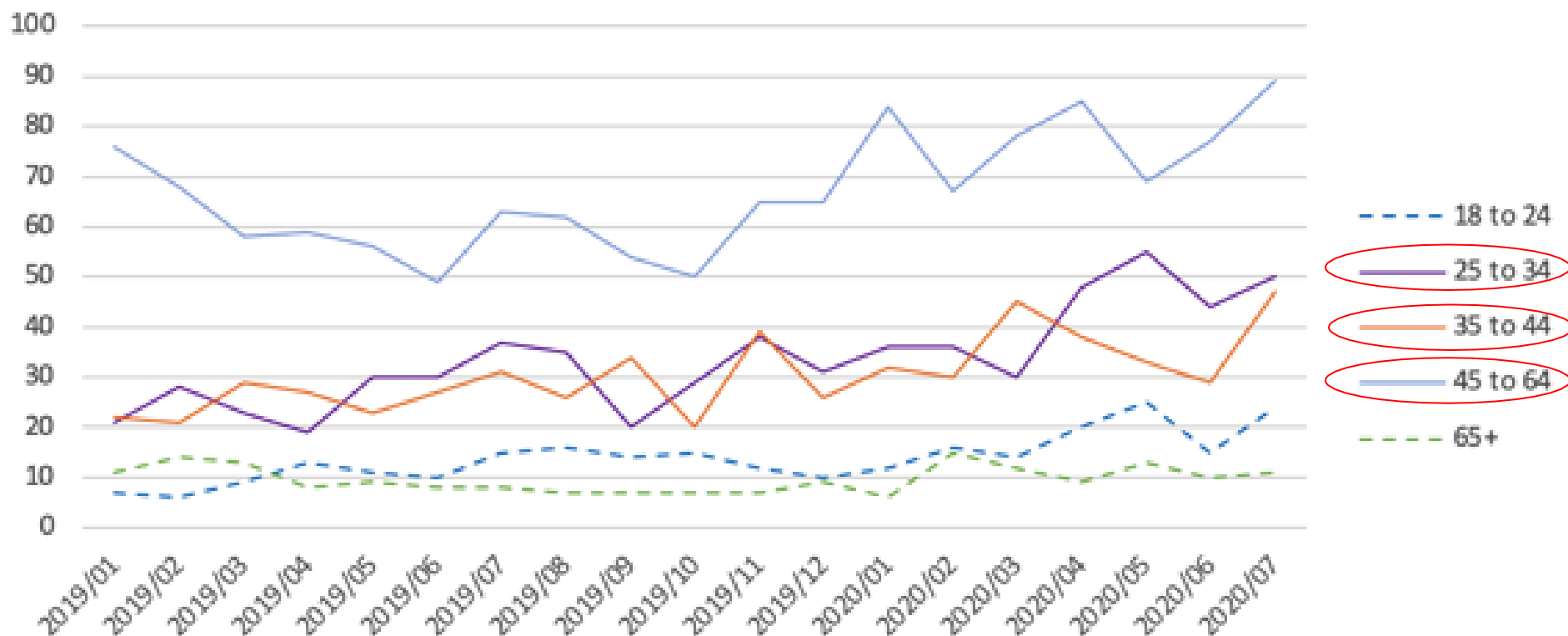
*Preliminary, non-finalized data.

Age-Adjusted Accidental Drug Overdose Death Rate (per 100K population) by Race/Ethnicity, Jan 2019 – July 2020*



*Preliminary, non-finalized data.

of Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths by Age Group, Jan 2019 – July 2020*



*Preliminary, non-finalized data.

Key Takeaways

- Rising overdoses, with particular concerns about methamphetamine, fentanyl, and counterfeit pills.
- Opioid epidemic + methamphetamine epidemic + pandemic
 - Substance use crosses all sociodemographic and other types of groups → individuals who use drugs, who don't think they're using drugs, who are addicted, who just used once, etc.
- Whether due to social disconnection and/or additional stressors related to the pandemic, it will be increasingly important to ensure that residents of Los Angeles County continue to have access to SUD treatment services to mitigate the direct and indirect toll of COVID-19.

Substance Use During the Pandemic – Role of Clinics and Health Providers



Fundamentals

- **Most helpful thing health clinic staff can do help to minimize the toll of drug overdoses is ASK your clients about potential substance use.**
- Truly engaging with clients around open and honest discussions around their substance use is more important than which screening tool you use
 - The more comfortable you are/appear discussing one's substance use, the more likely people will be to open up... Universally screening all patients will facilitate this
 - Motivational Interviewing
 - Harm Reduction as an engagement strategy
- **Have a clear plan and protocol for (+) screens:**
 - Brief Intervention (Motivational Interviewing)
 - Referral to treatment
 - “Warm” referrals, particularly if transportation is available, are more effective than simply handing someone a list of resources.

Referring into Los Angeles County's Specialty SUD Treatment System





START-ODS

SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION TO ADVANCE RECOVERY AND TREATMENT

Los Angeles County's Substance Use Disorder Organized Delivery System

- **The Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) is a Medicaid waiver program that funds a more expansive scope of quality-focused SUD services through Medi-Cal, one of the largest payers of health care in the U.S.**
 - Greatest opportunity in recent history to design and implement an SUD system of care that has the financial and clinical resources to more fully address the complex and varied needs of individuals with SUDs.
1. **Affordable Care Act and Medi-Cal expansion → Expanded **ACCESS** to health care services through Medi-Cal**
 2. **DMC-ODS Waiver → Enhances **SCOPE** and **QUALITY** of SUD services**

Publicly Funded SUD Treatment Options



Level of Care	What Care Looks Like	Characteristics
Outpatient	Services provided in community setting, 2-3/ week	Minimal withdrawal risk, motivational strategies, able to maintain control over use with some support
Intensive Outpatient	Community setting 4-5/ week	Minimal withdrawal risk, requires more structured strategies, needs monitoring to prevent relapse
Residential	Short-term onsite living and treatment	Minimal withdrawal risk, requires 24 hour structured environ to relearn life skills without substances
Opioid Treatment Program	Services provided in a community setting, 5-7 days a week for dosing and 1+ days of counseling services per month	Risk of withdrawal severe w/o treatment. Primarily for those with opioid use disorder, regular monitoring of dosing to prevent relapse.
Withdrawal Management (Detox)	Monitoring and/or management of withdrawal, limited to no counseling services	Risk of withdrawal from mild to severe. <u>Mild</u> – can complete, no medication <u>Severe</u> – unlikely to complete, requires medication, can be life-threatening
Recovery Support Services	Support services after treatment is completed	Some to no risk of relapse, have some or limited support to maintain sobriety 15

NO WRONG DOOR PATHWAYS TO ACCESS ALCOHOL/DRUG TREATMENT

1

SASH

(Substance Abuse Service Helpline)
1-844-804-7500

A 24/7 toll-free helpline where a team of professionals is available to provide screening, resources and referral directly to alcohol/drug treatment provider.

2

CORE Centers

(Connecting to Opportunities for
Recovery and Engagement)

Community spaces throughout LAC where staff provide alcohol/drug education, resources and in-person screening and linkage to treatment.

3

CENS

(Client Engagement and
Navigation Services)

Sites throughout LAC where staff serve as liaisons between state, County, and city agencies and alcohol/drug treatment providers conducting in-person navigation, screening, and linkage to treatment.

4

SUD Providers

(self-referrals)

Any person (or their representative) can contact alcohol/drug treatment providers directly or by using the Online Provider Directory to link into or find out more about treatment options.

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.

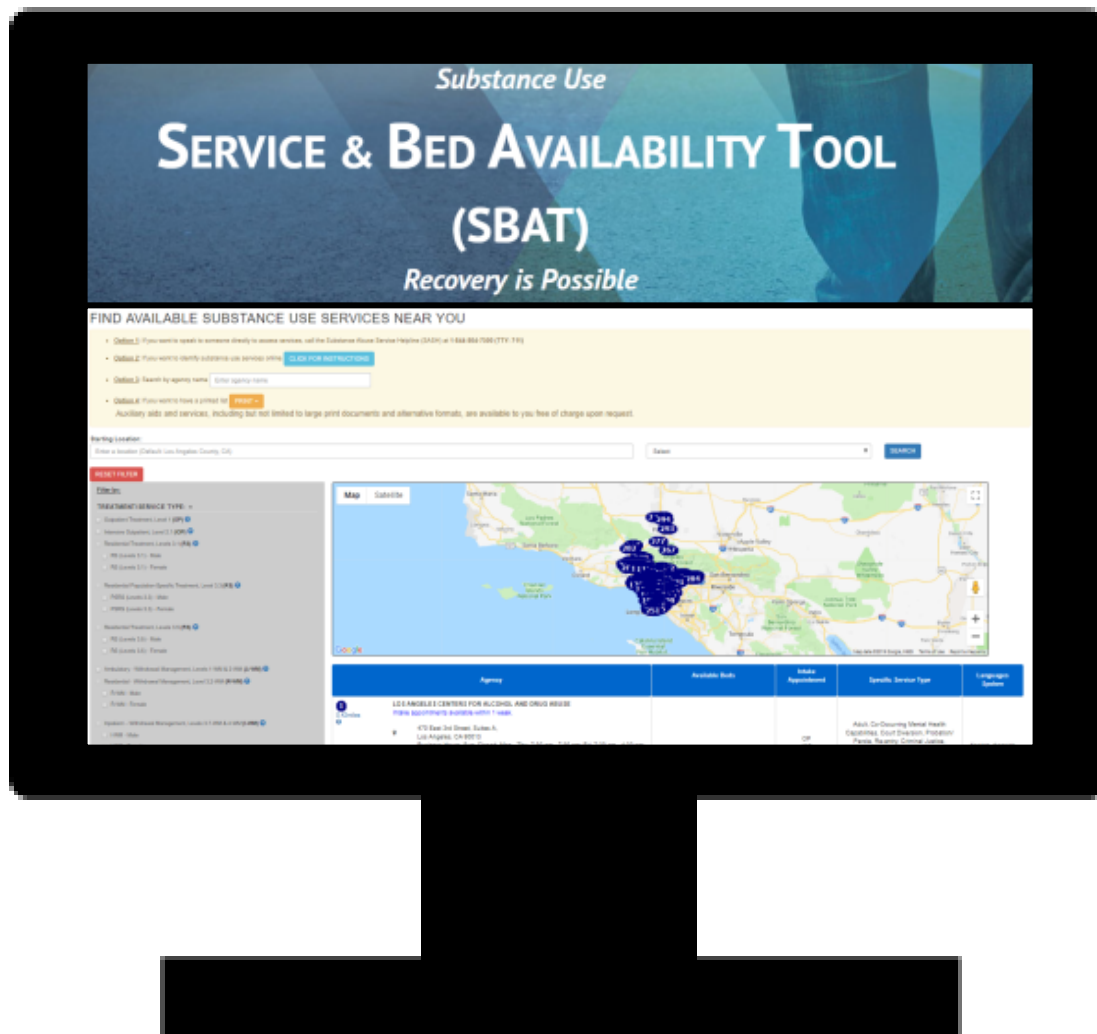
3. An appointment can be scheduled with the provider while both the person and the SASH operator are on the line.

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

SBAT website allows anyone with an internet connection to find SUD 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



Other Resources for the Specialty SUD Treatment Services





Are Alcohol or Drugs Getting in the Way?

Recovery is Possible

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICE HELPLINE



1.844.804.7500

Public Brochure

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

- Eligibility for Services
- Screening
- How to Find Services
- Available Services

English Version:

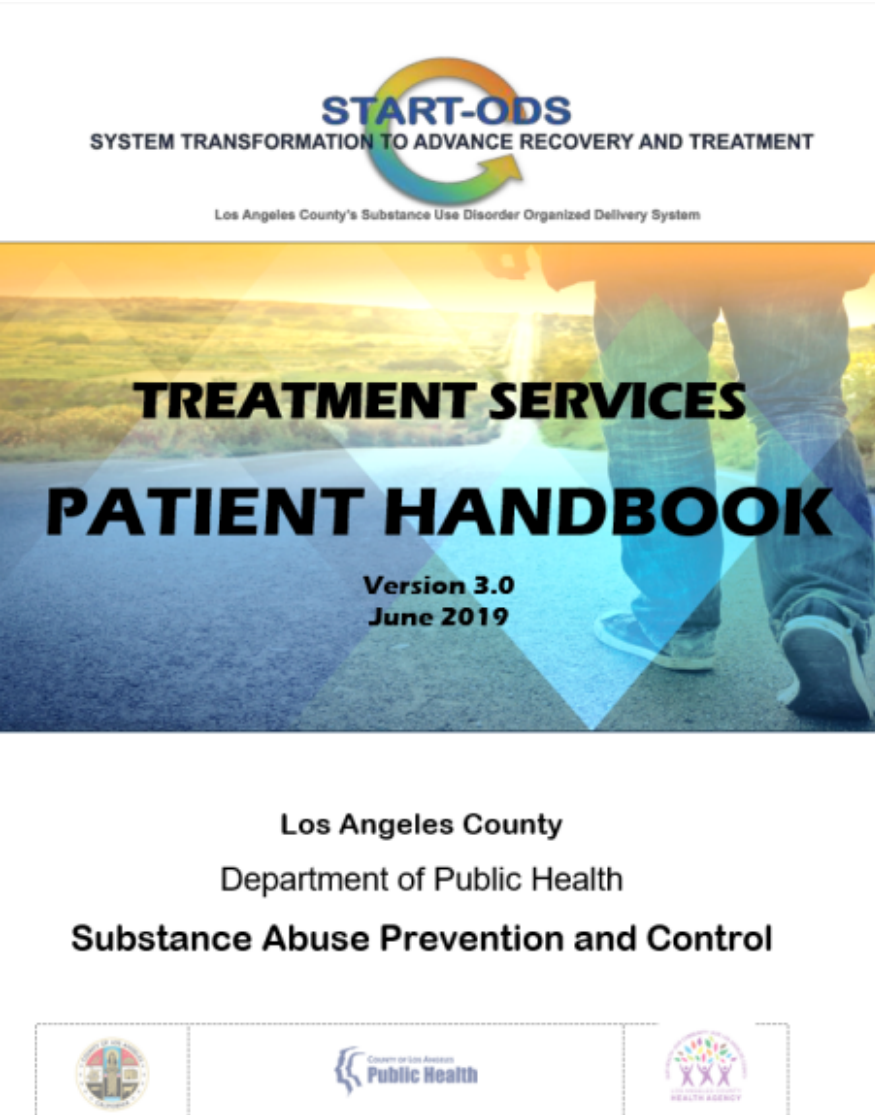
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/PatientPublic/Brochure.pdf>

Spanish Version:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/PatientPublic/BrochureSpanish.pdf>



Patient Handbook



COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

- Sent to patient within 3 days
- Available in 11 different languages
- Provides Information on:
 - Member Assistance
 - How to Select/Change a Provider

English and Threshold Languages Available:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/PatientPublic.htm>

Other Languages:

Available by request



SAPC ON THE WEB

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

Translate A-Z Index A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z ALL Font Size | A A

County of Los Angeles
Public Health

Program Home About

Are Alcohol or Drugs Getting in the Way?

Recovery is Possible

Click here to find a treatment center or call 1 (844) 804-7500

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

- Data Reports and Briefs
- Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Safe Med LA
- Safe Medication Disposal
- Marijuana Use and Public Perceptions in Los Angeles County: Findings from the 2017 Community Needs Assessment (*New - November 2018*)
- Prop. 64 and Responsible Adult Use of Marijuana

PROVIDER INFORMATION AND SAPC PROGRAM RESOURCES



UPCOMING PROVIDER TRAININGS, CONFERENCES, AND IMPORTANT EVENTS



FIND TREATMENT SERVICES

Search by Service, Location and More

PATIENTS and PUBLIC

Eligibility, Patient Handbook, Patient Rights, Resources and More

NETWORK PROVIDERS

Service Standards, Data Reports, Forms, Training Resources and More

If you or someone you know has a substance use disorder, also known as addiction, we can help.
Call anytime, toll-free.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICE HELPLINE

24/7 **1.844.804.7500**

For more information, see our brochure (PDF): [English](#) [Spanish](#)

Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) Resource Library



learn more



prevention



sage

Substance Use Disorder Information System
Information and Resources



Home | Careers | DPH Programs | Email: Webmaster | Notice of Privacy Practices | Website Privacy Policy | Language | Accessibility | Disclaimer | Employee

Q&A / Discussion



“The opposite of addiction is not sobriety; the opposite of addiction is **social connection.”**

- Johann Hari