

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PREVENTION FORUM
California Department of Health Care Services - Continuum of Care Model

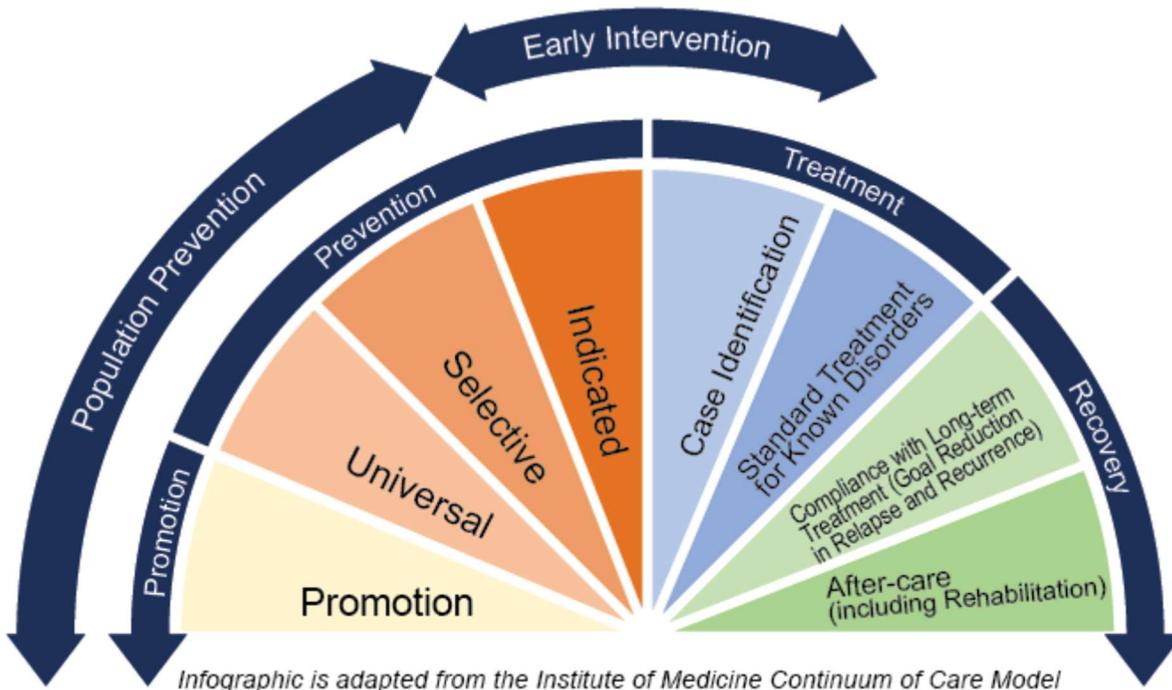
BACKGROUND

Under the specific context for BHSA, both CDPH and DHCS are working in concert to each provide guidance — the CDPH Population-Based Prevention Program Guide and the [DHCS Behavioral Health Services Act County Policy Manual](#).

While the two guidance documents may be distinct, it is recognized that overlap in certain areas may exist, and both CDPH and DHCS have closely related roles along the spectrum of population prevention and early intervention. For example, many counties may be funding population prevention services through other sources (e.g., Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUBG), opioid settlement, Realignment, etc.) that will be captured as part of the county three-year Integrated Planning process.

So, while BHSA funds for population prevention programs are directed to CDPH, it is critical that alignment and understanding of state-level policy work and local planning efforts² happens on an ongoing basis to ensure that healthcare systems, behavioral health, local public health, and community-based organizations across the systems are complementary and unified in approach.

The figure below (adapted by DHCS) from the Institute of Medicine’s Continuum of Care Model illustrates the spectrum of approaches within BHSA population-based prevention and early intervention that include several levels of prevention on a continuum with treatment and recovery.



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POPULATION PREVENTION – LED BY CDPH

- **PROMOTION** strives to improve the well-being of whole communities through such strategies as raising public awareness, reducing stigma, and ensuring access to activities and resources that support well-being ([World Health Organization, 2005](#)). In behavioral health, promotion strategies are designed to create environments and conditions that support behavioral health and the ability of individuals and communities to withstand challenges. Promotion strategies focus on the general public and/or entire populations and aim to enhance individuals' ability to achieve developmentally appropriate competencies and a positive sense of self-esteem, mastery, and well-being.
- **UNIVERSAL PREVENTION** focuses on the general public or a whole population that has not been identified on the basis of increased risk ([Kirkbride et al., 2024](#)).
- **SELECTIVE PREVENTION** focuses on individuals or subgroups of the population whose risk of developing a mental health condition is significantly higher than average, as evidenced by biological, psychological or social risk factors ([Kirkbride et al., 2024](#)).

EARLY INTERVENTION – LED BY DHCS

- **EARLY INTERVENTION** is the proactive approach of identifying and addressing behavioral health concerns in their early stages before they escalate into more severe, disabling or chronic conditions. Under the adapted Institute of Medicine's Continuum of Care Model, Early Intervention includes indicated prevention and case identification.
- **INDICATED PREVENTION** interventions focus on BHSA eligible at-risk individuals who are at risk of and experiencing early signs of a mental health or substance use disorder or who have experienced known risk factors for poor behavioral health outcomes, such as trauma, Adverse Childhood Experiences, or involvement with child welfare or corrections system. This at-risk individual may not yet meet the criteria of a diagnosable mental health or substance use disorder. Examples of indicated prevention interventions include outreach, training, and education for high-risk individuals and/or families who are at risk and experiencing early signs of a mental health or substance use disorder.
- **CASE IDENTIFICATION** includes assessment, diagnoses, brief interventions, and activities needed to create access and linkages to care that connect individuals to appropriate care.
- **STANDARD TREATMENT FOR KNOWN DISORDERS** refers to a comprehensive, individualized, and tiered system of evidence-based services for individuals with diagnosed behavioral health conditions