



DPH-SAPC: Data for Equity and Action

BHSA CPT Data Forum



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

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SAPC | Substance Abuse
Prevention and Control



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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How is DPH-SAPC positioned to respond to the BHSA data requirements?

STRONG FOUNDATION

**Public health + population
health + equity**

Equity is not new to DPH-SAPC. BHSA builds on an existing population-health and equity orientation.

STRONG DATA CAPACITY

**Extensive SUD data +
analytics + GIS**

Centralized analytic capacity, 200+ data elements, geographic analysis, needs assessment, and experience examining access, utilization, disparities, and outcomes.

BHSA OPPORTUNITY

**Connect + strengthen
+ focus**

Better align existing capacity with BHSA, strengthen cross-system integration and methods, and focus analysis on clearly defined equity goals and action.

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DPH-SAPC is building from an existing public health and equity foundation

Population-health lens

Built within Public Health's equity infrastructure

SAPC applies a population-health framework across prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery—examining community needs, disparities, access, and outcomes.

Established Data Capacity

Built on robust SUD data and analytic infrastructure

Centralized analytics with 200+ data elements across assessment, claims, demographics, administration, service use, and outcome, plus GIS capacity for highly localized analysis.

Equity work predates BHSA

Equity is already embedded in how we use data

There is a nice progression:
our organizational foundation
→ **our technical/data capacity**
→ **how we already operationalize equity.**

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The challenge is not simply having data—it is using the right data in the right way

Three issues shape whether data can actually advance equity:

1 Methods & definitions

Statewide measures and definitions may not reflect LA County's structure or the true population in need. Numerators, denominators, and definitions materially change how disparities are measured and interpreted.

2 Cross-sector integration

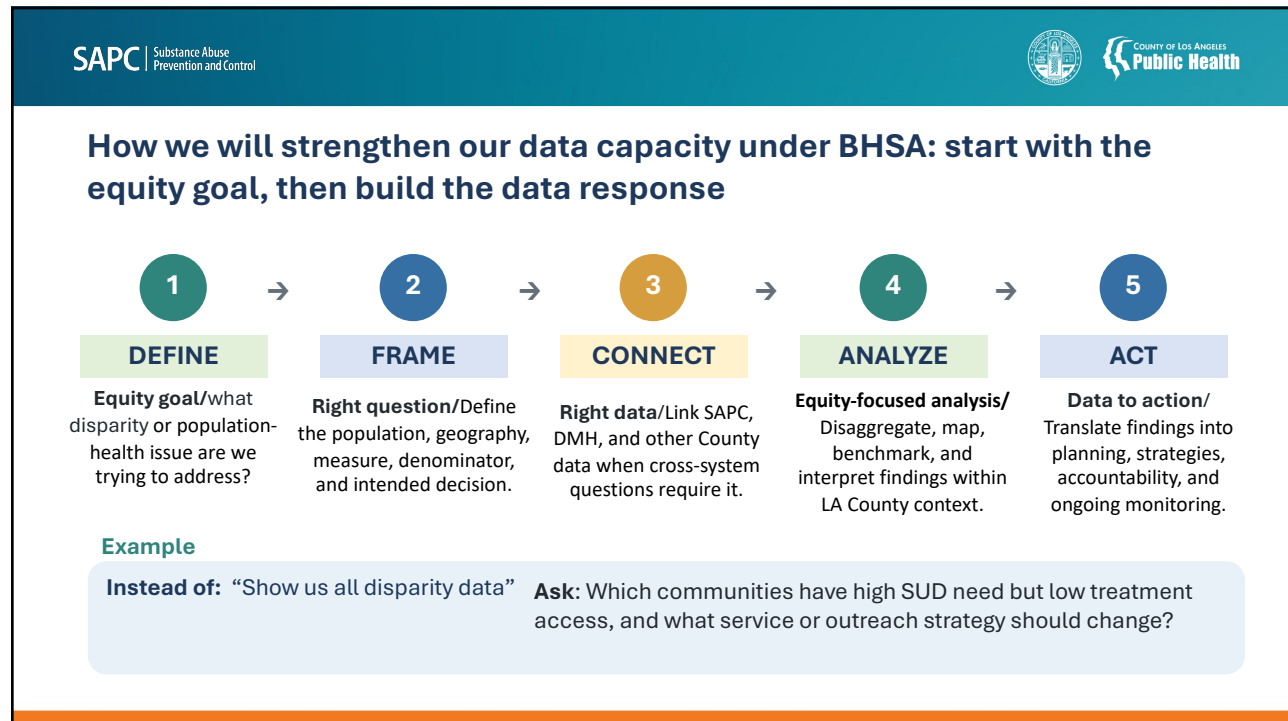
SUD data are strong within SAPC, but understanding housing, justice, child welfare, and other cross-system factors and outcomes often requires data held by other County systems.

3 Access with responsibility

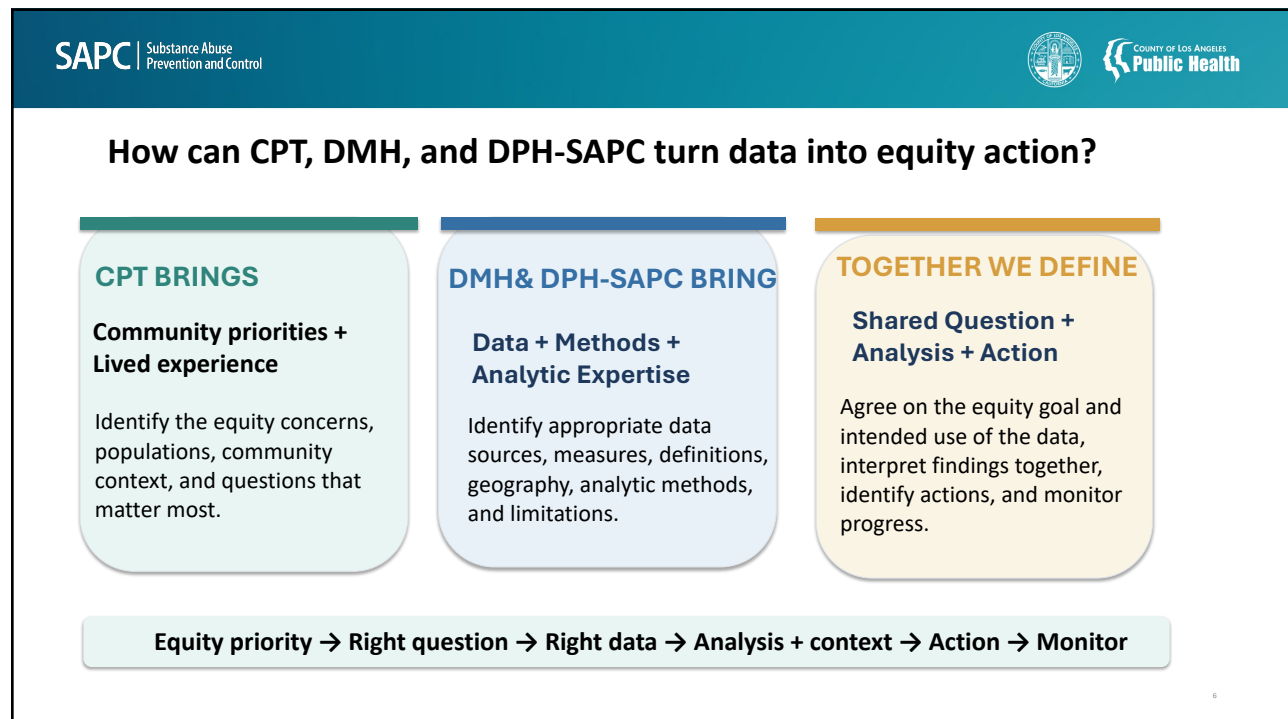
Stakeholders need usable and meaningful information, but raw person-level data may be restricted. Data access must balance transparency and usefulness with privacy, confidentiality, and small-cell risk.

Equity depends on how we define the question, not just how many fields we can produce.

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