Impact Summary

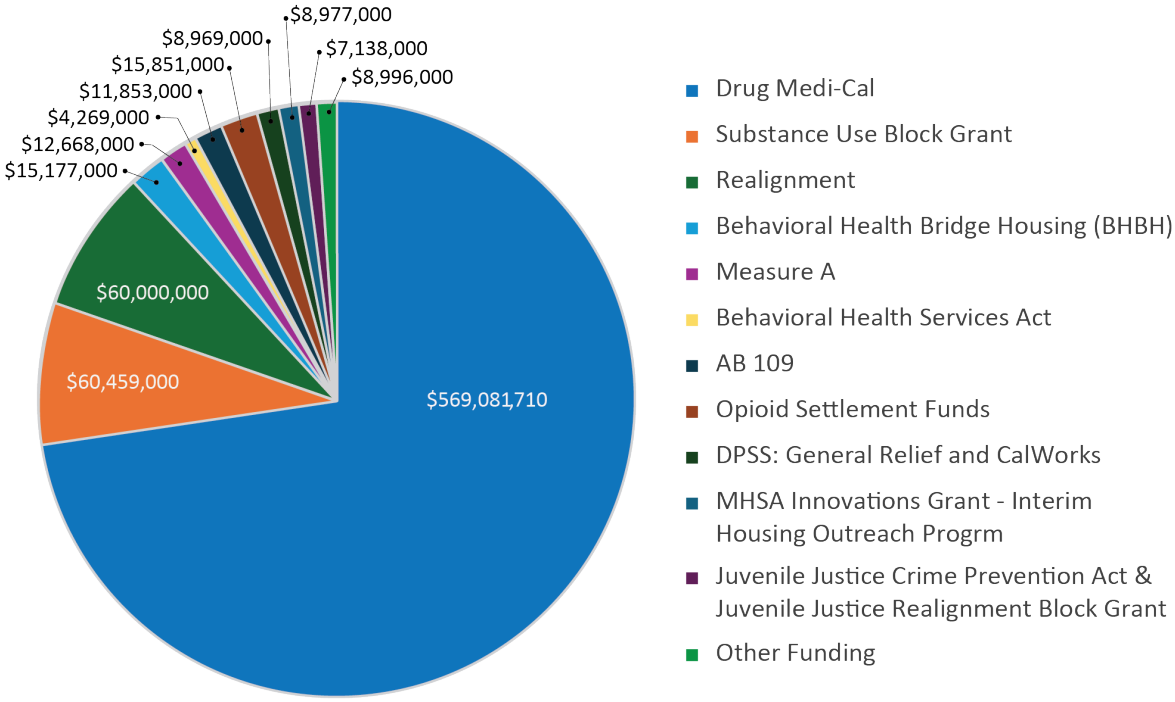
This document provides a summary of the size, scope, complexity, and successes of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau (DPH-SAPC) and its provider networks, highlighting meaningful and measurable progress achieved across prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

This information not only serves to provide a better understanding of where the specialty substance use disorder (SUD) system has been, but also the trajectory of growth, modernization, and innovation currently underway through DPH-SAPC's leadership.

Overview of DPH-SAPC

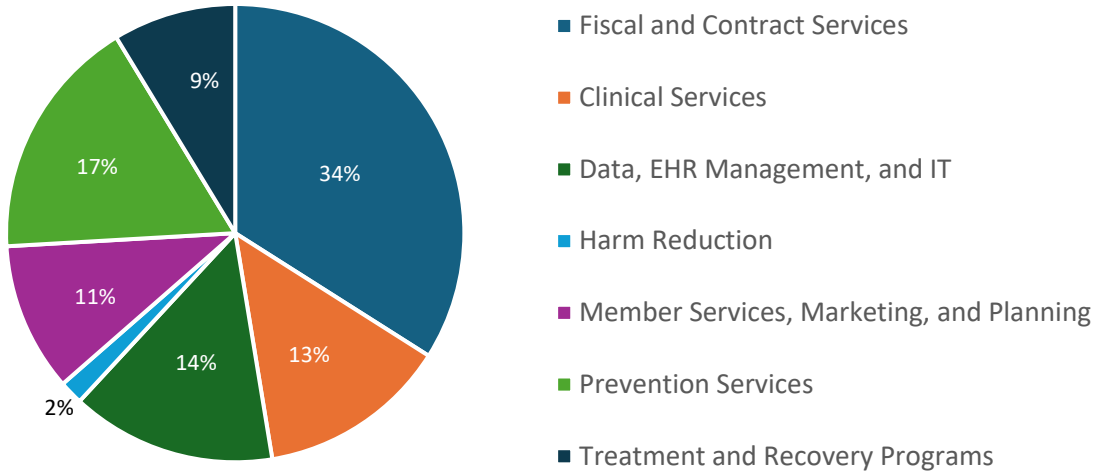
- DPH-SAPC is widely regarded as one of California's most innovative specialty SUD systems and is a well-recognized leader in advancing SUD strategies and service delivery.
- DPH SAPC is the only County specialty SUD system that maintains distinct representation on the County Behavioral Health Directors Association Governing Board, the State Department of Health Care Services' Behavioral Health Stakeholder Advisory Committee, the California Health and Human Services Agency's Behavioral Health Task Force, and a number of other key forums that shape behavioral health strategy, policy, and decisions across California.
    - DPH-SAPC's direct representation and presence across these leadership bodies underscores its unique position and expertise in advancing an equitable and person-centered SUD services statewide and for LA County's diverse communities.
- DPH-SAPC is Los Angeles County's administrator of Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) which operates based on several SUD-specific waivers that are federally approved [Section 1915(b) and 1115 waivers].
    - These SUD-specific federal waivers will persist even after California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal's (CalAIM) Behavioral Health Administrative Integration initiative, meaning that at a State-level, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will continue to have separate specialty mental health and specialty SUD systems.
- $783M total budget
- Over 650 total staff

SAPC Funding



* Los Angeles County currently invests 15% of its specialty behavioral health funding into the specialty SUD system ($740M of $4.94B) and 85% ($4.8B) into the specialty MH system.

Breakdown of SAPC Staffing



Description of DPH-SAPC's Networks and Reach

- DPH-SAPC serves approximately **250,000** individuals annually across prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery each year.

Focus Area	#'s Served Annually
Prevention	150,000
Harm Reduction	55,000
Treatment	35,000
Recovery-Oriented Housing	5,500

- DPH-SAPC contracts with **107 unique service providers** offering a wide range of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services, as broken down in the table below:

DPH-SAPC Contracts with Provider Agencies*	
Service	Number
Treatment	81
Prevention	34
Harm Reduction	18
Recovery Housing	27

**Each service type reflects an unduplicated count of provider agency contracts. However, provider agencies may have contracts across multiple service types*

DPH-SAPC Successes

- **Service Expansion as of Fiscal Year (FY) 25-26***
  - Year-by-year system expansion since launching DMC-ODS in 2017
  - 3x increase in SUD treatment and recovery investments
    - Over 2 fold increase in residential beds
    - 10 fold increase in residential services
    - 12.5 fold increase in Recovery Bridge Housing (RBH) beds
    - 4 fold increase in the number of clients served in intensive outpatient services
    - 200 fold increase in Addiction Medications (MAT) beyond methadone.
  - 21 fold increase in harm reduction investments to expand these critical services
  - 2.5 fold increase in SUD prevention investments

*This system expansion was achieved without any County General Fund through the optimization of fiscal strategies which have yielded over $200M and counting.

❖ Technology

- Transitioned the specialty SUD system from a paper-based (prior to 2017) to an electronic health record (EHR) model that was fully funded and customized by DPH-SAPC to modernize operations.
- Received the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Innovation Award for its web-based filterable SUD treatment provider directory called the Service and Bed Availability Tool (SBAT).
- Developed best-in-class and award-winning RecoverLA app (www.RecoverLA.org on mobile device browsers) to support successful connections with SUD services.

❖ Innovative Payment Reform

- First and only specialty mental health or SUD system to optimize new Medi-Cal payment reform opportunities by designing a value-based incentives (VBI) package to motivate provider agency advancements in care delivery.
- Invested over $90M in incentive and capacity building efforts since July 2024 through strategic financing of current resources and without additional County contribution.
- Implemented a 10-year roadmap to create a runway for provider agencies to adjust to VBI care priorities and pivot from an optional to expected service model.
- Innovation recognized with publication of the “Redesigning Value-Based Payment Models to Support Substance Use Treatment Systems” article in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery.
- Recipient of two national awards for this payment reform approach: National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Promising Practice Award.

❖ Legislative Success

- Passage of AB 1037 which modernized outdated State SUD-related statutes and streamlined regulations to offer lower barrier, person centered care.
- Passage of AB 2473 which improved training standards for SUD counselor workforce across California.

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