CANDID CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CANNABIS

August Workshop Series:

INFORMED CANNABIS USE



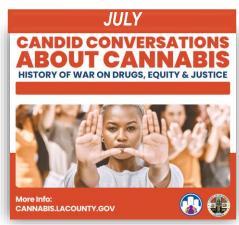


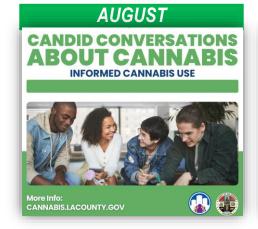


CANDID CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CANNABIS

Workshop Series Calendar









Disclaimer

The Los Angeles County of Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) does not encourage the consumption or use of cannabis.

This session is to educate the community with helpful information to make responsible decisions regarding adult cannabis use, including understanding laws pertaining to personal use, harm reduction strategies such as safe storage practices, associated health risks for at-risk populations, and identifying symptoms of over-consumption.

This presentation should not be construed as expressing conclusions or opinions from OCM about the appropriate use of cannabis or cannabinoids for medical purposes or taken as medical advice. We encourage participants to seek out additional information and consult with your personal healthcare providers when making decisions about cannabis use.

WHO ARE WE?









WHAT WE WILL COVER TODAY

Understanding What's Legal and What's Not

Understanding the Risks of Cannabis Use

POP QUIZ!

Question:

Are there different laws for medicinal and adult-use cannabis?



POP QUIZ!

Question:

Are there different laws for medicinal and adult-use cannabis?

Answer:

Yes, There are certain differences between medicinal and adult-use cannabis rules.

<u>Medicinal users:</u>

- Have higher possession limits
- Can grow more plants at home if their physician recommends it
- Buy more cannabis each day if their physician recommends it



PERSONAL POSSESION

Amount You Can Possess:

- Adults ages 21 or older may posses up to 1 ounce (28.5 grams) of dried cannabis flower and up to 8 grams of cannabis concentrate (Adult-Use).
- Qualified patients may possess up to 8 ounces of dried cannabis flower (Medicinal-Use).
- Cannabis possession is prohibited on federally controlled lands, including national parks and airports.
- Cannabis cannot be carried across state lines, even if both states have legalized cannabis.

PERSONAL USE

Minimum Age to Purchase:

- Adults aged 21 or older (adult-use).
- 18 or older with either a valid physician's recommendation or a valid county-issued medical marijuana ID card (medicinal-use).

Places Where Smoking and/or Consumption is Prohibited

- In any public place, or anywhere that tobacco smoking is prohibited.
- Within 1,000 feet of a school, day care center or youth center while children are present.
- While riding or driving a vehicle or boat.
- On federal lands, like national parks.

So Where Can You Use Cannabis?



Private Property, such as a home or backyard.

- Be Aware that landlords, property owners, and rental companies can still ban the smoking or vaporizing of cannabis on their premises.
 - If you rent, read your rental agreement to see if there are any restrictions.
- Most hotels also do not allow guests to use cannabis in their hotel room.
 - Ask the reception desk about the hotel's policy to be sure.
 - If at a vacation rental, check with property owner about rules for your stay.

POP QUIZ!

Question:

Can you drive with Cannabis in your car?



POP QUIZ!

Question:

Can you drive with cannabis in your car?

Answer:

It depends! Having an <u>open</u> container of cannabis while driving or riding in a vehicle is illegal.

If you have cannabis in a vehicle, it must be in either:

- A sealed package or container
- In the trunk of the vehicle



MORE ON IMPAIRED DRIVING

- It is illegal to use cannabis while driving under state law.
- Do not drive after consuming cannabis. If you operate a vehicle while under the influence of cannabis, you may be subject to arrest.
- Law enforcement officers will continue to treat driving under the influence of cannabis the same as any other intoxicating substance, such as alcohol.

PERSONAL CULTIVATION

Amount You Can Grow:

- Adults ages 21 or older may grow up to 6 cannabis plants per dwelling unit (Adult-Use).
- Qualified patients may possess up to 6 mature cannabis plants or 12 immature plants per dwelling unit (Medicinal-Use).
- Personally cultivated cannabis plants must be in a locked space and not visible from any public right of way.
- Local governments may have additional laws: Los Angeles County has rules governing cannabis cultivation in unincorporated areas.

PERSONAL CULTIVATION

In Unincorporated LA County:

- Cannabis plants must not be visible from any public right-ofway, private drive, or fire lane.
- Outdoor cultivation is prohibited within 600 feet of any park, library, school, day care center, or youth center.
- Outdoor cannabis plants must be less than 6 feet tall.
- Outdoor cultivation requires opaque fencing at least 6 feet tall.
- Outdoor plants must be at least ten feet away from property lines.

CANNABIS AND THE WORKPLACE

The following rules apply to most California workers, excluding federal and building/construction workers:

- Employers are prohibited from asking employees about their off-site and off-hours cannabis use.
- Employers are prohibited from discriminating against employees based solely on their off-site and off-hours cannabis use.
- Employers may administer a drug test, but they cannot hire, fire, or take other action against an employee based solely on a positive THC result.
- Employers may still prohibit and take disciplinary action regarding cannabis use, impairment, or possession during work hours or on the job site.

Cal. Gov't Code § 12954



Understanding the Risks of Cannabis Use

Los Angeles County

Department of Public Health

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

Learning Objectives



Describe

three (3) factors associated with cannabis use.

Identify

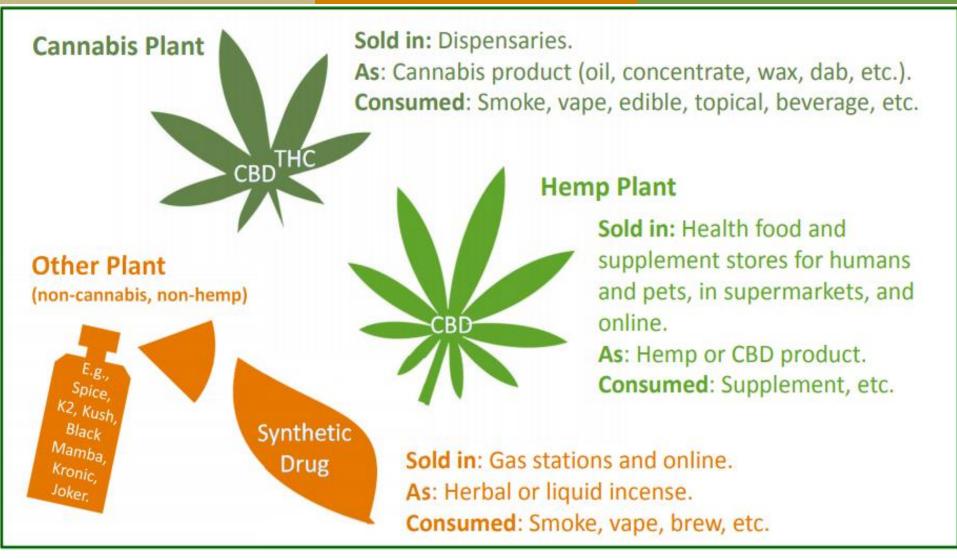
two (2) physical health risks and two (2) mental health risks with cannabis use.

Learn

three (3) ways to stay informed as an adult that uses cannabis.

Origin and Consumption Methods of Natural & Synthetic Cannabinoid Products





Synthetic marijuana: a dangerous drug at a cheap price. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/synthetic_marijuana.htm. Updated December 12, 2013. Accessed August 14, 2017.

Thant T, Kondrad E, Nussbaum AM. Medical Marijuana: Indications, Formulations, Efficacy, and Adverse Events. In: Compton MT, ed. Marijuana and Mental Health. Arlington, VA: Publishing, American Psychiatric Association; 2016:71-94.

Synthetic Cannabinoids (K2/Spice). National Institute on Drug Abuse; National Institutes of Health; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cannabinoids-k2spice. Accessed May 24, 2018.

MYTHS OR FACTS?

1. Cannabis is safe for everyone to use because it is legal.

2. Cannabis products are safe because they are easily purchased from convenience stores or online.

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Cannabis 101



- Cannabis plants contain many different plant-based chemicals called **cannabinoids**. Some products are chemically made or **synthetic**.
- Different products have different strains of cannabis and chemicals which affect your mental processes and behaviors.
 - **Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)** creates the 'high' that is commonly associated with cannabis.
 - Cannabidiol (CBD) doesn't alter mental processes; you can't get intoxicated by it.
 - **Hemp** is used to make commercial and industrial products; can contain CBD or are synthetic. Unregulated hemp products can create the 'high' that is higher than THC.
- Recognize the risks associated with consuming cannabis products.
 - Especially for cannabis and hemp products that are NOT regulated and/or lack consumer transparency.
 - Examples: False advertising, improper labeling, high concentrates of pesticides and chemicals.

How Is Cannabis Used



Inhaling Smoke/Vapor

- Hand-held pipe
- Rolling papers
- Hookah
- Vape pen
- Water pipe or bong
- Homemade/1X use device
- Dabbing



Food/ Topical Infusions

- Edibles/Solids
- Drinks
- Tinctures
- Sprays
- Inhalers
- Powders
- Oils & concentrates
- Butter

What's in the vapor?

The cloud is aerosol, not water vapor. Chemicals include heavy metals such as lead, nickel and chromium; formaldehyde; and artificial flavors linked to serious diseases.

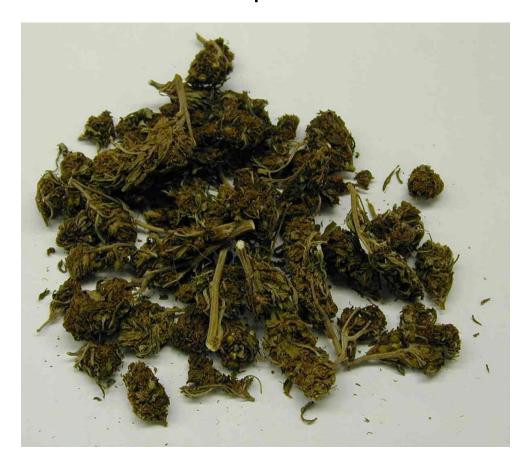


IMAGE: shutterstock 226360945.



Dried Marijuana Plant

Dried flower tops and leaves of cannabis









Hashish

Dried extract resin from cannabis flowers compressed into bricks

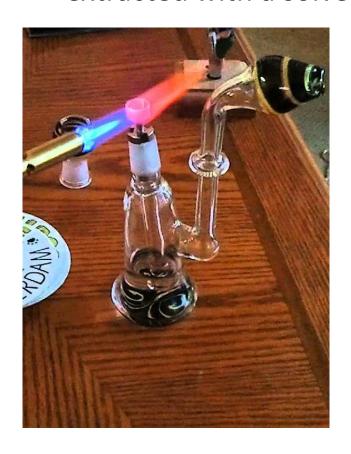






Hash Oil

Viscous mass of concentrated compounds from cannabis extracted with a solvent









Synthetic Cannabinoids

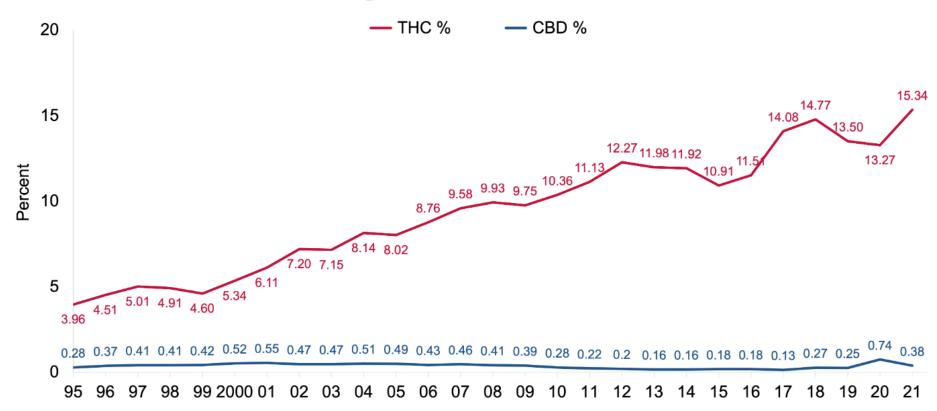
Sprayed onto wide variety of plant matter



Increase in THC Potency Since 1995



Percentage of THC and CBD in Cannabis Samples Seized by the DEA, 1995-2021



SOURCE: U Miss, Potency Monitoring Project

Factors Associated with Cannabis Use



1. Early Use vs. Later Use

- 1 in 6 people who start using cannabis before the age of 18 can become addicted to cannabis.
- 1 in 10 adults who use THC can become addicted to THC.

2. Increased Potency

- THC concentrations are <u>3x higher</u> than they were 25 years ago.
- More THC can lead to higher rates of dependency and addiction.

3. Duration of Effects

- Cannabis products affect everyone differently.
- Factors include: how cannabis is consumed, how much is consumed, and the user's body composition.
- The effects of smoking/vaping/dabbing cannabis can be felt in seconds to minutes, and can last for several hours.
- The effects of eating/drinking cannabis products can be felt in 30 minutes to 2 hours, and can last up to 8 hours.

Medical Benefits of Cannabis



Cannabis is a Schedule I Drug; it cannot be prescribed but can be recommended for medical use by a physician.

- Cannabis has chemicals that may help symptoms for some specific health conditions:
 - Chronic Pain
 - Chemotherapy
 - Multiple Sclerosis
- There are 4 FDA-approved cannabinoids to address health conditions:
 - Seizures
 - Adverse effects from chemotherapy
 - AIDS

Gonzalez, et al. (2018) The Evolving Science and Policy of Cannabis: What Health Professionals Need to Know

http://rx.ph.lacounty.gov/RxCannabis0918#FDAbox





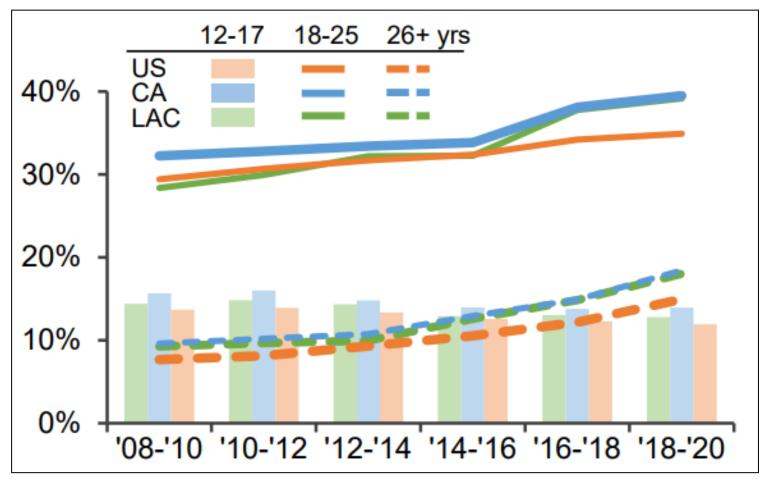
Some synthetic, hemp-derived cannabis products like **Delta-8 THC** can give you a 'high' like traditional THC products can. Because these products are not FDA-approved and are unregulated, there can be harmful pesticides and chemicals in Delta-8 THC products that are unsafe for use. Contaminants have already been reported. Many are sold at traditional tobacco stores like smoke shops, gas stations, and other locations.

To avoid potential harms and risks of using Delta-8, it is recommended to avoid all unregulated THC products. Talk to your doctor before consuming any substance.

Los Angeles County Cannabis Use by Age



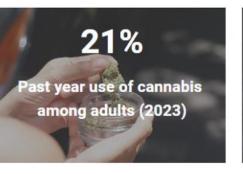
Marijuana use in the past year, by age, 2008 – 2022¹



Rates of marijuana use among youth, young adults, and adults in Los Angeles County (LAC) were higher than in the US and lower than in California.

Tracking Patterns in Cannabis Use Over The Years



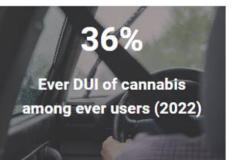


18%
Ever use of cannabis among youth (2022)

55%

Perceived great risk of harm for youth regular use (2022)









4,239
Primary cannabis treatment admissions (FY2223)

Health Risks of Cannabis Use



Physical Health Risks

- Poor muscle coordination
- Slurred speech
- Breathing problems
- Severe nausea and vomiting
- Fertility issues
- Cardiovascular complications
 - Increased heart rate
 - Rapid heartbeat
 - Increased blood pressure
 - Heart attack
 - Stroke

Mental Health Risks

- Poor memory and ability to learn
- Difficulty in thinking and solving problems
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Extreme confusion
- Hallucinations and/or delusions
- Paranoia
- Psychosis
- Suicide risk

Health Effects of Cannabis Use on Others



 Secondhand and thirdhand smoke increases community risk similar to tobacco (respiratory infections, behavior problems, and cancer).



 Problems with child development include brain development, mental illness, lower birth weight, and attention/memory issues.



• Synthetic hemp products are unregulated and may contain **unsafe** amounts of pesticides and chemicals.

Driving while high may increase risk of getting into a crash by 25-35%.
 Causes leave weaving, poor reaction time, and divided attention.



• Cannabis (specifically THC) use during pregnancy and/or breastfeeding can be harmful to the developing baby. THC passes through the placenta and bloodstream, breastmilk, and secondhand smoke.



Cannabis & Pregnancy

Cannabis (specifically THC) use during pregnancy can be harmful to the developing baby.

THC passes through the placenta, which can negatively affect the baby's development.



Using cannabis during pregnancy may impact your baby's development.



About 7% of pregnant persons in the United States report using cannabis while pregnant.



The chemicals in any form of cannabis may be bad for your baby. That includes eating or drinking, creams or lotions applied to skin, smoking, vaping, and dabbing.



If you're using marijuana and are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant, talk to your doctor.



Cannabis & Breastfeeding



No matter how you use cannabis, one of the main active components in cannabis, THC, will reach your baby in three ways:

- Through your bloodstream and into the placenta (the organ that feeds your baby during pregnancy).
- 2. Through your breast milk. "Pumping and Dumping" doesn't work. THC is stored in fat cells and is slowly released into your breast milk over several weeks.
- Through secondhand and thirdhand smoke that enters your baby's lungs.



Cannabis & Youth

Cannabis use under the age of 21 can be harmful to your mind and body.

There are many unique risk factors that can negatively impact youth, with both short and long term consequences.

Attention and Learning:

- Studies have shown that full brain development is not complete until <u>age 25</u>.
- Using cannabis under 21 can negatively impact attention, memory, learning, decision-making, and school performance.

Mental Health Issues:

 Using cannabis at an early age and the frequent use of cannabis with higher THC content can increase their risk of depression, anxiety, and serious mental illnesses like psychotic disorders.



How To Talk to Youth and Young Adults In Your Life

- Start the conversation early.
- Focus on the facts and how cannabis may impact their developing brain.
- Talk with your children about having an "exit plan" if they're offered cannabis.
- Be aware of your own attitudes and behaviors.
- Set expectations and communicate them clearly.
- Encourage questions, be nonjudgmental, and listen to their ideas.
- Keep calm. Let them know you are there for them.

What To Do If Your Child Is Using Cannabis:

- Stay calm and try not to overreact.
- Talk about your concerns. Give the facts and positive reasons for wanting them to stop using cannabis. Focus on the impact that cannabis can have on the developing brain, and that cannabis is much more potent than in the past.
- If they have their driver's license, remind them not to use cannabis and drive.

Structural Community Factors for Cannabis Use (COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES





Cannabis dispensaries near schools, parks, libraries, and youth centers



Overconcentration of cannabis dispensaries in under-resourced communities



Cannabis representation in the media (TV, social media, movies, radio)



Public health safety (e.g. safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods)



Access to healthy foods and exercise, healthcare, clean air and water



Violence, racism, trauma, and discrimination



Education, job opportunities, and income

Adults Using Cannabis Should Stay Informed



Check For The Check Look for the sign at retailers that indicates all appropriate licenses, permits, or authorizations are granted from State and local governments.



Be Safe and Considerate

- Avoid smoking in public places, including around people who are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Securely store any cannabis products, including paraphernalia, and keep out of reach of children and pets.



Don't Drive and Use

- Consumption of any cannabis products can impair judgment and ability to safely operate a car or other motor vehicle.
- Driving while high can put you and others at risk of accident, serious injury, or death.



Go Low and Slow

- Cannabis affects everyone's body and brain differently. If choosing to consume cannabis, start with the lowest possible dosage and monitor how your body responds.
- Be aware of your environment and mental health when using.



Know Your Limits Avoid mixing cannabis with other substances such as alcohol, medications, or illicit substances. Effects of using cannabis can increase risk for negative physical and/or mental effects, injury, and death.



Legal vs. Illegal Cannabis Dispensaries



Legal Cannabis Dispensaries...

- Are licensed by the state and follow strict guidelines of operation
- Require a licensed physical location
- That are adult-use cannabis stores are limited to people 21+ years
- That are medicinal retailers are limited to people 18+
- Ensure that products must leave the premises in opaque packaging
- Ensure that packaging is child-resistant, resealable and tamper-evident
- Prohibits the sale of expired cannabis goods
- Are only allowed to operate between 6:00

 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- Requires ID verification
- Must have valid certification of cannabis dispensary insurance

Illegal Cannabis Dispensaries...

- Avoid licensing and operating rules and operates outside the legal requirements
- Have bags and/or jars of cannabis on shelves instead of individually packaged products
- Offer free samples
- Have suspiciously low prices
- Allow customers to touch/smell the buds
- Have products weighed in front of customers instead of pre-packaged
- Do not require ID verification
- Operate outside of legal hours

Adults Using Cannabis Should Stay Informed



Purchasing cannabis products from the regulated cannabis market is <u>safer</u> than buying unregulated products. When you buy legal products, they are lab-tested and labeled accurately with the information that you need.

Verify that a cannabis business is licensed by visiting the State Department of Cannabis Control's website: https://search.cannabis.ca.gov/retailers



Look for this emblem to know it has been inspected by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health*.

*Note: Look for the "Emblem" in the unincorporated areas of LA County and certain contracted incorporated cities:

https://dcba.lacounty.gov/cannabisemblemprogram/

Adults Using Cannabis Should Stay Informed



Be cautious of adverse physical and mental effects such as:

Increased blood pressure	Increased heart rate	Delusions
Extreme confusion	Increased anxiety	Severe nausea
Vomiting	Headache	Psychosis

If you or someone you know has symptoms that might suggest they overconsumed, call the Poison Control Hotline: (800) 222-1222. If the symptoms are severe, call 9-1-1 or seek immediate medical care. If you are struggling with cannabis or substance addiction, you can seek medical/professional advice and/or call the Substance Abuse Services Helpline: (844) 804-7500 (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Signs of addiction can look like:

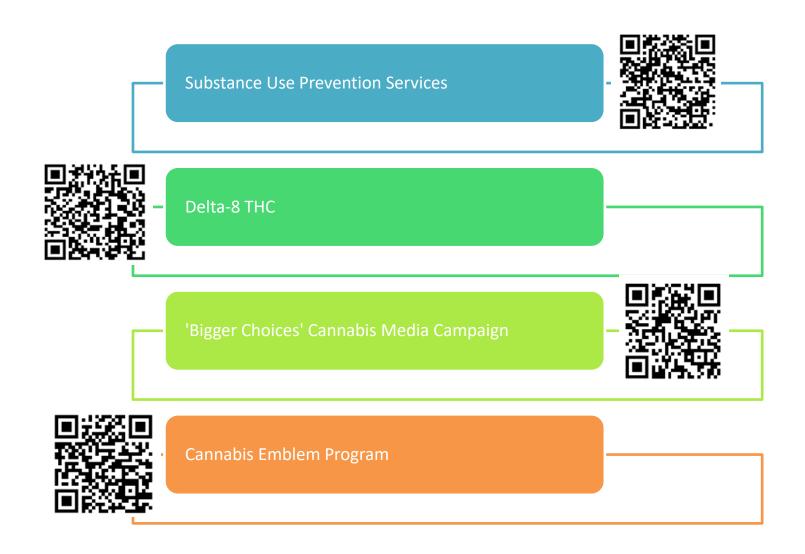
- Taking more cannabis or for longer periods of time than originally intended
- Taking more cannabis to get the same effect that previously required less of the substance
- Inability to cut down or eliminate use even for short periods of time
- Constantly craving cannabis
- Not engaging with friends, family, work or school due to cannabis use
- Using cannabis in dangerous situations (such as driving while high)





Cannabis Resources







Harm Reduction Resources

LA County Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)

Harm Reduction

Harm Reduction | Top 5 Myths | Overdose Epidemic | Accessing Naloxone | Finding Services | Resources | FAQ | Contact Us

Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention Resources

Community-based organizations and individuals may utilize the following resources and information designed by SAPCs Harm Reduction Unit to support efforts to expand access to harm reduction and overdose prevention services.

Fentanyl Resources +

Xylazine Resources +

Naloxone Resources +

Training and Presentations +

Local, State and National Resources +

Scan the QR Code to visit the Harm Reduction Webpage



For more information, resources, and training, please contact the Harm Reduction Unit at HarmReduction@ph.lacounty.gov

ph.lacounty.gov/sapc/public/harm-reduction/





Scan QR Code to Access Fentanyl 101 Presentation
Or Click This Link on PDF Handout to Access Presentation

Patient Eligibility



Youth, young adults and adults can access <u>no-cost</u> (<u>no fees</u>) substance use treatment services at any provider in the network if they meet the following criteria AND meet medical necessity:





Medi-Cal Eligible or Enrolled

(active benefits are not required at time of screening, referral, or intake)

OR

Other County-Funded Program Participant

(such as AB 109, Drug Court)

There are also fee-for-service options for patients that do not meet these eligibility criteria.



Los Angeles County's Available SUD Benefits



SAPC Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Prevention First • Treatment Works • Recovery is Possible

A 24/7 toll-free helpline to provide screening, resources, and referral directly to a treatment provider.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICE HELPLINE 1.844.804.7500



CORE Centers offer sites throughout L.A. County where staff provide education, resources, and in-person screening and linkage to treatment.





<u>CENS Staff</u> serve as liaisons between state, county, and city agencies and providers conducting in-person navigation, screening, and linkage to treatment.





Any person (or their representative) can contact treatment providers directly or by using www.SUDHelpLA.org

Service Bed and Availability Tool (SBAT)

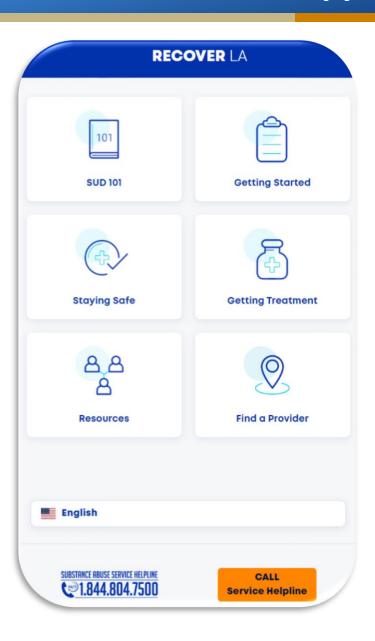






Recover LA Mobile App





- Free mobile app
- Provides education and resources for those seeking substance use services for themselves or others
- Available in 13 languages

Visit <u>RecoverLA.org</u> or use the QR code below to access the app







Lifeline (988lifeline.org)

List of Mental Health Services:

https://dmh.lacounty.gov/our-services/

http://dpss.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpss

oia.lacounty.gov

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Additiona	Resources		Public Health	
Name	Description	Call Toll free	Web Address	
Los Angeles County Substance Abuse Service Helpline (SASH)	24/7 helpline screening and referral of free substance use disorder treatment services in Los Angeles County.	(844) 804-7500 24 hours per day/ 7 days a week	Web based tool of available Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services in Los Angele County: http://sapccis.ph.lacounty.gov/sbat/	

988 Call & Text 24 hours per day/

7 days a week

Línea de Prevención del

Suicidio y Crisis 988

For TTY Users: Use your preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988.

(800) 854-7771

24 hours per day/

7 days a week

(866) 613-3777

Monday-Friday

7:30am - 5:30pm

(800) 593-8222

Monday-Friday

8:00am-4:30pm

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides

free and confidential emotional

support to people in suicidal crisis or

emotional distress.

24/7 Mental Health Services include

screening, assessment,

referral & crisis counseling.

To apply for Medi-Cal, food stamps and

income support for low-income

families and individuals.

Connection to free or low-cost

attorney if you have questions

regarding the "public charge" test and

your immigration status.

988 Suicide & Crisis

Lifeline (formerly

known as the National

Suicide Prevention

Lifeline)

Department of Mental

Health (DMH)

Access Hotline

Department of Social

Services

(DPSS)

Office of Immigration

Affairs (OIA)

{	COUNTY OF LOS ANG	
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Web Address

www.AA.org

www.NA.org

www.nami.org

https://www.nicotine-

anonymous.org/

www.al-anon.org

California | MARA International

(mara-international.org)

www.211la.org

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Additional	Resources -	Continued
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Additional	Resou	rces -	Continued	

laditional	Resources -	Conti	inuea	
Name	Description		Call Toll free	

Additional	Resou	rces -	Conti	nued	

Peer supported program for people in

recovery from alcohol use disorder who

meet regularly.

Peer supported program for people in

recovery from other illicit substances who

meet regularly.

Provides education support & advocacy to

improve the lives of those living with

mental illness.

Peer supported program for people in

recovery or who need support to stop use

of tobacco and nicotine products who

meet regularly.

Members who are worried about someone

important to them with a substance

use issue.

Peer supported program for people in

recovery that utilize

medication-assisted treatment.

Central source for providing

information/referrals for all health and

human services in LA County.

Ad	diti	ional	Resc

Alcoholics Anonymous

(AA)

Narcotics Anonymous

(NA)

National Alliance on

Mental Illness (NAMI)

Nicotine Anonymous

Al-Anon Los Angeles

Medication-Assisted

Recovery Anonymous

(MARA)

Los Angeles Helpline

(800) 923-8722

(800) 974-0062

(800) 950-6264

(877) 879-6422

(888) 425-2666

(818) 760-7440 - Los Angeles

N/A

211

24 hours per day/

7 days per week



Kes	our	ces for Y	out	n	***

Resources for Yout	in S
Name and Description	Website

ame and Description	Websit

L.A. County Youth Suicide



https://www.crisistextline.org

Text HOME to 741741

1-866-488-7386

toolkit-teen.htm



https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help

https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/pie/

Education/MentalHealthToolKit/





Prevention Project

National Crisis Text Line

Trevor Project Lifeline

judgment-free place to talk

LA-HOP

Challenges

Provide support to LGBTQ+ youth and allies in crisis or in need of a safe and

L.A. County Homeless Outreach Portal

Addressing Teen Mental Health

A mental health toolkit for teens

How to Locate These Resources:



Step 1

- Visit the link provided below:
- LA County Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control - Reaching the 95% (R95) Initiative



Step 2

 Scroll to the bottom of the page where it says Learn More (see screenshot below) and click on the links below the title "SUD 101 and Accessing Substance Use Treatment in L.A. County Resources."

Learn More

SAPC is a state leader in launching innovative SUD tools and programs to enhance access to services by individuals who may need treatment, community stakeholders and the SUD workforce.

Click the RecoverLA link to learn more about our award-winning mobile-friendly platform that providers SUD service and overdose prevention resources, as well as a filterable service locater.

Click the link to the <u>Service and Bed Availability Tool (SBAT)</u> to locate a treatment provider near you with filters that make searching for specialty SUD services easy: https://sapccis.ph.lacounty.gov/sbat/.

THANK YOU

Stay Connected





Cannabis@lacounty.gov



Cannabis.lacounty.gov



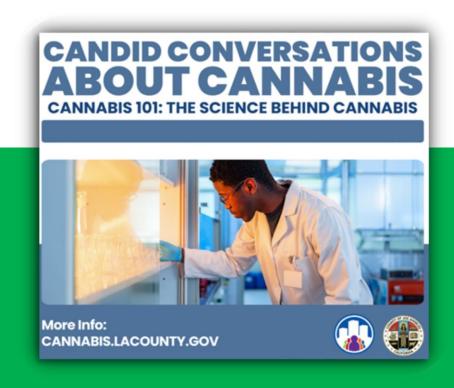








Join us at our next workshop in September!



Q&A

OPEN FLOOR FOR QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION