The Prevention System of Services Unit is responsible for program planning, development, implementation, and evaluation for the Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control’s (SAPC) contracted substance abuse prevention services.

The Prevention System of Services Unit is comprised of a network of community-based organizations implementing evidence-based community- and individual-level services to address SAPC’s Goals and Objectives. Prevention contractors determine which of the County’s Goals and Objectives are of greatest priority in their target city(ies) and/or community(ies) based on data gathered during a local needs assessment and by implementing the Strategic Prevention Framework Steps: Assessment, Capacity, Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation.

**SAPC’s Goals:** To reduce underage and binge drinking, marijuana availability and accessibility among youth, prescription medication, over-the-counter (OTC), and misuse among youth and young adults residing in cities and communities in Los Angeles County.

**SAPC’s Objectives:** To reduce the access, availability, social norms, and community conditions that contribute to use and misuse of these priority substances within cities and communities in Los Angeles County. Research suggests that strategies intended to impact environmental factors, such as alcohol access and community norms, are necessary to sustain reductions in alcohol and other drug (AOD) use community-wide.

**Access** refers to the ability to obtain the substance. In retail settings, access can be restricted by implementing policies and procedures such as checking IDs to ensure patrons are at least 21 years old and by refusing sales to patrons displaying signs of intoxication. In a social setting, such as a private residence, access can be reduced by resident adults monitoring alcohol, OTC, and prescription drug supplies; not providing alcohol to those under the age of 21 years; not allowing underage drinking to occur at the residence; and discouraging continued drinking for guests displaying signs of intoxication.

**Availability** refers to the physical existence of the substance in the community. Alcohol is available in venues such as licensed outlets, both on-sale (restaurants/bars) and off-sale (grocery/liquor stores); private residences; and public venues such as fairs and sports arenas. Alcohol outlet density (i.e., the number of retail establishments licensed to sell alcohol within a particular community) is often seen as an indicator of availability. Other legal drugs, such as OTCs and prescriptions are available in venues such as retail outlets (pharmacies, grocery stores) as well as private residences.

**Social Norms** refer to the expected, approved, and/or established attitudes and behaviors around an issue, in this case AOD use. Social norms can vary based on geography (among nations, states, or cities) and/or membership with a specific group (race/ethnicity, gender, age) and can change over time.
Factors such as family attitudes and behaviors, media (movies, music, advertising), and the absence or presence of laws, regulations, and policies contribute to perceptions and responses to established social norms and whether norms change over time. Decreasing favorable attitudes toward experimentation and/or use of AOD can lead to changes in acceptability of substance use and related community norms.

**Community Conditions** refer to the social, economic, and environmental factors that influence the health of individuals and communities, in this case AOD use. Addressing specific environmental and social conditions that influence AOD availability, accessibility, and community norms, such as the built environment (deteriorating or dilapidated buildings, unkempt streets or sidewalks, poorly lit areas, availability of parks), social networks/support, and community cohesion, can lead to decreased use and improved health.

The Prevention System of Services includes eight Environmental Prevention Services, 31 Comprehensive Prevention Services, one Friday Night Live, one Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD), and one Community-Centered Emergency Room contract.

**Environmental Prevention Services (EPS):** The purpose is to address alcohol availability and accessibility through environmental efforts that change policies, ordinances, and practices that facilitate alcohol use within the target Service Planning Area (a specific geographical region in Los Angeles County). EPS program staff generally work with local citizens and leaders, government officials, and businesses/organizations to change local conditions that contribute to alcohol use.

**Comprehensive Prevention Services (CPS):** The purpose is to 1) change the local conditions that facilitate alcohol and drug use, 2) identify individuals who could benefit from prevention services or contribute to prevention efforts, and 3) change the knowledge and behaviors of youth and adults that contribute to community norms about alcohol and drug use. Depending on the program, services may focus on individual level activities such as school-based prevention classes, or on community-level services such as making changes to the local environment or changing policies/practices that contribute to substance use and/or norms favorable to substance use.

**Friday Night Live (FNL):** The purpose is to build partnerships for positive, healthy youth development and engage youth as active leaders, mentors, and advocates in county and statewide efforts to reduce access to and availability of alcohol and other drugs. Services are provided through the Los Angeles County Office of Education in various middle schools and high schools. Youth-adult partnership activities include educating policy-making officials, providing safe social outlets for youth, and hosting trainings and conferences on varying issues from leadership to social factors that contribute to substance abuse.

**LASD–Success through Awareness and Resistance (STAR):** The STAR program aims to prevent or decrease alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, and violence by targeting youth who live in poverty-stricken areas that have higher rates of crime, substance abuse, and gang involvement. This is achieved by implementing the three pronged program that includes a school curriculum, after-school activities, and a summer program.

**Community Centered Emergency Room Project (CCERP):** The CCERP bridges the gap among health services, public health services, mental health services, and community prevention services. The program collaborates with the Needs Special Assistance Population interdepartmental team, provides educational strategies that can prevent health disparities and chronic diseases by promoting healthy living, and uses evidence-based environmental prevention strategies that prevent/reduce community risk factors. The CCERP educates and empowers local community residents and stakeholders to address community risk factors which have a fundamental impact on health and safety.