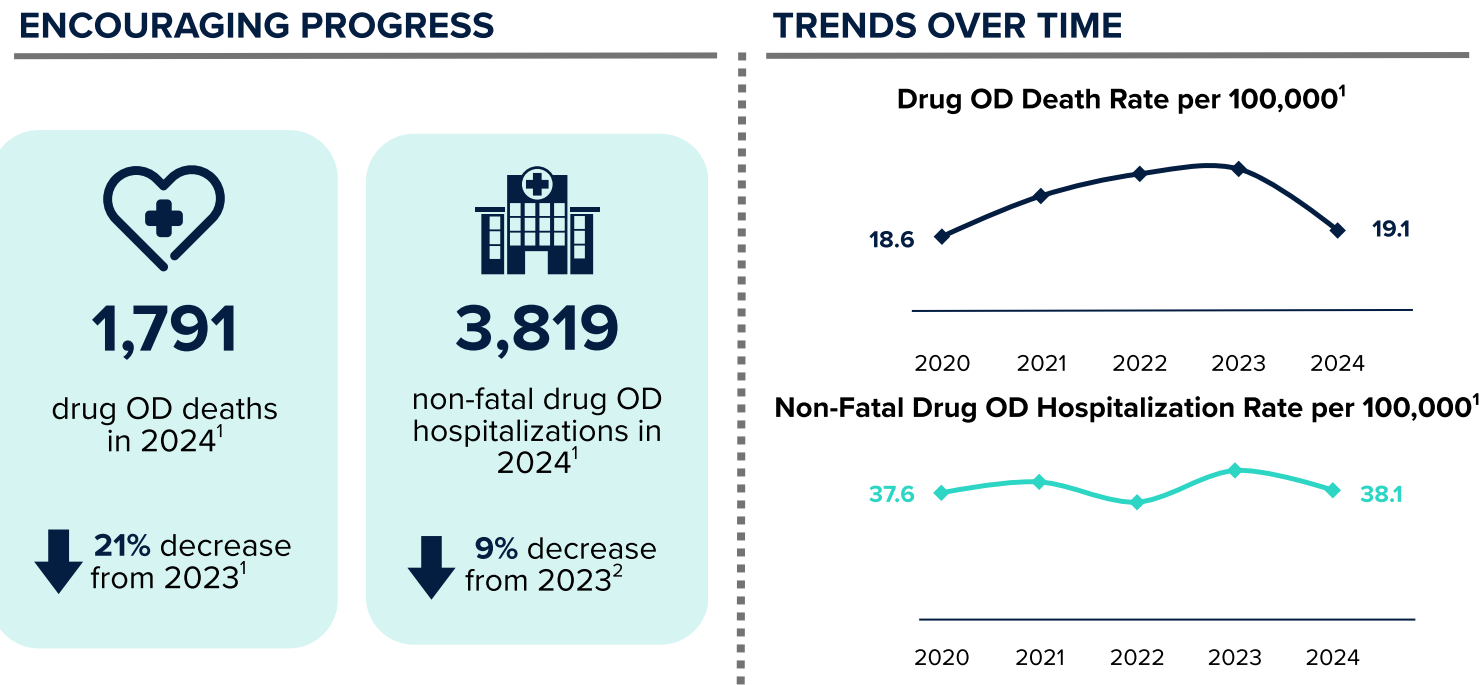


Los Angeles County overdose deaths and hospitalizations are declining - but its still a major public health issue.

Although drug overdose (OD) deaths and non-fatal hospitalizations are down, OD remains a leading cause of accidental death and continues to disproportionately impact Los Angeles County residents.



Substance Use, Impact, and Treatment in California and Los Angeles County (LAC)



Substance use continues to affect many individuals and families in California and LAC. Despite treatment infrastructure expansion, many people are not receiving the treatment they need.

PREVALENCE AND USE

California and Los Angeles County residents experience similar rates of **substance use disorder (SUD)** to the national average.



On average, about **1 in 6** people in California and LAC had SUD within the past year.^{1,2}

(National average - 17%)¹

Past Month Substance Use, 2021-2023



Binge drinking is **similar** in California (21%) compared to the national average (22%). Note that LAC data was unavailable.¹



Illicit drug use is **higher** in California (17%) compared to the national average (16%). Note that LAC data was unavailable.¹



Marijuana use is **higher** in California (16%) but lower in LAC (12%) compared to the national average (15%).^{1,2}



Opioid misuse is **similar** in California (3%) and LAC (3%) to the national average (3%).^{1,2}

THE HUMAN IMPACT

Among California residents



47% report knowing someone with SUD.³



21% report that they or someone close to them has needed treatment for substance use or addiction⁴

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT



Opioid use disorder is estimated to have cost California

\$238 Billion

in 2024 - one of the highest costs in the nation.⁵

California is focused on expanding substance use treatment access.



Since 2017, residential substance use treatment facilities have grown by **30%**.⁶



Since 2017, inpatient substance use treatment facilities have grown by **400%**.⁶



For 2026-2027, California is investing over **\$4 billion** in behavioral health, with a focus on expanding SUD treatment infrastructure and residential care.⁷

Despite strong support and treatment expansion, about **8 in 10** people with SUD still do not receive the care they need.⁸

¹Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Behavioral Health Barometer, California, Volume 8, 2021-2023

²Los Angeles County Alcohol and Other Drug Surveillance Dashboard, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

³Shatterproof & Irsay Institute, Indiana University. (2024). Shatterproof Addiction Stigma Index (SASI) [Raw dataset]. Shatterproof.

⁴California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) / NORC at the University of Chicago – 2024 California Health Policy Survey

⁵Avalere Health. (2025, May). The cost of opioid addiction: Opioid use disorder in the United States. https://advisory.avalerehealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Avalere-Health-White-Paper_The-cost-of-opioid-addiction_OUD-in-the-United-States.pdf

⁶California Health Care Foundation. (2024). Substance use in California: Almanac. <https://www.chcf.org/publication/substance-use-california-almanac/>

⁷California Health and Human Services Agency. (2024). Proposition 1: Behavioral Health Services Act and Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act. <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/proposition-1/>

⁸Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (n.d.). NSDUH state estimates: State data. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://dataatools.samhsa.gov/saes/state>