

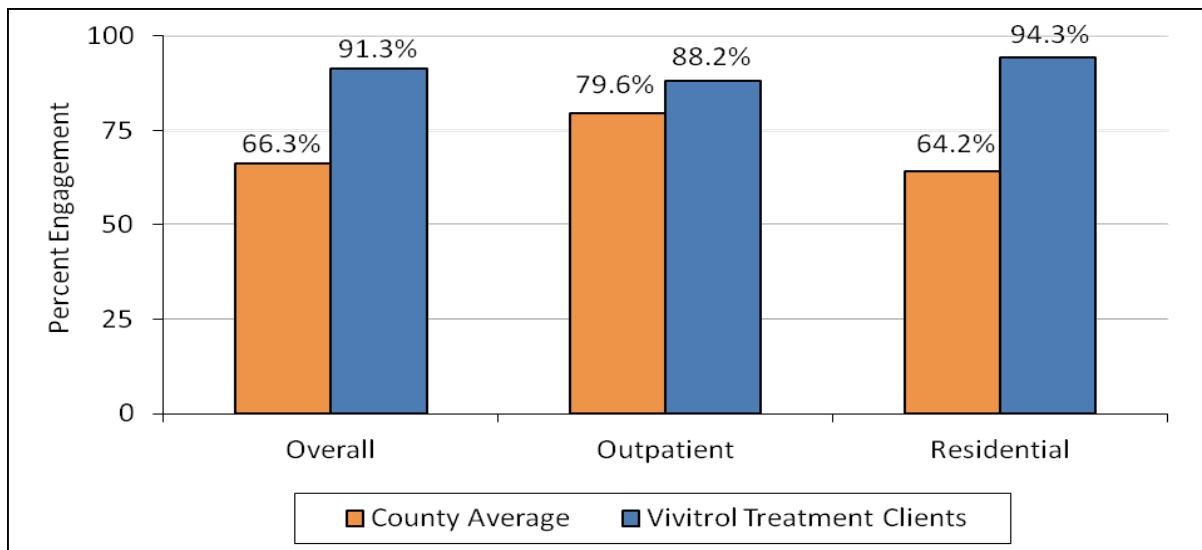
# The LACES Brief

December  
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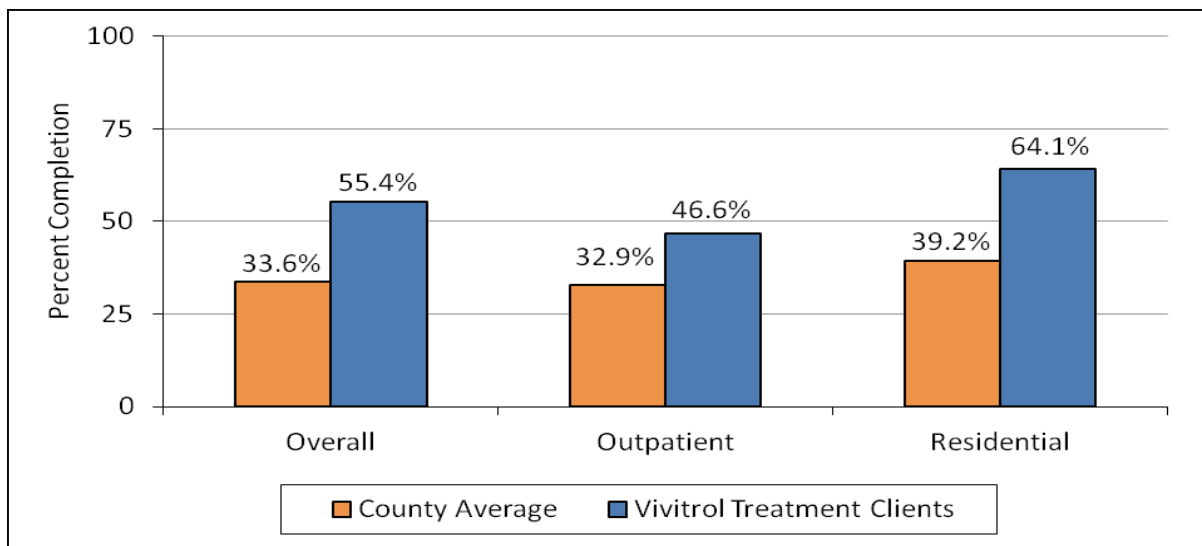
An update on the Los Angeles County Evaluation System,  
An Outcome Reporting Program

Vivitrol is the injectable form of naltrexone, an opioid receptor antagonist that acts by blocking the mu-opioid receptors in the brain. These receptors are responsible for the “high” or “buzz” individuals feel when alcohol is consumed. When the receptors are blocked, the “high” or “buzz” is no longer achievable and cravings for alcohol are reduced significantly. This brief highlights two treatment outcomes from a pilot project in Los Angeles County to administer Vivitrol in three large, publicly funded treatment organizations in Los Angeles County. Results examining the impact of the medication on treatment engagement (a length of stay of at least 30 days) and treatment completion indicate that engagement was better for Outpatient and Residential clients in the Vivitrol pilot compared to the County average. Treatment completion was also better for Vivitrol clients when compared to the County average. The Vivitrol pilot proved to be quite successful at increasing the number of clients who were engaged in and completed treatment. These along with other promising findings demonstrate how the addition of a medication, such as Vivitrol, may be used to further advance the positive impact of substance use disorder treatment.

**Chart 1: Engagement Rates of L.A. County Clients vs. Vivitrol Treatment Clients**



**Chart 2: Completion Rates of L.A. County Clients vs. Vivitrol Treatment Clients**



This project is supported by the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control. For more information regarding the LACES evaluation, please consult our website [www.laces-ucla.org](http://www.laces-ucla.org).