

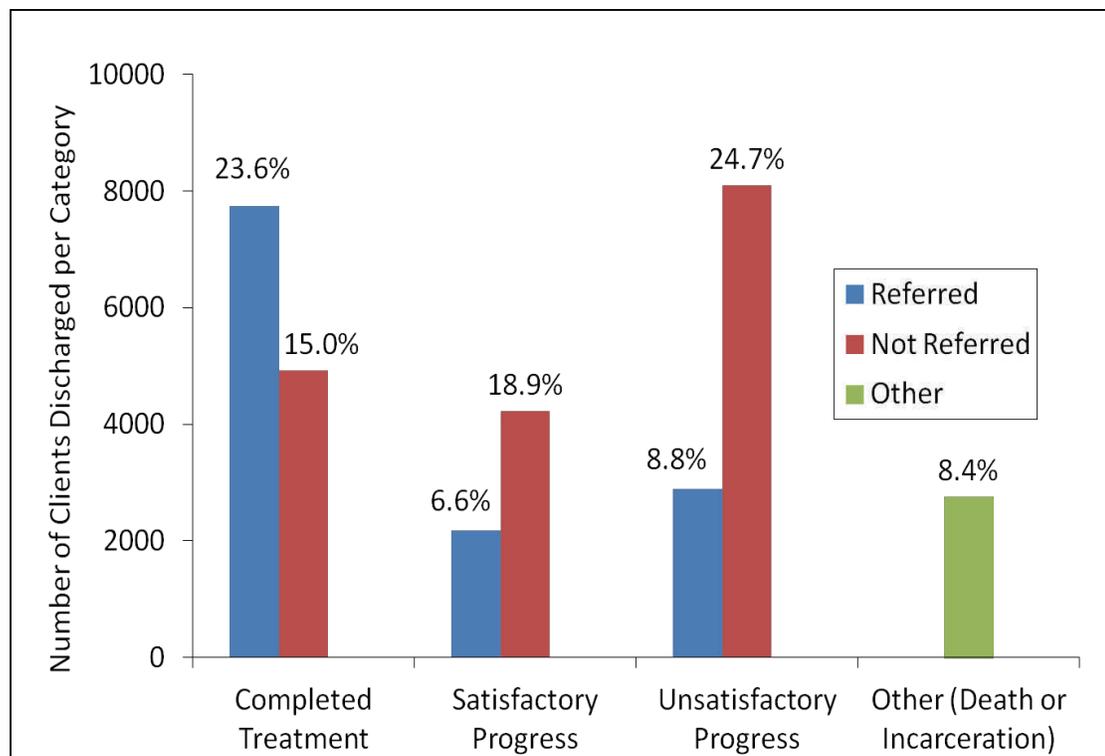
The LACES Brief

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

Publicly funded substance use disorder (SUD) treatment systems face a period of both great challenge and opportunity. Budget cuts and health care reform will challenge the SUD system to deliver better services with fewer resources at the same time a growing body of research demonstrates the effectiveness of innovative approaches to the prevention and treatment of SUDs. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) believes that these challenges and opportunities can best be met by transforming the SUD system from its current model of acute care to one that is focused on recovery. A recovery-oriented (R-O) system will treat SUDs as chronic health conditions that can be managed so that a person in recovery can maintain a healthy, active, and meaningful life. The goals of this transformation in Los Angeles County are: to 1) improve long-term outcomes for individuals with SUDs; 2) reduce the overall cost of publicly funded SUD treatment by adding prevention, early intervention, and recovery support services to the continuum of care; and 3) improve the quality of life for all County residents by lowering SUD-related crime and healthcare costs. Los Angeles County faces a number of challenges, but a growing number of opportunities to establish collaborative R-O projects with other service sectors exists. Below is an illustration of the treatment completion rates from fiscal year 2011-2012. These figures indicate that the majority of clients are not referred to additional treatment at the time of discharge, regardless of discharge status. Many could benefit from R-O services that effectively promote long-term recovery.

Chart 1: Treatment Completion Status at Discharge for LA County SUD Treatment Participants in FY 2011/2012 (n=32,796)



As shown in Chart 1, when summed across all discharge categories, only 39% of clients received a referral at the time of discharge in FY 2011/2012. The unsatisfactory progress category had the most non-referrals at 24.7%.