

The LACES Brief

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Bilingual Services in Adolescent and Adult Treatment Settings

In August 2015, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved California's amendment to the 1115 Bridge to Reform demonstration waiver for substance use disorder (SUD) services (also known as the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, or DMC-ODS). The DMC-ODS waiver requires counties provide translation services and services in languages other than English. In addition, counties should have the capacity of providing a 24/7 telephone access line with operators who can speak the non-English language that is most prevalent in the county (1).

Recently, Los Angeles (L.A.) County's division of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) conducted a survey of all SAPC-contracted SUD treatment programs (2). The purpose of the survey was to assess the treatment system in L.A. County in light of the DMC-ODS. Below is a description of bilingual services that are offered throughout L.A. County.

Chart 1: Bilingual Services (N = 188)

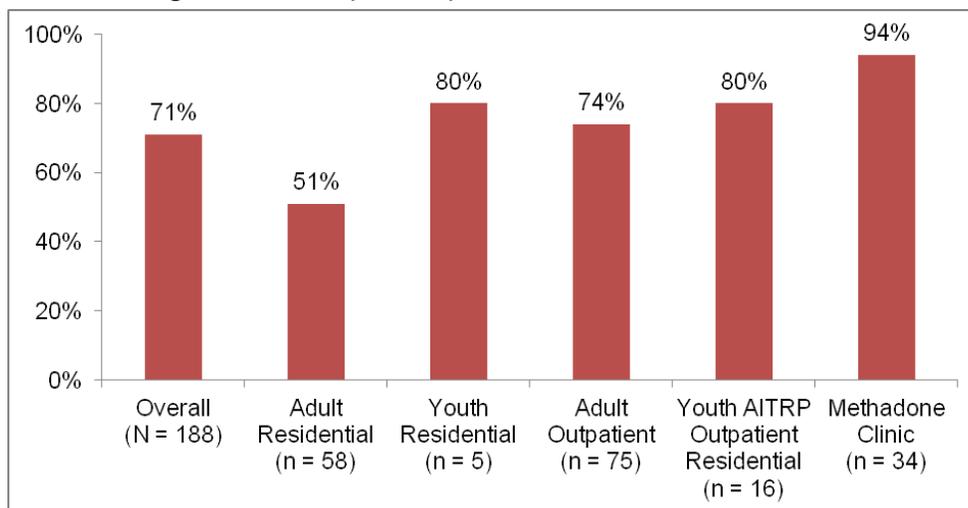


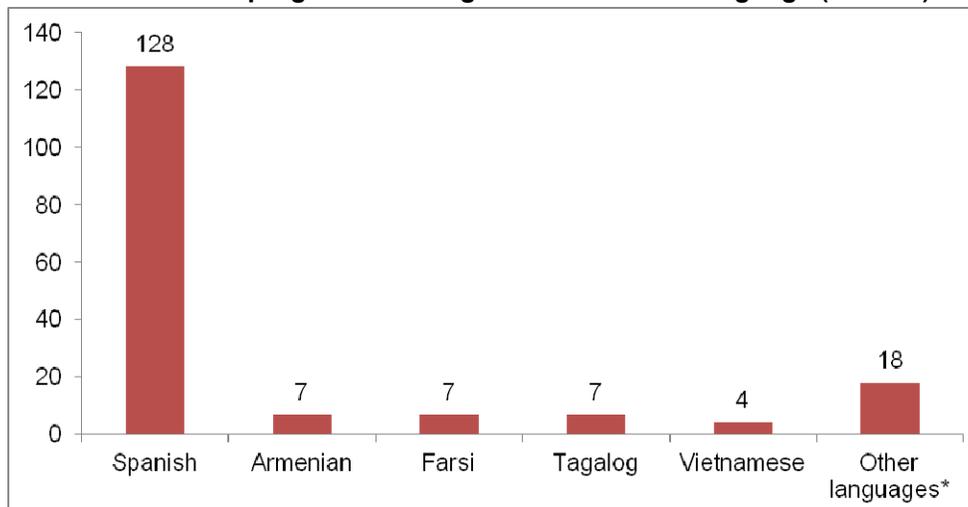
Chart 1 shows:

- Almost three-fourths of programs (133/188; 71%) offer bilingual services.

Chart 2 below shows:

- 128 out of 188 (68%) programs offered services in Spanish.
- 18 programs offered other languages, such as Japanese, Khmer, Cambodian, Creole, American Sign Language, Filipino, Arabic, Swahili, Somali, Italian, French, Russian, Siamese, and universal services.

Chart 2: Number of programs offering services in each language (N = 188)



BOTTOM LINE: Bilingual services may vary by the level of care. Providing residential services in other languages may support efforts to increase access to treatment among non-English speakers.

Although most programs offer services in Spanish, further research should assess if other language speakers predominate yet remain underserved.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT: In an effort to prepare for the 1115 Bridge to Reform demonstration project, L.A. County has obtained a reduced fee for the ASAM training. Contact Christine Oh for more information: coh@ph.lacounty.gov

References: (1) Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System. Department of Health Care Services, State of California—Health and Human Services Agency. Retrieved Sept. 4, 2015, from: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/Drug-Medi-Cal-Organized-Delivery-System.aspx> (2) SAPC Provider Survey Summary Report (2015) Office of the Medical Director and Science Officer, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control.

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.