

The LACES Brief

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

The County of Los Angeles Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) and the UCLA Los Angeles County Evaluation System (LACES) were asked to develop performance measures to further improve the alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment system. A form of performance management had been in effect for the past several years (e.g., Site Reports), but a set of guidelines or standards was desired to further move AOD treatment toward better accountability and to begin the process of examining program- and agency-level performance. The ultimate goal is to provide training and technical assistance to those programs whose performance falls short of the established guidelines. As such, the Performance Based Pilot Project was designed to assess the data requirements and performance areas that could best be impacted in Los Angeles County. Fourteen Outpatient Counseling (OC) and Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) providers participated in the pilot project, which ran from September 2008 – June 2009. Some preliminary results from the pilot project are shown below. A second pilot project has been developed to replicate the findings from the first pilot project and is currently underway. The results from both pilot projects will provide the opportunity to develop the data system and reports that will allow ADPA to begin the process of implementing performance based management and related training and technical assistance plans.

Below is a summary of all encounters during the first 30 days of treatment for both modalities.

Encounter Variable	Mean Encounters
Individual Counseling	2.9
Group Session	5.9
Case Management	0.7
Drug Test	2.0
Dosing (NTP Only)	11.8

The information in the tables below demonstrates the vast differences in services received by clients who had a length of stay (LOS) of at least 30 days and those who left treatment prior to the 30 day mark.

Encounter Variable	LOS 1-29 Days (N = 288)	LOS 30+ days (N = 884)
Individual Counseling	1.8	3.4
First Group Session	2.4	6.8
Case Management	0.6	0.9
Drug Test	1	2.1
Total Contacts	7.2	16.5

Encounter Variable	LOS 1-29 Days (N = 16)	LOS 30+ days (N = 172)
Individual Counseling	1.7	1.7
First Group Session	0.1	1.4
Case Management	0.1	0.1
Drug Test	1.6	2.1
Dosing	9.8	25
Total Contacts	13.8	30.1