

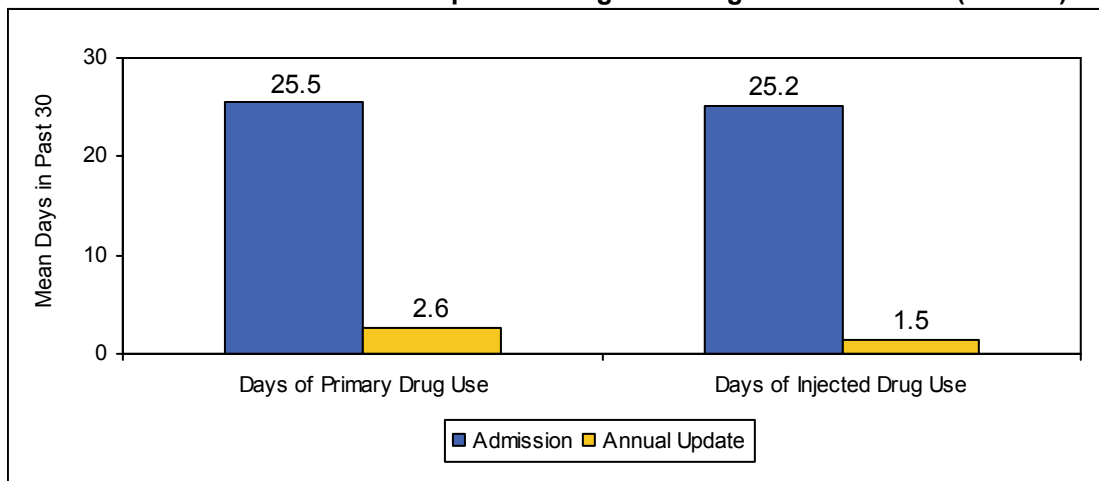
# The LACES Brief

October  
2010

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

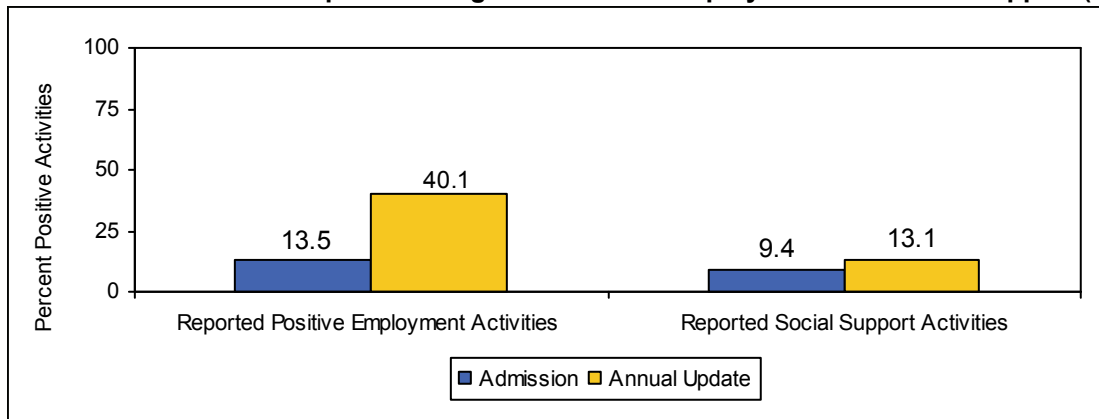
Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP) exclusively treat opiate-addicted individuals (primarily those addicted to heroin) who are prescribed methadone together with counseling and minimal medical services. NTP is the most widely known and well-researched treatment for opiate dependency. The goals of therapy are to prevent relapse, reduce narcotic cravings, and block the euphoric effects of illicit opiate use. NTP is comprehensive treatment with synthetic opiates approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for opiate-addicted patients. Authorized narcotic replacement medications are methadone and Buprenorphine (levo -alpha-acetyl- methadol or LAAM - was approved but is no longer available). In LA County, Methadone is available to patients receiving treatment in a licensed NTP (ADP, 2004). Based on the analysis of the county-wide 2009-2010 fiscal year data, treatment appears to reduce drug use and its negative sequelae (e.g., physical health problems) as well as improve areas that may help to promote the health of the participant (e.g., medication compliance) or increase the likelihood of the maintenance of the positive results obtained through treatment (e.g., social support activities). Below are selected findings from the county-wide NTP annual reports. The information is based upon the annual update data - data from participants who have remained in treatment throughout the duration of the fiscal year.

**Chart 1: Admission to Annual Update Changes in Drug and Needle Use (N = 402)**



As seen in Chart 1, the number of days of primary drug use decreased drastically by 90%. The days of injected drug use also dramatically decreased by 94%.

**Chart 2: Admission to Annual Update Changes in Positive Employment and Social Support (N = 402)**



As seen in Chart 2, the percent of reported positive employment activities increased greatly by 197% and the percent of reported social support increased by 39%.