



FACT SHEET

OFFICE OF APPLIED RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Background

The mission of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADP) is to lead efforts to reduce alcoholism, drug addiction, and problem gambling in California by developing, administering, and supporting prevention and treatment programs.

In August 2009, the Office of Applied Research and Analysis (OARA) merged with ADP's Office of Criminal Justice (OCJC) in an effort to streamline information processes. OARA supports ADP by providing evidence-based information to alcohol and other drug (AOD) stakeholders allowing them to make data informed decisions. The information is used to ensure accountability and continuous quality improvement to the AOD service delivery system.

Mission Statement

The mission of OARA is to direct, conduct and support applied research and evaluation efforts; provide quantitative estimates and forecasts of AOD use; and assist in disseminating information about alcohol and other drugs to ADP, control agencies, other government and public stakeholders. OARA interprets data to enhance prevention, treatment and recovery programs and policies relating to substance abuse and problem gambling.

OARA pursues its mission through its science-based research expertise and active partnerships with program divisions within ADP.

Vision

To serve as the leading resource and reference authority for data and research relating to substance use and problem gambling in California.

What We Do

OARA's major focus areas are to evaluate AOD related problems and consequences; qualify and predict needs for AOD services; measure client outcomes and program performance and describe populations served.

OARA's activities include:

- Supporting the Continuum of Services System Re-Engineering (COSSR) efforts by leading research and evaluation activities and by identifying data sources and data elements to determine areas for improvement in AOD service delivery
- Providing AOD use data and the interpretation of these data to the Statewide Needs Assessment and Planning (SNAP) Workgroup. The data are used to identify populations in need of AOD services
- Identifying, collecting, analyzing and reporting on the incidence, prevalence and related substance use data that is used by the state and communities to plan, monitor and evaluate AOD services needs

accomplished through the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)

- Collaborating with internal and external stakeholders regarding data sources, methodologies and data collection protocols and guidelines
- Conducting and directing evaluations for programs such as Drug Courts, California Access to Recovery Effort (CARE), California Outcomes Management System-Treatment (CalOMS-Tx), Performance Measurement and COSSR
- Determining data collection requirements and methods to conduct analyses of AOD data including treatment data and other indicators of AOD use and the consequences of that use and ultimately summarize the findings from these activities
- Producing reports and fact sheets that describe the populations who are impacted by prevention efforts or who received substance abuse treatment services. Annual reports include but are not limited to: Indicator Report, Annual Clients in Treatment Report as well as the following fact sheets: Alcohol, the California Treatment Report, Methamphetamine and Women in Treatment

For additional information, call the Office of Criminal Justice and Collaboration at the number listed below.