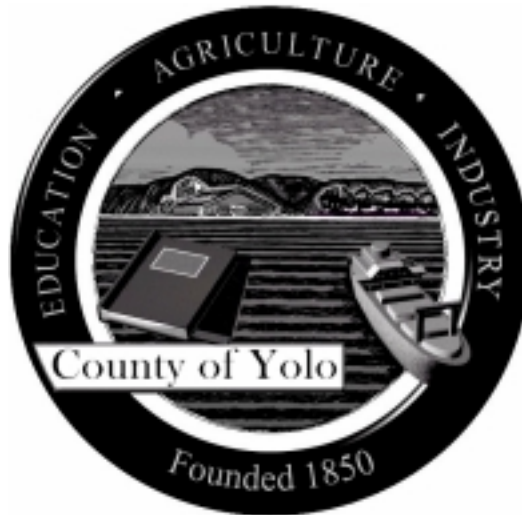


Yolo County Health Department



The Impact of Alcohol and Drugs on Health and Safety 2002



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INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth in a series of reports produced by the Yolo County Health Department on the health and well being of Yolo County residents. These reports are being produced to help the reader understand various issues in the community and to assist those who would like to plan programs or services to address identified issues.

This particular report was planned when it became clear to our department that substance abuse is a contributing factor for many of the health and safety issues affecting residents of Yolo County. Public health issues associated with substance abuse such as traffic injuries and deaths, morbidity and mortality from communicable diseases, youth risk behaviors, dependence on public assistance, drug and alcohol arrests and child abuse are addressed in the report.

While the use of illegal substances is the issue that often makes the headlines in news media and is of much concern to our community, we find that alcohol is actually a far deadlier issue in Yolo County and in the nation. We also find clear evidence that treatment for substance abuse is cost effective. It is estimated that every dollar spent on treatment saves as much as seven dollars that would have been spent on additional costs related to healthcare, social service or law enforcement.

It is our hope that this report will stimulate some readers to take action to decrease the illness, death and crime due to substance abuse in our community.

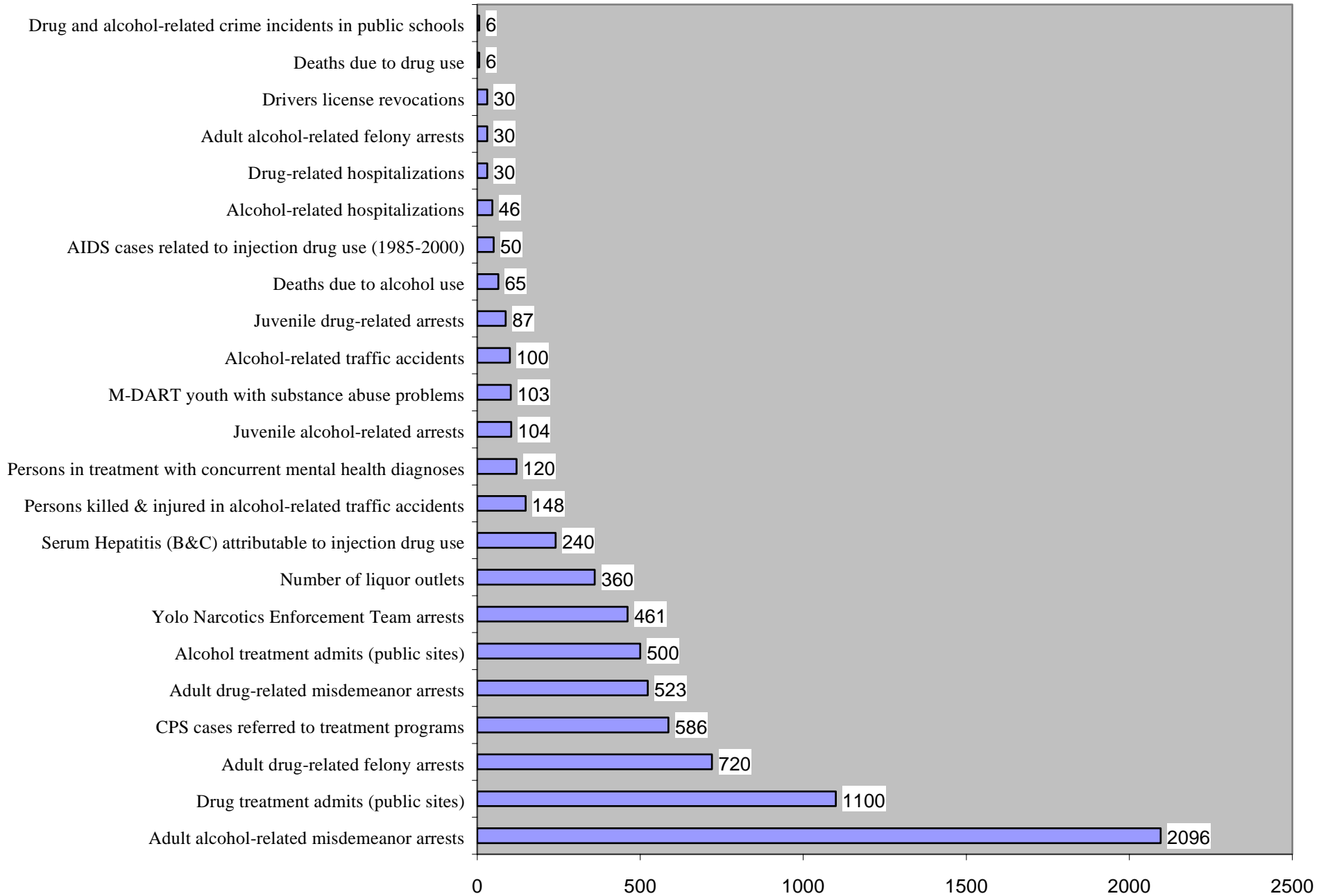
Sincerely,

Bette G. Hinton, M.D., M.P.H.
Yolo County Health Officer

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Number of Yolo County Residents Impacted by Alcohol or Drugs in 1998



Substance Abuse and Health

Mortality

What is it?

Information about mortality attributed to drugs and alcohol is derived from death certificates collected by the California Department of Health Services. The data for this report includes all deaths where drugs and alcohol are listed as a contributory cause of death.

Why is it important?

Reporting the cause of death is required for public health surveillance of illness and injury in the population. This information can provide an indicator of increasing or decreasing rates of various diseases, accidents, and intentional injuries.

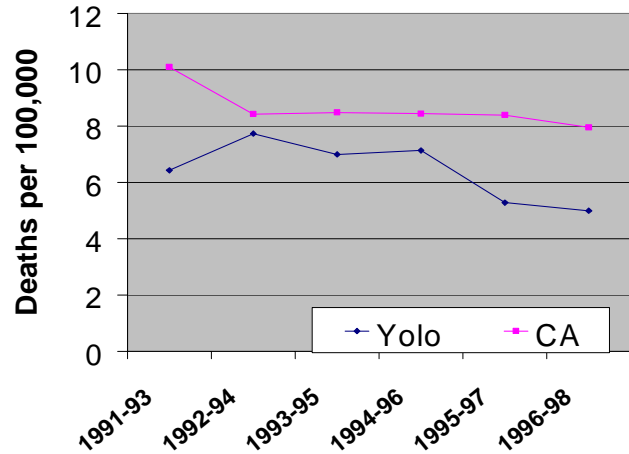
How are we doing?

Deaths secondary to **drug use** in Yolo County have been lower than the state with between 8-12 drug-related deaths reported each year. Drug-related death rates have remained relatively level

Deaths related to **alcohol use** are significantly higher than those attributed to drug use. An estimated 60-70 people die each year in Yolo County due to alcohol-related conditions. Alcohol-related deaths account for 6% of total deaths in both Yolo County and California.

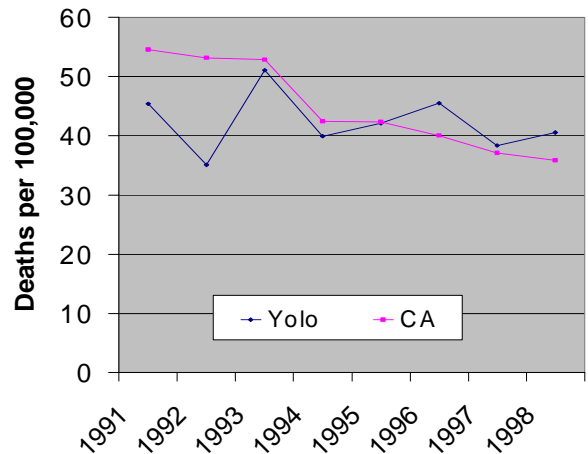
The number of alcohol- or drug-related deaths that occur in Yolo County annually is more than deaths due to diabetes, female breast cancer and homicide combined.

**DRUG-related Deaths per 100,000 population
Yolo County and California
1991-1998, three-year trends**



Sources: County Health Profiles, 1991-1998
California Department of Health Services

**ALCOHOL-related Deaths per 100,000 population
Yolo County and California, 1991-1998**



Sources: Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 1991-1998
California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs

- **An estimated 70-80 people die each year in Yolo County due to alcohol or drug-related conditions, more than the annual number of deaths due to diabetes, female breast cancer, and homicide combined.**
- **Alcohol-related deaths account for 6% of total deaths in Yolo County and is six times more likely than drug use to be identified as a contributing cause of death.**

Hospitalizations

What is it?

Information about hospitalization for conditions related to alcohol or drug use is provided from the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. Alcohol-related conditions include alcoholic psychoses, alcohol dependant syndrome, non-dependant alcohol use, alcoholic liver damage, fetal alcohol syndrome, and alcoholic gastritis. Drug-related conditions include addiction, overdose, poisoning or adverse effects of drugs.

Why is it important?

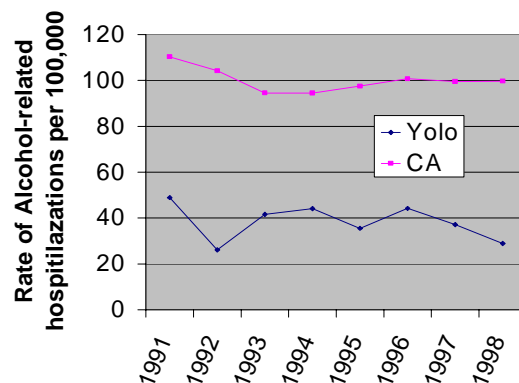
Hospitalization data reflect the number of individuals whose health is adversely affected by use of alcohol or drugs to the extent that they require in-patient hospital care. Costs associated with alcohol or drug-related hospitalization include hospital fees, treatment and medicines, time provided by health care practitioners and loss of the individual's productivity.

How are we doing?

Hospitalizations related to drug or alcohol use have shown a decline in Yolo County since 1995. Hospitalization rates due to alcohol or drug use are lower among Yolo County residents compared to the state. On average, 75 persons are hospitalized each year in Yolo County for alcohol or drug-related conditions.

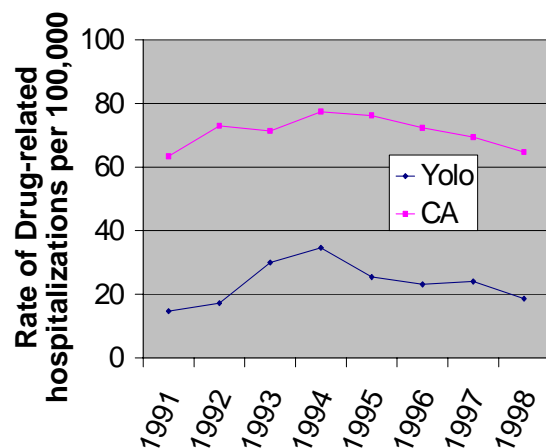
** These data underestimate the extent of illness due to alcohol and drugs. Hospital codes do not include all persons diagnosed with conditions that may have been due to alcohol or drug abuse or persons who are treated and discharged from urgent care or emergency clinics.*

Persons Hospitalized for ALCOHOL-related problems Yolo County and California 1991-1998



Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

Persons Hospitalized for DRUG-related problems Yolo County and California 1991-1998



Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

- **On average, 75 persons are hospitalized each year in Yolo County for alcohol or drug-related conditions. The number of persons reported for health conditions due to alcohol or drug abuse do not include persons treated in outpatient, emergency clinics or substance abuse treatment centers.**

Traffic Injuries

What is it?

Information about alcohol-related traffic accidents is derived from the California Highway Patrol. The Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) processes all reported fatal and injury collisions which have occurred on California's state highways and all other roadways, excluding private property. Data about drug-related accidents is currently not reported.

Why is it important?

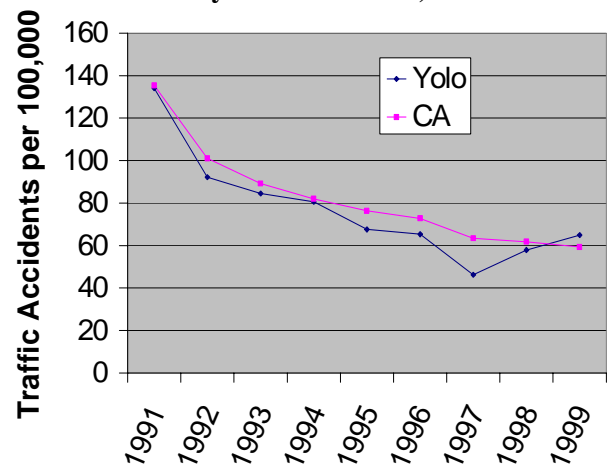
California has not had a day without an alcohol-related traffic fatality since 1991. In 1999, 1170 Californians were killed as a result of an alcohol-involved traffic accident. Alcohol is a contributing factor in one-third of all traffic-related fatalities.

How are we doing?

Alcohol related fatalities and accidents have decreased significantly in both California and Yolo County in the last decade. In 1991, 192 alcohol-related fatal and injury collisions were documented in Yolo County. By 1999, this number had decreased by nearly 50%, with 103 alcohol-related accidents. The number of driver's license permanent revocations due to alcohol abuse has also decreased by half in Yolo County, with 66 licenses revoked in 1991 compared to only 30 in 1998.

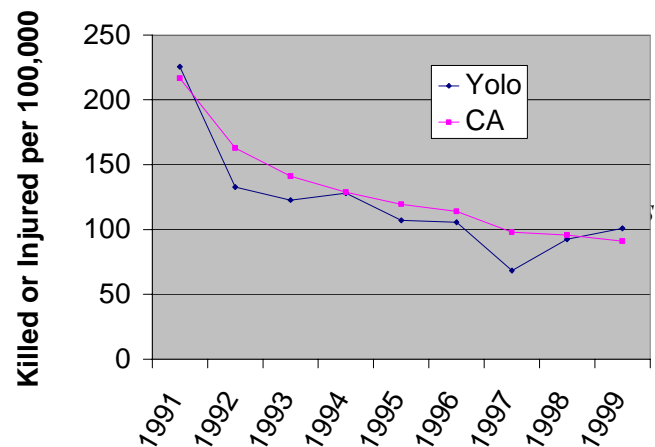
Decreases in alcohol-related accidents in the last decade have been attributed to improved public awareness and education. It is one of the most significant improvements in public health observed in the last decade.

**Alcohol-Related Traffic Accidents
Yolo County and California, 1991-1999**



Source: Statewide Integrated Traffic Records

**Persons Killed or Injured
in Alcohol-Related Traffic Accidents
Yolo County and California, 1991-1999**



Source: Statewide Integrated Traffic Records

- **In the last decade, alcohol-related fatal and injury collisions in Yolo County and California have been reduced by half. It is one of the most significant improvements in public health observed in the last decade.**

Hepatitis B & C

What is it?

Hepatitis B and C infections are caused by two different viruses that can both damage the liver, the organ needed to filter toxins out of the body. The majority of people infected with Hepatitis C are initially asymptomatic, but the infection will become chronic in 50-80% of cases, causing liver damage. Ten percent of persons infected with Hepatitis B and over 50% of those infected with Hepatitis C develop serious liver function damage, cirrhosis or liver cancer. The fatality rate associated with Hepatitis C is greater than that for Hepatitis B.

Why is it important?

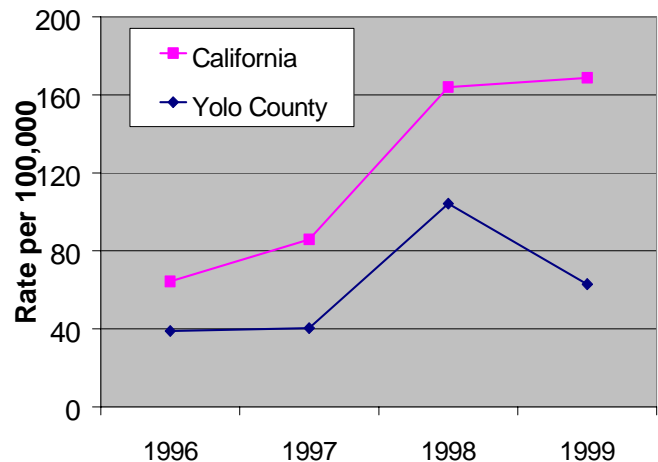
Transmission of both Hepatitis B and C viruses is through exposure to blood, under-the-skin infusions, prenatal exposure of the unborn baby and sexual contact. Between 50-75% of the Hepatitis C cases are related to injection drug use. For Hepatitis B, transmission occurs through sexual contact, perinatal transmission to the baby and injection drug use. Blood banks routinely screen for Hepatitis virus.

How are we doing?

The rate of reported Hepatitis C acute and chronic cases has risen dramatically over the past few years, due in part to new screening and reporting practices. In December of 1998, the California Department of Health Services required all local health providers to report Hepatitis C cases. New treatments being developed for Hepatitis B & C are costly and have been shown to have variable rates of success. As of 2001, there was no vaccine available for Hepatitis C.

Infections due to Hepatitis B have been on the decline. Vaccine series are now routinely given to infants, adolescents and at-risk adults.

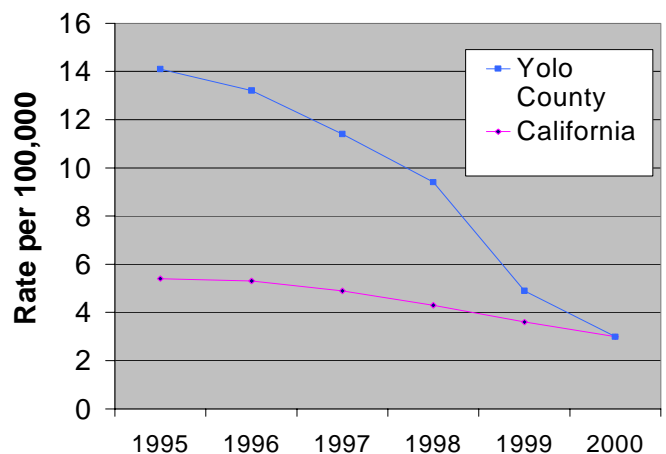
**Hepatitis C Rates
Both Acute and Chronic Cases
Yolo County and California
1997-2000**



Note: The rise in Hepatitis C rates may be due in part to changes in reporting implemented in 1998.

Source: Department of Health Services, Communicable Diseases Branch

**Rates of Acute Cases of Hepatitis B
Yolo County and California
1997-2000**



Source: Department of Health Services, Communicable Diseases Branch

- **It is estimated that up to 90% of persons with a history of injecting drugs may be infected with Hepatitis C virus. Health officials are more aware of the increased number of Hepatitis C cases since new testing and reporting procedures were implemented in the mid 1990's.**
- **The number of persons infected with Hepatitis B has been decreasing since 1995. Hepatitis B vaccine is now given routinely to infants, adolescents and at-risk adults.**

HIV/AIDS

What is it?

A person is diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) when they are infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and become ill with one or more AIDS-defining conditions.

Why is it important?

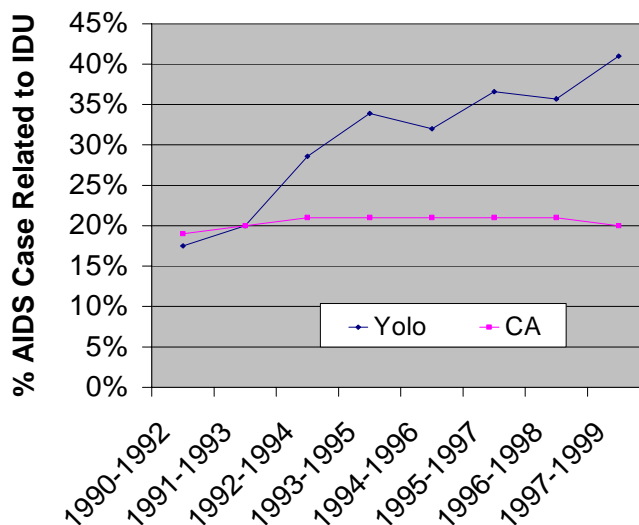
HIV infection related to injection drug use accounts for 20% of all AIDS cases in California. Although, there has been a significant reduction in the number of deaths due to AIDS, data for 2001 suggest a reversal in trends showing an increase in persons newly infected with HIV.

How are we doing?

The percent of persons with AIDS who reported injecting drugs has increased in Yolo County since 1990. Nearly 40% of AIDS cases reported in Yolo County from 1997-1999 were related to injection drug use. Alcohol abuse has also been correlated with increased risk of exposure to HIV and other communicable diseases because of the likelihood of transmission through unprotected sex.

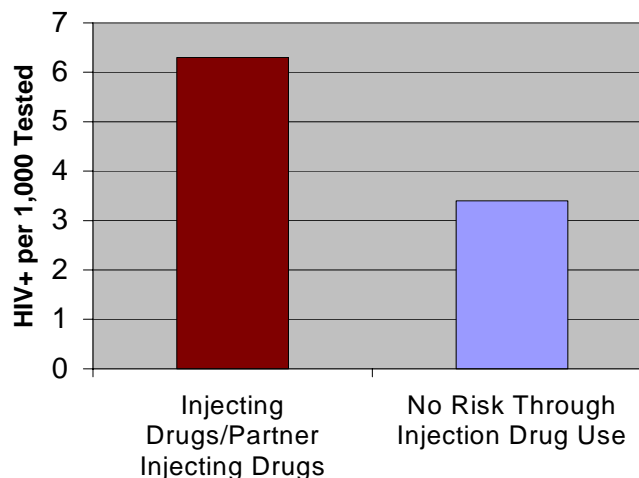
Of the persons who tested positive for HIV infection at publicly-funded HIV testing sites in Yolo County from 1997-2000, 50% were injection drug users or partners of injection drug users. *Persons reporting injection drug activities were twice as likely to test positive for HIV compared to those who reported no risk through injection drug use.* In the year 2000, there was a two-fold increase in the number of persons testing positive for HIV, due in part to increased outreach to drug-using populations.

Percent of AIDS Cases related to Injection Drug Use (IDU) Yolo County and California, 1990-2000 (3 year avg)



Source: Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS

Rate of HIV Infection related to Injection Drug Use at publicly-funded HIV testing sites Yolo County, 1997-2000 (n~ 4000 tests)



Source: Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS

- **Injection drug users or partners of injection drug users who received HIV screening at publicly-funded test sites in Yolo County were *twice* as likely to be infected with HIV compared to those with no injection drug use history.**

Youth Risk Behaviors

What is it?

Data has been collected at the county and state level as to the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol by middle and high school youth as well as kids' thoughts and attitudes regarding these issues.

The California Department of Education conducted the Healthy Kids Survey for 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grade students. The students were surveyed about a variety of health issues, including substance use. The data may not be representative of all students as only youth whose parents gave written consent participated in the survey.

Why is it important?

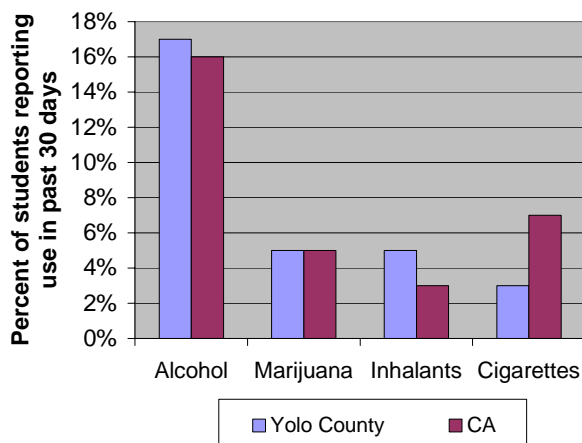
Addictive behaviors are most difficult to break when started early in life. Among adults who enter publicly funded substance abuse treatment programs in Yolo County, over 60% report first using their drug of addiction before the age of 17.

How are we doing?

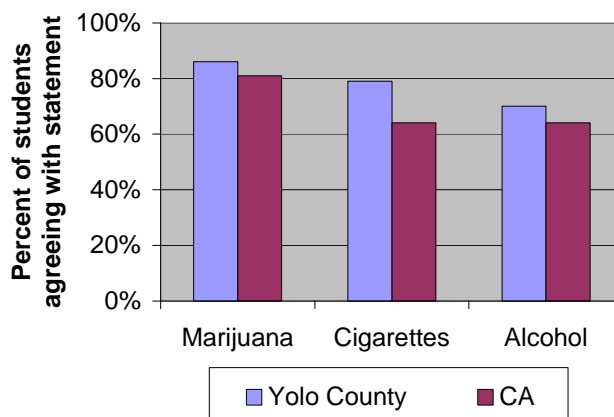
Students were asked about substance use in the past 30 days. In almost all districts, current use rates of all substances were lower than the state average. Tobacco use among Yolo County students was significantly lower than among California students as a whole.

In a series of questions regarding perceived harm of different substances, students in Yolo County perceived tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana as more harmful than California students. Yolo County 7th grade students believed that frequent use of cigarettes or marijuana is more harmful than frequent use of alcohol.

7th Grade Students' Use of Substances Within the Last 30 Days Yolo County and California, 2000



7th Grade Students agree with the statement: "This substance is extremely harmful when used frequently" Yolo County, 2000



Sources: Healthy Kids Survey, Davis, Esparto, Winters and Washington School Districts

- **Of 7th grade students completing surveys at schools throughout Yolo County, 17% reported using alcohol and 5% reported using marijuana or inhalants in the last 30 days. Substance use reported by Yolo County students is similar to that reported by 7th grade students in California.**

Cal-WORKs

What is it?

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORK) is a program that gives cash aid and services to eligible needy families. These services include job placement skills training and assistance, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment programs.

Why is it important?

Substance abuse is related to job retention rates, unemployment and homelessness.

How are we doing?

In 2000, 38% of Cal-WORKs clients in Yolo County were referred by social workers for assessment of substance abuse and/or mental health related problems. Of these, 14% enrolled in alcohol and drug treatment programs.

Mental Health Diagnoses

What is it?

Mental health disorders range from severe and persistent to milder forms of depression or personality disorders. Persons who suffer from depression or anxiety are more likely to self-medicate by using alcohol or illegal substances.

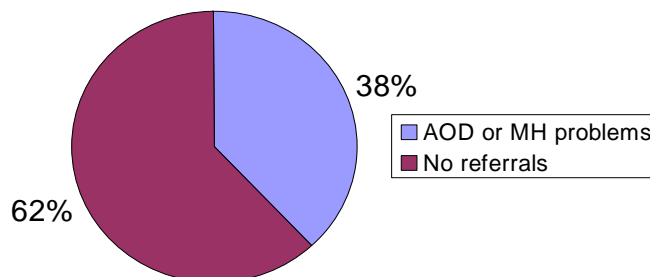
Why is it important?

Chronic substance users are also more likely to have depression and other psychiatric disorders.

How are we doing?

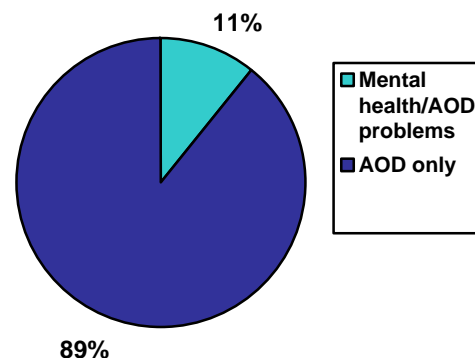
One out of ten (10.7%) persons in publicly funded alcohol and drug treatment facilities in Yolo County during 1999-2000 had dual diagnoses of mental health and substance abuse problems.

Percent of CalWORKs recipients referred for substance abuse and/or mental health problems, Yolo County, 2000



Source: Yolo County CalWORKs

Percent of persons in alcohol and drug treatment (AOD) who also have concurrent mental health problems, Yolo County 1999-2000



Source: Yolo County Department of Alcohol and Drugs & Mental Health, 2001

- **Over one-third of clients enrolled in the Cal-WORKs program Yolo County in year 2000 were referred for assessment of substance abuse and/or mental health related problems.**
- **One out of ten (10.7%) persons receiving substance abuse treatment services from publicly-funded programs in Yolo County were also diagnosed with mental health problems.**

Substance Abuse and Crime

Adult Arrests

What is it?

Drug and alcohol related arrests include possession or production of narcotics (methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine), marijuana, and other drug law violations or driving under the influence, public drunkenness, and liquor law infractions. These statistics are maintained by the Department of Justice.

Why is it important?

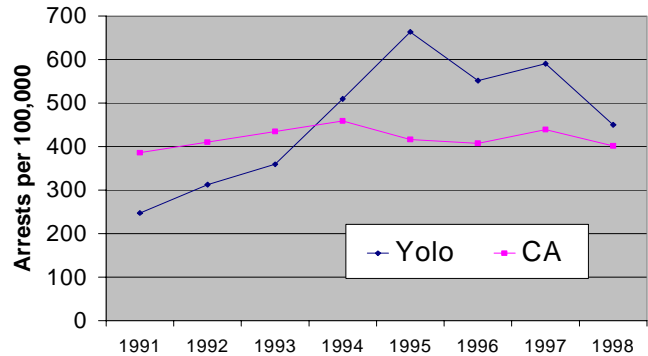
Alcohol and drug abuse related arrest rates are correlated with higher rates of burglary, assaults, and homicides. Substance abuse arrests often affect the ability to maintain employment, stable housing, and the care and safety of children in the household. In 1998, states spent \$30.7 billion on the burden of substance abuse for incarceration, probation, parole, juvenile justice, and family and criminal courts – totaling 5% of the budget. These numbers are expected to increase in California with the passage of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act mandating treatment for people convicted of non-violent drug offenses.

How are we doing?

Alcohol-related arrests have been significantly decreasing throughout the states since the early 1990's. In 1981, Yolo County implemented a narcotics YONET task force (Yolo Narcotics Enforcement Team). In 1991, drug-related arrests accounted for 15% of total arrests. By 1998, 25% of all arrests in Yolo County were drug-related, more than arrests due to either violent or property offenses.

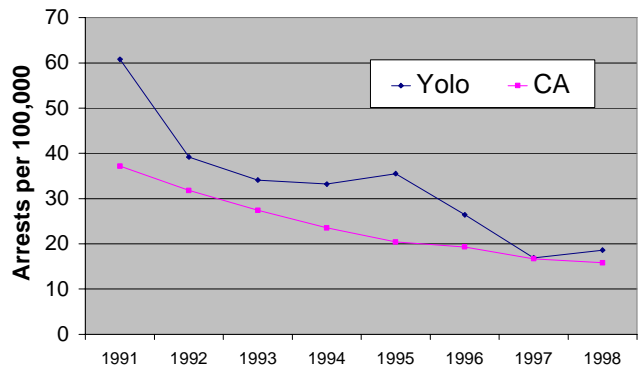
- The number of arrests due to drugs has been increasing in Yolo County with over 600 felony arrests related to drug use each year. Methamphetamine is the primary drug among Yolo Narcotic Enforcement arrests.
- Alcohol-related felony arrests have decreased significantly in the last decade.

Adult DRUG-Related Felony Arrests Yolo County and California 1991-1998



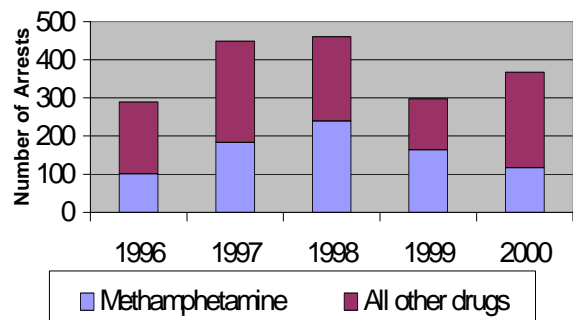
Sources: California Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics; Indicators of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Adult ALCOHOL-Related Felony Arrests Yolo County and California 1991-1998



Sources: California Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics; Indicators of alcohol and Drug Abuse

Total Number of YONET Arrests Due to Methamphetamine and Other Drugs Yolo County, 1996-2000



Source: YONET Report, 2000

Child abuse and neglect

What is it?

Child abuse and neglect is defined as the physical injury by other than accidental means, that results in a mental or emotional condition which is a result of abuse or neglect, negligent treatment, sexual abuse, maltreatment, exploitation or abandonment of a child under age 18 or individuals who are mentally retarded.

Why is it important?

Children of substance abusers are nearly three times (2.7) more likely to be physically or sexually abused and four times more likely to be neglected as children of parents who do not abuse alcohol or drugs (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, 1999).

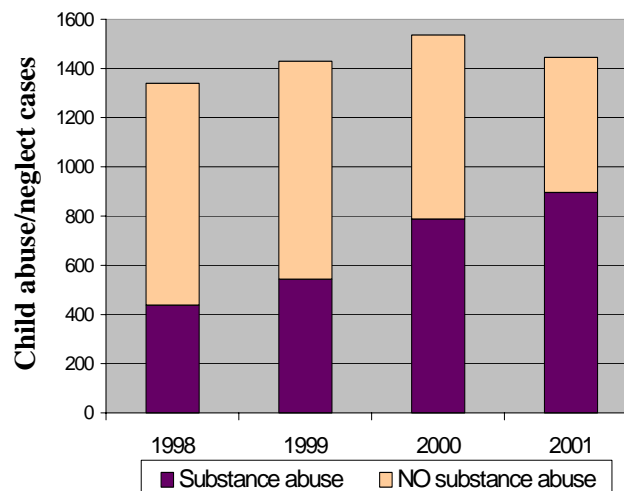
It is estimated that substance abuse is a contributing factor in 40-60% of incidents of child abuse and neglect and 70% of cases in which children are removed from their home. Children who experience abuse or neglect are at increased risk for long-term cognitive and socio-emotional problems.

How are we doing?

The incidence of child abuse and neglect has more than doubled in the last twenty years, due in part to the increase in substance abuse. In 2001, 62% of the families involved with Child Protective Services for child abuse or neglect were referred for substance abuse treatment, an increase from previous years.

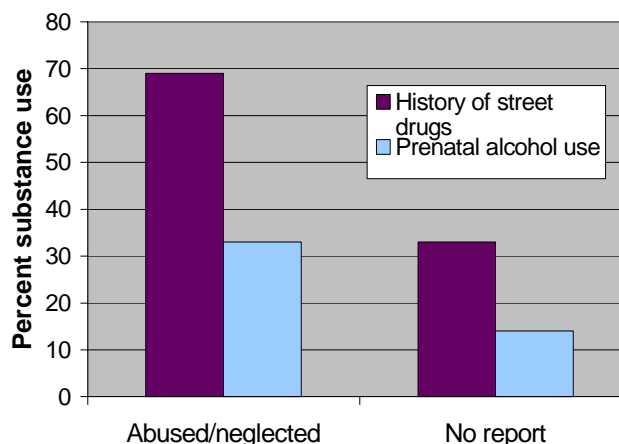
In a study of perinatal risk for abuse and neglect conducted in Yolo County in 2001, twice as many mothers of abused or neglected infants had used street drugs (69%) and drank alcohol during pregnancy (35%) as mothers of infants with no report of child maltreatment (33% ever used drugs and 14% used alcohol in pregnancy).

**Proportion of families of abused or neglected children referred for substance abuse treatment
Yolo County, 1998-2001**



Source: Child Welfare Services, Case Management System

**Prenatal alcohol use and history of drug use among mothers of abused/neglected infants compared with those with no report of child abuse/neglect
Yolo County, 2001**



Source: Perinatal predictors of early child abuse and neglect, Yolo County Departments of Health and Employment and Social Services, 2001

- **An increasing percent of families involved with Child Welfare Services for child abuse have substance abuse problems.**
- **In 2001, 62% of families involved with child protective service for child abuse or neglect in Yolo County were referred for substance abuse services.**

Juvenile Arrests Among Youth ages 10-17

What is it?

The California Department of Justice collects information about drug and alcohol related arrests among youth ages 10-17 years old.

Why is it important?

Since addictive and criminal behavior often start early in life, it is useful to look at trends in alcohol or drug-related arrests among children and teens in our community.

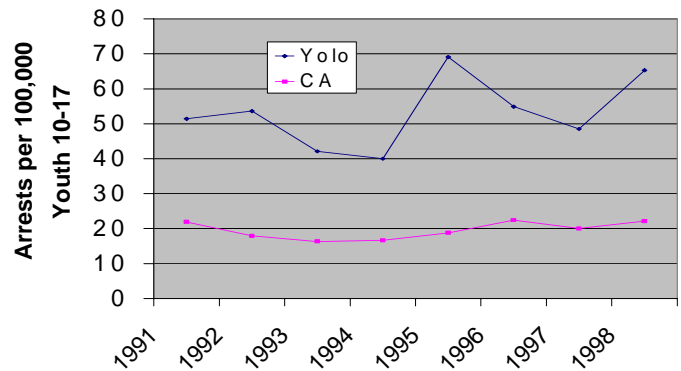
How are we doing?

Drug related arrests among youth 10-17 have been increasing in both Yolo County and California. Alcohol related arrests among Yolo County youth are nearly double the State average. The increase in substance abuse-related arrests among youth in Yolo County may be due to higher rates of juvenile substance abuse or differences in law enforcement reporting rates in different jurisdictions.

Drug and alcohol offenses are published in the California Safe School Assessment report by the California Department of Education. Crime rates in public schools related to substance abuse vary by school district, with a rise in reported incidents related to alcohol or drugs during the 1999-2000 school year.

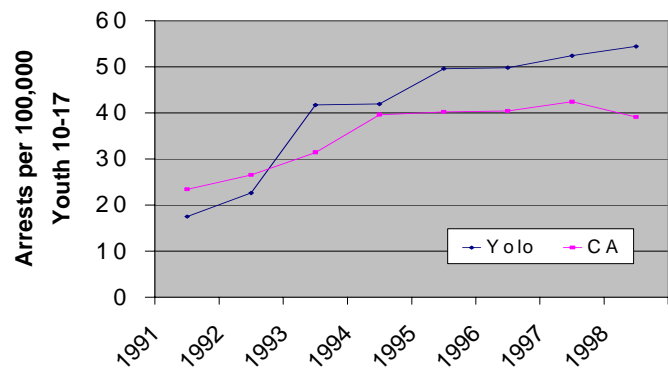
- **Drug related arrests in Yolo County among youth under age 18 have more than doubled since 1991.**
- **Alcohol related arrests among youths are higher in Yolo County compared to California.**

Alcohol-related arrest rates among youth 10-17 Yolo County and California, 1991-1998



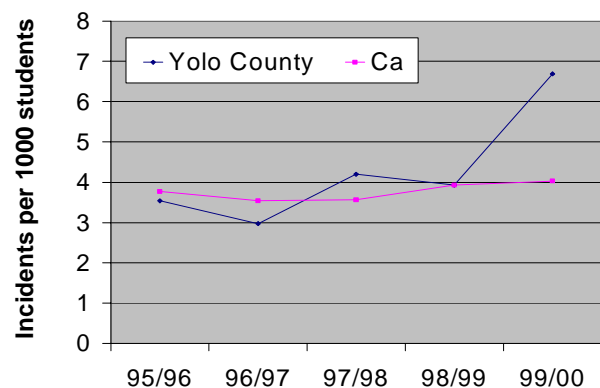
Source: Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drug-related arrest rates among youth 10-17 Yolo County and California, 1991-1998



Source: Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Drug and Alcohol Crime Incidents in Public Schools, Yolo County, 1995-2000



Source: California Safe Schools Assessment

Youth Probation: Multi-Disciplinary Assessment and Review Team (M-DART)

What is it?

The Yolo County Multi-Disciplinary Assessment and Review Team (M-DART) reviews probation cases among youth where out-of-home placement is being considered. Some cases are also referred to M-DART from Child Protective Services (5%) or Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (3%).

M-DART has representation from the following departments: Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health, County Office of Education, Probation, Health and Employment and Social Services.

Why is it important?

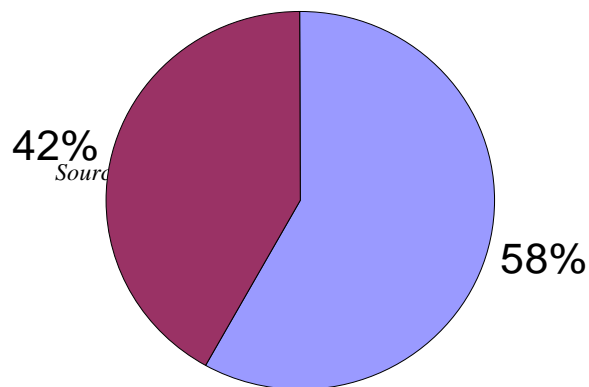
M-DART's mission statement is to promote and facilitate inter-agency communication and cooperation in providing services to high-risk youth and their families. Participating agencies insure that all possible resources are explored and utilized, and that service plans have joint goals and objectives.

Because at-risk youth usually have multi-faceted issues, the M-DART team reviews all of these factors and attempts to provide the full range of individual and family services needed to avoid removing children from their home.

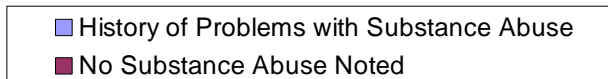
How are we doing?

Over half of the youth (58%) referred to M-DART for review have had problems with substance abuse. For the calendar year 2000, a total of 178 cases were presented to M-DART; 27 females and 151 males. Of those, 103 (58%) had a history of substance abuse.

**Percent of Youth Referred to M-DART
With a History of Substance Abuse
Yolo County, 2000**



Total youth= 178



Source: Yolo County M-DART, 2000

- **Of the youth on probation who were referred to M-DART in 2000, 58% had a history of substance abuse.**

Substance Abuse Treatment

Outpatient and Inpatient Treatment

What is it?

Admissions to treatment centers that receive any public funding or that are required to report as a condition of State licensing are tracked by the California Alcohol and Drug Data System (CADDSS). The data presented here represent information collected by CADDSS and do not include data from private treatment centers.

Why is it important?

Treatment of addicted individuals, although not necessarily a reflection of general drug or alcohol use, does give us some measure of the population using drugs and alcohol.

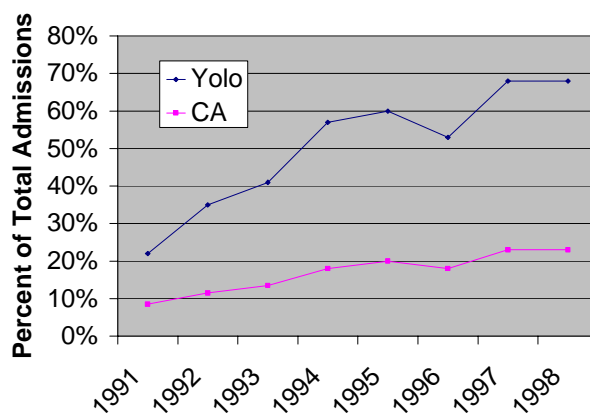
How are we doing?

Admissions to drug and alcohol treatment programs have been on the rise in the last decade in Yolo County. Over 50% of individuals entering treatment were referred from the courts and criminal justice system; 33% entered voluntarily. For California overall, less than 40% who enter treatment were referred from the criminal justice system.

In the last decade, methamphetamine treatment admissions have increased with methamphetamine the drug of choice for 37% of treatment admissions. Between 1991-1998, alcohol related treatment admissions have also doubled. Patients remain in treatment in Yolo County for a long periods compared to California.

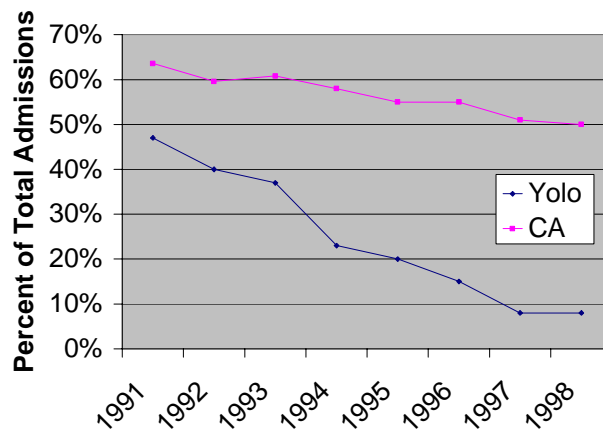
- **The percent of persons entering treatment due to methamphetamine use in Yolo County has nearly tripled since 1991 while admissions related to heroin use decreased by 40%.**
- **Drug courts and the criminal justice system were the source of referrals to substance abuse treatment centers for more than half of those entering treatment.**

Admission Secondary to Methamphetamine Use Yolo County and California, 1991-1998



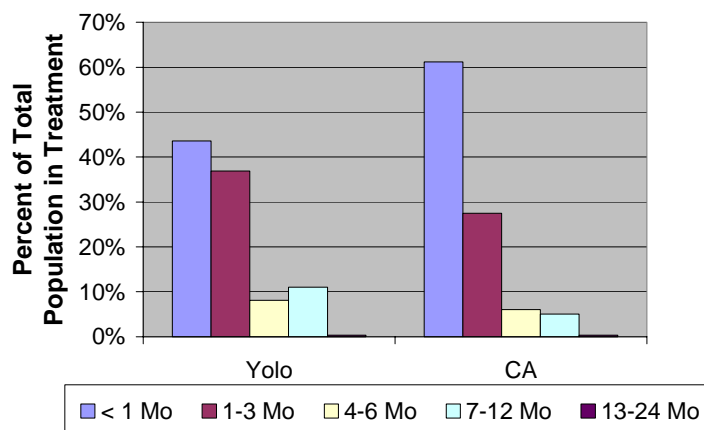
Source: California Alcohol and Drug Data System

Admission Secondary to Heroin Use Yolo County and California, 1991-1998



Source: California Alcohol and Drug Data System

Duration of Time in Treatment Yolo County and California, FY 1999/2000



Source: California Alcohol and Drug Data System, 7/1/99-6/30/00

Drug Court

What is it?

Persons convicted of a drug offense attend drug court, a system which joins the criminal justice system with treatment programs. In Yolo County, drug court provides additional services to those convicted, including weekly drug testing, bi-weekly appearances before a drug court judge, and personal supervision and/or treatment contacts at least three times per week. Adult Diversion Drug Court was founded in March 1995, while Juvenile Drug Court has been in existence since June 1999.

Why is it important?

Clients arrested for drug offenses are monitored for regular attendance in substance abuse treatment and are required to have periodic drug testing.

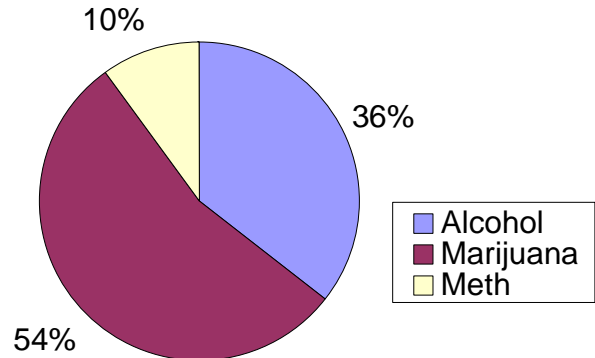
How are we doing?

The average drug court attendee spends three months in jail, and has at least a fifteen-year history of drug abuse. For adults entering the criminal system, the drug of choice has been methamphetamine. Among juveniles arrested for drug offences, the drugs of choice are alcohol and marijuana.

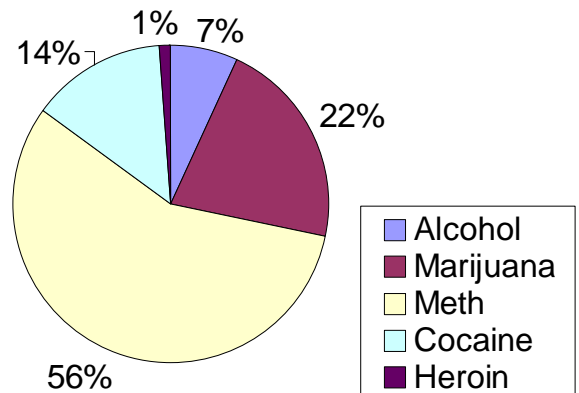
The Yolo County Juvenile Drug Court's rate of retention is 14% higher than the national average, and is one of only 130 programs nationwide. Of the youth involved in Juvenile Drug Court, 21% are female, 79% are male. One-third of the youths in the program are current wards of the court.

Since the inception of Adult Drug Court in 1995, over 1000 adults have completed the program. In 2000-2001, the Dependency Drug Court had 79 parents participating, affecting 160 children.

**Drug of Choice Among Active JUVENILE Drug Court Clients in May 2001
Yolo County**



**Drug of Choice Among Active ADULT Drug Court Clients in April 2001
Yolo County**



Source: Yolo County Drug Court Statistics

- **One-third of youths in Juvenile Drug Court are wards of the court. Yolo County's Juvenile Drug Court has a rate of retention 14% higher than the national average.**
- **The drug of choice for adult drug offenders is methamphetamine while youth offenders more often use marijuana.**

CALDATA

What is it?

CALDATA is a study of treatment outcomes in a random sample of persons representing approximately 150,000 individuals who, during 1991-1992, received drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services in California. CALDATA sought to demonstrate the costs and benefits of drug treatment.

Why is it important?

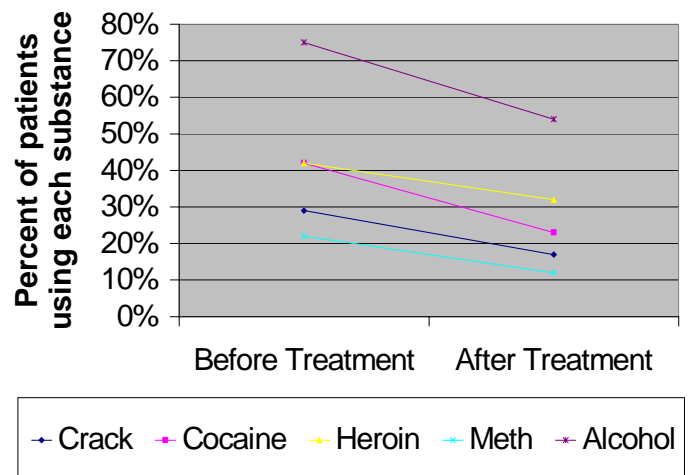
CALDATA is especially relevant to California in light of the recent passage of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act, which mandates treatment in lieu of incarceration for all persons convicted of drug possession.

How are we doing?

For every drug reviewed, patients reported substantial declines in substance use for up to 15-24 months after treatment. Crimes related to drug trafficking and arrests fell sharply for men and women participating in the program. Hospitalizations also decreased for both men and women in the study.

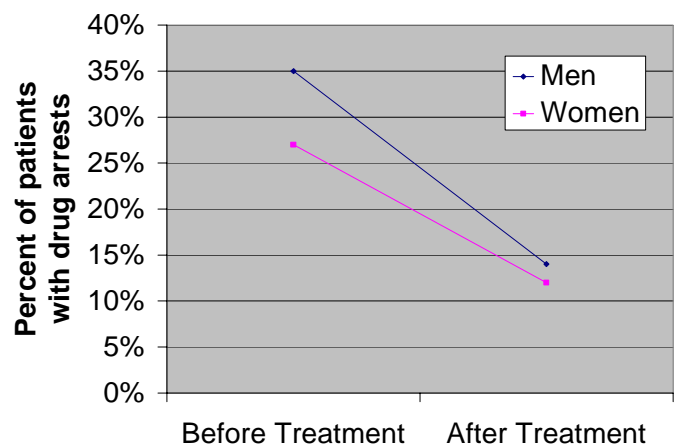
In the CALDATA report, *Evaluating Recovery Services*, it was estimated that the economic benefits of treatment (totaling over \$1.49 billion) outweighed the cost of treatment (\$209 million) by a factor of 7 to 1. This was due mostly to reductions in crime and partly to reductions in healthcare usage. In addition, in the National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study, the average costs of treatment per client were estimated to be \$1800-\$6800, compared to the national average incarceration costs of 18,000 per year, a potential two- to ten-fold difference.

Changes in Substance Use in Males Before and up to 15-24 Months After Substance Abuse Treatment California, 1991-1994



Source: CALDATA, NIDA

Percent of Treatment Patients with Drug Arrests Before and up to 15-24 Months After Substance Abuse Treatment California, 1991-1994



Source: CALDATA, NIDA

- For every drug reviewed, there were substantial declines in use for up to 24 months after treatment.
- National studies on the cost-effectiveness of substance abuse treatment have found that the economic benefits of treatment outweigh the cost of treatment by a factor of seven to one.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◆ Include a three-tiered response of prevention activities for youth and young adults, timely access to treatment and stringent law enforcement (Crime Analysis Unit, Woodland Police).
- ◆ Develop treatment programs on “research-based” approaches for effective practice and improve methods for applying findings from research for use by practitioners (Legislative Analyst Office, 1999, California Preventive Platform, 2000).
- ◆ Prioritize substance abuse treatment as an alternative to incarceration for eligible offenders (California Voters, Proposition 36, 2000).
- ◆ Promote early intervention by assessing substance abuse during pregnancy and among families with children enrolling for welfare benefits (National Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse, 1999).
- ◆ Develop treatment options that are individually focused and geared to life change over an extended time (Cal DATA, 1995).
- ◆ Develop methods to motivate, engage and retain persons in on-going substance treatment through voluntary home visiting programs, support groups and mentoring programs and/or with regular monitoring by drug courts, child welfare or employers.
- ◆ Assure that the client and treatment provider should regularly re-assess effectiveness and active engagement in treatment provided (Cal DATA, 1995).
- ◆ Train staff in mental health, public health, child welfare and other social services in assessing substance abuse issues. Alternately, substance abuse treatment providers should be trained to identify child abuse and mental health needs of substance abusers (Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, 1999).
- ◆ Prepare and plan for relapse and strengthen transition and engagement in post-treatment community “after-care” services (NIDA, Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment, 2001).
- ◆ Expand services for youth by creating strategies to overcome barriers to treatment, actively involving youth in treatment decisions, offering local day and residential youth treatment (DATAC, 1999, California Prevention Platform, 2000 Legislative Analyst Office, 1999).
- ◆ Offer a recovery center for transitional living for women and children (DATAC, 1999).
- ◆ Address coexisting mental health and substance abuse problems in an integrated plan (NIDA, Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment, 2001).
- ◆ Establish formal agreements for cross-disciplinary collaboration between county departments, state prisons and the California youth authority (Legislative Analyst Office, 1999, California Preventive Platform, 2000).

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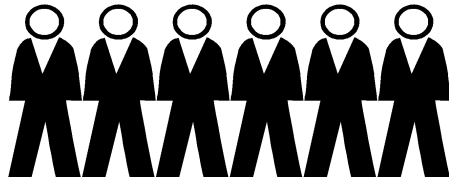
The complete report of the Yolo County Health Department

THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

will be available at the Yolo County web site:

<http://www.yolocounty.org/org/health>

6 Deaths Due to Drugs in Yolo County in 1998



84 Deaths Due to Alcohol in Yolo County in 1998

