



**L.A. DAPA**

**LOS ANGELES DRUG &  
ALCOHOL POLICY  
ALLIANCE**

**PRESS KIT**



**NEW RESEARCH SHOWS 80% OF CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
OVERCROWDED WITH ALCOHOL RELATED BUSINESSES**

***New Data Released as Community Organizations Press City Council to Take Action on Alcohol Density***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2019

Contact: Cynthia Nickerson, 323-675-8785 (cell)  
[cnickerson@publicstrategies.org](mailto:cnickerson@publicstrategies.org)

(LOS ANGELES) – Most L.A. neighborhoods are flooded with bars, clubs and restaurants, raising the alcohol density to troubling levels.

New research shows **at least 80% of LA area census tracts** (an area with an average of 4,000 residents) **exceed** – sometimes by 300 percent or more – the guidelines set by California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).

Alarmed by the statistics, the L.A. Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance (L.A. DAPA), a collaboration of public health organizations and community members, wants **the L.A. City Council to take steps toward a proposal that would allow communities to “say no” to additional alcohol businesses in designated areas.**

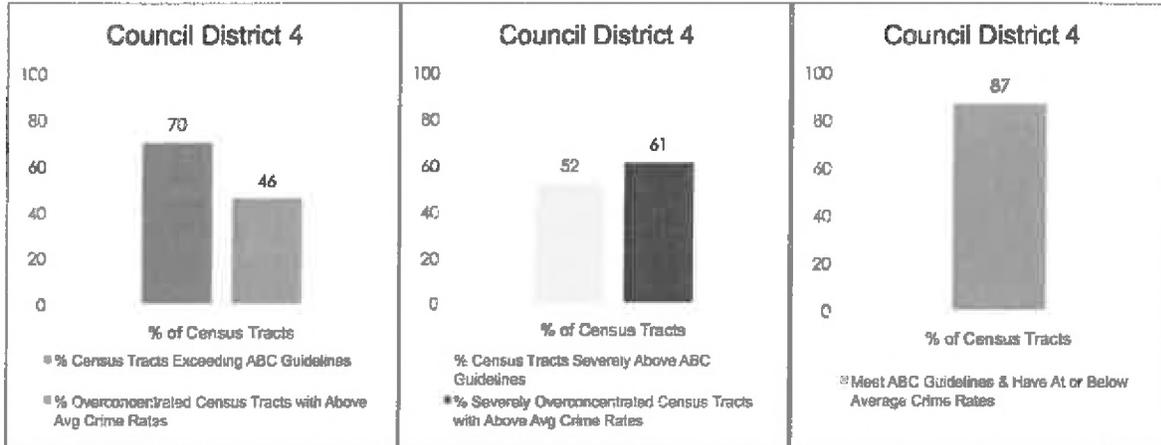
The Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistrict (ARUS) Ordinance would grant communities already suffering from high crime and alcohol outlet overconcentration the power to protect their neighborhoods from more alcohol businesses, especially in sensitive areas close to schools, parks and churches.

*New Alcohol Outlet Factsheets* produced by independent research firm Harder and Company show correlations between alcohol density and crime. The factsheets were developed for the Institute of Public Strategies (IPS), which is a nonprofit that seeks to reduce community level harms related to alcohol and drugs. IPS is a member of L.A. DAPA.

Harder and Company examined LAPD Part 1 and Part 2 crime data from 2015 as well as data from the California ABC and the community alcohol outlet portal, Poursafe, to compare alcohol density with crime rates in each census tract.

**The research reveals not only correlations between increase in alcohol density and higher crime rates, the data also shows the reverse. In areas where the alcohol density meets ABC guidelines, the crime rate is at or below average for that area.**

According to California Business Code, alcohol licenses should be limited based on a ratio of population per census tract in order to protect public health and safety. However, the new Harder and Company data show **all 15 LA City Council Districts have census tracts where alcohol density exceeds ABC guidelines by 300 percent or more.** For example:



- CD 4: 70% of census tracts exceed ABC guidelines. Of that 70%, 46% have above average crime rates.
- CD 4: 52% of census tracts severely exceed ABC guidelines. Of that 52%, 61% of census tracts have above average crime rates.
- Conversely, 87% of census tracts in CD4 that meet ABC guidelines have at or below average crime rates.

Council Member David Ryu represents District 4 and is in favor of ARUS.

***"Too many communities in Los Angeles have been saturated with liquor stores and alcohol establishments while losing out on other community resources," Council Member David Ryu said. "Every neighborhood should have the chance to build a vibrant local economy, a safe place to live, and opportunities for children and families. This ordinance will mean that these neighborhoods can say 'no' to new alcohol establishments and 'yes' to the kind of community that they deserve."***

Despite the connection between crime and high alcohol outlet density, in the City of Los Angeles, over 500 liquor licenses are currently in the approval queue. Every City Council district has numerous licenses in process. So many communities have extreme alcohol outlet density in Los Angeles because the ABC guidelines to protect public health and safety are considered 'recommendations,' and therefore not firmly adhered to.

Throughout the City of Los Angeles, community groups, organizations and local neighborhood councils have and continue to offer letters and petitions in support of the proposal.

***Dr. Randal Henry, CEO of Community Intelligence in South L.A. said, "South Los Angeles (i.e. Council Districts 8, 9 and 10) has the highest percentage of communities that severely exceed ABC guidelines and have above average crime rates. ARUS gives South Los Angeles the option to create zones where no new alcohol licenses can be issued," said Dr. Henry. "These zones are designed to address areas in South Los Angeles where alcohol density that severely exceeds ABC guidelines is contributing to nuisance activity, public intoxication, crime, violence and deterioration in the general quality of life."***

***Linda Gravani, President of the Lake Balboa Neighborhood council said: "Lake Balboa's residents are all within 1/2 mile of OFF SALE LICENSE establishments (liquor stores, grocery stores and other places where alcohol consumed off site. LBNC does not see it as an asset for any additional OFF SALE businesses regardless of ABC Census parameters. In addition, current licensees will lose business with the additional competition. More OFF SALE Licenses presents no advantage to the community."***

***"We work closely with communities, and we know in some areas they're worried about more alcohol. ARUS could be a solution," said Sarah Blanch, Co-Chair of LA DAPA. "The motion before PLUM is only an interim step – seeing if ARUS zones could make sense to protect public health and safety in Los Angeles."***

Community members and members of LA DAPA plan to go to PLUM meetings to speak in public comment about the value of ARUS, as well as to meet with individual Council Offices to garner support, over the next two months. The ARUS Motion, which requests a report back from the L.A. Department of City Planning on the feasibility of ARUS zones, expires on January 31, 2020.

Links to Alcohol Fact Sheets:

<https://publicstrategies.box.com/s/50v06lpxwaxxzy64dt9zbeyix266sba>

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# ARUS Press Conference

Speaker Bios 10/22/2019

**Sarah Blanch** is Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance (L.A. DAPA) and Vice President of Operational Development for the Institute for Public Strategies (IPS), a public health agency. Sarah oversees the implementation of policy-focused initiatives intended to improve public health and safety by reducing alcohol- and drug-related problems in the City and County of Los Angeles. (310) 215-9924 x133

**Jerry Hall:** For the past decade, Jerry Hall has served on San Diego-area Business Improvement and Town Council boards, and currently serves as a citizen-advisor on the San Diego County Behavioral Health Advisory Board. Jerry founded PourSafe.com, a data and visualization toolkit helping Los Angeles advocates and elected leaders make more informed contributions as they deliberate on issues relating to bar, restaurant, and liquor-store licensing. It also helps tell the story of how alcohol-outlet over-concentration typically leads to sustained negative impacts on our communities.

**Dr. Henry:** Dr. Randal Henry is the founder of Community Intelligence, a south LA/Leimert Park-based public health and evaluation consulting firm. He is project leader of the 800 member *Making Connections Network*, a group focused on uplifting health and wellbeing among people of color in California.

**Miriam Castro:** Community Member, City of LA, is a Promotora and activist. Miriam received her formal training from Esperanza Community Housing and has since then continued to build her capacity on issues relating to quality of life, public health and safety. She advocates not for herself but for all of those that are limited in their capacity to stand up for community needs and decent standards for quality of life. Miriam is a member of Mujeres Transformando La Comunidad a cohort of community researchers and analysts that studied the issue of alcohol and quality of life impacts in the Pico Union and Westlake Communities in Central Los Angeles. (Spanish speaker)

**Loren Bustillo:** Community Member, City of LA, Loren Bustillo is a member of Manos Unidas de Koreatown. As a resident of Koreatown, Loren has shown immense passion for using her voice to advocate for an improved quality of life for all, especially on issues related to public health, safety, and substance use among youth. Her biggest motivation comes from wanting a positive environment for her son. When she isn't busy advocating for positive change in her community, you can find her at the parent center at Lincoln Heights High School. While there, you'll find her using her leadership skills to strengthen the relationship between parents and the school in an effort to ultimately lead to a better school environment. Loren exemplifies the leadership and advocacy qualities and skills of a Manos Unidas de Koreatown member.

**Brenda Villanueva** is co-chair of the Los Angeles Alcohol and Drug Policy Alliance (L.A. DAPA), a Los Angeles citywide group working to pass policy to reduce the impacts of alcohol and drugs in the lives of young people. As a Program Director for Pueblo y Salud, Brenda works to educate communities on the impacts of drugs and alcohol in San Fernando, Pacoima, and North Hollywood. 818 307-6105 (Spanish speaker)

### MOTION

There are numerous establishments in the City that dispense alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine. An overconcentration of these type of uses, may lead to the deterioration of neighborhoods and quality of life.

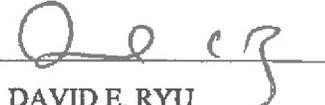
When there is an overconcentration of alcohol retail establishments, nuisance conditions can detrimentally impact entire neighborhoods, and thereby contribute to the deterioration of peace, health, and public safety. Local government has the authority to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents. Land use regulatory controls can be used to regulate the overconcentration of a use, or to mitigate and ameliorate nuisance abatement conditions.

In 1997, the City adopted the *South Central Alcohol Sales Specific Plan* (Ordinance No. 171681), requiring the conditional use approval for establishments dispensing for sale alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine, for off-site consumption in South Central Los Angeles, generally bounded by the Santa Monica Freeway on the north and City boundaries on the east, south and west.

It has been twenty years since the adoption of the *South Central Alcohol Sales Specific Plan*, and there are other communities in the City that are in need of similar land use regulatory controls as it relates to the sales of alcohol. While a Specific Plan may not be the land use tool that works best in all areas of the City, a new land use tool can be developed, such as *Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistricts* (ARUS), overlay districts that would serve to restrict the overconcentration of alcohol retailers in areas of the City where the retail sale of alcohol is negatively impacting neighborhoods and its residents.

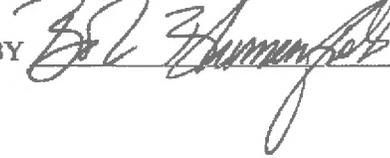
The proposed ARUS would include the following terms: (1) a description of its location; (2) a statement of whether the restriction applies to on-sale alcohol establishments, off-sale alcohol establishments, or both; and (3) the effective date; (4) alcohol establishments whose license application is on file with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) prior to the effective date of legislation, such as an ordinance, establishing an ARUS, shall not be prohibited.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Planning Department, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare a report in 60 days, on the feasibility of establishing a process to create *Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistricts*, that would serve to restrict the overconcentration of alcohol retailers in areas of the City where the retail sale of alcohol is negatively impacting neighborhoods and its residents, and in addition to report on the feasibility of having all appealed Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) sent to Council for final approval.

CO-PRESENTED BY   
DAVID E. RYU  
Councilmember, 4th District

CO-PRESENTED BY   
MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON  
Councilmember, 8th District

CO-PRESENTED BY   
HERB J. WESSON, Jr.  
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY 

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10/11/11

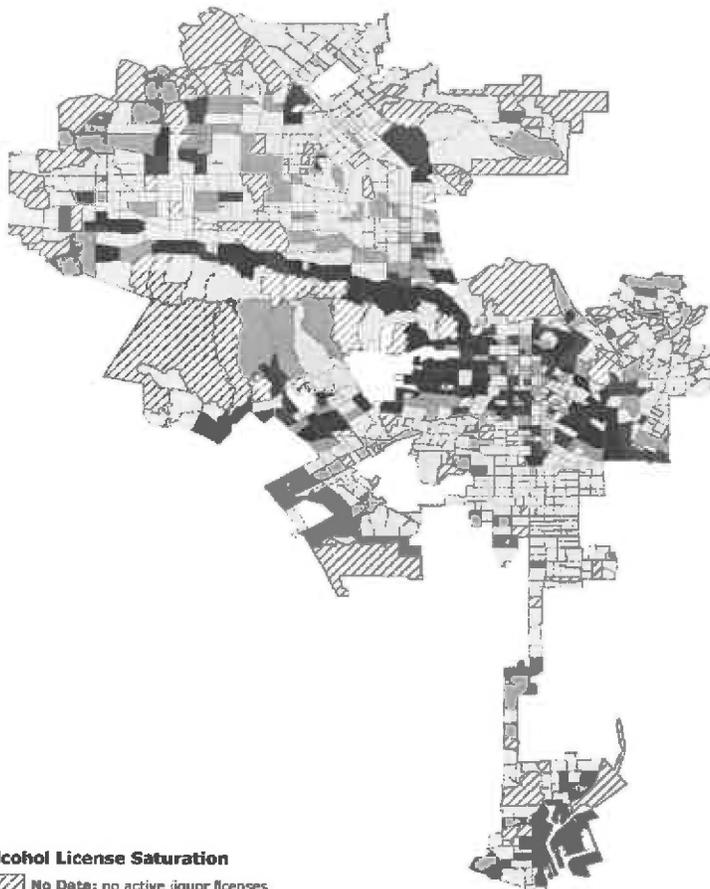
While alcohol businesses can be strong assets contributing to the local economy, communities with a high density of alcohol establishments have higher rates of accidental injuries, drinking and driving<sup>1</sup>, alcohol-related traffic crashes<sup>2</sup>, and rates of assault, crime, and violence<sup>3</sup>. This factsheet provides a snapshot of the number of alcohol retail licenses/applications and the distribution of alcohol retailers and crime in Los Angeles. The factsheet also identifies census tracts where the total number of alcohol outlets exceeds the guidelines developed by the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, which is highly correlated to crime rates.

## Alcohol Outlet Density

### Map 1. Saturation of on-sale and off-sale alcohol outlets\*

**80%** of census tracts in the City of Los Angeles have a total number of alcohol outlets that **exceed** ABC's guidelines.

Of those census tracts, **23%** are **heavily** above ABC's guidelines and **34%** are **severely** above ABC's guidelines.



#### Alcohol License Saturation

- No Data: no active liquor licenses
- Meets ABC standards: number of alcohol outlets meet or are less than ABC's standards
- Above ABC standards: number of alcohol outlets exceed standards by 101-199%
- Heavily above ABC standards: number of alcohol outlets exceed standards by 200-299%
- Severely above ABC standards: number of alcohol outlets exceed standards by 300% or more

**Communities with more alcohol retailers have more alcohol-related problems including underage drinking, violent crime, car crashes, and emergency room visits<sup>3</sup>.**

The City of Los Angeles is 500 square miles. Within this area there are:



**On-Sale** licenses authorize the sale of all types of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises.

**Off-Sale** licenses authorize the sale of all types of alcoholic beverages for consumption off the premises in original, sealed containers.

1. Treno, A., Ponicki, W., Remer, L., & Gruenewald, P. (2008). Alcohol outlets, youth drinking, and self-reported ease of access to alcohol: A constraints and opportunities approach. *Alcoholism Clinical and Experimental Research*, 32(8), 1372-1379.

2. Treno, A., Johnson, F., Remer, L., & Gruenewald, P. (2007). The impact of outlet densities on alcohol-related crashes: A spatial panel approach. *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, 39(5), 894-901.

3. Gruenewald, P. J., & Remer, L. (2006). Changes in outlet densities affect violence rates. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 30(7), 1184-1193.

4. The sources of data for this factsheet include Los Angeles Police Department Part I and II Crimes (2015), Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (2013) and PourSafe ([www.poursafe.com](http://www.poursafe.com)) (2019).

5. Best Practices in Municipal Regulation to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harms from Licensed Alcohol Outlets; Center for the Study of Law and Enforcement Policy Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. Felton, CA Stacy L. Saetta.



Institute for Public Strategies

harder + co | community research

In the city of Los Angeles, there is a **moderate positive correlation between alcohol outlet saturation and crime rate**, meaning in census tracts where there are a higher number of alcohol outlets, there are also higher rates of crime.

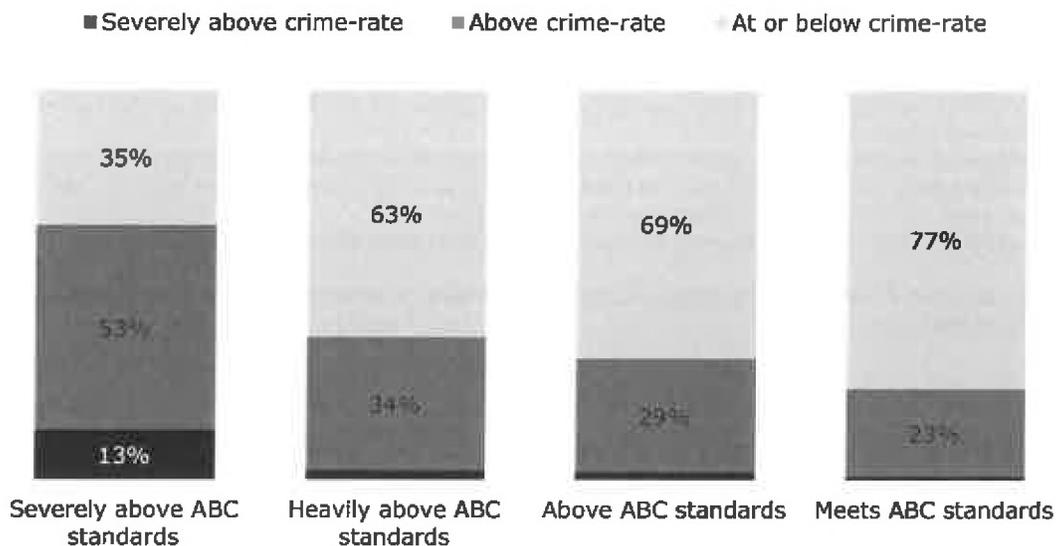
- 44%** of census tracts that have alcohol outlets that **exceed** ABC's standards also have **above average** crime rates.
- 65%** of census tracts that are **severely** over concentrated with alcohol outlets also have **above average** crime rates.
- 76%** of census tracts that **meet** ABC's guidelines for alcohol outlets have crime rates that are **at or below average**.

**Map 2. Alcohol Related Crime & Outlet Overlay, Total Crimes\***



\*Crime rate was analyzed in comparison to the average crime rate of the overall city of Los Angeles. The sources of data for this factsheet include Los Angeles Police Department Part I and II Crimes (2015), Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (2013) and PourSafe ([www.poursafe.com](http://www.poursafe.com)) (2019).

**Graph 1. Relationship between Alcohol Outlet Saturation and Crime Rates (n=896 census tracts)**



**Table 1. Relationship between Density and Crime Rates by each Council District**

Council District	% of communities that <u>exceed</u> ABC guidelines	% of communities that <u>exceed</u> ABC guidelines & have above average crime rates	% of communities <u>severely above</u> ABC guidelines	% of communities <u>severely above</u> ABC guidelines & have above average crime rates	% of communities that <u>meet</u> ABC guidelines and have at or below average crime rates
1	42	38	26	70	83
2	35	45	21	83	81
3	53	50	30	53	83
4	70	46	52	61	87
5	58	39	61	50	94
6	20	71	14	50	82
7	13	38	13	100	91
8	16	75	8	100	30
9	17	69	13	100	47
10	50	47	27	83	64
11	50	40	48	67	100
12	42	24	8	100	91
13	58	47	31	69	73
14	45	50	34	85	91
15	28	35	24	50	77

## Policy Implications

California communities are taking proactive steps to promote responsible alcohol retail practices and reduce the risks associated with alcohol sales. Research has shown that five key variables affect the nature and extent of alcohol problems associated with alcohol retail outlets:

- **Number of alcohol outlets:** High numbers of outlets are associated with increased alcohol problems.
- **Types of alcohol outlets:** Outlets such as bars and nightclubs, which have alcohol as their primary business, create increased risks of problems.
- **Concentration of outlets:** Over concentration is associated with increased incidence of alcohol problems.
- **Locations of outlets:** Retail outlets next to sensitive areas such as schools, playgrounds or other locations where youth congregate can contribute to underage drinking problems.
- **Retail practices:** Responsible sales and service practices are particularly important variables.<sup>5</sup>

In order to mitigate problems related to the retail alcohol environment, it is recommended the City of Los Angeles take the following courses of action:



**Adopt the Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistrict (ARUS) Ordinance:** ARUS is a flexible land use tool that allows communities to place limits on new alcohol businesses in problem areas. ARUS protects vulnerable communities that are facing negative impacts on public health and safety due to high crime and/or high alcohol outlet concentrations.



**Allow conditions on CUBs that mitigate the land use and public safety impacts resulting from the sale of alcohol.** Such conditions allow communities to prevent and abate public nuisances associated with the sale of alcohol by exerting local control. The vast majority of California municipalities allow such conditions via their police and zoning powers.



**Maintain a rigorous alcohol permitting process** that incorporates public input, overconcentration standards, accountability via recurring enforcement operations, and a streamlined revocation process for problem businesses.

# HELP US PASS ARUS!

THE ALCOHOL RESTRICTED USE SUBDISTRICT ORDINANCE

## Empowering Our Community

ARUS gives a voice to the communities in the City of Los Angeles that need it most. ARUS would help vulnerable neighborhoods most impacted by alcohol become safer and healthier.

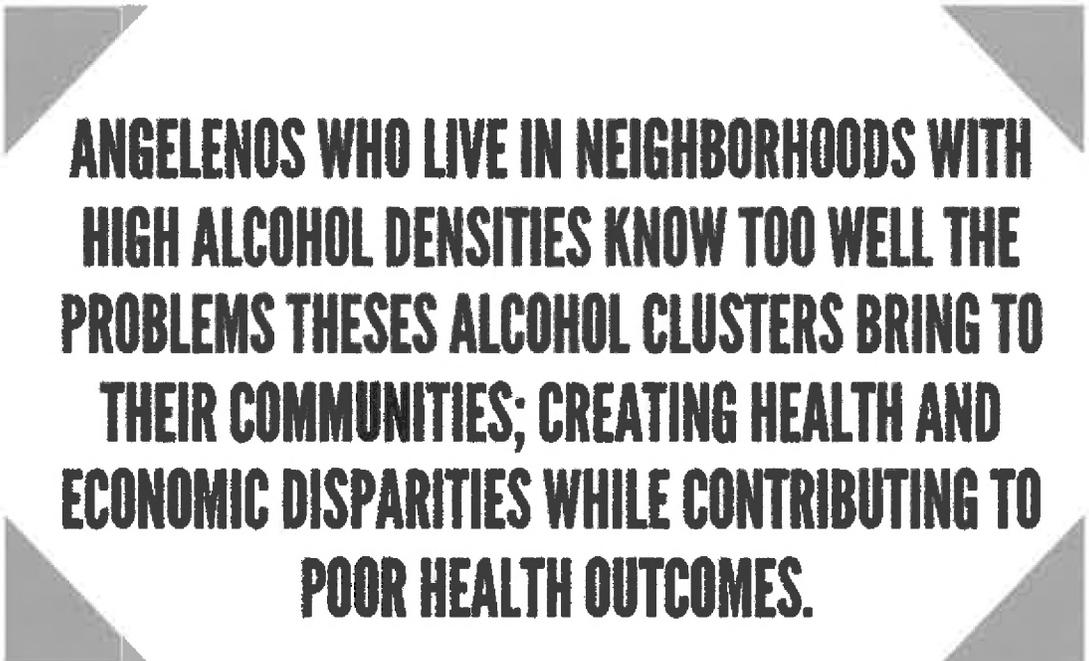
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# WHAT IS ARUS?

## INTRODUCTION

The Alcohol Restricted Use Subdistrict (ARUS) ordinance is a land-use tool that protects vulnerable communities that may already be flooded with alcohol retailers, giving them the power to limit how many of these businesses continue to enter their neighborhood. Areas with high densities of alcohol retailers face negative impacts on community health and safety.

A 2016 report published by the Department Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control titled 'Alcohol Outlet Density and Alcohol-Related Consequences',<sup>1</sup> outlined how neighborhoods that have a higher amount of alcohol outlets also have higher rates of alcohol-related harms: such as hospitalizations and violent crimes.



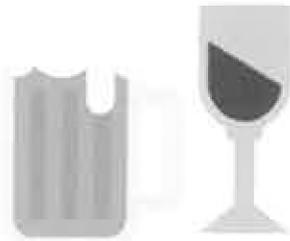
**ANGELENOS WHO LIVE IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH  
HIGH ALCOHOL DENSITIES KNOW TOO WELL THE  
PROBLEMS THESE ALCOHOL CLUSTERS BRING TO  
THEIR COMMUNITIES; CREATING HEALTH AND  
ECONOMIC DISPARITIES WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO  
POOR HEALTH OUTCOMES.**

<sup>1</sup> Alcohol Outlet Density and Alcohol-Related Consequences by City and Community in Los Angeles County, 2013. Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, November 2016.

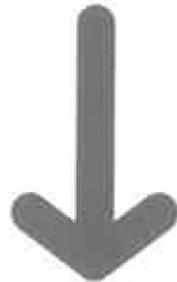
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# HOW DOES ARUS WORK?

Community with over concentration of alcohol outlets



Community can ask to have ARUS enacted in their jurisdiction



Once ARUS is in place, no new alcohol licenses can be issued in that area\*



## QUICK FACTS

**50+**

*Organizations that are in support of the motion*

**February 2019**

*Date ARUS motion must be agendized in Planning Land Use Management Committee*

**8,000+**

*Alcohol retailers in Los Angeles*

**6**

*Alcohol related deaths in Los Angeles every day*

\* Businesses that already have alcohol licenses will not be subject to any penalties/revoked with ARUS

# MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

## Motion File

17-0117



ARUS currently sits in suspense in the Planning Land Use and Management committee. The goal is to get the committee to place the ARUS motion on the council agenda.

Time for action!

Call or visit the Los Angeles Planning Land Use and Management Committee members and ask them to support ARUS (Motion File 17-0117), so that our neighborhoods remain healthy and safe for our children and families. For more information go to [www.ladapa.org](http://www.ladapa.org) or call (818) 837-2272.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON (CHAIR)---(213) 473-7008

BOB BLUMENFIELD---(213) 473-7003

GILBERT A. CEDILLO---(213) 473-7001

CURREN D. PRICE, JR.---(213) 473--7009

VIST [WWW.LACITY.ORG](http://WWW.LACITY.ORG) FOR PLANNING LAND USE AND  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE.

LOS ANGELES CITY HALL, ADDRESS:

200 N SPRING ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

### Contact us:



[www.ladapa.org](http://www.ladapa.org)

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