

# Frequently Asked Questions

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**apcp**  
Alabama Provider  
Capacity Project

## What is the purpose of this project?

APCP is using this project to expand substance use provider capacity and treatment options in Alabama. The goal is to decrease the extent of health disparities particularly related to substance use disorders (SUD), which includes opioid use disorders (OUD) and its consequences in Alabama's low-income communities. The primary strategy is to strengthen current and future Medicaid health systems. This will be done by developing and implementing best practices to reduce the morbidity and mortality of SUD through leveraging existing resources, facilitating new provider participation processes, and utilizing technologies to intensify provider capacity.

## Who will this project benefit?

The insights gained from this project will help the Alabama Medicaid Agency and the Alabama Department of Mental Health in assessing and planning for substance use treatment enhancement in Alabama. By receiving insights from conversations in every county, APCP will have a well-rounded understanding of substance use treatment in Alabama.

## When is the project coming to my county?

APCP is conducting surveys and focus group meetings in every county in Alabama. We will update prospective participants approximately six weeks before conducting the meeting in their community.

## Why are some of the focus groups online while others are in person?

Safety protocols have been developed to limit personal contact in response to COVID-19. A mix of in-person and online focus groups will be used to reach the broadest population across Alabama. Where technology and high-speed internet permit, focus groups will take place online. In other locations, in-person focus groups will be held with additional safety protocols that follow current government regulations.

## How do I participate?

Participants are individually selected based on their roles in their communities that could provide knowledge about drug addiction and/or treatment (e.g. first responders, government workers, educators). If you believe you could provide insight to these discussions, please reach out to APCP at [apcp@vitalalabama.com](mailto:apcp@vitalalabama.com).

## What safety precautions are in place for in-person focus groups?

All participants and facilitators will be required to wear a mask while in the buildings in which the focus groups are held. Building and room sizes will allow space for participants to be seated at least six feet apart. We ask that participants bring their own masks, but hand sanitizer and extra masks will be provided.

## How long will participation take?

The survey should take less than 10 minutes. The focus groups will take approximately 90 minutes.

## If I participate, will my information be kept confidential?

Although the researchers will take every precaution to maintain confidentiality, the nature of focus groups prevents guaranteed confidentiality. The researchers would like to remind participants to respect the privacy of fellow participants and to not repeat what is said in the focus groups to others. Additionally, the focus groups will be recorded and later transcribed. All names and other identifying details will be removed or redacted from the transcript, which will be kept completely confidential. APCP will destroy all focus group data at the conclusion of the study. All data in the report to the state will be anonymized and aggregated at the county, region, or state level, removing the possibility of identifying individuals.

## Will I be paid for participating?

There is no monetary compensation for participation.

## Will the facilities be ADA compliant?

All facilities used for the focus groups will be ADA compliant. If you have specific concerns, please reach out to [apcp@vitalalabama.com](mailto:apcp@vitalalabama.com) so we can ensure your needs are met.

For compliance inquiries with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact The University of Alabama's Office of Equal Opportunity Programs at 205-348-5855.

## When will the results be known?

The focus groups and analysis will be completed by the end of 2021.