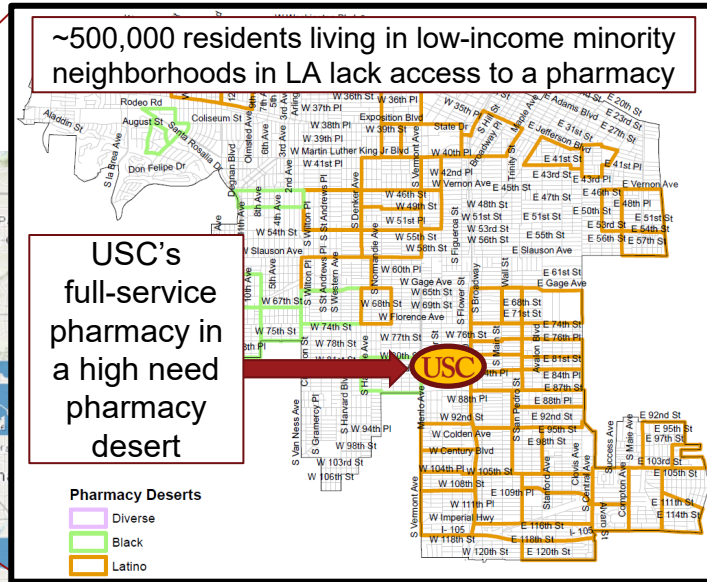
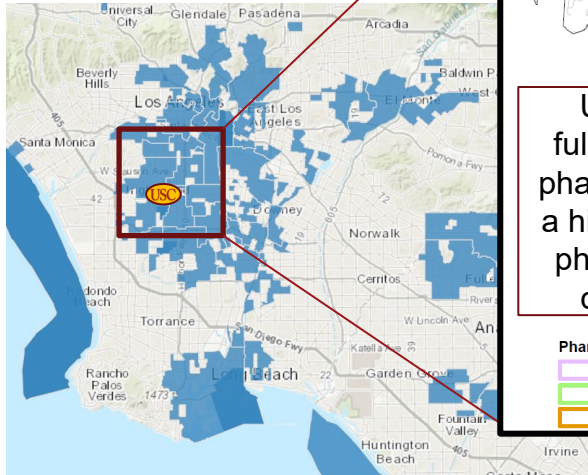


# Investing in the Community to Address Pharmacy Deserts and Improve Health Equity in Los Angeles

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California Health and Human Services Geospatial Data  
 Medically underserved areas in blue



Background: COVID-19 and economic pressured have worsened the problem of pharmacy deserts in our most vulnerable communities.

Objective: To address pharmacy deserts and improve health equity in Los Angeles

Methods: Using our 70-year experience with running up to 5 pharmacies, USC Pharmacy will work to be a collaborator versus competitor in the community, address the need for culturally competent care with a focus on social determinants, and whole person care. Over our 10-year commitment, we will evaluate:

**Pharmacy services impact on health equity:** from prescription medications, vaccinations, patient-centered chronic care management, primary care services, community wellness and health education, research on best practices to reduce health disparities and inform health policy

**Impact on community engagement:** e.g. community investment and partnerships, partnerships with FQHCs, student and alumni engagement, relationships with payers, growth of California Right Meds Collaborative funding through health plans, and our relationship with Keck Hospital of USC

Rendering of new USC Pharmacy



3,500 square foot building subdivided into pharmacy, over the counter and clinical areas with 1 PIC, 1 clinical pharmacist, 2 technicians, 1 clerk at launch. Additional employees to include additional volunteer and clinical staff. The pharmacy will be staffed by community residents and include pharmacy students and other trainees.

Results: Based on project impact on community, USC School of Pharmacy is fully subsidizing the costs for the early years and is investing directly in the community.

Conclusion: The South LA pharmacy will be the first model of its kind and create a USC presence, foster relationships south of the University campus, and is a direct investment locally in both service innovation and training.



Guadamuz JS, AlexanderGC, Zenk SN, Kanter GP, Wilder JR, Qato DM. Access to pharmacies and pharmacy services in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston 2015-2020. J Am Pharm Assoc. 2021  
 Map created by Andrew Shooshtari from [Program on Medicines and Public Health](#)