

PHAST Roles for Public Health Partners

Any Public Health Partner can...

- Be a champion for their jurisdiction's PHAST.
- Present any established evidence-based practices to reduce overdose deaths. (See CDC's Evidence-based Strategies for Preventing Opioid Overdose: What's Working in the United States (<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pubs/2018-evidence-based-strategies.pdf>)
- Research and share innovative approaches and strategies shown to be effective in other jurisdictions.
- Examine and share jurisdiction-level data, analysis results, and monitoring trends with partners to consider context and implications of the data.
- Evaluate community-level efforts to reduce overdose deaths by establishing performance measures and encouraging shared accountability for outcomes achieved to help build the evidence base for specific prevention strategies.
- Collaboratively inform, educate, and empower communities through education campaigns and tools.
- Develop technology and information systems that can support crisis response and continuity of care for persons with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).
- Partner with law enforcement to help foster community trust in local law enforcement.
- Work collaboratively with public safety partners to strategize opportunities for multi-sector interventions.
- Serve as a link between public safety and other sectors including behavioral health and mental health treatment services and the public and private healthcare sector.

Medical Officers can...

- Co-lead the jurisdiction's PHAST.
- Share data related to hospital admissions for overdose and substance use disorder to improve partners' shared understanding of overdose trends, local health needs, and identify emerging threats in the community.
- Inform and educate partners about substance use disorders and effective treatment approaches.
- Mobilize healthcare, behavioral, and mental health providers along with other PHAST partners to identify and solve health problems.
- Develop policies and plans that support community health efforts to reduce overdose deaths.
- Strategize with PHAST partners around opportunities to initiate or expand access to needed health care services.
- Collaborate with partners to evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of population-based overdose prevention and OUD treatment services in the community.
- Research and share new insights and innovative solutions to overdose prevention in the community.

Program Managers can...

- Share program data related to overdose prevention, response, and treatment efforts with partners.
- Educate partners on existing evidence-based overdose prevention interventions and strategies in the community and observed successes and challenges.
- Explore opportunities to initiate, expand, or modify existing interventions to address gaps and/or unmet health needs.
- Share insights from frontline staff related to program successes, population-specific needs, and/or opportunities to address gaps and challenges in current programming.

Health Department Leaders and Directors can...

- Co-lead the jurisdiction's PHAST.
- Share data related to overdose and substance use disorders to improve partners' shared understanding of overdose trends.
- Inform and educate partners about evidence-based practices for overdose prevention.
- Mobilize public health and agency staff from other sectors to identify and solve health problems.
- Develop policies and plans that support community health efforts to reduce overdose deaths.
- Collaborate with partners to evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of population-based overdose prevention and OUD treatment services in the community.

Researchers, Data Analysts, and Program Evaluators can...

- Analyze, present, and interpret overdose-related data to improve partners' shared understanding of local overdose trends.
- Identify key investigation questions to improve partner's understanding of the scope of the overdose crisis.
- Collaborate with partners to identify and address key data gaps and needs.
- Identify opportunities to improve or enhance data collection, analysis, or presentation.
- Collaborate with partners to identify performance measures, develop logic models, and establish evaluation plans to determine the effectiveness of existing interventions and make systematic improvements to advance health outcomes.
- Research and share new insights and innovative solutions to overdose prevention in the community.

This content was adapted from the PHAST Toolkit (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022), developed by CDC and the CDC Foundation as part of the Public Health and Safety Partnerships to Reduce Opioid Overdose. Financial support for this toolkit was provided by the CDC Foundation with a grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies.