Glossary of Terms

9-1-1 Good Samaritan Laws	Good Samaritan immunity laws provide protection from arrest and prosecution for witnesses who call 911. Laws vary by jurisdiction in the types of drug offenses that may be exempt and whether immunity takes effect before arrest or before prosecution.[1] Typically, Good Samarian Laws only protects the caller and victim from arrest and prosecution for simple drug possession, possession of paraphernalia, and/or being under the influence. Such legislation does not protect people from arrest for drug sales or other offenses. These laws are viewed as an important solution to encourage overdose witnesses to seek medical help.
Compassion fatigue	The emotional strain of working with those suffering from the consequences of traumatic events. Compassion fatigue can result from exposure to one case or from cumulative exposure to trauma.
CompStat	A widely accepted performance management approach used by law enforcement agencies to help focus attention and resources on crime and the causes of crime.
Drug court	Drug courts are problem-solving courts that take a public health approach using a specialized model in which the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, mental health, social service, and treatment communities work together to help addicted offenders into long-term recovery.
Pre-arrest diversion	A strategy that interrupts traditional criminal justice pathways in the service of public health and overdose prevention by diverting low-level offenders who have opioid use disorder into treatment or support services.
Epidemic	Rapid spread or increase in the occurrence of a disease.
Harm reduction	Harm reduction is a proactive and evidence-based approach to reduce the negative personal and public health impacts of behavior associated with alcohol and other substance use at both the individual and community levels.
Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)	The use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders. Currently, there are three drugs approved by the FDA for the treatment of opioid use disorder: buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone.
Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)	Medications prescribed by a healthcare provider that can help manage and/or treat opioid use disorder. Currently, there are three drugs approved by the FDA for the treatment of opioid use disorder: buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone.
Naloxone	Sold under the brand name "Narcan" among others; a medication used to block the effects of opioids, especially decreased breathing in overdose.
Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP)	An overdose mapping tool that allows first responders to log an overdose in real time into a centralized database.

PHAST
Public Health and Safety Team

Opioids	Natural, synthetic, or semi-synthetic chemicals that interact with opioid receptors on nerve cells in the body and brain, and reduce the intensity of pain signals and feelings of pain. This class of drugs includes the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain medications available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, and many others.
Opioid Use Disorder	A problematic pattern of opioid use that causes significant impairment or distress. A diagnosis is based on specific criteria such as unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use, or use resulting in social problems and a failure to fulfill obligations at work, school, or home, among other criteria.
Overdose fatality review	A process of conducting a confidential review of a selection of overdose death cases in the jurisdiction.
Performance management	An ongoing practice of using information and feedback on the work of an organization or activity to improve its process and outcomes.
Performance measures	Quantitative measures of capacities, processes, or outcomes relevant to the assessment of a performance indicator.
Public Health	Public health is "the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private communities, and individuals."[2]
Public Safety	Government agencies responsible for ensuring the well-being and safety of the public through law enforcement, criminal justice, and first responder duties.
Rx Stat	RxStat is model for advancing a shared understanding of the patterns and characteristics of problem drug use in a local jurisdiction. It brings together representatives from public health and public safety and uses a multidisciplinary and data-focused approach to generate information which can be used to tailor targeted interventions and policy responses to reduce overdose deaths. RxStat was developed in New York City in 2012 initially in response to increases in overdose deaths involving prescription opioids; it has since shifted to address substance use disorders.
Safe stations	Usually 24-hour safe environments where people seeing recovery support can go to be linked to treatment or recovery support services.
Stigma	A perceived negative attribute that causes someone to devalue or think less of the whole person; discrimination; hate.
Substance Use Disorder	A problematic pattern of use of one or more substances leading to clinically significant impairment or distress.

Endnotes

1   Drug Misuse: Most States Have Good Samaritan Laws and Research Indicates They May Have Positive Effects. GAO-21-248. Washington, D.C.: March, 2021. Accessed https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-248.pdf on 7 October, 2021

2   Winslow, CEA. The untilled field of public health. Mod Med 1920;2:183–91.

PHAST
Public Health and Safety Team