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PREVENTION LINGO

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**A guide to
substance use
prevention
terminology**

ATOD DSM NA IYS SPF CDC DFC IADDA SAMHSA ONDCP

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Welcome to the field of substance use prevention!

Entering a new profession or even a new community can often make you feel like you are a step behind everyone else when it comes to terminology. Getting the “lingo” down is often one of the most difficult tasks to master.

Doctors, lawyers, construction workers, librarians and even clerks at your favorite coffee house speak in their own “code.” This “Prevention Lingo” booklet is meant to assist you in deciphering the prevention field’s “code.” It contains many of the terms and acronyms that you will encounter during your tenure in the substance use/misuse prevention field.

The first several pages of the “Prevention Lingo” booklet lists commonly used acronyms you will begin to hear during your work. These lists will give you the ability to understand what CSAP is and to know whom to call when you are asked to contact CPRD. In addition to the acronyms, there are definitions of terms and phrases to help you better understand the context in which you are working.

We hope you will use this booklet as a resource while you are starting out in your new role as a substance abuse prevention provider.

Many of the governmental agencies, organizations and associations listed in this guide offer useful information and resources relevant to preventionists’ work.

General Acronyms

These acronyms are commonly used within the prevention field in Illinois. Most of the acronyms are spoken by saying each letter, such as AA. Others are pronounced as words, such as “spiff” (SPF). The pronunciation for each acronym is in quotation marks.

Acronym	Meaning of Acronym
AA	Alcoholics Anonymous
AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs
ATOD	Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs
BAC	Blood Alcohol Content
BAL	Blood Alcohol Level
CA	Cocaine Anonymous
CCA	Chicago Community Area
COA	Children of Alcoholics
DSM	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
DUI	Driving Under the Influence
DWI	Driving While Intoxicated
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
FA	Families Anonymous
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
IISAP “i-sap”	Illinois Introduction to Substance Abuse Prevention
IYS	Illinois Youth Survey
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual
NA	Narcotics Anonymous
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PTA/PTO	Parent Teacher Association or Organization
SAP	Student Assistance Program
SBI	Screening and Brief Intervention
SPF “spiff”	Strategic Prevention Framework
SUD “sud”	Substance Use Disorder
TA	Technical Assistance
YAC “yak”	Youth Advisory Committee
YPE	Youth Prevention Education

State and National Governmental Entities, Organizations, Associations and Programs

Acronym	Meaning of Acronym
CADCA “cad-ka”	Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America CADCA is a nonprofit organization that works to strengthen the capacity of community coalitions across the country in their effort to create and maintain safe, healthy and drug-free communities.
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC’s mission is to collaboratively create the expertise, information and tools that people and communities need to protect their health through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats.
CGTI	Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute The Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute (CGTI) is sponsored by the Illinois Association for Behavioral Health (IABH). CGTI offers opportunities for teens around the state to learn about leadership, healthy choices, and working with others to create better communities.
CPRD	Center for Prevention Research and Development CPRD is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services Substance Abuse Prevention Program to manage an online reporting system, support evaluation and administer the Illinois Youth Survey.
CSAP “c-sap”	Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Housed within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, CSAP provides national leadership in the federal effort to prevent alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems.
CSUPS “c-sups”	Chicago Substance Use Prevention Services CSAPS (formerly Chicago Substance Abuse Prevention Services*), is a grant program of the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery established in 2017 to provide substance use/misuse prevention services in the City of Chicago.

Acronym	Meaning of Acronym
DCFS	<p>Illinois Department of Children and Family Services DCFS is the department of Illinois state government responsible for child protective services. DCFS aims to protect children who are reported to be abused or neglected and to increase their families' capacity to safely care for them.</p>
DEA	<p>Drug Enforcement Administration The DEA is a United States federal law enforcement agency under the U.S. Department of Justice tasked with combating drug smuggling and use within the United States. The DEA is the lead agency for domestic enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act.</p>
DFC	<p>Drug-Free Communities Support Program DFC is a federal grant program that provides funding to community-based coalitions that organize to prevent youth substance use. The goals of the DFC are to establish and strengthen collaboration among multiple community stakeholders to prevent and reduce youth substance abuse, and to reduce adult substance abuse over time by reducing community risk factors associated with it.</p>
IABH	<p>Illinois Association for Behavioral Health Formerly Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association (IADDA), IABH is a statewide organization representing addiction and mental illness prevention, treatment and recovery services agencies, staff, consumers, affiliated organizations, and corporations. IABH educates about the importance of Behavioral Health, and advocates for sound public policies in the behavioral health field.</p>
ICB	<p>Illinois Certification Board Previously known as IAODAPCA, ICB is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes standards for professionals in the alcohol and other drug abuse field including certification for prevention and drug counseling professionals.</p>
IC&RC	<p>International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium The IC&RC sets the international standards of practice for addiction counseling, prevention and clinical supervision through the testing and credentialing of addiction professionals.</p>
IDHS	<p>Illinois Department of Human Services Created in 1997, IDHS provides our state's residents with streamlined access to services, especially those who are striving to move from welfare to work and economic independence.</p>

Acronym	Meaning of Acronym
IDPH	<p>Illinois Department of Public Health</p> <p>The mission of IDPH is to protect the health and wellness of the people of Illinois through the prevention, health promotion, regulation, and the control of disease and injury.</p>
ILCC	<p>Illinois Liquor Control Commission</p> <p>The ILCC is responsible for issuing state liquor licenses, conducting inspections at licensed entities and educating the liquor industry on the laws that govern liquor and tobacco sales throughout Illinois.</p>
ISBE “is-bee”	<p>Illinois State Board of Education</p> <p>Created in 1975, the board sets state educational policies and guidelines for schools, preschool through grade 12. They assist schools and districts in building capacity for continuous improvement and the achievement of the Illinois Learning Standards.</p>
MADD “mad”	<p>Mothers Against Drunk Driving</p> <p>The mission of MADD is to end drunk driving, help fight drugged driving, support the victims of these violent crimes, and prevent underage drinking.</p>
NACoA	<p>National Association of Children of Alcoholics</p> <p>NACoA’s mission is to eliminate the adverse impact of alcohol and drug use on children and families by raising public awareness, providing leadership in public policy at the national, state and local levels, and advocating for appropriate, effective and accessible education and prevention services.</p>
NAM	<p>National Academy of Medicine</p> <p>NAM, established in 1970 under the name Institute of Medicine (IOM), provides national advice on issues relating to biomedical science, medicine, and health, and serves as an adviser to the nation to improve health.</p>
NASADAD	<p>The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors</p> <p>NASADAD is a private, not-for-profit educational, scientific, and informational organization. NASADAD’s basic purpose is to foster and support the development of effective alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and treatment programs throughout every State.</p>

Acronym	Meaning of Acronym
NIAAA “n-i-trip-ple-a”	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism NIAAA is one of the 27 institutes and centers that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIAAA supports and conducts research on the impact of alcohol use on human health and well-being. It is the largest funder of alcohol research in the world.
NIDA “nigh-da”	National Institute on Drug Abuse NIDA’s mission is to advance science on the causes and consequences of drug use and addiction and to apply that knowledge to improve individual and public health.
NPN	National Prevention Network The NPN is an organization of state alcohol and other drug abuse prevention representatives that provides a national advocacy and communication system for prevention.
OJJDP	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention OJJDP, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, provides funding and support to states and communities in their efforts to develop and implement effective programs for juveniles. The Office strives to strengthen efforts to protect public safety, hold offenders accountable and provide services that address the needs of youth and their families.
ONDCP	Office of National Drug Control Policy ONDCP, a component of the Executive Office of the President, was established by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. ONDCP works to reduce drug use and its consequences by leading and coordinating the development, implementation, and assessment of U.S. drug policy.
PFS	Partnerships for Success The purpose of the Illinois PFS grant is to use a community-based participatory approach to address underage drinking through evidence-based environmental strategies.
SABG	Substance Abuse (Prevention and Treatment) Block Grant SABG is the federal government’s primary source of funding to States for drug and alcohol treatment and for primary prevention programs. The SABG is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Acronym	Meaning of Acronym
SADD “sad”	Students Against Destructive Decisions SADD is a peer-to-peer education, prevention and activism organization dedicated to preventing destructive decisions, particularly underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, teen violence and teen suicide.
SAMHSA “sam-sah”	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration SAMHSA is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA provides Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant funding to states.
SUPP “sup”	Substance Use Prevention Program SUPP (formerly Substance Abuse Prevention Program*) is a program of the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery which funds agencies in Illinois to deliver substance use/misuse prevention services. Funded agencies work with their communities to help achieve state prevention goals.
SUPS “sups”	Substance Use Prevention Services SUPS (formerly Substance Abuse Prevention Services*) is a grant program of the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery established in 2017 to provide substance use/misuse prevention services in suburban, other urban, and rural areas of Illinois (excluding the City of Chicago).
SRSUPS “s-r-sups”	State and Regional Substance Use Prevention Services SRSAPS (formerly State and Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Services*) is a grant program of the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery established in 2017 to provide substance use/misuse prevention services in in regions and through statewide initiatives in Illinois.
SUPR “super”	Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery SUPR is the Illinois Department of Human Service’s lead agency primarily responsible for providing prevention, intervention and treatment services related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to citizens of Illinois.

*In 2019, the IDHS SUPR Bureau of Prevention Services replaced the term “substance abuse prevention” with “substance use prevention” in all program names and related references to reduce the use of stigmatizing language.

Common Terms and Definitions

In addition to the many acronyms frequently used in conversation among substance abuse professionals, you will also encounter terms and phrases specific to our field. The following pages are an alphabetical listing of common terms and phrases you will need to understand as you gain more experience in the field of substance use/misuse prevention.

Adaptation

The modification of aspects of a program or practice, including content, delivery method and length of program sessions.

Age of Onset

The age of first use.

Archival Data

Relative to the collection of data for needs assessment purposes, information that already exists and is collected and stored on a periodic basis. Many public agencies collect data that can be used directly or indirectly for an overall picture of substance use or misuse within a specific geographic area (e.g., U.S. census data and school report cards).

Assessment

The formal and objective process of collecting and analyzing valid data to identify patterns that yield meaningful and actionable information. Areas of assessment include contextual conditions, needs (i.e., problems), resources, readiness to identify behaviors and conditions as problems and take action, organizational infrastructure and capacity, and gaps in services.

Baseline

Observations or data about the target area and target population prior to program intervention that can be used as a basis for comparison following program implementation.

Best Practices

Strategies and programs that have been shown through substantial research and evaluation to be effective at preventing and/or delaying substance use/misuse.

Capacity Building

Increasing the ability and skills of coalitions, individuals, groups and organizations to plan, deliver and evaluate substance use/misuse prevention efforts.

Coalition

A group of people representing the community who work together toward a common cause.

Communication Campaign

Communication campaigns utilize a purposeful promotional strategy to change knowledge, attitudes, behavior or policy among a specific, intended audience via marketing and advertising techniques.

Community Readiness

The extent to which a community is adequately prepared (awareness, interest, ability and willingness) to support and address substance use/misuse prevention efforts.

Comprehensive Approach

The delivery of services in multiple domains or spheres of influence (youth, families, school and communities) that targets the same population in each sphere to reinforce consistent messages that deter youth alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

Consequences

Consequences describe what happens when people use substances. Local ATOD-related consequences may include: traffic crashes or fatalities, arrests, crime/violence, treatment admissions, DUI offenses, hospitalizations, or school suspensions/expulsions. Consequence data is typically archival data, or data collected by law enforcement agencies, hospitals, schools, or other community entities.

Consumption Patterns

Consumption patterns describe the way people drink, smoke and use illicit drugs. Common measures for ATOD consumption include: lifetime use, age of first use, past-year and 30-day use and high-risk behaviors, such as drinking and driving, riding with a drinking driver, and binge drinking. Consumption data tends to be collected through surveys or other self-reported data.

Contributing Factors

Contributing factors are variables that have been identified as being strongly related to, and influential in, the occurrence and magnitude of substance use problems. Data related to contributing factors are a critical part of a needs assessment, because they help to explain what is driving the locally identified problem.

Critical Incidents

Events that occur that impact the attitudes, perceptions and norms in a community.

Cultural Competence

The ability to work effectively across cultures by transcending personal paradigms (e.g., values and attitudes) and adopting and implementing behaviors and practices that honor and respect the beliefs, language, interpersonal styles, and behaviors of others.

Data-Driven Decision Making

The process of examining and utilizing data to make informed decisions regarding program planning, selection, implementation, improvement or discontinuation.

Data Sources

Documents such as school records, sign-in sheets and satisfaction surveys that contain qualitative and quantitative information about a program.

Dosage

The amount of program content a participant receives.

Drug

Any substance which, when taken, changes one or more of a person's mental or physical functions.

Duration

The total length of the intervention or program.

Environmental Approaches

Strategies that help alter policies, procedures, systems and attitudes and aim to change or influence community standards, institutions, structures and attitudes that shape individuals' behavior. Environmental approaches are used to change public perceptions and attitudes, improve and enforce laws and regulations, decrease the availability of or access to harmful drugs, and address other factors affecting public health and safety.

Evidence-Based Prevention

Principles, strategies and programs that are based on theory, are well implemented and have demonstrated a positive effect on specified behaviors or risk factors. Evidence-based prevention is based on research that meets commonly agreed-upon criteria and is guided by credible and substantiated research evaluation.

Fidelity

The degree to which a program or policy is implemented according to its design.

Focus Group

A small group of people with shared characteristics who typically participate, under the direction of a moderator, in a focused discussion designed to identify perceptions and opinions about a specific topic in order to collect background information, create new ideas and hypotheses, assess a program or interpret results from other data sources.

Goals

General statements of major accomplishments that need to be achieved to realize an expressed vision. Goals generally describe changes in behaviors that will prevent problems and related consequences.

Impact

Long-term, global effects of a program or intervention on the behavior of the target population.

Indicated Prevention

Targets individuals who do not meet the criteria for addiction but who are exhibiting early signs of problematic substance use.

Indicator

A measurable behavior or condition (e.g., 30-day use, perception of harm) that is reflective of an overarching problem or condition, which can be monitored to evaluate change over time.

Intensity

The frequency with which the target audience receives the program intervention.

Intervention

A program, activity, strategy or approach used to prevent or lower the rate of substance abuse.

Logic Model

A flowchart or graphic display representing a theory of change as to how specific interventions will impact a specific problem and its identified intervening variables/contributing factors.

Linkage Agreement

A written document (formal or informal) that clarifies each prevention partner's role and responsibility when there is already a willingness to work together.

Media Advocacy

The strategic use of media for advancing a social or public policy initiative.

Mission Statement

A statement that describes an organization's purpose.

Norms

A behavior or belief that is considered typical of a community.

Objectives

Specific statements that are logically linked to desired goals and describe changes in the underlying conditions that must occur to achieve these goals.

Outcome

A statement of intended accomplishment that demonstrates that quantifiable progress is being made. Outcomes may be immediate (e.g., a change in knowledge, skills, abilities, perceptions, or attitudes—typically measured by a pre- and post-test after an intervention); intermediate (e.g., a change in underlying causal conditions); or long term (e.g., a change in behavior). In any case, outcome statements should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time limited.

Outcome Evaluation

Systematic process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting data to determine if there have been changes in stated outcomes (community conditions or characteristics).

Policies

Formally codified rules, regulations, standards, or laws that are designed to prevent problems (e.g., minimum-age purchase laws for alcohol and tobacco); or informal and unwritten standards and norms (e.g., decisions to prioritize prosecution of certain offenses, such as sales of age-restricted products to minors).

Prevention

A proactive process that empowers individuals and systems to meet the challenges of life events and transitions by creating and reinforcing conditions that promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles.

Prevention Science

Includes all scientific efforts (research, observation, study) supporting the development of interventions that prevent the onset of problematic, social, psychological or physical disorders or outcomes.

Principles

Tenants or concepts derived from prevention research (quantitative and qualitative meta-analytic studies or from expert panels that review research literature and draw consensus agreements) that can be prescriptive in providing implementation directions.

Pre-test and Post-test

Data collection that is conducted before and after the program intervention to measure a program's effectiveness.

Problem Statement

A concise description of the priority problems and consequences that exist, which were identified during the assessment process and which the planning process will address.

Process Evaluation

A descriptive and ongoing assessment process that identifies what activities were implemented, the quality of the implementation and the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation. Process evaluation efforts produce useful feedback to refine programs, determine which activities were most successful, document successful processes for future replication and demonstrate program activities before demonstrating outcomes.

Protective Factor

An attribute, situation, condition or environmental context that works to shelter an individual from the likelihood of ATOD use.

Qualitative Data

Contextual information that usually describes participants and interventions reported in narrative form such as descriptions of programs, testimonials, open-ended responses to questions, etc.

Quantitative Data

Information about an intervention gathered in numeric form and analyzed with statistics to test hypotheses and track the strength and direction of effects.

Reach

The total number of individuals affected by the program or practice.

Replicate

To implement a program in a setting other than the one for which it originally was designed and implemented, with attention to the faithful transfer of its core elements to the new setting.

Resiliency

The ability to cope successfully with significant adversity or risk or to overcome the negative effects of risk factors.

Risk Factors

Individual attributes and community and family conditions that increase the likelihood of drug use or misuse or that may lead to an increase of current use.

Sector

A specified demographic population of the community that represents the groups' interests within the community as a whole. Examples include: youth; parents; business community; school; law enforcement agencies etc.

Selective Prevention

Prevention efforts that target subsets of the population that are deemed to be at higher risk for substance misuse by virtue of their membership in a particular population segment. Targeted subgroups may be identified on the basis of biological, psychological, social or environmental risk factors such as family history (i.e. children of alcoholics) or place of residence (i.e. high drug-use neighborhoods).

Social-Norms Marketing

The process of applying marketing concepts to social and health issues in order to promote positive, true norms practiced by the majority of a group or population through mass media.

Stakeholder

Those individuals or organizations that will be involved in, affected by, interested in, or have power over an initiative in one way or another.

Strategic Planning

A disciplined and focused effort to produce decisions and activities that guide the successful implementation of an intervention.

Strategy

A course of action that is based on a theory of change (a logical belief, based on assessment and evaluation, that a specific course of action will result in certain desired outcomes). Strategies may consist of programs, policies and/or practices.

Sustainability

The process through which a prevention system becomes a norm and is integrated into ongoing operations. Sustainability is vital to ensuring that prevention values and processes are firmly established, partnerships are strengthened, and financial and other resources are secured over the long term.

System

A set of interacting, interdependent entities that form an integrated whole.

Systems Theory

A framework by which to analyze and understand the ways in which a set of interacting, interdependent 'parts' works in concert to produce results.

Target Population

Those individuals and groups who are affected by the problems and consequences – or who are involved in the occurrence of the problems and consequences – upon whom interventions must be focused to be effective.

Technical Assistance (TA)

Services provided by professional prevention staff intended to provide technical guidance to prevention programs, community organizations and individuals to conduct, strengthen or enhance activities that will promote prevention.

Universal Prevention

Prevention efforts targeted to the general population—all families, all youth, or all systems—with messages and programs aimed at preventing or delaying the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Vision Statement

A statement that expresses the overarching desired ideal state toward which action and resources are being directed.

References

The terms and definitions contained in this document were obtained/adapted from the following source documents:

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Prevention First is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to preventing teen drug use before it starts. Since 1980, Prevention First has provided training, technical assistance and resource materials to thousands of schools, community groups, parents and youth. Prevention First serves as the lead training organization for the Illinois Department of Human Services Substance Abuse Prevention Program.



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