

Glossary of Substance Use Disorder Terms

Behavioral health is full of acronyms and buzzwords that can be confusing. The Parents' Place of Maryland has created this guide to help you better understand these terms.

Acronym	What it stands for	Meaning
12-Step Program	Peer-led recovery model	A structured approach to addiction recovery involving twelve steps that promote personal growth and accountability.
988	Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	A national 3-digit phone number for immediate mental health crisis support, including substance use and suicidal ideation.
AA	Alcoholics Anonymous	A peer-led support group for individuals recovering from alcohol addiction, based on a 12-step program.
ADF	Alcohol & Drug-Free Housing	Supportive housing environments that prohibit substance use to promote recovery and stability for individuals in treatment.
Al-Anon	Family Support Group for Alcoholics Anonymous	Support group for families affected by someone else's drinking, offering shared experiences and coping strategies.
Alateen	Child/Teen Support Group for Alcoholics Anonymous	Support group for children/teens affected by someone else's drinking, offering shared experiences and coping strategies.
AMA	Against Medical Advice	When a patient chooses to leave care despite medical recommendations.
AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs	Alcohol and other drugs
ASI	Addiction Severity Index	A standardized assessment tool used to evaluate the impact of substance use on various life areas such as medical, employment, legal, and psychiatric.
BAC	Blood Alcohol Content	A measure of alcohol concentration in the bloodstream used to assess intoxication levels and guide treatment decisions.
BHA	Behavioral Health Administration / Authority	State-level agency overseeing public mental health, Substance Use Disorders (SUDs), co-occurring, and problem gambling services; responsible for licensing, regulation, and ensuring quality in public behavioral health systems.

CFPS	Certified Family Peer Specialist	Trained family member providing peer support in behavioral health.
COWS	Clinical opiate withdrawal scale	An 11-point scale used to measure opioid withdrawal symptoms. It's a tool for care teams to see how cravings and substance use withdrawal symptoms change over time.
CPRS	Certified Peer Recovery Specialist	Individual with lived experience providing peer support.
CRAFT	Community Reinforcement Approach and Family Training	CRAFT is an evidence-based program shown to be successful in getting addicted individuals to enter treatment.
CSAP	Center for Substance Abuse Prevention	A division of SAMHSA focused on promoting prevention strategies for substance misuse and related behavioral health issues.
DETOX	Detoxification	The removal of harmful substances from the body, usually occurring under medical supervision. Detox from drugs and alcohol is needed before transitioning into a long-term treatment plan.
DJS	Department of Juvenile Services	Maryland department overseeing juvenile justice programs.
DOC	Drug of choice	The primary substance a person is seeking treatment for in their addiction. It could be alcohol, prescription medications, stimulants, or another substance.
DSS	Department of Social Services	Agency providing social services including child welfare and public assistance.
Dual diagnosis	Dual diagnosis	A condition where someone has both a substance use disorder and one or more mental health conditions, also known as co-occurring disorders.
EBP	Evidence-Based Practices	The use of current best evidence in making decisions about individual patients or populations.
Good Sam	Good Samaritan Law	This law protects people who call for help during a drug or alcohol overdose. It stops police from arresting or charging them (or the person overdosing) for small drug or alcohol crimes, like possession or underage drinking, if the help was given in good faith.
Halfway House	Transitional residential care	Structured living environments that support individuals transitioning from inpatient treatment or incarceration to independent living.
IFPS	Interagency Family Preservation Services	Services aimed at keeping families together and preventing out-of-home placements.

Intervention	Intervention	When family and friends come together to address a loved one's addiction, their goal is to encourage them to seek treatment and begin the journey to recovery.
IOP	Intensive Outpatient Program	A highly structured treatment program that addresses substance use disorder (SUD) issues and relapse prevention for individuals who do not require medical detoxification or 24-hour supervision. Individuals participating in IOPs are able to maintain responsibilities at home, school, or work since they can return home or to a sober living environment at the end of each day.
LAA	Local Addiction Authority	Local entity overseeing addiction services.
LBHA	Local Behavioral Health Authority	Local agency managing behavioral health services.
LCSW	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	A professional who has obtained a license to provide specialized clinical therapeutic services. LCSWs possess advanced knowledge and use evidence-based interventions and therapeutic techniques to help clients navigate through issues such as depression, anxiety, trauma, addiction, and relationship conflicts. LCSWs play a vital role in promoting mental health and improving social functioning and overall well-being.
LCT	Local Care Team	Team coordinating services for children with intensive needs.
LDAAC	Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council	Council advising on local substance use strategies.
LMB	Local Management Board	Board coordinating services for children and families.
LOFRT	Local Overdose Fatality Review Team	Team reviewing overdose deaths to inform prevention efforts.
MAT	Medication-Assisted Treatment	Use of medications with counseling to treat substance use disorders.
MOOR	Maryland Office of Overdose Response	State office coordinating overdose prevention efforts.
MORR	Maryland Opioid Rapid Response	Program responding quickly to opioid-related emergencies.
MOUD	Medications for Opioid Use Disorder	Preferred term for medication-based treatment for opioid addiction.

NA	Narcotics Anonymous	A community-based support group for individuals recovering from drug addiction, following the 12-step model.
Nar-Anon	Nar-Anon Family Groups	Support group for family and friends of people struggling with drug addiction.
Narateen	Nar-Anon Teen Groups	Support group for teens affected by a loved one's drug use.
NCADD-MD	National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence	Organization promoting awareness and prevention of substance use disorders.
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse	Federal research institute studying drug use and addiction.
OD	Overdose	Medical emergency resulting from excessive drug consumption.
OIT	Opioid Intervention Team	Team focused on opioid prevention and response efforts.
OMPP	Opioid Misuse Prevention Program	Program aimed at preventing opioid misuse.
OOCC	Opioid Operational Command Center	Former name of Maryland Office of Overdose Response.
OPT	Opioid Prevention Team	Team focused on preventing opioid misuse and overdose.
ORF	Opioid Restitution Funds	Funds allocated for opioid-related prevention and treatment.
ORP	Opioid Response Program	Program supporting harm reduction and overdose prevention.
OTP	Opioid Treatment Program	Licensed program providing medication and counseling for opioid addiction.
PHP (or PH)	Partial Hospital Program	A structured, part-time treatment program designed for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders. It provides intensive care while allowing patients to keep up their daily responsibilities, as they can live at home instead of a hospital. PHP offers structured therapy and group support without the need for full-time hospitalization.
PO	Probation Officer	Officer supervising individuals on probation.

PAWS	Post-acute withdrawal syndrome	Ongoing withdrawal symptoms that persist after the initial detoxification phase. These include psychological symptoms, for example prolonged mood swings, anxiety, or insomnia.
RPT	Relapse Prevention Therapy	Therapeutic approach focused on preventing substance use relapse.
RRP	Residential Rehabilitation Program	Program providing residential support for individuals with behavioral health needs.
RTC	Residential Treatment Center	Facility offering intensive residential behavioral health treatment.
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	A U.S. government agency that leads public health efforts to advance behavioral health and reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness.
SEN	Substance Exposed Newborn	Infant exposed to substances during pregnancy.
SSP	Syringe Services Program	Harm reduction program providing clean syringes and health services.
SUD	Substance Use Disorder	Medical condition involving problematic substance use.
TCM	Targeted Case Management	Service model that provides individualized support and coordination of care for people with complex behavioral health needs, helping them access necessary medical, social, and educational services.
TIC	Trauma-Informed Care	Approach to care that recognizes and responds to trauma.
TIP	Treatment Improvement Protocol	Guidelines published by SAMHSA to improve treatment practices for behavioral health conditions, including co-occurring disorders like problem gambling and substance use.
WRC	Wellness and Recovery Center	Facility supporting recovery and wellness for individuals with behavioral health needs.