# Glossary

## Attributable Morbidity/Mortality
The theoretical proportion of the number of cases of hospitalizations/death that can be attributed to a given risk factor. [20] For this report, the values for the attributable fractions (AF) for tobacco and illicit drugs were taken directly from the report "The Costs of Substance Abuse in Canada 2002" by Jurgen Rehms et al. [20]

## Incidence
The risk of developing a condition within a specified time period. The incidence rate is obtained by taking the number of people who have been diagnosed with a particular condition (new cases) within a stated period of time, divided by the number of people at risk for the condition.

## Life expectancy at birth
This is the average number of years a person may expect to live assuming mortality rates remain stable for each age, usually aggregated over five year periods.

## Morbidity
Another term for a disease state or illness. Incidence and prevalence are two measures used to describe the occurrence of morbidity in a population.

## Mortality Rate
The number of deaths due to a condition divided by the number of persons in the population.

## Opiate
Naturally occurring alkaloids found in the opium poppy e.g. morphine and codeine

## Opioids (or narcotic analgesic)
Psychoactive chemicals which relive pain include natural opiates and synthetic opioids; methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, morphine, pethidine, fentanyl, buprenorphine.

## Prevalence
The proportion of people that have a condition at a specified time. Prevalence is calculated by taking the number of people with a particular condition and then dividing that number by the total number of people who are at risk for the condition.

## Rate
a measure of frequency with which an event occurs in a specific population in a defined time period. Rates enable comparisons between geographic areas by taking into account different population sizes and changes to these populations over time.

## Ratio
A comparison between two numbers, usually separated by a colon.

## Risk
The probability that an event will occur.

## Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR)
based on the age- and sex-specific rates in a standard population and the age and sex distribution of the study population. If the ratio of observed to expected deaths is greater than 1.0, there is an "excess of deaths" in the study population.[10]