

Your words. Your power.

Love the person. Fight the disease.

Someone you know is living with a substance use disorder right now. How we talk about substance use in our everyday lives affects how likely that person is to seek treatment — and to finish it.

Adjusting our language is one of the simplest ways we can support one another and reduce stigma and discrimination. It costs nothing, and it opens a door.

INSTEAD OF THIS...	SAY THIS
Addict, junkie, druggie	Person with a (serious) substance use disorder
Addicted to X	Person with a (serious) X use disorder
Alcoholic	Person with a (serious) alcohol use disorder
Clean screen, clean test	Testing negative for substances
Dirty screen, dirty test	Testing positive for substances; actively using
Drug habit	Substance use disorder; regular or compulsive substance use
Drug or substance abuser	Person with a substance use disorder
Drug offender	Person arrested for a drug violation
Former or reformed addict or alcoholic	Person in (long-term) recovery
Relapsed	Had a setback; resumed use
Stayed clean	Maintained recovery

CHOOSE KINDNESS

Help is available. Recovery is possible. Call us for education, referrals, or to talk about someone you love.

(262) 658-8166

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