

Know  
the  
facts.



## HOW WE TALK ABOUT ADDICTION MATTERS

Much of the language people use to talk about addiction can be biased and hurtful, leading to discrimination and social exclusion. Both of which can keep people from getting the treatment they need. Changing your language can reduce the negative stereotypes around people with this disease. Don't know where to start? Check out the chart on the back.



Find addiction treatment that meets your needs at [TreatmentAtlas.org](https://TreatmentAtlas.org)



These photos do not represent individuals suffering from substance use disorder or living in recovery.

## **SAY THIS**

**Person with substance use disorder**

**Disease**

**Person living in recovery**

**Person arrested for a drug violation**

**Substance dependent**

**Medication is a treatment tool**

**Had a setback**

**Maintained recovery; substance-free**

**Negative drug screen**

**Positive drug screen**

## **NOT THIS**

**Addict, user, druggie, junkie, abuser**

**Drug habit**

**Ex-addict**

**Drug offender**

**Hooked**

**Medication is a crutch**

**Relapsed**

**Stayed clean**

**Clean**

**Dirty drug screen**