

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.



Division of Mental  
Health and Addiction



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

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



<b>SAY THIS</b>	<b>NOT THIS</b>
Person with substance use disorder	Addict, user, druggie, junkie, abuser
Disease	Drug habit
Person living in recovery	Ex-addict
Person arrested for a drug violation	Drug offender
Substance dependent	Hooked
Medication is a treatment tool	Medication is a crutch
Had a setback	Relapsed
Maintained recovery; substance-free	Stayed clean
Negative drug screen	Clean
Positive drug screen	Dirty drug screen