

LANGUAGE MATTERS

When words are used inappropriately to describe individuals with a substance use disorder, it not only negatively impacts the cultural perception of their disease, but creates stigma that can stop people from seeking help. Language matters. Let's replace terms like "addict" and "junkie" with smarter language that aligns with the science.

Say This	Not That
Person with a substance use disorder	Drug addict
In recovery	Clean
Currently using substances	Dirty
Substance use	Substance abuse
Not engaging with treatment	"Bombed out"
Recurrence of symptoms, return to use	Relapsed
Positive drug screen	Dirty drug test
Medication assisted treatment (MAT)	Medication replacement, substitution therapy