

# BEST PRACTICES TO AVOID USING STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE

Don't Use	Do Use	Why
<p>"addict"</p> <p>"abuser"</p> <p>"junkie"</p>	<p>"person who uses heroin"</p> <p>"person with cocaine use disorder"</p>	<p>Using "person-first" language demonstrates that you value the person, and are not defining them by their drug use.</p>
<p>"got clean"</p>	<p>"no longer uses drugs"</p>	<p>"Clean," although a positive word, implies that when someone is using they are "dirty."</p>
<p>"addicted newborn"</p> <p>"born addicted"</p> <p>"crack baby"</p>	<p>"newborn opioid withdrawal (NOW)"</p> <p>"baby with prenatal cocaine exposure"</p>	<p>Infants are not addicted; they have prenatal substance exposure and/or physiological dependence.</p>
<p>"medication replacement therapy (MRT)"</p> <p>"medication assisted therapy (MAT)"</p>	<p>"opioid agonist therapy (OAT)"</p> <p>"medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)"</p> <p>"medication for alcohol use disorder"</p>	<p>These categories are value-neutral and precise.</p> <p>When discussing a specific medication, refer to it by both its generic and brand names.</p>