

# THE LANGUAGE OF STIGMA: TERMS TO RECONSIDER AT-A-GLANCE

<b>POTENTIALLY STIGMATIZING TERMINOLOGY:</b>	<b>CONSIDER INSTEAD:</b>
ABUSE, MISUSE	Substance use, non-prescribed use.
ABUSER, ADDICT, ALCOHOLIC, DRUNK, JUNKIE	A person who uses (substances), or a person with an addiction or a person with SUD.
CLEAN, SOBER, DRUG-FREE	In recovery or no longer using, active recovery, or negative urine test results (negative UA results).
CO-DEPENDENCY	A partner or family member's need for support (due to a loved one's substance use disorder).
DENIAL	Person disagrees.
DIRTY	Actively using, exhibiting SUD symptoms, or positive urine test results (positive UA results).
DOPE SICK	Withdrawing, experiencing withdrawal symptoms.
DRUG	Medication or (controlled) substance.
DRUG ABUSE	Actively using, unhealthy use or non-medical use.
DRY DRUNK	(A person no longer using alcohol but) behaving dysfunctionally.
ENABLING	Helping avoid negative consequences (resulting from substance use).
EX-ADDICT, RECOVERING ALCOHOLIC / ADDICT	Person in recovery, a person who has stopped using, substance free or having lived experience.
HIGH, STRUNG OUT, DRUNK, STONED	Intoxicated, agitated, shaking (as applicable).
LAPSE / SLIP / FALLEN OFF THE WAGON / HAD A SETBACK	Active use, currently using (substances), continued use or a recurrence of SUD symptoms.
MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT, OPIOID SUBSTITUTION TREATMENT, TREATING A DRUG WITH A DRUG	Medication for addiction treatment, MAT, pharmacotherapy.
NON-COMPLIANT / NOT ENGAGED	Treatment methods have not been effective; person chooses not to...
PHYSICAL DEPENDENCE	(Not using this term as it is obsolete and does not meet diagnostic criteria.)
POT SMOKER / POT HEAD	A person who uses cannabis.
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE / MISUSE	Non-medical use (of medication or a substance).
REHAB	(SUD) Treatment.
RELAPSED	Recurrence of SUD symptoms or resumed use.
SUBSTANCE ABUSE / MISUSE	At-risk or unhealthy substance use or non-medical use.
SUFFERING FROM ADDICTION, HAS A DRUG HABIT	A person who uses (substances), a person experiencing addiction, a person with SUD.