

**Someone you know is facing a substance use disorder right now.**

How we talk about substance use in our everyday lives has an impact on how likely that person is to seek and successfully complete treatment. Adjusting our language is one of the simplest ways we can support each other and reduce stigma and discrimination.

**FOR INSTANCE,**



**YOUR WORDS.**  
**YOUR POWER.**  
**CHOOSE KINDNESS.**



## INSTEAD OF THIS...

## SAY THIS...

Addict / junkie / druggie

Person with a (serious) substance use disorder

Addicted to X

Person with a (serious) X use disorder

Alcoholic

Person with a (serious) alcohol use disorder

Clean screen / clean test

Testing negative for substances

Dirty screen / dirty test

Testing positive for substances; actively using

Drug habit

Substance use disorder; compulsive or regular substance use

Drug / substance abuser

Person with a substance use disorder

Drug offender

Person arrested for drug violation

Former / reformed addict or alcoholic

Person in (long-term) recovery

Relapsed

Had a setback / resumed use

Stayed clean

Maintained recovery

**LOVE THE PERSON.**  
**FIGHT THE DISEASE.**

This flyer has been provided by Kenosha County Substance Abuse Coalition. Learn more at [saveliveskenosha.org](http://saveliveskenosha.org).

