
Language Matters

The way we talk about **addiction and substance misuse** can directly impact stigma. **Person-first language** encourages respect.



825 L Street, Anchorage, AK 99501
907-343-6718
www.muni.org/health
[@ancpublichealth](https://twitter.com/ancpublichealth)

Instead of:

~~Junkie~~

~~Addict~~

~~Drug addict~~

~~Druggie~~

~~Drug user~~

~~Drug abuser~~

~~A [substance] addict~~

~~Abuse~~

~~Clean~~

~~Dirty~~

~~Former addict~~

~~Reformed addict~~

Use this:

A person who uses drugs

A person with problematic drug use

A person with a [substance] use disorder
(e.g. a person with opioid-use disorder)

Misuse

Tested negative

Tested positive

A person in recovery