

What is Substance Use Disorder?

- Substance use disorder (SUD), also called drug addiction, is a disease that affects a person's brain and behavior and leads to an inability to control the use of a drug or medication.
- SUDs affect people from all walks of life and all age groups.
- A SUD is a chronic medical condition, like heart disease or diabetes.
- Treatment is available and recovery is possible.

Work with a provider or doctor to treat any substance use disorder. Effective, evidence-based treatment is available to manage withdrawal symptoms and treat SUDs. Talk to your healthcare provider to discuss available treatment options or call the Access and Crisis line at (888) 724-7240.

Words Matter

You can **reduce stigma**, and help **save lives**, just by **changing your language**. By using what's called **person-centered language**, you're not defining a person based on any medical disorder they may have. It's **nonjudgmental**, it's **neutral**, and the **diagnosis is purely clinical**.



AVOID THESE WORDS

USE THESE WORDS

Addict	→	Person with a substance use disorder
Drug Problem/Drug Habit	→	Substance use disorder
Drug Abuse	→	Drug misuse, harmful use
Clean	→	Abstinent, not actively using
Dirty	→	Actively using
Former addict	→	Person in recovery