

**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.**



**KENOSHA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION



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