



# YOUR WORDS MATTER

## REPLACE THESE

Addict

Junkie

Crackhead

Alcoholic

Substance Abuse

They are clean now

## WITH THESE

Person who uses drugs

Person who injects drugs

Dependent

Person with alcohol use disorder

Substance Misuse

They are no longer actively using



Language is a powerful tool -  
Especially when talking about addictions.  
Stigmatizing language can perpetuate negative perceptions  
of self-beliefs. "Person-First" language focuses on the person, not  
the disorder!!

## SAY THIS

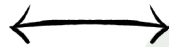
## NOT THAT

A person arrested for  
drug violation



Drug offender

Choose not to  
at this point



Non-compliant  
flunked out

Medication is a  
treatment tool



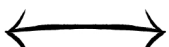
Medicine is the  
same as using

Had a setback



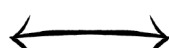
Got loaded  
Relapsed

Maintained recovery



Stayed clean

Positive drug screen



Dirty drug screen



For more information visit our website: Southeast Rural Opioid  
Technical Assistance Regional Center Website  
([serotarcnetwork.org](http://serotarcnetwork.org))



Florida State University  
Center for the Study and Promotion of  
Communities, Families, and Children



FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY  
COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT