

FIGHT STIGMA WITH LANGUAGE



Replace these stigmatizing &/or inaccurate terms...	...with these preferred terms.
HIV-infected person; HIV patient; AIDS patient; AIDS carrier; HIV carrier; HIVer	Person living with HIV
Victim; sufferer; contaminated	DO NOT USE about people living with HIV or their sex partners
Catch AIDS; contract AIDS	Receive an AIDS diagnosis; develop AIDS
Clean or dirty	DO NOT USE.
Die of AIDS	Died of AIDS-related illness, AIDS- related complications or end stage HIV
Infected with HIV	Diagnosed with HIV; contracted HIV; acquired HIV
Full-blown AIDS	There is no medical definition for this phrase, simply use the term AIDS, or stage 3 HIV
Risky or unprotected sex	Be specific...e.g., condomless sex, condomless sex or without PrEP. condomless sex without knowing your partner's status
Mother-to-child transmission	Vertical transmission; child who acquired HIV at or near time of birth
Prostitution; prostitute	Sex work; person who does sex work, sex worker. (Definition: Sex work is any form of consensual transaction that involves exchanging sex for survival, money, or valued goods)
Intravenous drug users; drug addict	Person who injects drugs or person who uses drugs
Promiscuous	Having multiple partners
Fight AIDS; fight against AIDS; end HIV; end AIDS	Respond to HIV; HIV response; end HIV transmission (be specific--we aren't ending HIV; we're still here!)
HIV/AIDS	Use HIV when appropriate and AIDS when appropriate
Compliant	Adherent