

N Your words matter

How Novant Health is changing the way we discuss substance use disorder

People fighting substance use disorder are frequently blamed and punished for their condition instead of being offered help or treatment. Millions hide their condition out of fear of being labeled or put in jail.



About **20 million** Americans suffer from substance use disorder.



Unfortunately, only 1 in 10 people receives treatment to support his or her recovery.

On average, **115** Americans die every day from an opioid overdose.



Novant Health is committed to ending the stigma. By choosing clinically accurate, person-first words, we hope people can more easily access treatment, reach recovery and live healthier lives.

Words matter: Say this, not that

✓	✗
Substance use or misuse	Substance abuse
Person in recovery	Former addict
People with alcohol or drug problems or dependencies	Alcoholics and addicts
Medication-assisted treatment or medication-assisted recovery	Opioid replacement or methadone clinic
Medication or treatment adherence	Medication or treatment compliance
Positive or negative drug screen	Clear or dirty drug screen
Return to use	Lapse or relapse
Recovery management	Relapse prevention

Sources: *Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health*, 2016; *Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report*, Dec. 16, 2016.