

SAY THIS



Transmit/transmission

Contract, acquire*
Diagnosed with [a BBV]

Person living with [a BBV]

Person living with [a BBV]

Person living with [a BBV]

HIV, HIV and AIDS (when
referring to both)

Positive/negative blood screen,
blood containing [BBV]

Person who uses drugs/injects drugs
Person who is no longer using drugs

Sterile/unsterile, used/unused
injecting equipment

Sex without a condom,
condomless sex

NOT THIS



Give/gave, infected, spread

Catch/caught
Became infected with

Victim, sufferer

Carrier, infected, diseased,
contaminated

[BBV]-positive, [BBV]-patient

AIDS (when referring to
the virus HIV)

Dirty/clean blood, tainted blood,
clean (as in "I'm clean")

Drug user/abuser, addict, junkie
Former addict, recovered, clean

Clean/dirty needles

Unprotected sex

WHY?



Transmission is the correct term when referring to the virus passing from one person to another

These terms suggest something that is contagious and should be avoided or feared

While BBVs can have a significant impact on a person, these terms are disempowering and implies they have no control of their lives.

These terms are considered offensive and encourage stigma as they suggest a person should be avoided or feared

Use Person-first language. This puts the person before the label and reinforces their humanity instead of their diagnosis and health

HIV and AIDS are not the same thing; HIV is the virus that if left untreated can result in AIDS. These acronyms are not interchangeable.

Terms such as dirty/clean imply a value judgement (dirty = bad, clean = good) which reinforces stigma about health and activities

Using clear, non-judgemental, and person-first language towards substance use minimises stigma and stereotypes

These are descriptive words that name the object rather than attributing judgement to the objects and the people that use them

In addition to condoms, there are other strategies to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV such as PrEP, PEP, and Treatment as Prevention