

Alliance India Terminology Guideline

DON'T USE	USE
HIV/AIDS; HIV and AIDS	Use the term that is most specific and appropriate in the context to avoid confusion between HIV (a virus) and AIDS (a clinical syndrome). Examples include 'people living with HIV', 'HIV prevalence', 'HIV prevention', 'HIV testing and counselling', 'HIV-related disease', 'AIDS diagnosis', 'children orphaned by AIDS', 'AIDS response', 'national AIDS programme', 'AIDS service organisation'. Both 'HIV epidemic' and 'AIDS epidemic' are acceptable, but 'HIV epidemic' is a more inclusive term.
AIDS virus	There is no AIDS virus. The virus that causes AIDS is the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Please note that 'virus' in the phrase 'HIV virus' is redundant. Use 'HIV'.
AIDS-infected	No one is infected with AIDS; AIDS is not an infectious agent. AIDS describes a syndrome of opportunistic infections and diseases that can develop as immunosuppression deepens along the continuum of HIV infection from acute infection to death. Avoid 'HIV-infected' in favour of person living with HIV or HIV-positive person (if serostatus is known).
AIDS test	There is no test for AIDS. Use HIV test or HIV antibody test . For early infant diagnosis, HIV antigen tests are used.
AIDS victim	Use person living with HIV . The word 'victim' is disempowering. Use AIDS only when referring to a person with a clinical diagnosis of AIDS.
AIDS patient	Use the term 'patient' only when referring to a clinical setting. Use patient with HIV-related illness (or disease) as this covers the full spectrum of HIV-associated clinical conditions.
Risk of AIDS	Use ' risk of HIV infection ' or ' risk of exposure to HIV ' (unless referring to behaviours or conditions that increase the risk of disease progression in an HIV-positive person).
High(er) risk groups; vulnerable groups	Use key populations at higher risk (both key to the epidemic's dynamics and key to the response). Key populations are distinct from vulnerable populations, which are subject to societal pressures or social circumstances that may make them more vulnerable to exposure to infections, including HIV.

Commercial sex work	Preferred terms are sex work, commercial sex , or the sale of sexual services .
Prostitute or prostitution	These words should not be used. For adults, use terms such as sex work, sex worker, commercial sex, transactional sex , or the sale of sexual services . When children are involved, refer to commercial sexual exploitation of children .
Intravenous drug user	Drugs are injected subcutaneously, intramuscularly, or intravenously. Use person who injects drugs to place emphasis on the person first. A broader term that may apply in some situations is person who uses drugs .
Sharing (needles, syringes)	Avoid 'sharing' in favour of use of non-sterile injecting equipment if referring to risk of HIV exposure or use of contaminated injecting equipment if the Equipment is known to contain HIV or if HIV transmission occurred through its use.
Fight against AIDS	Use response to AIDS or AIDS response.
Evidence-based	Use evidence-informed in recognition of other inputs to decision-making.
HIV prevalence rate	Use HIV prevalence . The Word 'rate' implies the passage of time and should not be used in reference to prevalence. It can be used when referring to incidence over time e.g. incidence rate of 6 per 100 person-years.
ARV ARV Drugs	Antiretroviral therapy (ART) ART medicine ART treatment
Out Reach Worker	Outreach Worker (ORW) Sushma, an outreach worker with Vihaan programme delivered ART medicines to Mohan. Outreach workers motivate people to go for HIV tests.
Female Sex Worker Virtual Women	Sex Workers, Female Sex Worker Women in Sex Work operating virtually Sex Worker
Transsexual TGH Third Gender Homosexual	Transgender People (Umbrella Term) Transman, Transwoman for individuals Whenever possible use the term preferred by individuals, such as - Hijra, Kinnar, Aravani, Kothi, Shiv-shakthis, or Jogti hijras

Queer Community	
Gender-fluid	Non-binary
Sexual preference	Sexual orientation
Drug user; drug abuser; druggo; druggies; drug fiend	People/person who use/s drugs
Injector; junkie; smack- head; injecting drug user; meth-head	People/person who inject drugs
Recreational drug user	People/person who use/s drugs occasionally or opportunistically
Addict; drug addict; drug abuser; problem[atic] drug user; misuser; substance abuser; person who is addicted	People/person with drug dependence
Addiction; drug addiction; substance abuse; substance use disorder	Drug dependence
Patient	Client/s; service user/s
Relapse; non-abstinent; fallen off the wagon; using again; had a setback; lost cause	Currently using drugs
Clean; sober; drug-free; ex user; in recovery; maintaining recovery; ex- alcoholic	People/person who has used drugs

Clean/dirty urine/blood	Positive/negative drug screen; Presence/absence of drug metabolite in screening process
Drug using population[s]; affected communities; vulnerable populations	Communities (of people who use drugs); Networks (of people who use drugs); Peer-led networks
Client/s, Beneficiaries	Communities we work with (PLHIV, PWUD, MSM, Transgender People, Sex worker) Or Communities we serve Use 'client/s' in reports shared with donors and stakeholders only.