



Your Words

MATTER

Instead of:

AIDS
(when referring to HIV)

Why?

The two are not interchangeable. HIV does not always result in AIDS.

"They are infected with HIV"

Why?

"Infected" is a stigmatizing word as it implies something dangerous and contaminating

"They died of AIDS"

Why?

AIDS is a syndrome that results in a weaker immune system. AIDS doesn't cause death, rather other illnesses do.

"Dirty needles"

Why?

"Dirty" is a word that has very negative connotations. No one wants to be seen as dirty or as dirtying objects they touch

"Full-Blown AIDS"

Why?

There are no degrees of AIDS severity, it is simply AIDS. Calling it full blown is an unnecessary exaggeration.

"They are clean"
(when referring to someone's HIV or STI test results)

Why?

Calling someone clean implies that others are dirty.

Try:

HIV
(when referring to HIV)

"They are living with HIV"

"They are HIV positive"

"They died of an AIDS-related illness"

"Used Needles"

"Unsterilized Injecting Equipment"

"AIDS"

"They are HIV negative"

"They do not have HIV"