

# ACS Inclusivity Style Guide

## TIP SHEET

## Disabilities, disorders, and other health conditions

For more context, review the “[Disabilities, disorders, and other health conditions](#)” section of the Inclusivity Style Guide. Use this tip sheet in combination with the “[General guidelines](#)” tip sheet.

### Be mindful of people-first and identity-first language

People-first language (e.g., “person with autism”) and identity-first language (e.g., “autistic person”) are two ways of considering a condition. Use whichever the person or group prefers.

#### Example

- ✓ **Use:** people with disabilities, the disability community
- ✗ **Avoid:** the disabled

### Use neutral language

When describing a health condition, use neutral terms like “with” or “has” rather than terms that connote pity or imply a person has a reduced quality of life.

#### Example

- ✓ **Use:** She has cancer.
- ✗ **Avoid:** She suffers from cancer.

### Avoid stigmatizing language

Words such as “abuse” have connotations of crime and violence. Instead of “drug abuse,” use the term “misuse” or an adjective in combination with the word “use.”

Like what you’ve read? See the full guide from the American Chemical Society.

[www.acs.org/inclusivityguide](http://www.acs.org/inclusivityguide)