HMDC Presents...

Key Words: World Health Organization

Social Effects of Addiction

These words appear again and again in this committee's report, videos and debates. Knowing them helps you understand other delegates quickly and speak with confidence. Read each meaning, then write a short note or example of your own in the last column.

Word	Meaning (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries)	My note
addiction	the condition of being unable to stop using or doing something as a habit, especially something harmful	
dependence	the state of being addicted	
stigma	negative feelings that people have about particular circumstances or characteristics that somebody may have	
overdose	too much of a drug taken at one time, so that it is dangerous	
treatment	something that is done to cure an illness or injury, or to make somebody look and feel good	
rehabilitation	the process of helping somebody to return to a normal, healthy life after they have been in prison or very ill	
decriminalize	to stop treating something as illegal or as a criminal offence	
methadone	a drug that is used to treat people who are trying to stop taking the illegal drug heroin	
gambling	the activity of playing games of chance for money and of betting	
relapse	the fact of becoming ill again after making an improvement	
opioid	any of a class of drugs that are similar to opium	
excise	a government tax on some goods made, sold or used within a country	

Meanings: Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com, Last Accessed: November 7, 2026.