



Discussion Questions for Sue's Story

RCORP-ETC and Project Hope are producing digital stories that showcase how community members have been affected by opioid use disorder in rural East Tennessee. Digital stories have the power to transform communities, because they help people learn about and understand the experiences of others. To facilitate this, we have created discussion guides to accompany each of our digital stories. Discussing the events and themes of a digital story can improve understanding of the opioid epidemic and its effects, and ultimately reduce the stigma associated with opioid use disorder.

1. Let's start by recapping the video. How has Sue been impacted by the opioid epidemic?
2. Which scene from the video stuck with you the most?
3. What events, resources, and opportunities led to Sue's sobriety? Do you think that her story would be different without this support? If so, how?
4. When Sue overdosed, the people who were with her left her alone to die out of the fear of being arrested, but luckily, she survived. What can we do to change the stigma around drug use so that people like Sue can get the help that they need without fear of punishment?
5. Sue recounts several experiences of overdosing following traumatic life events. How might we support people who've suffered from great loss (e.g., death, loss of employment, natural disaster, etc.) in an effort to prevent opioid use disorder and overdose?
6. Approximately two million people currently have opioid use disorder in the United States, and the East Tennessee region has been disproportionately affected by the opioid epidemic. How might you seek to offer support to someone who has been personally affected? What resources might you recommend?
7. Identify potential challenges that may arise when extending support to someone who has been affected by the opioid epidemic. How might you overcome these challenges while maintaining a comfortable and supportive environment?
8. How, if at all, did your opinion of the opioid epidemic change as you watched the video?
9. Are there any lingering questions from the video you are still thinking about?

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