



Discussion Questions for Susan'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. In what ways were Susan and Logan affected by the opioid epidemic?
2. Which parts of Susan's story impacted you the most?
3. Susan discusses that Logan had a mental illness that she didn't recognize or understand when he was a child. What kind of impact do you think this had? What are some ideas for increasing awareness of how mental health affects the risk of substance misuse?
4. Susan points out that stigmatizing persons who misuse substances strips these individuals of their humanity. Why do you think some people use derogatory language to characterize persons with substance use disorders? What are some ways that stigma affects the person with a substance use disorder? Can you think of any solutions for decreasing the stigma of substance misuse in our society?
5. The U.S. reached the grim milestone of 100,000 overdose deaths in 2021. What are some things that you could do in your community to increase awareness of substance use disorders and overdose deaths?
6. Susan expresses her continued grief at the loss of her son. How can we offer support to those who have lost loved ones to substance misuse and overdose deaths?
7. How, if at all, did your opinion of the opioid epidemic change as you watched the video?
8. Are there any lingering questions from the video that you are still thinking about?

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