

ANONYMOUS

BEAVERCREEK, OH

How is the opioid epidemic affecting you, your family, and your neighborhood? :

As a parent of a 38yr old addict son with a 17yr old Grandchild living with me has turned my house upside down when learned my son was using Meth. I have missed work, very depressed, anxiety and so lost. My grandchild heart broken, missed school, has a uncertain future of her relationship with her father. I have never known anyone that has an addict in their family. Now I know too many. At 56 I had to educate myself every aspect of drugs, what they look like, what they are called, what effects they have and how to get them so I can figure out how this is happening to my family. The cost involved is ridiculous from bank accounts getting wiped out no money to raise my grandchild and the cost from our government and local communities from disability checks handed over to addicts, cost for ambulance, our police department, hospitals, rehabs, jail facilities and courts systems. It's out of control!

What do you see as causes of the epidemic in your community and in Ohio? :

Our government controls every aspect of our lives. They have made us poor that now it takes both parents to work to keep food on the table and pay bills. The cost of living is outrageous. Who is controlling that? We can't raise our own children anymore so they are raised by what's on tv and outside the home. There is no drug testing for benefits. The government hands over money to addicts to continue their addiction via disability checks, food stamps and Free housing with no direction or accountability. I'm not doing it! The government didn't have to feel the pain of my grandchild and I see our loved one go through all of this.

What steps might we take as a state to combat the opioid epidemic? :

Advertising on social media, billboards and everywhere to reach the people that need to be educated on the effects. The new generation doesn't watch much TV anymore. We don't have to re invent the wheel. It has been proven that overtime people get it. Like smoking "these are your lungs now" "this is what happens if you smoke" or don't wear your seat belt, and have unsafe sex. It starts with education. Then you have to start to provide clinics. MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT. I received the most education as a parent from the FB groups on addicts. When it is discovered you have an addict. I did not know what to do or who to turn to. It took 4-5 months to learn what I wish I had on day one.

What might we do as individuals and a community to reduce opioid abuse?:

Provide education immediately, set up booths at the malls, grocery stores, health departments and hospital waiting areas to provide pamphlets, Resource's and brief counseling. Addicts and their families need to know that they are not alone and can get help and support. Help is here. Right now, we still have nothing.

Anything else you'd like to share?:

I work in an emergency room. I have seen parents and addicts beg and plea for help and they did not get it. Instead the addict or their loved one was discharged to go out and use again. Only to come back again overdosed or dead. it gets harder and harder to see this happen every day. We are a hospital and are supposed to help people and we are NOT DOING IT.