

BREANNA MAYS

SPRINGFIELD, OH

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

It is damaging families and homes. There have been dozens of overdoses in the past two years. It has also affected businesses and restaurants because most of the employees are addicted to heroin/narcotics.

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

I believe it has stemmed from doctors. The same medications they proscribe; painkillers, anxiety meds, etc. contains the same substances as heroin and are also opiates. They proscribe those medications thinking that it would benefit people when it actually starts a very dangerous cycle of drug dependency.

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

Look for more natural ways to cure people in need. They are more beneficial and less harmful.

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

Communicate more with our loved ones to see what we can do to help them. A lot of people who abuse drugs typically have no support at home or in their family. It all starts with healing.