

Introduction:

JUNK: Addiction in Jackson County (2017) is a 27-minute documentary created by Kyle Simpson, a 24 year-old person in recovery who got clean and sober halfway through his college career at Southern Oregon University. Now, with over 3 years of recovery, he examines opiate addiction in Jackson County, Oregon by interviewing key stakeholders in the community to question how this epidemic started and what is being done to address it. This short documentary began as a senior capstone project but has quickly found a receptive audience in Oregon and beyond. It continues to be an effective tool in raising awareness for humane, reasonable and informed approaches to prevention, education, treatment and recovery for opioid addiction in the US.

Kyle Simpson graduated in June 2016 with a Bachelor's degree in communication and identifies as a person in long-term recovery. He is committed to promoting addiction recovery in the Rogue Valley through whatever medium possible.

Reflection & discussion questions:

1. How do you relate to the different perspectives offered in the film?
2. What thoughts, emotions, experiences or stories are stirred up for you?
3. What is the importance of this film? Or...why should we care?
4. What are the root causes and possible solutions to the opioid epidemic in my community/in the US?
5. What can we do as students, citizens, parents, providers, etc?
6. What actions on the local, state, and national levels can I/we take to impact this issue?
7. What can I do in my own personal life or family to make a positive difference?

Informational websites:

Advocates for Opioid Recovery: <https://www.opioidrecovery.org/>

American Society of Addiction Medicine: <https://www.asam.org/>

Faces & Voices of Recovery: <http://facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/>

Jackson County Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention: <http://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/Public-Health/Health-Promotions/Alcohol-Tobacco-Other-Drugs>

National Institute on Drug Abuse: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/>

Oregon Pain Guidance: <http://www.oregonpainguidance.org/>

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration): <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

The Anonymous People: <http://manyfaces1voice.org/>

Books:

Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic by Sam Quinones

Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs by Johann Hari

In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction by Gabor Mate

Local (Southern Oregon) treatment resources:

Addictions Recovery Center (ARC): <http://www.addictionsrecovery.org/>

Allied Health Services: <http://www.crhealth.com/programs/18/Medford-Clinic>

Jackson County Treatment Courts: <http://www.courts.oregon.gov/Jackson/pages/TreatmentCourts.aspx>

Kolpia Counseling: <http://kolpiacounseling.com/>

OnTrack: <http://www.ontrackrecovery.org/>

Phoenix Counseling: <http://www.phoenixcounseling.org/>