



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***The Opioid Epidemic***

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of **the opioid epidemic**. Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

Get Informed

- Learn about [how fentanyl contributed to the opioid epidemic](#) in this series of graphics from *The New York Times*.
- Listen to a co-author of a recent article on the [changing approach to addiction](#) published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.
- Explore theories about what has been driving the [recent drop in US overdose deaths](#) in this *New York Times* article.
- Check out where overdoses are still increasing in this [map of drug overdose death rates](#) from *Axios*.

Get Connected

- Sign up for updates from the [Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts](#), a national grantmaking foundation focused on finding and fostering innovative, evidence-based solutions to the opioid epidemic.

- Follow the [National Harm Reduction Coalition](#) as it promotes efforts to expand syringe access to all fifty states and infuse racial justice into efforts to end the America's overdose crisis.
- Support or find a group organized by [Celebrate Recovery](#), a national Christian organization that has developed a process and network to help anyone struggling with addiction.
- Connect with [Faith Partners](#), an interfaith organization working to equip people of all faiths to compassionately respond to addiction and other mental health issues.

Get Involved

- Work to implement the recommendations of the [American Medical Association](#) outlined on its End the Epidemic website.
- Support the work of the [American Nurses Association](#) in combating addiction.
- Follow the [CDC's guidelines](#) for preventing opioid use disorder, taking and storing opioids properly and manage your pain effectively.
- Contact Congress about the importance of addressing substance abuse using a tool developed by [Shatterproof](#), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing the addiction crisis in the United States.
- Join a [free online support meeting for parents and caregivers of children](#) with substance problems organized by Partnership to End Addiction, a national organization providing support and resources for families impacted by addiction.

About This Guide

Writer: Graham Bullock

© Copyright 2025 Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org.

DCI Deliberation Guides

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

DCI Pathways Guides

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email dc@deliberativecitizenship.org to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources.