

**Question 1: What do you remember about your early years and your mom?**

She never ate. She'd have maybe a coke a day. No water. Then go right back to bed. She would never take care of me, never feed me. I'd have to feed myself. I consider myself as the parent and my mom the kid.

**Question 2: Do you think your mom sold drugs? If so, did she get in trouble for that?**

I know she did. And yes, she did get in trouble. One time I think I was around 7 or 8, she actually made me do a drug deal for her.

**Question 3: A drug deal? Like what did she ask you to do?**

She put either heroin or cocaine in a napkin or something. And she said run up to that house, go get the money and give this to them.

**Question 4: What else was home like? Did you ever receive healthcare?**

Not until I was 10. I had never been to the dentist or the doctor.

**Question 5: Did your mom ever say anything to you about what happened at home?**

My mom told me not to tell anyone about the things I saw at home. But I would call my grandparents when I ran out of food.

**Question 6 (For the Grandparents): Were you aware of Tori's situation at home?**

Yes we were aware, and three years ago we were awarded legal custody. When she first came to live with us permanently, she was blaming herself. She would also say, "Maybe it could have been better if mom hadn't done the drugs." Her uncle was also a huge part of her life, and the closest person Tori had to a father figure.

**Question 7 (For Tori): What happened to your uncle?**

He passed away on November 20th, 2015, from a heroin overdose.

**Question 8: How did that affect you?**

That was super hard for me. I mean, he basically took care of me instead of my mom. Like if my mom was asleep, he'd take care of me. So it was just -- it was -- it was sad.

**Question 9: Why have you agreed to share your story?**

Because I want to spread awareness of how drugs have not only affected my life but have probably affected a lot of other kid's lives and I want to just help people.

**Question 10: How is your mother doing currently?**

She's been sober for three years and working two jobs. I'm proud of my mom and I get to see her every week, which is really nice.

## Works Cited

Brinkman, Victoria. *One Nation Overdosed: How Children Cope With A Parent's Addiction*.

NBC, YouTube, 9 Oct. 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YslhIY7ZyFM>.