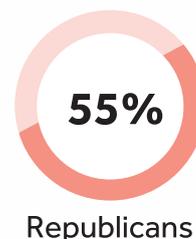
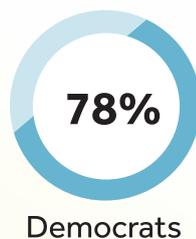
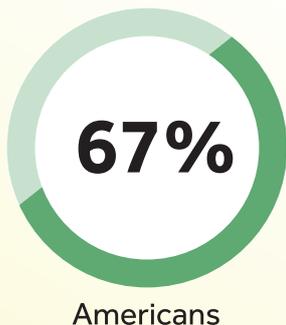


Public Opinion Supports Bold Action to Reform Nation's Criminal Justice Policies

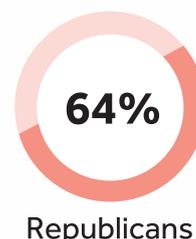
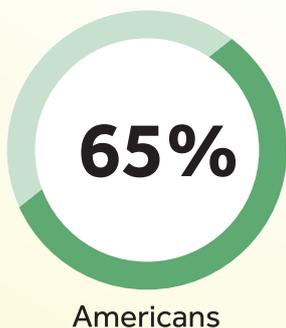
Polling recently conducted on behalf of Legal Action Center makes clear there is **strong and broad support for sweeping reforms to our nation's criminal justice policies.**

Most Americans (67%) believe we should **treat addiction to opioids and other drugs more as a health problem rather than a criminal problem**, including 78% of Democrats and 55% of Republicans.

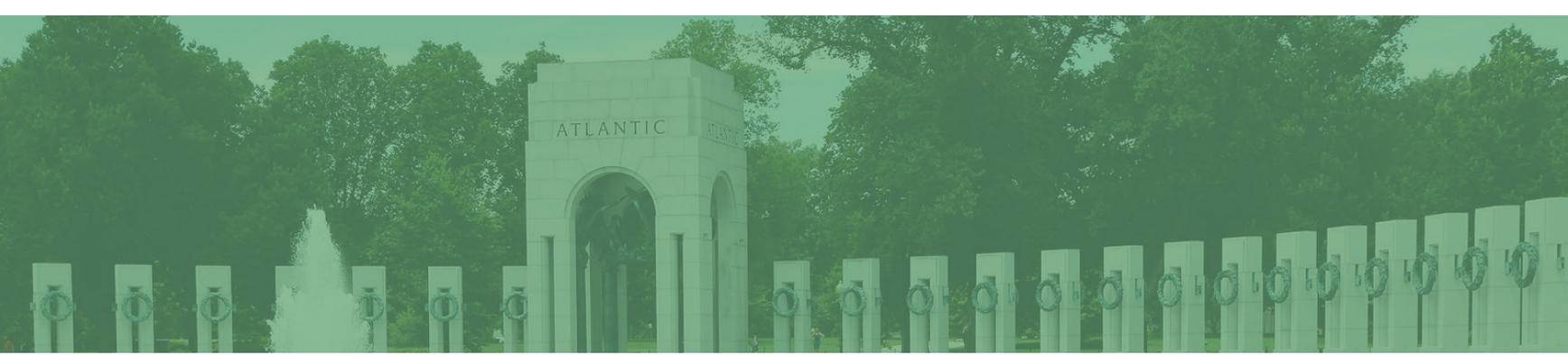


There is strong support (61%) for **expanding programs that send people arrested for drug use to treatment** instead of prison. A majority (56%) also support **expanding needle exchange programs** and other initiatives that reduce the risk of spreading HIV, hepatitis and other diseases.

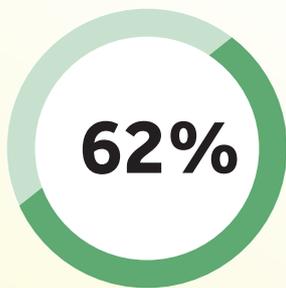
Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) support **regularly screening individuals in the prison population for addiction to opioids** and other drugs, including 70% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans.



Similarly, 68% support **providing drug addiction treatment and medication** to any individual in prison who needs it.



Nearly two-thirds of Americans (62%) believe that we should **provide legal protections that help individuals leaving prison reenter society** and find employment, housing and educational opportunities, including 71% of Democrats and 54% of Republicans.



Americans



Democrats



Republicans

A majority of Americans (56%) support **sealing nonviolent criminal records** once a person has completed their sentence so that they are better able to reenter society, obtain employment and access housing. A majority of Americans (54%) support **restoring full voting rights** to individuals who have completed their prison terms.



Americans recognize this essential truth: addiction treatment is more effective and less expensive than putting someone in prison - particularly for young people, who are locked up with individuals who have more serious convictions and emerge with a criminal record that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. And only by helping formerly incarcerated people be more successful in their reentry will we ensure they are able to access the employment, education, housing and public benefits necessary to become contributing members of their community.

For more information on LAC's work to enact meaningful policy change, please visit <https://lac.org/2019polling>.

**LEGAL
ACTION
CENTER**

The online nationwide survey was conducted by Prime Group July 2–15, 2019 with a nationwide census representative sample of 1,004.