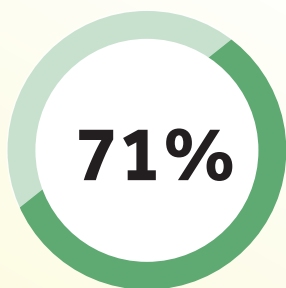


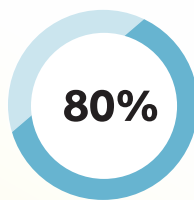
# Public Opinion Supports Bold Action to Expand Access to Addiction Treatment

Polling recently conducted on behalf of Legal Action Center makes clear there is strong and broad support for sweeping reforms to our nation's drug policies as part of a strategy to address the devastating consequences of the opioid epidemic.

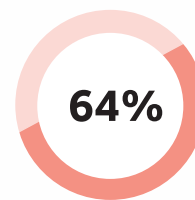
Most Americans (71%) believe that **treatment for addiction to opioids and other drugs should be readily available and affordable** for all who need it, including 80% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans.



Americans



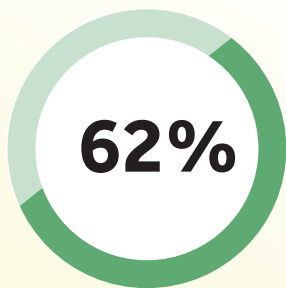
Democrats



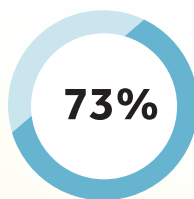
Republicans

Three-quarters of Americans (74%) think the federal government **should increase spending on programs to prevent and treat addiction** (50%) or maintain spending at current levels (24%) while only 9% would decrease spending. A majority (56%) also support expanding needle exchange programs and other initiatives that reduce the risk of spreading HIV, hepatitis and other diseases.

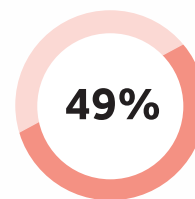
More than three-fifths (62%) support policies that **require insurance providers to cover addiction treatment at levels that are equal to coverage for other health conditions** such as cancer or diabetes, including 73% of Democrats and nearly half (49%) of Republicans.



Americans



Democrats

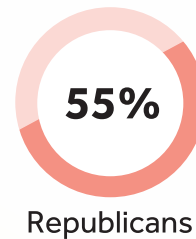
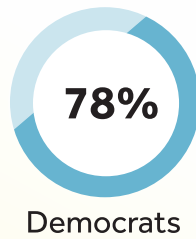
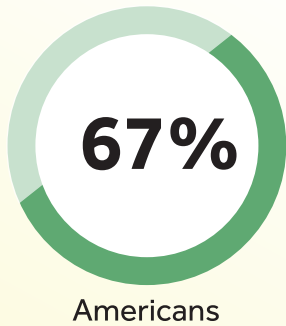


Republicans

Unfortunately, most Americans (71%) are unsure whether or not health insurance covers addiction treatment and 84% are unaware that **federal law requires health insurance providers to cover the cost of addiction treatment**. This lack of knowledge may discourage individuals from exploring and leveraging the benefits to which they are legally entitled.



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. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) support **regularly screening individuals in the prison population for addiction to opioids and other drugs and providing appropriate addiction treatment** for those who need it while they are incarcerated.



Americans recognize this essential truth: addiction treatment is less expensive, more effective and simply makes more sense than the current law enforcement approach that has not worked and has devastated communities. Now is the time to take bold actions and make additional investments to ensure addiction treatment is readily available and affordable to all who need it. For more information on LAC's work to enact meaningful policy change, please visit <https://lac.org/2019polling>.



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