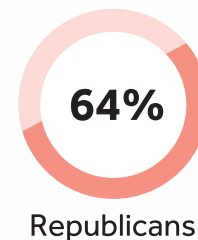
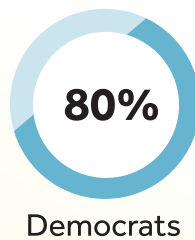
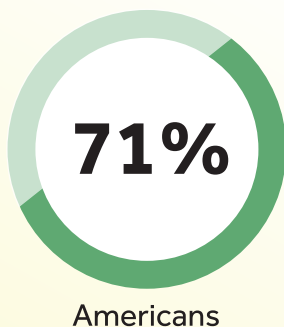


# Public Opinion Supports Bold Action to Reform Nation's Drug and Criminal Justice Policies

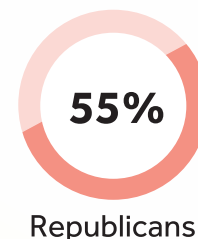
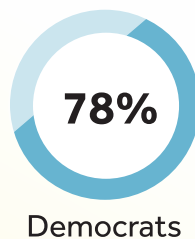
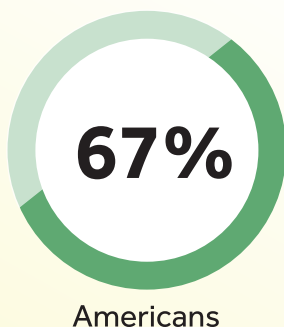
As the nation continues to grapple with the devastating consequences of the opioid epidemic and mass incarceration, polling recently conducted on behalf of Legal Action Center makes clear there is strong and broad support for sweeping reforms to our nation's drug and criminal justice policies.

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.



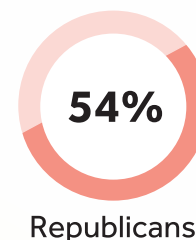
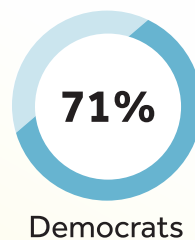
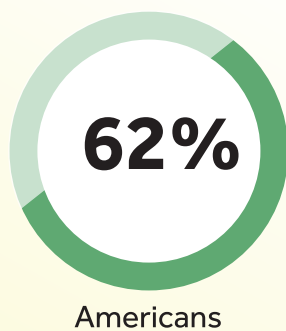
Three-quarters of Americans (74%) think the federal government should **increase spending on programs to prevent and treat addiction** (50%) or maintain spending at current levels (24%). A majority (56%) also support expanding needle exchange programs and other initiatives that reduce the risk of spreading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

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. And 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.

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.



A majority of Americans support (56%) **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. And a majority of Americans (54%) supports **restoring full voting rights to individuals who have completed their prison terms**.

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. And now is the time to help formerly incarcerated people become contributing members of our communities. For more information on LAC's work to enact meaningful policy change, please visit <https://lac.org/2019polling>.

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