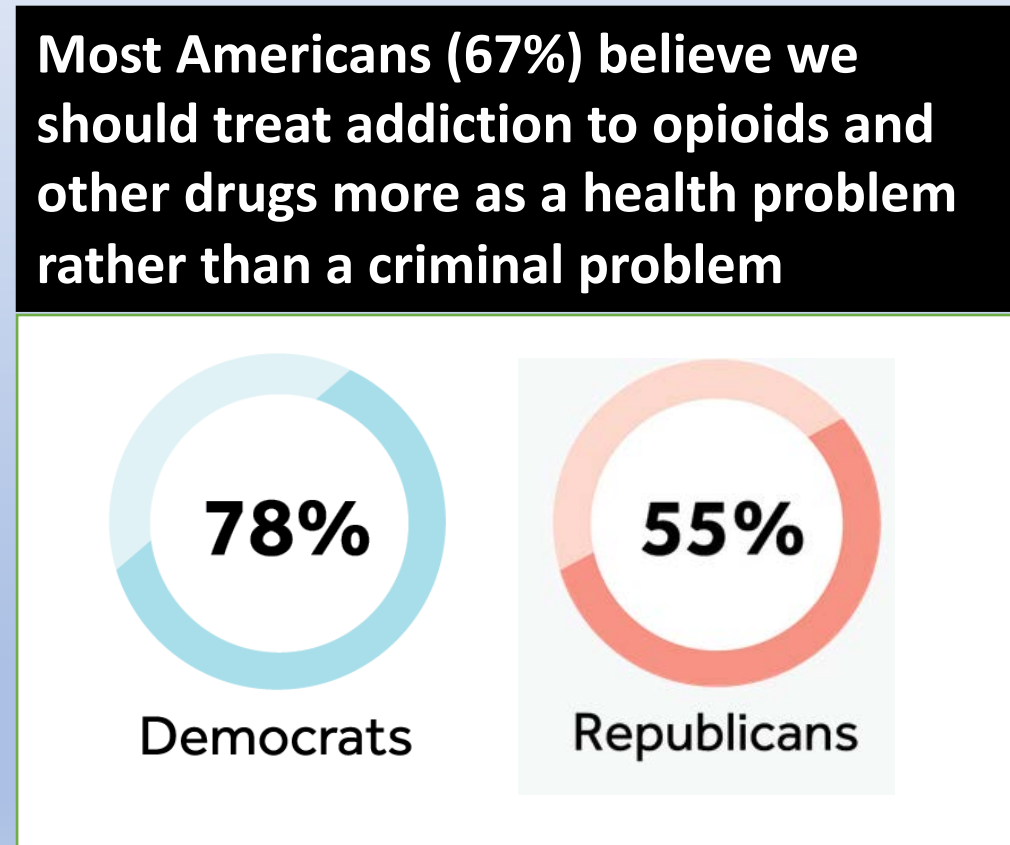
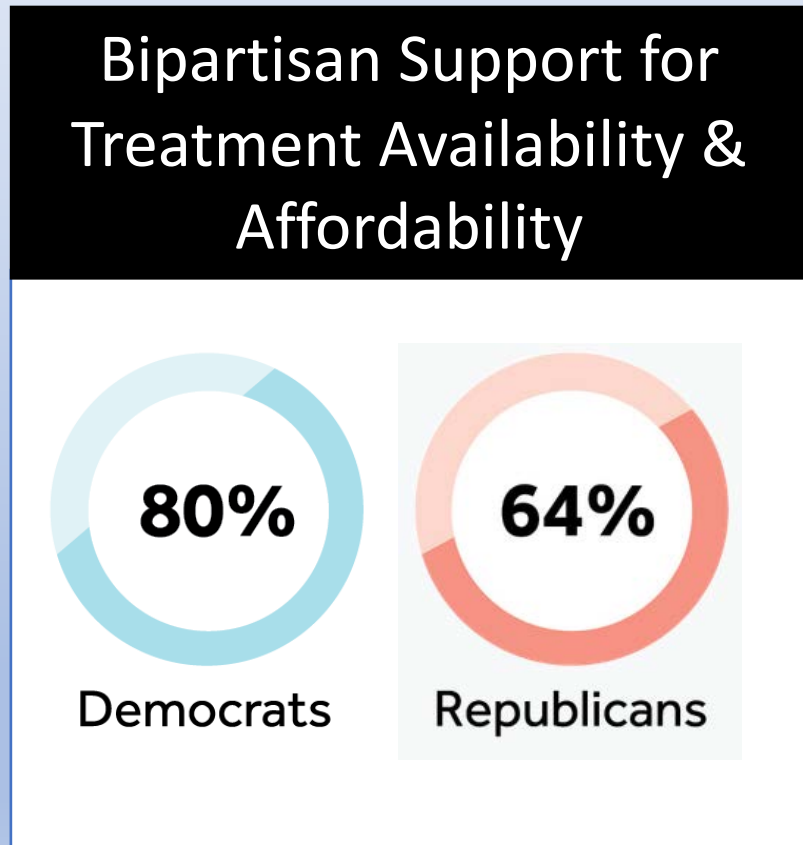




Public Opinion Supports Bold Action to Reform Nation's Drug and Criminal Justice Policies

*Americans Want to Expand Access to Addiction Treatment and
Treat Addiction More as a Health – Not Criminal – Problem*

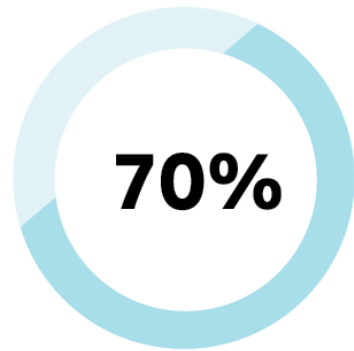
ACCESS: Most Americans (71%) believe that treatment for addiction to opioids and other drugs should be readily available and affordable for all who need it



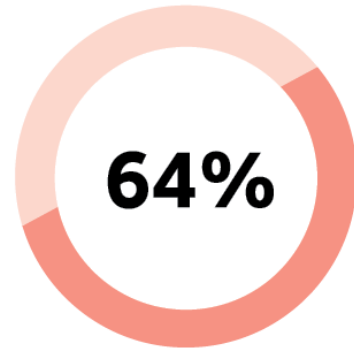
The online nationwide survey was conducted for LAC by Prime Group July 2–15, 2019 with a nationwide census representative sample of 1,004

HEALTH: The majority of Americans strongly support (61%) expanding programs to send people arrested for drug use to treatment, not prison

Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) support regularly screening individuals in the prison population for addiction to opioids and other drugs



Democrats

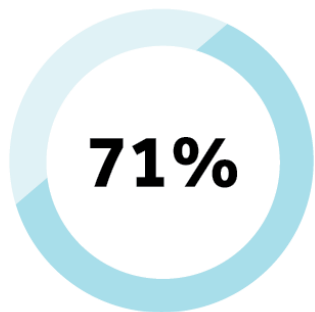


Republicans

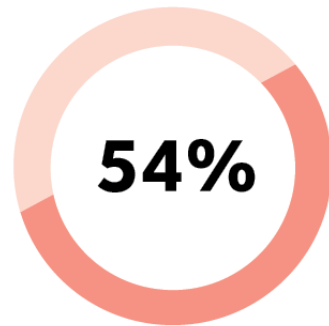
- 68% support providing drug addiction treatment and medication to any individual in prison who needs it
- A majority (56%) of Americans support expanding needle exchange programs and other initiatives that reduce the risk of spreading HIV, hepatitis and other diseases

OPPORTUNITY: Nearly two-thirds of Americans (62%) believe that we should provide legal protections that help individuals leaving prison reenter society

Bipartisan Support for Providing Legal Protections



Democrats

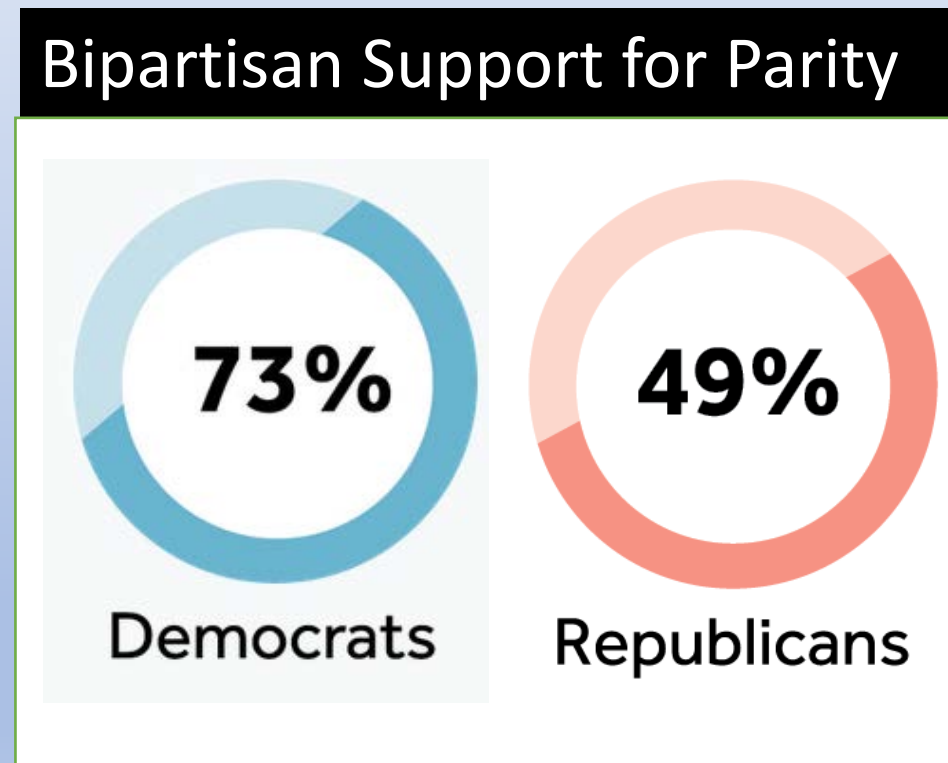


Republicans

- 56% of Americans 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
- 54% of Americans support restoring full voting rights to individuals who have completed their prison terms

INVESTMENT: Three-quarters of Americans (74%) think the federal government should increase spending on programs to prevent and treat addiction

More than three-fifths of Americans (62%) support parity, i.e. 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





Translate Strong Bipartisan Agreement into Action

Now is the time to 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 successfully re-enter society as healthy, contributing members of our communities.

LAC 2020 Policy Recommendations

Access & Investment

Ensure that treatment for addiction to opioids and other drugs is readily available and affordable for all who need it

- Make available the full continuum of evidence-based services and medications for all Substance Use Disorders (SUDs)
- Ensure all public and private insurance programs cover addiction treatment at levels that are equal to coverage for other health conditions
- Increase and make permanent safety net funds and discretionary funding to help states and localities better address the overdose crisis
- Expand Medicaid in every state

LAC 2020 Policy Recommendations

Health & Justice

Invest in federal and state strategies that promote health-focused responses to addiction rather than punitive ones

- Expand harm reduction strategies (including syringe exchange services and the piloting of safe consumption sites)
- Discontinue use of additional mandatory minimum sentences
- Reject initiatives to impose work requirements or drug tests on Medicaid eligibility
- Train all law enforcement personnel on addiction and effective treatment and recovery services
- Work to restore communities that have been disproportionately harmed by overly punitive drug policies, prioritizing Black and Latinx communities

LAC 2020 Policy Recommendations

Opportunity & Equity

Address SUD and mental health care needs in the community as part of a larger strategy to reverse mass incarceration and address systemic racism

- Expand diversion of people with SUD and MH care needs from law enforcement and corrections into addiction and mental health care
- Routinely screen people in the criminal legal system for SUD and MH conditions and provide clinically appropriate MH and SUD interventions
- Make available the full range of evidence-based SUD care, including medication-assisted treatment, at all stages of the criminal legal system
- Allow Medicaid to finance services, including SUD and MH care to people preparing to return home from prisons and jails

LAC 2020 Policy Recommendations

Opportunity & Equity continued

Help people leaving prison and jail be more successful in their reentry by eliminating barriers to employment, education, housing, and public benefits

- Reduce and/or eliminate criminal record barriers to housing, education, employment, public benefits, voting, etc.
- Expand access to supportive, transitional and recovery housing programs
- Restore voting rights to people who have completed their sentences
- Restore Pell grant eligibility to incarcerated people
- Expand sealing and automatic expungement of criminal records once a person has completed their sentence



Public opinion makes clear there is strong and broad support for sweeping reforms to our nation's drug and criminal justice policies.

Now is the time for action.

**LEGAL
ACTION
CENTER**