



# PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

### Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Pre-Arrest Diversion Programs - Questionnaire -

**Fielded By:** Precision Sample

**Sample Size:** 747 Adult Residents of Maryland's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

**Field Dates:** July 24 - Aug 19, 2023

**Confidence Interval:** +/- 3.6%

Today we are going to look at proposals to address drug and alcohol misuse and addiction, also known as substance use disorders. Drugs that can be misused can include illegal drugs, prescription drugs used in an unprescribed manner, and other drugs that may not be illegal (such as marijuana in some states).

A person has a substance use disorder if they meet some of the following criteria:<sup>1</sup>

- The substance (drugs or alcohol) is often used in a manner that is physically harmful, psychologically harmful and/or results in failures to fulfill major obligations at work, school, or home, and giving up on social activities or hobbies.
- The substance (drugs or alcohol) is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than the person originally intended.
- A number of negative symptoms occur when substance use is cut back or stopped (i.e. withdrawal symptoms).
- Larger amounts of the substance are needed to get the intended feeling or prevent withdrawal.
- The person desires to cut down on using the substance but has not succeeded.

There are millions of Americans who have a substance use disorder. Since the covid pandemic began, it is estimated that the number of people misusing alcohol and drugs has increased.

Q1. Do you know anyone who misuses drugs or alcohol, whether or not they have been officially diagnosed?

	Yes	No	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	55.4%	44.6%	0.0%
Republicans	63.6%	36.4%	0.0%
Democrats	59.6%	40.4%	0.0%
Independents	36.8%	63.2%	0.0%
<b>2022 National Results</b>			
<b>US National</b>	61.3%	38.4%	0.3%
Republicans	59.4%	40.0%	0.6%
Democrats	60.9%	38.9%	0.2%
Independents	65.6%	34.2%	0.2%

There are various ways that people start using substances before developing a substance use disorder or an addiction to the substance. They may start by drinking alcohol in an ordinary fashion, occasionally taking drugs for recreational purposes, or taking prescribed pain killers.

Some people may use substances to deal with underlying problems such as depression or anxiety for which they are not getting treatment. This is sometimes called self-medication.

Most people do not become addicted when they use such substances. Some people are born with a genetic tendency to become addicted. Traumatic experiences, such as childhood abuse or military combat, can also increase the tendency to addiction.

<sup>1</sup> SAMHSA. (2021) [2020 NSDUH: Methodological Summary and Definitions](#)

For people who become addicted, the substance has an impact on their brain functioning, making it harder for them to resist using the substance and difficult to stop without treatment.

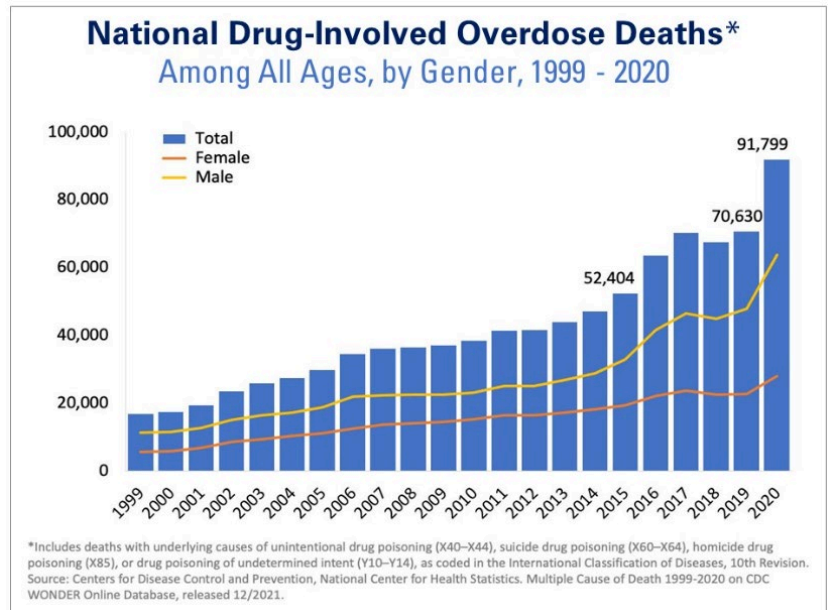
In recent years, as opioids were prescribed more liberally, there was a significant increase in the number who became addicted and started using unprescribed drugs once their prescriptions ran out. As a result, opioids are now prescribed in a more limited way. However, there are still large numbers of people still dealing with their resulting opioid addiction.<sup>2</sup>

Another side effect of substance misuse and addiction is its negative effect on people’s health, including serious effects on people’s heart, lungs, liver and other vital organs. These effects can even be fatal over time.

People can also catch lifelong diseases, such as HIV and Hepatitis, when they share needles or other tools used to take drugs.

People can also overdose from drugs or alcohol, which can result in death. Over the last couple of decades, there has been a large increase in the number of deaths from drug overdoses. In the year 2020, around 100,000 people died from drug overdoses, more than triple what it was in 2000.<sup>3</sup> Three quarters of those overdose deaths are from the use of opioids.

In addition, each year about 90,000 people die from alcohol misuse.<sup>4</sup>



Q2. Have you personally known someone who died from a drug overdose?

	Yes	No	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	41.7%	58.1%	0.2%
Republicans	45.1%	54.9%	0.0%
Democrats	45.6%	54.0%	0.4%
Independents	30.4%	69.6%	0.0%
<b>2022 National Results</b>			
<b>US National</b>	37.6%	62.0%	0.4%
Republicans	35.3%	64.5%	0.2%
Democrats	35.8%	63.5%	0.7%
Independents	45.8%	54.0%	0.2%

Substance use disorders also cost society as a whole – over \$400 billion a year according to the National Institute of Health. This includes<sup>5</sup>:

- \$65 billion in added healthcare costs

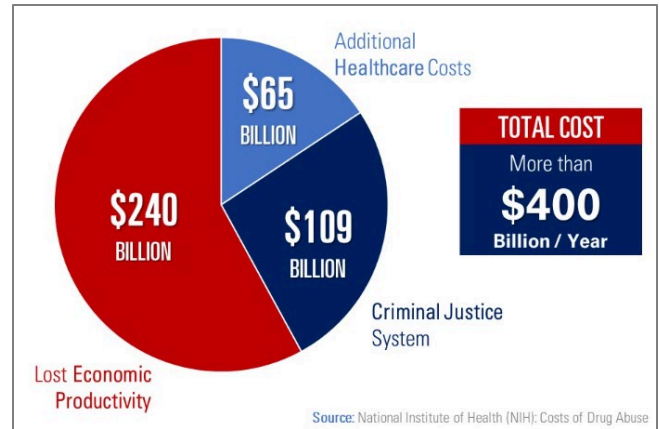
<sup>2</sup> CDC. [Prescription Opioids](#); CDC. (2017) [Characteristics of Initial Prescription Episodes and Likelihood of Long-Term Opioid Use — United States, 2006–2015](#)

<sup>3</sup> CDC. (2021) [NCHS: Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Top 100,000 Annually](#)

<sup>4</sup> CDC. (2021) [Deaths and Years of Potential Life Lost from Excessive Alcohol Use - 2011-2015](#)

<sup>5</sup> American Journal of Preventive Medicine. (2015) [2010 National and State Costs of Excessive Alcohol Consumption](#); DOJ. (2011) [National Drug Threat Assessment](#); and (2016) [The Economic Burden of Prescription Opioid Overdose, Abuse and Dependence in the United States](#), 2013, Florence CS, Zhou C, Luo F, Xu L. (minus \$3 billion spent on treatment), all cited by NIH. [Costs of Drug Abuse](#). The figures cited do not include estimated cost from loss-of-life.

- \$109 billion in costs to the criminal justice system, primarily dealing with illegal drugs, dealing with people being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while driving, and crimes committed for the purpose of financing a substance use disorder.
- \$240 billion of costs due to lost economic productivity from people failing to work effectively, missing work, or from being in prison on drug charges.



In addition to these costs, the deaths from overdoses have other substantial economic consequences.

Now, let's turn to a way to address substance use disorders: **providing treatment**.

Treatment may involve counseling, medication, and possibly staying in a rehabilitation (or 'rehab') center for intensive treatment. Research finds that the majority of people who go through a treatment program reduce or stop abusing drugs and alcohol and improve their ability to function in their social lives and remain employed.<sup>6</sup>

Treatment, however, is often an ongoing process. About half of the people who enter treatment start misusing substances again and need to return to treatment or receive additional treatment.<sup>7</sup> To help increase the amount of treatment available, the federal government provides cities and states with money to develop and operate treatment programs, and to train healthcare workers in substance use disorder treatment.

Spending money on treatment has proven to be cost-effective. The National Institute of Health estimates that for every dollar spent on treatment, there are \$7 in savings related to healthcare, criminal justice, and economic productivity.<sup>8</sup> Despite the spending on treatment, there are still many people who need and want treatment but cannot get it. There are about 1 million people who need and want treatment, or more treatment, but are not getting it.<sup>9</sup> There is currently a debate about whether government spending on treatment should be increased so that all people who need and want treatment can get it.

Here is an argument in favor:

Q3. Treatment is an effective and relatively inexpensive way to treat substance misuse and addiction. An abundance of research shows that treatment is very cost effective.<sup>10</sup> Think about it: spending one dollar on treatment results in seven dollars of savings to society. Some studies put it at twelve dollars.<sup>11</sup> Clearly, it is the sensible thing to do.

How convincing or unconvincing do you find this argument?

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	33.8%	49.1%	<b>82.9%</b>	10.7%	5.7%	<b>16.4%</b>	0.7%
Republicans	33.7%	46.6%	<b>80.3%</b>	15.3%	3.8%	<b>19.1%</b>	0.5%
Democrats	37.6%	50.3%	<b>87.9%</b>	6.6%	4.3%	<b>10.9%</b>	1.2%
Independents	27.7%	50.5%	<b>78.2%</b>	10.9%	10.9%	<b>21.8%</b>	0.0%
<b>2022 National Results</b>							
<b>US National</b>	32.1%	49.1%	<b>81.2%</b>	11.3%	6.6%	<b>17.9%</b>	0.8%
Republicans	19.8%	54.1%	<b>73.9%</b>	16.7%	8.9%	<b>25.6%</b>	0.5%
Democrats	46.6%	45.0%	<b>91.6%</b>	5.1%	2.7%	<b>7.8%</b>	0.6%
Independents	26.4%	48.0%	<b>74.4%</b>	13.6%	10.1%	<b>23.7%</b>	1.9%

<sup>6</sup> NIDA. (2022) [Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-Based Guide. How effective is drug addiction treatment?](#)

<sup>7</sup> NIDA. (2022) [Drugs, Brain and Behavior: The Science of Addiction](#)

<sup>8</sup> NIH. (2006) [Benefit–Cost in the California Treatment Outcome Project: Does Substance Abuse Treatment “Pay for Itself?”](#)

<sup>9</sup> SAMHSA. (2021) [NSDUH Detailed Tables 5.40A](#)

<sup>10</sup> NIH. (2000) [Cost-benefit analysis of drug treatment services: review of the literature](#)

<sup>11</sup> NIH. (2006) [Benefit–Cost in the California Treatment Outcome Project: Does Substance Abuse Treatment “Pay for Itself?”](#)

Here is an argument against:

Q4. Taxpayers should not be paying to fix the problems that people knowingly got themselves into. If a person decides to start using dangerous and addictive drugs, that is their responsibility. They should be the ones to get their life back on track. If they are ready to change, they will find a way.

How convincing or unconvincing do you find this argument?

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	16.2%	31.4%	<b>47.6%</b>	20.0%	15.8%	<b>35.8%</b>	16.6%
Republicans	17.3%	35.3%	<b>52.6%</b>	16.2%	12.0%	<b>28.2%</b>	19.2%
Democrats	12.7%	28.0%	<b>40.7%</b>	25.9%	20.5%	<b>46.4%</b>	12.9%
Independents	20.4%	31.7%	<b>52.1%</b>	15.7%	13.3%	<b>29.0%</b>	19.0%
<b>2022 National Results</b>							
<b>US National</b>	15.7%	24.8%	<b>40.5%</b>	26.2%	32.6%	<b>58.8%</b>	0.6%
Republicans	20.8%	34.8%	<b>55.6%</b>	27.8%	16.3%	<b>44.1%</b>	0.3%
Democrats	9.4%	15.3%	<b>24.7%</b>	25.2%	49.6%	<b>74.8%</b>	0.6%
Independents	18.7%	25.0%	<b>43.7%</b>	25.4%	29.7%	<b>55.1%</b>	1.2%

Here is another argument in favor:

Q5. We know that addiction is a physical and a mental disorder that many people cannot fight on their own, just like diabetes or asthma. But many that want and need professional treatment can't get it. They want to be productive members of society and have healthy relationships, and we should help them do that. Remember, many of these people developed an addiction just by taking the opioids they were prescribed.

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	36.5%	46.4%	<b>82.9%</b>	11.9%	4.2%	<b>16.1%</b>	1.0%
Republicans	36.1%	45.7%	<b>81.8%</b>	12.2%	4.7%	<b>16.9%</b>	1.3%
Democrats	39.2%	48.4%	<b>87.6%</b>	8.8%	2.7%	<b>11.5%</b>	0.9%
Independents	32.4%	44.2%	<b>76.6%</b>	16.5%	6.2%	<b>22.7%</b>	0.7%
<b>2022 National Results</b>							
<b>US National</b>	40.4%	42.1%	<b>82.5%</b>	11.0%	6.0%	<b>17.0%</b>	0.5%
Republicans	27.5%	45.3%	<b>72.8%</b>	16.9%	10.1%	<b>27.0%</b>	0.2%
Democrats	53.6%	39.0%	<b>92.6%</b>	6.0%	0.9%	<b>6.9%</b>	0.5%
Independents	38.6%	42.1%	<b>80.7%</b>	9.9%	8.4%	<b>18.3%</b>	1.0%

Here is another argument against:

Q6. Giving people drug treatment won't really solve the problem of drug addiction because the real source of the problem is moral weakness in our society. That is one of the reasons so many people relapse after treatment. It is not the proper role of government, but religious and charitable organizations, to solve this fundamental problem.

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	11.9%	29.5%	<b>41.4%</b>	19.9%	24.1%	<b>44.0%</b>	14.6%
Republicans	10.5%	28.2%	<b>38.7%</b>	23.2%	18.8%	<b>42.0%</b>	19.3%
Democrats	11.5%	24.9%	<b>36.4%</b>	19.6%	32.8%	<b>52.4%</b>	11.2%
Independents	14.4%	39.0%	<b>53.4%</b>	15.9%	17.1%	<b>33.0%</b>	13.5%
<b>2022 National Results</b>							
<b>US National</b>	9.8%	21.7%	<b>31.5%</b>	27.2%	40.8%	<b>68.0%</b>	0.4%
Republicans	14.6%	29.5%	<b>44.1%</b>	34.3%	21.4%	<b>55.7%</b>	0.2%
Democrats	5.5%	12.7%	<b>18.2%</b>	21.3%	60.2%	<b>81.5%</b>	0.5%
Independents	9.5%	25.2%	<b>34.7%</b>	25.7%	39.1%	<b>64.8%</b>	0.4%

Q7. So now, how high a priority should it be for the government to ensure that every person who needs and wants treatment for their substance use disorder is able to get it?

	Very High Priority	Somewhat High Priority	Very / Somewhat High Priority	Low Priority	Not at All a Priority	Low / Not at All a Priority	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	47.6%	39.8%	<b>87.4%</b>	10.2%	2.4%	<b>12.6%</b>	0.0%
Republicans	42.9%	42.9%	<b>85.8%</b>	12.2%	2.0%	<b>14.2%</b>	0.0%
Democrats	53.1%	38.2%	<b>91.3%</b>	6.2%	2.6%	<b>8.8%</b>	0.0%
Independents	45.1%	38.0%	<b>83.1%</b>	14.0%	2.9%	<b>16.9%</b>	0.0%
<b>2022 National Results</b>							
<b>US National</b>	38.4%	41.8%	<b>80.2%</b>	15.9%	3.6%	<b>19.5%</b>	0.3%
Republicans	20.7%	45.9%	<b>66.6%</b>	26.9%	6.2%	<b>33.1%</b>	0.3%
Democrats	54.1%	39.5%	<b>93.6%</b>	6.0%	0.2%	<b>6.2%</b>	0.3%
Independents	40.6%	38.8%	<b>79.4%</b>	14.8%	5.4%	<b>20.2%</b>	0.3%

Currently, the federal government spends around \$20 billion a year on treatment for substance use disorders<sup>12</sup> This is about 1.5% of all federal spending on healthcare.

There is a proposal in Congress to increase federal spending on treatment for substance use disorders, by providing an additional:

- \$8 billion a year to local and state governments to:
  - expand existing treatment programs and build new treatment centers to increase the number of openings and reduce waiting lists
  - offer free or low-cost treatment for people who cannot afford it because they do not have insurance, have used up their coverage or cannot afford the copays that many health insurance plans require.
- \$2 billion a year to research substance use disorders and train healthcare professionals in best-practices to treat substance use disorder and to deal with overdoses.<sup>13</sup>

Experts estimate that increasing spending by this amount would likely enable nearly all people who need and want treatment for their substance use disorder to get it<sup>14</sup>

Q8. Please select how acceptable this would be to you on the scale below, with 0 being not at all acceptable, 10 very acceptable, and 5 just tolerable.

<sup>12</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, [National Drug Control Budget FY2022 Funding Highlights](#)

<sup>13</sup> This proposal was originally based on the "Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act" ([H.R. 6311](#), 117<sup>th</sup> Congress) by Rep. Maloney; and ([S.3418](#), 117<sup>th</sup> Congress) by Sen. Warren.

This legislation was not resubmitted in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. However, legislation that covered similar terrain was submitted: Bruce's Law ([H.R. 2867](#)) by Rep Trone and ([S. 1235](#)) by Sen Murkowski. The legislation intends to expand on the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act of 2016 ([Public Law 114-198](#)). The new legislation does not specify amounts to be allocated, but does contain provisions about participation from state, local, and tribal entities. Another bill was not resubmitted for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, but contained similar provisions: Supporting Families through Addiction Act of 2023 ([H.R. 3879, 118<sup>th</sup> Congress](#)), by Rep Trone and ([S. 1810, 118<sup>th</sup> Congress](#)) by Sen Gillibrand.

<sup>14</sup> Money. (2017) [Here's What It Would Cost to Fix the Opioid Crisis, according to 5 experts.](#)

Back-of-envelope calculations find that an additional \$14 billion would be needed to cover 1 million more people. Total spending on treatment is about \$44 billion and 2.7 million who received treatment. To provide an additional 1 million people with treatment would require increasing spending by 36%, or to \$60 billion. If that increase is covered entirely by the federal government, then they would be spending an additional \$14 billion.

Sources for spending numbers: Projected 2020 national expenditures were \$42 billion ([Health Affairs 2014](#) and [SAMHSA 2014](#)), but federal spending is \$1.7 billion more than projected (\$18.3B vs \$20B in 2021 per the [National Drug Control Budget FY2022](#)), bringing the total to roughly \$44 billion.

Source for number who received treatment: 2.7 million received treatment for drugs and/or alcohol ([SAMHSA NSDUH Table 5.23A](#))



	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Refused / Don't Know	At Least Tolerable
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	14.7%	11.1%	70.4%	3.7%	<b>81.5%</b>
Republicans	18.2%	11.8%	67.6%	2.5%	<b>79.4%</b>
Democrats	6.6%	6.5%	85.3%	1.6%	<b>91.8%</b>
Independents	23.4%	17.9%	49.4%	9.2%	<b>67.3%</b>
<b>2022 National Results</b>					
<b>US National</b>	25.3%	13.6%	60.9%	0.2%	<b>74.5%</b>
Republicans	35.0%	19.6%	45.3%	0.2%	<b>64.9%</b>
Democrats	13.2%	8.9%	77.7%	0.1%	<b>86.6%</b>
Independents	31.1%	11.5%	57.0%	0.5%	<b>68.5%</b>

Q9. Finally, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Favor	Oppose	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	82.5%	17.2%	0.3%
Republicans	79.2%	20.8%	0.0%
Democrats	90.8%	9.2%	0.0%
Independents	73.4%	25.3%	1.3%
<b>2022 National Results</b>			
<b>US National</b>	74.8%	24.8%	0.4%
Republicans	58.3%	41.3%	0.4%
Democrats	92.0%	7.9%	0.1%
Independents	71.9%	27.3%	0.8%

Another issue is how much substance use disorder treatment should be provided to people in prison.

According to the latest estimates, around two thirds of all prisoners have substance use disorders—including both drugs and alcohol.<sup>15</sup> For many of these people, their crimes were related to their substance use disorder in that they:

- violated drug laws,
- committed crimes under the influence of drugs or alcohol (such as drunk driving or spousal abuse), or
- committed crimes to cover the cost of their substance use, such as theft.

Currently, while many prisons offer some treatment programs, most do not have the trained staff to provide treatment to all who need it and few programs use up-to-date methods.<sup>16</sup>

By the latest estimates, only about one in ten people in prison who have a substance use disorder have received treatment.<sup>17</sup>

A proposal has been put forward to provide additional funds to cities and states that want to expand and improve the treatment programs in their prisons.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>15</sup> NIDA. [Criminal Justice Drug Facts](#); Columbia University. (2010) [Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population](#)

<sup>16</sup> Columbia University. (2010) [Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population](#)

<sup>17</sup> Columbia University. (2010) [Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population](#)

<sup>18</sup> Proposal was originally based on Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Act ([H.R. 4200, 117th Congress](#)) by Rep. Jackson Lee (D), and by Sen. Cornyn (R) ([S. 1046, 117th Congress](#)).

Here is an argument in favor:

Q10. Substance use disorder is a key reason many prisoners have ended up in prison, and return to prison. Studies show that providing prisoners with treatment reduces their chance of committing another crime when they leave prison and increases their chances of leading a healthy life. <sup>19</sup> It is both humane and cost effective for society.

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	32.7%	48.7%	<b>81.4%</b>	12.0%	5.0%	<b>17.0%</b>	1.5%
Republicans	25.2%	51.3%	<b>76.5%</b>	14.8%	7.8%	<b>22.6%</b>	1.0%
Democrats	41.0%	46.0%	<b>87.0%</b>	8.9%	2.4%	<b>11.3%</b>	1.7%
Independents	29.6%	49.8%	<b>79.4%</b>	13.4%	5.2%	<b>18.6%</b>	1.9%
<b>2022 National Results</b>							
<b>US National</b>	39.6%	41.8%	<b>81.4%</b>	10.3%	7.8%	<b>18.1%</b>	0.5%
Republicans	22.1%	50.8%	<b>72.9%</b>	13.9%	12.7%	<b>26.6%</b>	0.5%
Democrats	57.0%	35.1%	<b>92.1%</b>	5.0%	2.3%	<b>7.3%</b>	0.6%
Independents	38.1%	37.8%	<b>75.9%</b>	14.4%	9.3%	<b>23.7%</b>	0.3%

Here is an argument against:

Q11. It should not be the responsibility of prisons to treat people's substance abuse problems. Prisoners are in prison to be punished for criminal behavior, not given therapy. Being in prison and away from all drugs should be enough for people to get over their drug and alcohol problems.

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	12.5%	26.5%	<b>39.0%</b>	26.5%	21.2%	<b>47.7%</b>	13.3%
Republicans	11.9%	31.3%	<b>43.2%</b>	27.7%	16.3%	<b>44.0%</b>	12.9%
Democrats	11.7%	22.4%	<b>34.1%</b>	25.3%	27.7%	<b>53.0%</b>	13.0%
Independents	14.6%	26.8%	<b>41.4%</b>	26.8%	17.5%	<b>44.3%</b>	14.4%
<b>2022 National Results</b>							
<b>US National</b>	11.4%	20.4%	<b>31.8%</b>	26.7%	41.1%	<b>67.8%</b>	0.3%
Republicans	17.1%	28.2%	<b>45.3%</b>	32.9%	21.8%	<b>54.7%</b>	0.1%
Democrats	5.4%	13.7%	<b>19.1%</b>	21.3%	59.3%	<b>80.6%</b>	0.2%
Independents	12.5%	19.1%	<b>31.6%</b>	25.7%	41.7%	<b>67.4%</b>	1.1%

Here again is the proposal:

Q12. Provide additional funds to cities and states that want to expand and improve the substance use disorder treatment programs in their prisons.

	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Refused / Don't Know	At Least Tolerable
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	15.9%	15.6%	68.4%	0.2%	<b>84.0%</b>
Republicans	24.8%	13.5%	61.4%	0.3%	<b>74.9%</b>
Democrats	7.4%	8.0%	84.5%	0.1%	<b>92.5%</b>
Independents	17.4%	31.3%	51.3%	0.0%	<b>82.6%</b>
<b>2022 National Results</b>					
<b>US National</b>	26.1%	12.3%	61.3%	0.3%	<b>73.6%</b>
Republicans	36.0%	17.9%	45.7%	0.4%	<b>63.6%</b>
Democrats	14.1%	7.1%	78.8%	0.0%	<b>85.9%</b>
Independents	31.6%	12.0%	55.8%	0.6%	<b>67.8%</b>

<sup>19</sup> Holloway, K. et al. (2006) [The effectiveness of drug treatment programs in reducing criminal behavior: A meta-analysis](#)

Q13. Finally, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Favor	Oppose	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	77.6%	21.7%	0.7%
Republicans	71.4%	28.6%	0.0%
Democrats	86.4%	13.6%	0.0%
Independents	71.7%	25.3%	3.0%
<b>2022 National Results</b>			
<b>US National</b>	74.4%	24.9%	0.7%
Republicans	60.8%	38.2%	1.1%
Democrats	88.9%	10.8%	0.3%
Independents	71.3%	28.2%	0.5%

Now let's turn to another topic.

As you may know, when a law enforcement officer encounters someone committing a minor non-violent offense, such as possessing a small amount of drugs, loitering, or disturbing the peace, they have various options. They can choose to arrest them, give them a warning, or let them go.

There is an additional option being used in some cities: if law enforcement officers perceive that a non-violent offender has a substance use disorder, rather than charging them with a crime, require them to enter a treatment program and give them information about available programs. If the person refuses, they may be charged.

In Congress, there is a proposal to provide funds to allow cities and states to set up or expand such programs.<sup>20</sup>

These programs would:

- train officers to recognize when a person has a substance use disorder, and how to interact with substance users
- give officers the tools to require them to enter a treatment program and give them information about available programs.

Here is an argument in favor:

Q14. A person who has a drug or alcohol problem should be put in treatment, not jail. Jailing people for minor offenses doesn't solve addiction, but it does cost local communities a lot of time and millions of dollars in police resources, court costs, and prisons. It also makes it harder for them to get housing or a job because of their criminal record, making it worse. Law enforcement officers are on the front lines, so they're in a great position to get them into treatment.<sup>21</sup>

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	36.6%	43.2%	<b>79.8%</b>	12.4%	7.0%	<b>19.4%</b>	0.8%
Republicans	32.6%	48.0%	<b>80.6%</b>	15.1%	4.3%	<b>19.4%</b>	0.0%
Democrats	42.6%	38.0%	<b>80.6%</b>	11.8%	5.6%	<b>17.4%</b>	2.0%
Independents	32.0%	45.2%	<b>77.2%</b>	9.5%	13.3%	<b>22.8%</b>	0.0%
<b>2022 National Results</b>							
<b>US National</b>	46.1%	35.1%	<b>81.2%</b>	11.0%	7.2%	<b>18.2%</b>	0.5%
Republicans	30.6%	39.5%	<b>70.1%</b>	17.1%	12.1%	<b>29.2%</b>	0.7%
Democrats	60.9%	31.1%	<b>92.0%</b>	5.4%	2.2%	<b>7.6%</b>	0.4%
Independents	46.3%	34.9%	<b>81.2%</b>	10.4%	7.9%	<b>18.3%</b>	0.5%

<sup>20</sup> CARA 3.0 ([H.R. 4341, 117th Congress](#)) by Rep. Trone (D) and ([S. 987, 117th Congress](#)) by Sen. Portman (R). (Bill does not require financial resources be taken away from any other law enforcement operations.)

This legislation has not been resubmitted, yet.

<sup>21</sup> PLOS. (2020) [Health outcomes and cost-effectiveness of diversion programs for low-level drug offenders: A model-based analysis](#)



Here is an argument against<sup>22</sup>:

Q15. The law must be upheld in all cases. Police are there to stop crime and arrest criminals, not determine if someone has a drug problem and help them get treatment. If a person commits a crime they should be charged and receive the punishment, whether or not they have a substance abuse problem. We should leave it up to the courts to decide whether a person should get sent to treatment rather than jail.<sup>23</sup>

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	17.8%	35.1%	<b>52.9%</b>	19.3%	10.3%	<b>29.6%</b>	17.5%
Republicans	19.6%	39.4%	<b>59.0%</b>	17.2%	5.9%	<b>23.1%</b>	18.0%
Democrats	12.8%	31.7%	<b>44.5%</b>	23.9%	15.6%	<b>39.5%</b>	16.0%
Independents	23.7%	34.7%	<b>58.4%</b>	14.7%	7.5%	<b>22.2%</b>	19.4%
<b>2022 National Results</b>							
<b>US National</b>	19.5%	29.2%	<b>48.7%</b>	23.9%	27.2%	<b>51.1%</b>	0.2%
Republicans	30.5%	36.4%	<b>66.9%</b>	22.4%	10.6%	<b>33.0%</b>	0.1%
Democrats	9.5%	21.5%	<b>31.0%</b>	26.7%	42.1%	<b>68.8%</b>	0.2%
Independents	18.6%	31.2%	<b>49.8%</b>	21.0%	28.9%	<b>49.9%</b>	0.3%

So, here again is the proposal:

Q16. Provide federal funds to cities and states that want to set up or expand programs that:

- train officers to recognize when a person has a substance use disorder
- give officers the tools to require them to enter a treatment program and give them information about available programs.

	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Refused / Don't Know	At Least Tolerable
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	17.3%	12.4%	69.4%	0.9%	<b>81.8%</b>
Republicans	22.2%	13.3%	62.6%	1.8%	<b>75.9%</b>
Democrats	12.4%	7.4%	79.5%	0.7%	<b>86.9%</b>
Independents	18.4%	19.4%	62.1%	0.1%	<b>81.5%</b>
<b>2022 National Results</b>					
<b>US National</b>	25.5%	11.3%	63.0%	0.2%	<b>74.3%</b>
Republicans	37.7%	15.7%	46.1%	0.4%	<b>61.8%</b>
Democrats	11.5%	7.0%	81.4%	0.1%	<b>88.4%</b>
Independents	30.3%	11.5%	57.9%	0.2%	<b>69.4%</b>

Q17. Finally, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Favor	Oppose	Refused / Don't Know
<b>MD-6 Overall</b>	74.3%	25.1%	0.6%
Republicans	67.9%	31.6%	0.5%
Democrats	81.1%	18.9%	0.0%
Independents	72.1%	26.1%	1.8%
<b>2022 National Results</b>			
<b>US National</b>	73.9%	25.6%	0.6%
Republicans	58.2%	41.1%	0.6%
Democrats	90.2%	9.4%	0.4%
Independents	70.8%	28.3%	0.9%

<sup>22</sup> See work by [Rafael Mangual](#) at the Manhattan Institute.

<sup>23</sup> See work by [Rafael Mangual](#) at the Manhattan Institute.

**It's worth noting that Rep. Trone has also sponsored legislation to allow people to get access to Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment Options via telehealth capabilities: [H.R.5163](#), 118<sup>th</sup> Congress) - Telehealth Response for E-prescribing Addiction Therapy Services Act, by Rep Trone. We did not have an executive question on this since it is a new proposal, but one could be added as a follow-up.**