



New Research

SURVEY SAYS...FEW AMERICANS BELIEVE THEIR COMMUNITIES ARE DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Associated Press and the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research in Bethesda, Maryland just released the results of its recent survey **“American Attitudes Toward Substance Abuse,”** and the results are clear -- few Americans believe their communities are doing enough to address substance abuse. In a time when Americans are facing the greatest public health crisis since the AIDS epidemic, this new report demonstrates great support for policies to address the problem, including better access to treatment, more research, and increased law enforcement.

We know addiction is having a serious impact on individuals, families, and communities throughout the country. More and more evidence suggests that Americans want to see increased accessibility to treatment and more punishment for drug dealers. The results of the survey also demonstrate that the American people understand the problem and the solutions they support.

Key Findings Include:

- 62% say at least one type of substance use is a serious problem in their community.
- 43% of Americans have a relative or close friend with substance abuse issues.
- The public says more should be done to address the problem of substance use in their area.
- 7 in 10 Americans say their community is not doing enough to find improved methods of treating addiction (68 percent) or to make accessible treatment programs more available (69 percent). Nearly as many, 61 percent, want to see more effort made to crack down on drug dealers. Just over half (53 percent) say their community should do more to go after the users themselves.
- Only 21 percent say all or most doctors and dentists regularly prescribe painkillers more than is necessary. But of those who think even a few doctors and dentists overprescribe, the vast majority (89 percent) believe this practice contributes to drug dependence and overdoses.

To read the full report, click [here](#).