



Maine Survey Results

Q1 Every day, 125 Americans die as a result of a drug overdose, most of them involving prescription painkillers or heroin. The problem is particularly severe in Maine. How important to you is addressing prescription drug and other drug abuse in Maine and the recent surge in overdose deaths: very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

Very important..... 70%
Somewhat important..... 19%
Not too important..... 7%
Not important at all..... 4%
Not sure..... 0%

Q2 There is currently no significant federal budget or program devoted to fighting drug overdose through research, public education and funding local efforts. If a candidate for president or Congress promised federal support for drug overdose prevention, would that make you more likely to support or less likely to support them, or would it not make a difference?

More likely..... 50%
Less likely..... 9%
Wouldn't make a difference..... 38%
Not sure..... 3%

Q3 In your opinion, should drug abuse be treated primarily as a criminal justice problem or primarily as a health problem?

Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a criminal justice problem..... 26%
Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a health problem..... 62%
Not sure..... 12%

Q4 Some people think we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a small amount of any drug for personal use. Do you agree or disagree with this sentiment?

Agree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a small amount of any drug for personal use..... 63%
Disagree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a small amount of any drug for personal use..... 29%
Not sure..... 9%

Q5 If someone is caught with a small amount of illegal drugs for personal use, in your opinion, what should happen to them: They should be evaluated for drug issues, offered treatment but not be arrested or face jail time; they should spend no more than 3 months in jail; they should spend up to 1 year in jail; they should spend up to 3 years in jail; they should spend up to 5 years in jail; or they should spend 10 or more years in jail?

Evaluated for drug issues, offered treatment but not be arrested or face jail time..... 64%
No more than 3 months in jail..... 19%
Up to 1 year in jail..... 10%
Up to 3 years in jail..... 3%
Up to 5 years in jail..... 1%
10 or more years in jail..... 1%
Not sure..... 2%





Q6 A bill is being considered in the Maine legislature next week that would increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amounts of drugs. Do you agree or disagree with this approach?

- Agree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs.....* 29%
- Disagree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs.....* 59%
- Not sure* 12%

Q7 There are more than 2 million Americans in prison, more people by far than any other country. How important to you is substantially reducing the number of Americans in prison: very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

- Very important.....* 40%
- Somewhat important.....* 31%
- Not too important* 17%
- Not important at all.....* 10%
- Not sure* 1%

Q8 If a candidate promised to make it a priority to substantially reduce the number of Americans in prison, would that make you more likely to support or less likely to support them, or would it not make a difference?

- More likely.....* 37%
- Less likely* 24%
- Wouldn't make a difference.....* 37%
- Not sure* 3%

Q9 Some people have proposed eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders, giving judges the ability to make sentencing decisions in the context of each individual case. Do you support or oppose eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders?

- Support eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders.....* 71%
- Oppose eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders.....* 18%
- Not sure* 11%

Q10 The American Medical Association and other health organizations support needle exchange as a way of preventing the spread of hepatitis C, HIV, and other infectious diseases. Acute cases of hepatitis C in Maine have more than tripled from 2013 to 2014 with sixty-eight percent of the cases being related to injection drug use. Would you support or oppose needle exchange for Maine?

- Support needle exchange.....* 54%
- Oppose needle exchange.....* 28%
- Not sure* 18%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

- Woman* 53%
- Man.....* 47%

Q12 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent, press 3.

- Democrat.....* 41%
- Republican.....* 32%
- Independent.....* 27%

Q13 If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

- White* 96%
- African American.....* 1%
- Other.....* 4%



Q14 If you are 18-45 years old, press 1. If 46-65, press 2. If older than 65, press 3.

<i>18 to 45</i>	31%
<i>46 to 65</i>	45%
<i>Older than 65</i>	24%



	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Address Drug Abuse Importance			
Very important	70%	72%	67%
Somewhat important	19%	22%	17%
Not too important	7%	4%	10%
Not important at all	4%	3%	6%
Not sure	0%	0%	-

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Candidate Support Overdose Prevention More/Less Likely			
More likely	50%	53%	46%
Less likely	9%	8%	10%
Wouldn't make a difference	38%	35%	41%
Not sure	3%	4%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Drug Abuse Criminal/Health Problem			
Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a criminal justice problem	26%	22%	31%
Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a health problem	62%	65%	58%
Not sure	12%	13%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Stop Arrests for Personal Drug Use Agree/Disagree			
Agree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a small ...	63%	64%	61%
Disagree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a sm...	29%	26%	31%
Not sure	9%	10%	7%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Preferred Punishment Drug Possession			
Evaluated for drug issues, offered treatment but not be arrested or face jail time	64%	70%	57%
No more than 3 months in jail	19%	15%	22%
Up to 1 year in jail	10%	8%	13%
Up to 3 years in jail	3%	2%	4%
Up to 5 years in jail	1%	2%	0%
10 or more years in jail	1%	0%	1%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Increase Penalties for Possession Agree/Disagree			
Agree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs	29%	25%	34%
Disagree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs	59%	61%	56%
Not sure	12%	14%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Reduce Prison Population Importance			
Very important	40%	39%	41%
Somewhat important	31%	36%	26%
Not too important	17%	17%	17%
Not important at all	10%	5%	15%
Not sure	1%	2%	-

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Candidate Reduce Prison Population More/Less Likely			
More likely	37%	38%	36%
Less likely	24%	16%	33%
Wouldn't make a difference	37%	43%	29%
Not sure	3%	3%	2%





	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Eliminate Mandatory Sentences Support/Oppose			
Support eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders	71%	73%	68%
Oppose eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders	18%	13%	24%
Not sure	11%	14%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Needle Exchange Support/Oppose			
Support needle exchange	54%	60%	48%
Oppose needle exchange	28%	21%	36%
Not sure	18%	19%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Address Drug Abuse Importance				
Very important	70%	73%	70%	64%
Somewhat important	19%	19%	17%	23%
Not too important	7%	7%	10%	4%
Not important at all	4%	2%	3%	9%
Not sure	0%	-	0%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Candidate Support Overdose Prevention More/Less Likely				
More likely	50%	62%	38%	45%
Less likely	9%	3%	14%	12%
Wouldn't make a difference	38%	31%	44%	41%
Not sure	3%	4%	5%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Drug Abuse Criminal/Health Problem				
Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a criminal justice problem	26%	20%	38%	23%
Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a health problem	62%	71%	49%	63%
Not sure	12%	10%	13%	14%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Stop Arrests for Personal Drug Use Agree/Disagree				
Agree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a small ...	63%	75%	48%	61%
Disagree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a sm...	29%	17%	45%	27%
Not sure	9%	8%	7%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Preferred Punishment Drug Possession				
Evaluated for drug issues, offered treatment but not be arrested or face jail time	64%	73%	48%	68%
No more than 3 months in jail	19%	17%	24%	16%
Up to 1 year in jail	10%	5%	16%	12%
Up to 3 years in jail	3%	1%	6%	2%
Up to 5 years in jail	1%	1%	2%	-
10 or more years in jail	1%	1%	1%	-
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Increase Penalties for Possession Agree/Disagree				
Agree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs	29%	22%	37%	30%
Disagree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs	59%	67%	51%	55%
Not sure	12%	11%	12%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Reduce Prison Population Importance				
Very important	40%	53%	26%	37%
Somewhat important	31%	30%	34%	30%
Not too important	17%	12%	22%	20%
Not important at all	10%	5%	15%	11%
Not sure	1%	0%	2%	2%





	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Candidate Reduce Prison Population More/Less Likely				
More likely	37%	54%	22%	30%
Less likely	24%	15%	30%	30%
Wouldn't make a difference	37%	29%	45%	39%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Eliminate Mandatory Sentences Support/Oppose				
Support eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders	71%	81%	56%	72%
Oppose eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders	18%	12%	27%	18%
Not sure	11%	7%	16%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Needle Exchange Support/Oppose				
Support needle exchange	54%	69%	33%	56%
Oppose needle exchange	28%	20%	38%	27%
Not sure	18%	11%	28%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Address Drug Abuse Importance				
Very important	70%	71%	37%	47%
Somewhat important	19%	19%	3%	28%
Not too important	7%	6%	16%	12%
Not important at all	4%	4%	44%	13%
Not sure	0%	0%	-	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Candidate Support Overdose Prevention More/Less Likely				
More likely	50%	51%	2%	24%
Less likely	9%	8%	50%	25%
Wouldn't make a difference	38%	37%	47%	51%
Not sure	3%	4%	-	-





	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Drug Abuse Criminal/Health Problem				
Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a criminal justice problem	26%	25%	78%	49%
Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a health problem	62%	63%	19%	31%
Not sure	12%	12%	3%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Stop Arrests for Personal Drug Use Agree/Disagree				
Agree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a small ...	63%	64%	22%	32%
Disagree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a sm...	29%	27%	75%	63%
Not sure	9%	9%	3%	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Preferred Punishment Drug Possession				
Evaluated for drug issues, offered treatment but not be arrested or face jail time	64%	65%	24%	36%
No more than 3 months in jail	19%	18%	39%	29%
Up to 1 year in jail	10%	10%	9%	18%
Up to 3 years in jail	3%	3%	-	-
Up to 5 years in jail	1%	1%	-	9%
10 or more years in jail	1%	0%	28%	2%
Not sure	2%	2%	-	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Increase Penalties for Possession Agree/Disagree				
Agree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs	29%	28%	70%	48%
Disagree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs	59%	60%	16%	45%
Not sure	12%	13%	14%	8%





	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Reduce Prison Population Importance				
Very important	40%	41%	18%	11%
Somewhat important	31%	31%	5%	33%
Not too important	17%	17%	19%	16%
Not important at all	10%	8%	57%	41%
Not sure	1%	1%	-	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Candidate Reduce Prison Population More/Less Likely				
More likely	37%	38%	2%	9%
Less likely	24%	22%	92%	57%
Wouldn't make a difference	37%	37%	6%	34%
Not sure	3%	3%	-	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Eliminate Mandatory Sentences Support/Oppose				
Support eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders	71%	72%	8%	62%
Oppose eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders	18%	17%	90%	38%
Not sure	11%	11%	2%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Needle Exchange Support/Oppose				
Support needle exchange	54%	55%	21%	41%
Oppose needle exchange	28%	27%	76%	48%
Not sure	18%	18%	2%	12%





	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Address Drug Abuse Importance				
Very important	70%	72%	66%	74%
Somewhat important	19%	16%	23%	16%
Not too important	7%	6%	8%	5%
Not important at all	4%	5%	4%	4%
Not sure	0%	-	-	1%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Candidate Support Overdose Prevention More/Less Likely				
More likely	50%	46%	47%	59%
Less likely	9%	9%	8%	10%
Wouldn't make a difference	38%	42%	40%	28%
Not sure	3%	3%	4%	3%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Drug Abuse Criminal/Health Problem				
Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a criminal justice problem	26%	34%	24%	21%
Drug abuse should be treated primarily as a health problem	62%	59%	60%	68%
Not sure	12%	7%	16%	12%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Stop Arrests for Personal Drug Use Agree/Disagree				
Agree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a small ...	63%	64%	62%	63%
Disagree that we should treat drug use as a public health issue and stop arresting and locking up people for possession of a sm...	29%	29%	29%	27%
Not sure	9%	8%	9%	10%





	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Preferred Punishment Drug Possession				
Evaluated for drug issues, offered treatment but not be arrested or face jail time	64%	63%	62%	67%
No more than 3 months in jail	19%	20%	18%	17%
Up to 1 year in jail	10%	7%	15%	6%
Up to 3 years in jail	3%	6%	2%	2%
Up to 5 years in jail	1%	2%	0%	1%
10 or more years in jail	1%	1%	-	2%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	4%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Increase Penalties for Possession Agree/Disagree				
Agree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs	29%	33%	28%	26%
Disagree that the legislature should increase criminal penalties on people caught with small amount of drugs	59%	60%	60%	55%
Not sure	12%	7%	12%	20%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Reduce Prison Population Importance				
Very important	40%	40%	38%	44%
Somewhat important	31%	24%	33%	36%
Not too important	17%	20%	19%	10%
Not important at all	10%	13%	10%	7%
Not sure	1%	2%	0%	2%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Candidate Reduce Prison Population More/Less Likely				
More likely	37%	40%	33%	41%
Less likely	24%	26%	24%	22%
Wouldn't make a difference	37%	33%	40%	34%
Not sure	3%	2%	3%	2%





	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Eliminate Mandatory Sentences Support/Oppose				
Support eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders	71%	75%	70%	68%
Oppose eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders	18%	18%	22%	12%
Not sure	11%	8%	8%	20%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Needle Exchange Support/Oppose				
Support needle exchange	54%	53%	55%	56%
Oppose needle exchange	28%	26%	29%	28%
Not sure	18%	21%	17%	16%

