



The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

American Attitudes toward Substance Use in the United States

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

*Interviews: 2/11-14/2016
1,042 adults*

Margin of error: +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

American Attitudes toward Substance Use in the United States

Q1. Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Yes, should be legal	61
No, should not be legal	39
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	1,042

If Yes, should be legal in Q1...

Q2. Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal:

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
With no restrictions	33
With restrictions on purchase amounts	43
Only with a medical prescription	24
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	639

Q3. What about other drugs, such as cocaine and heroin? Should they be made legal, or not?

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Yes, should be legal	7
No, should not be legal	93
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	1,042

American Attitudes toward Substance Use in the United States

Q3A. Do you think the use of drugs such as cocaine and heroin should be made legal:

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
With no restrictions	27
With restrictions on purchase amounts	57
Only with a medical prescription	16
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>69</i>

Q4. In your community, how serious of a problem is:

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED, ITEM E ALWAYS LAST]

AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016	Not at all/Not too serious	Not at all serious	Not too serious	Moderately serious	Very/ Extremely serious	Very serious	Extremely serious	DK	Ref.
A. Heroin use	43	19	24	21	32	19	13	3	1
B. Alcohol use	23	7	16	40	36	24	13	1	1
C. Marijuana use	45	18	27	27	26	16	10	2	1
D. The use of prescription pain relievers such as Oxycontin, Percocet or Vicodin	30	10	21	34	33	23	11	2	1
E. The use of other drugs such as cocaine or methamphetamines	33	13	21	27	37	24	13	2	*

N= 1,042

Q5. How many doctors and dentists do you think regularly prescribe pain relievers more than medically needed?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
All/Most	21
All	3
Most	18
Some	45
Only a few/None	33
Only a few	29
None	5
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 1,042

Skip Q6 if None in Q5...

Q6. How much do you think the prescribing practices of doctors and dentists contribute to dependence on prescription pain relievers and drug overdoses? Would you say it is...

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
A major cause	32
A minor cause	57
Not a cause	10
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N= 988

Q7. Which do you think is more risky to use?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS 1-2 IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Prescription pain relievers	4
Heroin	44
Prescription pain relievers and heroin about equally risky	52
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 1,042

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If Not at all serious to all items in Q4 series, skip Q8 series...

Q8. To deal with the problem of substance use, is your community currently doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to:

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016	Too much	Right amount	Not enough	DK	REF.
Make substance use treatment programs more affordable and accessible	2	27	69	2	1
Find ways to improve treatment for substance use	2	29	68	1	1
Crack down on drug dealers	5	32	61	1	1
Educate the public and school students to prevent substance use	3	41	55	1	*
Crack down on drug users	11	34	53	1	1
Educate doctors and dentists on the risks of prescribing pain relievers	2	46	49	2	1

N=1,004

Q9. Compared with the treatment of other ailments, do you think health insurance companies should cover drug addiction treatment services at:

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
A higher level	38
The same level	47
A lower level	14
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,042

Q10. There is a drug called Narcan, also known as Naloxone that can prevent people from dying if they are experiencing an overdose of a prescription painkiller or heroin. Some states have made this drug available to adults without a prescription. Other states restrict the sale of this drug because they think it might encourage the use of illegal drugs. Which comes closer to your view?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
The drug should be available without a prescription	42
Access to the drug should only be allowed with a prescription	57
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,042

Q11. How likely do you think substance users in each of the following groups are to be convicted of drug possession?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016	Extremely/ Very likely	Extremely likely	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too/ Not at all likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely	DK	Ref.
Blacks	66	29	36	29	4	3	1	1	1
Poor people	63	24	39	28	8	6	2	1	*
Hispanics	55	19	36	36	7	6	1	1	1
People living in cities	53	13	40	37	9	7	1	*	1
Whites	30	9	21	48	21	17	4	*	1
Middle class people	29	8	21	50	20	18	2	*	1
People living in rural areas	29	9	20	42	28	24	5	*	1
People living in suburbs	29	8	21	41	29	25	4	1	1
Rich people	23	9	14	24	53	31	22	*	1

N= 1,042

Q12. Do you personally have a relative or close friend who has a problem with substance use, or not?

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Yes, have a friend/relative with substance use problem	43
No, do not	57
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,042

American Attitudes toward Substance Use in the United States

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Democrat	34
Republican	25
Independent	25
None of these	16
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,042

If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in PID1

PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Lean Democrat	33
Lean Republican	24
Don't lean	42
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

433

POLITICS. Combines PID1 and PIDI.

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Democrat	34
Lean Democrat	14
Independent/None – Don't lean	18
Lean Republican	10
Republican	25
Unknown	*

N=

1,042

American Attitudes toward Substance Use in the United States

DM5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Urban area	23
Suburban area	50
Rural area	27
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 1,042

AGE

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
18-24	12
25-34	17
35-44	18
45-54	16
55-64	17
65-74	12
75+	7

N= 1,042

GENDER

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Male	48
Female	52

N= 1,042

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
White	65
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8

N= 1,042

American Attitudes toward Substance Use in the United States

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Married	52
Widowed	6
Divorced	10
Separated	2
Never married	23
Living with partner	7

N= 1,042

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Employed	57
Not employed	43

N= 1,042

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Less than a high school diploma	12
High school graduate or equivalent	30
Some college	25
College graduate or above	34

N= 1,042

INCOME

	AP-NORC 2/11-14/2016
Under \$10,000	7
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	10
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	12
\$150,000 or more	9

N= 1,042

AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research Poll

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago. Data were collected using AmeriSpeak®, which is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face).

Interviews for this survey were conducted between February 11 and 14, 2016, with adults age 18 and over from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak®, and 1,042 completed the survey—814 via the web and 228 via telephone. The final stage completion rate is 30.3 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 36.9 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 93.7 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 10.5 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and household phone status. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

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- The Associated Press (AP) is the world's essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

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