

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

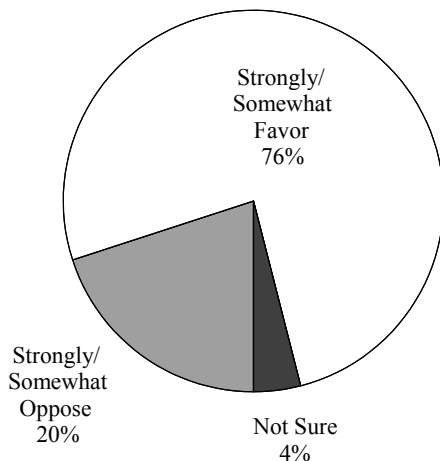
University of Maryland, College Park

More Than 70% of U.S. Residents Support Mandatory Treatment Instead of Incarceration for Minor Drug Offenders

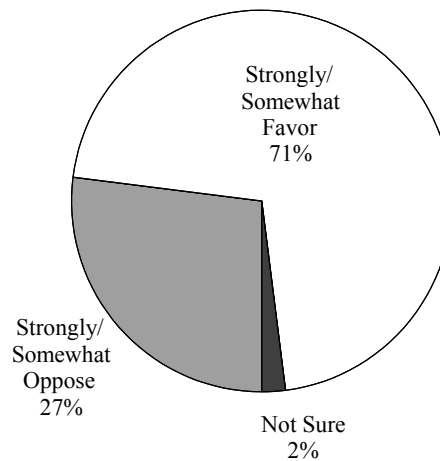
U.S. residents prefer mandatory treatment rather than incarceration for minor drug offenders, according to a poll conducted last fall by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc. Slightly more than three-quarters of U.S. residents support requiring supervised mandatory drug treatment and community services rather than prison time for people convicted of drug possession. Furthermore, 71% believe that persons found guilty of selling small amounts of drugs should be required to participate in drug treatment and community service in lieu of serving time in prison. In 2000, California voters passed an initiative prescribing the diversion of non-violent drug offenders into treatment instead of prison (see *CESAR FAX*, Volume 9, Issue 50).

Percentage of U.S. Adult Residents Supporting Mandatory Treatment Instead of Incarceration For:

Drug Possession



Selling Small Amounts of Drugs



NOTE: This nationwide telephone survey of 1,056 adults was conducted from September 6-17, 2001. The margin of error is $\pm 3.5\%$.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc., *Changing Public Attitudes Toward the Criminal Justice System: Summary of Findings*, February 2002. For more information, contact Peter D. Hart Research Associates at info@hartresearch.com.