

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

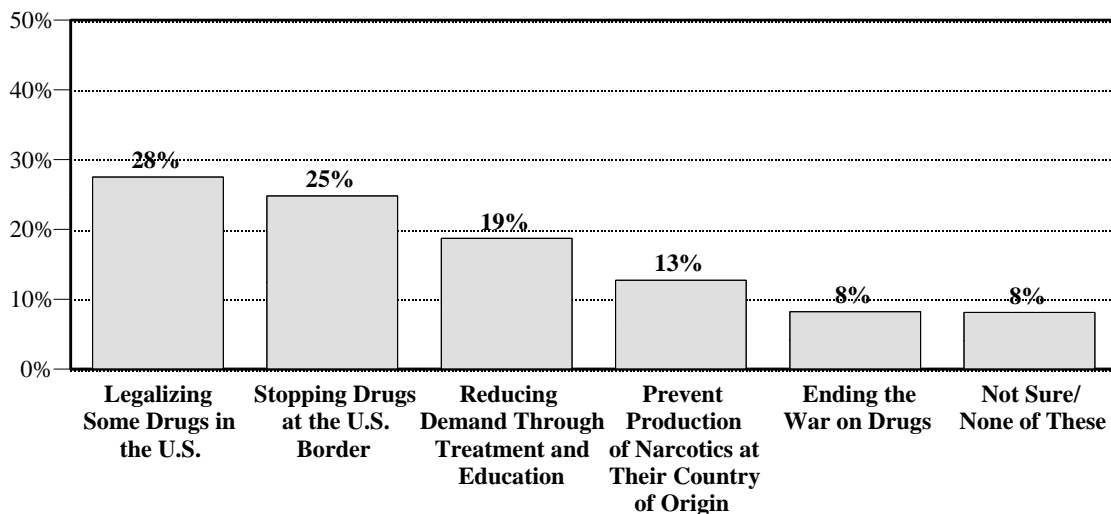
University of Maryland, College Park

***Three-Fourths of Likely Voters Think War on Drugs Is Failing;
Legalization, Stopping Drugs at Border, and Reducing Demand Cited As Top Three Strategies***

Three-fourths (76%) of likely voters think that the U.S. war on drugs is failing*, according to a recent online poll. Only 11% reported that they thought the war on drugs was working, and 13% said that they were not sure (data not shown). When asked what they “feel is the single best way to handle the war on drugs,” 28% of respondents said legalizing some drugs in the U.S. while one-fourth reported the supply-based strategy of stopping drugs at the U.S. border. Slightly less than one-fifth (19%) thought that reducing demand through treatment and education would be most effective. Another supply-based strategy, preventing the production of narcotics at their country of origin, was cited by 13% of those polled.

Which of the Following Do You Feel Is the Single Best Way to Handle the War on Drugs?

(n=4,730)



*Respondents were asked, “Do you feel the U.S. war on drugs is working, or is it failing?” Respondents could answer that the war on drugs is working (11%), is failing (76%), or not sure (13%).

NOTES: Data are from an online survey, conducted by Zogby International September 23-25, 2008, of 4,730 likely voters. Data were weighted for region, party, age, race, religion, gender, and education and is representative of the adult population of the U.S. The margin of error is +/- 1.5 percentage points. A “likely voter” is a person who is registered to vote and is determined by a pollster to be likely (based on certain individual characteristics, such as past voting practices) to actually turn out and vote. Percentages do not sum to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Zogby International, “Zogby Interactive Likely Voters 9/23/08 thru 9/25/08,” 2008. Available online at <http://www.zogby.com/news/X-IAD.pdf>.