

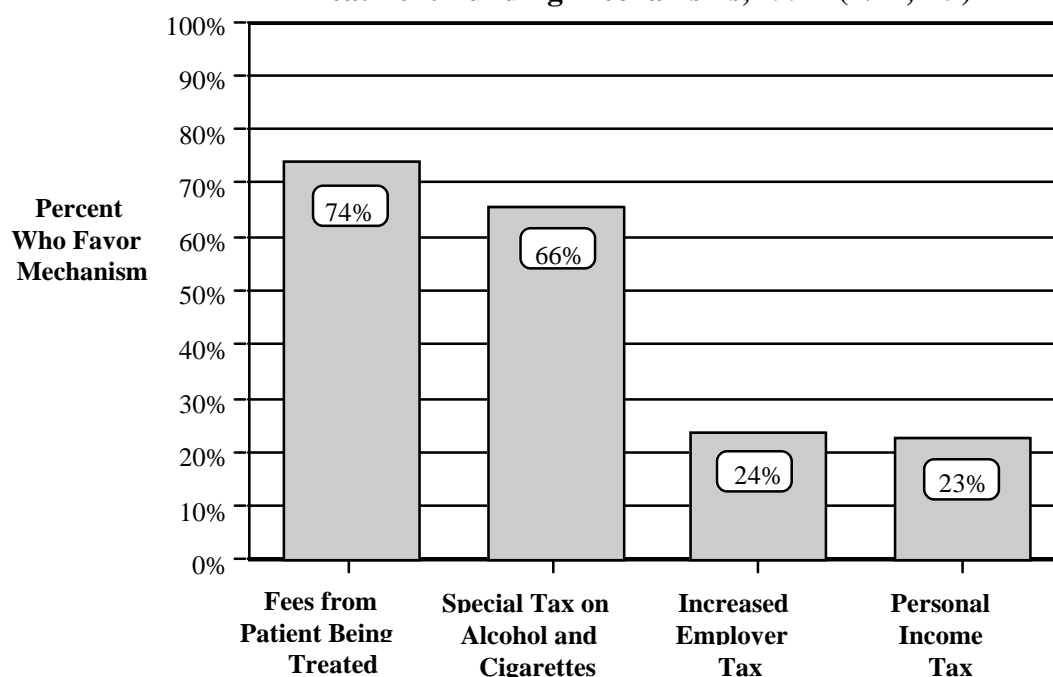
## A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

### *Majority of U.S. Householders Support Patient Fees or a Special Sales Tax as a Way to Fund Drug and Alcohol Treatment*

The National Treatment Consortium recently conducted a national household telephone survey in order to determine "public opinion on alcohol and drug addiction treatment in the context of health care reform and general social policy" (p. 10). According to the survey results, a majority of U.S. householders support paying for treatment through either special fees collected from individuals receiving treatment (74%) or a special sales tax on alcohol or cigarettes (66%). Less popular funding mechanisms were increased employer tax (24%) and personal income tax (23%). Support for specific funding mechanisms varied with the characteristics of the respondents. Support for both patient fees and a special sales tax increased with the educational level of the respondent, and support for patient fees was significantly reduced among blacks.

**Percentage of U.S. Householders Favoring Specific Treatment Funding Mechanisms, 1994 (N=1,249)**



NOTE: This national poll was conducted by Louis Harris and Associates for the National Treatment Consortium with 1,249 individuals 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted between July 25 and July 28, 1994, using a random digit dialing procedure.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from National Treatment Consortium, Inc., *The Future of Addiction Treatment*, NTC White Paper, August 1995. For information on how to obtain a copy of the report, contact NTC at 202-434-4780.

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