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## **NATIONAL: MOST SAY OPIOID CRISIS IS “VERY SERIOUS”**

### *But few back national emergency declaration*

*West Long Branch, NJ* – The vast majority of Americans see opioid addiction as a serious problem in their home state. According to the latest ***Monmouth University Poll***, the public supports increased funding for intervention and treatment, but does not feel that declaring a national health emergency is the best way to deal with this crisis.

More than 3-in-4 Americans say that opioid addiction is a serious problem in their home state – including a majority of 55% who say it is a very serious problem and another 23% who say it is somewhat serious. Just 1-in-10 say opioid use is not a serious problem (9% not too and 2% not at all).

Residents of the northeastern part of the country are the most likely to say that opioid addiction is a very serious problem in their state (66%), compared with between 48% and 55% of residents in other regions. Americans age 35 and older (60%) are more likely than those under 35 years old (43%) to see opioid addiction as a very serious problem. Also, non-Hispanic whites (59%) are somewhat more likely than Hispanics or Americans of other races (47%) to see this as a very serious problem.

Politically, Republicans (62%) are somewhat more likely than Democrats (54%) and independents (52%) to see opioid addiction as a very serious problem in the state where they live. However, there is little difference in this opinion based on whether one lives in a county that Donald Trump won by ten points or more in 2016 (56%), that Hillary Clinton won by ten points or more (54%), or that was decided by a margin smaller than ten points in last year’s presidential election (54%).

Nearly half of the public report personally knowing someone who has dealt with opioid addiction – including 18% who say this person is a family member and 28% who say they know someone else who has gone through this. White residents (52%) are more likely than non-whites (34%) to report knowing someone with an opioid problem. Those who know someone with an opioid addiction (72%) are more likely than those who do not (41%) to say this is a very serious problem in their state.

“The opioid crisis is pervasive, with the public registering high levels of awareness and concern. Many Americans are willing to increase federal funding for intervention measures, but few feel that declaring a national emergency is an effective step,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

The president’s Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis recently issued an interim report. One of their recommendations was declaring a national emergency around this issue. Pres. Trump announced his intent to implement this recommendation last Thursday, just as interviewing began for this poll. Only 1-in-3 Americans (34%) think that such an emergency should be declared while a majority (54%) feel the opioid problem should be dealt with in another way. Fewer than half of Democrats (40%), Republicans (36%), and independents (28%) alike feel that declaring a national emergency is the right course of action. Among those who know someone who has experienced opioid addiction, 39% support declaring a national emergency on the issue while 50% feel the problem should be handled in another way.

Another Commission recommendation receives significantly more public support, with 55% who approve of increased federal funding to make in-patient treatment available to more people. Just 16% oppose this and 29% are unsure. There is some partisan variation in support levels for this proposal, ranging from 65% of Democrats to 54% of independents and 45% of Republicans.

The Commission also proposed increased funding to provide opioid detection sensors for the U.S. postal service and at U.S. customs entry points. Just under half (45%) of the public approves of this idea while 18% disapprove and another 37% are unsure. Republicans (52%) are slightly more likely than Democrats (43%) and independents (43%) to support this recommendation.

The Commission specifically steered away from making any punitive recommendations regarding illicit opioid use. The *Monmouth University Poll* finds, though, that 38% of Americans approve of imposing stricter criminal penalties for illegal opioid use while 26% disapprove and 36% are unsure. There is a sharp partisan divide on this idea, which was not suggested by the president’s Commission, with a majority of Republicans (56%) supporting stiffer penalties compared to no more than 1-in-3 independents (33%) and Democrats (29%) who agree with this stance.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from August 10 to 14, 2017 with 805 adults in the United States. The results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

## QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(\* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1–16 previously released.]

Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about opioids, which include pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin as well as street drugs like heroin and fentanyl.

17. How much have you heard about opioid addiction in America – a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

	August 2017
A lot	69%
A little	22%
Nothing at all	9%
(n)	(805)

18. Is opioid addiction a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious problem in the state where you live?

	August 2017
Very serious	55%
Somewhat serious	23%
Not too serious	9%
Not at all serious	2%
(VOL) Don't know	11%
(n)	(805)

19. Should President Trump declare a national health emergency to deal with the opioid addiction problem or should this be dealt with in another way?

	August 2017
Declare a national health emergency	34%
Dealt with in another way	54%
(VOL) Don't know	12%
(n)	(805)

[QUESTIONS 20 - 22 WERE ROTATED]

20. Do you approve or disapprove of increasing federal funding to make in-patient opioid addiction treatment available to more people, or are you not sure?

	August 2017
Approve	55%
Disapprove	16%
Not sure	29%
(n)	(805)

21. Do you approve or disapprove of increasing federal funding to provide opioid detection sensors for the U.S. postal service and for U.S. customs agents at our ports, or are you not sure?

	August 2017
Approve	45%
Disapprove	18%
Not sure	37%
(n)	(805)

22. Do you approve or disapprove of imposing stricter criminal penalties for illegal opioid use, or are you not sure?

	August 2017
Approve	38%
Disapprove	26%
Not sure	36%
(n)	(805)

23. Do you personally know someone who has dealt with an opioid addiction, or not? [IF YES: Is this person in your immediate family?]

	August 2017
Yes, immediate family	18%
Yes, other	28%
No, no one	53%
(VOL) Don't know	1%
(n)	(805)

### METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from August 10 to 14, 2017 with a national random sample of 805 adults age 18 and older, in English. This includes 401 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 404 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Trol Dahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
	27% Republican
	42% Independent
	32% Democrat
	48% Male
	52% Female
	31% 18-34
	34% 35-54
	35% 55+
	65% White
	12% Black
	15% Hispanic
	7% Asian/Other

MARGIN OF ERROR		<i>unweighted</i>	<i>moe</i>
		<i>sample</i>	<i>(+/-)</i>
TOTAL		805	3.5%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	706	3.7%
	No	99	9.9%
SELF-REPORTED	Republican	213	6.7%
PARTY ID	Independent	335	5.4%
	Democrat	237	6.4%
IDEOLOGY	Liberal	181	7.3%
	Moderate	302	5.6%
	Conservative	276	5.9%
GENDER	Male	406	4.9%
	Female	399	4.9%
AGE	18-34	185	7.2%
	35-54	297	5.7%
	55+	320	5.5%
RACE	White non-Hispanic	549	4.2%
	Other	222	6.6%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	421	4.8%
	4 year degree	376	5.1%
INCOME	<\$50K	252	6.2%
	\$50 to <100K	223	6.6%
	\$100K+	259	6.1%
2016 VOTE BY	Trump 10+pts	289	5.8%
COUNTY	Swing< 10pts	179	7.3%
	Clinton 10+pts	337	5.3%
US REGION	Northeast	160	7.8%
	Midwest	172	7.5%
	Southeast	212	6.7%
	Southwest	122	8.9%
	West	139	8.3%
KNOW OPIOID	Yes	372	5.1%
ADDICT	No	425	4.8%

###

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 8/17/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER	
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female
17. Id like to ask you some questions about opioids, which include pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin as well as street drugs like heroin and fentanyl. How much have you heard about opioid addiction in America - a lot, a little or nothing at all?	A lot	69%	73%	47%	70%	72%	65%	67%	72%	68%	67%	70%
	A little	22%	20%	34%	24%	21%	23%	22%	23%	21%	23%	22%
	Nothing at all	9%	7%	19%	6%	7%	13%	11%	5%	10%	10%	8%

		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME	
		18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K
17. Id like to ask you some questions about opioids, which include pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin as well as street drugs like heroin and fentanyl. How much have you heard about opioid addiction in America - a lot, a little or nothing at all?	A lot	53%	72%	79%	76%	54%	65%	77%	62%	70%
	A little	33%	21%	14%	19%	29%	24%	19%	22%	29%
	Nothing at all	14%	7%	7%	5%	16%	11%	4%	16%	1%

		INCOME	2016 MARGIN by COUNTY				US REGIONS				
		\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts	NE	MW	SE	SW-MTN	WEST	
17. Id like to ask you some questions about opioids, which include pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin as well as street drugs like heroin and fentanyl. How much have you heard about opioid addiction in America - a lot, a little or nothing at all?	A lot	79%	71%	69%	66%	75%	64%	75%	57%	69%	
	A little	15%	22%	21%	23%	22%	25%	18%	26%	23%	
	Nothing at all	5%	7%	10%	11%	3%	11%	7%	17%	7%	

		KNOW OPIOID ADDICT	
		Yes	No
17. Id like to ask you some questions about opioids, which include pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin as well as street drugs like heroin and fentanyl. How much have you heard about opioid addiction in America - a lot, a little or nothing at all?	A lot	86%	55%
	A little	13%	31%
	Nothing at all	2%	14%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 8/17/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
18. Is opioid [OH-pee-oid] addiction a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious problem in the state where you live?	Very serious	55%	57%	43%	62%	52%	54%	54%	52%	56%	53%
	Somewhat serious	23%	24%	19%	22%	26%	22%	24%	26%	23%	22%
	Not too serious	9%	7%	19%	5%	10%	9%	9%	11%	7%	10%
	Not at all serious	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	3%
[VOL] Dont know_Refused		11%	11%	15%	9%	10%	12%	12%	10%	11%	12%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
18. Is opioid [OH-pee-oid] addiction a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious problem in the state where you live?	Very serious	57%	43%	60%	60%	59%	47%	53%	58%
	Somewhat serious	24%	29%	20%	21%	25%	22%	23%	25%
	Not too serious	7%	13%	8%	5%	5%	14%	9%	7%
	Not at all serious	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%
[VOL] Dont know_Refused		11%	12%	10%	13%	9%	15%	13%	9%

		INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY			US REGIONS		
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts	NE	MW	SE
18. Is opioid [OH-pee-oid] addiction a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious problem in the state where you live?	Very serious	52%	56%	60%	56%	54%	54%	66%	53%	55%
	Somewhat serious	23%	25%	25%	26%	25%	20%	21%	26%	21%
	Not too serious	9%	8%	7%	6%	7%	12%	8%	9%	9%
	Not at all serious	3%	1%	1%	4%	0%	2%	1%	2%	2%
[VOL] Dont know_Refused		14%	10%	7%	8%	14%	13%	5%	10%	13%

		US REGIONS		KNOW OPIOID ADDICT	
		SW-MTN	WEST	Yes	No
18. Is opioid [OH-pee-oid] addiction a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious problem in the state where you live?	Very serious	48%	52%	72%	41%
	Somewhat serious	26%	23%	20%	26%
	Not too serious	6%	11%	3%	13%
	Not at all serious	3%	2%	1%	3%
[VOL] Dont know_Refused		18%	12%	4%	17%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 8/17/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
19. Should President Trump declare a national health emergency to deal with the opioid addiction problem or should this be dealt with in another way?	Declare a national health emergency	34%	35%	32%	36%	28%	40%	44%	30%	34%
	Dealt with in another way	54%	54%	53%	54%	60%	47%	46%	58%	54%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	12%	12%	15%	10%	13%	13%	9%	12%	13%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
19. Should President Trump declare a national health emergency to deal with the opioid addiction problem or should this be dealt with in another way?	Declare a national health emergency	37%	32%	33%	35%	35%	32%	37%	35%
	Dealt with in another way	52%	55%	57%	55%	49%	54%	54%	53%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	11%	13%	10%	10%	16%	14%	10%	12%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY			US REGION
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts	NE
19. Should President Trump declare a national health emergency to deal with the opioid addiction problem or should this be dealt with in another way?	Declare a national health emergency	33%	32%	37%	37%	31%	35%	37%	41%
	Dealt with in another way	55%	54%	55%	49%	58%	53%	50%	50%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	12%	14%	9%	14%	11%	12%	13%	9%

		US REGIONS				KNOW OPIOID ADDICT	
		MW	SE	SW-MTN	WEST	Yes	No
19. Should President Trump declare a national health emergency to deal with the opioid addiction problem or should this be dealt with in another way?	Declare a national health emergency	26%	40%	32%	31%	39%	31%
	Dealt with in another way	56%	52%	53%	56%	50%	56%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	17%	8%	15%	13%	11%	13%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER	
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female
20. Do you approve or disapprove of increasing federal funding to make in-patient opioid addiction treatment available to more people, or are you not sure?	Approve	55%	55%	54%	45%	54%	65%	69%	60%	42%	54%	56%
	Disapprove	16%	16%	14%	20%	17%	9%	9%	11%	23%	16%	16%
	Not sure	29%	29%	32%	35%	28%	25%	22%	29%	35%	30%	28%



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		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME		
		18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
20. Do you approve or disapprove of increasing federal funding to make in-patient opioid addiction treatment available to more people, or are you not sure?	Approve	56%	52%	57%	58%	51%	52%	63%	53%	58%	60%
	Disapprove	17%	17%	13%	14%	18%	17%	14%	16%	18%	12%
	Not sure	28%	31%	29%	29%	31%	31%	23%	31%	24%	27%

		2016 MARGIN by COUNTY			US REGIONS					KNOW OPIOID ADDICT	
		Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts	NE	MW	SE	SW-MTN	WEST	Yes	No
20. Do you approve or disapprove of increasing federal funding to make in-patient opioid addiction treatment available to more people, or are you not sure?	Approve	53%	56%	57%	61%	51%	57%	49%	57%	64%	48%
	Disapprove	16%	17%	15%	13%	15%	13%	24%	15%	17%	15%
	Not sure	31%	28%	28%	26%	34%	30%	27%	28%	19%	38%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER	
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female
21. Do you approve or disapprove of increasing federal funding to provide opioid detection sensors for the U.S. postal service and for U.S. customs agents at our ports, or are you not sure?	Approve	45%	48%	25%	52%	43%	43%	39%	47%	48%	44%	45%
	Disapprove	18%	18%	19%	15%	19%	17%	20%	18%	16%	19%	17%
	Not sure	37%	34%	56%	33%	38%	40%	40%	35%	37%	37%	38%

		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME		
		18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
21. Do you approve or disapprove of increasing federal funding to provide opioid detection sensors for the U.S. postal service and for U.S. customs agents at our ports, or are you not sure?	Approve	32%	47%	54%	48%	40%	43%	49%	38%	47%	56%
	Disapprove	23%	20%	12%	18%	17%	18%	18%	16%	22%	17%
	Not sure	45%	34%	35%	34%	43%	39%	33%	46%	32%	28%

		2016 MARGIN by COUNTY			US REGIONS					KNOW OPIOID ADDICT	
		Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts	NE	MW	SE	SW-MTN	WEST	Yes	No
21. Do you approve or disapprove of increasing federal funding to provide opioid detection sensors for the U.S. postal service and for U.S. customs agents at our ports, or are you not sure?	Approve	44%	40%	48%	58%	42%	42%	40%	42%	51%	39%
	Disapprove	17%	19%	18%	13%	18%	22%	16%	18%	19%	17%
	Not sure	39%	41%	34%	29%	40%	36%	44%	40%	30%	44%

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		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER	
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male	Female
22. Do you approve or disapprove of imposing stricter criminal penalties for illegal opioid use, or are you not sure?	Approve	38%	41%	24%	56%	33%	29%	30%	34%	48%	35%	41%
	Disapprove	26%	26%	27%	13%	30%	34%	36%	33%	14%	30%	23%
	Not sure	36%	33%	48%	31%	37%	38%	34%	33%	38%	35%	36%

		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME		
		18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
22. Do you approve or disapprove of imposing stricter criminal penalties for illegal opioid use, or are you not sure?	Approve	34%	42%	38%	41%	32%	41%	33%	38%	40%	35%
	Disapprove	27%	29%	23%	27%	22%	23%	34%	23%	27%	33%
	Not sure	39%	29%	39%	32%	46%	37%	33%	38%	33%	32%

		2016 MARGIN by COUNTY			US REGIONS					KNOW OPIOID ADDICT	
		Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts	NE	MW	SE	SW-MTN	WEST	Yes	No
22. Do you approve or disapprove of imposing stricter criminal penalties for illegal opioid use, or are you not sure?	Approve	42%	34%	36%	45%	34%	39%	35%	37%	43%	35%
	Disapprove	22%	27%	30%	25%	22%	26%	22%	37%	35%	19%
	Not sure	35%	39%	34%	31%	44%	35%	42%	26%	22%	46%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
23. Do you personally know someone who has dealt with opioid addiction, or not? [IF "YES" ASK] Is this person in your immediate family?	Yes, immediate family	18%	17%	20%	16%	22%	14%	20%	14%	19%	18%
	Yes, other	28%	29%	23%	32%	29%	22%	25%	28%	30%	28%
	No, no one	53%	54%	51%	52%	47%	63%	55%	57%	49%	52%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	1%	0%	6%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
23. Do you personally know someone who has dealt with opioid addiction, or not? [IF "YES" ASK] Is this person in your immediate family?	Yes, immediate family	18%	15%	21%	17%	21%	13%	19%	15%
	Yes, other	27%	29%	29%	24%	31%	21%	27%	29%
	No, no one	54%	55%	50%	56%	47%	65%	53%	55%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%

		INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY			US REGIONS		
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts	NE	MW	SE
23. Do you personally know someone who has dealt with opioid addiction, or not? [IF "YES" ASK] Is this person in your immediate family?	Yes, immediate family	20%	19%	17%	21%	17%	16%	16%	9%	23%
	Yes, other	23%	30%	31%	30%	30%	24%	34%	30%	26%
	No, no one	56%	52%	51%	48%	53%	59%	49%	60%	50%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%

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		US REGIONS	
		SW-MTN	WEST
23. Do you personally know someone who has dealt with opioid addiction, or not? [IF "YES" ASK] Is this person in your immediate family?	Yes, immediate family	21%	19%
	Yes, other	19%	28%
	No, no one	58%	51%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	2%	1%