

April 2021

**Surry County V.O.I.C.E.S.
Volunteering Opinions & Information
Concerning Eliminating Substance Use
Community Survey**

Primary Results

Surry County Historic Courthouse

114 West Atkins Street, Post Office Box 1467, Dobson NC 27017

www.surrycountycares.com

**Published by The Surry County Office of Substance Abuse Recovery
Dobson, NC**

Sample Comments from the Surry County Community on the Topic of Substance Use Disorder

*"I'm a recovering addict with two years clean. Working a program that has saved my life.
It's possible to stay clean in your hometown."*

*"It takes a community approach to solving problems of drug use. The percentage of respondents who
will answer that addiction is not a disease will show a problem that is in itself serious."*

*"Apparently the patting on the back is not working any more than the tough love was working.
It's time to figure something out."*

*"We need more prevention and treatment for SUD that is easily and rapidly accessible.
Same day access to care when needed would be a tremendous asset for Surry County..."*

*"Our mental health system is broken and/or nonexistent. So, our jails are having to work to both houses
- those who have broken the laws as well as those who are in need of help with addiction."*

*"I think substance abuse is a disease, but I also think there is a correlation between substance abuse and
mental health. I think treating the individual needs to focus on the whole person and the people in their
lives. Counseling and helping all of those around that person would be beneficial in understanding the
disease and how to help their loved one."*

*"...On the question about whether local law enforcement has control, I think they are trying really hard
but it's so complicated of a problem and includes economic and social issues that police departments are
really not trained to deal with."*

*"There needs to be a shift in the thinking in the community at large. The criminalization of drugs is an
outdated tactic. The community needs to look at the reason why substance use is so common in the
area, instead of solely focusing on the individual."*

*"I really think we need to utilize drug courts in the county so that we can reduce the jail population and
focus more on treatment instead of penalizing people who have a disease."*

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About the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office (SARO)

Established in 2018, the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office strives to develop programming and infrastructure between community stakeholders and governmental agencies to fight the opioid and substance use epidemic. The primary collaborative goal is to establish an accessible continuum of care to reduce the impact of substance use on the whole community. An integral part of the mission of the office is to use data analysis and research to drive evidenced based planning processes supporting community change efforts.

We believe that positive recovery outcomes can be available to those suffering from substance use, and objective data analysis will guide policymaking as a collaborative function between stakeholders across the spectrum of prevention, intervention, recovery, social and justice services. Such enhanced care will strengthen the County's ability to address the substance use epidemic, strengthen the capacity of substance abusers to achieve recovery, and improve the lives of Surry County residents through improving community safety and health, reducing government costs, and maximizing service effectiveness.

Mission Statement of SARO

To Build a "Continuum of Care" for Surry County Residents with Substance Use Disorder that Eliminates Impediments for those Seeking Treatment and Recovery.

Primary Objective of the SARO

Decrease the Population of Surry County Residents who Suffer from Substance Use Disorder.

About this Publication Series

As the inaugural formal publication, Surry County V.O.C.I.E.S. Volunteering Opinions & Information Concerning Eliminating Substance Use Community Survey is the first of a planned series of needs assessment, research, data analysis and planning documents intended to help create effective and evidenced based community responses to the substance use epidemic in Surry County. Planned documents include:

- Blueprint 1 - Surry County V.O.C.I.E.S. Volunteering Opinions & Information Concerning Eliminating Substance Use Community Survey Primary Results (current document).
- Blueprint 2 – Summary of Citizen and Community Interviews Reviewing Current Surry County Capacity and Change Readiness (expected publication early Summer 2021).
- Blueprint 3 – Review of National, State and Local Indicators of Substance Use Disorder and Prevalence (expected publication, Summer 2021).
- Blueprint 4 – Evidenced Based Program Recommendations Including Local Community Priorities and Capacity (expected publication, early Fall 2021).

- Master Three Year Blueprint – The publication of a compendium of Blueprints 1, 2, 3 and 4 in a final and formal report of recommended actions to the Surry County Community (expected publication, early Winter 2021).

Introduction

The purpose of the survey is to help evaluate medication storage patterns, community perspectives regarding substance use, knowledge of current service availability and community needs. The instrument served an intended audience of citizens over the age of 18 and living in Surry County, NC.

Distribution Method

Seven Hundred and Thirty (730) V.O.I.C.E.S. - Volunteering Opinions & Information Concerning Eliminating Substance Use Community Surveys were collected from February 8, 2021 to April 14, 2021 using the following methodology:

1. Sponsored Facebook Posts (digital collection)
2. All-Stars Community Prevention Group Community Collection (paper and digital collection)
3. Email Distribution Collection (paper and digital collection)
4. SCORE Newsletter Collection (paper and digital collection)
5. Website Collection (digital collection)

Confidence Interval, Confidence Level of Survey and Population Size¹

Office staff considered several safeguards to ensure the validity, reliability, and fidelity of the survey and subsequent data collection process. Special attention was given to the confidence interval, confidence level and needed sample size of the project. The confidence interval (also called margin of error) is the plus-or-minus figure that is frequently seen in the media while reporting poll results. For example, if a confidence interval of 4 and 47% percent of your sample picks an answer you can be "sure" that if you had asked the question of the entire relevant population between 43% (47-4) and 51% (47+4) would have picked that answer.

The confidence level tells us how confident we can be in the accuracy of the data collected. It is expressed as a percentage. A 95% confidence level means you can be 95% certain; A 99% confidence level means you can be 99% certain. A 95% confidence level is a general standard.

When the confidence level and the confidence interval is viewed collectively, one can say that the data can be viewed as 95% sure and the true percentage of the population is between 43% and 51%. The wider the confidence interval that is acceptable, the more certain that the whole population are within range.

The larger the sample size, the more reflective that collective answers are. How many people should be in the group your sample represents. The mathematics of probability prove that the size of the population is irrelevant unless the size of the sample exceeds a few percent of the total population you are examining. This means that a sample of 500 people is equally useful in examining the opinions of a

¹ Based on Calculations from "Sample Size Calculator." *Sample Size Calculator - Confidence Level, Confidence Interval, Sample Size, Population Size, Relevant Population - Creative Research Systems*, www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm#one.

state of 15,000,000 as it would a city of 100,000. A ever present concern is that the survey design encourages a random sample, when in fact collecting a random sample is indeed difficult.

The total population of Surry County based on the United States Census Estimated Population (2019)² is 71,783. Since the V.O.I.C.E.S target population is Surry County Adults age 18 and older, this reduces the Surry County Population of 18 years and older to a size of 56,720.

V.O.I.C.E.S. Survey Goals
Confidence Interval = 5
Confidence Level = 95%
Sample Size Needed = 382 (based on the eligible 18+ Surry County Population of 56,720)
Sample Size Collected = 730 (exceeded minimum sample size)

In order to ensure best practices related to survey design and promote the comparison of data to national datasets, questions originated from three primary sources:

- United States Census Bureau³ (Demographic Section)
- SAFE PROJECT Community Playbook⁴ (Community Experiences Section)
- The Perceived Stigma of Substance Abuse Scale⁵ (Community Perspectives Section)

Survey Information Provided to Respondents

To ensure appropriate informed consent, the following information was provided to survey recipients prior to the beginning of the instrument:

- The mission of the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office is to build a full “Continuum of Care” that eliminates impediments for Surry County residents seeking treatment and recovery services.
- The purpose of this survey is to: help evaluate medication storage patterns, community perspectives regarding substance use, knowledge of current service availability and community needs.
- Intended Survey Audience - This survey is intended for the audience of citizens over the age of 18 and living in Surry County, NC.

² Bureau, US Census. “What Is Data.census.gov?” The United States Census Bureau, 10 Dec. 2020, www.census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html.

³ Bureau, US Census. “What Is Data.census.gov?” The United States Census Bureau, 10 Dec. 2020, www.census.gov/data/what-is-data-census-gov.html.

⁴ “SAFE Community Playbook.” SAFE Project, 24 Apr. 2019, www.safeproject.us/playbook/.

⁵ “Perceived Stigma of Substance Abuse Scale (PSAS).” Publications by Scientists at Portland Psychotherapy, Portland Psychotherapy, portlandpsychotherapytraining.com/publications-by-scientists-at-portland-psychotherapy/.

- How Long Will It Take Me to Complete? - It is expected to take most users about eight (8) minutes to complete.
- Statement of Confidentiality - We want to assure you that your responses to anonymous surveys are completely anonymous. Responses to anonymous surveys cannot be traced back to the respondent. No personally identifiable information is captured unless you voluntarily offer personal or contact information in any of the comment fields. Additionally, your responses are combined with those of many others and summarized in a report to further protect your anonymity.
- Use of Data - Summarized data collected in the survey will be presented in a formal and published reports of the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office. Results will also be available on the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office Website (www.surrycares.com) by clicking on the Data Menu.

A copy of the complete survey may be found in Appendix C of this document.

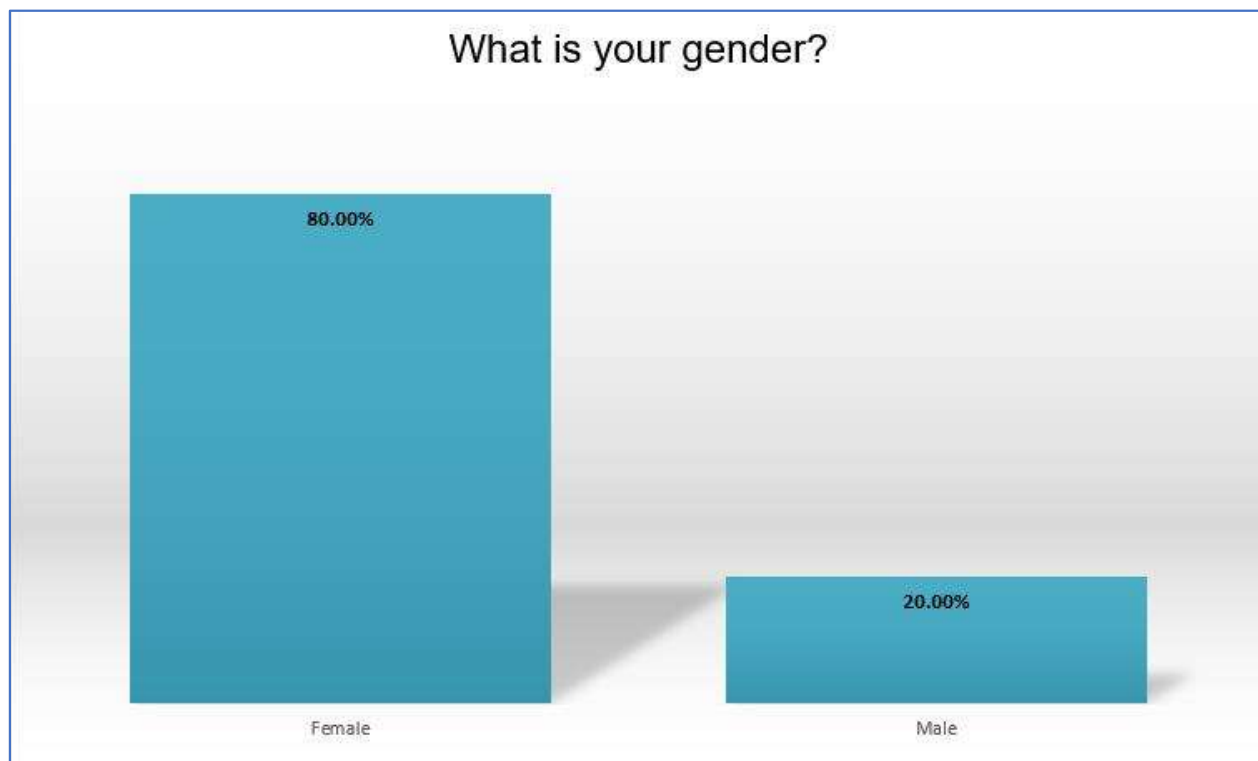
Demographics Section

The Demographics Section of the survey collected the following information.

- Gender
- Race and Hispanic Origin
- What is Your Age in Years
- Please Provide the Zip Code of Your Primary Residence in Surry County

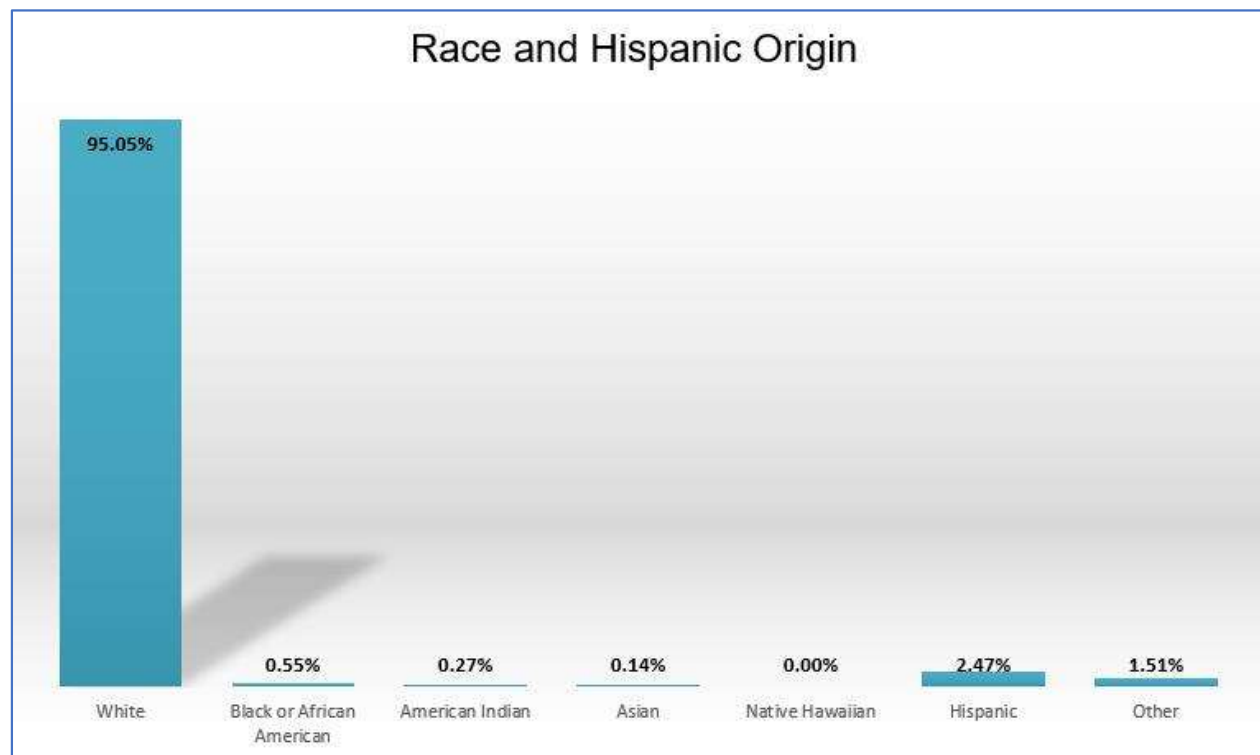
What is Your Gender?

Answer Choices		Responses
Female	80%	580
Male	20%	145
	Answered	725
	Skipped	5



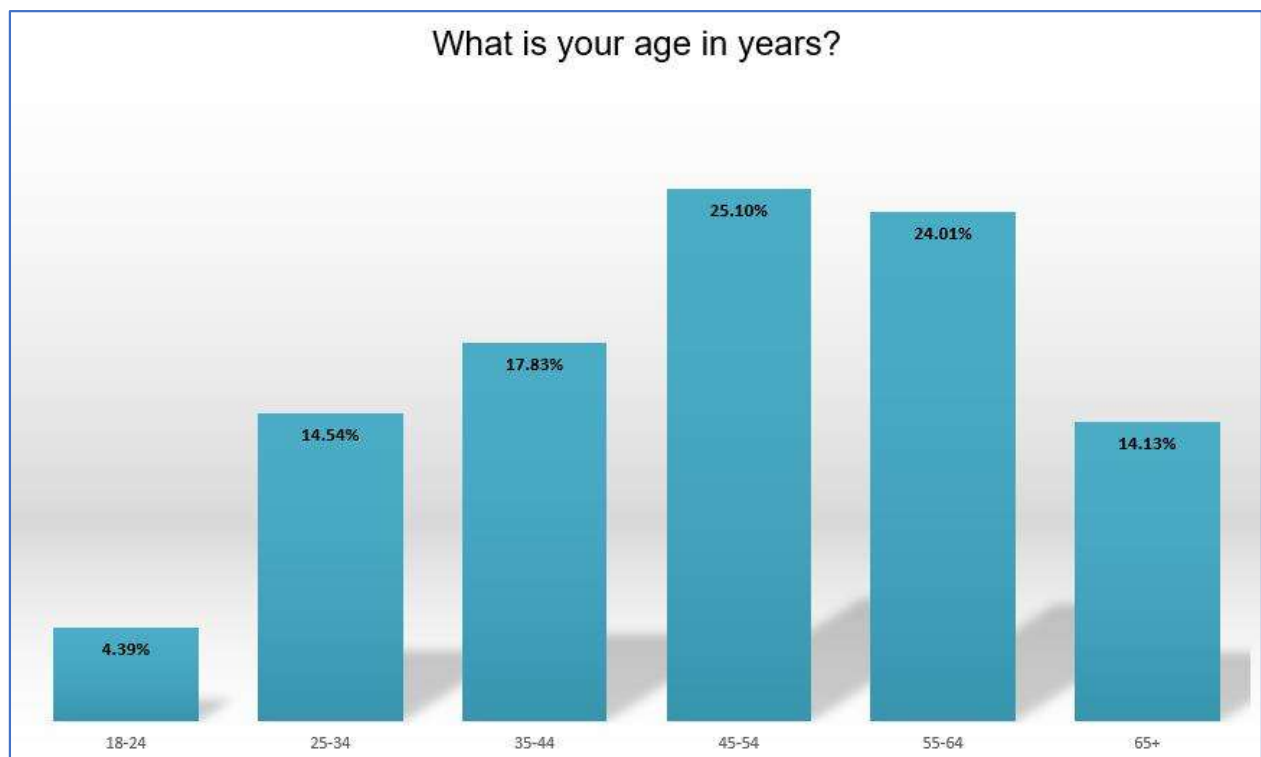
Race and Hispanic Origin

Answer Choices	Responses	
White	95.05%	692
Black or African American	0.55%	4
American Indian	0.27%	2
Asian	0.14%	1
Native Hawaiian	0.00%	0
Hispanic	2.47%	18
Other	1.51%	11
	Answered	728
	Skipped	2



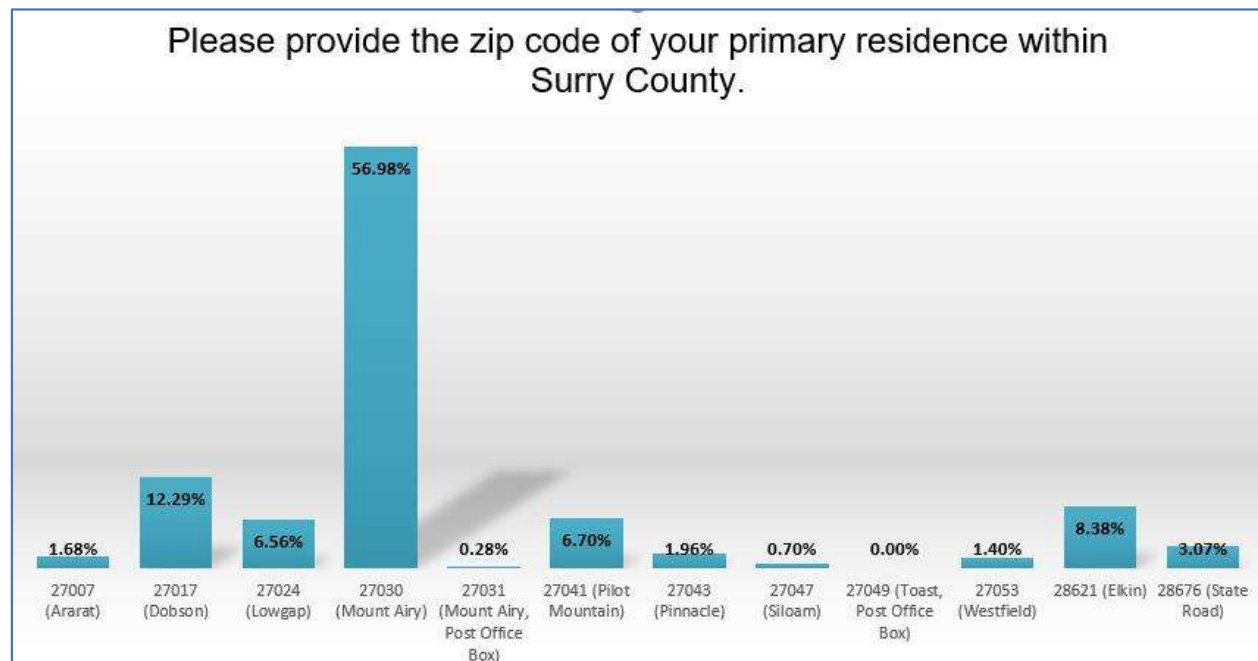
What is Your Age in Years?

Answer Choices		Responses
18-24	4.39%	32
25-34	14.54%	106
35-44	17.83%	130
45-54	25.10%	183
55-64	24.01%	175
65+	14.13%	103
Answered		729
Skipped		1



Please provide the zip code of your primary residence within Surry County.

Answer Choices	Responses	
27007 (Ararat)	1.68%	12
27017 (Dobson)	12.29%	88
27024 (Lowgap)	6.56%	47
27030 (Mount Airy)	56.98%	408
27031 (Mount Airy, Post Office Box)	0.28%	2
27041 (Pilot Mountain)	6.70%	48
27043 (Pinnacle)	1.96%	14
27047 (Siloam)	0.70%	5
27049 (Toast, Post Office Box)	0.00%	0
27053 (Westfield)	1.40%	10
28621 (Elkin)	8.38%	60
28676 (State Road)	3.07%	22
	Answered	716
	Skipped	14

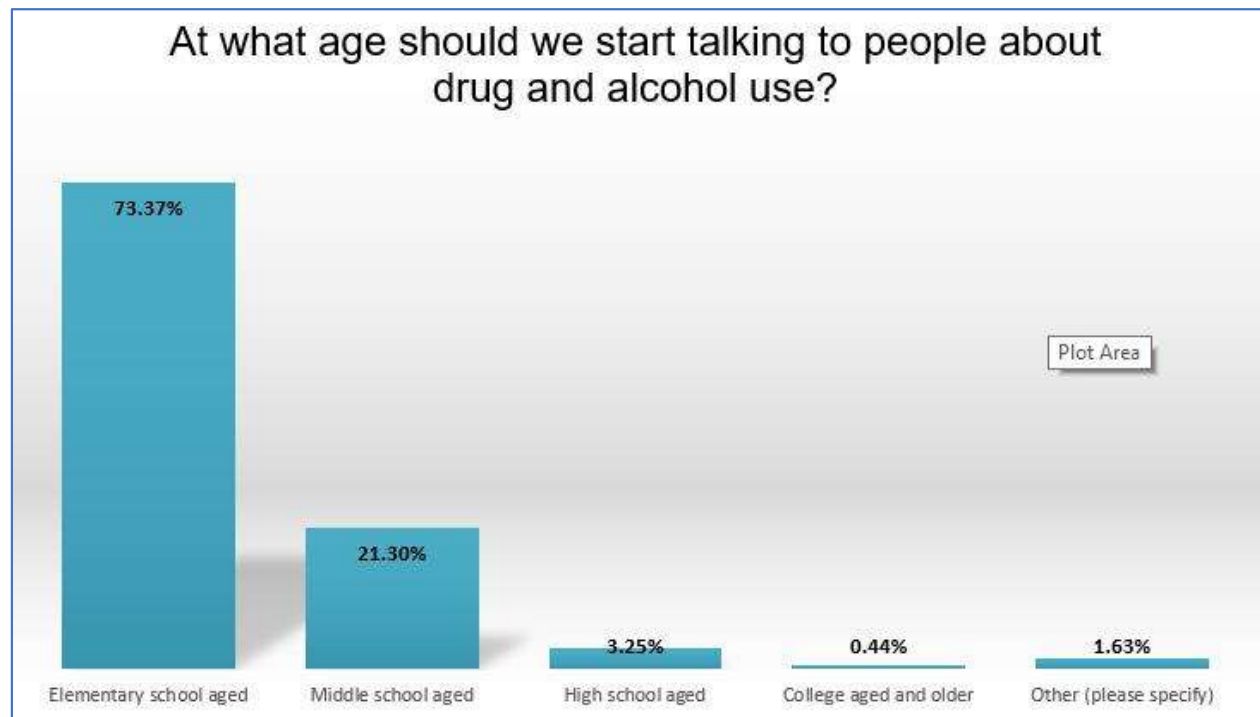


Community Experiences Section

The Community Experiences Section of the Survey asked community members about their own thoughts about substance use in the community, their experiences and perceived effectiveness of local response efforts.

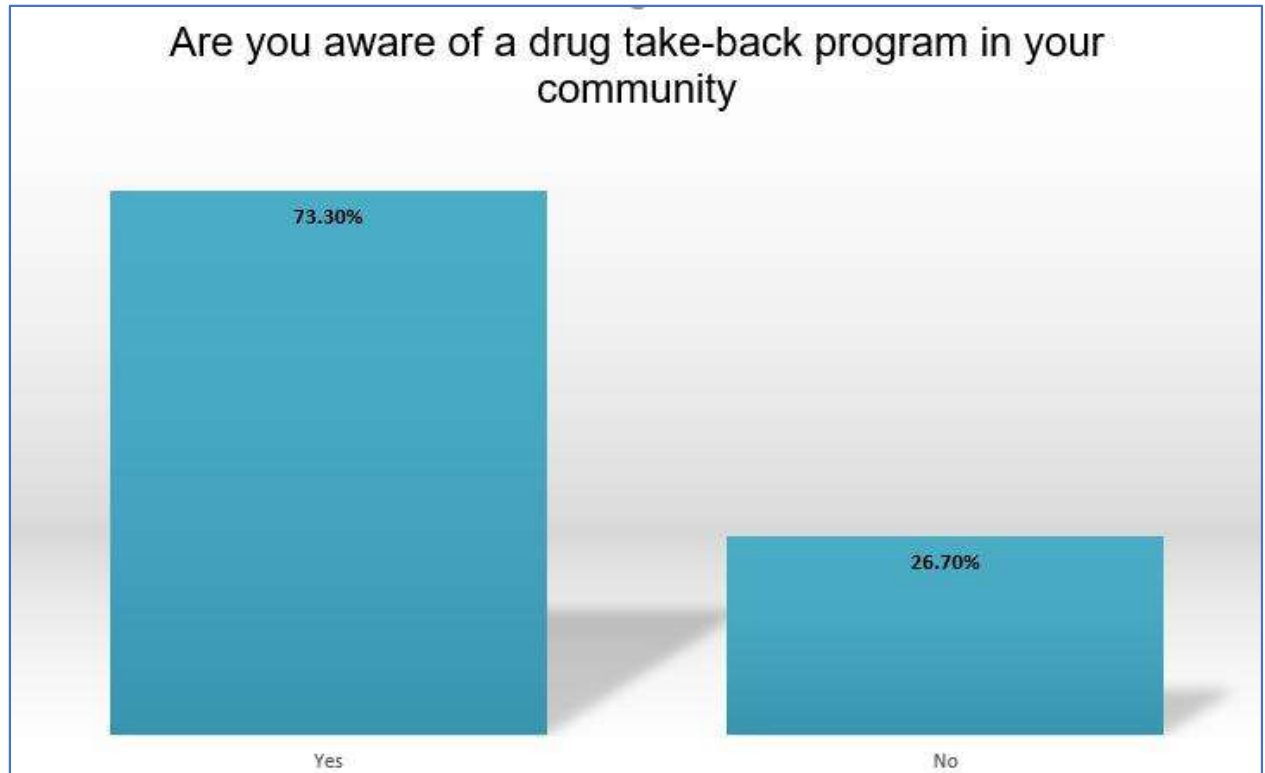
At What Age Should We Start Talking to People About Drug and Alcohol Use?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Elementary school aged	73.37%	496
Middle school aged	21.30%	144
High school aged	3.25%	22
College aged and older	0.44%	3
Other (please specify)	1.63%	11
	Answered	676
	Skipped	54



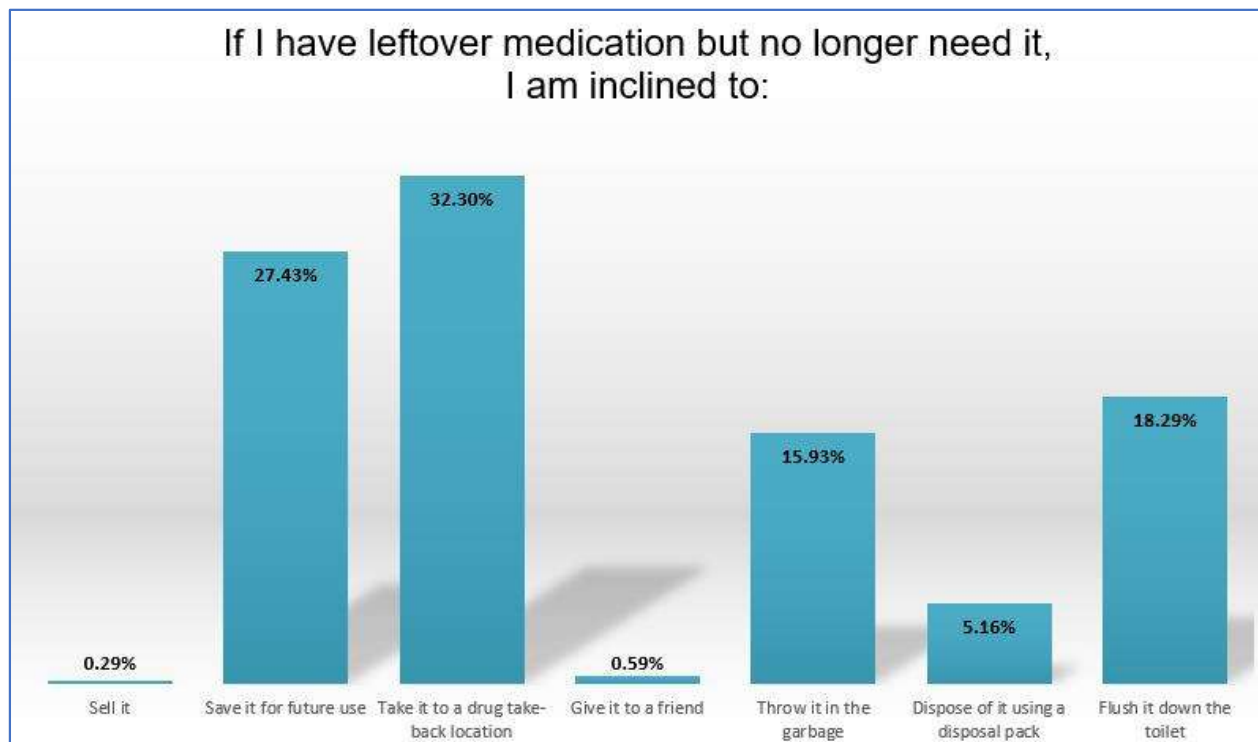
Are You Aware of a Drug Take-Back Program in Your Community?

Answer Choices		Responses
Yes	73.30%	497
No	26.70%	181
Answered		678
Skipped		52



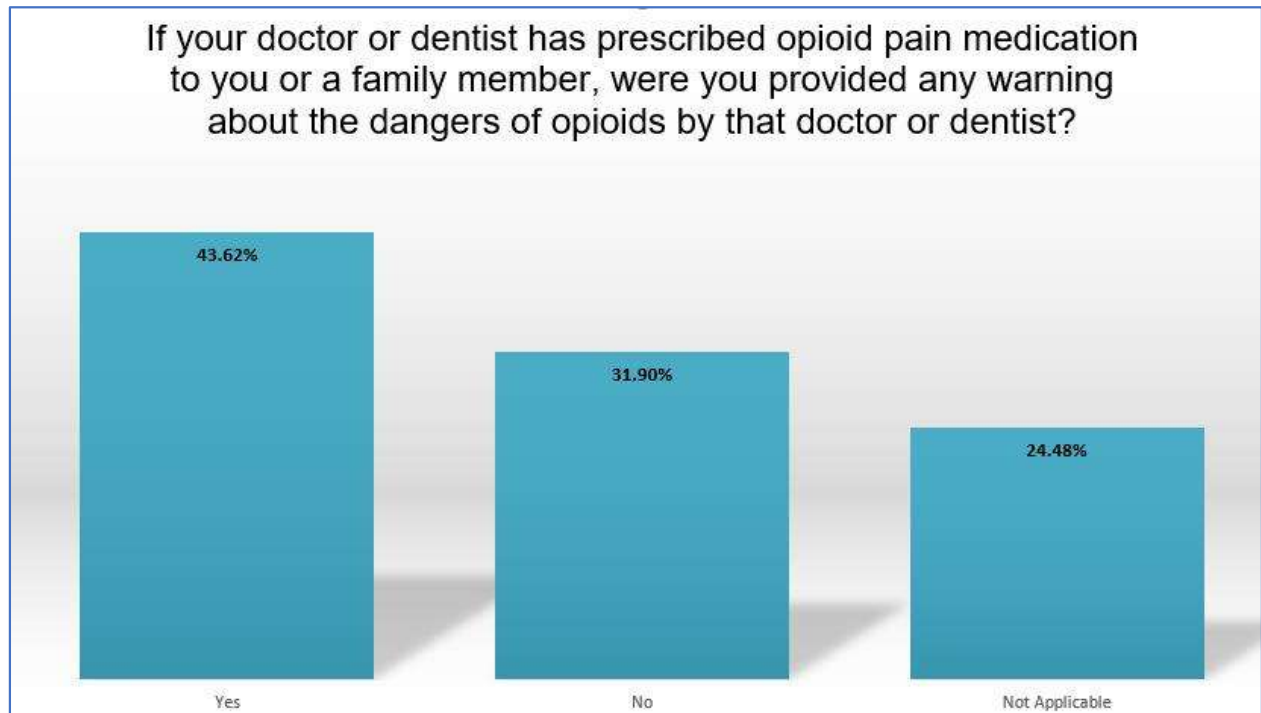
If I Have Leftover Medication But No Longer Need It, I Am Inclined to:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Sell it	0.29%	2
Save it for future use	27.43%	186
Take it to a drug take-back location	32.30%	219
Give it to a friend	0.59%	4
Throw it in the garbage	15.93%	108
Dispose of it using a disposal pack	5.16%	35
Flush it down the toilet	18.29%	124
	Answered	678
	Skipped	52



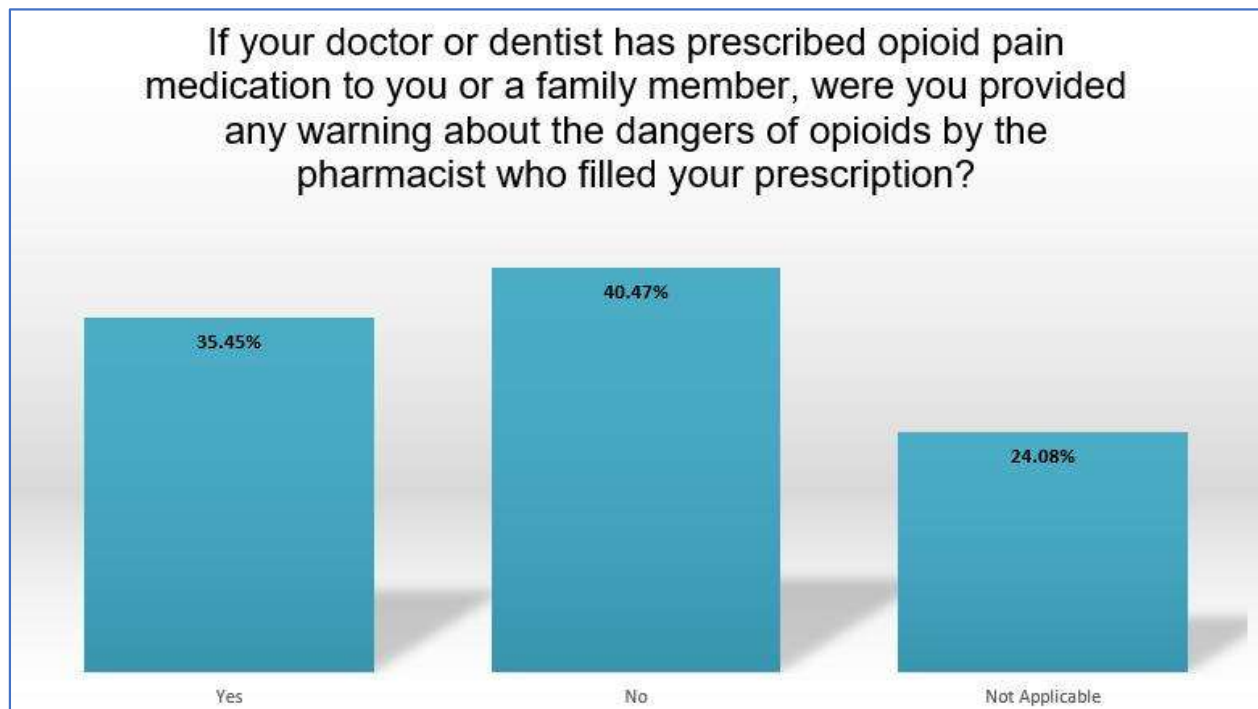
If Your Doctor or Dentist has Prescribed Opioid Pain Medication to You or a Family Member, Were You Provided Any Warning About the Dangers of Opioids by that Doctor or Dentist?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	43.62%	294
No	31.90%	215
Not Applicable	24.48%	165
	Answered	674
	Skipped	56



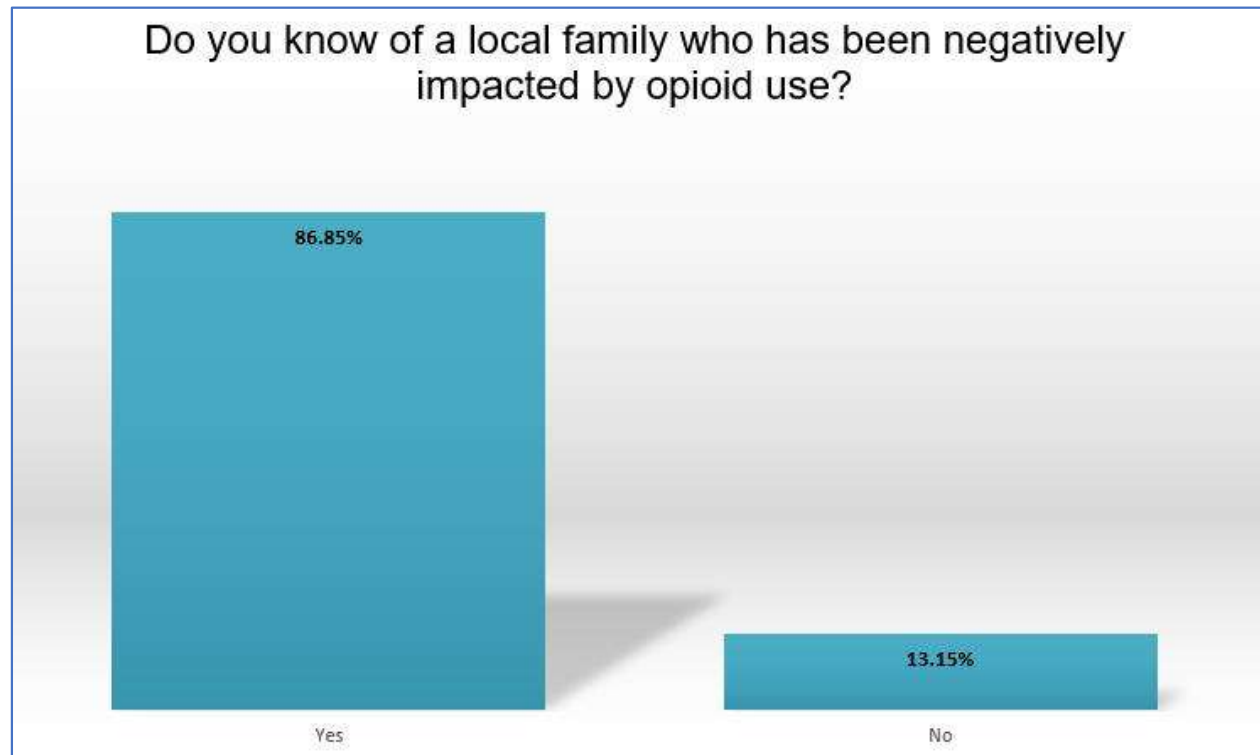
If Your Doctor or Dentist has Prescribed Opioid Pain Mediation to You or a Family Member, Were You Provided Any Warning About the Dangers of Opioids by the Pharmacist Who Filled Your Prescription?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	35.45%	240
No	40.47%	274
Not Applicable	24.08%	163
	Answered	677
	Skipped	53



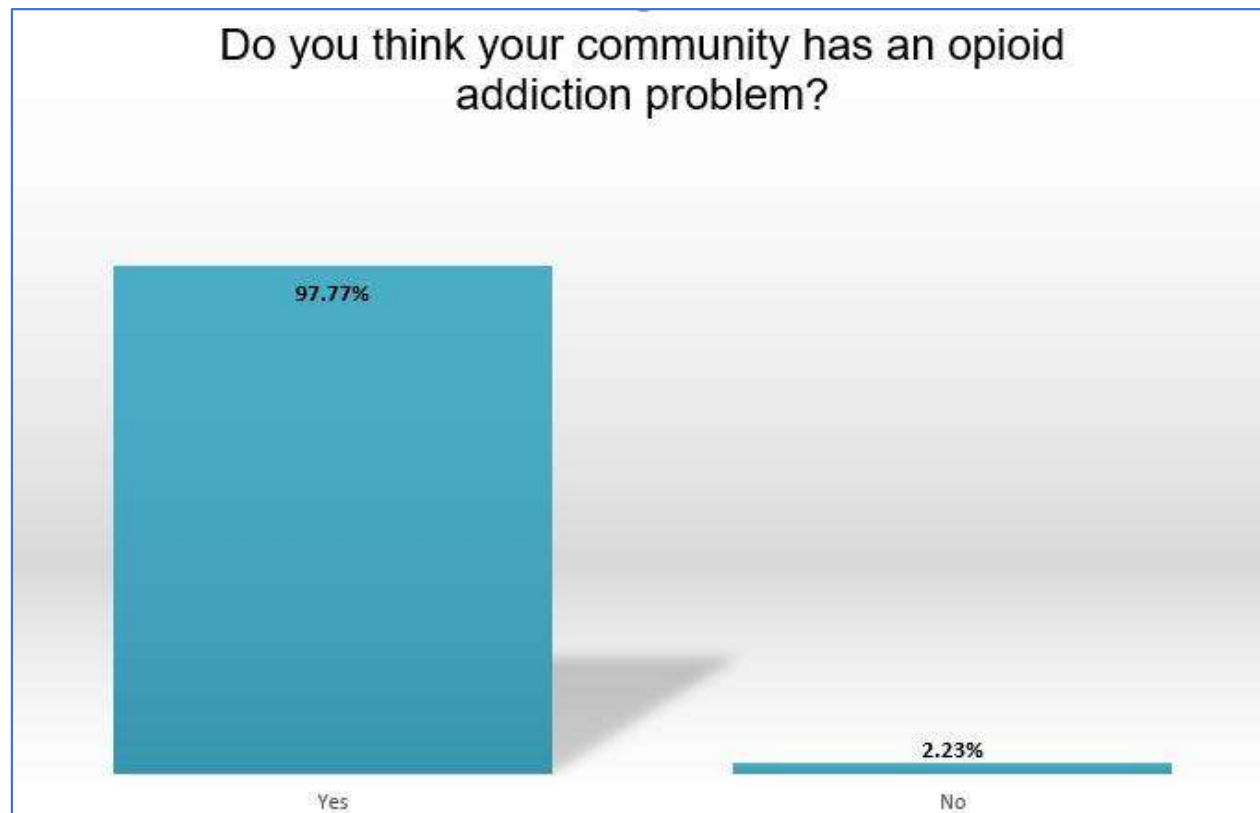
Do You Know of a Local Family Who Has Been Negatively Impacted by Opioid Use?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	86.85%	588
No	13.15%	89
	Answered	677
	Skipped	53



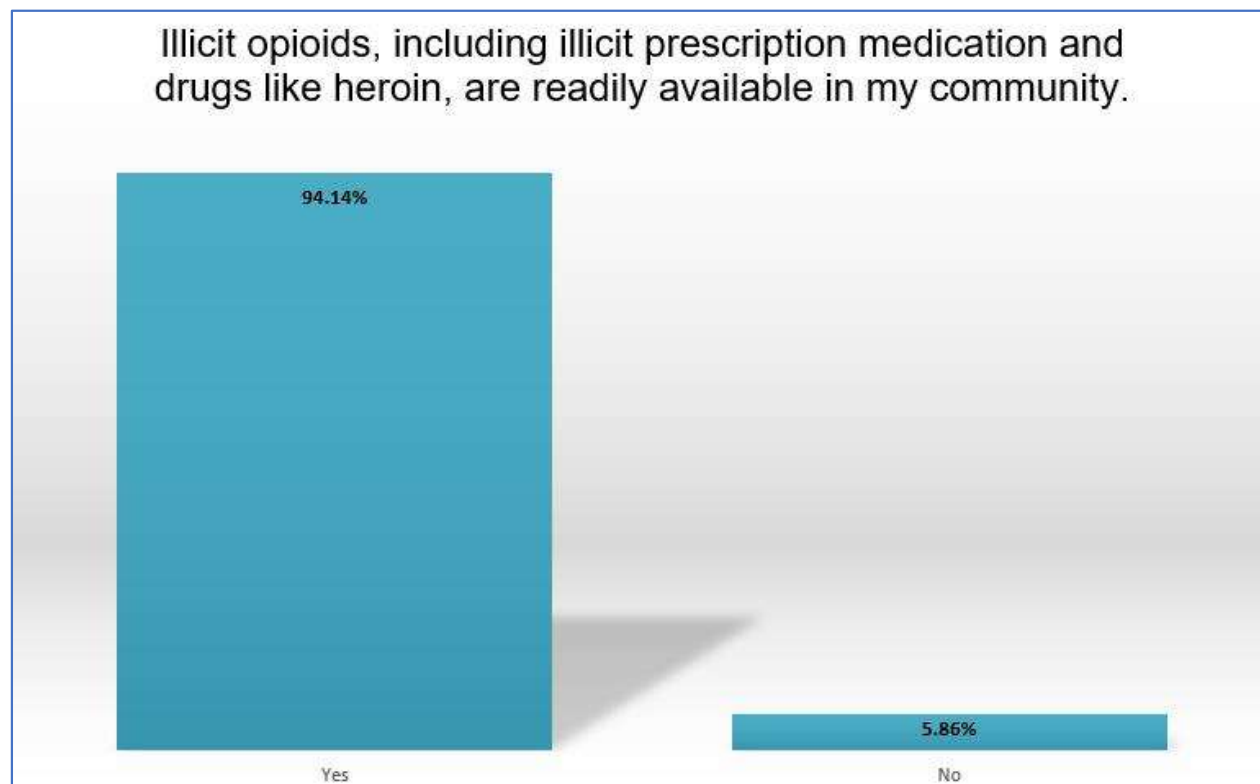
Do You Think Your Community Has an Opioid Addiction Problem?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	97.77%	659
No	2.23%	15
	Answered	674
	Skipped	56



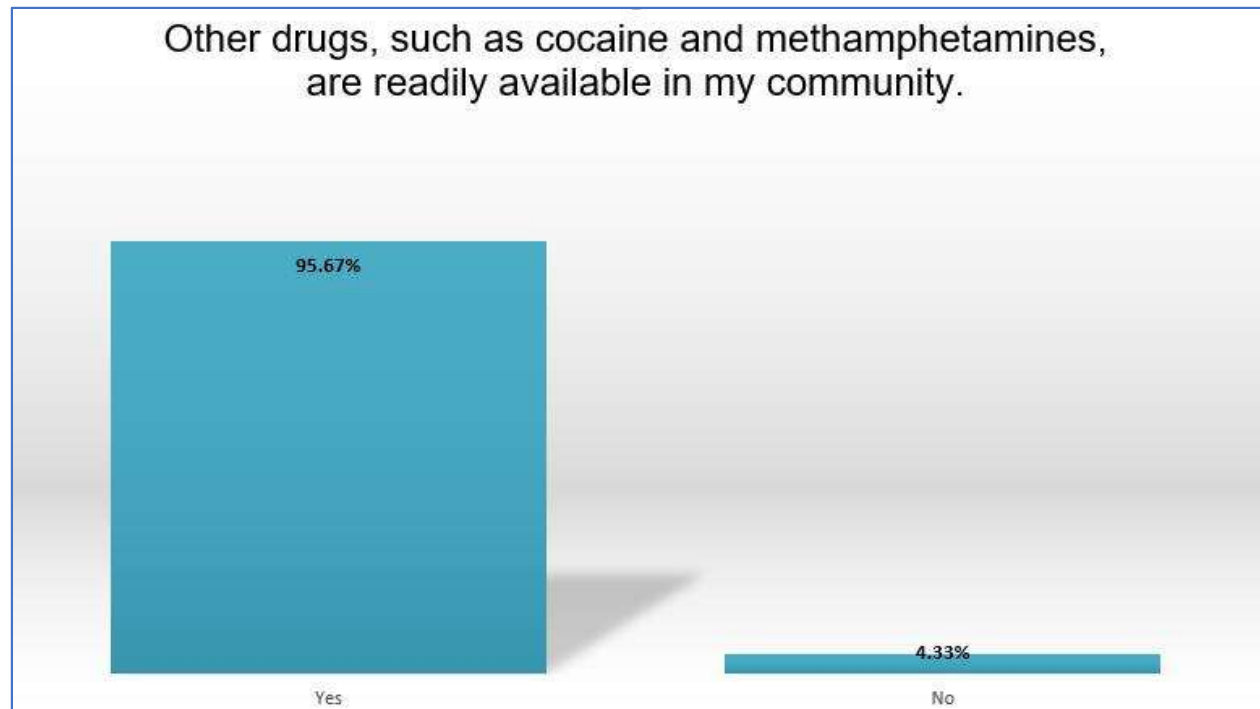
Illicit Opioids, Including Illicit Prescription Medication and Drugs like Heroin, are Readily Available in my Community.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.14%	627
No	5.86%	39
	Answered	666
	Skipped	64



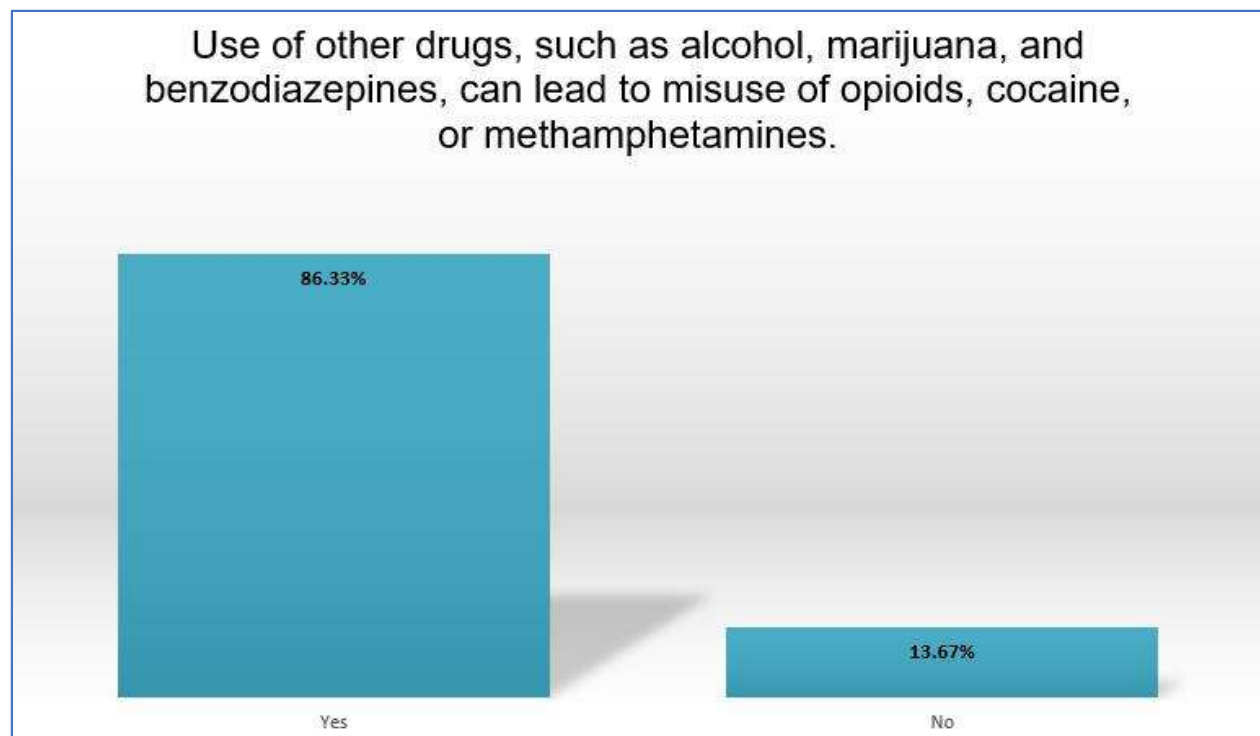
Other Drugs, Such as Cocaine and Methamphetamines, are Readily Available in my Community.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	95.67%	641
No	4.33%	29
	Answered	670
	Skipped	60



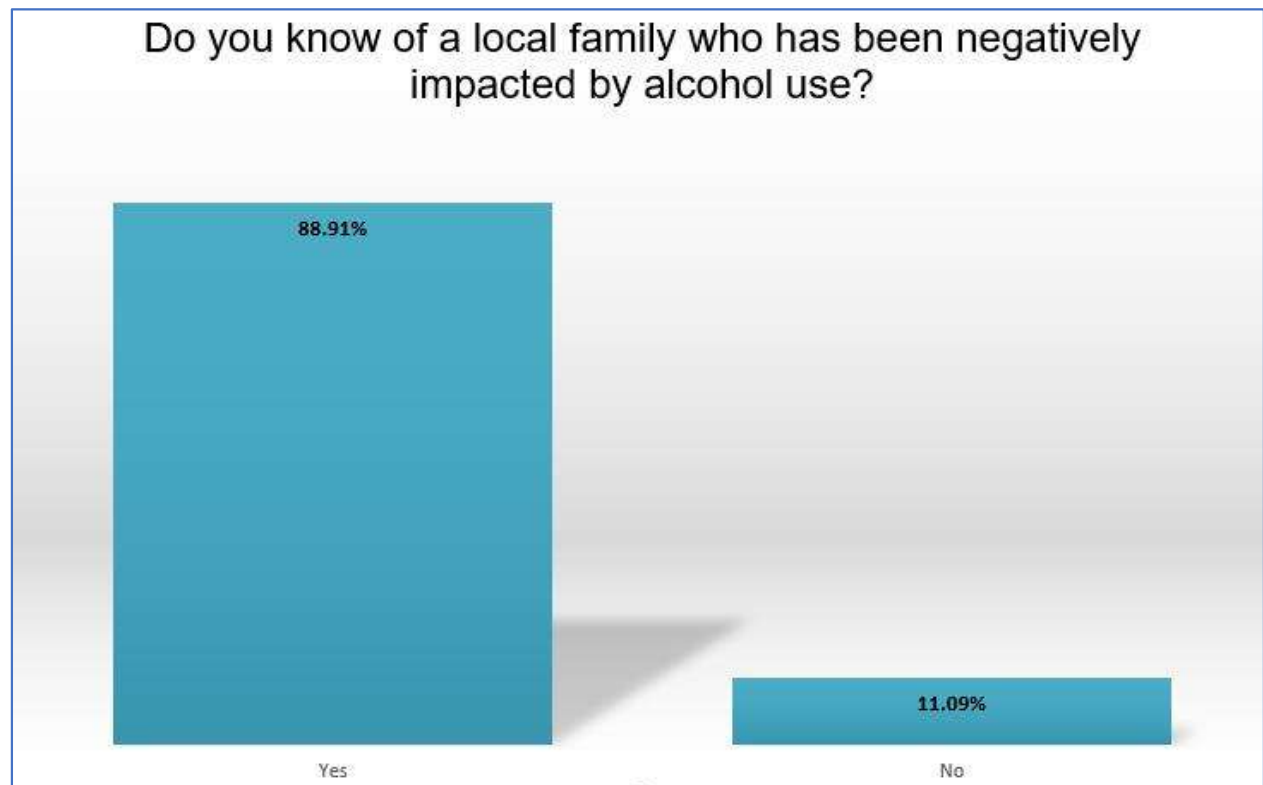
Use of Other Drugs, Such as Alcohol, Marijuana, and Benzodiazepines, Can Lead to Misuse of Opioids, Cocaine, or Methamphetamines.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	86.33%	581
No	13.67%	92
	Answered	673
	Skipped	57



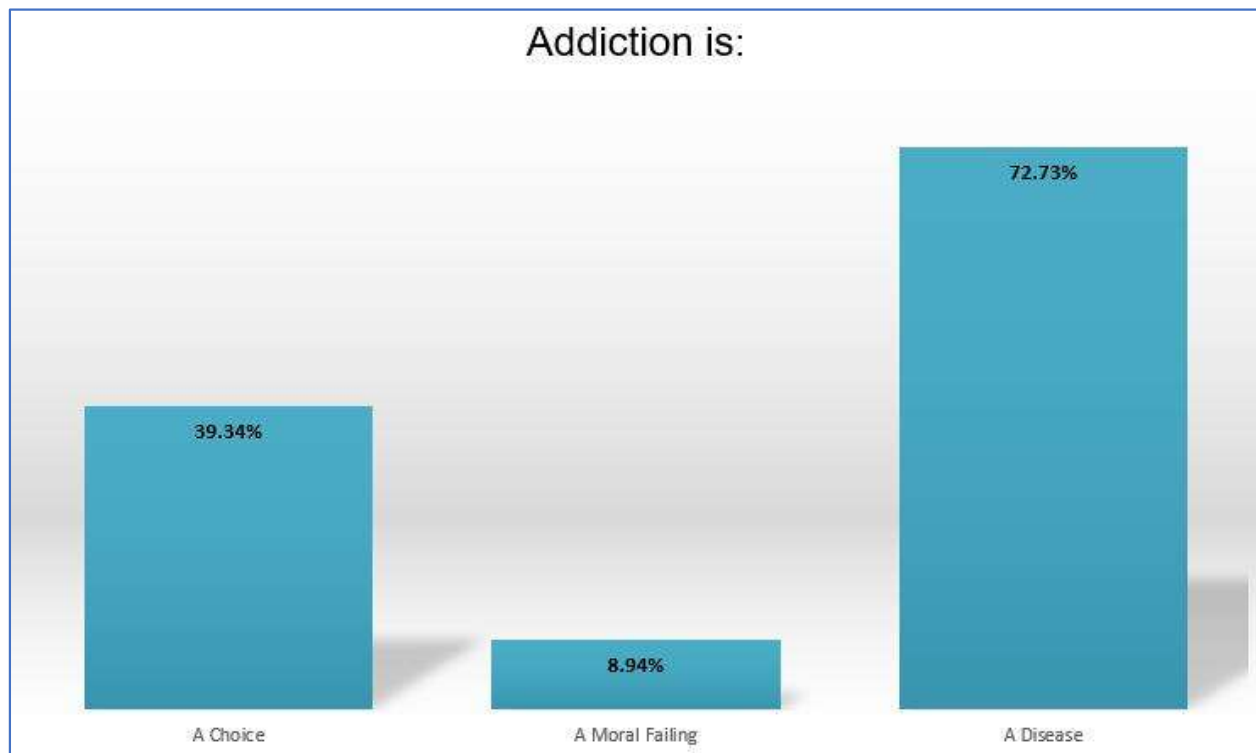
Do You Know of a Local Family Who has Been Negatively Impacted by Alcohol Use?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	88.91%	601
No	11.09%	75
	Answered	676
	Skipped	54



Addiction is:

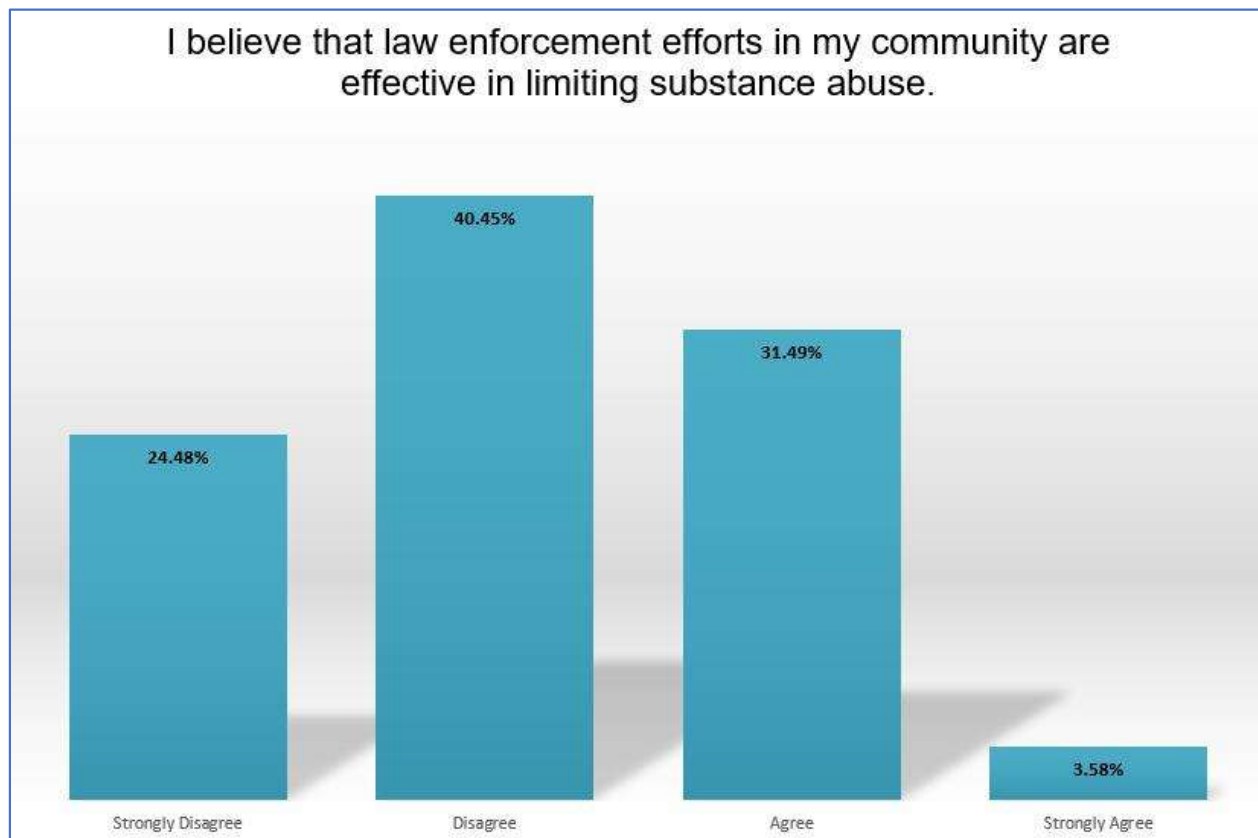
Answer Choices		Duplicated Responses
A Choice	39.34%	264
A Moral Failing	8.94%	60
A Disease	72.73%	488
	Answered	671
	Skipped	59



Duplicated Choice Selection	Responses
Respondents Who Chose Disease Only	390
Respondents Who Chose a Choice Only	157
Respondents Who Chose A Choice and a Disease	69
Respondents Who Skipped the Question	59
Respondents Who Chose Moral Failure	30
Respondents Who Chose All Three Choices	28
Respondents Who Chose a Choice and Moral Failure	10
Respondents Who Chose a Moral Failure and Disease	1

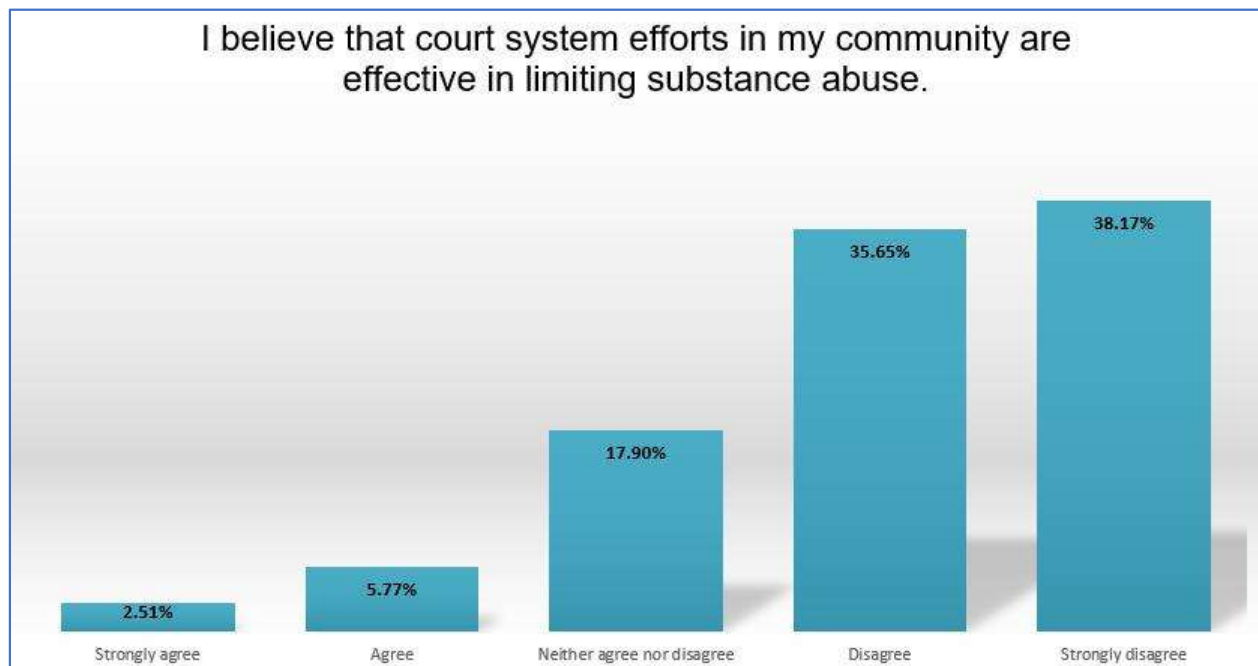
I Believe that Law Enforcement Efforts in my Community are Effective in Limiting Substance Abuse.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly Disagree	24.48%	164
Disagree	40.45%	271
Agree	31.49%	211
Strongly Agree	3.58%	24
	Answered	670
	Skipped	60



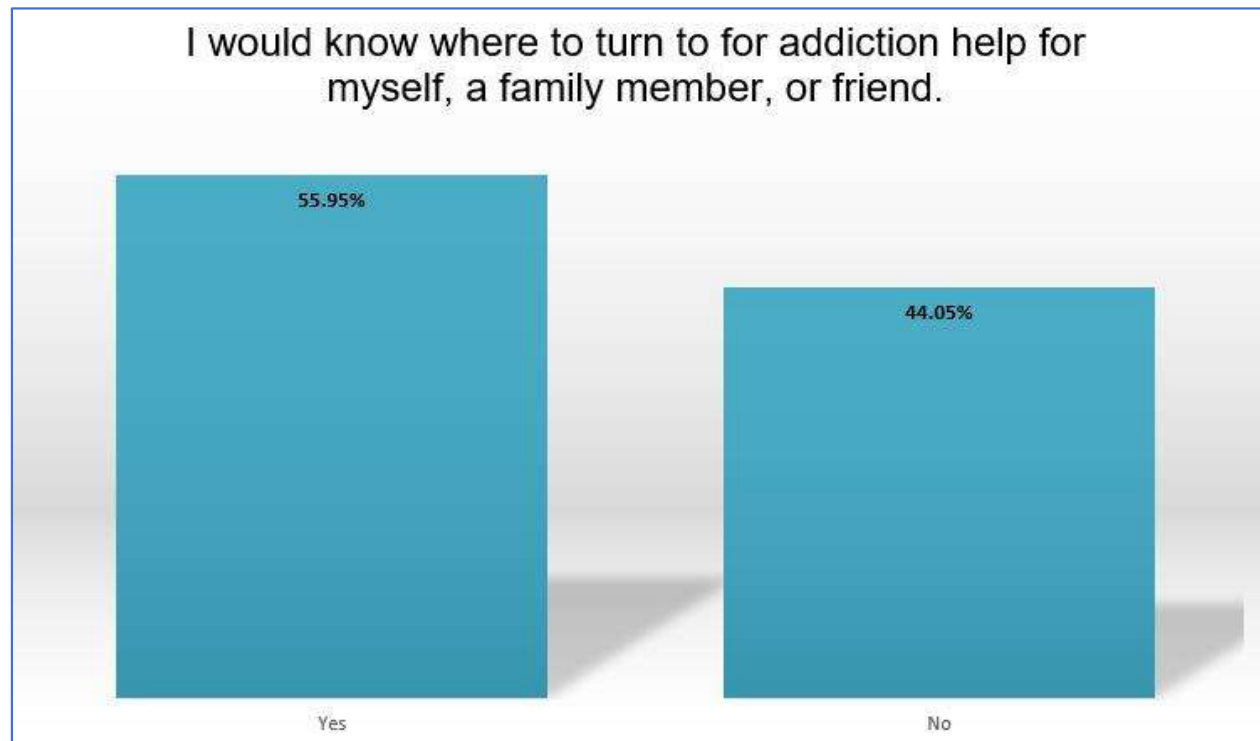
I Believe that Court System Efforts in my Community are Effective in Limiting Substance Abuse.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly agree	2.51%	17
Agree	5.77%	39
Neither agree nor disagree	17.90%	121
Disagree	35.65%	241
Strongly disagree	38.17%	258
	Answered	676
	Skipped	54



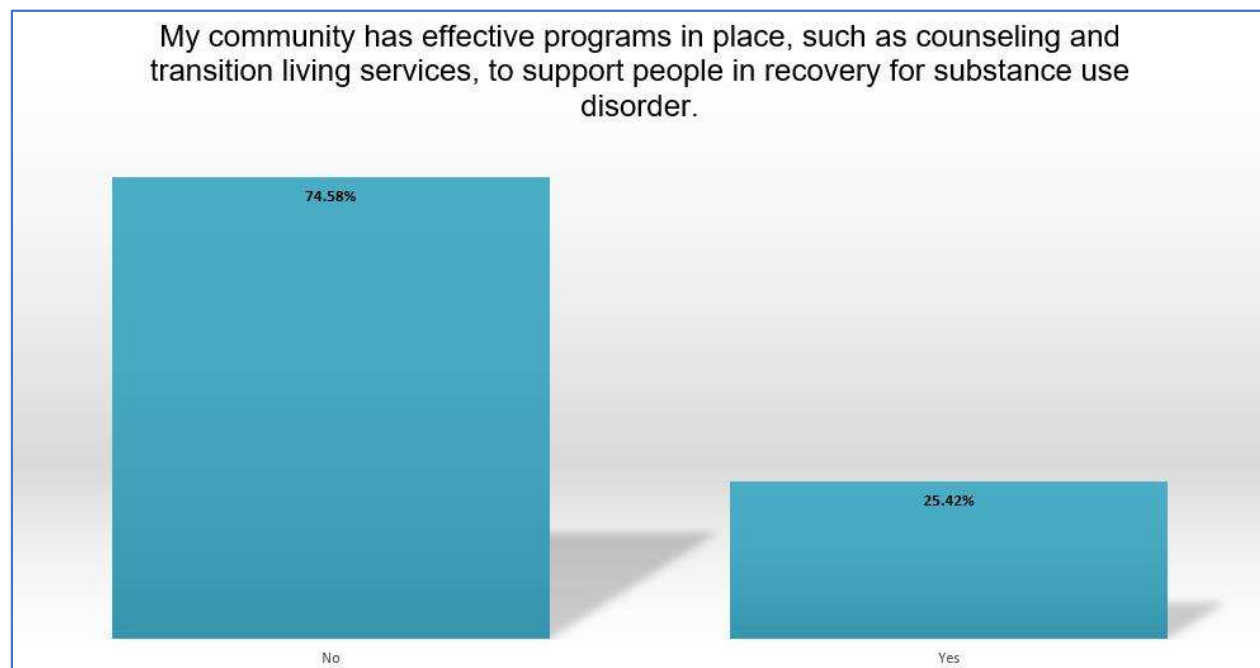
I Would Know Where to Turn to for Addiction Help for Myself, a Family Member, or Friend.

Answer Choices		Responses
Yes	55.95%	376
No	44.05%	296
Answered		672
Skipped		58



My Community has Effective Programs in Place, Such as Counseling and Transition Living Services, to Support People in Recovery for Substance Use Disorder.

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	74.58%	490
Yes	25.42%	167
	Answered	657
	Skipped	73

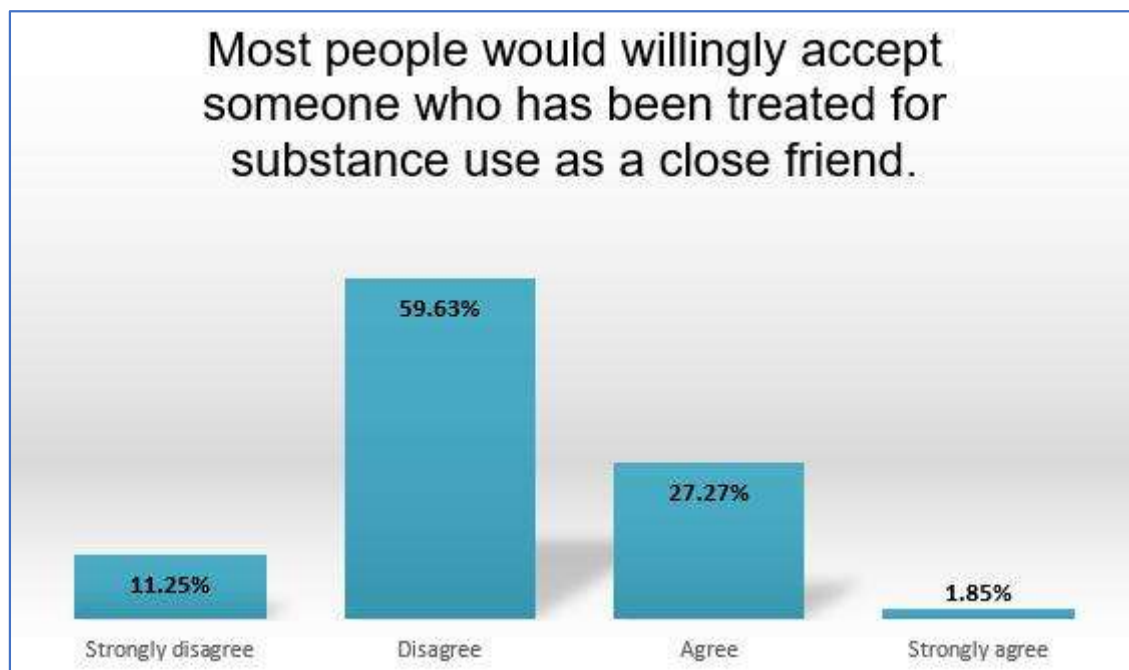


Community Perspectives Section

The Community Perspectives Section of the Survey asked community members about local community perspectives regarding substance use, treatment and recovery.

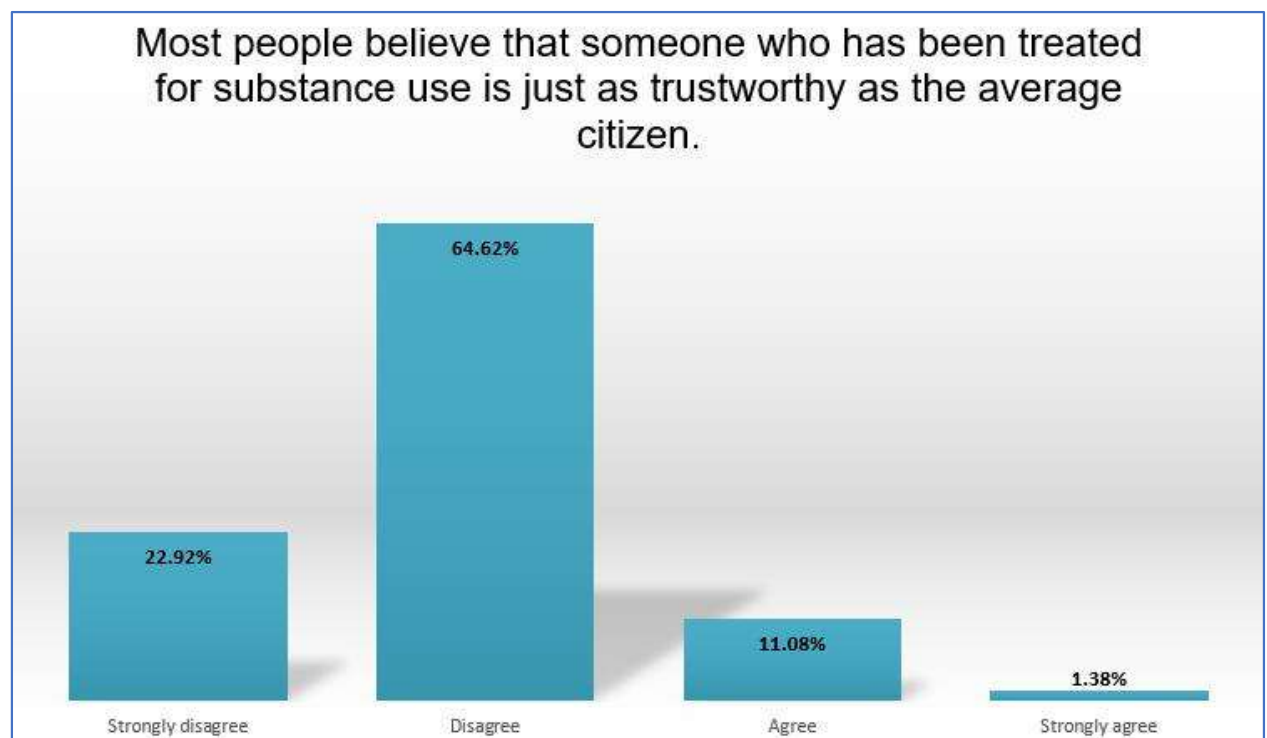
Most people would willingly accept someone who has been treated for substance use as a close friend.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly disagree	11.25%	73
Disagree	59.63%	387
Agree	27.27%	177
Strongly agree	1.85%	12
	Answered	649
	Skipped	81



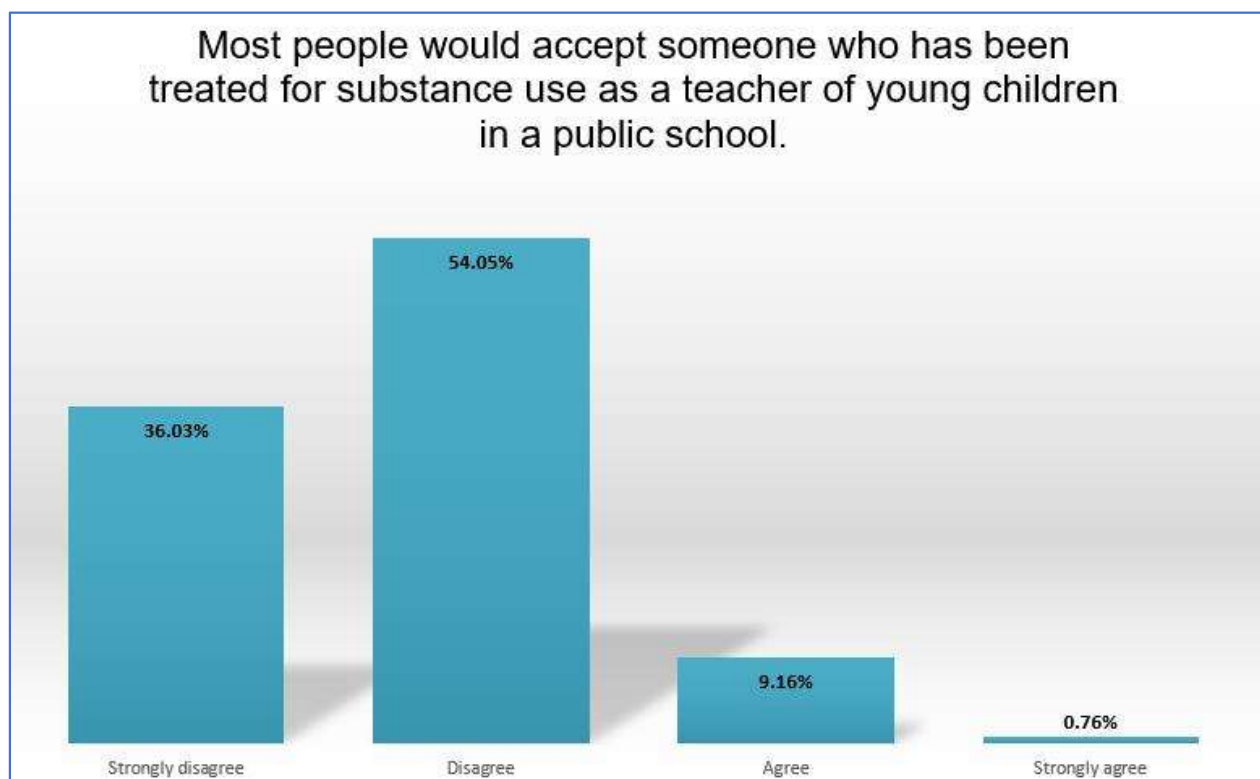
Most people believe that someone who has been treated for substance use is just as trustworthy as the average citizen.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly disagree	22.92%	149
Disagree	64.62%	420
Agree	11.08%	72
Strongly agree	1.38%	9
	Answered	650
	Skipped	80



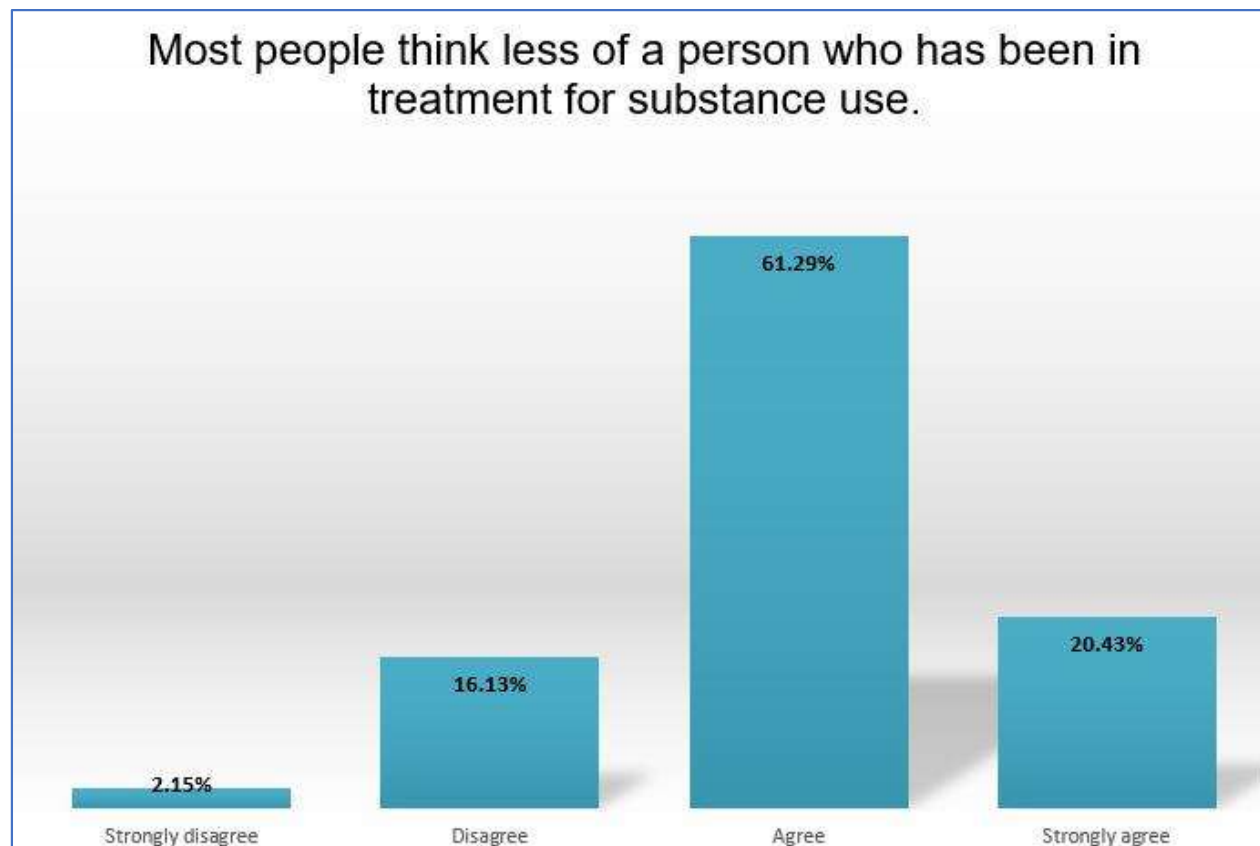
Most people would accept someone who has been treated for substance use as a teacher of young children in a public school.

Answer Choices		Responses
Strongly disagree	36.03%	236
Disagree	54.05%	354
Agree	9.16%	60
Strongly agree	0.76%	5
		Answered
		655
		Skipped
		75



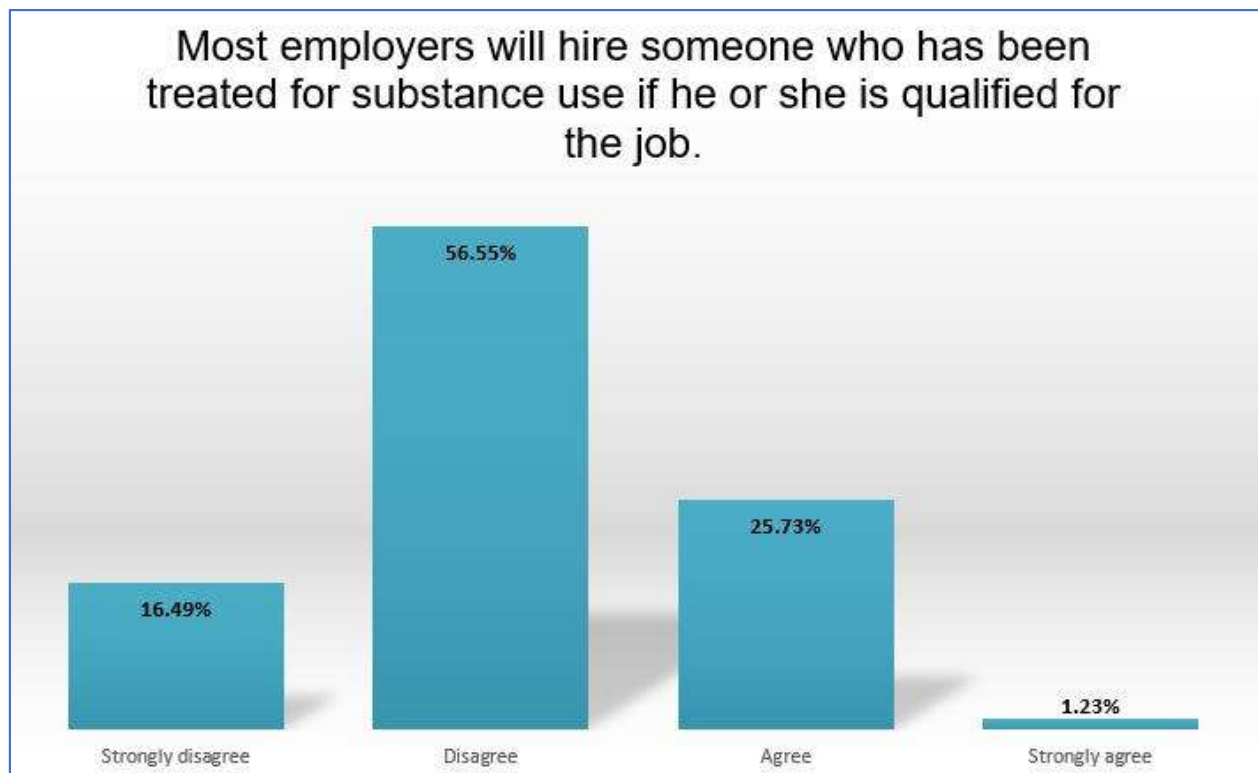
Most people think less of a person who has been in treatment for substance use.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly disagree	2.15%	14
Disagree	16.13%	105
Agree	61.29%	399
Strongly agree	20.43%	133
	Answered	651
	Skipped	79



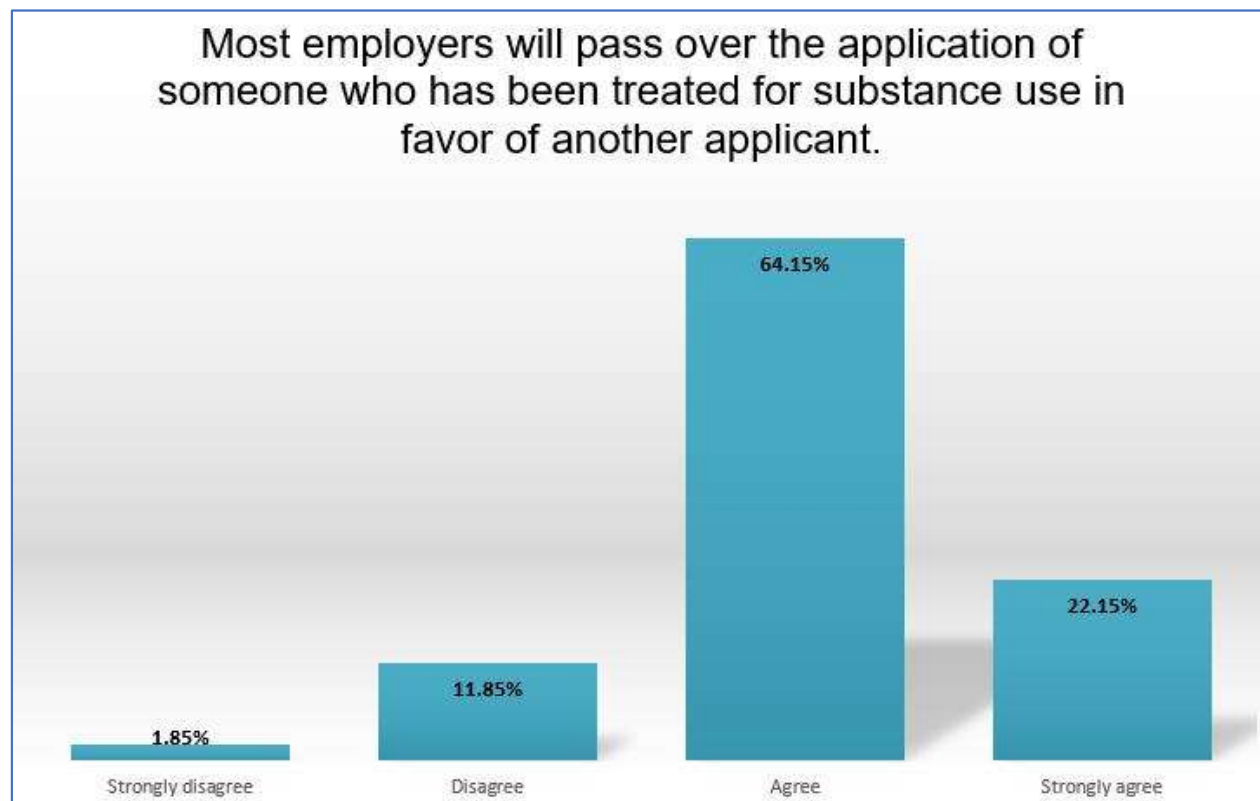
Most employers will hire someone who has been treated for substance use if he or she is qualified for the job.

Answer Choices		Responses
Strongly disagree	16.49%	107
Disagree	56.55%	367
Agree	25.73%	167
Strongly agree	1.23%	8
		Answered
		649
		Skipped
		81



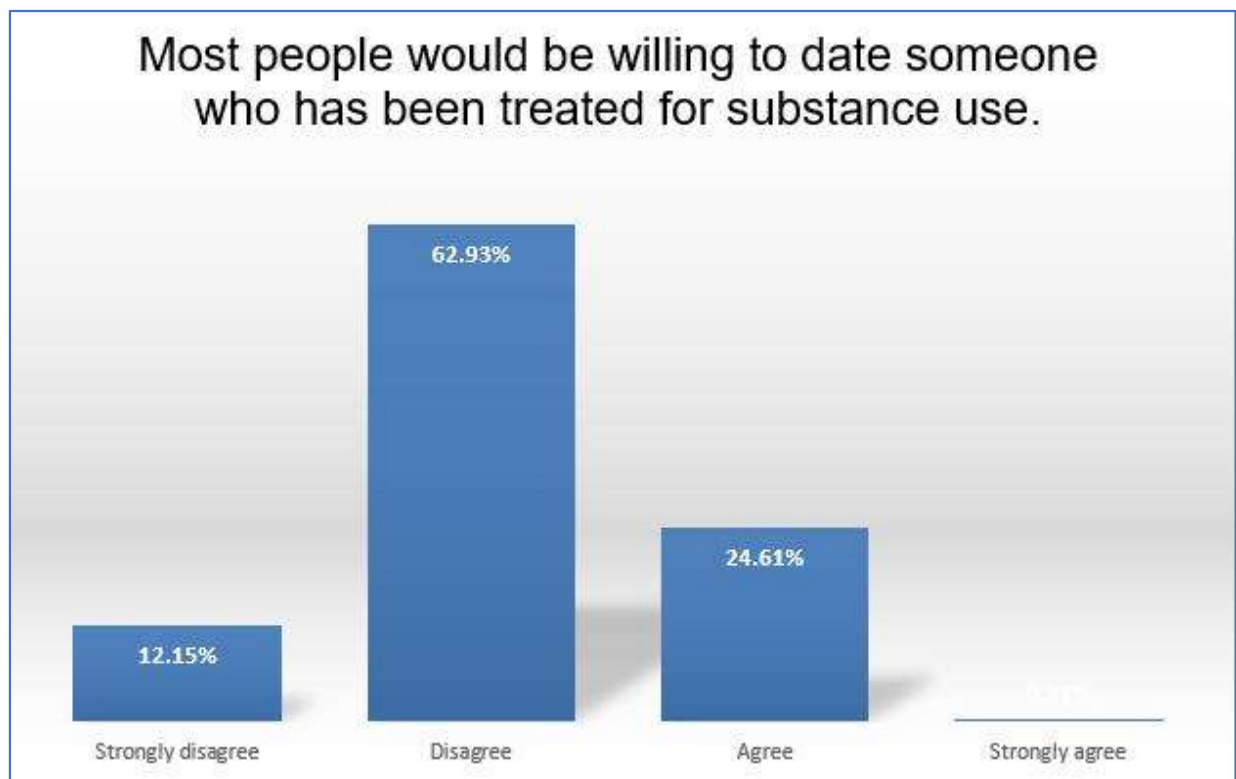
Most employers will pass over the application of someone who has been treated for substance use in favor of another applicant.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Strongly disagree	1.85%	12
Disagree	11.85%	77
Agree	64.15%	417
Strongly agree	22.15%	144
	Answered	650
	Skipped	80



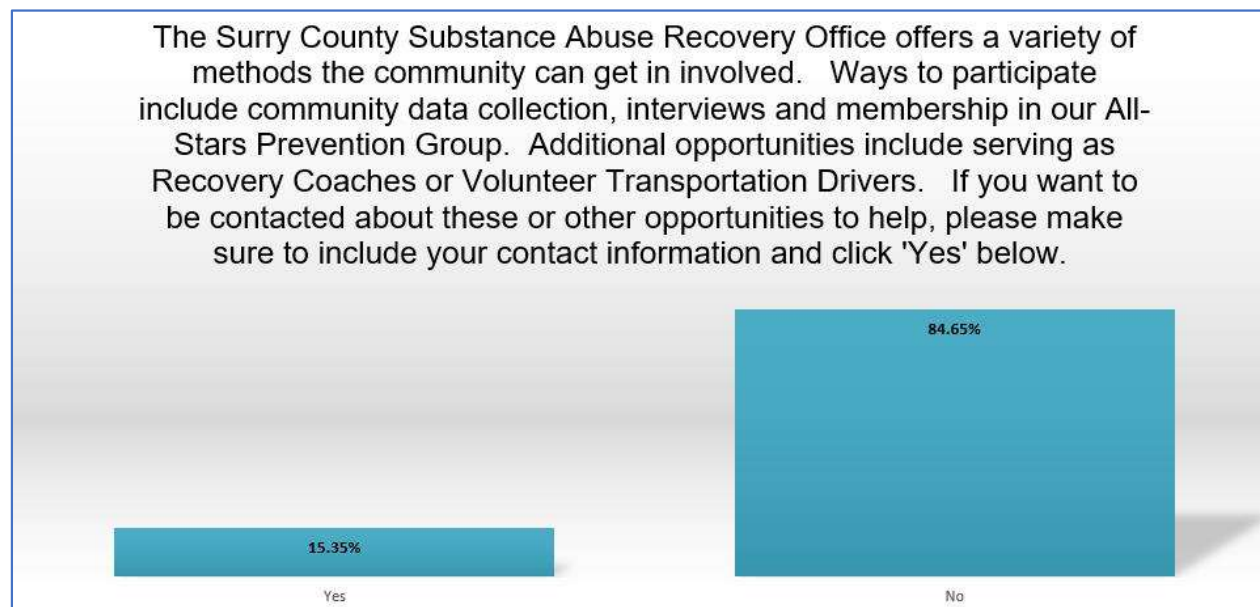
Most people would be willing to date someone who has been treated for substance use.

Answer Choices		Responses
Strongly disagree	12.15%	78
Disagree	62.93%	404
Agree	24.61%	158
Strongly agree	0.31%	2
	Answered	642
	Skipped	88



The Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office offers a variety of methods the community can get in involved. Ways to participate include community data collection, interviews, and membership in our All-Stars Prevention Group. Additional opportunities include serving as Recovery Coaches or Volunteer Transportation Drivers. If you want to be contacted about these or other opportunities to help, please make sure to include your contact information and click 'Yes' below.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	15.35%	72
No	84.65%	397
	Answered	469
	Skipped	261



Community Comments Section

Respondents were given an opportunity to provide comments at the end of the survey instrument.

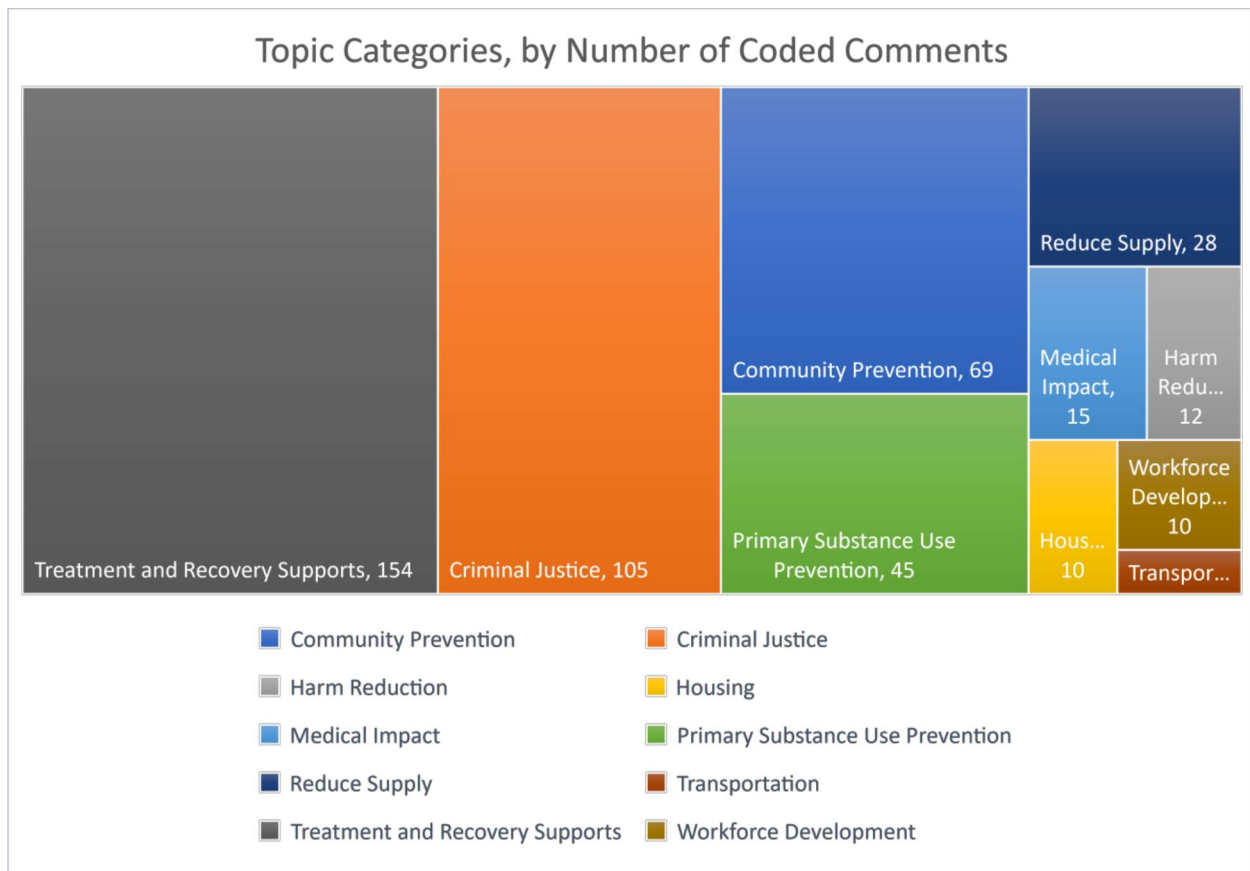
Please share other items that that important to you about the topic of Substance Use in our community. Your thoughts and opinions are very important to us.	
Answered	234
Skipped	496

Comments were classified into ten (10) duplicated categories. Duplicated categories mean that respective comments due to type or topic could be coded to multiple categories. For example, a comment such as: *“I really think that we need to utilize drug courts in the county so that we can reduce the jail population and focus more on treatment instead of penalizing people who have a disease”* belongs to two categories, in this case criminal justice and treatment and recovery supports.

Comments published in this report appear in two separate and distinct Appendices. First, Sorted Comments appear in Appendix A. Statements in Appendix A are sorted by one of the before mentioned ten categories. Each comment was assigned a primary parent category. In addition, comments are also connected to other categories using a backlinked approach and indicated by double brackets. For example, consider the comment above, *“I really think that we need to utilize drug courts in the county so that we can reduce the jail population and focus more on treatment instead of penalizing people who have a disease”*. Since the comment includes two topics, Criminal Justice and Treatment and Recovery Supports, the comment appears in both categories and therefore exist as duplicated entries in Appendix A. All comments are not only coded under their respective categories but also indicated by topic labels within double brackets ([[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]]). Such coding allows reviewers to easily find connections between categories and data sets. A side effect of backlink coding is that specific comments were extracted from a series of related sentences or paragraphs within the same submission; thus context of the comment may be impacted without seeing the entire conversation as submitted.

Coding breakdowns for duplicated topic categories are indicated below:

Comments	
Comment Topic Categories	Number of Comments
Community Prevention	69
Criminal Justice	105
Harm Reduction	12
Housing	10
Medical Impact	15
Primary Substance Use Prevention	45
Reduce Supply	28
Transportation	4
Treatment and Recovery Supports	154
Workforce Development	10



The secondary Appendix, Appendix B presents all comments as they were submitted within context. Topic coding within brackets were removed to increase ease of reading and to see the entire comment within the original submitted context.

Please note that comments in both Appendices were edited for minor spelling issues when correcting the spelling did not impact the meaning of the statement. During cases when spelling corrections may have changed the meaning of the comment, the narrative was left written as submitted. Every effort was made to maintain the confidentiality of private individuals included in the survey, thus there were times when identifying comments were redacted. During such times an indicator was included in the comment area.

Appendix A: Sorted Comments

Duplicated Sorted Comments

Appendix A Sorted Comments

Criminal Justice

[[criminal justice]] Surry County has been bought and paid for by Cartel. There are no strong rules, in and out of jail, slap on the hand to the users and dealers. Go for the big guys, run them out of Surry Co.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] We need more options for addicts to get recovery, and stronger sentences for criminals pushing the poison to the community.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[criminal justice]] We need additional resources IN Surry County to help with this crisis. Resources like: treatment facilities, mental health counseling, additional school counselors, and law enforcement. The issue is that we've got a LOT of people struggling with these problems, but have very FEW available resources to help with these problems without having someone drive an unreasonable distance. If we want substance use to stop, we also have to stop addressing it as a crisis response and instead offer mental health counseling and school counseling opportunities for those who are hurting and looking for somewhere to turn. By doing this you WILL see a change in the things people turn to make themselves feel better.

[[reduce supply]][[criminal justice]] We need to get opioids and fentanyl off the streets and lock up the dealers. Stop waiting years before you charge someone.

[[community prevention]][[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] This town feels like it's stuck. That's the only way to describe it. People know there is a huge drug problem in this town, yet it feels like it has been pushed aside time and time again. This town has been hiding behind its innocent Mayberry cover for way to long. It's time to stop, stop letting people die, stop turning your head for people who are trying to get help, treating them like less. It's time for law enforcement to start taking missing persons and the link of drug use in this county seriously. Rather than hiding the problem, why not knock it out head first, there's nothing to hide if the problem is taken care of seriously and appropriately. Most importantly, it's time to bring justice to the families that have been impacted the most from this huge problem within quiet ol mayberry. Open your eyes.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I think the first Interaction with authorities ought to come with forced treatment not a slap on the wrist or chance to appear in court 30 days later. Immediately go to some treatment. The sooner there is help the better and less likely to reoccur.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Start making charges stick make them go to rehab.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Rather than the revolving door, non-violent drug offenders need other options such as drug court. The lack of opportunity these individuals face for both recovery and betterment are a cycle that perpetuates indefinitely.

[[community prevention]][[criminal justice]] I know first hand about addiction in this county and as far as getting control I don't see any changes at all. When it come to addiction and drugs I feel the law enforcement has no control at all!!!

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] I think when drug sellers/ users are caught they should have to automatically go to drug rehab provided by county instead of sitting in jail. If caught again they should go straight to prison.

[[criminal justice]] Deportation of these Mexicans who commit felonies would be a great start then get rid of the corruption in mount airy, Dobson, Yadkinville.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]][[workforce development]] We also need drug court. Putting addicts in jail does nothing really for them. If we could work with them by getting them treatment, jobs and following them to assure compliance we might have better outcomes. Our jail is running over and we need to implement other avenues. They need help beating the addiction if they want to. However I know that most don't want to but they need the option.

[[housing]][[criminal justice]] We desperately need transitional housing resources for inmates being released from jail to the community. Also peer support in the jail would be helpful.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] I really think that we need to utilize drug courts in the county so that we can reduce the jail population and focus more on treatment instead of penalizing people who have a disease.

[[reduce supply]][[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] There are not enough resources are in our area for people with Substance Use Disorder. Surry County is second in the NATION for overdoses per capita. Yet we continue to incarcerate people with little help offered to them. Surry County jail allows individuals to detox (go through withdrawals) without any medicated assistance. We have to do better. These are not statistics. These are people with a disease.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need a drug court or something in place to help addicts get out of the legal trouble and work on their substance abuse and trauma.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need drug court. You cannot arrest away addiction. I see people trying to get clean and still drowning in our legal system for things high them did last year or the year before.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Services funded by the County Government are incarcerating substance users instead of finding ways to treat their addiction.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Surry County needs a drug court. The jails are overcrowded and those suffering from addiction go right back to using.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Opioid crisis is hardly recognized in my area by local law enforcement and courts.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] You're doing too much in the wrong areas. Sending people to jail to detox cold turkey, not giving medications that are needed to safely detox when in jail is ethically wrong and causes more problems than solutions. Just as prisons learned over the years that rehabilitation is necessary to stop repeat offenders, it is also necessary to stop substance abuse. The county jail has no programs in place to help detox or rehab. They are there for years sometimes. Definitely months, because most addicts don't have the money or a person to sign for bail. Help them

and stop judging them. The officers that are employed, the judges, the lawyers, everyone constantly criticizes them instead of helping them find their way. <Redacted> is the local counseling for addiction. But even the people there are horrible. They force you into groups no matter the former trauma you've endured, force you to attend extreme amounts of therapy so that you can't hold a job or provide for yourself. [[transportation]] But if you don't find a way to get there, they report that you're noncompliant. Most don't have a way to get there because they have had their license taken away, but no transportation is offered. Not to meet with their probation officers or to treatment

[[criminal justice]][[community prevention]] The problem keeps getting worse. So whatever has been done in the past is obviously not working. The definition of insanity. Get these people help and save our tax dollars and our children in the process. Our current judges and DA's are lazy, self-serving politicians who only serve their own advancement. Shameful!

[[harm reduction]][[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] We need harm reduction and drug court badly.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[medical impact]][[harm reduction]] A dual approach of therapy and meds is important....but Psychiatrists/psychologists are usually expensive.

[[criminal justice]] We have several drug houses in our neighborhood. Residents complained to police for years. They people would walk thru the neighborhood as drug zombies. Nothing was done. We could tell police which houses facilitated the drugs. A police officer with a country car in the driveway didn't deter them. [[harm reduction]] There was an overdose that paramedics treated a young man with Narcan. He got off the gurney and walked back into the house where he had just gotten the drugs and nothing else was done by authorities. After 3 years of this a couple people got caught but were out on bond doing the same thing. Finally the one house is empty because the owner went jail. But the other drug related people still use the property.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Instead of sending addicts to jail send them to rehab.

[[criminal justice]] Cannabis is not a drug.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] More in patient treatment facilities and less jail space.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Without severe consequences for the distribution and sale of the illegal drugs this problem will never end.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need a drug court.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[criminal justice]] We need more outreach and information readily available to the public. The court systems are not helping the drug users by sending them to jail. While I admit they need to face their consequences for their actions of using, I believe jail is not the answer, but a great rehab facility is.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Forsyth County is strict with their drug convictions. Surry county just slaps them on the hand and lets them back out. They need treatment but

they also need jail time so they learn their lesson.

[[criminal justice]] I think that law enforcement and the Courts in our state need major reform when it comes to substance abuse the prison system is not where the addict needs to be it's a disaster that needs to be cleaned up.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] So our jail systems are having to work to both house those who have broken laws as well as those who are in need of help with addiction.

[[criminal justice]] I think the penalty for drug abuse is too lenient. They go right back out and do the same thing because they know they will just get a slap on the wrist!!

[[criminal justice]] Drug dealers live next door to me and have been actively using and selling for several years. Law enforcement in Surry know but do NOTHING!!! And nothing will ever change until law enforcement stop ignoring it with some and not others. Very aggravating!!

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Narcotics and Trafficking.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Drug court, more transitional housing options, MAT administration before leaving jail as an option, re-entry program, harm reduction program supported by elected officials and those elected officials voting to approve above listed items.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] I find that the head is turned the other way by people that could stop this, people with neighbors that they know deal drugs, and turn them in, nothing is never done, high traffic all night, alot of loud music, if someone is arrested they are out the next day doing the same thing.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[medical impact]][[criminal justice]] Overdose rates are too high and corruption in the judicial system\

[[criminal justice]] We have a serious problem with drugs in our neighborhood and the police don't seem to care that one house didn't have power to it for at least 3 years but burnt down, they was cooking meth on a gas grill and burnt the house down no investigation was ever done to why the house burnt down now the druggies have built 2 buildings behind 2 different houses out here they're dealing out of these shacks.

[[criminal justice]] Drug court and help for addictions rather than criminal courts would help decriminalize addiction and treat it with hope of restoring lives. Having a criminal record can continue the downward spiral (joblessness, homelessness, family separation) due to social stigma.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Stop the drug dealers

[[criminal justice]] The sheriffs office, DA & court systems are a lot of the downfall in our county. Repeat offenders is a huge problem!!

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I think Surry County needs a drug court or something for these people that have substance use to help them recover and get life back on track, instead of slapping there hands and letting them back on the street just to do it again. They need help

and we are drowning in opioid issues in our county. My area is covered by drug addicts and we need some sort of help it's only getting worse to the point we don't feel safe. A simple walk to our mailbox and we have to watch for needles that have been used... GET IT TOGETHER SURRY COUNTY!! We can do this put effort into it!!

[[criminal justice]] Get arrested, go to county jail, come out with more connections than they had before they went in.

[[criminal justice]] The judicial system in Surry county needs to be cleaned up and judges that will really come down on people with drug charges get jail time! The judges just give them probation and fines and they go right back out and start all over again!!

[[criminal justice]] Stop putting these individuals in jail.

[[criminal justice]] We have several drug houses in our neighborhood. Residents complained to police for years. They people would walk thru the neighborhood as drug zombies. Nothing was done. We could tell police which houses facilitated the drugs. A police officer with a country car in the driveway didn't deter them.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Law enforcement had failed in the war on drugs since the phrase was coined 50 years ago. Where there is a demand there will be a supply. Wars cannot be waged against inanimate objects. It is time for government officials to recognize that and to implement programs designed to reduce and / or eliminate the demand for drugs.

[[criminal justice]] People want sell their homes to get away from this mess but it's everywhere so that's not the answer. The answer is to get these people help and if they have broken laws put them in jail.

[[criminal justice]] The Sheriffs Dept cannot do a good job because they are over whelmed.

[[criminal justice]] The law enforcement and judicial services in our county are failing the citizens.

[[criminal justice]] The Judicial system needs start enforcing the laws as written. Also so that Law Enforcement may take their jobs seriously...and the community should back them.

[[criminal justice]] The law!! Law enforcements doing a good job at finding these people only to be let go for various reasons, mostly to turn over evidence. Repeat offenders are released, unacceptable!!

[[criminal justice]] A young man I know was sentenced to 30 days in jail and while in jail he got more drugs than he got while out of jail. The drugs were in their jail clothes. The police and courts need to get tougher. Drug dealers are allowed to go for years even though law enforcement knows they are dealers and dealers and users think our law enforcement is a joke. If they are put on probation nothing is done. All of the tools of the law should be used and when they are caught their life should be made rough on them. A negative consequence and something they do not like should be given.

[[criminal justice]] LEOs do a good job.

[[criminal justice]] Law enforcement need to do a better job.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Surry county needs drug court. It is proven to work, but surry county don't want it cause they get more money out of repeat offenders. Drug court participants are less likely to be repeat offenders. Drug court cuts down on cost of medical bills for inmates. We need to treat people with this disease with dignity. We need more community involvement. Just talk to anyone who has lost a child. Surry county acts like, not my child so not my problem or it want happen to my child, my child is better than that kid. Every overdose is someone's child, brother, sister, mother or father. Family members don't ask for this and should not be stigmatized. Resources are few and far between for our county and no one knows about them. [[harm reduction]] Harm reduction measures need to be addressed. Narcan needs to be distributed out in the county. Needle exchange site would mean less dirty needles found in parks, less spread of other diseases caused by dirty needles. Allot could be done these are just a few of the things.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] The Surry Court System & Sheriff's office has let the people who supply drugs in my community continue to sell them and distribute them.

[[criminal justice]] Surry County is in need of drug court to reduce recidivism and actually treat individuals who suffer from addiction AND mental health. People can and do get better with these resources in place!

[[criminal justice]] Let's use our dollars wisely and begin a drug court here!

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] There should be more activities for people that struggle with drug use instead of jail.

[[criminal justice]] [[reduce supply]] I think our sheriff's department is doing a horrible job throwing and abusing their citizens of surry county in to harmful and dangerous situations and they are ripping apart families who don't deserve it. We are all struggling to survive out here. Throwing people in prison and dangling their kids in the air so they can get drugs and victory for the new sheriff. It's awful.

[[criminal justice]] I would like to see the judges hand out harsher sentences.

[[criminal justice]] Our law enforcement contribute largely in many different ways to the large amount of drug abuse that goes on in our community.

[[criminal justice]] Repeat offenders in the community when the justice system becomes involved. There's clearly no incentive or beneficial assistance for these repeat offenders. Judicial system is not strict enough.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[medical impact]][[criminal justice]] Overdose rates are too high and corruption.in the judicial system.

[[criminal justice]] It's unfortunate that we criminalize people with substance abuse and mental health issues.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] I feel the drug dealers in our area get away with it!

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I believe there needs to be a program for repeat drug offenders instead of prison. First thing needed for a program would be mental health to find out why the individual uses, then some drug treatment, then drug court.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] More counseling while people are in jail.

[[criminal justice]][[community prevention]][[primary substance prevention]] There needs to be a shift in thinking in the community at large. The criminalization of drugs is an outdated tactic. The community needs to look at the reason why substance use is so common in the area, instead of solely focusing on the individual.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] People in jail need daily NA, AA meetings provided by treatment centers, NA, AA groups. The meetings are free and could have a clear wall between the prisoners and providers. Counselors should be asked to provide services behind the same clear wall.

[[criminal justice]] There are no programs to help addicts recover while in county jail.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] The courts need to process offenders promptly / or require them to get help and provide the help for them.

[[criminal justice]] Stronger sentences. Quit being a political county and arrest where it is known for facts. No more under the table payments to turn heads.

[[criminal justice]] So many druggies walking our streets and causing trouble with no consequences. White Plains used to be a safe community.

[[criminal justice]][[housing]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We could benefit from drug court, halfway housing, and additional resources to help treat addiction.

[[criminal justice]] It is simply embarrassing that this county does not have a Drug Court. Even more embarrassing is the fact that most in the judicial system don't see the need for a drug court. They have chosen not to even attempt to understand addiction and recovery and how they both directly relate to the legal system. As a county we chose to over fill our jails with people that are addicts. It hasn't worked in the past, it is not working in the present, and it will not work in the future.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] Our county can continue to add more treatment providers, but until the court system and law enforcement have a fundamental shift in their thinking I fear real change won't happen.

[[reduce supply]][[criminal justice]] I have reported my neighbor across the street who isn't even trying to hide the fact that he is selling drugs. They are doing it in broad daylight and have had many witnesses. We have even witnessed folks driving under the influence away from this property and SCSO won't do <redacted> thing about it.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Need to treat addiction not throw them in jail.

[[housing]][[criminal justice]] We need a drug court. More shelter for drug addicts in recovery programs.

[[criminal justice]] Sheriff is trying to get them up, he's cleaning the county up.

[[criminal justice]] I think the penalties for getting caught selling drugs should be higher. In my opinion 90% of the time drug use starts with drinking then leads to more aggressive use of drugs and behaviors. One example that I know of happening right now, there's a family of six 2 parents maybe 30 4 kids under the age of 5. Both parents are on drugs bad. Neither of them work and receive a 1,000 a month in ebt benefits.

[[criminal justice]] I see people daily walking the road and cars lined up at houses where they hang to get high....I know the law has to know also.

[[criminal justice]] Law needs to do more.

[[reduce supply]][[criminal justice]] I have a drug dealer living across the street. The people who go in and out of there all hours of the day, my family doesn't feel safe. There is nothing being done about it

[[criminal justice]] Judges are too lenient on drug DEALERS.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need to pursue harsher penalties for dealers while providing more long term recovery options for addicts, or this epidemic will never improve.

[[criminal justice]] Our community is overrun with addiction and opiates, and our law enforcement and court system just does not have a handle on the situation.

[[criminal justice]] It seems if they are put in jail they are released early because of overcrowding. I have a friend who was released early and she called her dealer to pick her up.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] The courts need to be stricter on sentencing dealers & offer addicts treatment. If addicts continue to break the law lock them up until they get straight & prove themselves.

[[criminal justice]] Court systems do a terrible job of managing people arrested time after time for drug charges.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] There should be more of a leaning towards treatment instead of jail time, needle exchange/testing site for harm reduction, more education about recovering addicts and giving them a fair chance in life.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] My daughter has struggled with addiction since 10th grade. She told me the DARE program only educated her what she would like to try. After 3 relapses she has done the best in trying to beat the disease right now. [[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Her probation officer was extremely helpful in finding care. She started in the 28 day program at Hope Valley.....but that barely scratched the surface. Her willingness to participate in a long term program in another county has made an incredible difference. We have all decided that is best for not to move back to Surry County. [[criminal justice]] The court system slapping the hands of people that abuse or sell drugs makes Surry a

inappropriate place to live when trying to recover. The Sheriff's Department has done a amazing job recently in trying to get them off the streets. [[criminal justice]] However the court system drops the ball by mishandling of the consequences of those people. Until that is fixed Surry County will remain a cesspool.

[[criminal justice]] We need law enforcement and a court system that's not bought off and cover up things.

Reduce Supply

[[reduce supply]] Until you do something about the DOCTORS prescribing the drugs there will be no solution to the problem.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] I feel the drug dealers in our area get away with it!

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Opioid crisis is hardly recognized in my area by local law enforcement and courts.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Stop the drug dealers.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Without severe consequences for the distribution and sale of the illegal drugs this problem will never end.

[[reduce supply]] Too many pain clinics!!!

[[reduce supply]] I feel like we need to reduce the number of drugs that are readily available in the community. Temptation is a huge struggle to addicts and the illegal drugs are readily available at every turn.

[[reduce supply]] These drugs are too available to our young people and they are using drugs laced with so many things that they don't have a clue about. Sometimes they are not given a second chance.

[[reduce supply]][[criminal justice]] We need to get opioids and fentanyl off the streets and lock up the dealers. Stop waiting years before you charge someone.

[[reduce supply]] The mixture on substances at one time and the dangers one alone but how deadly it is to mix multiple substances.

[[reduce supply]] Opioids are readily available in Surry county.

[[reduce supply]][[medical impact]] I still see the people living in a house that's known for selling pills and stuff. I don't understand why they keep getting overlooked. They are in the Mt. Airy city limits. Why have they never been busted? I know a young man who nearly died because of the drugs from that house. That same young man overcame his addiction and has a great paying job and a family now. He pulled through with the love and help of the Lord Jesus Himself and family.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Narcotics and Trafficking.

[[reduce supply]][[criminal justice]] I have a drug dealer living across the street. The people who go in and out of there all hours of the day, my family doesn't feel safe. There is nothing being done about it.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] I find that the head is turned the other way by people that could stop this, people with neighbors that they know deal drugs, and turn them in, nothing is ever done, high traffic all night, a lot of loud music, if someone is arrested they are out the next day doing the same thing.

[[medical impact]][[reduce supply]] I know from personal experience that addiction often starts with a

doctor's prescription. Then they move you to pain control. They truly don't care if they kill you and offer no help or resources when you tell them you want to stop.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] Law enforcement had failed in the war on drugs since the phrase was coined 50 years ago. Where there is a demand there will be a supply. Wars cannot be waged against inanimate objects. It is time for government officials to recognize that and to implement programs designed to reduce and / or eliminate the demand for drugs.

[[criminal justice]][[reduce supply]] The Surry Court System & Sheriff's office has let the people who supply drugs in my community continue to sell them and distribute them.

[[reduce supply]] I know people who sell their food stamps for pain pills/drugs and others who get pain pills/drugs and sell to others. There is a real problem in Surry County and continues to get worse.

[[criminal justice]] [[reduce supply]] I think our sheriff's department is doing a horrible job throwing and abusing their citizens of surry county in to harmful and dangerous situations and they are ripping apart families who don't deserve it. We are all struggling to survive out here. Throwing people in prison and dangling their kids in the air so they can get drugs and victory for the new sheriff. It's awful.

[[reduce supply]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Local doctors need to be more openly honest about the real risk of becoming addicted/reliant on opioid prescriptions. I have received medicines in the past where I've had to do my own research online. Many lower income, or under educated, people in the community may not have access to internet or realize the real dangers of opioids.

[[reduce supply]] Doctors and Dentist need to be more cautious in prescribing opiates especially in young people also need to educate patients about the drug and the possibilities of getting addicted if the meds are abused. No body set's out to be a drug addict.

[[reduce supply]][[primary sud prevention]] When a person who is on methadone and has been clean for 9 years goes to the Doctor or Dentist. They are treated as if they are actively using street drugs.

[[reduce supply]][[criminal justice]] I have reported my neighbor across the street who isn't even trying to hide the fact that he is selling drugs. They are doing it in broad daylight and have had many witnesses. We have even witnessed folks driving under the influence away from this property and SCSO won't do <redacted> thing about it.

[[reduce supply]] You wanna get rid of the drugs. Get rid of the carport cartels.

[[reduce supply]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Mount Airy needs more treatment options, education, and get rid of the so called pain clinics.

[[reduce supply]][[primary sud prevention]] All I see is meth abuse and it has completely ruined this county, along with the opioid epidemic. I guess people don't OD on meth so they don't see it as an epidemic. [[treatment and recovery supports]] Also, I feel that people who become addicts had some issues maybe from childhood that were never dealt with.

[[reduce supply]][[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] There are not enough resources

are in our area for people with Substance Use Disorder. Surry County is second in the NATION for overdoses per capita. Yet we continue to incarcerate people with little help offered to them. Surry County jail allows individuals to detox (go through withdrawals) without any medicated assistance. We have to do better. These are not statistics. These are people with a disease.

[[community prevention]][[reduce supply]] Concerns about drugs being in our middle schools.

Harm Reduction

[[primary sud prevention]][[harm reduction]] I wish it country was more educated on substance abuse over all, especially emphasizing on opioids.

[[harm reduction]] Also, I am in favor of harm reduction strategies.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[harm reduction]] Syringe exchange program would be very important and free rehab.

[[harm reduction]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Funding is desperately needed to support Subutex for people in recovery from opioid abuse. The cost is ridiculous and most without insurance can not afford it.

[[harm reduction]] Harm reduction measures need to be addressed. Narcan needs to be distributed out in the county. Needle exchange site would mean less dirty needles found in parks, less spread of other diseases caused by dirty needles. Allot could be done these are just a few of the things.

[[harm reduction]] Legalize Cannabis!!! Proven that where cannabis is legal, Opioid abuse dropped significantly.

[[harm reduction]][[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] We need harm reduction and drug court badly.

[[harm reduction]] Have known many people that are on disability that get all kinds of prescriptions from certain doctors and turn around and sell them or trade them for drugs of choice.

[[harm reduction]] I vehemently oppose needle exchange programs! Enabling addicts to use is NOT a productive activity!

[[harm reduction]] A 24 yr old overdosed at one of the drug house and the owner told them he was in a bad shape when he arrived at her house.

[[harm reduction]][[medical impact]] Narcan is more accessible and free but something like Insulin isn't and that isn't right.

[[harm reduction]][[treatment and recovery supports]] There needs to be a methadone/subutex facility/clinic for Surry Co residents. Currently there are none. I myself am an ex-addict who has been driving to Wilkes county to their substance abuse clinic for almost 6 yes now. I have been successful with my sobriety. I truly believe if there was a facility here In our county it would truly help with the current addiction to opiates/heroin epidemic.

Workforce Development

[[workforce development]] It seems to be a endless cycle. No jobs in the Surry County provides so much leisure time and entrepreneurial opportunities for those who know somebody that knows somebody to either get high with or to sling dope to keep their habit afloat. [[workforce development]][[criminal justice]] Get arrested, go to county jail, come out with more connections than they had before they went in.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]][[workforce development]] We also need drug court. Putting addicts in jail does nothing really for them. If we could work with them by getting them treatment, jobs and following them to assure compliance we might have better outcomes. Our jail is running over and we need to implement other avenues. They need help beating the addiction if they want to. However I know that most don't want to but they need the option.

[[workforce development]] The lack of meaningful work/JOB in our county is a factor which contributes to the presence of substance abuse here. There are many factors, but this is a major element.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]][[workforce development]] We also need drug court. Putting addicts in jail does nothing really for them. If we could work with them by getting them treatment, jobs and following them to assure compliance we might have better outcomes. Our jail is running over and we need to implement other avenues. They need help beating the addiction if they want to. However I know that most don't want to but they need the option.

[[housing]][[medical impact]][[community prevention]][[workforce development]][[primary sud prevention]] People need affordable housing, healthcare, equal education and living wage jobs opportunities. Intervention needs to start early. Good pre-school, head start, family support, parenting programs.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]] [[workforce development]][[medical impact]] I think that many in the community would like to ignore that drug and substance abuse is a problem for our community and even in their own families because of the shame that is felt. Dependencies of any kind, signal weakness in that person and family and no one wants to be considered a " less than perfect" human being or having a relative that has a dependency. Destigmatizing substance abuse can help but preventing it from happening in the first place would be so much better and should be started and recognized in early childhood. The relapsing of a fairly large percentage of treated addicts and substance dependent individuals is a problem for potential employers and the families of drug dependent individuals. Manipulative behaviors characterize untreated and treated addicts as a way to attain their goals and no person, be it wife/ husband, mother, law enforcement agent/ judge or medical provider wants to feel that they have been manipulated. As a Primary Care Provider for many years this is what I observed from my practice. I believe that when the dependent person makes up their mind to STOP using Now and Forever, then and only then, can treatment offer change and make a positive difference in their life. How can we help to make a difference in the lives of dependent individuals if they have not committed to becoming clean? Though, as a community, we can never stop helping those that are recovering and recovered.

[[housing]][[workforce development]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Our community is in need of several resources to assist those who struggle with addiction. Needed resources are: transitional

housing, affordable housing, affordable child care, access to medical care, supportive employment, local detox facility.

[[workforce development]] The community perspective questions are not my personal opinions, but ones I observe socially and in the workplace.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[workforce development]][[community prevention]] Some opportunities for employment and entertainment. More education and transportation. MORE treatment options.

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Housing

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[[housing]] Single homeless men/addicts need support here from what I've heard.

[[housing]] We also need a homeless shelter for men. Homelessness and addiction often affect the same individuals.

[[housing]] Men need a house to live in while recovering.

[[criminal justice]][[housing]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We could benefit from drug court, halfway housing, and additional resources to help treat addiction.

[[housing]][[criminal justice]] We need a drug court. More shelter for drug addicts in recovery n programs.

[[housing]] Shepherd's House is helpful.

[[housing]][[medical impact]][[community prevention]][[workforce development]][[primary sud prevention]] People need affordable housing, healthcare, equal education and living wage jobs opportunities. Intervention needs to start early. Good pre-school, head start, family support, parenting programs.

[[housing]][[criminal justice]] We desperately need transitional housing resources for inmates being released from jail to the community. Also peer support in the jail would be helpful.

[[housing]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Day mark is good for meetings, counseling, and stuff but we really need a nice but strict recovery residence. I wanted to open one in memory of my son, but support is not there from the community and I don't know how to go about getting state assistance. I was told the funds are there but Grant's need to be applied for. Would love to help with this if it becomes and option.

Primary SUD Prevention

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I think the community needs to vastly improved the way it has handled the drug problem as far as providing services and programs aimed specifically for addiction as well as mental health treatment availability.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] [[criminal justice]] We need additional resources IN Surry County to help with this crisis. Resources like: treatment facilities, mental health counseling, additional school counselors, and law enforcement. The issue is that we've got a LOT of people struggling with these problems, but have very FEW available resources to help with these problems without having someone drive an unreasonable distance. If we want substance use to stop, we also have to stop addressing it as a crisis response and instead offer mental health counseling and school counseling opportunities for those who are hurting and looking for somewhere to turn. By doing this you WILL see a change in the things people turn to make themselves feel better.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I think starting education as early as possible, even before school age is the answer to the question it told me to specify.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Talk to children show them videos and family's pull together and help raise a child.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Education in school.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Education is key in understanding SUD.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] It is sad that people resort to drugs.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[criminal justice]] We need more outreach and information readily available to the public. The court systems are not helping the drug users by sending them to jail . While I admit they need to face their consequences for their actions of using, I believe jail is not the answer, but a great rehab facility is.

[[housing]][[medical impact]][[community prevention]][[workforce development]][[primary sud prevention]] People need affordable housing, healthcare, equal education and living wage jobs opportunities. Intervention needs to start early. Good pre-school, head start, family support, parenting programs.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[primary sud prevention]] There is no help for the innocent victims of someone who is addicted to drugs.

[[reduce supply]][[primary sud prevention]] All I see is meth abuse and it has completely ruined this county, along with the opioid epidemic. I guess people don't OD on meth so they don t see it as an epidemic.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Churches should be more involved in their communities to help those who are battling addiction. Most people who are prone to becoming addicts

are those who are attempting to fill a void or to counteract a painful or lonely time in their lives! Churches need to step up and offer spiritual guidance to these hurting people.

[[primary sud prevention]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Older adults get addicted also. My Husband and I tried for 20 years to help his Mother who was still addicted at her death at age 73.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Saving children , boosting children up and getting them away from parents using drugs!

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[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] My daughter has struggled with addiction since 10th grade. She told me the DARE program only educated her what she would like to try. After 3 relapses she has done the best in trying to beat the disease right now.

[[primary sud prevention]][[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I hope that every effort is being made in schools, churches, civic groups, youth sports, Scouts, and families to help our friends and neighbors with their problems. However, I know that people are not getting the best care.

[[primary sud prevention]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] We need more prevention and treatment for SUD that is easily and rapidly accessible.

[[reduce supply]][[primary sud prevention]] When a person who is on methadone and has been clean for 9 years goes to the Doctor or Dentist. They are treated as if they are actively using street drugs.

[[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]][[primary sud prevention]] In the city of Elkin I have had high school class mates that have committed suicide because they were too embarrassed to come to family and friends with their addiction problems. In Elkin it is a major stigma to be a addict. I am a recovering addict. I had to leave my hometown to get the help i needed because NONE was available in my area and what would the neighbors think??? Was my parents/families concern. There are more drugs like Adderall and Dexedrine abused for his stimulant like effect in EHS and pain pills than the elites if Elkin will EVER admit because they see addiction as a socio economic situation that effects the lower class not them. But in reality it effects their children too they just have better insurance and money to send them away to get help. We need more outreach to schools. We need more clinics for people in the tri county area and a wake up that it is killing people! Better school programs. Maybe a drug counselors that regularly visit schools to open communication.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Hiring of person(s) most qualified to teach, speak, coordinate drug treatment and education efforts. I know because I was passed over for a position by this agency.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[medical impact]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Are my thoughts and opinions actually important?? I have two drug addicted brothers who have been on drugs for 13 years almost. We have turned to every person, program and any thing we can to get help for them both. It seems everyone gives up within the first few days, or they just don't care,

or they think it's far too late. Everyone that I know is interested in our lives and nosey about what is going on, they don't care, they just wanna gossip. Who do you go to when you're desperate to get help? They're either gonna end up in jail or dead at this point and nobody cares except for my family, and by family I mean ME, MY MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER AND FATHER!! No one else cares.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Families being torn apart by drug use, children being taken away and placed into the system with hardly any help financially if placed with relatives but paydays for strangers to foster. Rehab here is almost nonexistent and the court system is much to lenient on repeat offenders.

[[primary sud prevention]][[harm reduction]] I wish it country was more educated on substance abuse over all, especially emphasizing on opioids.

[[primary sud prevention]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] I work with addiction daily. I wish folks would take the time to talk to people who work with addiction. On a daily basis.

[[reduce supply]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Local doctors need to be more openly honest about the real risk of becoming addicted/reliant on opioid prescriptions. I have received medicines in the past where I've had to do my own research online. Many lower income, or under educated, people in the community may not have access to internet or realize the real dangers of opioids.

[[primary sud prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] More unbiased education is needed. Access to help needs to made more readily accessible - I've lived in Surry county for more than 20 years and have no idea where I would even begin to look for help locally if I needed to.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I believe that children at high risk (which could be determined by a survey at school) should be brought into guidance for free counseling multiple times as needed and possibly even receive social work referral to stop the chain of families thinking it's ok to neglect and abuse their children by exposing them to the lifestyle to begin with.

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[[treatment and recovery supports]][[primary sud prevention]] I'm a recovering addict with 2 years clean. Working a program that has saved my life. It's possible to stay clean in your home town.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] [[community prevention]] [[primary sud prevention]] I didn't go through recovery treatment to get clean from drug addiction. I knew the only way to get away from it was to get away from the people involved in the drugs. The amount of drugs in Surry County was shocking to me when I learned where to go and who had it. I couldn't even identify what cocaine or crack looked like until it was introduced to me. [[reduce supply]] I never knew that my county was flowing with such a supply and it was all coming from South Carolina. There are areas in this county that you can not drive through without being offered drugs at your car. The dealers know what the undercover cars look like, how the cops act, and what to look for. [[treatment and recovery supports]] I am not sure how but I was there once and they knew. It has been 9 years clean for me. I have a ton of stories I could share to open people's eyes.

[[primary sud prevention]] I think that abuse is a person by person issue. I have seen people take pain meds and not have an issue with stopping but others get hooked. The same with many drugs, so maybe it's the drug of their choice but I have been personally affected by opioid abuse by close family members.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]][[primary sud prevention]][[community prevention]] His probation officer would not violate him but instead said that they could try to get him treatment. When trying to get him treatment at any facility, they were all full or the waitlist was years long. People with addiction don't have years to receive help, they have days or hours. Waiting years to receive treatment is essentially a death sentence. He has since kept to the same ways since not being able to receive the help he needed and is now facing up to 15 to 20 years in jail for selling, manufacturing, and possession of heroin to feed and provide for his habit. We have to do better.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Apparently the patting on the back is not working anymore than the tough love was working. Its time to figure something out.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[medical impact]] Surry County has a big drug problem and no where for the addicts to get long term help. I know, because my child was an addict and every time he was taken to the ER at Mt. Airy, he was detained in a room with a tv and was "examined" by a psychologist/psychiatrist "virtually". All for them to say "he wasn't a threat to himself". He was discharged and that was it. No help whatsoever! He has passed away now due to drugs. Somebody in this county needs to take a real close look at what is really going on.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] The kids we need to keep are leaving because many that can't get out of the county can't get help and the troubles procreate in more ways than one.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] In my opinion, DARE should never have taught our 5th graders about drugs. I believe it INTRODUCED THEM, and made them curious. Those seeds were planted to early and most of the young adults with a drug addiction were taught the DARE classes. Kids should be warned of the dangers and i believe my age group learned from our parents to NOT try such. We listened for the most part. Our kids had DARE, that is the age group that is having the most difficult time with it.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]]

I work with people who call anyone ever associated with drugs a "crack head". They make fun of and put them down. I believe drug addicts are good people deep down. They went down the wrong path and need help. The current recovery programs need work. I also know someone at a Recovery place who actively puts down addicts. She should NOT be in that field. Also, that is my opinion. Addicts have a very hard time with life, add people in making fun or putting them down and it makes them want to end their life. I have an addict who suffers suicidal tendencies. I was told by the Magistrate that committing him would not help. Actual talked me out of it. I regret that, but fear trying it again for the same outcome.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] This dab mess that is in high school needs to get under control - I believe it starts in school - I could tell you 3 in school now smoking pot like itself no big deal

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I don't think there is enough information out there for people who need the help.

[[primary sud prevention]] [[community prevention]] Opioid abuse is a very serious epidemic in Surry County as well as nationally. Please continue to work this tragic and costly epidemic. Although it seems overwhelming, we all need to be educated about what we can do to help turn the corner. Thank you for this survey. I hope the results will be shared widely. We need to address the rot of the problem which seems to include lack of hope. The entire county needs to be involved to tackle this crippling scourge.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Our region is extremely uneducated on the topic of substance abuse and the people affected.

[[community prevention]] ACCEPTANCE and CONNECTION are what bring people to recovery.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] More money, training and community support are needed to fight this battle.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I believe our community is not as concerned about helping addicts as we should be. Courts do not care about the addict, it is a money racket.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I do believe that teaching children at a young age about how devastating drug use can be for your entire life. It may take some really shocking examples to get their attention but if it saved their life later it would be worth it. Once you take that first step into the drug world, it is so hard to get back straight again and for some drugs you always have the desire. It will be on your record which will effect job opportunities so a possible life long struggle financially.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] On the question of age to talk to children about alcohol and drugs, I think maybe families can talk at an earlier age than schools. Especially if they are asked questions by the child. [[criminal justice]] On the question about whether local law enforcement has control, I think they are trying really hard but it's so complicated a problem and includes economic and social issues that police departments are really not trained to deal with.

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Community Prevention

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Churches should be more involved in their communities to help those who are battling addiction. Most people who are prone to becoming addicts are those who are attempting to fill a void or to counteract a painful or lonely time in their lives! Churches need to step up and offer spiritual guidance to these hurting people.

[[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Money speaks louder than the needs of the people.

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[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Education in school.

[[community prevention]][[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] This town feels like it's stuck. That's the only way to describe it. People know there is a huge drug problem in this town, yet it feels like it has been pushed aside time and time again. This town has been hiding behind its innocent Mayberry cover for way to long. It's time to stop, stop letting people die, stop turning your head for people who are trying to get help, treating them like less. It's time for law enforcement to start taking missing persons and the link of drug use in this county seriously. Rather than hiding the problem, why not knock it out head first, there's nothing to hide if the problem is taken care of seriously and appropriately. Most importantly, it's time to bring justice to the families that have been impacted the most from this huge problem within quiet ol mayberry. Open your eyes.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Talk to children show them videos and family's pull together and help raise a child.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I think starting education as early as possible, even before school age is the answer to the question it told me to specify.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] It is sad that people resort to drugs.

[[community prevention]] Our community has a serious problem.

[[community prevention]] Education that removes stigma.

[[community prevention]] I think our county does all they can to control this.

[[community prevention]] They walk the streets like zombies. They hurt themselves .

[[community prevention]] The average person is scared of addicts. A local addict in my community is a true threat to safety.

[[community prevention]] It takes a neighborhood to raise a child not just the parents.... Pull together it might be your child next....

[[community prevention]] When question said "Most people" my answer was about others not my opinion.

[[community prevention]] ACCEPTANCE and CONNECTION are what bring people to recovery.

[[community prevention]] More support from our commissioner and leaders within the county and cities.

[[community prevention]] We need so much help here in Surry. So many people use and you would never know - wealthy and even business owners.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[criminal justice]] We need more outreach and information readily available to the public. The court systems are not helping the drug users by sending them to jail . While I admit they need to face their consequences for their actions of using, I believe jail is not the answer , but a great rehab facility is

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[[community prevention]] Thank you for your hard work on getting this going.

[[housing]][[medical impact]][[community prevention]][[workforce development]][[primary sud prevention]] People need affordable housing, healthcare, equal education and living wage jobs opportunities. Intervention needs to start early. Good pre-school, head start, family support, parenting programs.

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abuse can help but preventing it from happening in the first place would be so much better and should be started and recognized in early childhood. The relapsing of a fairly large percentage of treated addicts and substance dependent individuals is a problem for potential employers and the families of drug dependent individuals. Manipulative behaviors characterize untreated and treated addicts as a way to attain their goals and no person, be it wife/ husband, mother, law enforcement agent/ judge or medical provider wants to feel that they have been manipulated. As a Primary Care Provider for many years this is what I observed from my practice. I believe that when the dependent person makes up their mind to STOP using Now and Forever, then and only then, can treatment offer change and make a positive difference in their life. How can we help to make a difference in the lives of dependent individuals if they have not committed to becoming clean? Though, as a community, we can never stop helping those that are recovering and recovered.

[[community prevention]] I just moved here so I'm new to the availability of specific programs overall.

[[community prevention]] I would love to help in any way I can.

[[community prevention]] Think you need to have other answers available, besides just YES or NO. Is different for different questions. Sometimes the answer is -I don't know!

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Education is key in understanding SUD.

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[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I don't think there is enough information out there for people who need the help.

[[community prevention]] The lady had the young man's grandma call 911 while she removed the meth and no the police didn't look around or anything. He made it and the next day was back at the drug house the next day and was laughing about the overdose when a neighbor tried to tell him God was with him the night before. Our neighborhood is being trashed by drug abuse and dealers.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Saving children , boosting children up and getting them away from parents using drugs!

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] My daughter has struggled with addiction since 10th grade. She told me the DARE program only educated her what she would like to try. After 3 relapses she has done the best in trying to beat the disease right now. [[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Her probation officer was extremely helpful in finding care. She started in the 28 day program at Hope Valley.....but that barely scratched the surface. Her willingness to participate in a long term program in another county has made a incredible difference. We have all decided that is best for not to move back to Surry County. [[criminal justice]] The court system slapping the hands of people that abuse or sell drugs makes Surry a inappropriate place to live when trying to recover. The Sheriff's Department has done a amazing job recently in trying to get them off the streets.

[[community prevention]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Addicts stop when THEY decide to.

[[criminal justice]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] There needs to be a shift in thinking in the community at large. The criminalization of drugs is an outdated tactic. The community needs to look at the reason why substance use is so common in the area, instead of solely focusing on the individual.

[[primary sud prevention]][[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I hope that every effort is being made in schools, churches, civic groups, youth sports, Scouts, and families to help our friends and neighbors with their problems. However, I know that people are not getting the best care. [[community prevention]] There must be a total community response led by commissioners, church, businesses, and nonprofits. We must stop putting band aids on the problem and stop enabling addicts. Feeding, shelters, free cloths, and other giveaways enables addicts to spend money on their habit while the community supports their basic need. [[criminal justice]] Harsher penalties for repeat offenders. Zero tolerance for crime. Legislation for mandatory rehab centers. [[treatment and recovery supports]] I'm not sure endless Narcan is helping, it just supports a habit. This is the greatest crisis of our county.

[[reduce supply]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Local doctors need to be more openly honest about the real risk of becoming addicted/reliant on opioid prescriptions. I have received medicines in the past where I've had to do my own research online. Many lower income, or under educated, people in the community may not have access to internet or realize the real dangers of opioids.

[[community prevention]] Where to get help needs to be greatly publicized.

[[community prevention]] I didn't answer some questions because I just had no idea of the correctness of my answer though I would like to have know enough to have had an answer. I have no space in my calendar to become involved at present.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I believe that children at high risk (which could be determined by a survey at school) should be brought into guidance for free counseling multiple times as needed and possibly even receive social work referral to stop the chain of families thinking it's ok to neglect and abuse their children by exposing them to the lifestyle to begin with .

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] More money, training and community support are needed to fight this battle.

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[[community prevention]][[criminal justice]] I know first hand about addiction in this county and as far as getting control I don't see any changes at all. When it come to addiction and drugs I feel the law enforcement has no control at all!!!

[[community prevention]][[reduce supply]] Concerns about drugs being in our middle schools.

[[community prevention]] I think the answers to the last several questions should be based on that individual person and not as a collective group. [[treatment and recovery supports]]You may have two very similar people who went through the same rehab with totally different outcomes.

[[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need to educate people on how to help substance abusers in active addiction.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] [[criminal justice]] We need additional resources IN Surry County to help with this crisis. Resources like: treatment facilities, mental health counseling, additional school counselors, and law enforcement. The issue is that we've got a LOT of people struggling with these problems, but have very FEW available resources to help with these problems without having someone drive an unreasonable distance. If we want substance use to stop, we also have to stop addressing it as a crisis response and instead offer mental health counseling and school counseling opportunities for those who are hurting and looking for somewhere to turn. By doing this you WILL see a change in the things people turn to make themselves feel better.

[[community prevention]] Children of active users need to either be removed from the situation or have a safe place to go during uses.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I didn't go through recovery treatment to get clean from drug addiction. I knew the only way to get away from it was to get away from the people involved in the drugs. The amount of drugs in Surry County was shocking to me when I learned where to go and who had it. I couldn't even identify what cocaine or crack looked like until it was introduced to me. [[reduce supply]] I never knew that my county was flowing with such a supply and it was all coming from South Carolina. There are areas in this county that you can not drive through without being offered drugs at your car. The dealers know what the undercover cars look like, how the cops act, and what to look for. [[treatment and recovery supports]] I am not sure how but I was there once and they knew. It has been 9 years clean for me. I have a ton of stories I could share to open people's eyes.

[[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Stigma in small towns is an obstacle for recovery.

[[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] There are allot of churches that would help, but they need educated about addiction, they are scared because of what they have heard. Please let me know if I can help. [[harm reduction]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] There are grants to get Narcan. We have and overdose awareness truck, we are planning to take to events but most of them are in other states cause ours don't have any. You can find it on Facebook as Overdose Awareness Truck. We also need more support for family's that have lost loved ones. The reputation Surry County has for drugs is SAD. We need to come together and get stuff done. Thank you.

[[criminal justice]][[community prevention]] The problem keeps getting worse. So whatever has been done in the past is obviously not working. The definition of insanity. Get these people help and save our tax dollars and our children in the process. Our current judges and DA's are lazy, self-serving politicians who only serve their own advancement. Shameful!

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]][[primary sud prevention]][[community prevention]] His probation officer would not violate him but instead said that they could try to get him treatment. When trying to get him treatment at any facility, they were all full or the waitlist was years long. People with addiction don't have years to receive help, they have days or hours. Waiting years to receive treatment is essentially a death sentence. He has since kept to the same ways since not being able to receive the help he needed and is now facing up to 15 to 20 years in jail for selling, manufacturing, and possession of heroin to feed and provide for his habit. We have to do better. [[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] Apparently the parting on the back is not working anymore than the tough love was working. Its time to figure something out.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] The kids we need to keep are leaving because many that can't get out of the county can't get help and the troubles procreate in more ways than one.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[workforce development]][[community prevention]] Some opportunities for employment and entertainment. More education and transportation. MORE treatment options.

[[primary sud prevention]] [[community prevention]] Opioid abuse is a very serious epidemic in Surry County as well as nationally. Please continue to work this tragic and costly epidemic. Although it seems overwhelming, we all need to be educated about what we can do to help turn the corner. Thank you for

this survey. I hope the results will be shared widely. We need to address the rot of the problem which seems to include lack of hope. The entire county needs to be involved to tackle this crippling scourge.

Treatment and Recovery Supports

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] I think the community needs to vastly improved the way it has handled the drug problem as far as providing services and programs aimed specifically for addiction as well as mental health treatment availability.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Drug court, more transitional housing options, MAT administration before leaving jail as an option, re-entry program, harm reduction program supported by elected officials and those elected officials voting to approve above listed items.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Surry county mental help is a joke. Talking to a computer caused one of my family members that came to a office for help not get it. They want that one on one talk. Plus most has no insurance for the help!!

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I work with people who call anyone ever associated with drugs a "crack head". They make fun of and put them down. I believe drug addicts are good people deep down. They went down the wrong path and need help. The current recovery programs need work. I also know someone at a Recovery place who actively puts down addicts. She should NOT be in that field. Also, that is my opinion. Addicts have a very hard time with life, add people in making fun or putting them down and it makes them want to end their life. I have an addict who suffers suicidal tendencies. I was told by the Magistrate that committing him would not help. Actual talked me out of it. I regret that, but fear trying it again for the same outcome.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need to pursue harsher penalties for dealers while providing more long term recovery options for addicts, or this epidemic will never improve.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There are very few places in Surry co to turn to for help and if admitted for help rules and regulations are way too strict for most addicts so they give up on the source of help .or no money or insurance don't cover .. My son died because of opioid addiction he was only 23 I miss him so much . no facility even acted like they cared about his condition. It was very frustrating for him to seek help only to be denied several times. It's very dangerous for someone trying to quit ..it takes time and love ...go to facebook under search type Tyler Hiatt .and read his story he left in hopes of helping anyone else with addiction disease. Thanks.

[[transportation]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] You need signs in our area for detox solutions, 211, counseling that is in our area like AA/NA meetings because half of the people don't or can't drive!

[[transportation]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] You need signs in our area for detox solutions, 211, counseling that is in our area like AA/NA meetings because half of the people don't or can't drive!

[[primary sud prevention]][[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I hope that every effort is being made in schools, churches, civic groups, youth sports, Scouts, and families to help our friends and neighbors with their problems. However, I know that people are not getting the best care.

[[harm reduction]][[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] We need harm reduction and drug court badly.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Each person is different. You cannot treat every addict the same. By putting the same restrictions and plans on everyone, you are setting them up for failure. Which only results in relapses or unsuccessful treatment. For this county to be so overly Christian with Christian values, there is no love or understanding for anyone. I think the only people that should be running any kind of programs aimed to combat the opioid crisis, should be former addicts. Because there is absolutely no way for a person to understand the struggles and obstacles that stand in the way of recovery unless you've been thru it yourself. At the very least, they should have former addicts as advisors to those in charge.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Surry county needs drug court. It is proven to work, but surry county don't want it cause they get more money out of repeat offenders. Drug court participants are less likely to be repeat offenders. Drug court cuts down on cost of medical bills for inmates. We need to treat people with this disease with dignity. We need more community involvement. Just talk to anyone who has lost a child. Surry county acts like, not my child so not my problem or it want happen to my child, my child is better than that kid. Every overdose is someone's child, brother, sister, mother or father. Family members don't ask for this and should not be stigmatized. Resources are few and far between for our county and no one knows about them.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Surry county don't want to address the problem because it may hurt the reputation of "Mayberry". Surry county needs more recovery homes. <redacted> is a joke.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Our community looks at an addict as if they are scum and treat them badly. I've been an addict(clean now 8 years) and I was mostly ashamed to face people because of the looks and the talk of the community. I believe the community pushes addicts farther into a hole instead of trying to help pull them out. Our community needs to be educated.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] We need a place for people without insurance to go that have substance abuse problems to get help and medication at low or no cost.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] People in Surry County have been stereotyped. Some people actually have diseases that require opioids, as a everyday treatment just for everyday living of life.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I believe everyone deserves a second chance.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Need an inpatient rehab close to Dobson.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Mental health services in this area are lacking to say the least. There is nowhere to turn for help for yourself or those you're trying to help.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Need more rehab places for addicts to go and it needs to be affordable.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] We need in patient treatment affordable options and drug courts in Surry County.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I have dealt with this fight for 15 years. There is none to very limited help in our community.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] People affected need more understanding, help and support.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There is not enough programs to help or resources. Especially for people without insurance.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Not enough resources or programs to help limit substance abuse

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I think we need a place set up for addicts to go for help besides going to the Hospital. I have been to the hospital with addicts & the way they treat them no wonder they go back to doing the same thing. I would also love to have a halfway/ sober living homes for the addicts. We also need to have more help for addicts getting into a rehab when they have no insurance. It is so sad to see an addict wanting help & can't get it because they have no insurance. PLEASE PLEASE HELP!

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I lost my son to suicide, and I feel like it was contributing factor by his drug addiction.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] I really think that we need to utilize drug courts in the county so that we can reduce the jail population and focus more on treatment instead of penalizing people who have a disease.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I feel like the addict is such a manipulator that the FAMILY should have a say in their treatment and/or being held for observation. The addict is so good at lying and telling people what they want to hear that the doctors do NOT listen to the family but they listen to the addict who is just conning them.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] People in jail need daily NA, AA meetings provided by treatment centers, NA, AA groups. The meetings are free and could have a clear wall between the prisoners and providers. Counselors should be asked to provide services behind the same clear wall.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There is not enough available help for those who are struggling in our community.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Treatment needs to be more widely available. The resources are slim when it comes to treatment centers.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I think lots of times, family members of people with addictions don't know what to do and need more information. Most of the time, they need to make tough decision that they don't make, because they love the person and think they have no choice.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Services funded by the County Government are incarcerating substance users instead of finding ways to treat their addiction.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I think substance abuse is a disease, but I also think there is a correlation between substance abuse and mental health. I think treating the individual needs to focus on the whole person and the people in their lives. Counseling and helping all of those around that

person would be beneficial in understanding the disease and how to help their loved one.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There are not enough treatment options in our area.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[harm reduction]] Syringe exchange program would be very important and free rehab.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I think we need some kind of substance abuse center free of cost to uninsured citizens.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Should have a community group facility for treatment of alcohol & substance abuse where they can reside & get treatment.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There is not enough psychiatric services available in Surry County as well as counseling services which might curtail or at least treat some drug abuse.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] There should be more activities for people that struggle with drug use instead of jail.

[[criminal justice]][[housing]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We could benefit from drug court, halfway housing, and additional resources to help treat addiction.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There is a negative stigma associated with people that have an addiction or criminal record from addiction. Help is available to those that seek it.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] The drug problem is so prevalent in our community. I would like to see treatment available to those addicted. Counseling, NA/AA meetings or zoom meetings for those that have transportation issues. We as a community can do more to help.

[[primary sud prevention]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] We need more prevention and treatment for SUD that is easily and rapidly accessible. [[criminal justice]] Same day access to care when needed would be a tremendous asset for SURRY County. A coordinated criminal justice treatment initiative would have helped me raise the court system rating. [[treatment and recovery supports]] I am a SUD professional and brought \$2-4 million into SURRY County for treatment each year over the last 30 years. I've seen lots of success and believe treatment works. I'm pleased now in retirement to see the work that the SCSARO does and will do in the future. Really like to see the Recovery Coaches in and around SURRY.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need drug court. You cannot arrest away addiction. I see people trying to get clean and still drowning in our legal system for things high them did last year or the year before.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[primary sud prevention]] There is no help for the innocent victims of someone who is addicted to drugs.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Local NA and AA meetings need to be led by a qualified person. It is more of a meet up with fellow addicts to hang and continue their habit.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] No help no rehabs.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I would like to see more help available.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There needs to be more opportunities for those who are recovering/recovered and want to change the course of their lives.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I believe there needs to be a program for repeat drug offenders instead of prison. First thing needed for a program would be mental health to find out why the individual uses, then some drug treatment, then drug court.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] More counseling while people are in jail.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Always having someone there for them no matter the situation just having a person to listen may make a difference.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There are no resources for people that want to get clean just don't know where to begin.

[[primary substance prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] More unbiased education is needed. Access to help needs to be made more readily accessible - I've lived in Surry county for more than 20 years and have no idea where I would even begin to look for help locally if I needed to.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There should be affordable treatment centers and they should be advertised so everyone knows how to get help.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Each person is different. You cannot treat every addict the same. By putting the same restrictions and plans on everyone, you are setting them up for failure. Which only results in relapses or unsuccessful treatment. For this county to be so overly Christian with Christian values, there is no love or understanding for anyone. I think the only people that should be running any kind of programs aimed to combat the opioid crisis, should be former addicts. Because there is absolutely no way for a person to understand the struggles and obstacles that stand in the way of recovery unless you've been through it yourself. At the very least, they should have former addicts as advisors to those in charge.

[[community prevention]][[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] This town feels like it's stuck. That's the only way to describe it. People know there is a huge drug problem in this town, yet it feels like it has been pushed aside time and time again. This town has been hiding behind its innocent Mayberry cover for way too long. It's time to stop, stop letting people die, stop turning your head for people who are trying to get help, treating them like less. It's time for law enforcement to start taking missing persons and the link of drug use in this county seriously. Rather than hiding the problem, why not knock it out head first, there's nothing to hide if the problem is taken care of seriously and appropriately. Most importantly, it's time to bring justice to the families that have been impacted the most from this huge problem within quiet Ol Mayberry. Open your eyes.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] The MCO/Partners and the hospital ER Director are the only voices I have heard that are concerned.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] The courts need to process offenders promptly / or require them to get help and provide the help for them.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There is nowhere for people with addiction to get help locally. Most places will only keep you 2 weeks & that's a total waste of time!

[[treatment and recovery supports]] We need a drug treatment facility here in Surry County.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Offer overnight programs that are free to the person is addicted

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Increased marketing and sharing information of recovery therapists, businesses, and contacts in the community would be helpful.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] If I knew someone who needed help, I wouldn't know what programs are available that would benefit them or how to get information.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Forsyth County is strict with their drug convictions. Surry county just slaps them on the hand and lets them back out. They need treatment but they also need jail time so they learn their lesson.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] You're doing too much in the wrong areas. Sending people to jail to detox cold turkey, not giving medications that are needed to safely detox when in jail is ethically wrong and causes more problems than solutions. Just as prisons learned over the years that rehabilitation is necessary to stop repeat offenders, it is also necessary to stop substance abuse. The county jail has no programs in place to help detox or rehab. They are there for years sometimes. Definitely months, because most addicts don't have the money or a person to sign for bail. Help them and stop judging them. The officers that are employed, the judges, the lawyers, everyone constantly criticizes them instead of helping them find their way. <Redacted> is the local counseling for addiction. But even the people there are horrible. They force you into groups no matter the former trauma you've endured, force you to attend extreme amounts of therapy so that you can't hold a job or provide for yourself. [[transportation]]But if you don't find a way to get there, they report that you're noncompliant. Most don't have a way to get there because they have had their license taken away, but no transportation is offered. Not to meet with their probation officers or to treatment.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] Our county can continue to add more treatment providers, but until the court system and law enforcement have a fundamental shift in their thinking I fear real change won't happen.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Big need is for local recovery programs with needed openings for rehab.

[[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]][[primary sud prevention]] In the city of Elkin i have had high school class mates that have committed suicide because they were too embarrassed to come to family and friends with their addiction problems. In Elkin it is a major stigma to be a addict. I am a recovering addict. I had to leave my hometown to get the help i needed because NONE was available in my area and what would the neighbors think??? Was my parents/families concern. There are more drugs kike Adderall and Dexedrine abused for his stimulant like effect in EHS and pain pills than the elites if Elkin will EVER admit because they see addiction as a socio economic

situation that effects the lower class not them. But in reality it effects their children too they just have better insurance and money to send them away to get help. We need more outreach to schools. We need more clinics for people in the tri county area and a wake up that it is killing people! Better school programs. Maybe a drug counselors that regularly visit schools to open communication.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[medical impact]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Are my thoughts and opinions actually important?? I have two drug addicted brothers who have been on drugs for 13 years almost. We have turned to every person, program and any thing we can to get help for them both. It seems everyone gives up within the first few days, or they just don't care, or they think it's far too late. Everyone that I know is interested in our lives and nosey about what is going on, they don't care, they just wanna gossip. Who do you go to when you're desperate to get help? They're either gonna end up in jail or dead at this point and nobody cares except for my family, and by family I mean ME, MY MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER AND FATHER!! No one else cares.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Families being torn apart by drug use, children being taken away and placed into the system with hardly any help financially if placed with relatives but paydays for strangers to foster. Rehab here is almost nonexistent and the court system is much to lenient on repeat offenders.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Need residential treatment center, but the town is 'stuck up' and doesn't want it near them. [[treatment and recovery supports]][[primary sud prevention]]I'm a recovering addict with 2 years clean. Working a program that has saved my life. It's possible to stay clean in your home town

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I also don't think a lot of programs are cost efficient. Im very happy that we now have a substance abuse recovery team. I'm not sure I have ever heard of it. So I really hope this will be a great thing to Surry County & that we can get a handle on substance abuse in this town and its not just opioids in this town. We also have a meth/heroin problem as well.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] We definitely need more detox/rehab facilities that are available to people without insurance. [[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need to educate people on how to help substance abusers in active addiction.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] I think when drug sellers/ users are caught they should have to automatically go to drug rehab provided by county instead of sitting in jail. If caught again they should go straight to prison.

[[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] There are allot of churches that would help, but they need educated about addiction, they are scared because of what they have heard. Please let me know if I can help. [[harm reduction]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] There are grants to get Narcan. We have and overdose awareness truck, we are planning to take to events but most of them are in other states cause ours don't have any. You can find it on Facebook as Overdose Awareness Truck. We also need more support for family's that have lost loved ones. The reputation Surry County has for drugs is SAD. We need to come together and get stuff done. Thank you.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There really no help for people who have no insurance . Mental Heath is swept under the rug and ignored.

[[housing]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Day mark is good for meetings, counseling, and stuff but we really need a nice but strict recovery residence. I wanted to open one in memory of my son, but support is not there from the community and I don't know how to go about getting state assistance. I was told the funds are there but Grant's need to be applied for. Would love to help with this if it becomes and option.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]] [[workforce development]][[medical impact]] I think that many in the community would like to ignore that drug and substance abuse is a problem for our community and even in their own families because of the shame that is felt. Dependencies of any kind, signal weakness in that person and family and no one wants to be considered a "less than perfect" human being or having a relative that has a dependency. Destigmatizing substance abuse can help but preventing it from happening in the first place would be so much better and should be started and recognized in early childhood. The relapsing of a fairly large percentage of treated addicts and substance dependent individuals is a problem for potential employers and the families of drug dependent individuals. Manipulative behaviors characterize untreated and treated addicts as a way to attain their goals and no person, be it wife/ husband, mother, law enforcement agent/ judge or medical provider wants to feel that they have been manipulated. As a Primary Care Provider for many years this is what I observed from my practice. I believe that when the dependent person makes up their mind to STOP using Now and Forever, then and only then, can treatment offer change and make a positive difference in their life. How can we help to make a difference in the lives of dependent individuals if they have not committed to becoming clean? Though, as a community, we can never stop helping those that are recovering and recovered.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] [[community prevention]] [[primary sud prevention]] I didn't go through recovery treatment to get clean from drug addiction. I knew the only way to get away from it was to get away from the people involved in the drugs. The amount of drugs in Surry County was shocking to me when I learned where to go and who had it. I couldn't even identify what cocaine or crack looked like until it was introduced to me. [[reduce supply]] I never knew that my county was flowing with such a supply and it was all coming from South Carolina. There are areas in this county that you can not drive through without being offered drugs at your car. The dealers know what the undercover cars look like, how the cops act, and what to look for. [[treatment and recovery supports]] I am not sure how but I was there once and they knew. It has been 9 years clean for me. I have a ton of stories I could share to open people's eyes.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] My child's father has had a substance abuse problem for years. He overdosed in 2019 and nearly died. Countless phone calls to people for help ended up empty or nonresponsive.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Major problem here in Surry co and very little resources to help cope with this issue.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Start making charges stick make them go to rehab.

[[harm reduction]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Funding is desperately needed to support Subutex for people in recovery from opioid abuse. The cost is ridiculous and most without insurance can not afford it.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]][[primary sud prevention]][[community

prevention]] His probation officer would not violate him but instead said that they could try to get him treatment. When trying to get him treatment at any facility, they were all full or the waitlist was years long. People with addiction don't have years to receive help, they have days or hours. Waiting years to receive treatment is essentially a death sentence. He has since kept to the same ways since not being able to receive the help he needed and is now facing up to 15 to 20 years in jail for selling, manufacturing, and possession of heroin to feed and provide for his habit. We have to do better. [[treatment and recovery supports]] Not only this, but there are no treatment centers close by that have any availability.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There are little to no addiction support after care.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] [[community prevention]] [[primary sud prevention]] More money, training and community support are needed to fight this battle.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] The courts need to be stricter on sentencing dealers & offer addicts treatment. If addicts continue to break the law lock them up until they get straight & prove themselves.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Our law enforcement does the minimal because of danger to themselves and because they know the state won't prosecute, so why bother.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Need more rehab access, need a drug court, daymark needs to become more serious and able to provide treatment within reasonable time frame.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There is too much red tape usually in getting help anywhere. Insurance, ID, etc. Some people can't even keep a valid ID they're so unstable.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I believe there is not enough help locally. Most people who are seeking help have to travel to Winston or Virginia to receive help. I also believe our community is not helping those with no insurance meet the financial strains that come with paying for doctors appointments, possible medications needed for those going through addiction.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Need more MAT programs and such in Surry County. There is no help much without going to Winston Salem.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Need to treat addiction not throw them in jail.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] [[medical impact]] Surry County has a big drug problem and no where for the addicts to get long term help. I know, because my child was an addict and every time he was taken to the ER at Mt. Airy, he was detained in a room with a tv and was "examined" by a psychologist/psychiatrist "virtually". All for them to say "he wasn't a threat to himself". He was discharged and that was it. No help whatsoever! He has passed away now due to drugs. Somebody in this county needs to take a real close look at what is really going on.

[[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Surry County needs a drug court. The jails are overcrowded and those suffering from addiction go right back to using.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] We need more counseling for the families of addicts. No one

prepares you for it until you're living it and have no one to talk to that won't judge.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Treatment is almost impossible to find when you don't have insurance.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] We need more counseling for the families of addicts. No one prepares you for it until you're living it and have no one to talk to that won't judge. [[criminal justice]] Court systems do a terrible job of managing people arrested time after time for drug charges.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] There should be more of a leaning towards treatment instead of jail time, needle exchange/testing site for harm reduction, more education about recovering addicts and giving them a fair chance in life.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I lost my son 8/8/20. We could not find a inpatient facility to take him due to having Medicare and Medicaid. The system is broken.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[workforce development]][[community prevention]] Some opportunities for employment and entertainment. More education and transportation. MORE treatment options.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[workforce development]][[community prevention]] Some opportunities for employment and entertainment. More education and transportation. MORE treatment options.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Instead of sending addicts to jail send them to rehab

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need a drug court.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I think Surry County needs a drug court or something for these people that have substance use to help them recover and get life back on track, instead of slapping there hands and letting them back on the street just to do it again. They need help and we are drowning in opioid issues in our county. My area is covered by drug addicts and we need some sort of help it's only getting worse to the point we don't feel safe. A simple walk to our mailbox and we have to watch for needles that have been used... GET IT TOGETHER SURRY COUNTY!! We can do this put effort into it!!

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Also Surry County needs a treatment center of its own and work with other facilities.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There is not enough available help for those who are struggling in our community.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I FEEL THAT WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER HAS AN ADDICTION THE SYSTEM FAILS TO HELP A FAMILY GET RHAT INDIVIDUAL HELP DUE TO THINKING THAT ITS NIT NEEDED. THE SYSTEM IS SERIOUSLY FLAWED IF PROVIDING HELP.

[[community prevention]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Addicts stop when THEY decide to.

[[reduce supply]][[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] There are not enough resources are in our area for people with Substance Use Disorder. Surry County is second in the NATION for overdoses per capita. Yet we continue to incarcerate people with little help offered to them. Surry County jail allows individuals to detox (go through withdrawals) without any medicated assistance. We have to do better. These are not statistics. These are people with a disease.

[[harm reduction]][[treatment and recovery supports]] There needs to be a methadone/subutex facility/clinic for Surry Co residents. Currently there are none. I myself am an ex-addict who has been driving to Wilkes county to their substance abuse clinic for almost 6 yes now. I have been successful with my sobriety. I truly believe if there was a facility here In our county it would truly help with the current addiction to opiates/heroin epidemic.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[medical impact]][[harm reduction]] A dual approach of therapy and meds is important....but Psychiatrists/psychologists are usually expensive.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There are not enough treatment options in our area.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] I believe talking to an addict that is currently using is not the right time to talk about recovery. I believe they should be clean for several days and feel back to themselves before helping them with a plan that will last.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Our community really needs help majority of mu graduating class are in active addiction or dead now. There is no program around to help those needing help and who don't have insurance. [[community prevention]] There needs to be more things in our community for the younger crowd to do and have fun but there is nothing here so drugs is what's to do for fun its so sad.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] More in patient treatment facilities and less jail space.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Surry County desperately needs a resident facility for additional treatment.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] We desperately need treatment and recovery options in Surry County as well as funding for the uninsured in the county.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Substance abuse has ruined too many people and too many families.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Substance abuse is a real problem and this subject hits home with me bk I have a family member that has been going through this for years and we've tried to get him help he is so far gone he doesn't listen to anyone anymore it's real and happening everyday I believe that this problem should be taken care of so that families like mine don't have to hear about it or see it as often as we do.

[[community prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Stigma in small towns is an obstacle for recovery.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There needs to be assistance in place for them to receive help. Family members of these individuals need help too.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Our mental health system is broken and/or nonexistent.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] So our jail systems are having to work to both house those who have broken laws as well as those who are in need of help with addiction.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[criminal justice]] We need additional resources IN Surry County to help with this crisis. Resources like: treatment facilities, mental health counseling, additional school counselors, and law enforcement. The issue is that we've got a LOT of people struggling with these problems, but have very FEW available resources to help with these problems without having someone drive an unreasonable distance. If we want substance use to stop, we also have to stop addressing it as a crisis response and instead offer mental health counseling and school counseling opportunities for those who are hurting and looking for somewhere to turn. By doing this you WILL see a change in the things people turn to make themselves feel better.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Treatment needs to be more widely available. The resources are slim when it comes to treatment centers.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Finding effective care and healing is not easy in this area. I would often beg to get someone in a detox to then have to beg for support to get them in the right program. Many places are not effectively treating the underlying issues that have sent a person into using and addiction.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Instead of putting millions of dollars in a hotel why not use that money to start an affordable treatment center for addiction.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] It is a problem that all "abuse" is classified the same, especially since "abuse" is not using all of a medication until having a similar injury in the future considering the cost.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] We need a drug court or something in place to help addicts get out of the legal trouble and work on their substance abuse and trauma [[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Rather than the revolving door, non-violent drug offenders need other options such as drug court. The lack of opportunity these individuals face for both recovery and betterment are a cycle that perpetuates indefinitely.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[criminal justice]] We need more options for addicts to get recovery, and stronger sentences for criminals pushing the poison to the community.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]] I think the first Interaction with authorities ought to come with forced treatment not a slap on the wrist or chance to appear in court 30 days later. Immediately go to some treatment. The sooner there is help the better and less likely to reoccur.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[workforce development]][[community prevention]] Some opportunities for employment and entertainment. More education and transportation. MORE treatment options.

[[criminal justice]][[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]] My daughter has struggled with addiction since 10th grade. She told me the DARE program only educated her what she would like to try. After 3 relapses she has done the best in trying to beat the disease right now. [[criminal justice]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Her probation officer was extremely helpful in finding care. She started in the 28 day program at Hope Valley.....but that barely scratched the surface. Her willingness to participate in a long term program in another county has made a incredible difference. We have all decided that is best for not to move back to Surry County. [[criminal justice]] The court system slapping the hands of people that abuse or sell drugs makes Surry a inappropriate place to live when trying to recover. The Sheriff's Department has done a amazing job recently in trying to get them off the streets. [[criminal justice]] However the court system drops the ball by mishandling of the consequences of those people. Until that is fixed Surry County will remain a cesspool.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There is no help for people as far as rehabs that don't have insurance it's sad.

[[primary sud prevention]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Older adults get addicted also. My Husband and I tried for 20 years to help his Mother who was still addicted at her death at age 73

[[reduce supply]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] Mount Airy needs more treatment options, education, and get rid of the so called pain clinics.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[medical impact]][[criminal justice]] Overdose rates are too high and corruption in the judicial system.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] We need more counseling for the families of addicts. No one prepares you for it until you're living it and have no one to talk to that won't judge. [[criminal justice]] Court systems do a terrible job of managing people arrested time.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Addicts need treatment, not punishment. There needs to be more effort put into providing the needed help. They're treated like rabid dogs.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] There should be more availability to users who can reach to for help.

[[treatment and recovery supports]] Wrap around Recovery support is key to overcoming SUD.

Medical Impact

[[medical impact]] Apparently overdoses are common in my area. I used to work EMS here when this wasn't a problem, however with the amount of deaths and overdoses someone is getting the stuff somewhere but I do not know or how as I've actually never seen "drugs" in real life nor do I associate with people that even come off as doing drugs. A lot of the questions in this survey need this response as well. [[reduce supply]] For example one question asks if we think Meth and Cocaine is readily available. While I don't know this for a fact I'm guessing it's true with the overdoses and deaths I hear about. Do I think I could find it if I were to look for it? I don't think so....

[[harm reduction]][[medical impact]] Narcan is more accessible and free but something like Insulin isn't and that isn't right.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[medical impact]][[harm reduction]] A dual approach of therapy and meds is important....but Psychiatrists/psychologists are usually expensive.

[[reduce supply]][[medical impact]] I still see the people living in a house that's known for selling pills and stuff. I don't understand why they keep getting overlooked. They are in the Mt. Airy city limits. Why have they never been busted? I know a young man who nearly died because of the drugs from that house. That same young man over came his addiction and has a great paying job and a family now. He pulled through with the love and help of the Lord Jesus Himself and family.

[[medical impact]] My Mom was addicted to opioids due to a back injury. It was tough on our whole family. In her last moments of life she cared more about her drugs than anything else. Anyone can be effected!!!

[[medical impact]] I feel that doctors should encourage biofeedback and other methods of pain relief.

[[medical impact]] [[medical impact]] I have worked as a nurse in both the ER as well as the jail. Sad that you see the same people over and over and over until they finally expire due to drugs. We have more young people in Surry County who have had to have open heart surgery due to drug abuse - valves completely replaced at times! Then weeks after their major surgery – they're back in the ER having CPR performed on the chest that was just cracked open! We are beyond an opioid crisis in this county!!! I will happily help to provide a perspective from the health community if needed. I would love to help end this plague on our community!

[[medical impact]] Opioids are necessary for certain issues and the stigma and increased rules make it so difficult to get the medications needed.

[[housing]][[medical impact]][[community prevention]][[workforce development]][[primary sud prevention]] People need affordable housing, healthcare, equal education and living wage jobs opportunities. Intervention needs to start early. Good pre-school, head start, family support, parenting programs.

[[medical impact]] The opioid crisis has hit my community so hard that I can't count on both hands how many people I have known to overdose. [[workforce development]] [[criminal justice]] Law

enforcement only perpetuates the problem by offering no help and even preventing addicts from future employment.

[[medical impact]] Surry County has a significant drug use problem especially with Alcohol, Heroin and Meth.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[community prevention]] [[workforce development]][[medical impact]] I think that many in the community would like to ignore that drug and substance abuse is a problem for our community and even in their own families because of the shame that is felt. Dependencies of any kind, signal weakness in that person and family and no one wants to be considered a "less than perfect" human being or having a relative that has a dependency. Destigmatizing substance abuse can help but preventing it from happening in the first place would be so much better and should be started and recognized in early childhood. The relapsing of a fairly large percentage of treated addicts and substance dependent individuals is a problem for potential employers and the families of drug dependent individuals. Manipulative behaviors characterize untreated and treated addicts as a way to attain their goals and no person, be it wife/ husband, mother, law enforcement agent/ judge or medical provider wants to feel that they have been manipulated. As a Primary Care Provider for many years this is what I observed from my practice. I believe that when the dependent person makes up their mind to STOP using Now and Forever, then and only then, can treatment offer change and make a positive difference in their life. How can we help to make a difference in the lives of dependent individuals if they have not committed to becoming clean? Though, as a community, we can never stop helping those that are recovering and recovered.

[[community prevention]][[primary sud prevention]][[medical impact]][[treatment and recovery supports]] Are my thoughts and opinions actually important?? I have two drug addicted brothers who have been on drugs for 13 years almost. We have turned to every person, program and any thing we can to get help for them both. It seems everyone gives up within the first few days, or they just don't care, or they think it's far too late. Everyone that I know is interested in our lives and nosey about what is going on, they don't care, they just wanna gossip. Who do you go to when you're desperate to get help? They're either gonna end up in jail or dead at this point and nobody cares except for my family, and by family I mean ME, MY MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER AND FATHER!! No one else cares.

[[medical impact]][[reduce supply]] I know from personal experience that addiction often starts with a doctor's prescription. Then they move you to pain control. They truly don't care if they kill you and offer no help or resources when you tell them you want to stop.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[medical impact]] Surry County has a big drug problem and no where for the addicts to get long term help. I know, because my child was an addict and every time he was taken to the ER at Mt. Airy, he was detained in a room with a tv and was "examined" by a psychologist/psychiatrist "virtually". All for them to say "he wasn't a threat to himself". He was discharged and that was it. No help whatsoever! He has passed away now due to drugs. Somebody in this county needs to take a real close look at what is really going on.

[[treatment and recovery supports]][[medical impact]][[criminal justice]] Overdose rates are too high and corruption in the judicial system.

Transportation

[[transportation]] People need transportation to substance abuse treatment centers and need temp housing while attending them.

[[transportation]] [[treatment and recovery supports]] You need signs in our area for detox solutions, 211, counseling that is in our area like AA/NA meetings because half of the people don't or can't drive!

[[transportation]] But if you don't find a way to get there, they report that you're noncompliant. Most don't have a way to get there because they have had their license taken away, but no transportation is offered. Not to meet with their probation officers or to treatment.

[[transportation]] The new transportation system should be helpful in getting the needy to appointments.

Appendix B: Unsorted Comments

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Appendix B Unsorted Comments

Drug court and help for addictions rather than criminal courts would help decriminalize addiction and treat it with hope of restoring lives. Having a criminal record can continue the downward spiral (joblessness, homelessness, family separation) due to social stigma.

I wish the country was more educated on substance abuse overall, especially emphasizing on opioids.

It seems to be a endless cycle. No jobs in the Surry County provides so much leisure time and entrepreneurial opportunities for those who know somebody that knows somebody to either get high with or to sling dope to keep their habit afloat. Get arrested, go to county jail, come out with more connections than they had before they went in.

Law enforcement had failed in the war on drugs since the phrase was coined 50 years ago. Where there is a demand there will be a supply. Wars cannot be waged against inanimate objects. It is time for government officials to recognize that and to implement programs designed to reduce and / or eliminate the demand for drugs.

The Surry Court System & Sheriff's office has let the people who supply drugs in my community continue to sell them and distribute them.

Our community is in need of several resources to assist those who struggle with addiction. Needed resources are: transitional housing, affordable housing, affordable childcare, access to medical care, supportive employment, local detox facility.

Surry County is in need of drug court to reduce recidivism and actually treat individuals who suffer from addiction AND mental health. People can and do get better with these resources in place!

Let's use our dollars wisely and begin a drug court here!

Also, I am in favor of harm reduction strategies.

I hope that every effort is being made in schools, churches, civic groups, youth sports, Scouts, and families to help our friends and neighbors with their problems. However, I know that people are not getting the best care.

Apparently overdoses are common in my area. I used to work EMS here when this wasn't a problem, however with the amount of deaths and overdoses someone is getting the stuff somewhere but I do not know or how as I've actually never seen "drugs" in real life nor do I associate with people that even come off as doing drugs. A lot of the questions in this survey need this response as well. For example one question asks if we think Meth and Cocaine is readily available. While I don't know this for a fact I'm guessing it's true with the overdoses and deaths I hear about. Do I think I could find it if I were to look for it? I don't think so....

We need a place for people without insurance to go that have substance abuse problems to get help and medication at low or no cost

I think we need some kind of substance abuse center free of cost to uninsured citizens

I work with addiction daily. I wish folks would take the time to talk to people who work with addiction. On a daily basis.

The opioid crisis has hit my community so hard that I can't count on both hands how many people I have known to overdose. enforcement only perpetuates the problem by offering no help and even preventing addicts from future employment. Our town is suffering and the situation seems hopeless.

Should have a community group facility for treatment of alcohol & substance abuse where they can reside & get treatment.

There should be more activities for people that struggle with drug use instead of jail.

I know people who sell their food stamps for pain pills/drugs and others who get pain pills/drugs and sell to others. There is a real problem in Surry County and continues to get worse. Some report their house broke into and their prescription drugs/pain killers were stolen. They do this to get more drugs by prescription if their doctor falls for this. This goes on everywhere and by people you wouldn't think would do this type of stuff.

I think our sheriff's department is doing a horrible job throwing and abusing their citizens of Surry County into harmful and dangerous situations and they are ripping apart families who don't deserve it. We are all struggling to survive out here. Throwing people in prison and dangling their kids in the air so they can get drugs and victory for the new sheriff. It's awful.

People need transportation to substance abuse treatment centers and need temp housing while attending them.

There is a negative stigma associated with people that have an addiction or criminal record from addiction. Help is available to those that seek it.

The drug problem is so prevalent in our community. I would like to see treatment available to those addicted. Counseling, NA/AA meetings or zoom meetings for those that have transportation issues. We as a community can do more to help.

We need more prevention and treatment for SUD that is easily and rapidly accessible. Same day access to care when needed would be a tremendous asset for SURRY County. A coordinated criminal justice treatment initiative would have helped me raise the court system rating I am a SUD professional and brought \$2-4 million into SURRY County for treatment each year over the last 30 years. I've seen lots of success and believe treatment works. I'm pleased now in retirement to see the work that the SCSARO does and will do in the future. Really like to see the Recovery Coaches in and around SURRY.

Too many pain clinics!!!

I would like to see more help available. I would like to see the judges hand out harsher sentences.

unfortunate that we criminalize people with substance abuse and mental health issues. There needs to be more opportunities for those who are recovering/recovered and want to change the course of their

lives.

There must be a total community response led by commissioners, church, businesses, and nonprofits. We must stop putting band aids on the problem and stop enabling addicts. Feeding, shelters, free cloths, and other giveaways enables addicts to spend money on their habit while the community supports their basic need. Harsher penalties for repeat offenders. Zero tolerance for crime. Legislation for mandatory rehab centers. I'm not sure endless Narcan is helping, it just supports a habit. This is the greatest crisis of our county.

I believe there needs to be a program for repeat drug offenders instead of prison. First thing needed for a program would be mental health to find out why the individual uses, then some drug treatment, then drug court.

Local doctors need to be more openly honest about the real risk of becoming addicted/reliant on opioid prescriptions. I have received medicines in the past where I've had to do my own research online. Many lower income, or under educated, people in the community may not have access to internet or realize the real dangers of opioids.

More counseling while people are in jail.

Always having someone there for them no matter the situation just having a person to listen may make a difference.

There are no programs to help addicts recover while in county jail. There are no resources for people that want to get clean just don't know where to begin.

Where to get help needs to be greatly publicized.

Doctors and Dentist need to be more cautious in prescribing opiates especially in young people also need to educate patients about the drug and the possibilities of getting addicted if the meds are abused. No body set's out to be a drug addict.

More unbiased education is needed. Access to help needs to made more readily accessible - I've lived in Surry county for more than 20 years and have no idea where I would even begin to look for help locally if I needed to.

There should be affordable treatment centers and they should be advertised so everyone knows how to get help.

the courts need to process offenders promptly / or require them to get help and provide the help for them.

There is nowhere for people with addiction to get help locally. Most places will only keep you 2 weeks & that's a total waste of time!

Stronger sentences. Quit being a political county and arrest where it is known for facts. No more under the table payments to turn heads.

So many druggies walking our streets and causing trouble with no consequences. White Plains used to be a safe community.

We need a drug treatment facility here in Surry County.

I didn't answer some questions because I just had no idea of the correctness of my answer though I would like to have know enough to have had an answer. I have no space in my calendar to become involved at present.

Offer overnight programs that are free to the person is addicted.

The community perspective questions are not my personal opinions, but ones I observe socially and in the workplace. [[treatment and recovery supports]]Increased marketing and sharing information of recovery therapists, businesses, and contacts in the community would be helpful.

I believe that children at high risk (which could be determined by a survey at school) should be brought into guidance for free counseling multiple times as needed and possibly even receive social work referral to stop the chain of families thinking it's ok to neglect and abuse their children by exposing them to the lifestyle to begin with .

Men need a house to live in while recovering.

We could benefit from drug court, halfway housing, and additional resources to help treat addiction.

When a person who is on methadone and has been clean for 9 years goes to the Doctor or Dentist. They are treated as if they are actively using street drugs.

It is simply embarrassing that this county does not have a Drug Court. Even more embarrassing is the fact that most in the judicial system don't see the need for a drug court. They have chosen not to even attempt to understand addiction and recovery and how they both directly relate to the legal system. As a county we chose to over fill our jails with people that are addicts. It hasn't worked in the past, it is not working in the present, and it will not work in the future.

Our county can continue to add more treatment providers, but until the court system and law enforcement have a fundamental shift in their thinking I fear real change won't happen.

Surry County has a significant drug use problem especially with Alcohol, Heroin and Meth. Big need is for local recovery programs with needed openings for rehab.

In the city of Elkin i have had high school class mates that have committed suicide because they were too embarrassed to come to family and friends with their addiction problems. In Elkin it is a major stigma to be a addict. I am a recovering addict. I had to leave my hometown to get the help i needed because NONE was available in my area and what would the neighbors think??? Was my parents/family's concern. There are more drugs kike Adderall and Dexedrine abused for his stimulant like effect in EHS and pain pills than the elites if Elkin will EVER admit because they see addiction as a socio-economic situation that effects the lower class not them. But in reality it effects their children too they just have better insurance and money to send them away to get help. We need more outreach to schools. We need more clinics for people in the tri county area and a wake up that it is killing people!

Better school programs. Maybe a drug counselors that regularly visit schools to open communication.

I have reported my neighbor across the street who isn't even trying to hide the fact that he is selling drugs. They are doing it in broad daylight and have had many witnesses. We have even witnessed folks driving under the influence away from this property and SCSO won't do <redacted> thing about it. of person(s) most qualified to teach, speak, coordinate drug treatment and education efforts. I know because I was passed over for a position by this agency.

Are my thoughts and opinions actually important?? I have two drug addicted brothers who have been on drugs for 13 years almost. We have turned to every person, program and any thing we can to get help for them both. It seems everyone gives up within the first few days, or they just don't care, or they think it's far too late. Everyone that I know is interested in our lives and nosey about what is going on, they don't care, they just wanna gossip. Who do you go to when you're desperate to get help? They're either gonna end up in jail or dead at this point and nobody cares except for my family, and by family I mean ME, MY MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER AND FATHER!! No one else cares.

Need to treat addiction not throw them in jail.

Families being torn apart by drug use, children being taken away and placed into the system with hardly any help financially if placed with relatives but paydays for strangers to foster. Rehab here is almost nonexistent and the court system is much to lenient on repeat offenders.

Children of active users need to either be removed from the situation or have a safe place to go during uses.

We need a drug court. More shelter for drug addicts in recovery n programs.

Need residential treatment center, but the town is 'stuck up' and doesn't want it near them.

Shepherd's House is helpful.

Sheriff is trying to get them up, he's cleaning the county up.

I'm a recovering addict with 2 years clean. Working a program that has saved my life. It's possible to stay clean in your home town.

There really no help for people who have no insurance. Mental Heath is swept under the rug and ignored.

think the penalties for getting caught selling drugs should be higher. In my opinion 90% of the time drug use starts with drinking then leads to more aggressive use of drugs and behaviors. One example that I know of happening right now, there's a family of six 2 parents maybe 30 4 kids under the age of 5. Both parents are on drugs bad. Neither of them work and receive a 1,000 a month in ebt benefits. [[community prevention]] They sell the food stamps to supply their addition. They hardly buy food for those kids. If it wasn't for the grandparents those kids would be in a worse situation. The kids are not up to date on their shots and rarely get took to the doctor.. Social services has been in the home several times and nothing has been done to help. I understand that there are a lot of factors that go in to making a decision about taking kids out of their home, but honestly these kids would be better off. If we

drug tested for ebt benefits it would help in some situations. People that are able to work should be made to get a job and keep it to receive any kind of benefits because some kind of job is better than none. Our society has made it too easy to live off the system instead of actually working and putting in some kind of effort.

I didn't go through recovery treatment to get clean from drug addiction. I knew the only way to get away from it was to get away from the people involved in the drugs. The amount of drugs in Surry County was shocking to me when I learned where to go and who had it. I couldn't even identify what cocaine or crack looked like until it was introduced to me. I never knew that my county was flowing with such a supply and it was all coming from South Carolina. There are areas in this county that you can not drive through without being offered drugs at your car. The dealers know what the under-cover cars look like, how the cops act, and what to look for. I am not sure how but I was there once and they knew. It has been 9 years clean for me. I have a ton of stories I could share to open people's eyes.

I think that abuse is a person by person issue. I have seen people take pain meds and not have an issue with stopping but others get hooked. The same with many drugs, so maybe it's the drug of their choice but I have been personally affected by opioid abuse by close family members. There are Dr's who willingly prescribe to those they know are addicted. The sheriff's dept know of these Dr's but yet they still prescribe these drugs and may as well be considered legal drug dealers. I see people daily walking the road and cars lined up at houses where they hang to get high....I know the law has to know also.

There are little to no addiction support after care.

My child's father has had a substance abuse problem for years. He overdosed in 2019 and nearly died. Countless phone calls to people for help ended up empty or nonresponsive. His probation officer would not violate him but instead said that they could try to get him treatment. When trying to get him treatment at any facility, they were all full or the waitlist was years long. People with addiction don't have years to receive help, they have days or hours. Waiting years to receive treatment is essentially a death sentence. He has since kept to the same ways since not being able to receive the help he needed and is now facing up to 15 to 20 years in jail for selling, manufacturing, and possession of heroin to feed and provide for his habit. We have to do better. Our community is overrun with addiction and opiates, and our law enforcement and court system just does not have a handle on the situation. Not only this, but there are no treatment centers close by that have any availability.

The courts need to be stricter on sentencing dealers & offer addicts treatment. If addicts continue to break the law lock them up until they get straight & prove themselves.

Need more MAT programs and such in Surry County. There is no help much without going to Winston Salem.

Apparently the parting on the back is not working anymore than the tough love was working. Its time to figure something out.

Surry County has a big drug problem and no where for the addicts to get long term help. I know, because my child was an addict and every time he was taken to the ER at Mt. Airy, he was detained in a room with a tv and was "examined" by a psychologist/psychiatrist "virtually". All for them to say "he wasn't a threat to himself". He was discharged and that was it. No help whatsoever! He has passed away now due to drugs. Somebody in this county needs to take a real close look at what is really going on.

We need more counseling for the families of addicts. No one prepares you for it until you're living it and have no one to talk to that won't judge. [[criminal justice]] Court systems do a terrible job of managing people arrested time after time for drug charges.

There should be more of a leaning towards treatment instead of jail time, needle exchange/testing site for harm reduction, more education about recovering addicts and giving them a fair chance in life.

I lost my son 8/8/20. We could not find a inpatient facility to take him due to having Medicare and Medicaid. The system is broken.

Some opportunities for employment and entertainment. More education and transportation. MORE treatment options.

The kids we need to keep are leaving because many that can't get out of the county can't get help and the troubles procreate in more ways than one.

You wanna get rid if the drugs. Get rid of the carport cartels

My daughter has struggled with addiction since 10th grade. She told me the DARE program only educated her what she would like to try. After 3 relapses she has done the best in trying to beat the disease right now. Probation officer was extremely helpful in finding care. She started in the 28 day program at Hope Valley.....but that barely scratched the surface. Her willingness to participate in a long term program in another county has made a incredible difference. We have all decided that is best for not to move back to Surry County. The court system slapping the hands of people that abuse or sell drugs makes Surry a inappropriate place to live when trying to recover. The Sheriff's Department has done a amazing job recently in trying to get them off the streets. However the court system drops the ball by mishandling of the consequences of those people. Until that is fixed Surry County will remain a cesspool.

The sheriffs office, DA & court systems are a lot of the downfall in our county. Repeat offenders is a huge problem!!

Saving children , boosting children up and getting them away from parents using drugs!

You need signs in our area for detox solutions, 211, counseling that is in our area like AA/NA meetings because half of the people don't or can't drive!

Addicts need treatment, not punishment. There needs to be more effort put into providing the needed help. They're treated like rabid dogs.

There should be more availability to users who can reach to for help.

Legalize Cannabis!!! Proven that where cannabis is legal, Opioid abuse dropped significantly.

We have a serious problem with drugs in our neighborhood and the police don't seem to care that one house didn't have power to it for at least 3 years but burnt down ðŸ”³ they was cooking meth on a gas grill and burnt the house down no investigation was ever done to why the house burnt down now the

druggies have built 2 buildings behind 2 different houses out here they're dealing out of these shacks. 24 yr old overdosed at one of the drug house and the owner told them he was in a bad shape when he arrived at her house. The lady had the young man's grandma call 911 while she removed the meth and no the police didn't look around or anything. He made it and the next day was back at the drug house the next day and was laughing about the overdose when a neighbor tried to tell him God was with him the night before. Our neighborhood is being trashed by drug abuse and dealers.

I think the penalty for drug abuse is too lenient. They go right back out and do the same thing because they know they will just get a slap on the wrist!!

There is no help for people as far as rehabs that don't have insurance it's sad.

Older adults get addicted also. My Husband and I tried for 20 years to help his Mother who was still addicted at her death at age 73.

Drug dealers live next door to me and have been actively using and selling for several years. Law enforcement in Surry know but do NOTHING!!! And nothing will ever change until law enforcement stop ignoring it with some and not others. Very aggravating!!

Mount Airy needs more treatment options, education, and get rid of the so called pain clinics We need law enforcement and a court system that's not bought off and cover up things.

In my opinion, DARE should never have taught our 5th graders about drugs. I believe it INTRODUCED THEM, and made them curious. Those seeds were planted to early and most of the young adults with a drug addiction were taught the DARE classes. Kids should be warned of the dangers and i believe my age group learned from our parents to NOT try such. We listened for the most part. Our kids had DARE, that is the age group that is having the most difficult time with it.

I work with people who call anyone ever associated with drugs a "crack head". They make fun of and put them down. I believe drug addicts are good people deep down. They went down the wrong path and need help. The current recovery programs need work. I also know someone at a Recovery place who actively puts down addicts. She should NOT be in that field. Also, that is my opinion. Addicts have a very hard time with life, add people in making fun or putting them down and it makes them want to end their life. I have an addict who suffers suicidal tendencies. I was told by the Magistrate that committing him would not help. Actual talked me out of it. I regret that, but fear trying it again for the same outcome.

Surry County has been bought and paid for by Cartel. There are no strong rules, in and out of jail, slap on the hand to the users and dealers. Go for the big guys, run them out of Surry Co.

I think the community needs to vastly improved the way it has handled the drug problem as far as providing services and programs aimed specifically for addiction as well as mental health treatment availability.

Opioid abuse is a very serious epidemic in Surry County as well as nationally. Please continue to work this tragic and costly epidemic. Although it seems overwhelming, we all need to be educated about what we can do to help turn the corner. Thank you for this survey. I hope the results will be shared widely. We need to address the rot of the problem which seems to include lack of hope. The entire county needs to be involved to tackle this crippling scourge.

Treatment is almost impossible to find when you don't have insurance.

I know from personal experience that addiction often starts with a doctor's prescription. Then they move you to pain control. They truly don't care if they kill you and offer no help or resources when you tell them you want to stop.

All I see is meth abuse and it has completely ruined this county, along with the opioid epidemic. I guess people don't OD on meth so they don't see it as an epidemic. Also, I feel that people who become addicts had some issues maybe from childhood that were never dealt with.

Drug court, more transitional housing options, MAT administration before leaving jail as an option, re-entry program, harm reduction program supported by elected officials and those elected officials voting to approve above listed items.

Narcan is more accessible and free but something like Insulin isn't and that isn't right.

Until you do something about the DOCTORS prescribing the drugs there will be no solution to the problem.

Surry county mental help is a joke...talking to a computer caused one of my family members that came to a office for help not get it. They want that one on one talk. Plus most has no insurance for the help!!

Judges are too lenient on drug DEALERS.

need to pursue harsher penalties for dealers while providing more long term recovery options for addicts, or this epidemic will never improve.

There are very few places in Surry co to turn to for help and if admitted for help rules and regulations are way too strict for most addicts so they give up on the source of help .or no money or insurance don't cover .. My son died because of opioid addiction he was only 23 i miss him so much . no facility even acted like they cared about his condition. It was very frustrating for him to seek help only to be denied several times. It's very dangerous for someone trying to quit ..it takes time and love ...go to facebook under search type Tyler Hiatt .and read his story he left in hopes of helping anyone else with addiction disease. Thanks.

It seems if they are put in jail they are released early because of overcrowding. I have a friend who was released early and she called her dealer to pick her up....

If I knew someone who needed help, I wouldn't know what programs are available that would benefit them or how to get information.

Churches should be more involved in their communities to help those who are battling addiction. Most people who are prone to becoming addicts are those who are attempting to fill a void or to counteract a painful or lonely time in their lives! Churches need to step up and offer spiritual guidance to these hurting people.

Law needs to do more.

I have a drug dealer living across the street. The people who go in and out of there all hours of the day, my family doesn't feel safe. There is nothing being done about it.

Is no help for the innocent victims of someone who is addicted to drugs.

Local NA and AA meetings need to be led by a qualified person. It is more of a meet up with fellow addicts to hang and continue their habit.

No help no rehabs.

Forsyth County is strict with their drug convictions. Surry county just slaps them on the hand and lets them back out. They need treatment but they also need jail time so they learn their lesson.

Our law enforcement does the minimal because of danger to themselves and because they know the state won't prosecute, so why bother.

I find that the head is turned the other way by people that could stop this, people with neighbors that they know deal drugs, and turn them in, nothing is never done, high traffic all night, allot of loud music, if someone is arrested they are out the next day doing the same thing.

Overdose rates are too high and corruption.in the judicial system.

Need more rehab access, need a drug court, daymark needs to become more serious and able to provide treatment with a reasonable time frame.

region is extremely uneducated on the topic of substance abuse and the people affected.

Opioids are necessary for certain issues and the stigma and increased rules make it so difficult to get the medications needed. You're doing too much in the wrong areas. Sending people to jail to detox cold turkey, not giving medications that are needed to safely detox when in jail is ethically wrong and causes more problems than solutions. Just as prisons learned over the years that rehabilitation is necessary to stop repeat offenders, it is also necessary to stop substance abuse. The county jail has no programs in place to help detox or rehab. They are there for years sometimes. Definitely months, because most addicts don't have the money or a person to sign for bail. Help them and stop judging them. The officers that are employed, the judges, the lawyers, everyone constantly criticizes them instead of helping them find their way. <Redacted> is the local counseling for addiction. But even the people there are horrible. They force you into groups no matter the former trauma you've endured, force you to attend extreme amounts of therapy so that you can't hold a job or provide for yourself. [[transportation]]But if you don't find a way to get there, they report that you're noncompliant. Most don't have a way to get there because they have had their license taken away, but no transportation is offered. Not to meet with their probation officers or to treatment. [[treatment and recovery supports]]Each person is different. You cannot treat every addict the same. By putting the same restrictions and plans on everyone, you are setting them up for failure. Which only results in relapses or unsuccessful treatment. For this county to be so overly Christian with Christian values, there is no love or understanding for anyone. I think the only people that should be running any kind of programs aimed to combat the opioid crisis, should be former addicts. Because there is absolutely no way for a person to understand the struggles and obstacles that stand in the way of recovery unless you've been thru it yourself. At the very least, they

should have former addicts as advisors to those in charge.

We need harm reduction and drug court badly.

Education is key in understanding SUD.

Wrap around Recovery support is key to over coming SUD.

People need affordable housing, healthcare, equal education and living wage jobs opportunities. Intervention needs to start early. Good pre-school, head start, family support, parenting programs.

I still see the people living in a house that's known for selling pills and stuff. I don't understand why they keep getting overlooked. They are in the Mt. Airy city limits. Why have they never been busted? I know a young man who nearly died because of the drugs from that house. That same young man over came his addiction and has a great paying job and a family now. He pulled through with the love and help of the Lord Jesus Himself and family.

I believe there is not enough help locally. Most people who are seeking help have to travel to Winston or Virginia to receive help. I also believe our community is not helping those with no insurance meet the financial strains that come with paying for doctors appointments, possible medications needed for those going through addiction.

We desperately need treatment and recovery options in Surry County as well as funding for the uninsured in the county. We also need drug court. Putting addicts in jail does nothing really for them. If we could work with them by getting them treatment, jobs and following them to assure compliance we might have better outcomes. Our jail is running over and we need to implement other avenues. They need help beating the addiction if they want to. However I know that most don't want to but they need the option.

Instead of sending addicts to jail send them to rehab.

We need more outreach and information readily available to the public. The court systems are not helping the drug users by sending them to jail . While I admit they need to face their consequences for their actions of using, I believe jail is not the answer , but a great rehab facility is.

I believe our community is not as concerned about helping addicts as we should be. Courts do not care about the addict, it is a money racket.

think that law enforcement and the Courts in our state need major reform when it comes to substance abuse the prison system is not where the addict needs to be it's a disaster that needs to be cleaned up..

Narcotics and Trafficking.

Our community looks at an addict as if they are scum and treat them badly. I've been an addict(clean now 8 years) and I was mostly ashamed to face people because of the looks and the talk of the community. I believe the community pushes addicts farther into a hole instead of trying to help pull them out. Our community needs to be educated.

It is sad that people resort to drugs.

Surry county don't want to address the problem because it may hurt the reputation of "Mayberry". Surry county needs more recovery homes. Hope Valley is a joke. Surry county needs drug court. It is proven to work, but surry county don't want it cause they get more money out of repeat offenders. Drug court participants are less likely to be repeat offenders. Drug court cuts down on cost of medical bills for inmates. We need to treat people with this disease with dignity. We need more community involvement. Just talk to anyone who has lost a child. Surry county acts like, not my child so not my problem or it want happen to my child, my child is better than that kid. Every overdose is someone's child, brother, sister, mother or father. Family members don't ask for this and should not be stigmatized. Resources are few and far between for our county and no one knows about them. reduction measures need to be addressed. Narcan needs to be distributed out in the county. Needle exchange site would mean less dirty needles found in parks, less spread of other diseases caused by dirty needles. Alot could be done these are just a few of the things. mark is good for meetings, counseling, and stuff but we really need a nice but strict recovery residence. I wanted to open one in memory of my son, but support is not there from the community and I don't know how to go about getting state assistance. I was told the funds are there but Grant's need to be applied for. Would love to help with this if it becomes and option. There are allot of churches that would help, but they need educated about addiction, they are scared because of what they have heard. Please let me know if I can help There are grants to get Narcan. We have and overdose awareness truck, we are planning to take to events but most of them are in other states cause ours don't have any. You can find it on Facebook as Overdose Awareness Truck. We also need more support for family's that have lost loved ones. The reputation Surry County has for drugs is SAD. We need to come together and get stuff done. Thank you.

Single homeless men/addicts need support here from what I've heard.

There is too much red tape usually in getting help anywhere. Insurance, ID, etc. Some people can't even keep a valid ID they're so unstable.

The new transportation system should be helpful in getting the needy to appointments.

A dual approach of therapy and meds is important....but Psychiatrists/psychologists are usually expensive.

ACCEPTANCE and CONNECTION are what bring people to recovery.

Stigma in small towns is an obstacle for recovery.

I just moved here so I'm new to the availability of specific programs overall.

I would love to help in any way I can.

Stop putting these individuals in jail. [[treatment and recovery supports]] There needs to be assistance in place for them to receive help. Family members of these individuals need help too.

Our mental health system is broken and/or nonexistent. So our jail systems are having to work to both house those who have broken laws as well as those who are in need of help with addiction. [[medical impact]] [[medical impact]] I have worked as a nurse in both the ER as well as the jail. Sad that you see

the same people over and over and over until they finally expire due to drugs. We have more young people in Surry County who have had to have open heart surgery due to drug abuse - valves completely replaced at times! Then weeks after their major surgery – they're back in the ER having CPR performed on the chest that was just cracked open! We are beyond an opioid crisis in this county!!! I will happily help to provide a perspective from the health community if needed. I would love to help end this plague on our community!

I don't think there is enough information out there for people who need the help. I also don't think a lot of programs are cost efficient. Im very happy that we now have a substance abuse recovery team. I'm not sure I have ever heard of it. So I really hope this will be a great thing to Surry County & that we can get a handle on substance abuse in this town and its not just opioids in this town. We also have a meth/heroin problem as well.

Thank you for your hard work on getting this going.

The judicial system in Surry county needs to be cleaned up and judges that will really come down on people with drug charges get jail time! The judges just give them probation and fines and they go right back out and start all over again!!

Think you need to have other answers available, besides just YES or NO. Is different for different questions. Sometimes the answer is -I don't know!

Substance abuse has ruined too many people and too many families. These drugs are too available to our young people and they are using drugs laced with so many things that they don't have a clue about. Sometimes they are not given a second chance. We need to get opioids and fentanyl off the streets and lock up the dealers. Stop waiting years before you charge someone.

People in Surry County have been stereotyped. Some people actually have diseases that require opioids, as a everyday treatment just for everyday living of life.

We need more options for addicts to get recovery, and stronger sentences for criminals pushing the poison to the community.

think the first Interaction with authorities ought to come with forced treatment not a slap on the wrist or chance to appear in court 30 days later. Immediately go to some treatment. The sooner there is help the better and less likely to reoccur.

of these Mexicans who commit felonies would be a great start then get rid of the corruption in Mount Airy, Dobson, Yadkinville.

There is not enough psychiatric services available in Surry County as well as counseling services which might curtail or at least treat some drug abuse.

I don't think there is enough information out where people can see what's available for those addicted. It's got to be out out. Also Surry County needs a treatment center of its own and work with other facilities. The Sheriffs Dept cannot do a good job because they are over whelmed

Addicts stop when THEY decide to.

I vehemently oppose needle exchange programs! Enabling addicts to use is NOT a productive activity!

We have several drug houses in our neighborhood. Residents complained to police for years. They people would walk thru the neighborhood as drug zombies. Nothing was done. We could tell police which houses facilitated the drugs. A police officer with a country car in the driveway didn't deter them. There was an overdose that paramedics treated a young man with Narcan. He got off the gurney and walked back into the house where he had just gotten the drugs and nothing else was done by authorities. After 3 years of this a couple people got caught but were out on bond doing the same thing. Finally the one house is empty because the owner went jail. But the other drug related people still use the property. People want sell their homes to get away from this mess but it's everywhere so that's not the answer. The answer is to get these people help and if they have broken laws put them in jail.

I feel like we need to reduce the number of drugs that are readily available in the community. Temptation is a huge struggle to addicts and the illegal drugs are readily available at every turn.

I believe everyone deserves a second chance.

Need an inpatient rehab close to Dobson.

speaks louder than the needs of the people.

I think the answers to the last several questions should be based on that individual person and not as a collective group. [[treatment and recovery supports]]You may have two very similar people who went through the same rehab with totally different outcomes.

LEOs do a good job

Have known many people that are on disability that get all kinds of prescriptions from certain doctors and turn around and sell them or trade them for drugs of choice.

Start making charges stick make them go to rehab.

Concerns about drugs being in our middle schools.

I believe talking to an addict that is currently using is not the right time to talk about recovery. I believe they should be clean for several days and feel back to themselves before helping them with a plan that will last.

More money, training and community support are needed to fight this battle. Officers should be paid more for the risks and families risks they are exposed to due to fighting this battle. More support from out commissioner and leaders within the county and cities. Stiffer penalties and our judges sending offenders to mandatory treatment and giving repeat offenders maximum sentences. This battle is going to require more Money to fight this battle at the local, state and federal level. Drugs are everywhere!

Surry County desperately needs a resident facility for additional treatment. We also need a homeless shelter for men. Homelessness and addiction often affect the same individuals.

Law enforcement need to do a better job.

Education in school.

I feel that doctors should encourage biofeedback and other methods of pain relief.

Opioids are readily available in Surry county.

Without severe consequences for the distribution and sale of the illegal drugs this problem will never end.

Funding is desperately needed to support Subutex for people in recovery from opioid abuse. The cost is ridiculous and most without insurance can not afford it.

A young man I know was sentenced to 30 days in jail and while in jail he got more drugs than he got while out of jail. The drugs were in their jail clothes. The police and courts need to get tougher. Drug dealers are allowed to go for years even though law enforcement knows they are dealers and dealers and users think our law enforcement is a joke. If they are put on probation nothing is done. All of the tools of the law should be used and when they are caught there life should be made rough on them. A negative consequence and something they do not like should be given.

Substance abuse is a real problem and this subject hits home with me bk I have a family member that has been going through this for years and we've tried to get him help he is so far gone he doesn't listen to anyone anymore it's real and happening everyday I believe that this problem should be taken care of so that families like mine don't have to hear about it or see it as often as we do.

I think substance abuse is a disease, but I also think there is a correlation between substance abuse and mental health. I think treating the individual needs to focus on the whole person and the people in their lives. Counseling and helping all of those around that person would be beneficial in understanding the disease and how to help their loved one.

The mixture on substances at one time and the dangers one alone but how deadly it is to mix multiple substances.

We need additional resources IN Surry County to help with this crisis. Resources like: treatment facilities, mental health counseling, additional school counselors, and law enforcement. The issue is that we've got a LOT of people struggling with these problems, but have very FEW available resources to help with these problems without having someone drive an unreasonable distance. If we want substance use to stop, we also have to stop addressing it as a crisis response and instead offer mental health counseling and school counseling opportunities for those who are hurting and looking for somewhere to turn. By doing this you WILL see a change in the things people turn to make themselves feel better.

I do believe that teaching children at a young age about how devastating drug use can be for your entire life. It may take some really shocking examples to get their attention but if it saved their life later it would be worth it. Once you take that first step into the drug world, it is so hard to get back straight again and for some drugs you always have the desire. It will be on your record which will effect job opportunities so a possible life long struggle financially.

The lack of meaningful work/JOB in our county is a factor which contributes to the presence of substance abuse here. There are many factors, but this is a major element.

We definitely need more detox/rehab facilities that are available to people without insurance. We need to educate people on how to help substance abusers in active addiction.

More in patient treatment facilities and less jail space.

The Judicial system needs start enforcing the laws as written. Also so that Law Enforcement may take their jobs seriously...and the community should back them.

I think that many in the community would like to ignore that drug and substance abuse is a problem for our community and even in their own families because of the shame that is felt. Dependencies of any kind, signal weakness in that person and family and no one wants to be considered a "less than perfect" human being or having a relative that has a dependency. Destigmatizing substance abuse can help but preventing it from happening in the first place would be so much better and should be started and recognized in early childhood. The relapsing of a fairly large percentage of treated addicts and substance dependent individuals is a problem for potential employers and the families of drug dependent individuals. Manipulative behaviors characterize untreated and treated addicts as a way to attain their goals and no person, be it wife/ husband, mother, law enforcement agent/ judge or medical provider wants to feel that they have been manipulated. As a Primary Care Provider for many years this is what I observed from my practice. I believe that when the dependent person makes up their mind to STOP using Now and Forever, then and only then, can treatment offer change and make a positive difference in their life. How can we help to make a difference in the lives of dependent individuals if they have not committed to becoming clean? Though, as a community, we can never stop helping those that are recovering and recovered.

There are not enough treatment options in our area.

On the question of age to talk to children about alcohol and drugs, I think maybe families can talk at an earlier age than schools. Especially if they are asked questions by the child. [[criminal justice]] On the question about whether local law enforcement has control, I think they are trying really hard but it's so complicated a problem and includes economic and social issues that police departments are really not trained to deal with.

Our community really needs help majority of mu graduating class are in active addiction or dead now. There is no program around to help those needing help and who don't have insurance. [[community prevention]] There needs to be more things in our community for the younger crowd to do and have fun but there is nothing here so drugs is what's to do for fun its so sad.

The problem keeps getting worse. So whatever has been done in the past is obviously not working. The definition of insanity. Get these people help and save our taxdollars and our children in the process. Our current judges and DA's are lazy, self-serving politicians who only serve their own advancement. Shameful!

We need a drug court.

This dab mess that is in high school needs to get under control - I believe it starts in school - I could tell

you 3 in school now smoking pot like it's no big deal.

I know first hand about addiction in this county and as far as getting control I don't see any changes at all. When it come to addiction and drugs I feel the law enforcement has no control at all!!!

Rather than the revolving door, non-violent drug offenders need other options such as drug court. The lack of opportunity these individuals face for both recovery and betterment are a cycle that perpetuates indefinitely.

I think our county does all they can to control this.

Mental health services in this area are lacking to say the least. There is nowhere to turn for help for yourself or those you're trying to help.

The law!! Law enforcements doing a good job at finding these people only to be let go for various reasons, mostly to turn over evidence. Repeat offenders are released, unacceptable!!

The average person is scared of addicts. A local addict in my community is a true threat to safety.

I think when drug sellers/ users are caught they should have to automatically go to drug rehab provided by county instead of sitting in jail. If caught again they should go straight to prison.

Syringe exchange program would be very important and free rehab.

There needs to be a shift in thinking in the community at large. The criminalization of drugs is an outdated tactic. The community needs to look at the reason why substance use is so common in the area, instead of solely focusing on the individual.

Need more rehab places for addicts to go and it needs to be affordable.

I think Surry County needs a drug court or something for these people that have substance use to help them recover and get life back on track, instead of slapping there hands and letting them back on the street just to do it again. They need help and we are drowning in opioid issues in our county. My area is covered by drug addicts and we need some sort of help it's only getting worse to the point we don't feel safe. A simple walk to our mailbox and we have to watch for needles that have been used... GET IT TOGETHER SURRY COUNTY!! We can do this put effort into it!!

I FEEL THAT WHEN A FAMILY MEMBER HAS AN ADDICTION THE SYSTEM FAILS TO HELP A FAMILY GET RHAT INDIVIDUAL HELP DUE TO THINKING THAT ITS NIT NEEDED. THE SYSTEM IS SERIOUSLY FLAWED IF PROVIDING HELP.

When question said "Most people" my answer was about others not my opinion.

Finding effective care and healing is not easy in this area. I would often beg to get someone in a detox to then have to beg for support to get them in the right program. Many places are not effectively treating the underlying issues that have sent a person into using and addiction.

Instead of putting millions of dollars in a hotel why not use that money to start an affordable treatment

center for addiction.

Repeat offenders in the community when the justice system becomes involved. There's clearly no incentive or beneficial assistance for these repeat offenders. Judicial system is not strict enough.

There is not enough available help for those who are struggling in our community.

Treatment needs to be more widely available. The resources are slim when it comes to treatment centers.

Our law enforcement contribute largely in many many different ways to the large amount of drug abuse that goes on in our community

I feel the drug dealers in our area get away with it!

I think lots of times, family members of people with addictions don't know what to do and need more information. Most of the time, they need to make tough decision that they don't make, because they love the person and think they have no choice.

They walk the streets like zombies. They hurt themselves .

We need in patient treatment affordable options and drug courts in Surry County.

The law enforcement and judicial services in our county are failing the citizens.

My Mom was addicted to opioids due to a back injury. It was tough on our whole family. In her last moments of life she cared more about her drugs than anything else. Anyone can be effected!!!

There needs to be a methadone/subutex facility/clinic for Surry Co residents. Currently there are none. I myself am an ex-addict who has been driving to Wilkes county to their substance abuse clinic for almost 6 years now. I have been successful with my sobriety. I truly believe if there was a facility here in our county it would truly help with the current addiction to opiates/heroin epidemic.

Education that removes stigma.

I really think that we need to utilize drug courts in the county so that we can reduce the jail population and focus more on treatment instead of penalizing people who have a disease.

Talk to children show them videos and family's pull together and help raise a child.

It takes a neighborhood to raise a child not just the parents.... Pull together it might be your child next....

Major problem here in Surry co and very little resources to help cope with this issue.

People in jail need daily NA, AA meetings provided by treatment centers, NA, AA groups. The meetings are free and could have a clear wall between the prisoners and providers. Counselors should be asked to provide services behind the same clear wall.

I have dealt with this fight for 15 years. There is none to very limited help in our community.

We desperately need transitional housing resources for inmates being released from jail to the community. Also peer support in the jail would be helpful.

There are not enough resources are in our area for people with Substance Use Disorder. Surry County is second in the NATION for overdoses per capita. Yet we continue to incarcerate people with little help offered to them. Surry County jail allows individuals to detox (go through withdrawals) without any medicated assistance. We have to do better. These are not statistics. These are people with a disease.

I think we need a place set up for addicts to go for help besides going to the Hospital. I have been to the hospital with addicts & the way they treat them no wonder they go back to doing the same thing. I would also love to have a halfway/ sober living homes for the addicts. We also need to have more help for addicts getting into a rehab when they have no insurance. It is so sad to see an addict wanting help & can't get it because they have no insurance. PLEASE PLEASE HELP!

Surry County needs a drug court. The jails are overcrowded and those suffering from addiction go right back to using.

Our community has a serious problem.

We need a drug court or something in place to help addicts get out of the legal trouble and work on their substance abuse and trauma.

It is a problem that all "abuse" is classified the same, especially since "abuse" is not using all of a medication until having a similar injury in the future considering the cost.

We need so much help here in Surry. So many people use and you would never know - wealthy and even business owners.

I lost my son to suicide, and I feel like it was contributing factor by his drug addiction.

Opioid crisis is hardly recognized in my area by local law enforcement and courts, The MCO/Partners and the hospital ER Director are the only voices I have heard that are concerned.

I think starting education as early as possible, even before school age is the answer to the question it told me to specify.

We need drug court. You cannot arrest away addiction. I see people trying to get clean and still drowning in our legal system for things high them did last year or the year before.

I town feels like it's stuck. That's the only way to describe it. People know there is a huge drug problem in this town, yet it feels like it has been pushed aside time and time again. This town has been hiding behind its innocent Mayberry cover for way to long. It's time to stop, stop letting people die, stop turning your head for people who are trying to get help, treating them like less. It's time for law enforcement to start taking missing persons and the link of drug use in this county seriously. Rather than hiding the problem, why not knock it out head first, there's nothing to hide if the problem is taken care

of seriously and appropriately. Most importantly, it's time to bring justice to the families that have been impacted the most from this huge problem within quiet ol mayberry. Open your eyes.

Stop the drug dealers.

Cannabis is not a drug.

I feel like the addict is such a manipulator that the FAMILY should have a say in their treatment and/or being held for observation. The addict is so good at lying and telling people what they want to hear that the doctors do NOT listen to the family but they listen to the addict who is just conning them.

Services funded by the County Government are incarcerating substance users instead of finding ways to treat their addiction.

People affected need more understanding, help and support.

There is not enough programs to help or resources. Especially for people without insurance.

Not enough resources or programs to help limit substance abuse.

Appendix C: Survey Instrument

Copy of Surry County V.O.I.C.E.S. Survey Instrument

V.O.I.C.E.S. - Volunteering Opinions & Information Concerning Eliminating Substance Use

Introduction to the V.O.I.C.E.S. Survey

The mission of the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office is to build a full “Continuum of Care” that eliminates impediments for Surry County residents seeking substance use treatment and recovery services.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this survey is to: help evaluate medication storage patterns, community perspectives regarding substance use, knowledge of current service availability and community needs.

INTENDED SURVEY AUDIENCE

This survey is intended for the audience of citizens over the age of 18 and living in Surry County, NC.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE ME TO COMPLETE?

It is expected to take most users about eight (8) minutes to complete.

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

We want to assure you that your responses to anonymous surveys are completely anonymous. Responses to anonymous surveys cannot be traced back to the respondent. No personally identifiable information is captured unless you voluntarily offer personal or contact information in any of the comment fields. Additionally, your responses are combined with those of many others and summarized in a report to further protect your anonymity.

USE OF DATA

Summarized data collected in the survey will be presented in a formal and published reports of the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office. Results will also be available on the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office Website (www.surrycountycares.com) by clicking on the Data Menu.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SURVEY?

Email Jamie Edwards, Data Analyst for the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office at edwardsj@co.surry.nc.us or via phone at 336-401-1265.

Please only complete one survey per person due to the fact we are collecting responses via paper and online.

V.O.I.C.E.S. - Volunteering Opinions & Information Concerning Eliminating Substance Use

Demographics Section

None of these questions are required so please feel free to skip those you choose not to disclose. Nonetheless, the more information we have the better we will be able to assess substance use response needs and approaches in Surry County.

1. What is your gender?

☐ Female

☐ Male

2. Race and Hispanic Origin

☐ White

☐ Black or African American

☐ American Indian

☐ Asian

☐ Native Hawaiian

☐ Hispanic

☐ Other

3. What is your age in years?

☐ 18-24

☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54

☐ 55-64

☐ 65+

4. Please provide the zip code of your primary residence within Surry County.

Community Experiences Section

5. At what age should we start talking to people about drug and alcohol use?

- ☐ Elementary school aged
- ☐ Middle school aged
- ☐ High school aged
- ☐ College aged and older
- ☐ Other (please specify)

6. Are you aware of a drug take-back program in your community

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

7. If I have leftover medication but no longer need it, I am inclined to:

- ☐ Sell it
- ☐ Save it for future use
- ☐ Take it to a drug take-back location
- ☐ Give it to a friend
- ☐ Throw it in the garbage
- ☐ Dispose of it using a disposal pack
- ☐ Flush it down the toilet

8. If your doctor or dentist has prescribed opioid pain medication to you or a family member, were you provided any warning about the dangers of opioids by that doctor or dentist?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable

9. If your doctor or dentist has prescribed opioid pain medication to you or a family member, were you provided any warning about the dangers of opioids by the pharmacist who filled your prescription?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable

10. Do you know of a local family who has been negatively impacted by opioid use?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

11. Do you think your community has an opioid addiction problem?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

12. Illicit opioids, including illicit prescription medication and drugs like heroin, are readily available in my community.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

13. Other drugs, such as cocaine and methamphetamines, are readily available in my community.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

14. Use of other drugs, such as alcohol, marijuana, and benzodiazepines, can lead to misuse of opioids, cocaine, or methamphetamines.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

15. Do you know of a local family who has been negatively impacted by alcohol use?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

16. Addiction is:

- ☐ A Choice
☐ A Moral Failing
☐ A Disease

17. I believe that law enforcement efforts in my community are effective in limiting substance abuse.

- ☐ Strongly Disagree
☐ Disagree
☐ Agree
☐ Strongly Agree

18. I believe that court system efforts in my community are effective in limiting substance abuse.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

19. I would know where to turn to for addiction help for myself, a family member, or friend.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

20. My community has effective programs in place, such as counseling and transition living services, to support people in recovery for substance use disorder.

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes

Community Perspectives Section

21. Most people would willingly accept someone who has been treated for substance use as a close friend.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

22. Most people believe that someone who has been treated for substance use is just as trustworthy as the average citizen.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

23. Most people would accept someone who has been treated for substance use as a teacher of young children in a public school.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

24. Most people think less of a person who has been in treatment for substance use.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

25. Most employers will hire someone who has been treated for substance use if he or she is qualified for the job.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

26. Most employers will pass over the application of someone who has been treated for substance use in favor of another applicant.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

27. Most people would be willing to date someone who has been treated for substance use.

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

V.O.I.C.E.S. - Volunteering Opinions & Information Concerning Eliminating Substance Use

Optional Comments and Thank You!

28. Please share other items that are important to you about the topic of Substance Use in our community. Your thoughts and opinions are very important to us.

29. If you want to be contacted by staff from the Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office, please include the following information. Keep in mind, by providing your contact information, your submitted survey will no longer be anonymous in nature. Contact information will be removed from final data analysis and not shared outside of the Surry County Abuse Recovery Office.

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

30. The Surry County Substance Abuse Recovery Office offers a variety of methods the community can get involved. Ways to participate include community data collection, interviews and membership in our All-Stars Prevention Group. Additional opportunities include serving as Recovery Coaches or Volunteer Transportation Drivers. If you want to be contacted about these or other opportunities to help, please make sure to include your contact information and click 'Yes' below.

☐ Yes

☐ No