



PRESS RELEASE

Vast Majority Agree That Addiction Is a Serious Issue in the United States Today

A Quarter of Americans Have Cut Off Contact with Someone Who Has Addiction Issues

Washington, DC, January 23, 2020 — A new Ipsos poll on addiction finds that a quarter of Americans know someone they encounter while going about their daily life that is currently struggling with addiction (26%). This is followed by the number of Americans who say they have family members (22%), friends (19%), and acquaintances (18%) who have this problem. Only 8% say they struggle with addiction themselves. Adults without a college degree are significantly more likely to have family members, friends, and acquaintances that are currently struggling with addiction than adults that have a college degree. Respondents with a college degree are more likely to be in treatment or ongoing therapy than respondents without a college degree (45% and 32% respectively).

Of the substances listed, 36% say that the people they know with addiction issues are addicted to alcohol, followed by opioids/narcotics (19%), cocaine/methamphetamine (17%), and prescription drugs (16%). Another 15% report that the people they know with addiction issues are addicted to more than one substance.

As a result of their addiction, nearly half report that their friends, acquaintances, and family members have been imprisoned (47%, 47%, and 46% respectively). One in five report that their acquaintances and friends have passed away due to addiction (20% and 19% respectively).

A quarter of Americans have cut off contact with someone with addiction issues and one in 10 have financially supported someone who required assistance due to their addiction (11%). Nearly nine in 10 agree that addiction is a serious issue in the United States today (86%), and 78% agree that addiction is a disease and warrants support and treatment.

For full results, please refer to the following questionnaire.



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Full Annotated Questionnaire:

1. Are any of the following people in your life currently struggling with addiction? (Select one for each)

Total Yes Summary

	Total (N=1,003)	No College Degree (N=586)	College Degree (N=417)
People you encounter while going about your daily life (ie., on the street, running errands, going to work)	26%	26%	25%
Family members	22%	25%	17%
Friends	19%	21%	15%
Acquaintances	18%	20%	13%
You	8%	8%	8%

a) You

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	87%	87%	87%
Yes	8%	8%	8%
Don't know	3%	3%	2%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	3%

b) Family members

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	67%	63%	74%
Yes	22%	25%	17%
Don't know	8%	10%	5%
Prefer not to answer	3%	2%	4%

c) Friends

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	65%	64%	69%
Yes	19%	21%	15%
Don't know	14%	14%	14%
Prefer not to answer	2%	1%	3%



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d) Acquaintances

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	59%	58%	61%
Yes	18%	20%	13%
Don't know	21%	20%	23%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	3%

e) People you encounter while going about your daily life (ie., on the street, running errands, going to work)

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	40%	40%	39%
Yes	26%	26%	25%
Don't know	32%	32%	33%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	3%

2. **[If Q1= Yes]** Are any of the following people in treatment or ongoing therapy for addiction? (Select one for each)

Total Yes Summary

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Friends (N=187)	37%	37%	36%
You (N=78)	36%	32%	45%
Family members (N=215)	32%	28%	44%
Acquaintances (N=181)	32%	30%	38%
People you encounter while going about your daily life (ie., on the street, running errands, going to work) (N=258)	26%	22%	36%

a) You

	Total (N=78)	No College Degree (N=48)	College Degree (N=30)
No	60%	64%	51%
Yes	36%	32%	45%
Don't know	5%	5%	5%
Prefer not to answer	-	-	-



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b) Family members

	Total (N=215)	No College Degree (N=144)	College Degree (N=71)
No	56%	60%	43%
Yes	32%	28%	44%
Don't know	11%	11%	13%
Prefer not to answer	1%	2%	-

c) Friends

	Total (N=187)	No College Degree (N=124)	College Degree (N=63)
No	38%	36%	42%
Yes	37%	37%	36%
Don't know	24%	25%	21%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	-

d) Acquaintances

	Total (N=181)	No College Degree (N=122)	College Degree (N=59)
No	37%	39%	29%
Yes	32%	30%	38%
Don't know	32%	31%	33%
Prefer not to answer	-	-	-

e) People you encounter while going about your daily life (ie., on the street, running errands, going to work)

	Total (N=258)	No College Degree (N=150)	College Degree (N=108)
No	21%	23%	15%
Yes	26%	22%	36%
Don't know	52%	53%	49%
Prefer not to answer	1%	2%	-



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3. **[If Q1= Yes]** Have any of the following people been put in prison as a result of their addiction? (Select one for each)

Total Yes Summary

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Friends (N=187)	47%	52%	35%
Acquaintances (N=181)	47%	47%	47%
Family members (N=215)	46%	48%	38%
People you encounter while going about your daily life (ie., on the street, running errands, going to work) (N=258)	35%	36%	33%
You (N=78)	30%	29%	31%

a) You

	Total (N=78)	No College Degree (N=48)	College Degree (N=30)
No	63%	65%	59%
Yes	30%	29%	31%
Don't know	2%	2%	2%
Prefer not to answer	5%	4%	8%

b) Family members

	Total (N=215)	No College Degree (N=144)	College Degree (N=71)
No	47%	45%	56%
Yes	46%	48%	38%
Don't know	5%	5%	5%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	-

c) Friends

	Total (N=187)	No College Degree (N=124)	College Degree (N=63)
No	41%	38%	49%
Yes	47%	52%	35%
Don't know	8%	7%	11%
Prefer not to answer	3%	3%	4%



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d) Acquaintances

	Total (N=181)	No College Degree (N=122)	College Degree (N=59)
No	33%	33%	32%
Yes	47%	47%	47%
Don't know	20%	20%	21%
Prefer not to answer	-	-	-

e) People you encounter while going about your daily life (ie., on the street, running errands, going to work)

	Total (N=258)	No College Degree (N=150)	College Degree (N=108)
No	17%	17%	17%
Yes	35%	36%	33%
Don't know	45%	45%	47%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	2%



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4. Have any of the following people passed away due to an addiction? (Select one for each)

Total Yes Summary

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Acquaintances	20%	22%	16%
Friends	19%	21%	14%
Family members	16%	17%	15%
People you encounter while going about your daily life (ie., on the street, running errands, going to work)	15%	15%	14%

a) Family members

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	76%	75%	77%
Yes	16%	17%	15%
Don't know	5%	5%	4%
Prefer not to answer	3%	3%	4%

b) Friends

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	72%	70%	78%
Yes	19%	21%	14%
Don't know	7%	8%	5%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	4%

c) Acquaintances

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	63%	60%	68%
Yes	20%	22%	16%
Don't know	15%	15%	13%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	3%



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- d) People you encounter while going about your daily life (ie., on the street, running errands, going to work)

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	49%	49%	50%
Yes	15%	15%	14%
Don't know	34%	34%	33%
Prefer not to answer	3%	2%	4%

5. Among the people you know with addiction issues, which of the following are they addicted to? (Select all that apply)

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Alcohol	36%	36%	36%
Opioids/Narcotics (eg. Fentanyl, Oxycodone, illegal heroin)	19%	21%	14%
Cocaine/methamphetamine	17%	19%	12%
Prescription drugs like Xanax, Fentanyl, Oxycodone	16%	18%	12%
Addicted to more than one substance	15%	17%	10%
Heroin	12%	13%	9%
Gambling	9%	11%	7%
Other	6%	5%	7%
I don't know anyone with addiction issues	38%	37%	40%
Don't know	9%	9%	8%
Prefer not to answer	4%	4%	5%



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6. How often do you engage with the people you know who are struggling with addiction? (Select one)

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Very often	7%	8%	5%
Somewhat often	6%	6%	5%
Sometimes	15%	13%	18%
Hardly ever	19%	19%	20%
Never	9%	10%	7%
I don't know anyone with addiction issues	32%	31%	33%
Don't know	8%	9%	7%
Prefer not to answer	4%	3%	5%
<i>Often (Net)</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>28%</i>
<i>Not often (Net)</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>27%</i>

7. Have you ever had to take any of the following actions on behalf of the people you know who are struggling with addiction? (Select one for each)

Total Yes Summary

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Cut off contact with someone with addiction issues	25%	28%	20%
Provide counseling to someone with addiction issues	18%	18%	19%
Call 911 or seek medical attention for someone in your vicinity who was overdosing or experiencing negative medical repercussions as a result of taking drugs or alcohol abuse	13%	15%	9%
Financially support someone who required assistance due to their addiction	11%	12%	8%



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- a) Call 911 or seek medical attention for someone in your vicinity who was overdosing or experiencing negative medical repercussions as a result of taking drugs or alcohol abuse

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	57%	56%	58%
Yes	13%	15%	9%
I don't know anyone with addiction issues	25%	25%	26%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%
Prefer not to answer	3%	2%	6%

- b) Financially support someone who required assistance due to their addiction

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	57%	56%	59%
Yes	11%	12%	8%
I don't know anyone with addiction issues	25%	24%	26%
Don't know	4%	6%	2%
Prefer not to answer	3%	2%	5%

- c) Provide counseling to someone with addiction issues

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	50%	50%	48%
Yes	18%	18%	19%
I don't know anyone with addiction issues	25%	26%	25%
Don't know	3%	4%	2%
Prefer not to answer	3%	3%	5%

- d) Cut off contact with someone with addiction issues

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
No	42%	40%	46%
Yes	25%	28%	20%
I don't know anyone with addiction issues	26%	27%	25%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%
Prefer not to answer	3%	2%	6%



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8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Select one for each)

Total Agree Summary

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Addiction is a serious issue in the United States today.	86%	84%	89%
Addiction is a disease and warrants support and treatment.	78%	76%	80%
It is appropriate to use federal, state and local funds to support substance abuse treatment centers and programs to help people recover from their addictions.	68%	65%	74%
Addiction is a choice and it is up to the addict to solve their problems.	48%	50%	44%
Other people's addictions have had negative repercussions on my life.	39%	40%	36%

a. Other people's addictions have had negative repercussions on my life.

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Strongly agree	18%	19%	16%
Somewhat agree	20%	21%	20%
Somewhat disagree	19%	19%	18%
Strongly disagree	28%	27%	30%
Don't know	14%	14%	16%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>36%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>48%</i>

b. Addiction is a serious issue in the United States today.

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Strongly agree	62%	61%	64%
Somewhat agree	24%	24%	25%
Somewhat disagree	3%	4%	2%
Strongly disagree	4%	4%	3%
Don't know	7%	8%	7%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>86%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>89%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>4%</i>



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c. Addiction is a disease and warrants support and treatment.

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Strongly agree	46%	44%	50%
Somewhat agree	32%	32%	30%
Somewhat disagree	7%	8%	5%
Strongly disagree	7%	7%	6%
Don't know	9%	9%	9%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>80%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>11%</i>

d. Addiction is a choice and it is up to the addict to solve their problems.

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Strongly agree	16%	17%	13%
Somewhat agree	32%	33%	30%
Somewhat disagree	25%	24%	27%
Strongly disagree	19%	18%	22%
Don't know	8%	8%	8%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>49%</i>

e. It is appropriate to use federal, state and local funds to support substance abuse treatment centers and programs to help people recover from their addictions.

	Total	No College Degree	College Degree
Strongly agree	35%	33%	39%
Somewhat agree	33%	32%	35%
Somewhat disagree	12%	13%	9%
Strongly disagree	7%	7%	8%
Don't know	13%	15%	9%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>74%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>17%</i>



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between January 17-21, 2020. For this survey, a sample of roughly 1,003 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 586 adults without a college degree, and 417 adults with a college degree.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,003, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.0 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.6 percentage points for adults without a college degree and plus or minus 5.5 percentage points for adults with a college degree.

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