

**Congressional Leave-Behind (Hill Brief — Nonpartisan Data Summary)**

**FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY**  
**Public Perceptions of Addiction and Recovery: A 20-Year Follow-Up to the  
 Hart Benchmark (2004–2026)**

Survey Conducted February 13–17, 2026 | N=846 likely voters nationwide  
*Research by Recovery Insights Lab | Commissioned by Faces & Voices of Recovery*

**Overview**

Twenty-two years after the original Perceptions of Recovery (Peter D. Hart) benchmark study, a new national survey finds that Americans have fundamentally redefined addiction and recovery — moving from moral blame to public health understanding, while maintaining strong bipartisan support for accessible treatment.

**Key Findings**

Category	2004	2026
Addiction seen as “moral weakness”	34%	16%
Believe majority who seek treatment achieve lifelong recovery	31%	47%
Personally identify as in recovery	7%	31%
Support private insurance coverage for addiction treatment	—	85%
Support Medicaid coverage for addiction treatment	—	83%
Support court-mandated treatment and recovery support over incarceration alone	—	83%
Support job skills programs for people in recovery	—	84%
Believe discrimination against people in recovery is a community problem	18%	46%
Cite lack of affordable treatment as top barrier	25%	52%



## Interpretation

- Public attitudes have shifted decisively from stigma to science.
- Americans are highly unified behind treatment-first, recovery-ready policies.
- Support spans ideology, income, region, and party affiliation.
- The data provides an empirical foundation for bipartisan public health policy.

Nonpartisan takeaway: Recovery is a mainstream American value. Eight in ten voters across demographics support expanding treatment access and protecting recovery services.

Contact: Patty McCarthy, CEO, Faces & Voices of Recovery  
[pmccarthy@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](mailto:pmccarthy@facesandvoicesofrecovery.org) | 202-737-0692

Media Contact:

Tim Sullivan / T3 Shamrock Media/ [t3shamrock@gmail.com](mailto:t3shamrock@gmail.com) / 732-816-0239