



**FACES & VOICES
OF RECOVERY**

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

- Ø **The original 2004 study** was conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates and Coldwater Corporation on behalf of Faces & Voices of Recovery (FVR). It established baseline measurements of public attitudes toward addiction, recovery, stigma, and discrimination at a time when these issues received far less public attention.
- Ø **Sample:** 801 American adults (general population)
- Ø **Field dates:** April 19–22, 2004
- Ø **Methodology:** National telephone survey of adults
- Ø **Focus:** Widespread impact of addiction, public stigma toward addiction and recovery, discrimination against people in recovery, understanding of the term “recovery,” support for policy change

Ø **The 2026 survey** was designed to revisit and build upon the 2004 Hart Research findings, using updated and expanded questions to measure how attitudes have changed over two decades.

Ø **Sample:** 846 likely voters (national)

Ø **Field dates:** February 13–17, 2026

Ø **Conducted by:** Recovery Insights Lab



Ø **Focus:** All original Hart topics plus policy grid testing, political ideology analysis, harm reduction attitudes, and expanded demographic crosstabs.

Ø The data reveals a profound and largely positive transformation in public attitudes towards addiction and recovery over the past two decades. This shift is characterized by a move away from moral judgment towards a public health perspective, increased personal resonance, and growing support for systemic solutions.

- Ø **Behavioral health now dominates public concern** - Mental illness surged to the top national issue (7% → 52%), and addiction rose to 36%, moving from secondary to central in public health priorities.
- Ø **The focus shifted from blame to systems** – Concern about treatment gaps nearly doubled (32% → 59%), and mental health service concerns rose sharply (33% → 68%).
- Ø **Discrimination is widely recognized** – Recognition of discrimination against people in recovery increased significantly (18% → 46%).
- Ø **Recovery is increasingly understood as a stable outcome** – Definitions reflecting sustained recovery nearly doubled (22% → 43%), signaling a move from “struggle” to “identity.”
- Ø **Workplace stigma has declined materially** – Those less likely to hire someone in long-term recovery fell by more than half (27% → 13%), while positive hiring bias more than doubled (15% → 34%).

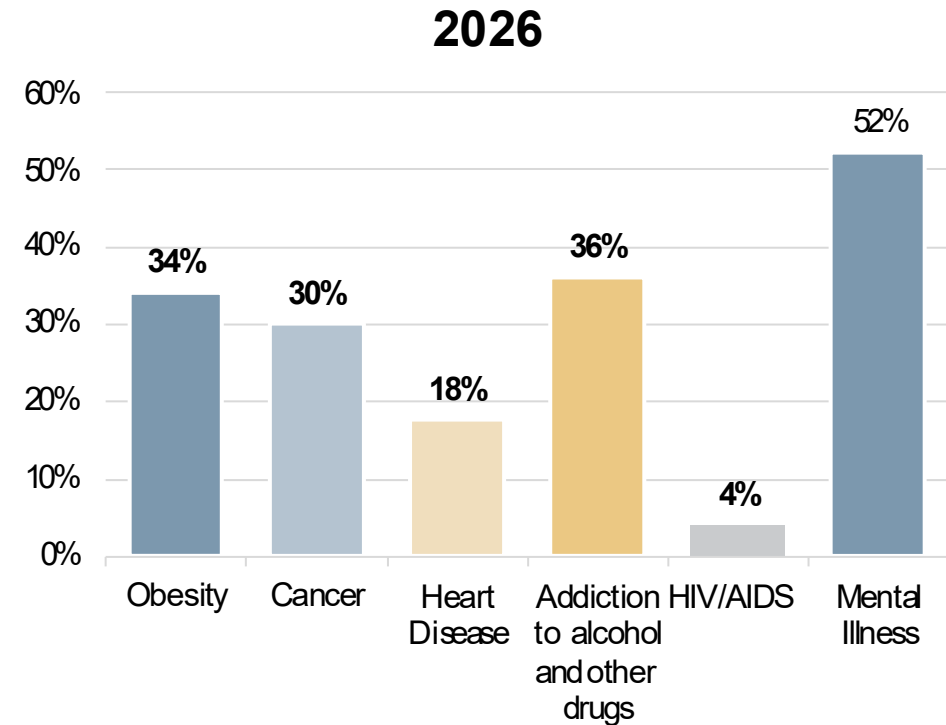
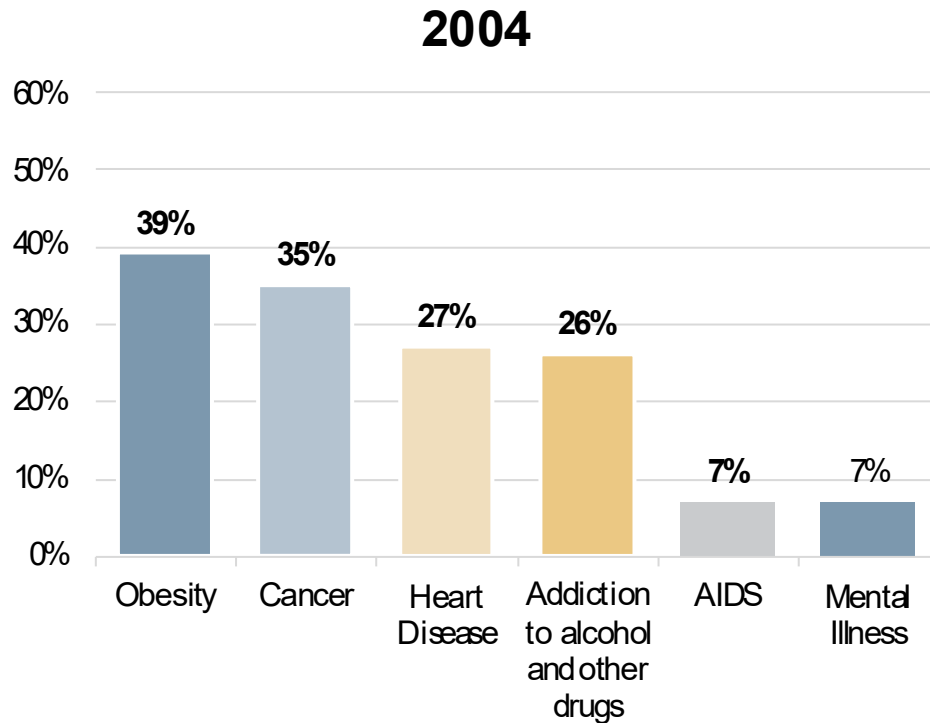
- Ø **Past drug use is far less disqualifying** – Positive hiring bias toward applicants with prior drug use rose sharply (6% → 28%), while negative bias was cut in half (41% → 20%).
- Ø **Moral framing declined** – Viewing addiction as primarily amoral weakness dropped from 34% to 16%, reflecting reduced blame and increased nuance.
- Ø **Addiction is still perceived as widespread** – Nearly half in 2026 believe at least 25% of Americans are addicted (44%), only slightly below 2004 levels (53%).
- Ø **Recovery is more visible and normalized** – Fewer Americans say they know no one in recovery (53% → 41%), and self-identified recovery rose dramatically (7% → 31%).
- Ø **Optimism about recovery is rising** – Belief that the majority who seek treatment achieve lifelong recovery increased from 31% to 47%.

National Health Priorities

In 2004, addiction ranked behind obesity, cancer, and heart disease as a national health issue. By 2026, mental illness became the top concern (52%), and addiction rose to 36%. This represents a 45-point increase for mental illness and a 10-point increase for addiction.

Behavioral health now dominates public health priorities.

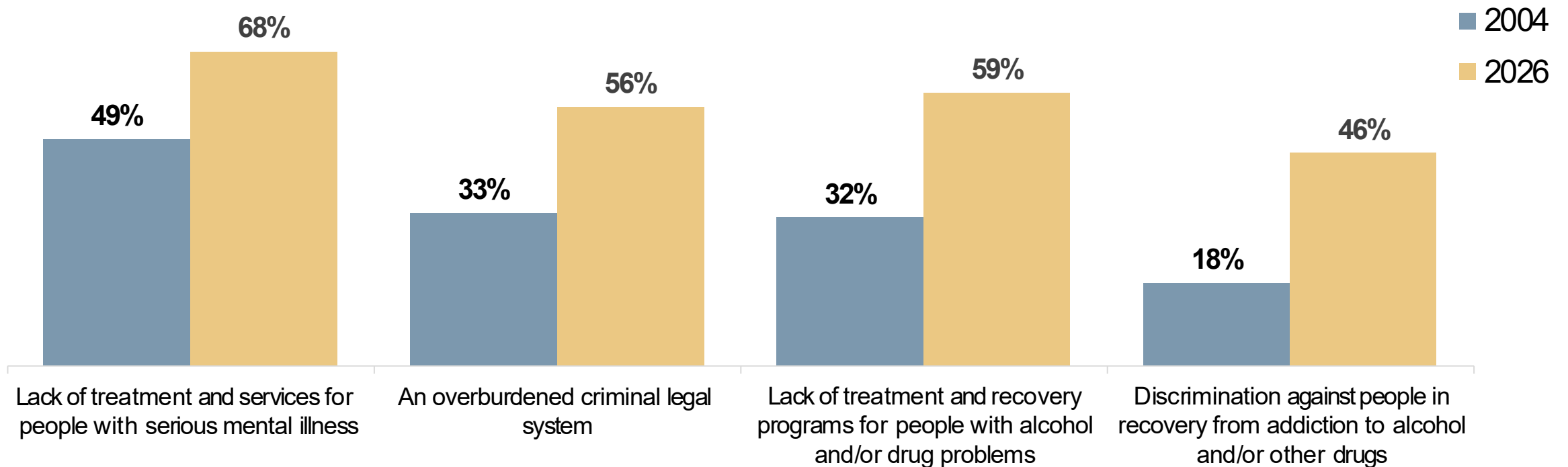
Which one or two of the following do you think are the most important health-related issues facing the nation right now?



System Accountability & Treatment

Concern about lack of treatment for addiction rose from 32% (2004) to 59% (2026). Concern about lack of mental health services increased from 33% to 68%. Recognition of discrimination against people in recovery rose from 18% to 46%. Public focus has shifted from individual behavior to structural shortcomings.

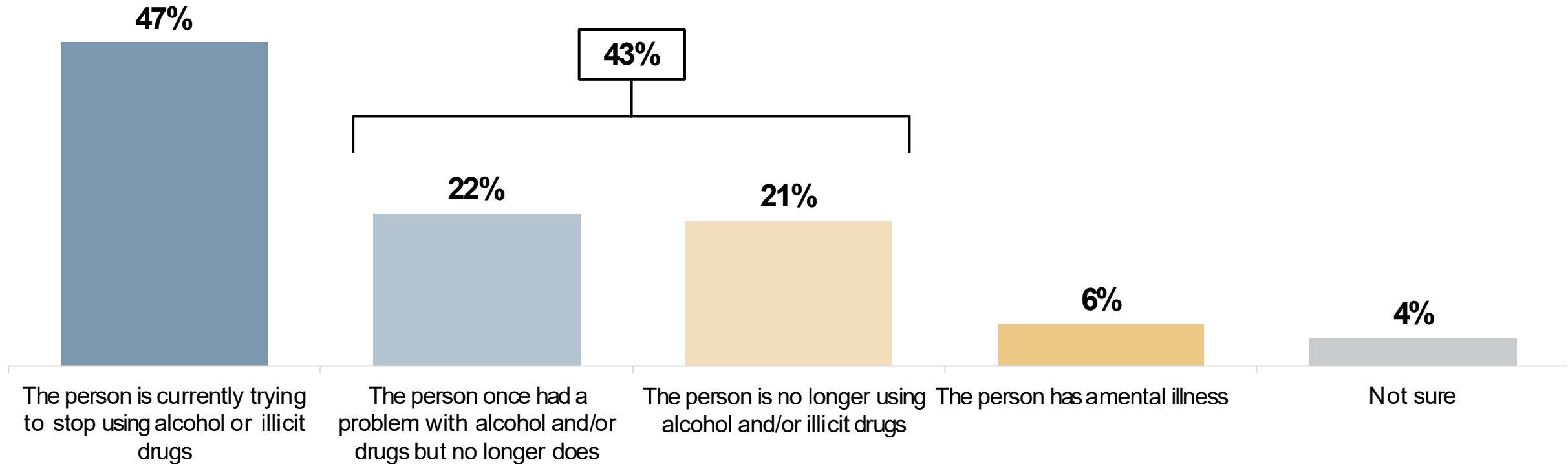
The following is a list of some issues that could be a problem in your community. For each one, please tell me how much of a problem you think it is in your community—is it a major problem, a minor problem, or not that much of a problem?



Understanding of “Recovery”

In 2004, a strong majority of respondents (62%) defined recovery as “currently trying to stop.” By 2026, that figure declined 15 points to 47%. At the same time, definitions reflecting sustained recovery nearly doubled — 43% now describe recovery as either no longer having a problem with alcohol or drugs (21%) or no longer using (21%), compared to just 22% in 2004.

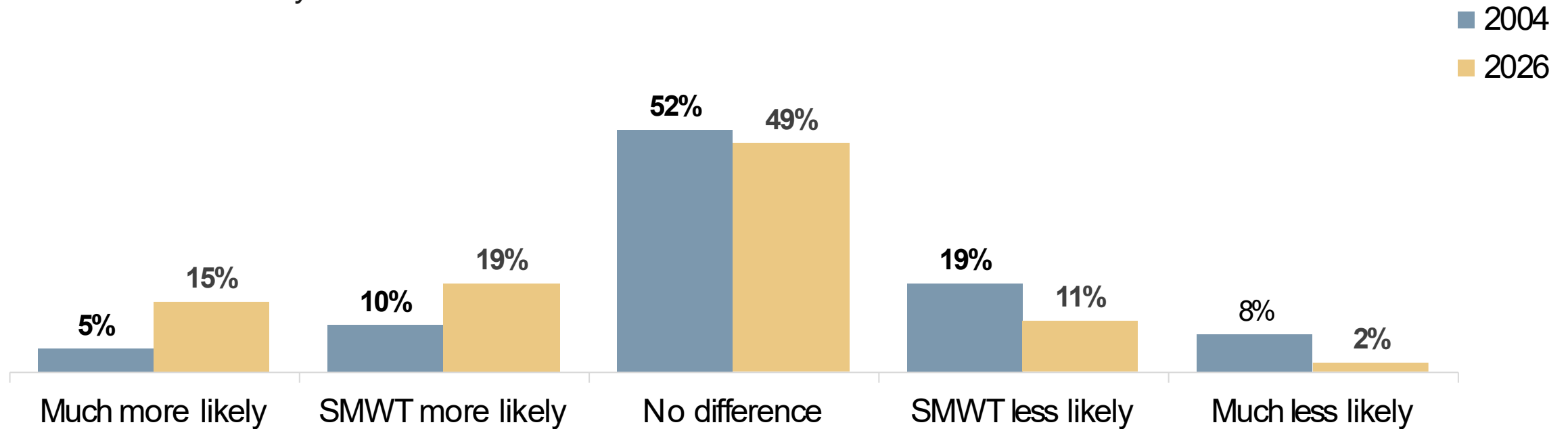
Which of the following best describes your use of the word “recovery” in the following sentence? “This person is in recovery from an addiction to drugs and alcohol.”



Workplace Attitudes: Recovery

In 2004, 27% of respondents said they would be less likely to hire a qualified applicant in long-term recovery. By 2026, that figure fell to 13% — a reduction of more than half. At the same time, the share who said they would be more likely to hire such an applicant more than doubled, rising from 15% to 34%.

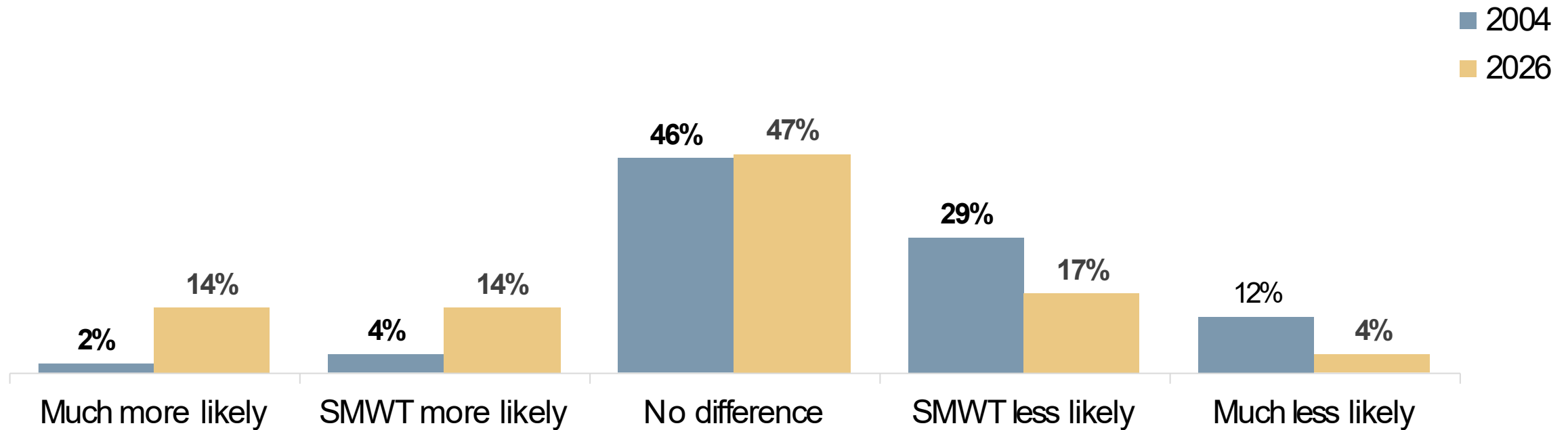
*If you were responsible for deciding who to hire at your place of work, and you learned that a **qualified applicant is in long-term recovery** from an addiction to alcohol or other drugs, would that make you more likely or less likely to hire that person, or would it not make a difference either way?*



Workplace Attitudes: Prior drug use

In 2026, respondents are more than twice as likely to say they would be more likely to hire an applicant who had used illegal drugs in the past (28%) than they were in 2004 (6%). At the same time, those who said they would be less likely to hire such an applicant fell by half — from 41% in 2004 to 20% in 2026 — indicating a substantial softening of workplace stigma toward past drug use.

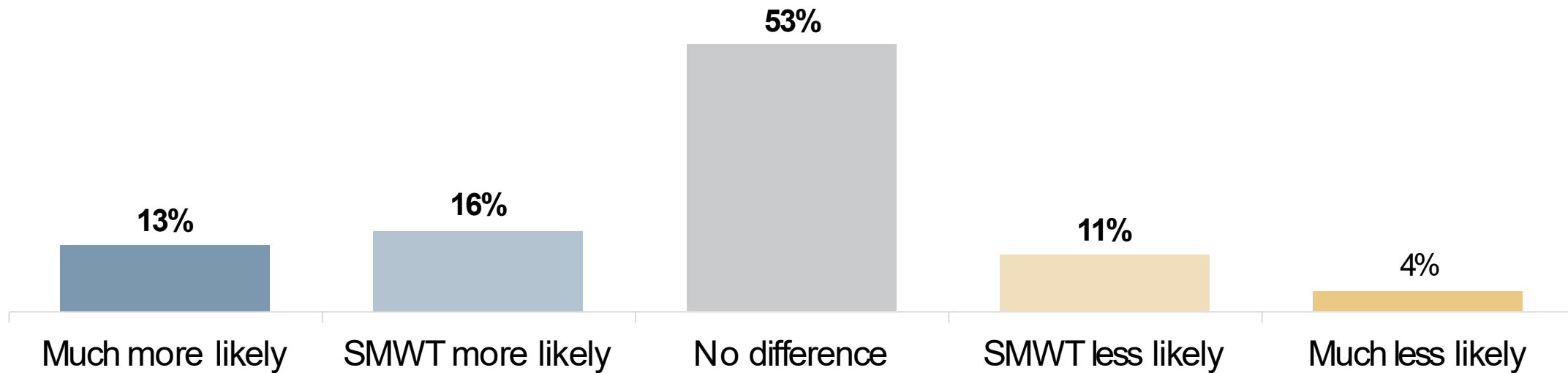
*If you were responsible for deciding who to hire at your place of work, and you learned that a **qualified applicant had used illegal drugs** in the past, would that make you more likely or less likely to hire that person, or would it not make a difference either way?*



Workplace Attitudes: Family member

In 2026, respondents are more than twice as likely to say they would be more likely to hire an applicant who had used illegal drugs in the past (28%) than they were in 2004 (6%). At the same time, those who said they would be less likely to hire such an applicant fell by half — from 41% in 2004 to 20% in 2026 — indicating a substantial softening of workplace stigma toward past drug use.

*If you were responsible for deciding who to hire at your place of work, and you learned that a qualified applicant had **a family member that has a problem with alcohol or drugs**, would that make you more likely or less likely to hire that person, or would it not make a difference either way?**

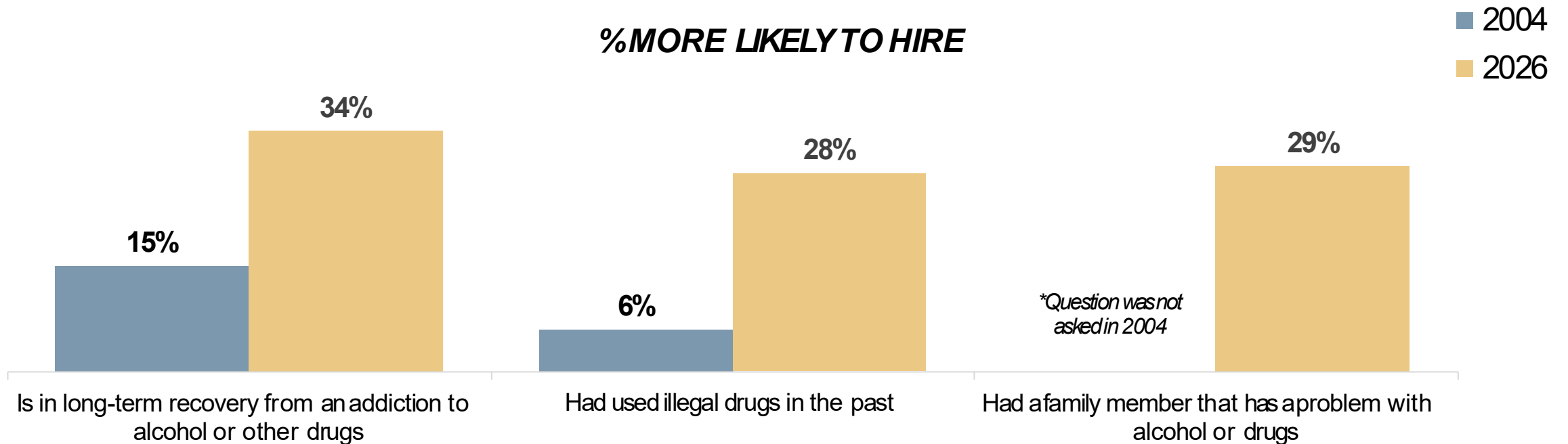


*Question was not asked in 2004

Workplace Attitudes: Compared

Workplace attitudes have shifted significantly since 2004, with positive hiring bias increasing sharply for both applicants in long-term recovery (34%) and those who had used illegal drugs in the past (28%). Recovery now carries affirmative signaling value, and past drug use is far less disqualifying than it once was.

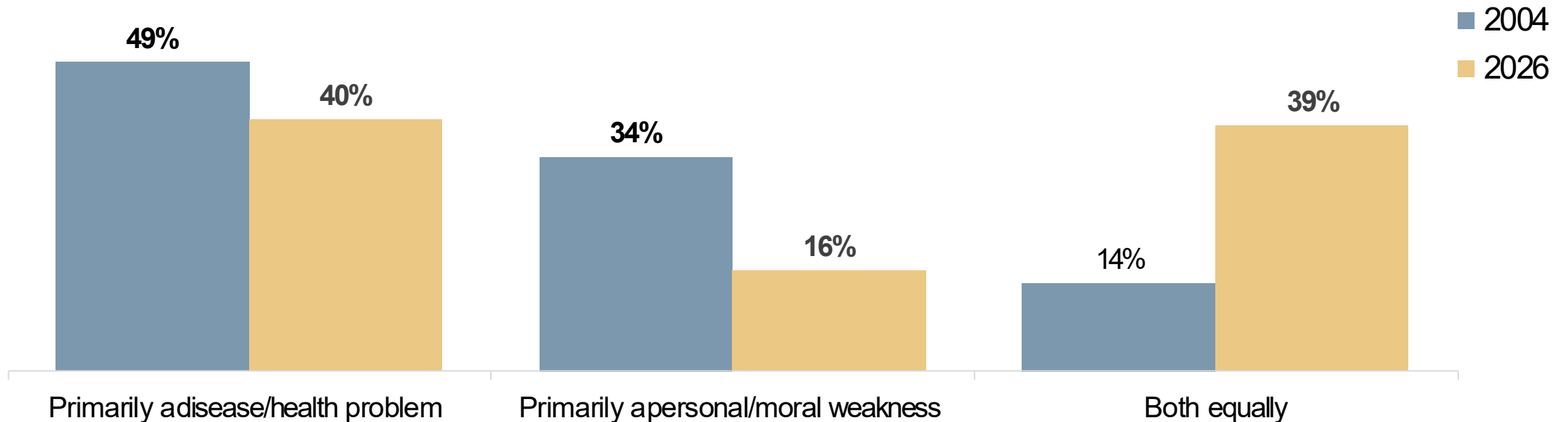
If you were responsible for deciding who to hire at your place of work, and you learned that a qualified applicant [INSERT], would that make you more likely or less likely to hire that person, or would it not make a difference either way?



Addiction: Health problem or Moral weakness

Public perceptions of addiction have shifted away from moral framing and toward a more nuanced understanding. While belief that addiction is primarily a disease declined modestly (49% to 40%), the share viewing it as primarily a moral weakness was cut in half (34% to 16%), with a sharp rise in those selecting “both equally” (14% to 39%), reflecting increased complexity and reduced blame in public attitudes.

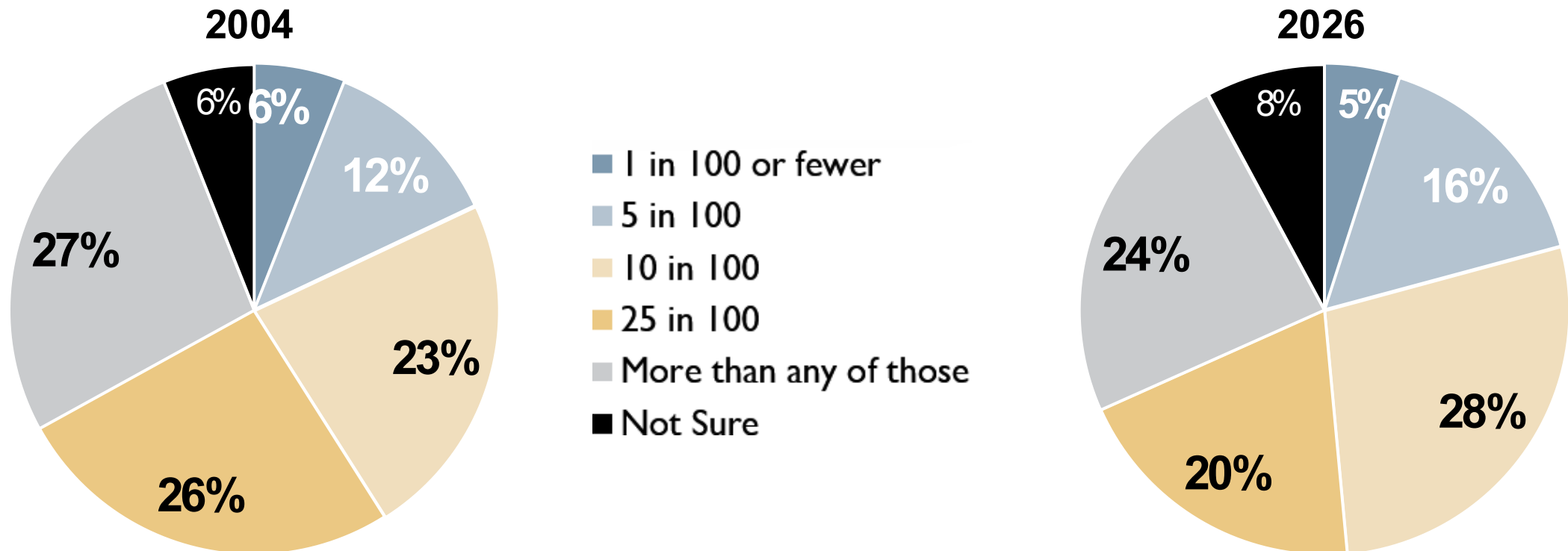
In general, do you think that addiction to alcohol or other drugs primarily is a disease and a health problem, or primarily is a personal or moral weakness?



Public Perception of Addiction Prevalence

Public perceptions of addiction prevalence remain consistently elevated across both years, with a strong majority estimating that at least 10% of Americans are addicted to alcohol or other drugs. Notably, **more than half of respondents in 2004 (53%) and nearly half in 2026 (44%) believed that at least 25% or more of the population is currently addicted.**

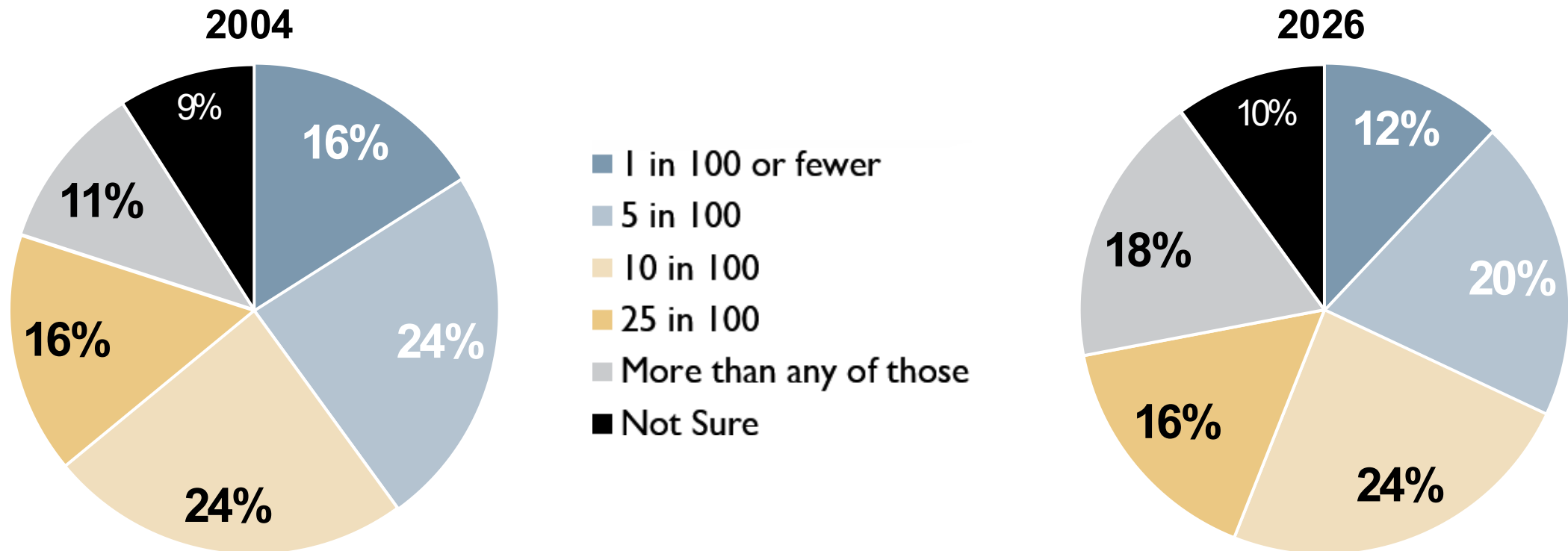
There has been a lot of discussion about the problem of addiction to alcohol and other drugs. About how many people in the United States you think currently are addicted to alcohol or other drugs?



Public Perception of Recovery Prevalence

Public perceptions of recovery prevalence remain relatively stable over time, with a majority in both 2004 and 2026 estimating that at least 10% of Americans are in recovery. Notably, those who believe that 25% or more of the population is in recovery increased from 27% in 2004 to 34% in 2026 suggesting growing recognition of recovery as a substantial and visible segment of the population.

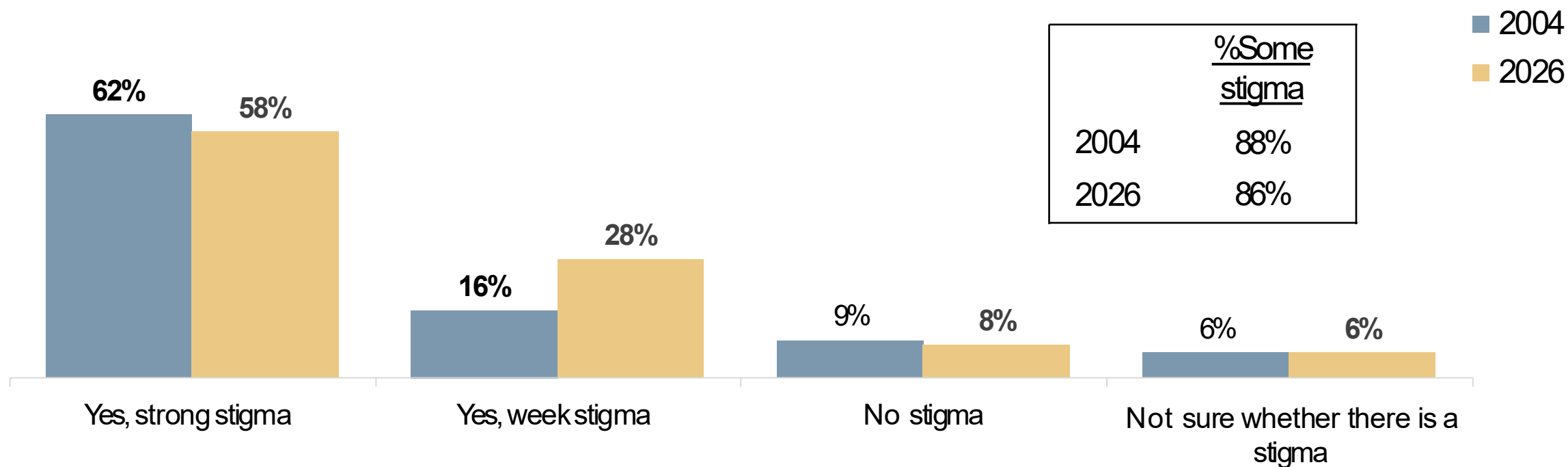
How many people you think are in recovery from addiction to alcohol or other drugs? Again, the term “in recovery” means that someone has had a problem with alcohol and/or other drugs in the past and no longer does.



Stigma: Addiction

Stigma toward people with an alcohol or drug problem remains widely recognized, with a majority in both years saying it is strong (62% in 2004 vs. 58% in 2026). While “strong stigma” declined slightly (-4) and “weak stigma” increased (+12), overall acknowledgment that stigma exists remains high – 86% or respondents believe there is at least some stigma, down -2 points since 2004.

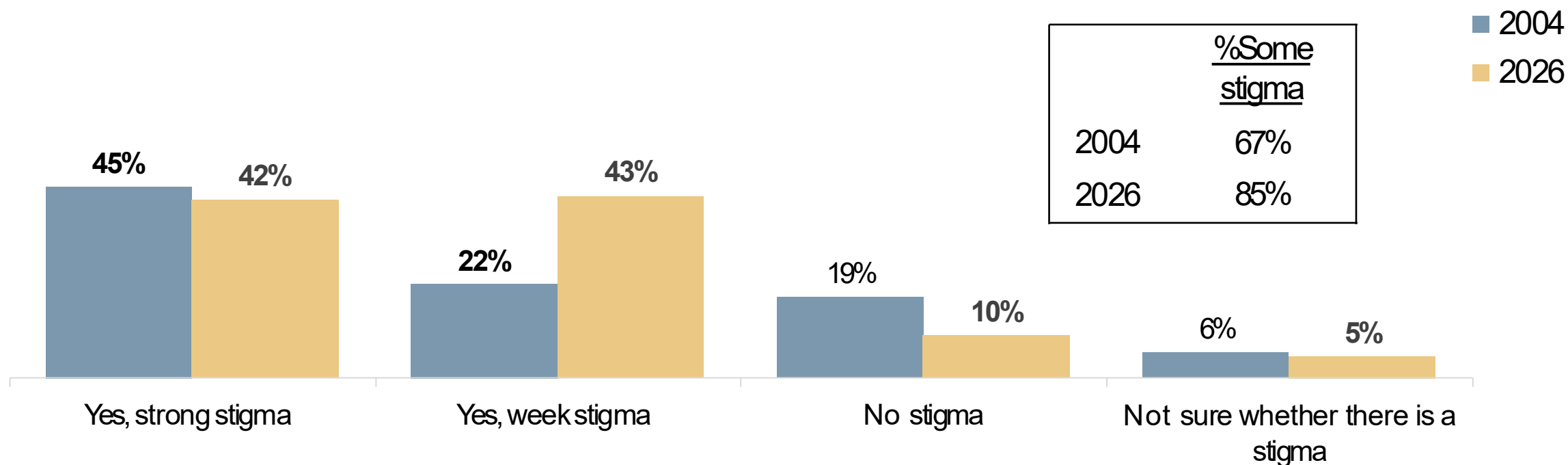
*The dictionary defines a stigma as “set of negative and unfair beliefs that a society or group of people have about someone or something.” Using this definition, do you think there is or is not a **stigma towards people with an alcohol or drug problem?***



Stigma: Recovery

Stigma toward people in recovery remains widely recognized, with 85% saying at least some stigma exists—a +22 point increase since 2004 and nearly equal to perceptions of stigma toward those with active substance use problems. While perceptions of strong stigma declined slightly (45% to 42%) and weaker stigma increased (22% to 43%), overall awareness of stigma toward recovery remains high.

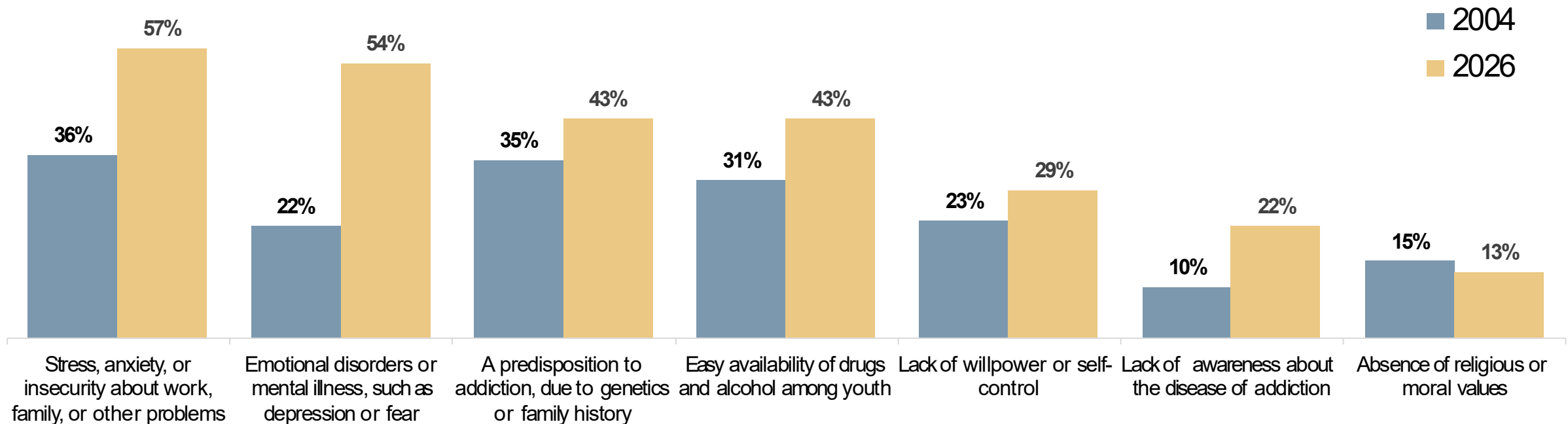
*The dictionary defines a stigma as "set of negative and unfair beliefs that a society or group of people have about someone or something." Using this definition, do you think there is or is not a **stigma toward people in recovery**?*



Causes of Addiction

Public understanding of addiction has shifted significantly since 2004. More people now attribute alcohol and drug problems to mental illness (57%) and genetic or biological factors (54%), both rising sharply over the past two decades. Structural causes such as stressful life circumstances (43%) have also increased, while character-based explanations like lack of willpower rank lower.

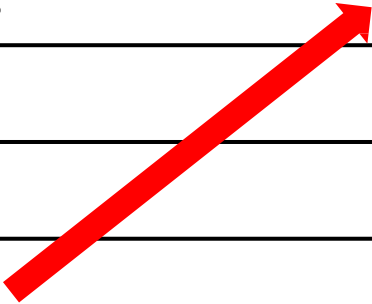
Which two or three of the following do you consider to be the most important factors contributing to a person having a problem with alcohol or drug use? (Select up to 3 responses)



Causes of Addiction

Which two or three of the following do you consider to be the most important factors contributing to a person having a problem with alcohol or drug use?

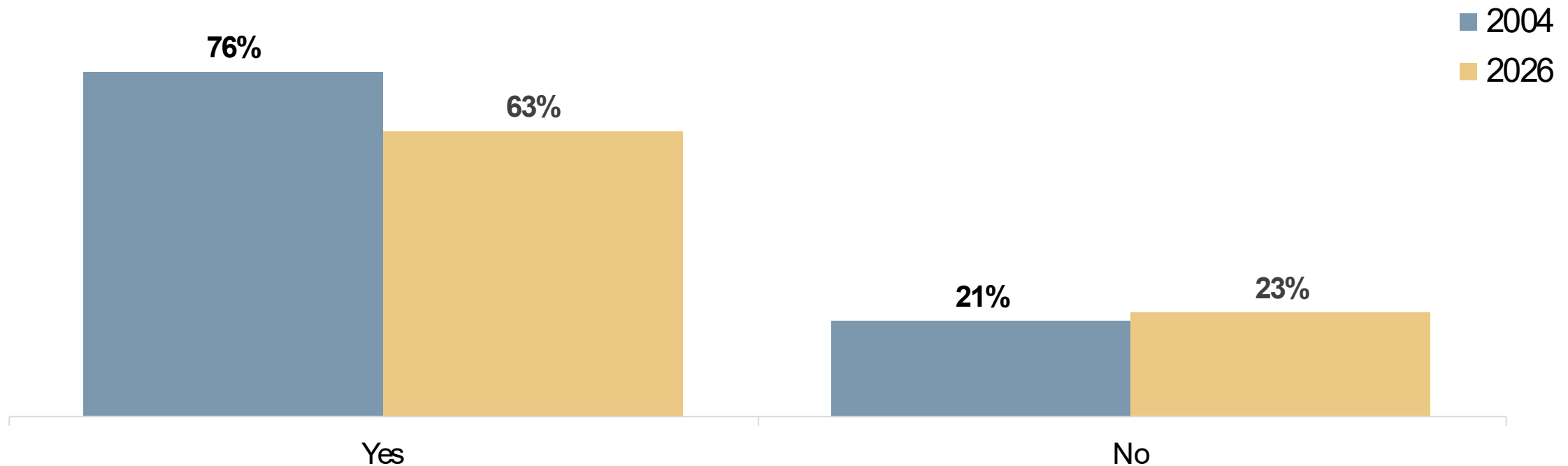
RANK	2004	2026
1	Stress and Anxiety	Stress and Anxiety
2	Predisposition/Genetics	Emotional Disorders
3	Availability to Minors	Predisposition/Genetics
4	Lack of Will Power	Availability to Minors
5	Emotional Disorders	Lack of Will Power
6	Absence of Faith/Moral Values	Lack of Awareness
7	Lack of Awareness	Absence of Faith/Moral Values



Addiction Assistance

While a majority in both years say they would know where to go for help (declining modestly to 63% in 2026), the share who say they would not know increased to 23%, indicating that despite greater public attention to behavioral health, perceived navigation of services has not meaningfully improved and may have become more uncertain.

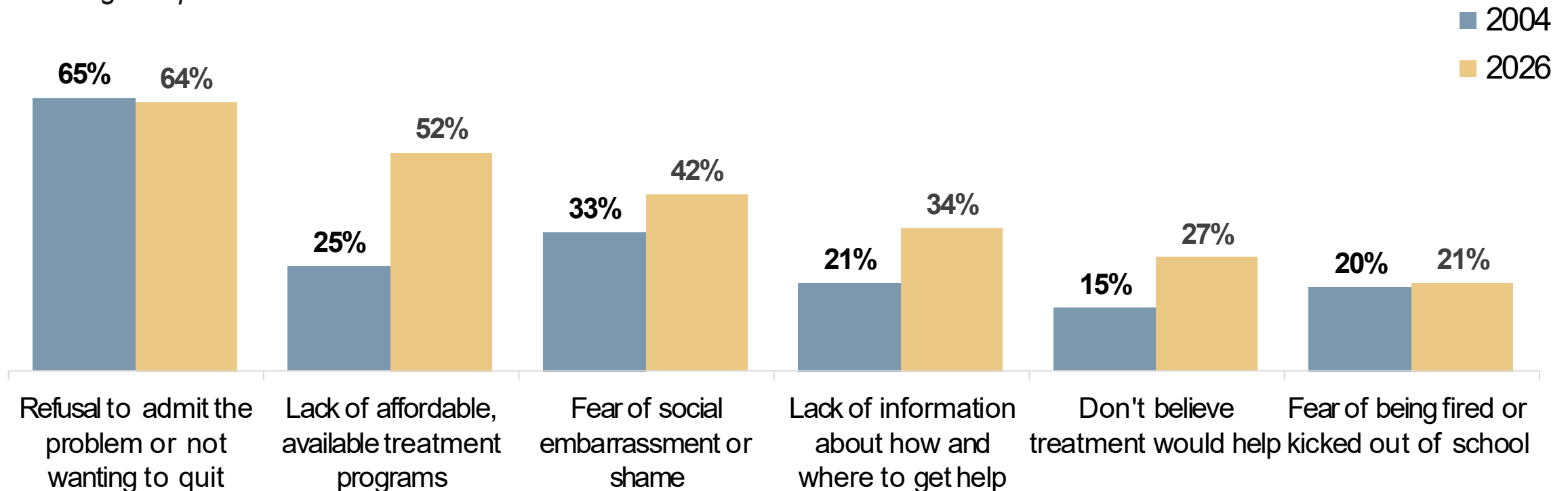
*And if **you** developed a problem with alcohol and/or drug use, would you know where to go to get the help you would need?*



Refusing Help

Refusal to admit the problem remains the leading perceived barrier to seeking help in both years. However, by 2026 structural factors — particularly cost, stigma, and lack of information — gained prominence, indicating increased recognition that systemic barriers also drive non-treatment.

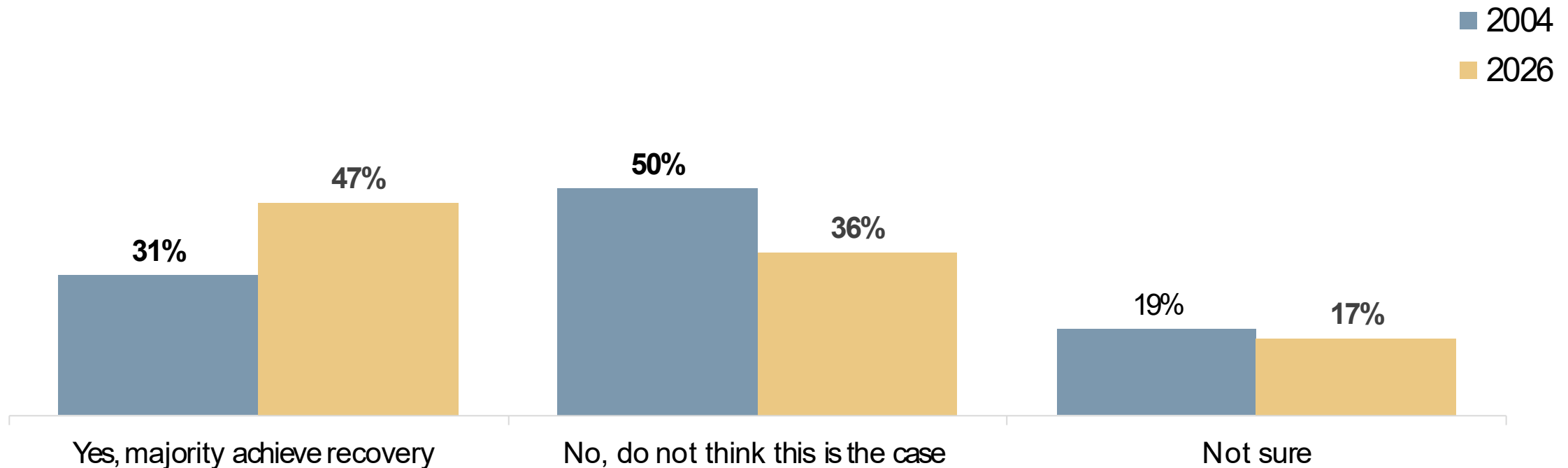
People have suggested various reasons why some people with a problem with alcohol and/or drug use do not get the help they need. Which two or three of the following do you personally think are the main reasons why people with a problem with alcohol and/or drug use do not get help?



Recovery Outcomes

Public optimism about treatment outcomes has increased meaningfully over time. In 2026, 47% believe the majority who seek treatment achieve lifelong recovery — up from 31% in 2004 — while the share who believe that is not the case declined, indicating growing confidence in the effectiveness of recovery.

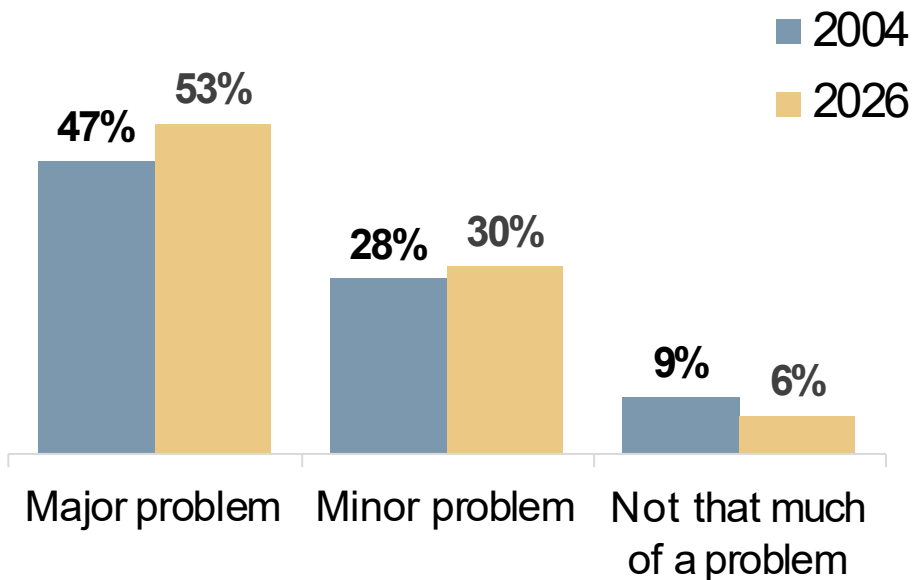
Do you think the majority of those who have made the choice to seek treatment for addiction to alcohol or other drugs achieve lifelong recovery, or do you think that is probably not the case?



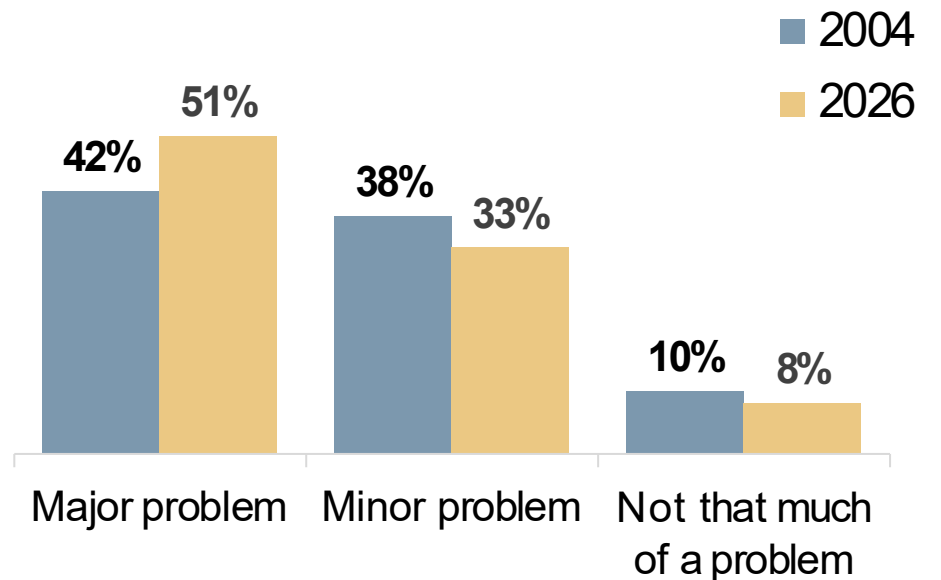
Recovery Discrimination

Public concern about discrimination against people in recovery remains high and has modestly increased in key areas. In 2026, a majority view denial of insurance (53%) and denial of jobs or promotions (51%) as major problems, up from 2004 levels.

*How much of a problem do you think people in recovery from addiction to alcohol or other drugs being **denied medical, life, or other insurance coverage** is in the United States today?*



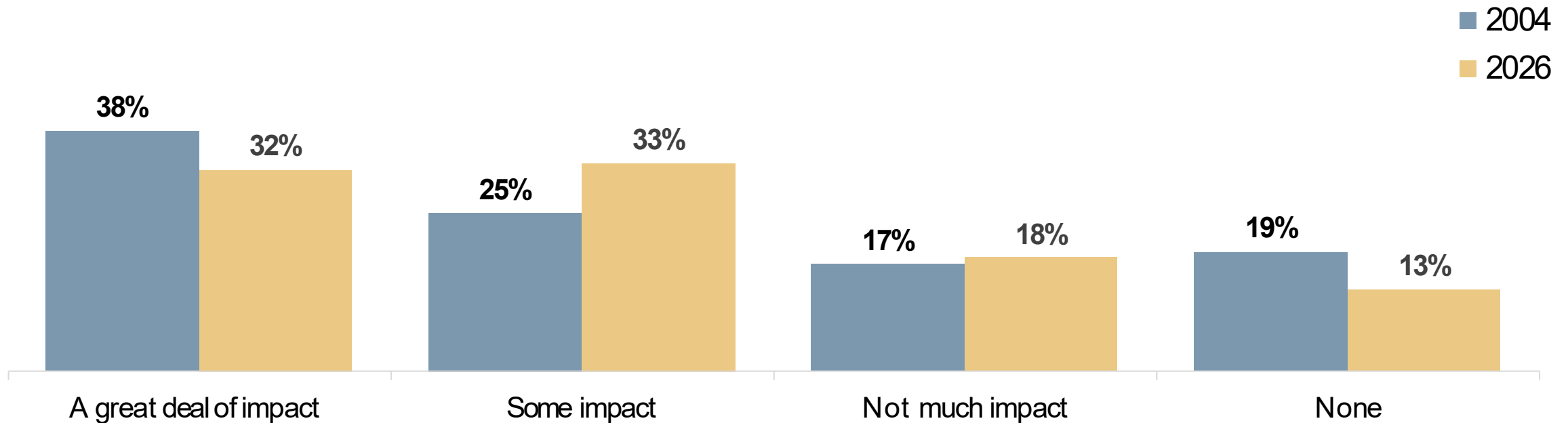
*How much of a problem do you think people in recovery from addiction to alcohol or other drugs being **denied a job or promotion** is in the United States today?*



Impacted by Addiction

The share of Americans reporting personal impact from addiction remains consistently high across both years. Roughly two-thirds in both 2004 and 2026 say addiction has had either a great deal or some impact on their lives (about 64–65%), indicating that exposure to addiction is widespread and stable over time.

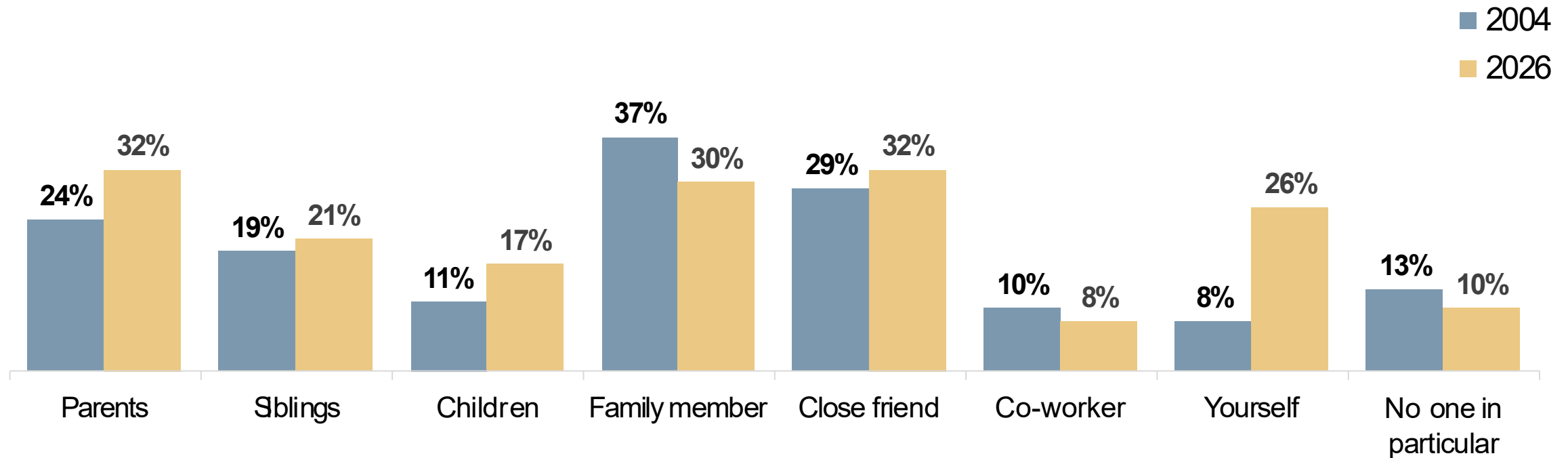
How much impact has addiction to alcohol or other drugs--whether it be because of the addiction of a friend or family member, your own addiction, or any other experience with addiction--had on your life at some point?



Source of Impact

Personal exposure to addiction remains widespread and family-centered. In 2026, the most commonly cited sources of impact are parents (32%), another family member (32%), and a close friend (30%), indicating that addiction is primarily experienced within immediate social networks. **Notably, self-identified impact rose sharply from 8% to 26%.**

*Who of the following have caused the issue of addiction to have an impact on your life at any point--your parents, your brothers or sisters, children, another family member, a close friend, a co-worker, yourself, or no one in particular?**

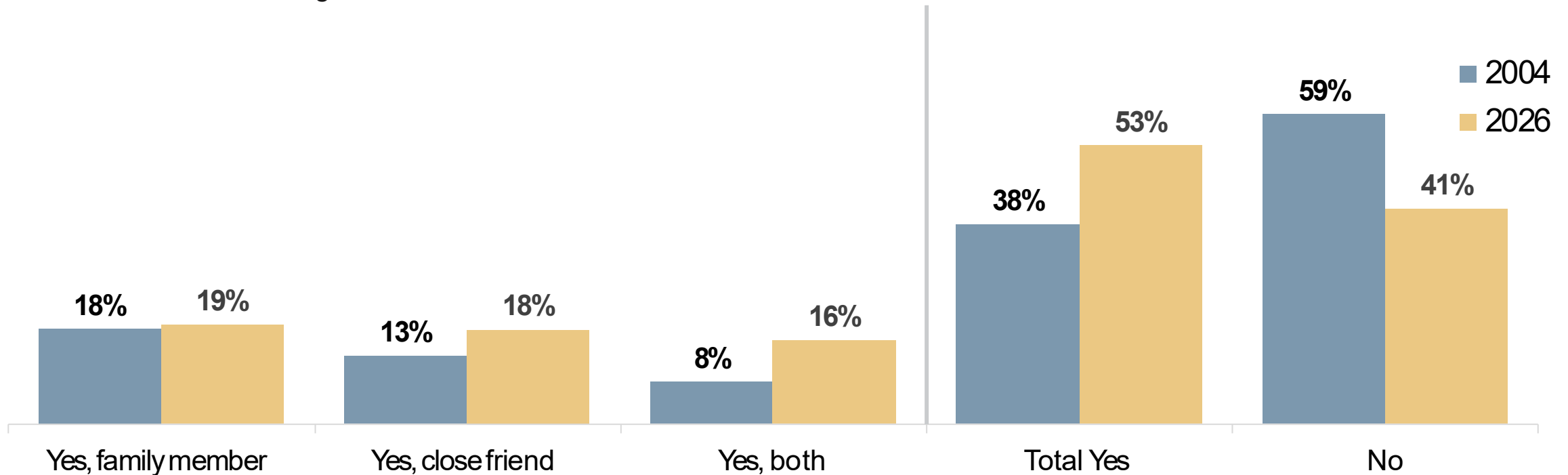


* Asked only of respondents who say addiction has a great deal or some impact on their lives

Experience with Recovery

Experience with recovery increased significantly from 2004 to 2026 (+21 percentage points), with more respondents reporting a family member or close friend in recovery and fewer saying they know no one in recovery (declining from 53% to 41%). The number of respondents that indicated they had both a family member and close friend in recovery doubled from 8% to 16%.

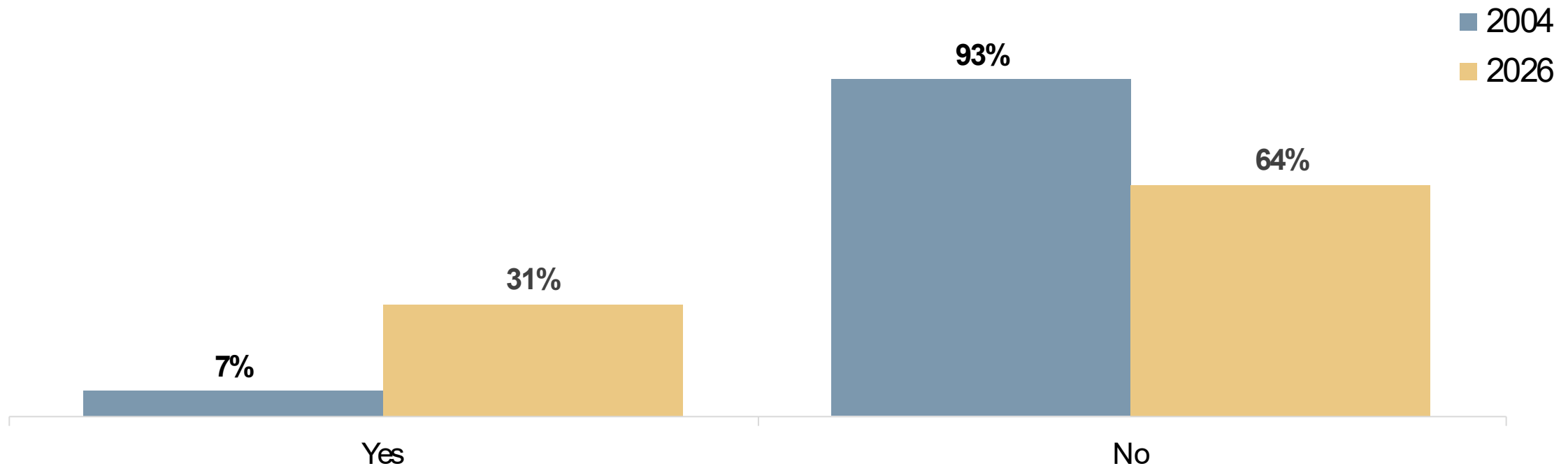
And do you have a family member or close friend who is currently in recovery from addiction to alcohol or other drugs or formerly addicted to alcohol or other drugs?



Personal Experience with Recovery

A substantially larger share of Americans now report having previously had a problem with alcohol or drugs but no longer do, rising to 31% in 2026, suggesting increased recognition and openness about recovery. At the same time, the share saying they never had a problem declined - 29 points to 64%.

Did you once have a problem with alcohol or drug use and no longer do?



2026 BASELINE QUESTIONS

Stigma and Discrimination Remain Widespread

- 86% of Americans say addiction carries stigma, including 58% who say the stigma is strong.
- 85% say there is stigma toward people in recovery, though fewer describe it as strong (42% strong stigma).
- 88% believe people with addiction face discrimination, and 86% say people in recovery still experience discrimination, suggesting stigma persists even after someone stops using.

Public Understanding of Addiction Reflects a Health and Social Model

- Majorities attribute addiction to stress or life pressures (57%) and mental illness (54%), indicating recognition of psychological drivers.
- Structural and biological factors are also widely recognized, including genetics/family history (43%) and availability of drugs and alcohol (43%).
- Moral explanations rank much lower, with lack of willpower cited by only 29%.

Strong Public Support for Addiction Treatment Coverage

- 85% support requiring private insurers to cover addiction treatment and recovery services, with just 9% opposed.
- 83% support requiring Medicaid to cover addiction treatment, reflecting strong bipartisan support for addiction care as essential healthcare.

Recovery Is Increasingly Visible in Communities

- 60% say people in recovery are visible in their communities, while 33% say they are not visible.
- Visibility increases significantly among people with personal connections to addiction or recovery, suggesting lived experience shapes perception.

Mixed Perceptions of Community Acceptance

- 51% believe people in recovery generally feel welcome in their communities, compared with 37% who say they do not.
- 47% believe people in recovery feel comfortable being open about their past substance use, while 48% believe they do not, reflecting ongoing social tension around disclosure.

Cultural Attitudes Toward Recovery Are Improving

- 76% say communities are more supportive of people in recovery than they were 10 years ago, indicating perceived cultural progress.
- 75% say people in recovery should be trusted with leadership roles, demonstrating strong confidence in the recovery community.
- 85% say they would feel comfortable working closely with someone in recovery.

Structural Gaps in Recovery Support Remain

- Public opinion is divided on whether communities have enough resources for recovery: 40% say yes, 41% say no.
- Only 46% believe someone in recovery would know where to go for help in their community, suggesting significant gaps in awareness or navigation of services.

Perceived Barriers to Sustaining Recovery

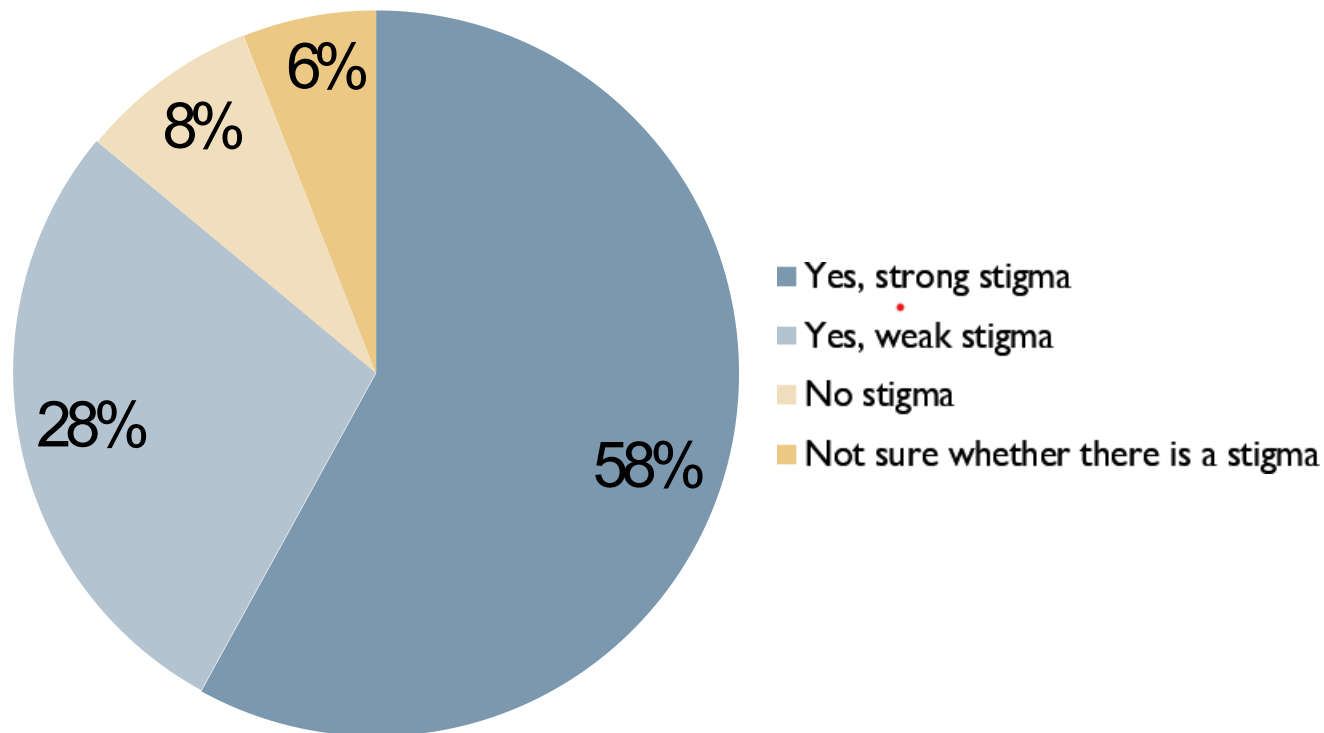
- The public most often cites personal challenges or life pressures (45%) as the main reason people disengage from recovery early.
- Other factors—including stigma (16%), lack of community support (16%), and program or system barriers (15%)—are cited less frequently.

Responsibility for Recovery Is Seen as Mixed

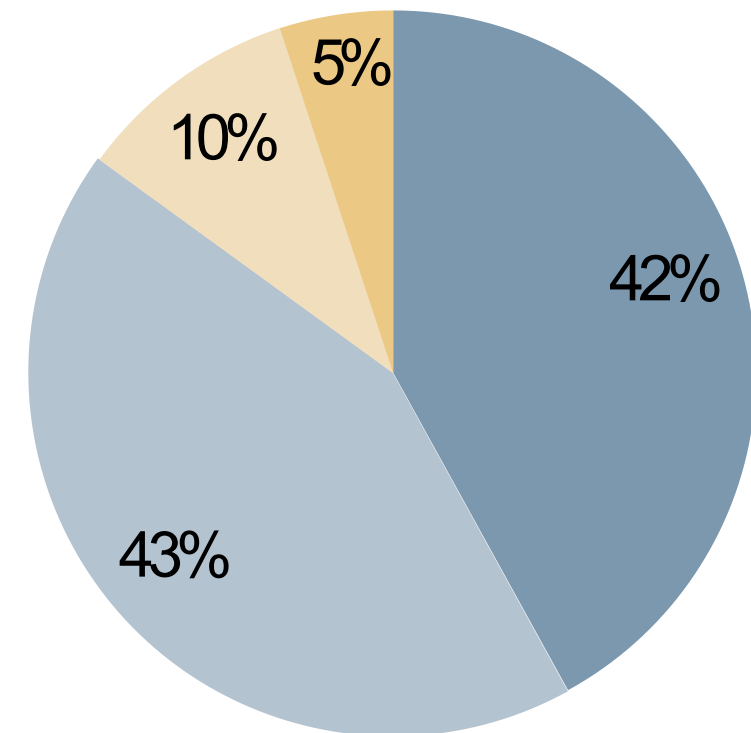
- 50% say recovery support is primarily an individual responsibility, while 43% believe it should be a shared community responsibility.
- This divide suggests Americans recognize community roles in recovery, but still place greater emphasis on individual responsibility.

Stigma toward addiction and recovery remains widely acknowledged, but its perceived intensity differs. For addiction, 86% of respondents believe there is a stigma (58% strong stigma). For recovery, 85% believe there is a stigma (42% strong stigma). Overall, recovery is viewed as somewhat less stigmatized than active addiction.

*Do you think there is or is not a stigma towards people with an **alcohol or drug problem**?*



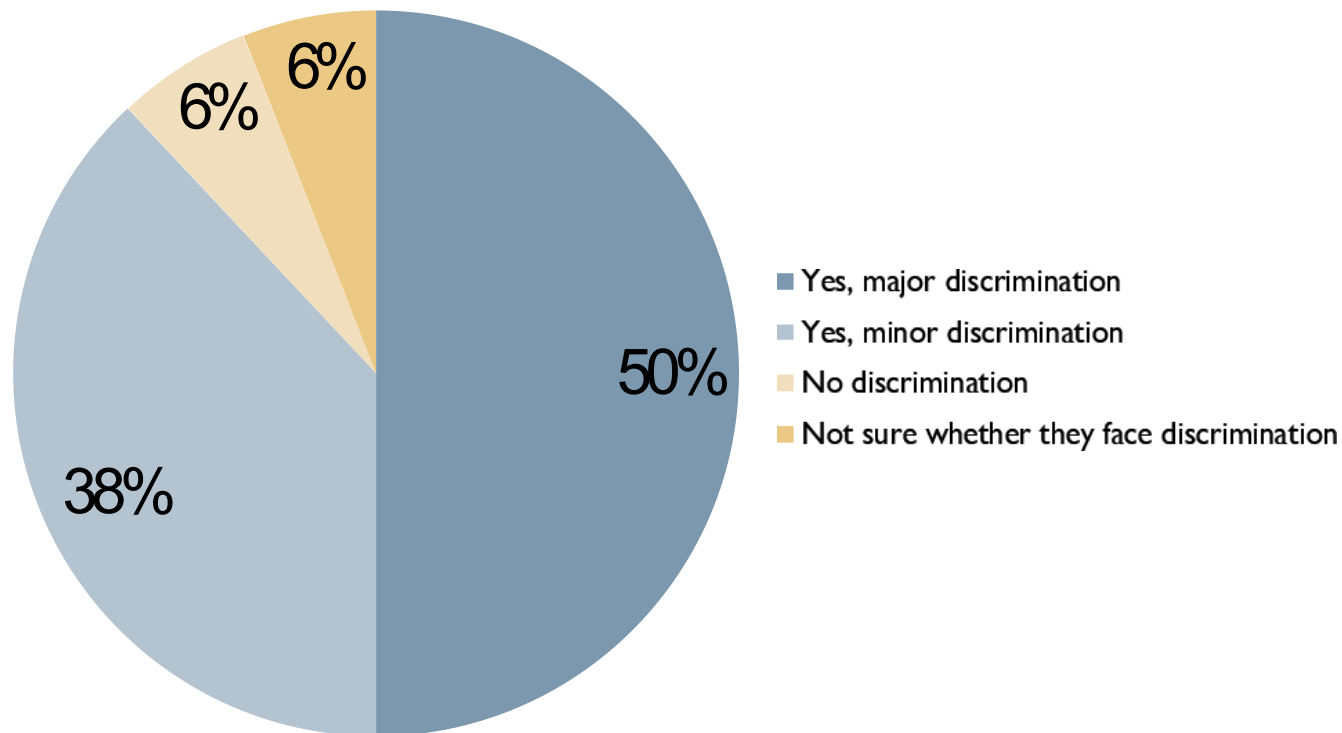
*Do you think there is or is not a stigma toward people **in recovery**?*



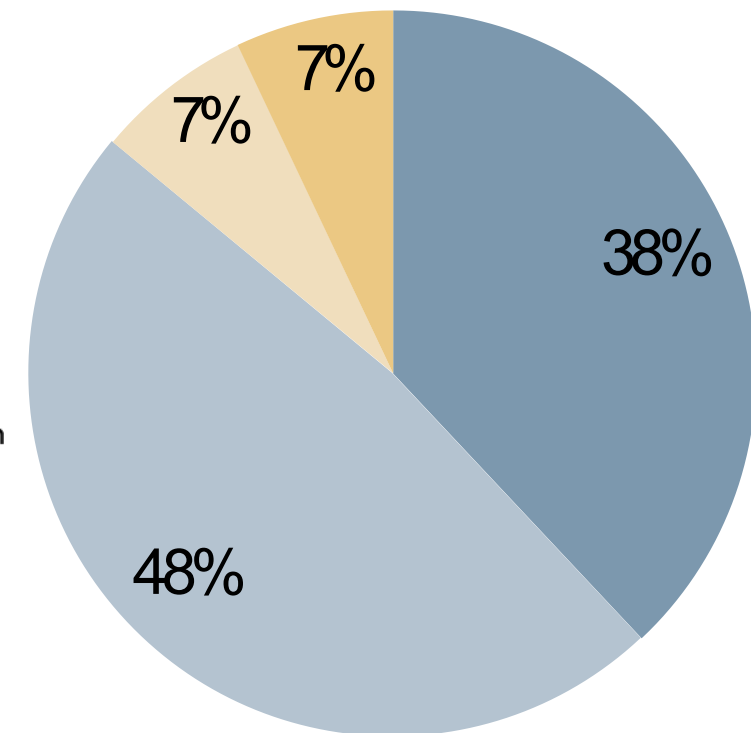
Discrimination

A large majority of Americans believe people with alcohol or drug problems face discrimination, with 88% saying they experience either major (50%) or minor (38%) discrimination. Perceptions are similar for people in recovery, with 86% believing they face discrimination (38% major, 48% minor), indicating perceived discrimination remains widespread even after someone stops using.

*Do you think people with an **alcohol or drug problem** face discrimination?*



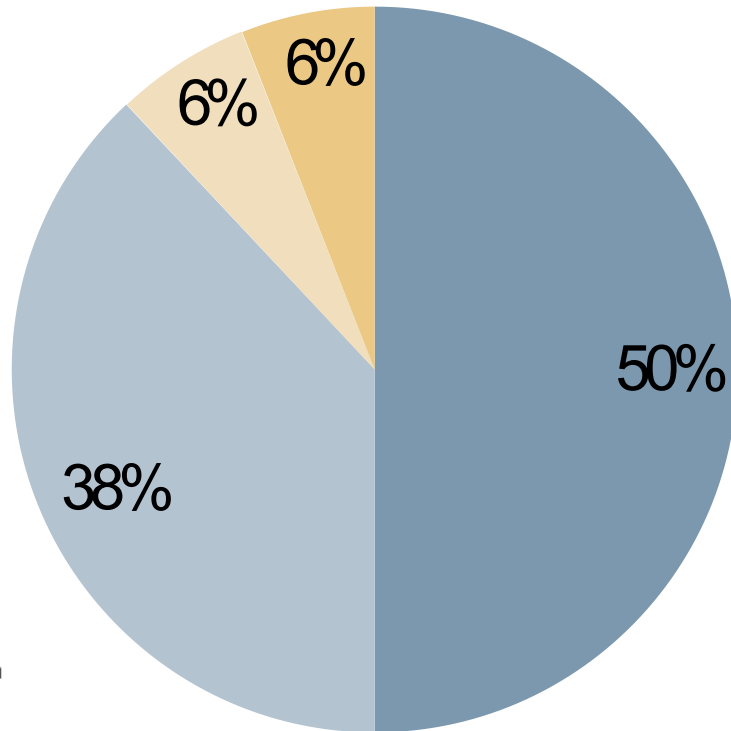
*Do you think people in **recovery** face discrimination?*



Stigma vs. Discrimination

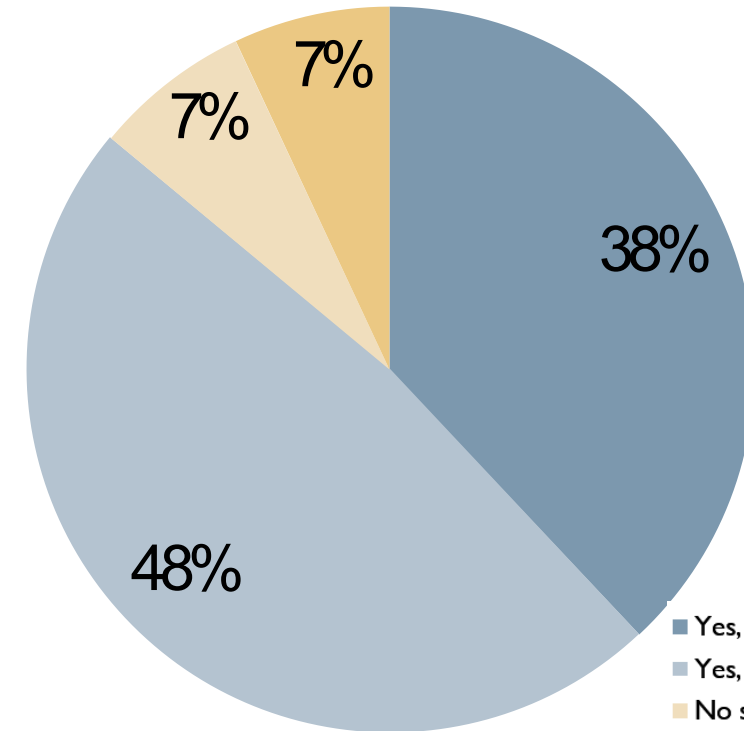
Respondents are less likely to describe major discrimination (38%), but still overwhelmingly say stigma toward people in recovery exists (85%). This suggests the term stigma captures broader social judgment, while discrimination is interpreted as more concrete or institutional treatment.

*Do you think there is or is not a **stigma** toward people in recovery?*



- Yes, major discrimination
- Yes, minor discrimination
- No discrimination
- Not sure whether they face discrimination

*Do you think people in recovery face **discrimination**?*

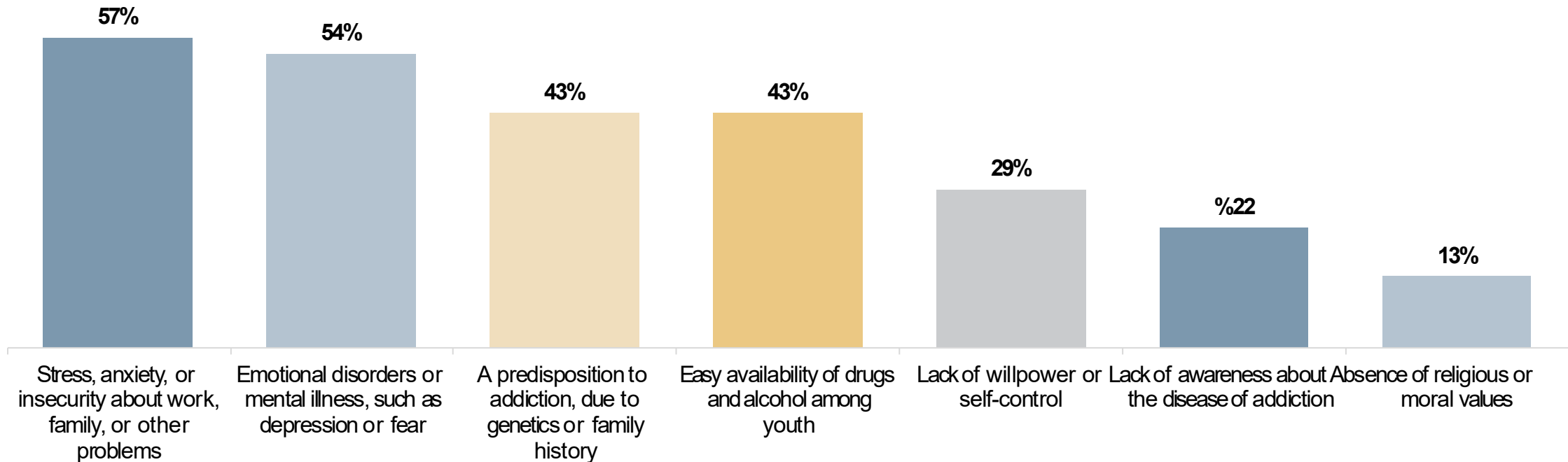


- Yes, strong stigma
- Yes, weak stigma
- No stigma
- Not sure whether there is a stigma

Causes of Addiction

Psychological and environmental drivers dominate public understanding of addiction. A majority cite stress/anxiety (57%) and emotional disorders or mental illness (54%) as top contributors. Structural and biological explanations also rank high, including genetics/family history (43%) and availability of drugs/alcohol (43%).

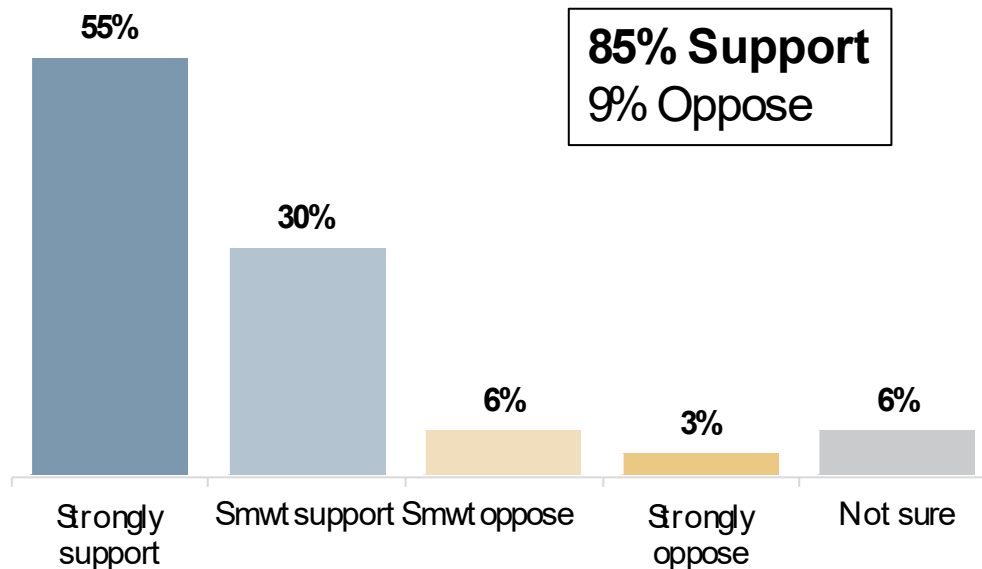
Which two or three of the following do you consider to be the most important factors contributing to a person having a problem with alcohol or drug use? (Select up to 3 responses)



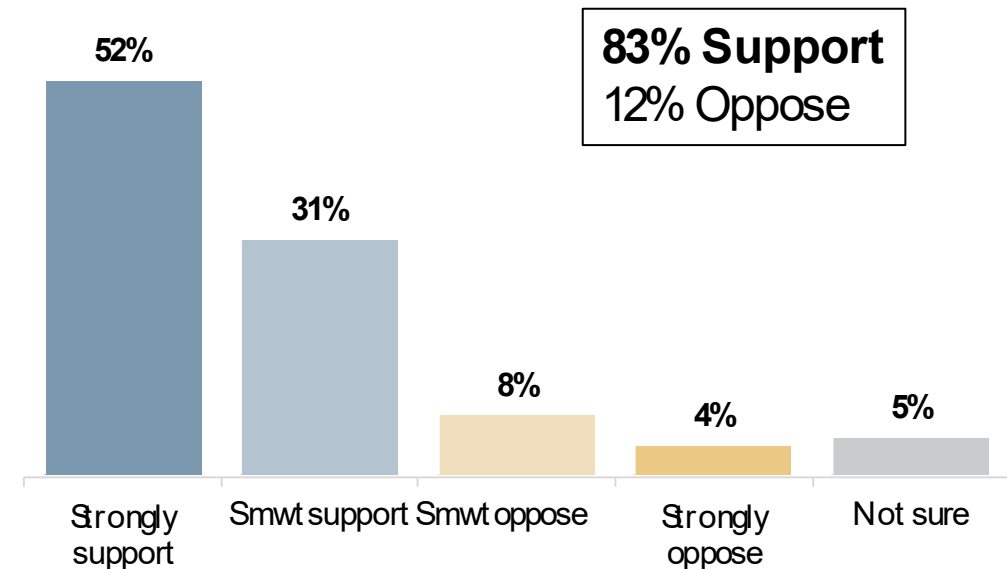
Treatment Coverage

Public support for requiring both private insurers and Medicaid to cover addiction treatment and recovery services is strong and broadly aligned. The consistency across private insurance and Medicaid suggests bipartisan or cross-ideological acceptance that addiction treatment should be treated as essential healthcare rather than optional coverage.

*Do you support or oppose requiring **private health insurers** to cover addiction treatment and recovery support services?*



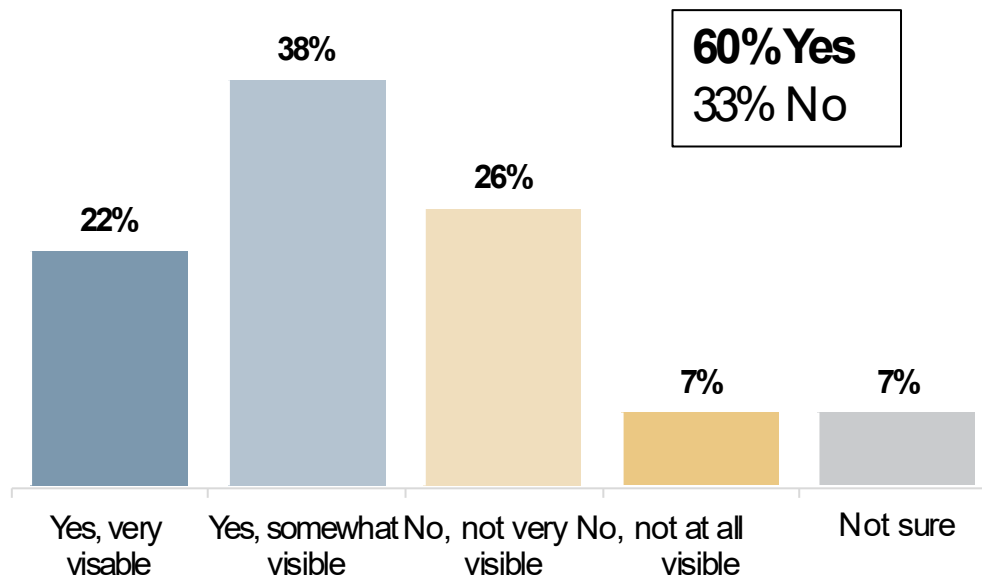
*Do you support or oppose requiring **Medicaid** to cover addiction treatment and recovery support services?*



Perceptions of the Recovery Community

A clear majority of respondents (60%) indicate that people in recovery are visible in their communities, with relatively few (33%) saying they are not visible or expressing uncertainty. But recovery visibility is not evenly distributed — it scales with personal connection to addiction and recovery.

Do you think people in recovery are visible in your community?



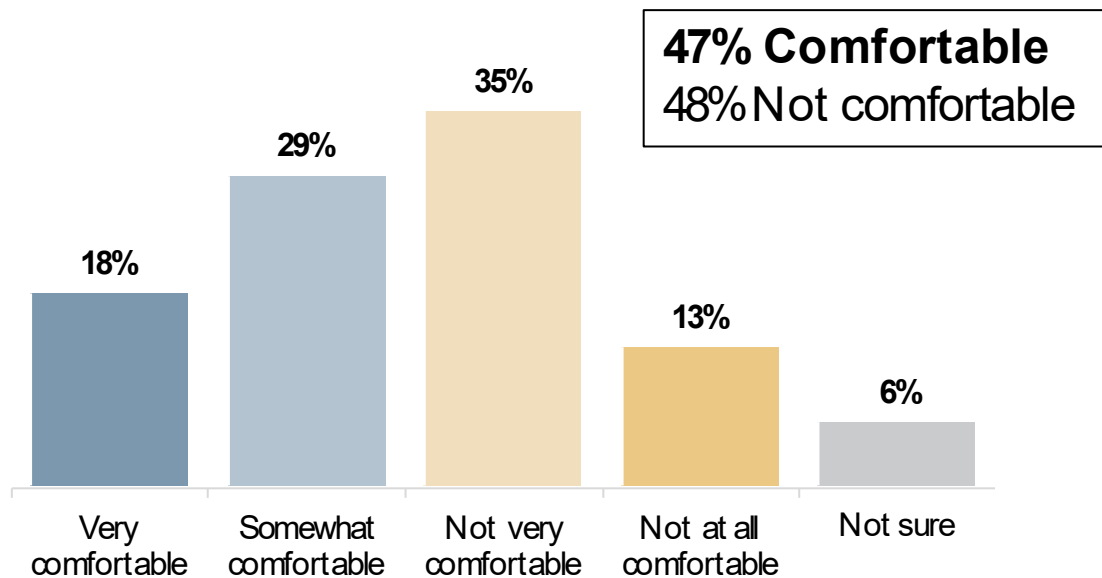
RESPONDENTS WITH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

	IMPACT OF ADDICTION			KNOW SOMEONE IN RECOVERY			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
	Great Deal	Some	Not much/not at all	Yes, family	Yes, close friend	Yes, Both	Yes	No
Total Yes	71%	69%	43%	72%	72%	78%	77%	53%
Total No	25%	29%	46%	26%	26%	21%	22%	39%
NET Yes	+46%	+40%	-3%	+46%	+46%	+57%	+55%	+14%

Perceptions of the Recovery Community

Overall, respondents were split on whether or not people in recovery are comfortable about being open about their previous alcohol or drug problems (47% Comfortable, 48% Uncomfortable)

How comfortable do you think people in recovery feel about being open about their previous alcohol and/or drug problems in their everyday lives?



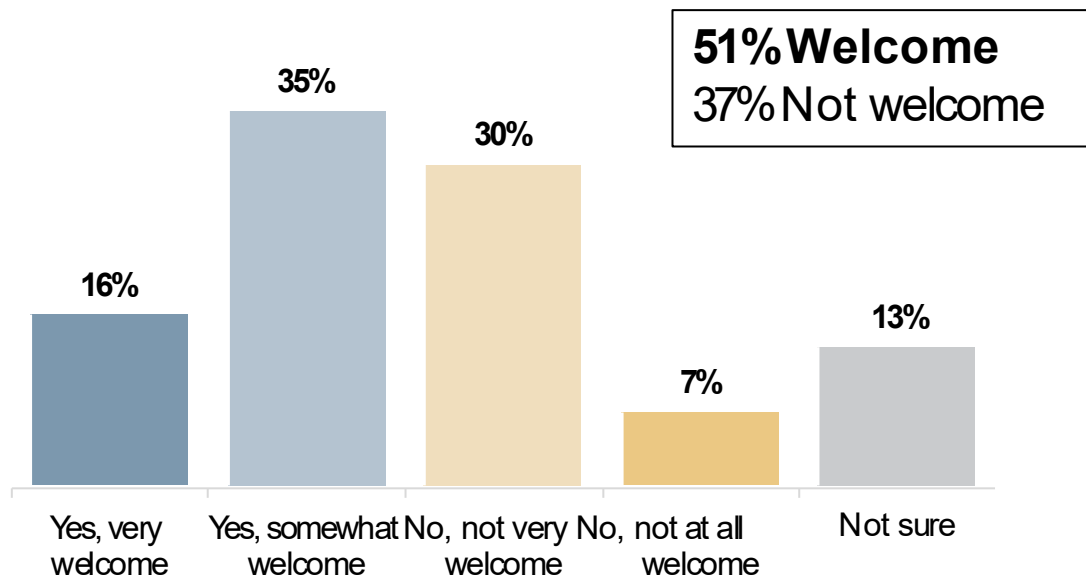
RESPONDENTS WITH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

	IMPACT OF ADDICTION			KNOW SOMEONE IN RECOVERY			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
	Great Deal	Some	Not much/not at all	Yes, family	Yes, close friend	Yes, Both	Yes	No
Total Comfortable	54%	53%	35%	59%	61%	58%	62%	40%
Total Not Comfortable	44%	44%	56%	40%	36%	40%	36%	54%
NET	+10%	+9%	-21%	+19%	+25%	+18%	+26%	-14%

Perceptions of the Recovery Community

A majority of respondents (51%) believe people in recovery generally feel welcome in their communities, with positive responses clearly outweighing negative ones. Net favorability is positive across nearly all subgroups, but perceptions are more positive among those with personal or relational experience with addiction.

Do you think people in recovery generally feel welcome in their communities?



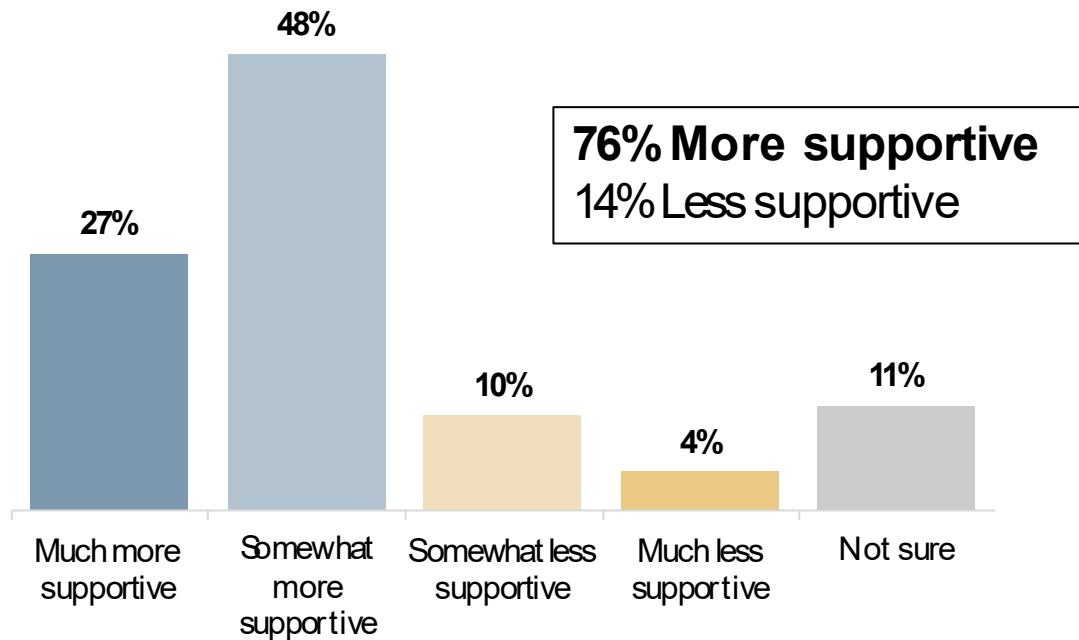
RESPONDENTS WITH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

	IMPACT OF ADDICTION			KNOW SOMEONE IN RECOVERY			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
	Great Deal	Some	Not much/not at all	Yes, family	Yes, close friend	Yes, Both	Yes	No
Total Welcome	60%	57%	39%	60%	61%	71%	64%	46%
Total Not Welcome	31%	37%	43%	35%	34%	29%	34%	39%
NET	+29%	+20%	-4%	+25%	+27%	+42%	+30%	+7%

Perceptions of the Recovery Community

Overall, the data reflect a broad perception that communities have become more supportive of people in recovery over the past decade, signaling meaningful cultural progress. However, respondents with minimal or no personal experience with addiction are less likely to recognize that improvement.

Compared to 10 years ago, do you think communities are more supportive or less supportive towards people in recovery?



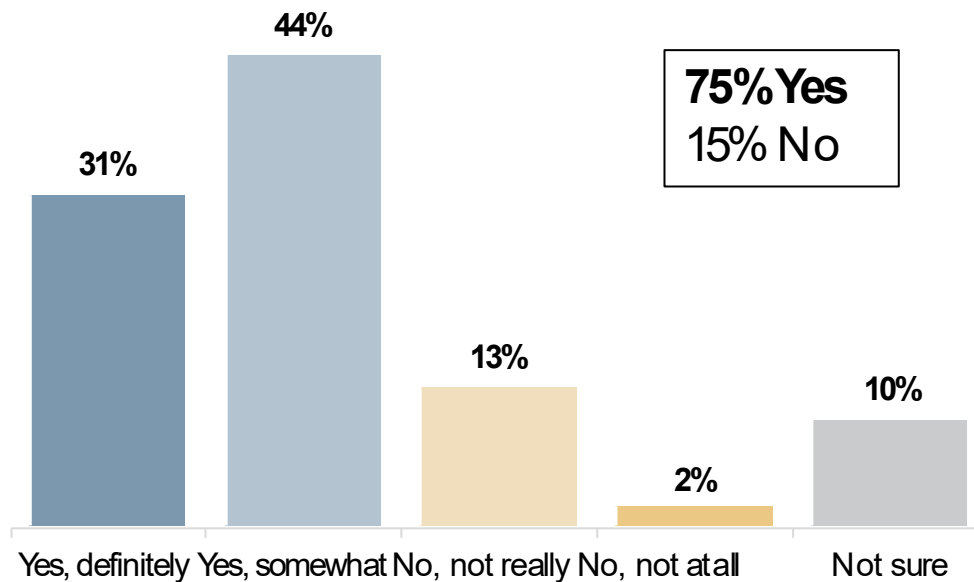
RESPONDENTS WITH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

	IMPACT OF ADDICTION			KNOW SOMEONE IN RECOVERY			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
	Great Deal	Some	Not much/not at all	Yes, family	Yes, close friend	Yes, Both	Yes	No
More supportive	85%	82%	67%	82%	83%	78%	82%	75%
Less supportive	10%	12%	21%	10%	13%	18%	12%	15%
NET	+75%	+70%	+46%	+72%	+70%	+60%	+70%	+60%

Perceptions of the Recovery Community

Trust in people in recovery to hold leadership roles is broad and majority-driven across all groups. 75% of respondents say people in recovery should be trusted with responsibility and leadership roles (31% definitely, 44% somewhat). Only 15% oppose (13% not really, 2% not at all). Again, trust significantly increases with personal experience with addiction and recovery.

Do you think people in recovery should be trusted to take on responsibility and leadership roles within their communities?



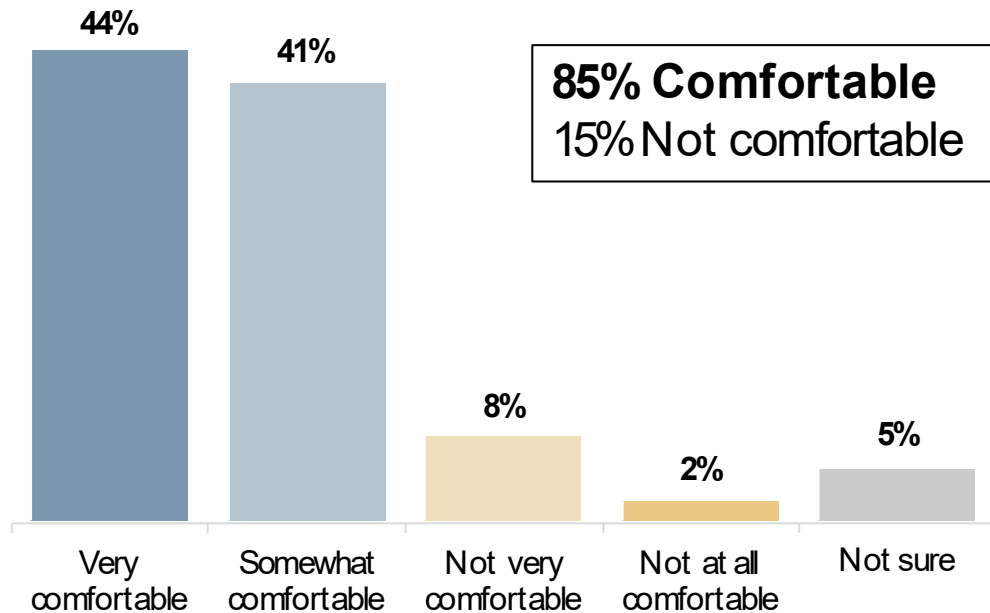
RESPONDENTS WITH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

	IMPACT OF ADDICTION			KNOW SOMEONE IN RECOVERY			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
	Great Deal	Some	Not much/not at all	Yes, family	Yes, close friend	Yes, Both	Yes	No
Total Yes	87%	82%	60%	88%	86%	85%	86%	71%
Total No	8%	14%	25%	11%	9%	13%	12%	17%
NET Yes	+79%	+68%	+35%	+77%	+77%	+72%	+74%	+54%

Perceptions of the Recovery Community

A strong majority report feeling comfortable—most indicating they would be very (44%) or somewhat comfortable (41%) working with a colleague or classmate in recovery. Even a strong majority (76%) of respondents with little or no direct exposure to addiction and recovery reported they would feel comfortable (30% very comfortable, 46% somewhat comfortable).

How comfortable would you feel working closely with a colleague or classmate who is in recovery?



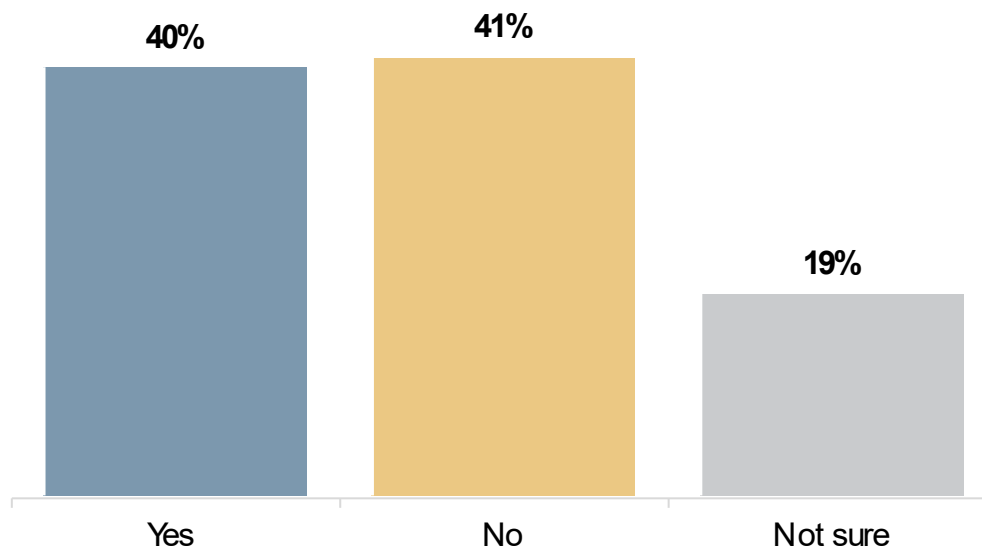
RESPONDENTS WITH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

	IMPACT OF ADDICTION			KNOW SOMEONE IN RECOVERY			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
	Great Deal	Some	Not much/not at all	Yes, family	Yes, close friend	Yes, Both	Yes	No
Total Comfortable	94%	90%	76%	89%	91%	84%	91%	85%
Total Not Comfortable	5%	8%	18%	10%	7%	15%	8%	10%
NET	+89%	+82%	+58%	+79%	+84%	+69%	+83%	+75%

Perceptions of the Recovery Community

Overall, respondents were divided over whether or not their community has enough resources. However, respondents with personal or family experience with addiction and recovery are more likely to say their communities have enough resources, suggesting lived experience may influence their view of available recovery support systems.

Do you believe that your community has enough resources to support people in recovery?



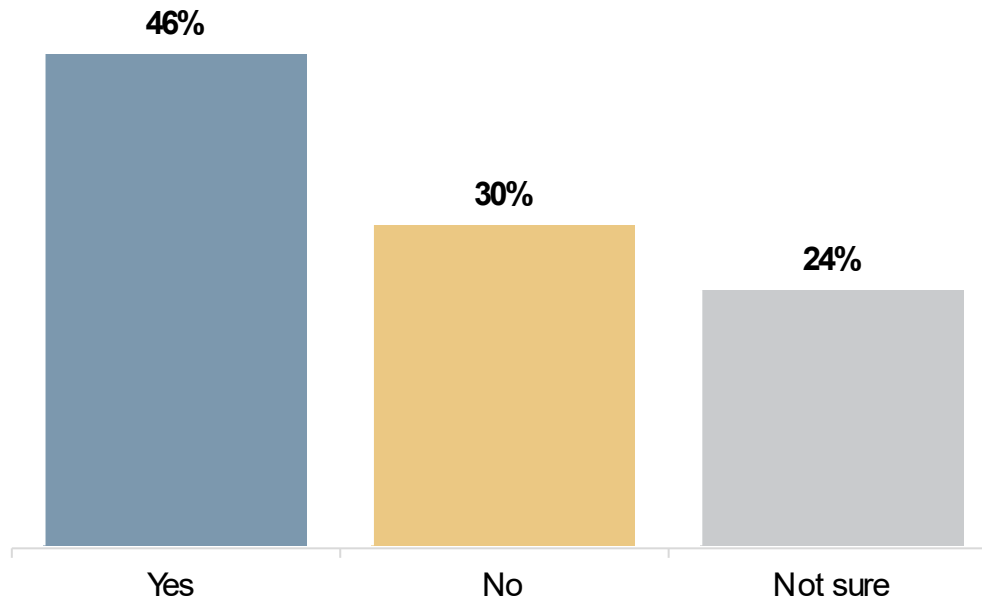
RESPONDENTS WITH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

	IMPACT OF ADDICTION			KNOW SOMEONE IN RECOVERY			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
	Great Deal	Some	Not much/not at all	Yes, family	Yes, close friend	Yes, Both	Yes	No
Yes	50%	42%	32%	50%	47%	45%	53%	35%
No	37%	43%	42%	38%	42%	45%	38%	43%
NET Yes	+13%	-1%	-10%	+12%	+5%	-	+15%	-8%

Perceptions of the Recovery Community

Only 46% of respondents believe someone would know where to go for help, with nearly one-quarter of respondents saying they were unsure. Respondents with a personal connection to addiction and recovery were significantly more likely to say yes than those without a personal connection.

If someone in recovery needed help today, do you think they would know where to go to receive help in your community?



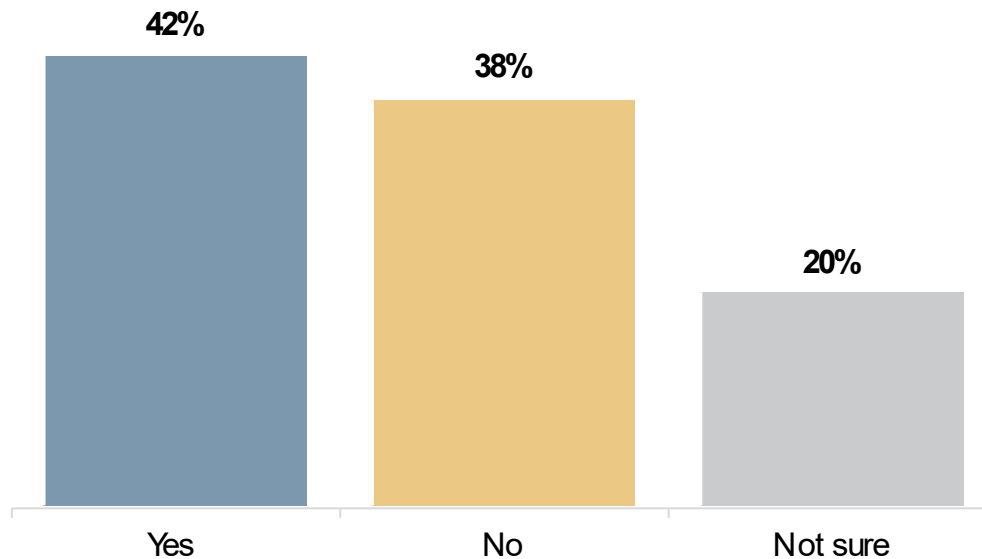
RESPONDENTS WITH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

	IMPACT OF ADDICTION			KNOW SOMEONE IN RECOVERY			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
	Great Deal	Some	Not much/not at all	Yes, family	Yes, close friend	Yes, Both	Yes	No
Yes	56%	52%	34%	57%	61%	48%	58%	43%
No	26%	28%	38%	29%	25%	33%	28%	30%
NET Yes	+30%	+24%	-4%	+28%	+36%	+15%	+30%	+13%

Perceptions of the Recovery Community

Public opinion is divided on whether early recovery support systems are provide enough encouragement to sustain long-term recovery. Again, the respondent's proximity to the addiction and recovery community plays amajor role in how they responded.

Do you think people in early recovery receive enough encouragement and support to stay committed to long-term recovery?



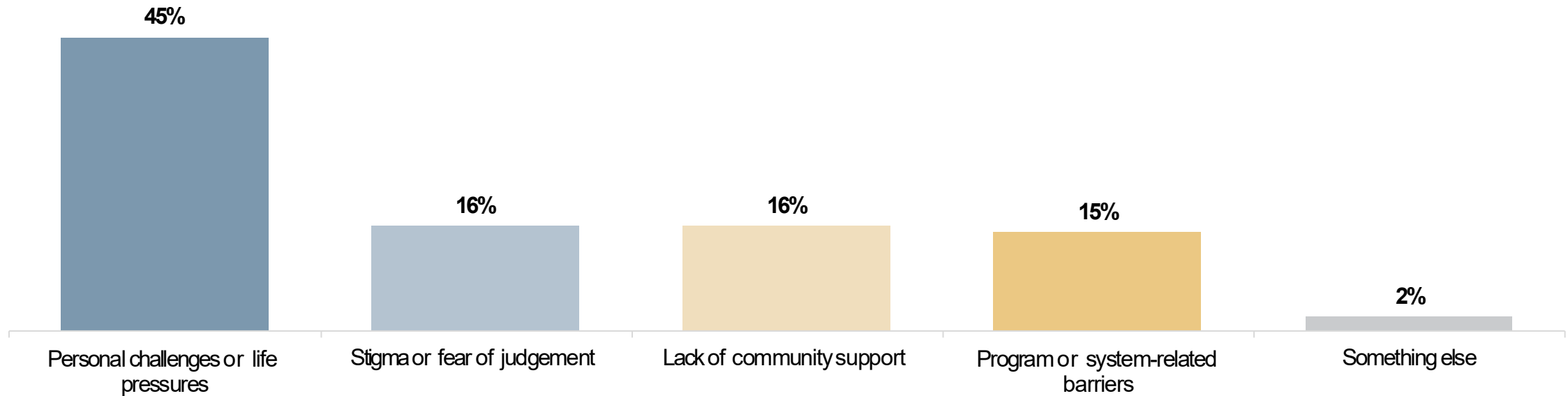
RESPONDENTS WITH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

	IMPACT OF ADDICTION			KNOW SOMEONE IN RECOVERY			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
	Great Deal	Some	Not much/not at all	Yes, family	Yes, close friend	Yes, Both	Yes	No
Yes	55%	43%	33%	50%	53%	48%	58%	37%
No	33%	43%	41%	35%	36%	44%	34%	40%
NET Yes	+22%	-	-8%	+15%	+17%	+4%	+24%	-3%

Reasons for Disengagement

A large plurality of respondents (45%) cited personal challenges or life pressures as the main reason people disengage from recovery early, far outpacing other factors such as stigma or fear of judgment (16%), lack of community support (16%), and program or system-related barriers (15%).

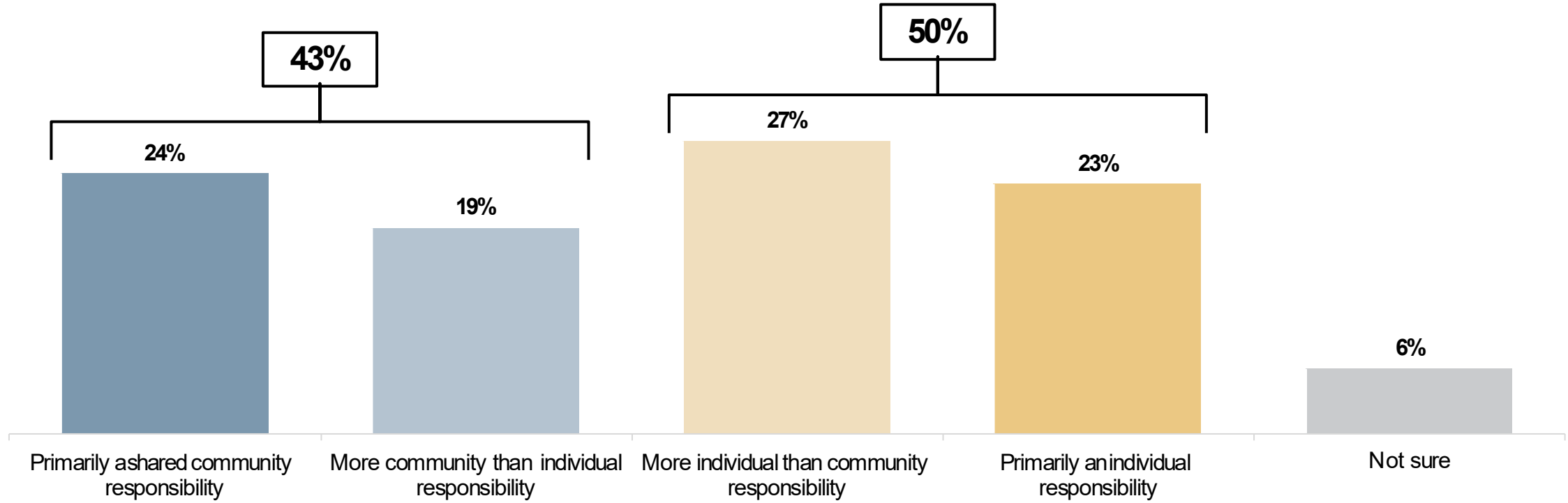
In your opinion, what is the most common reason people in recovery disengage from recovery early?



Community vs Individual Responsibility

Personal responsibility outweighs collective responsibility in how respondents frame recovery support. A majority of respondents (50%) say supporting people in recovery is primarily (23%) or mostly an individual responsibility (27%), compared with 43% who say it is primarily (24%) or mostly a shared community responsibility (19%).

Do you believe supporting people in recovery is primarily a shared community responsibility, or mostly an individual responsibility?



POLICY STATEMENTS

Policy Statements: Top Five

A number of policies have been proposed regarding alcohol and other drug addiction. If a hypothetical candidate for elected office supported each of the following policies, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate?

ALL RESPONDENTS (N=846)	Total More Likely	Total Less Likely	Net More Likely	Much more likely	Somewhat more likely	Somewhat less likely	Much less likely	Not sure
	Establishing job skills and employment programs for people in recovery	84%	11%	+74%	46%	39%	8%	3%
Establishing recovery support programs for young people in high schools and colleges.	83%	11%	+72%	48%	35%	8%	4%	6%
Expanding court-mandated programs that provide treatment and recovery support rather than incarceration alone.	83%	11%	+71%	48%	35%	8%	4%	6%
A law requiring health insurance companies to include recovery from addiction to alcohol or other drugs the same as they cover treatments for other medical conditions	82%	12%	+71%	46%	36%	9%	3%	6%
An increase in state and federal funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery support services	81%	12%	+69%	43%	38%	8%	4%	7%

A number of policies have been proposed regarding alcohol and other drug addiction. If a hypothetical candidate for elected office supported each of the following policies, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate?

ALL RESPONDENTS (N=846)	Total More Likely	Total Less Likely	Net More Likely	Much more likely	Somewhat more likely	Somewhat less likely	Much less likely	Not sure
	Tougher criminal penalties for people who sell, distribute, or manufacture illicit drugs	78%	16%	+62%	44%	34%	10%	6%
An increase in federal funding for scientific research on addiction	77%	15%	+62%	38%	39%	10%	5%	8%
Increasing access to naloxone (also known as Narcan) to reverse overdoses	75%	16%	+60%	42%	34%	10%	6%	9%
Reallocation of government spending on curbing the drug supply to fund prevention, treatment, and recovery support programs.	74%	15%	+59%	38%	36%	9%	7%	10%
Expungement of drug-related criminal records for people in long-term recovery to reduce barriers to employment and education	73%	17%	+56%	37%	36%	11%	6%	10%

A number of policies have been proposed regarding alcohol and other drug addiction. If a hypothetical candidate for elected office supported each of the following policies, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate?

ALL RESPONDENTS (N=846)	Total More Likely	Total Less Likely	Net More Likely	Much more likely	Somewhat more likely	Somewhat less likely	Much less likely	Not sure
Providing access to safe supplies for people who use drugs to prevent the spread of infections, viruses, and blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis C.	71%	18%	+52%	38%	33%	11%	8%	11%
Providing access to fentanyl test strips for people who use drugs	65%	19%	+46%	32%	33%	11%	9%	15%
Legalizing marijuana use and possession.	62%	30%	+32%	33%	29%	15%	15%	8%
Tougher criminal penalties for people who use drugs	53%	37%	+16%	21%	32%	21%	16%	10%
Eliminating criminal penalties for drug use and possession.	50%	40%	+10%	23%	27%	20%	21%	10%
Ability to force people who experiencing homelessness to enter detention centers.	46%	40%	+6%	19%	27%	17%	23%	15%
A law that prohibits people in recovery from receiving government assistance.	38%	52%	-14%	17%	21%	17%	35%	10%

Policy Grid



	% <i>NET POSITIVE</i>																
	Total	GENDER		POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			EDUCATION		INCOME		ETHNICITY		IMPACT OF ADDICTION			RESPONDENT IN RECOVERY	
		Male	Female	Lib	Mod	Con	Some college or less	College grad	<\$75K	>\$75K	White	Non-white	Great deal	Some	Not much / none	Yes	No
Establishing job skills and employment programs for people in recovery	+74%	+78%	+70%	+87%	+75%	+69%	+70%	+80%	+68%	+84%	+75%	+71%	+87%	+78%	+66%	+81%	+74%
Establishing recovery support programs for young people in high schools and colleges	+72%	+75%	+69%	+83%	+73%	+68%	+66%	+80%	+67%	+79%	+75%	+62%	+89%	+71%	+62%	+79%	+72%
A law requiring health insurance companies to include recovery from addiction to alcohol or other drugs the same as they cover treatments for other medical conditions	+71%	+73%	+69%	+82%	+66%	+72%	+71%	+70%	+69%	+74%	+71%	+71%	+80%	+82%	+58%	+83%	+68%
Expanding court-mandated programs that provide treatment and recovery support rather than incarceration alone	+71%	+76%	+67%	+84%	+68%	+70%	+69%	+75%	+67%	+78%	+72%	+68%	+84%	+78%	+60%	+82%	+69%
An increase in state and federal funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery support services	+69%	+71%	+67%	+81%	+66%	+69%	+66%	+74%	+66%	+75%	+67%	+73%	+81%	+79%	+55%	+76%	+69%
An increase in federal funding for scientific research on addiction	+62%	+69%	+55%	+81%	+63%	+50%	+57%	+68%	+57%	+71%	+61%	+63%	+73%	+71%	+47%	+71%	+60%
Tougher criminal penalties for people who sell, distribute, or manufacture illicit drugs	+62%	+58%	+65%	+63%	+59%	+71%	+57%	+69%	+56%	+72%	+66%	+52%	+68%	+61%	+61%	+58%	+67%
Increasing access to naloxone (also known as Narcan) to reverse overdoses	+60%	+67%	+54%	+81%	+61%	+44%	+55%	+67%	+56%	+66%	+61%	+57%	+75%	+69%	+42%	+71%	+58%
Reallocation of government spending on curbing the drug supply to fund prevention, treatment, and recovery support programs	+59%	+65%	+53%	+71%	+61%	+53%	+57%	+63%	+54%	+68%	+55%	+68%	+65%	+70%	+48%	+72%	+54%
Expungement of drug-related criminal records for people in long-term recovery to reduce barriers to employment and education	+55%	+60%	+52%	+75%	+56%	+42%	+53%	+59%	+50%	+66%	+51%	+67%	+67%	+71%	+35%	+69%	+51%
Providing access to safe supplies for people who use drugs to prevent the spread of infections, viruses and blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis C	+52%	+59%	+46%	+79%	+55%	+30%	+49%	+57%	+51%	+54%	+46%	+68%	+64%	+59%	+38%	+70%	+45%
Providing access to fentanyl test strips for people who use drugs	+46%	+55%	+37%	+67%	+47%	+33%	+39%	+56%	+42%	+52%	+44%	+52%	+62%	+58%	+22%	+60%	+41%
Legalizing marijuana use and possession	+32%	+39%	+25%	+62%	+37%	-	+33%	+30%	+33%	+30%	+29%	+40%	+60%	+42%	-5%	+58%	+20%
Tougher criminal penalties for people who use drugs	+16%	+16%	+18%	-5%	+14%	+40%	+16%	+17%	+11%	+25%	+15%	+20%	+16%	+24%	+8%	+19%	+14%
Eliminating criminal penalties for drug use and possession	+10%	+18%	+3%	+40%	+14%	-15%	+10%	+10%	+7%	+14%	-2%	+39%	+20%	+19%	-8%	+37%	-3%
Ability to force people who experiencing homelessness to enter detention centers	+6%	+11%	+2%	-4%	+11%	+12%	+3%	+9%	+1%	+13%	-4%	+30%	+14%	+6%	-2%	+25%	-3%
A law that prohibits people in recovery from receiving government assistance	-14%	-5%	-21%	-30%	-12%	+1%	-16%	-12%	-19%	-6%	-24%	+11%	-6%	-2%	-36%	+10%	-26%