



Research Brief

Many Chicago residents stigmatize those with a current or past history of opioid use disorder.

A new ChicagoSpeaks survey from NORC at the University of Chicago reveals key insights about Chicago residents' perceptions of opioid use disorder.

For many Chicagoans, perceptions of those with an opioid use disorder depends on whether their condition is past or present. Most are unwilling to work with someone currently experiencing opioid use disorder or are uncomfortable with them marrying into their family. About half of Chicagoans say those currently experiencing opioid use disorder cannot be trusted and are more dangerous than the general population. The stigma persists from some, even for those who are in recovery. A quarter of Chicagoans remain unwilling to work closely with someone with a past history of opioid use disorder and four in ten are uncomfortable with someone with a past history marrying into their family.

Many Chicagoans are optimistic about treatments for opioid use disorder. The majority believe evidence-based treatments can help people recover and 43% percent agree that FDA-approved medications are effective in treating it. However, most Chicago residents say finding treatment is difficult. Only a quarter of residents say effective treatment is easy to find.

Acceptance of those with an opioid use disorder largely depends on whether or not they are currently experiencing it, but many still stigmatize those in recovery.

About a quarter of Chicagoans would be unwilling to work closely with someone who has a history of opioid use disorder. This reluctance increases to 57% when considering someone who is currently addicted to opioids. Many Chicagoans perceive colleagues with a past (40%) or current (66%) opioid use disorder as high-risk employees.

Additionally, four in ten Chicago residents would feel uncomfortable if someone with a history of opioid use disorder married into their family, and this discomfort rises to 64% for those currently experiencing opioid use disorder.

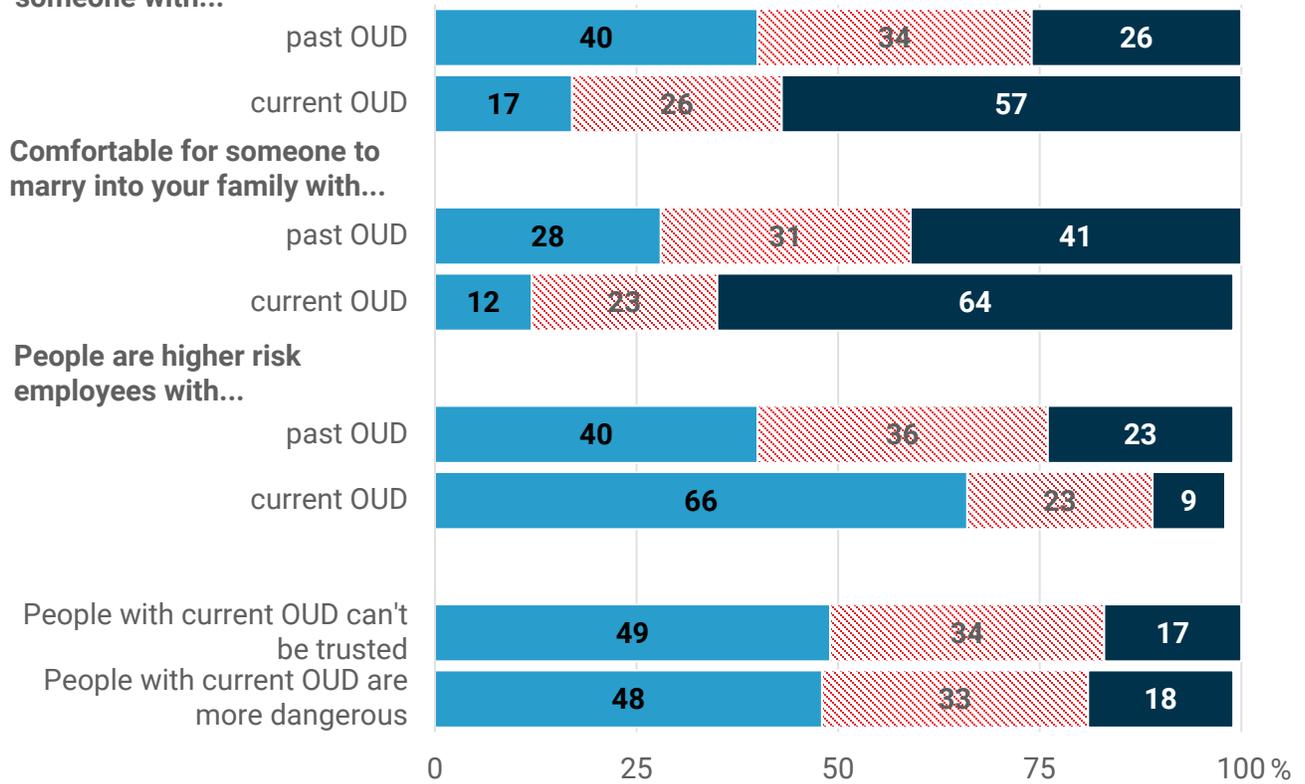
About half of Chicago residents believe that people currently experiencing opioid use disorder are more dangerous than the general population and cannot be trusted.

Most Chicagoans would be uncomfortable working closely with someone with an opioid use disorder or having them marry into the family.

Percent of Chicago adults

Willing to work closely with someone with...

■ Strongly/somewhat agree ▨ Neither ■ Strongly/somewhat disagree



Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Source: ChicagoSpeaks Poll conducted November 14-December 2, 2024 with 1,097 adult Chicago residents.

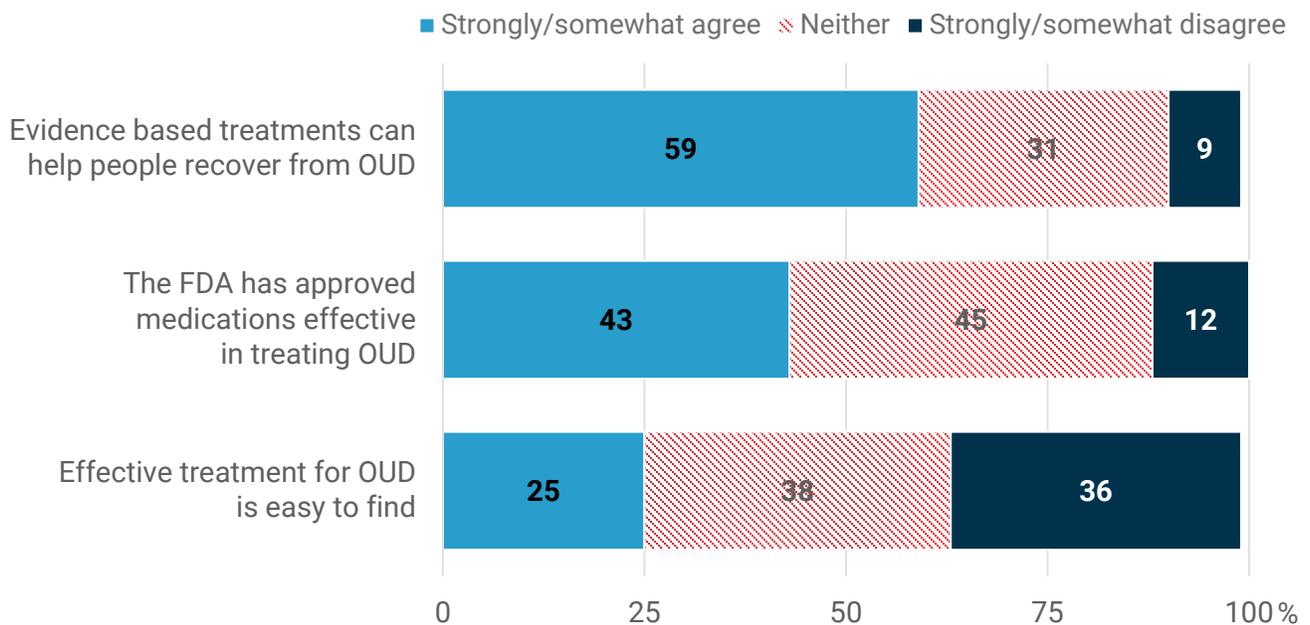


Many are optimistic about the effectiveness of opioid use disorder treatments but believe that they are hard to find.

The majority of Chicago residents believe evidence-based treatments can help people recover from opioid use disorder. Forty-three percent agree that FDA- approved medications¹ can be effective treatment. However, only 25% say effective treatment is easy to find.

Few believe opioid use treatment is easy to find.

Percent of Chicago adults



Question: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about treatments for opioid use disorder:

Source: ChicagoSpeaks Poll conducted November 14-December 2, 2024 with 1,097 adult Chicago residents.



¹ <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/information-drug-class/information-about-medications-opioid-use-disorder-moud>

Study Methodology

NORC conducted the ChicagoSpeaks™ November 2024 Survey using three sample sources: (1) NORC's AmeriSpeak® Panelists who reside in Chicago, (2) NORC's ChicagoSpeaks Panelists, and (3) Chicago residents from Dynata's web panel.

AmeriSpeak® and ChicagoSpeaks are probability-based panels and Dynata is a non-probability panel. The final survey estimates were calibrated to account for these different sample sources. This research was done to support a scientifically rigorous, community-driven research resource for informing policymakers and the public with accurate information about the experiences and opinions of all Chicago residents.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between November 14 and December 2, 2024 with Chicago residents aged 18 and older, the overall study target population. Overall, 1,097 Chicago residents completed the survey including 572 probability cases and 525 non-probability cases. AmeriSpeak panelists were invited through the password-protected AmeriSpeak Mobile App and received email reminders and SMS reminders. ChicagoSpeaks panelists received a combination of email and SMS communications while Dynata used their typical panel recruitment methods. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference, using an on-line survey. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive for completing the survey. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.5 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 21 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them or for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

The final TrueNorth weights delivered with the data for the combined sample are developed in three major steps. First, fit a weighted tree model to the combined probability and nonprobability sample. Second, based on the fitted tree model, estimate the probabilities of inclusion in the combined probability and nonprobability sample and compute the initial weights as the inverse of the estimated probabilities. Third, poststratification adjustments, including calibration to age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, and Chicago region, and weight trimming, are made to the initial weights to create the final weights. The sociodemographic characteristics are weighted to benchmarks from the American Community Survey 2023 1-year estimate.

For more information, email AmeriSpeak-BD@norc.org or visit AmeriSpeak.norc.org.

<https://www.norc.org/research/projects/chicagospeaks.html>