

Public support for taking a health centred approach to drug use



**AT THE HEART
OF THE MATTER,
NZ DRUG
FOUNDATION.**

Te Tūāpapa Tarukino o Aotearoa

Research methodology

- An online survey of New Zealanders over the age of 18 was conducted on behalf of the New Zealand Drug Foundation between the 1st and 7th of June 2022.
- A sample size of 1,499 was collected by online panels, with quotas (or interviewing targets) set to ensure the final sample was nationally representative of regions and ethnicity. The sample was then weighted by age and gender to reflect StatsNZ estimates of population distribution. All respondents were aged 18 or over. Panels used comply with the ESOMAR guidelines for online research.
- The maximum sampling error is approximately $\pm 2.5\%$ points at the 95% confidence level. This is the sampling error for a result of 50% meaning that we can be 95% confident that a 50% result will be within $\pm 2.5\%$ points of the result had we surveyed the entire population. Results higher and lower than 50% have a smaller sampling error.

Research summary

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they supported or opposed statements relating to changing laws to treat drug use more as a health issue and not a criminal issue with a focus on reducing harm rather than prosecution.

The survey results showed that:

- **61% of New Zealanders support** *Removing penalties for drug use and putting place more support for education and treatment.*
- **68% of New Zealanders support** *Rewriting the 1975 Misuse of Drugs Act and putting in place health based approach.*

Respondents were also asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with statements relating to spending more money on efforts to reduce harm via education, treatments and drug checking.

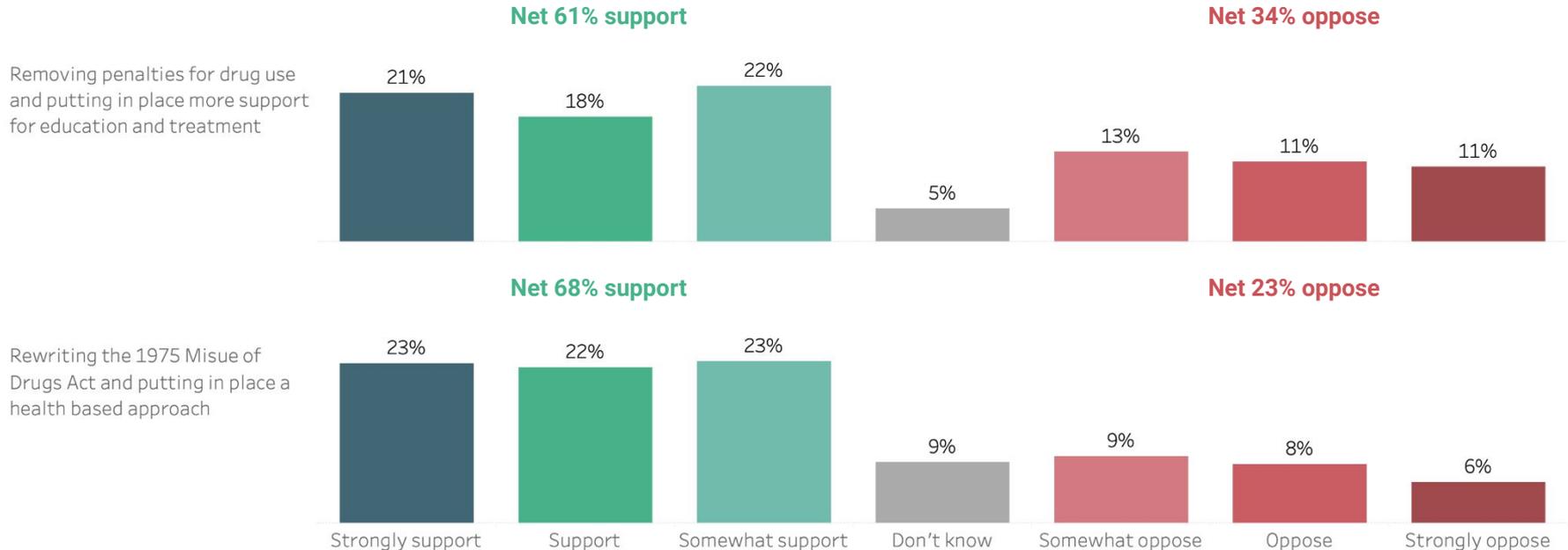
The survey results showed that:

- **82% of New Zealanders agree that** *More money should be spent on reducing harm through education and treatment*
- **74% of New Zealanders agree that** *more money should be spent on reducing harm through drug checking (for example by testing drugs at musical festivals.)*

There is strong public support to treat drug use as a health issue

There is strong support for taking a health based approach to treating the issue of drug use. Seven in ten New Zealanders support rewriting the Misuse of Drugs Act (1975).

The efforts to change drug laws is aimed at treating drug use as a health issue and not a criminal issue with the focus on reducing harm rather than prosecuting New Zealanders. To what extent do you support or oppose?

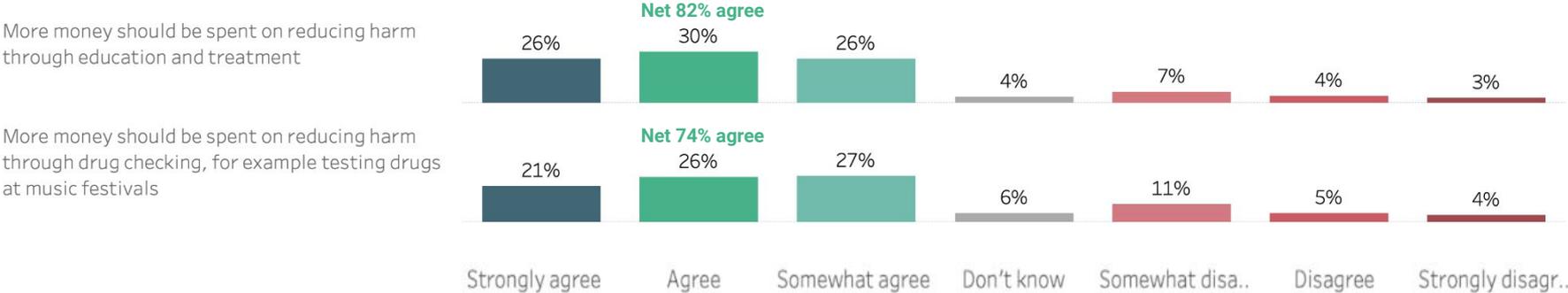


Sample size: n=1,499

There is strong agreement that more money should be spent on reducing drug harm

New Zealanders agree that more money should be spent on reducing harm from drug use via education, treatment and drug checking.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Sample size: n=1,499

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