

ACMHCK Public Opinion Poll on Behavioral Health

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ACMHCK State of Kansas Public Opinion Poll

- The Association commissioned Remington Research Group to poll Kansans in August 2019 on their experience and opinions of mental health funding and policy.
- The Association renewed that agreement one year later and polling was conducted from August 7-9, 2020.
- The polling questions were nearly identical, and the results were compelling.

The Results

Question 1: Do you know someone who suffers from mental illness or mental health issues?

2019

Yes - 48%

No - 52%

2020

Yes - 57%

No - 43%

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The Results

Question 2: Has the person you know who suffers from mental illness or mental health issues sought or received treatment for mental health?

2019

Yes-74%

No-18%

Not Sure-8%

2020

Yes - 73%

No - 14%

Not Sure-13%

The Results

Question 3: Do you know someone who suffers from alcohol or drug use issues?

2019

Yes - 41%

No - 59%

2020

Yes-38%

No-62%

The Results

Question 4: Has the person you know who suffers from alcohol or drug use issues sought or received treatment for alcohol or drug use?

2019

Yes-54%

No-38%

Not Sure-8%

2020

Yes-57%

No-34%

Not Sure-9%

The Results

Question 5: The Kansas Legislature has recently made additional investments in mental health services to make up for years of underfunding. However, many service gaps remain. Do you think we should continue to increase investments in mental health services?

2019	2020
Yes-76%	Yes-76%
No-14%	No-13%
Not Sure-10%	Not Sure-11%

The Results

Question 6: Do you believe there are mental health issues in our State that call for action by the State Legislature?

2019	2020
Yes-67%	Yes-60%
No-15%	No-16%
Not Sure-18%	Not Sure-24%

Behind the initial numbers:

- Changes were evident among the four congressional districts from last year's poll. This includes higher support in the KC Metro and Eastern Kansas areas and slightly lower support in Wichita and Western Kansas.
- The gender gap in support shrunk from about ten percent to four percent from last year on the funding question.
- Those who describe themselves as moderate or liberal supported at a higher rate of about 5-10% on the funding and policy questions compared to those who described themselves as conservative.

Behind the initial numbers (cont):

- Republican support slipped in this year's poll while Democrat and unaffiliated support increased compared to last year.
- The overwhelming conclusion is that we now have two years of polling data to support that Kansans value public funding of mental health services with only 10% opposing while 76% support.