ADDICTION POLICY FORUM   UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE.   RECOVERY REINVENTED
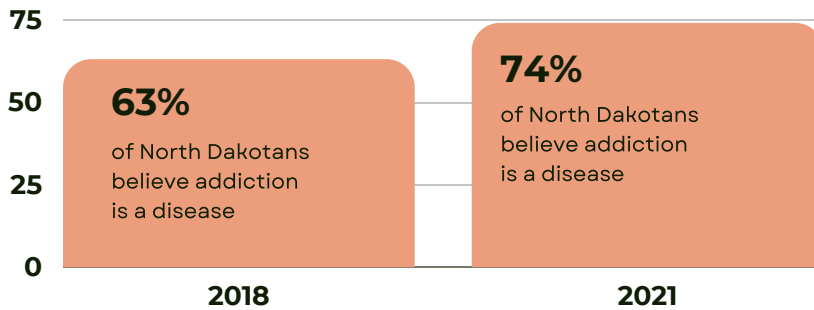
2021 North Dakota Stigma Survey:

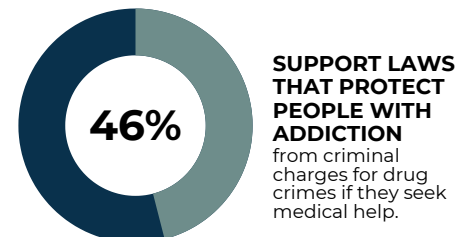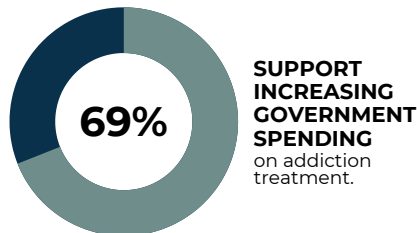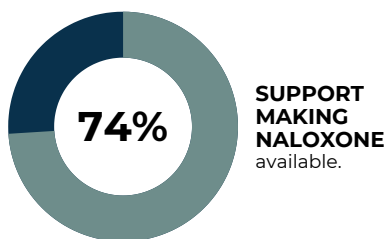## Findings on Attitudes, Levels of Stigma and Support of Key Policies to Address Addiction

NORTH DAKOTA HAS MADE PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING ADDICTION STIGMA

Results indicate that stigma across the state has improved over the last three years. 74% of North Dakotans believe addiction is a disease in 2021, compared to 63% in 2018.

75

50

63%
of North Dakotans believe addiction is a disease

25

0

2018

74%
of North Dakotans believe addiction is a disease

2021

This project was a collaborative effort between the Addiction Policy Forum, University of Delaware, and Recovery Reinvented to shed light on the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors related to substance use disorder stigma and support for evidence-based policies to address addiction among North Dakota residents.

NORTH DAKOTANS ENDORSED PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES TO ADDICTION OVER PUNITIVE POLICIES

74%
SUPPORT MAKING NALOXONE available.

69%
SUPPORT INCREASING GOVERNMENT SPENDING on addiction treatment.

46%
SUPPORT LAWS THAT PROTECT PEOPLE WITH ADDICTION from criminal charges for drug crimes if they seek medical help.

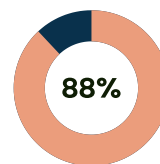### STEREOTYPES AND DISCRIMINATION RELATIVELY LOW THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Stereotypes, or inaccurate beliefs about people in recovery as a group, were relatively low among all survey respondents.
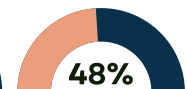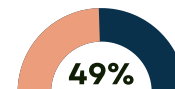
Low levels of discrimination intent, or the unjust treatment of people in recovery as a group, were found in social contact categories, such as contact in professional settings or contact outside of the immediate family.

HIGHER LEVELS OF PREJUDICE TOWARDS INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS REMAIN IN THE STATE

88%

88% of respondents felt extremely or moderately supportive interacting with someone in recovery.

49%   **48%**

While almost half of the respondents expressed feeling anxious (49%) and nervous (48%).

RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE A LOVED ONE IMPACTED BY ADDICTION, ARE IN RECOVERY THEMSELVES, OR ARE PROFESSIONALS IN THE ADDICTION FIELD

show significantly lower levels of stigma compared to respondents with no impact.

THE HEALTHCARE FIELD SHOWED THE LOWEST LEVELS OF STEREOTYPES STATEWIDE.

Source

Addiction Policy Forum, Recovery Reinvented, & University of Delaware. (2021). 2021 North Dakota Stigma Survey: Findings on Attitudes, Levels of Stigma and Key Policies to Address Addiction.