

# Voters Strongly Support Non-Opioid, Non-Addictive Pain Management Solutions

*Protect American seniors and support the Alternatives to PAIN Act (S. 3832/ H.R.7142)*

# 91%

*In a recently completed national survey, 91% of voters view addiction to prescription opioids as a serious public health problem.*

- 78% are concerned about the risk of addiction involving prescription opioid treatments for acute pain, as well as the side effects
- 52% are concerned about the safety of their household with prescription opioid treatments in their home

Every day, 130 Americans die from opioid-related drug overdoses.<sup>1</sup> This ongoing public health emergency disproportionately impacts older Americans who are more likely to use prescription opioids for prolonged periods.<sup>2</sup> In 2022, approximately 1.1 million seniors were diagnosed with opioid use disorder (OUD), costing Medicare an estimated \$33 billion.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, 10% of patients prescribed an opioid to manage post-surgical pain become opioid dependent or develop an OUD,<sup>4</sup> underscoring the dangers of prescribing opioids to seniors. As OUD and overdoses show no signs of slowing, Americans are increasingly concerned about the future of pain management treatment options in our country.

**Only a small minority, 8%, of voters age 65+ believe the opioid pain treatments available today are the best and most effective for patients.**

An overwhelming 83% of voters age 65+ say it is important for patients to have access to non-opioid pain treatments that are as effective as an opioid treatment

# 86%

86% of voters age 65+ reported that they would be likely to choose a non-opioid if it were as effective as an opioid, including 67% who would be "very" likely

And 84% of voters age 65+ would prefer a non-opioid treatment over an opioid if given the choice

# 8 in 10 voters

agree that patients should have the same level of access to non-opioids as opioids.



**Voters demand parity for opioid and non-opioid treatment options and bipartisan support for Medicare Part D legislation is strong.**

86% of voters believe that seniors should not pay more in out-of-pocket costs for non-opioid pain treatments than they do for opioids. Support for the legislation extends across party, including 89% of Democrats, 86% of Republicans, and 79% of independents.

H.R. 7142/S. 3832, The Alternatives to PAIN Act will help increase access to non-opioid pain management options for seniors through Medicare Part D.

**Sponsor H.R. 7142/S. 3832, The Alternatives to PAIN Act, to protect seniors from the opioid crisis by preventing addiction before it begins.**

## CONTACT

**Chris Fox**  
Executive Director  
[chris@nonopioidchoices.org](mailto:chris@nonopioidchoices.org)

**Voices for Non-Opioid Choices Coalition**  
[www.nonopioidchoices.org](http://www.nonopioidchoices.org)

*Methodology: On behalf of Voices for Non-Opioid Choices, Forbes Tate Partners Insights conducted a national online survey among 1,005 registered voters from August 16-20, 2024. The margin of error is +/- 3.09% at a 95% confidence interval.*

1 Health Resources and Services Administration. (2023). Opioid Crisis. <https://www.hrsa.gov/opioids>

2 Tilly J, et al. (2017). The Opioid Public Health Emergency and Older Adults. Administration for Community Living. <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/new-issue-briefing-available-opioid-public-health-emergency-and-older>

3 Desmarais M, et al. (2024). Economic Analysis of Opioid Use Disorder in the Medicare Fee-for Service Program. The Moran Company. <https://www.healthmanagement.com/wp-content/uploads/Opioid-Use-Disorder-Economic-Impact-on-Medicare-Program-062724-final.pdf>

4 Rhoades, A. (2024, August 13). Nearly 10% of those prescribed opioids become addicted. Healio. <https://www.healio.com/news/primary-care/20240813/nearly-10-of-those-prescribed-opioids-become-addicted>