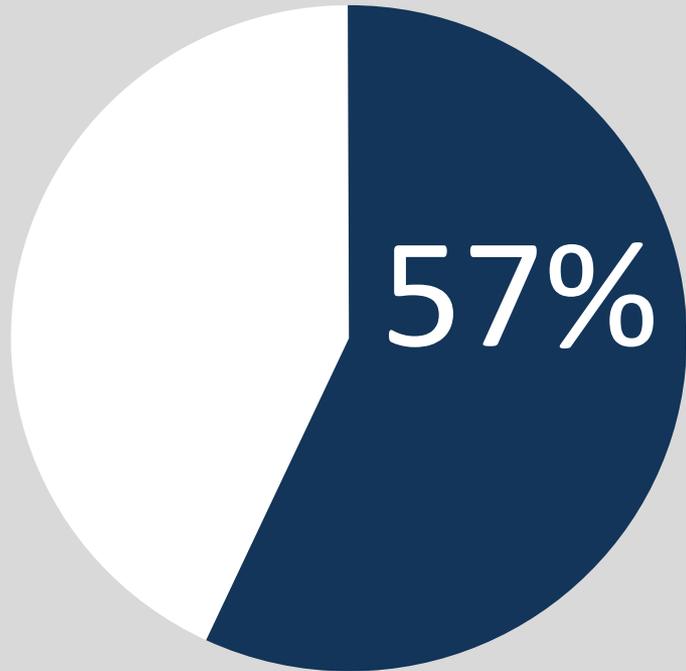


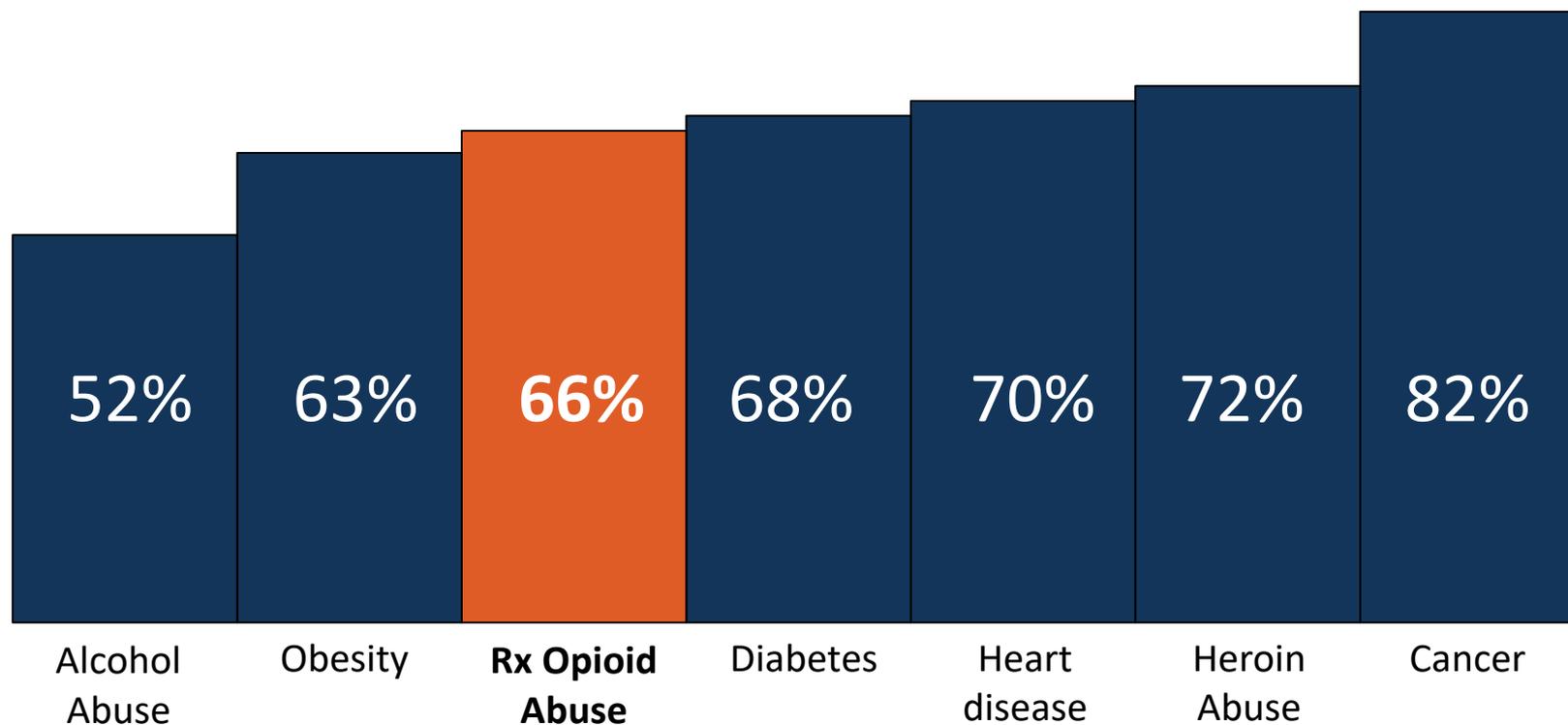
Public opinion on the use and abuse of prescription opioids

Poll findings from Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Polls and the 2016 *The Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Long-Term Prescription Opioid Users



of the public say they are **closely following** news about the prescription opioid addiction epidemic in the U.S.

Two-thirds of Americans say Rx opioid abuse is a **very serious problem**



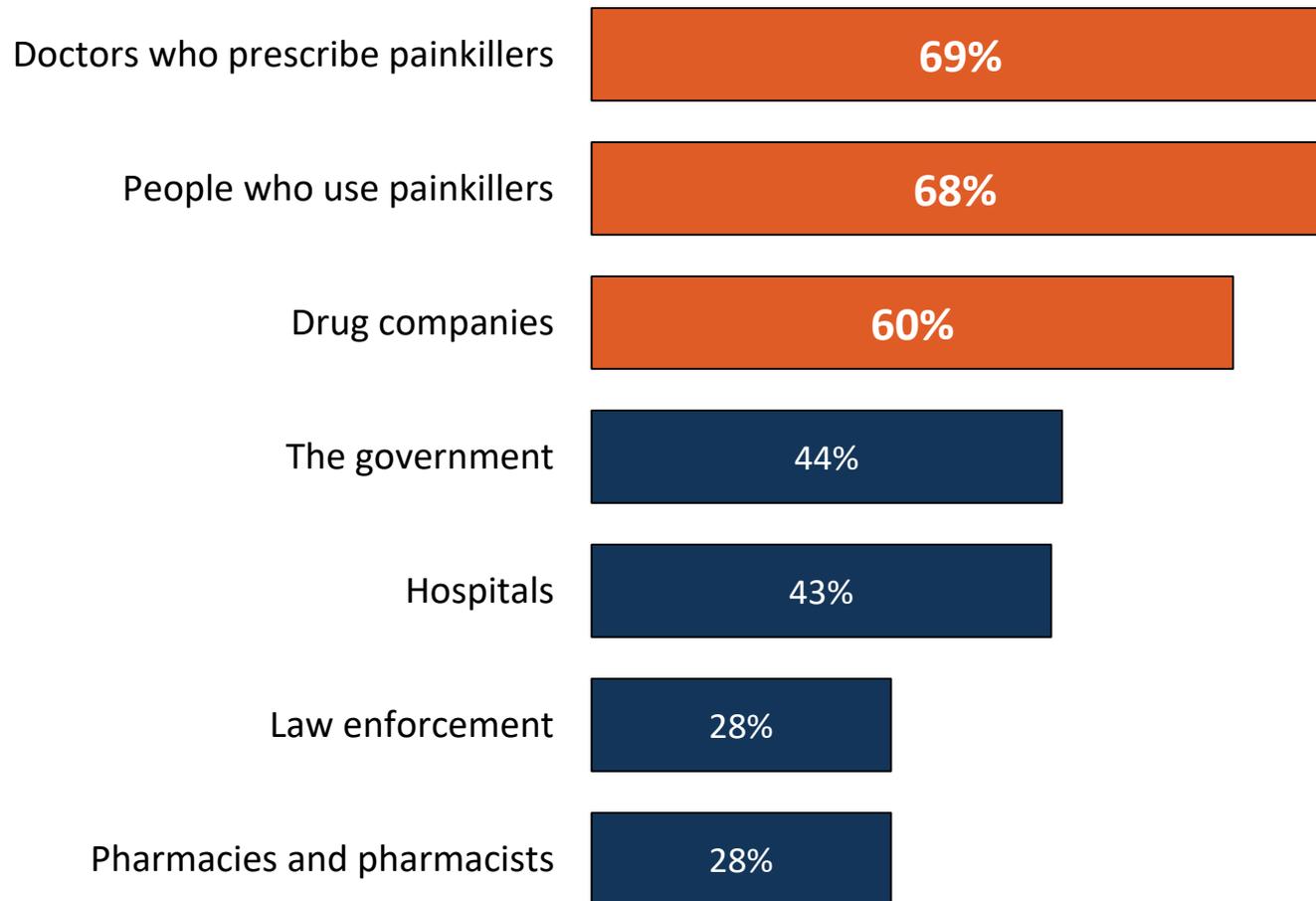
SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted November 15-21, 2016)

40%

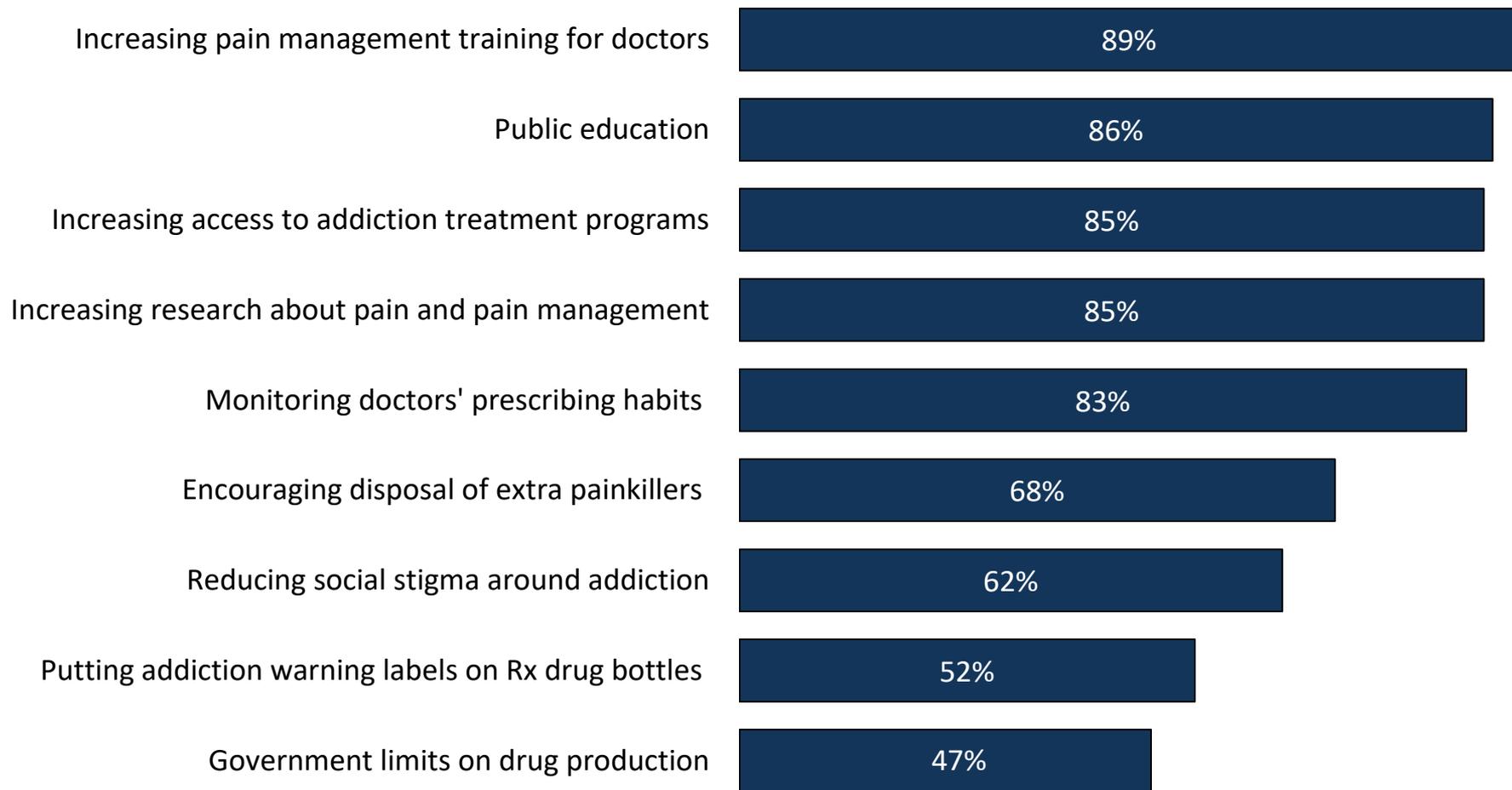
are aware that **drug overdose**  is the leading cause of accidental deaths in the U.S.

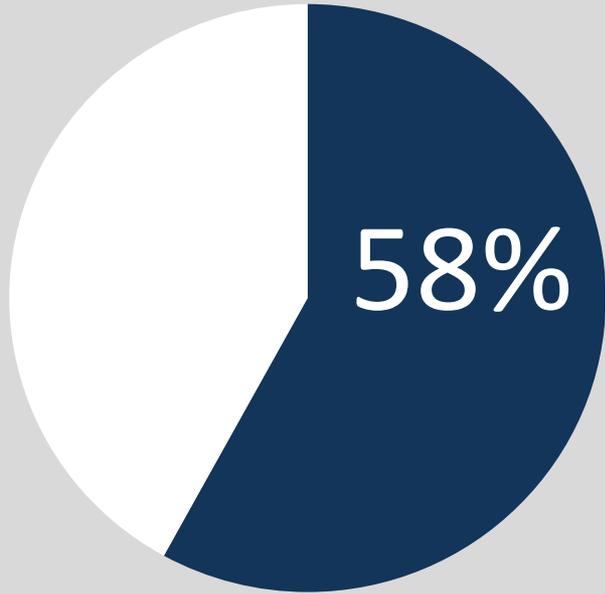
But some think it's
car accidents  (50%)
or
falls  (6%)

Large shares of Americans blame doctors, users, and drug companies for Rx painkiller epidemic

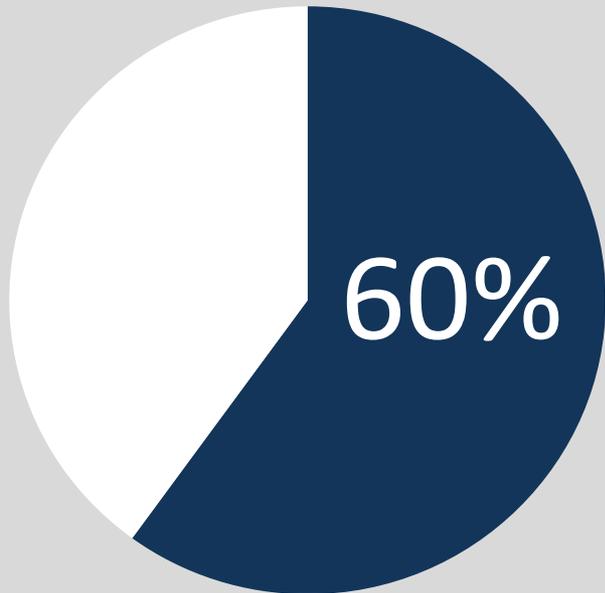


Americans believe various policy actions would be effective in addressing the epidemic



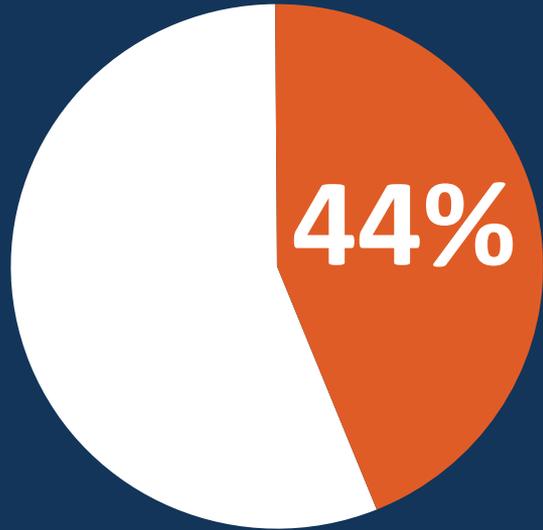


say prescription painkiller abuse makes a person **more likely** to use heroin or other illegal drugs



say prescription painkillers are **about equally addictive** as heroin

For some, the issue hits closer to home...



44% of Americans say they know someone who's been **addicted to Rx painkillers**

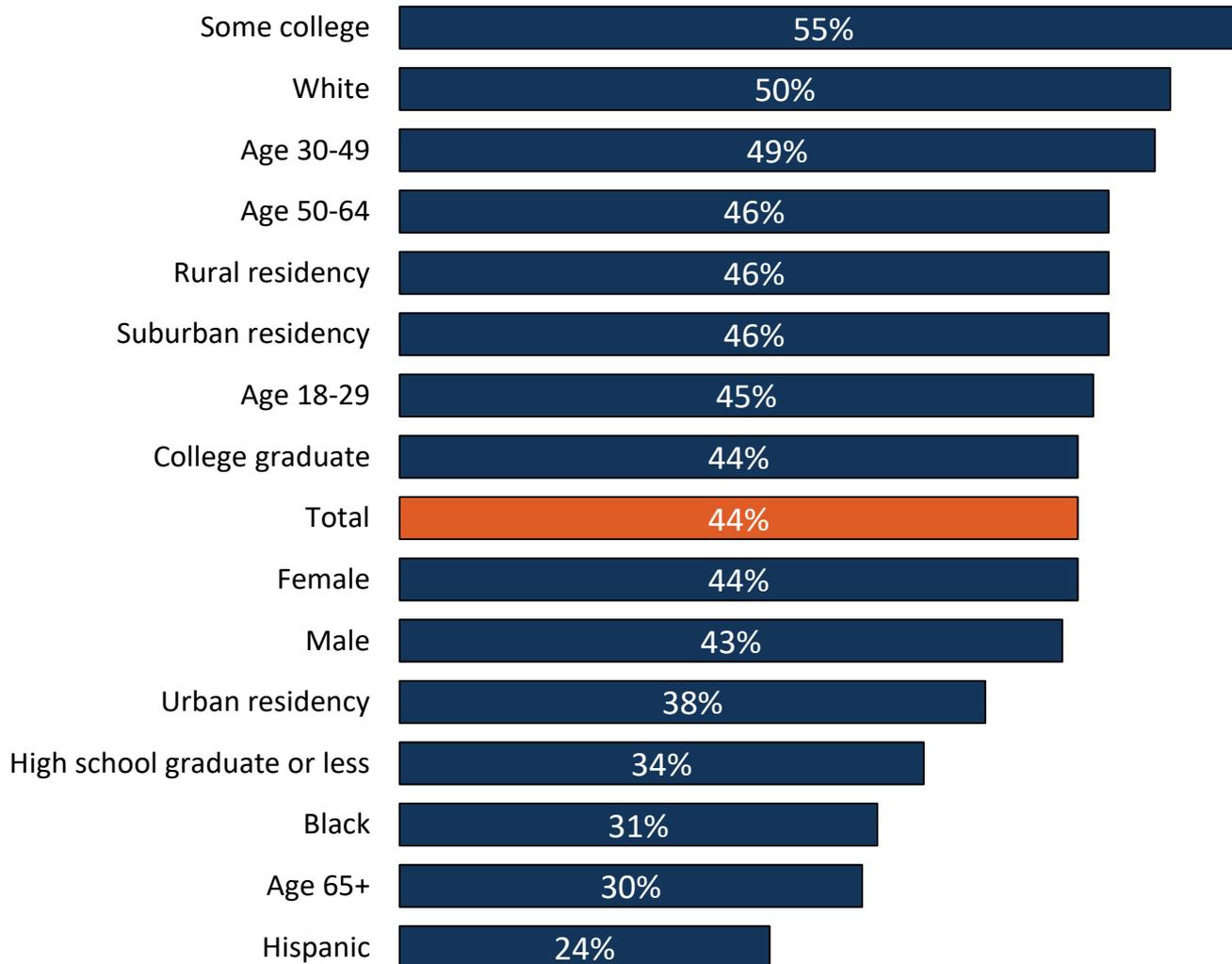
26% say it's an **acquaintance**

21% say it's a **close friend**

19% say it's a **family member**

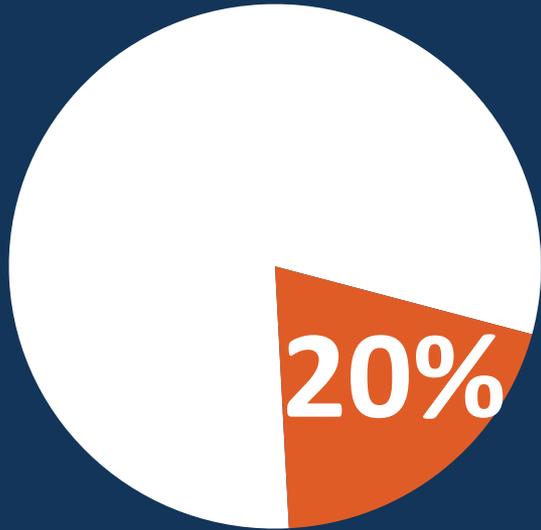
3% say it's **themselves**

Many across demographic groups report knowing someone who has been **addicted** to Rx painkillers



SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted November 8-13, 2017)

Some know people who have overdosed...



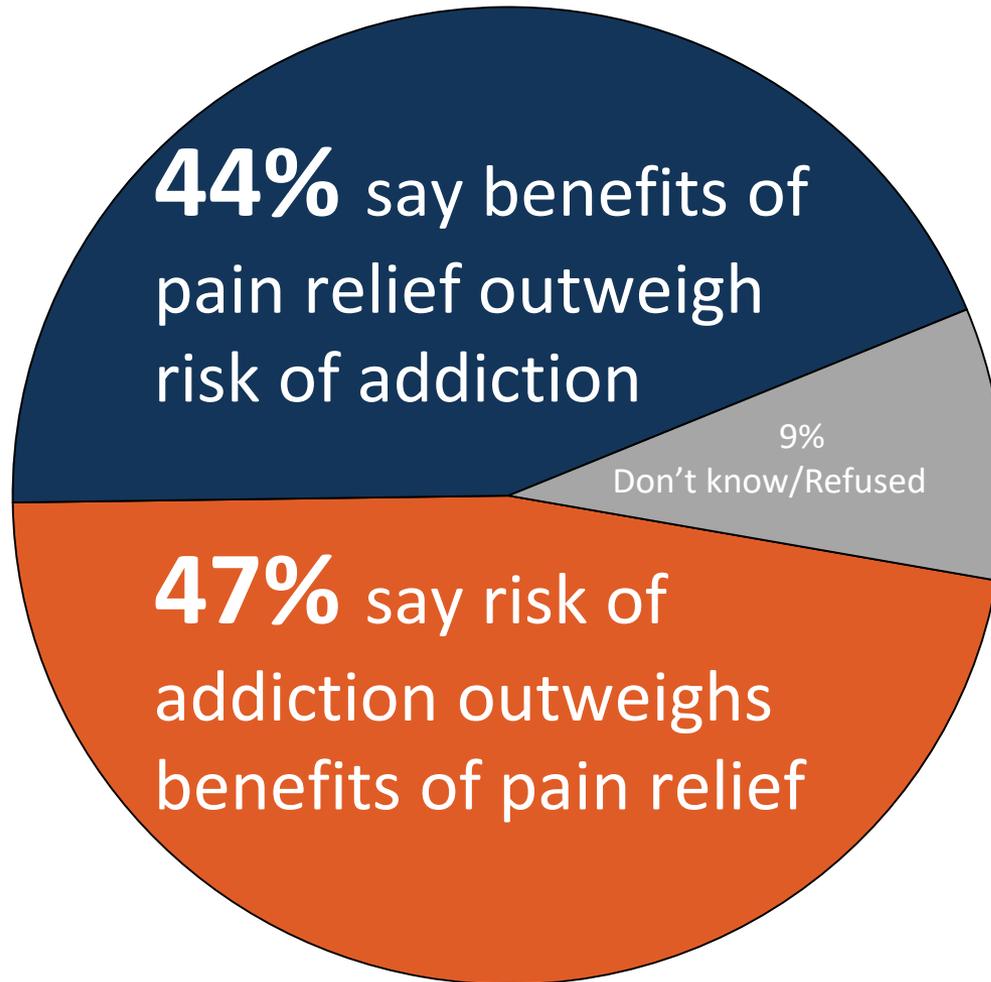
of Americans say they know someone who has died from a **Rx painkiller overdose**

13% say it's an **acquaintance**

8% say it's a **close friend**

6% say it's a **family member**

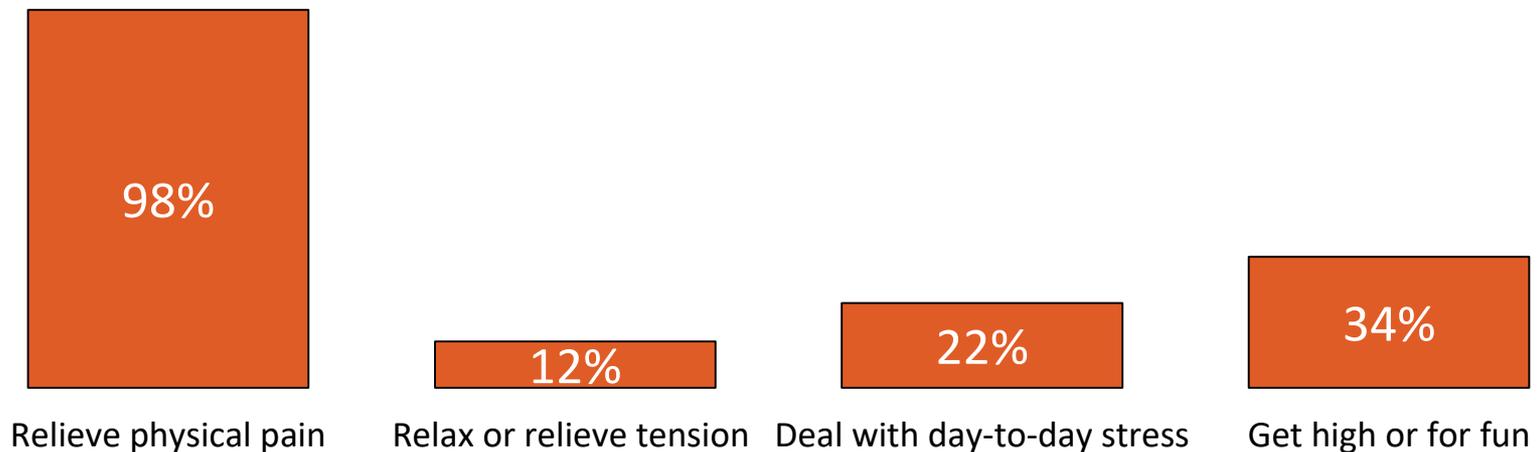
Risks V. Benefits of Using Rx Painkillers to Treat Pain



1 in 20 Americans are long-term users of strong Rx painkillers

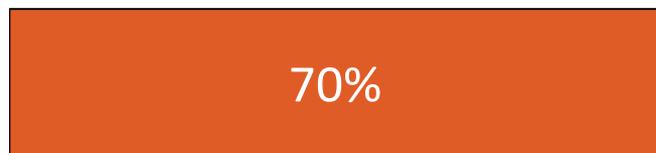


Most long-term users report using to **relieve pain**, but some use for **other reasons** as well



SOURCE: The Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Long-Term Prescription Painkiller Users and Their Household Members (conducted October 3-November 9, 2016)

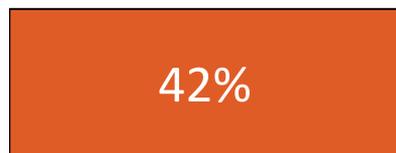
Many long-term prescription painkiller users report being **sick** and **disabled**



say they have **a chronic disability**



say they take **4+ Rx drugs**



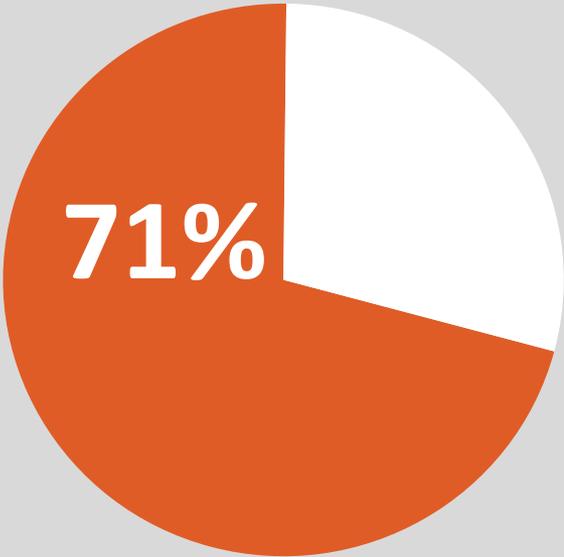
say their **physical health** is only fair or poor



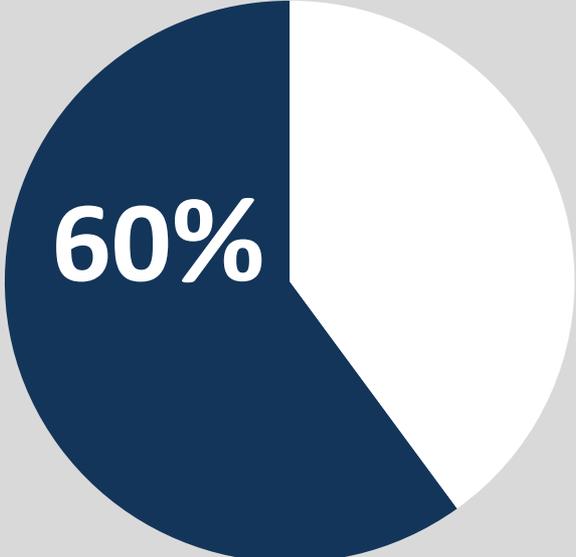
say their **mental health** is only fair or poor

Long-term users and public agree it is easy to get prescription painkillers without a Rx

The public



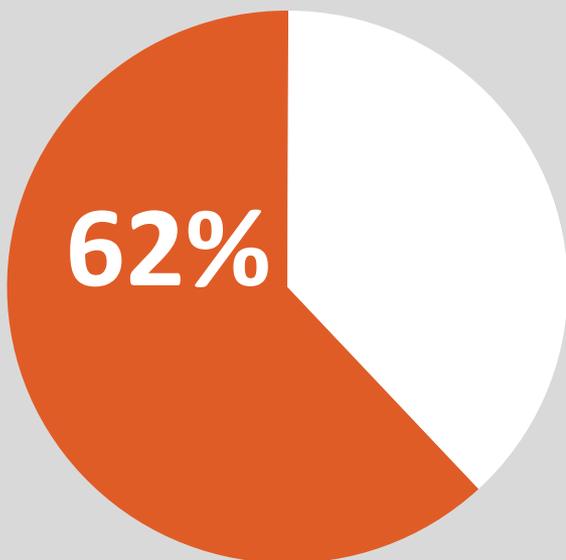
Long-term users



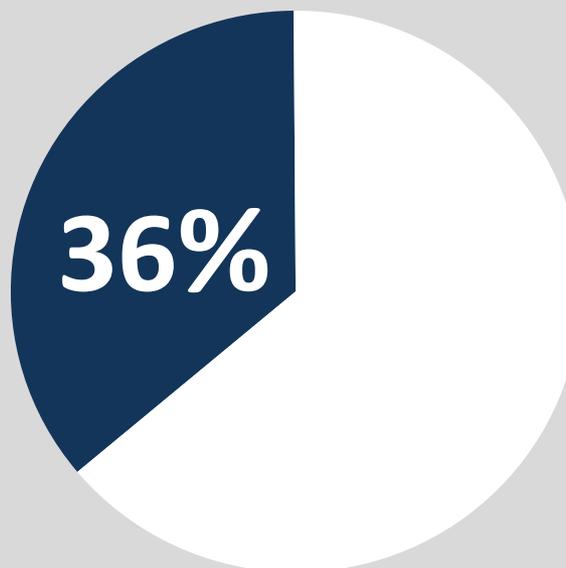
SOURCE: The Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Long-Term Prescription Painkiller Users and Their Household Members (conducted October 3-November 9, 2016) and Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted November 15-21, 2016)

There's less agreement on if it is **easy** to get prescription painkillers for medical purposes

The public

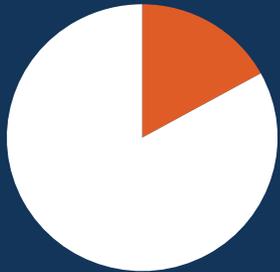


Long-term users

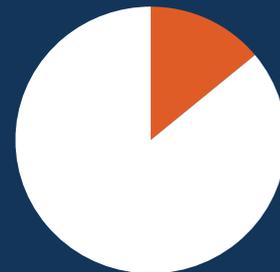




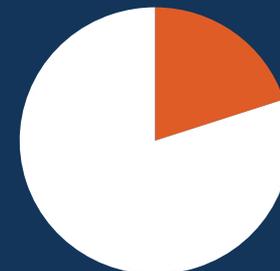
34% of long-term users say they are **addicted or dependent**



17% of long-term users have taken painkillers **not prescribed to them**



14% of long-term users have **given painkillers to others**



20% of long-term users have known or suspected someone was **using, taking, or selling their painkillers**

Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Menlo Park, California.

For more information, please visit www.kff.org

Contacts:

Rakesh Singh | (650) 854-9400 | rsingh@kff.org

Craig Palosky | (202) 347-5270 | cpalosky@kff.org