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Marylanders say opioid addiction is a major problem; half know someone who has been addicted

Baltimore— The Goucher Poll asked Maryland residents about their opinions on opioid addiction, the Maryland General Assembly and term limits, state government spending, a proposed ban on youth tackle football, and Baltimore as the economic engine of the state and the responsibility for the conditions of some Baltimore City public schools. The Goucher Poll surveyed 800 Maryland adults from February 12-17 and has a margin of error of +/-3.5 percent.

Opioid Addiction in Maryland

Marylanders were asked whether opioids—which include some prescription pain medications as well as heroin—are a major, minor, or not a problem in Maryland today. An overwhelming majority (**82 percent**) view it as a major problem and **11 percent** say it's a minor problem.

Resident were also asked their perceptions on what it takes to overcome an opioid addiction; **Five percent** think people can overcome an opioid addiction on their own and **81 percent** think people need medical treatment to address it.

About half of respondents (**52 percent**) indicate that they personally know someone who has been addicted to opioids and **47 percent** do not.

“About half of residents personally know of someone who has been addicted to opioids and an overwhelming majority believe that medical treatment is necessary to overcome addiction,” said Mileah Kromer, director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. “Thus, it’s not at all surprising that there is widespread agreement concerning the gravity of the opioid epidemic among Marylanders from all corners of the state.”

Views toward Maryland General Assembly, Women in State Government, and Term Limits

Forty-two percent of Marylanders approve of the job the Maryland General Assembly is doing, **34 percent** disapprove, and **24 percent** don't know.

Forty-seven percent of respondents think that Maryland would be governed better if more women served in elected office and **47 percent** think having more women would make no difference. Only **3 percent** think the state would be governed worse.

Three-quarters of Marylanders support establishing term limits for members of the Maryland General Assembly and **17 percent** oppose it. Those who support term limits were asked what specific limit they would prefer:

- **19 percent** say 1 term or 4 years
- **56 percent** say 2 terms or 8 years
- **20 percent** say 3 terms or 12 years
- **2 percent** say 4 terms or 16 years

Statewide Issues

Reports of concussions and brain damage have spurred a nationwide discussion concerning the safety of contact sports for children. This legislative session a bill was proposed in the Maryland General Assembly to ban tackle football for those younger than 14 years old. Marylanders are divided on the prospects of a statewide ban; **45 percent** support and **49 percent** oppose.

Respondents were asked whether the state government spends too little, about the right amount, or too much on public education and public transportation.

State Spending on Public Education

Too little: **71 percent**

About the right amount: **19 percent**

Too much: **8 percent**

State Spending on Public Transportation

Too little: **52 percent**

About the right amount: **30 percent**

Too much: **8 percent**

Additionally, raising the minimum wage to \$15 dollars per hour is popular with a majority of Marylanders; **66 percent** support it and **31 percent** oppose it.

Baltimore City

Marylanders were asked two questions specifically about Baltimore City. **Twenty-five percent** of Marylanders agree that Baltimore City is the economic engine of the state, while **67 percent** disagree. When asked this question at this time last year, **33 percent** agreed and **58 percent** disagreed.

A lack of heat in the classrooms resulting from maintenance problems forced some Baltimore City Public Schools to close during the sustained freezing weather the region experienced from late-December through early-January. Marylanders were asked what they believe is responsible for the condition of these public schools in Baltimore City:

- **39 percent** say mismanagement of funds by the Baltimore City Public Schools administration
- **24 percent** say underfunding by the Maryland state government
- **14 percent** say underfunding by the Baltimore City government

About the Goucher Poll

The Goucher Poll is conducted under the auspices of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center at Goucher College. Directed by Dr. Mileah Kromer, the Goucher Poll conducts surveys on public policy, economic, and social issues in Maryland.

Goucher College supports the Goucher Poll as part of its mission to instill in its students a sense of community where discourse is valued and practiced. The Goucher Poll is fully funded by the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center endowment and does not take additional funding from outside sources. The Goucher Poll seeks to improve public discourse in Maryland by providing neutral, unbiased, and independent information on citizen perceptions and opinions. The data collected by the Goucher Poll are used to support faculty and student research.

The Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center is a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations and the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative.



Survey Methodology

To ensure all Maryland residents are represented, the Goucher Poll is conducted using random digit dialing (RDD) of a county-level stratified random sample using landline and cellular telephone numbers. The sample of telephone numbers for the survey is obtained from Survey Sampling International, LLC (<http://www.surveysampling.com/>).

The survey was conducted **Monday, February 12 to Saturday, February 17, 2018**. During this time, interviews were conducted 1:00pm to 9:00pm on Monday to Friday and 1:00pm to 7:00pm on Saturday. The Goucher Poll uses Voxco Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) software to administer its surveys. Interviews are conducted by a staff of professionally trained, paid, student interviewers.

Interviewers attempted to reach respondents with working phone numbers a maximum of five times. Only Maryland adults—residents aged 18 years or older—were eligible to participate. Interviews were not conducted with adults who were reached at business or work numbers. Seventy-six percent of the interviews were conducted on a cell phone, and 24 percent were conducted on a landline.

Interviews for this survey were completed with 800 Maryland adults. For a sample size of 800, there is a 95 percent probability the survey results have a plus or minus 3.5 percentage point sampling error from the actual population distribution for any given survey question. Margins of error are higher for subsamples.

In addition to sampling error, all surveys are subject to sources of non-sampling error including question wording effects, question order effects, and non-response bias. Margin of error is not adjusted for design effects. Data is weighted by gender, age, race, and region of the state to represent adult population targets established by the American Community Survey (ACS).

Survey Question Design

The Goucher Poll provides the questions as worded and the order in which they are administered to respondents.

BRACKETED ITEMS []: Items and statements in brackets are rotated to ensure respondents do not receive a set order of response options presented to them, which maintains question construction integrity by avoiding respondent agreement based on question composition.

Example: [agree or disagree] or [disagree or agree]

PROBE (p): Some questions contain a “probe” maneuver to determine a respondent’s intensity of opinion/perspective. Probe techniques used in this questionnaire mainly consist of asking a respondent if his or her response is more intense than initially provided.

Example: Do you have a [favorable or unfavorable] opinion of President Obama?

PROBE: Would you say very favorable/unfavorable?

OPEN-ENDED: No response options are provided for an open-ended question, i.e., it is entirely up to the respondent to provide the response information. Any response options provided to the interviewer are not read to respondent; they are only used to help reduce interviewer error and time in coding the response.

VOLUNTEER (v): Volunteer responses means the interviewer did not offer that response option in the question as read to the interviewer. Interviewers are instructed not to offer “don’t know” or “refused” or “some other opinion” to the respondent, but the respondent is free to volunteer that information for the interviewer to record.

Goucher Poll Sample Demographics (in percent)

	Maryland Adult Population Parameter (ACS estimates)	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Adults (Total=800)	Weighted Sample Estimate Maryland Registered Voters (Total=658)
Gender			
Male	48	50	48
Female	52	50	52
Age			
18 to 24	12	11	10
25 to 34	18	16	14
35 to 44	17	17	16
45 to 54	19	20	21
55 to 64	17	18	19
65+	18	19	20
Race			
White	63	59	62
Black	29	32	30
Other	8	9	8
Region			
Capitol	36	36	36
Central	46	46	46
Eastern	8	8	8
Southern	6	6	7
Western	4	4	3

Distribution of Regions

Capitol—Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s

Central—Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard

Eastern—Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester

Southern—Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s

Western—Allegany, Garrett, Washington

Registered Voters

Registered voter screen question:

Q: REGVOTE

Are you registered to vote at your current address?

If “Yes” follow up: Are you registered as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, unaffiliated or something else?

Of the **800** Maryland adult residents surveyed, **658** indicated they were registered voters with the Democratic, Republican, or other party or registered unaffiliated (i.e. independent).

Maryland Voter Registration (in percent)

	Party Registration (December 2017)	Weighted Sample Estimate Registered Voters (n=658)
Democratic Party	55	58
Republican Party	26	25
Unaffiliated (Independent)	18	15
Other Party (Green/Libertarian/Other)	1	2
Total=	100	100

Information on voter registration in Maryland from the Board of Elections can be found at <http://www.elections.state.md.us>.

The following questions were asked to the full sample of **800 Maryland adults**. Please refer to **page 14** for the results by registered voter and other key demographics. Results are in percent and may not add up exactly to 100 due to weighting and rounding.

Q: MDGAJOB

Now, thinking about the Maryland state legislature—the legislature located in Annapolis—do you [**approve or disapprove**] of the way the Maryland General Assembly is handling its job?

PROBE

	MAR 14	FEB 15	FEB 16	FEB 17	FEB 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	15	13	12	11	16
Disapprove	22	21	19	13	18
Approve	34	38	37	35	34
Strongly Approve (p)	5	7	7	7	8
Don't know (v)	23	21	23	33	24
Refused (v)	1	0	1	1	>1
Total=	861 +/-3.3	619 +/-3.9	545 +/-4.2	776 +/-3.5	800 +/-3.5

Q: WMGOV

If more women were elected to serve in state government, do you think Maryland would be [**governed better, governed worse**], or would it make no difference?

	FEB 18
Governed worse	3
Make no difference	47
Governed better	47
Don't know (v)	3
Refused (v)	0
Total=	800 +/-3.5

Q: EDUCFUND

Do you think the state government spends [too much, too little, or about the right amount] to fund **public education** in Maryland?

	FEB 16	FEB 17	FEB 18
Too little	66	66	71
About the right amount	24	23	19
Too much	8	7	8
Don't know (v)	3	4	2
Total=	545 +/-4.2	776 +/-3.5	800 +/-3.5

Q: TRANSFUND

Do you think the state government spends [too much, too little, or about the right amount] to fund **public transportation** in Maryland?

	FEB 18
Too little	52
About the right amount	30
Too much	8
Don't know (v)	9
Refused (v)	1
Total=	800 +/-3.5

Q: MINWAGEDo you [**support or oppose**] raising the state minimum wage to \$15 dollars per hour?**PROBE**

	FEB 17	FEB 18
Strongly oppose (p)	22	17
Oppose	16	14
Support	20	20
Strongly support (p)	40	46
Don't know (v)	2	2
Refused (v)	--	1
Total=	776 +/-3.5	800 +/-3.5

Q: TERM1Do you [**approve or disapprove**] of limiting the number of terms members of the Maryland state legislature can serve?

	FEB 18
Strongly disapprove (p)	5
Disapprove	12
Approve	30
Strongly approve (p)	45
Don't know (v)	8
Refused (v)	>1
Total=	800 +/-3.5

TERM2 was only administered to respondents who indicated they “agree” or “strongly agree” in TERM1.

Q: TERM2

Okay, since you approve of establishing term limits, what limit would you set. . .

[Read response items]

	FEB 18
1 term or 4 years	19
2 terms or 8 years	56
3 terms or 12 years	20
4 terms or 16 years	2
5 terms or 20 years	0
Some other response (v)	2
Don't know (v)	1
Refused (v)	0
Total=	593 +/-4.0

Q: FOOTBALL

Okay, I'd like to ask you about tackle football and young people. Would you [**support or oppose**] a statewide ban on tackle football for anyone under the age of 14?

PROBE

	FEB 18
Strongly oppose (p)	24
Oppose	25
Support	19
Strongly support (p)	26
Don't know (v)	6
Refused (v)	>1
Total=	800 +/-3.5

Q: BALT

Do you [**agree or disagree**] with this statement: Baltimore City is the economic engine of the state.

PROBE

	FEB 17	FEB 18
Strongly disagree (p)	25	34
Disagree	33	33
Agree	19	15
Strongly agree (p)	14	10
Don't know (v)	9	8
Total=	776 +/-3.5	800 +/-3.5

Q: BALT_SCH

As you may have heard, many Baltimore City public schools had to close during the recent cold weather due to maintenance problems resulting in a lack of heat in classrooms. Thinking about this issue generally, what do you think is most responsible for the condition of these public schools...is it: [read list].

[RANDOMIZE]**PROBE**

	FEB 18
Underfunding by the Maryland state government	24
Mismanagement of funds by the Baltimore City Public Schools	39
Underfunding by the Baltimore City government	14
All of these (v)	14
None of these (v)	1
Some other opinion (v)	2
Don't know (v)	6
Refused (v)	>1
Total=	800 +/-3.5

Q: OP_1

Next, I'd like to ask you about addiction to opioids, which include some prescription pain medications as well as heroin. In your opinion, is opioid addiction in Maryland currently [a **major problem, minor problem, or not a problem**]?

	FEB 18
Not a problem	2
Minor problem	11
Major problem	82
Don't know (v)	5
Total=	800 +/-3.5

Q: OP_2

Do you personally know anyone who has been addicted to opioids, or not?

	FEB 18
Yes, I know someone.	52
No, I don't know someone.	47
Don't know (v)	1
Total=	800 +/-3.5

Q: OP_3

In general, do you think overcoming an opioid addiction is [something that people can do on their own OR something people need medical treatment to address]?

	FEB 18
Can do on their own	5
Need medical treatment	81
It depends/some other opinion (v)	11
Don't know (v)	3
Total=	800 +/-3.5

Part 3 of this poll will be released on Thursday, February 22 at 12:01am.

Results by Demographics (in percent)

- Column percentages
- Unless specified, “don’t know,” “refused,” and other volunteered responses are not included below
- Margin of error is higher for subsamples
- Refer to tables above for questions as worded

	Registered Voters				Maryland Adults							
	All (n=658)	Party Registration			Gender		Age			Race		
		Dem (n=385)	Ind (n=101)	Rep (n=161)	Male (n=398)	Female (n=402)	18-34 (n=217)	35-54 (n=294)	55+ (n=289)	White (n=473)	Black (n=275)	Other (n=70)
Q: MDGAJOB												
Disapprove	36	29	35	51	38	30	28	33	39	36	30	31
Approve	42	48	46	28	40	42	41	41	42	40	44	39
Don't Know	21	22	20	20	21	26	31	25	17	23	25	29
Q: WMGOV												
Worse	3	1	3	5	4	2	4	2	3	3	2	3
Make no difference	44	33	49	66	56	39	46	50	45	49	44	41
Better	50	64	43	24	35	58	48	45	48	44	51	50
Q: EDUCFUND												
Too little	72	81	73	51	64	78	78	74	62	63	84	78
Right amount	18	15	14	28	23	15	15	18	23	24	11	16
Too much	8	3	10	17	10	6	3	8	11	11	3	3
Q: TRANSFUND												
Too little	53	63	59	30	52	52	49	55	51	47	58	64
Right amount	29	25	27	40	30	30	33	29	28	31	29	24
Too much	8	5	5	14	11	6	9	9	8	9	7	6
Q: MINWAGE												
Oppose	31	14	37	66	39	23	30	31	32	41	14	25
Support	67	84	62	30	58	74	67	66	65	56	83	66

	Maryland Adults											
	Party Registration				Gender		Age			Race		
	All (n=658)	Dem (n=385)	Ind (n=101)	Rep (n=161)	Male (n=398)	Female (n=402)	18-34 (n=217)	35-54 (n=294)	55+ (n=289)	White (n=473)	Black (n=275)	Other (n=70)
Q: TERM1												
Disapprove	17	21	14	12	18	17	21	15	18	15	21	21
Approve	76	70	81	84	76	72	62	80	77	78	68	66
Q: FOOTBALL												
Oppose	49	41	56	62	57	41	58	53	38	47	53	46
Support	46	54	38	35	36	52	35	41	55	47	40	44
Q: BALT												
Disagree	69	64	74	79	70	64	56	75	67	71	61	60
Agree	24	27	22	16	24	26	36	19	23	20	31	34
Q: BALT_EDUC												
Underfund by state gov	23	30	26	6	22	27	30	25	19	18	34	28
Mismanagement by BCPS	40	31	37	59	42	35	32	38	44	45	29	32
Underfund by Baltimore City gov	13	13	13	16	14	14	18	14	10	13	15	15
Q: OP_1												
Not a problem	1	2	1	1	3	1	3	2	1	1	5	1
Minor problem	10	11	13	7	12	9	12	11	9	8	15	14
Major problem	83	81	82	90	81	84	79	84	83	88	73	77
Q: OP_2												
Yes	52	47	50	64	53	51	58	54	46	58	45	39
No	47	52	50	36	46	48	42	45	53	41	54	59
Q: OP_3												
On own	4	3	1	5	6	3	8	4	3	3	6	10
Need medical treatment	84	86	82	83	76	86	74	82	86	86	75	70

	Maryland Adults				
	College		Region		
	>4-year degree (n=356)	4-year degree or more (n=443)	Capitol (n=289)	Central (n=396)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=142)
Q: MDGAJOB					
Disapprove	35	33	26	37	41
Approve	38	43	44	40	37
Don't Know	26	22	29	21	20
Q: WMGOV					
Worse	5	1	1	4	5
Make no difference	50	45	42	49	50
Better	42	51	53	44	41
Q: EDUCFUND					
Too little	73	69	73	68	73
Right amount	17	21	19	21	15
Too much	8	7	5	8	10
Q: TRANSFUND					
Too little	45	58	57	51	45
Right amount	31	29	29	32	26
Too much	13	5	5	7	16
Q: MINWAGE					
Oppose	32	30	23	32	44
Support	65	67	74	64	52

	Maryland Adults				
	College		Region		
	>4-year degree (n=356)	4-year degree or more (n=443)	Capitol (n=289)	Central (n=396)	Outside Urban Corridor (n=142)
Q: TERM1					
Disapprove	19	16	17	18	17
Approve	72	76	76	72	76
Q: FOOTBALL					
Oppose	55	44	44	52	52
Support	39	50	47	43	42
Q: BALT					
Disagree	59	73	76	59	72
Agree	31	20	15	35	19
Q: BALT_EDUC					
Underfund by state gov	24	24	30	20	22
Mismanagement by BCPS	44	34	27	48	38
Underfund by Baltimore City gov	12	15	12	13	20
Q: OP_1					
Not a problem	2	2	3	2	1
Minor problem	7	13	17	6	9
Major problem	86	80	73	87	87
Q: OP_2					
Yes	55	50	42	54	65
No	44	49	56	45	35
Q: OP_3					
On own	7	3	5	4	6
Need medical treatment	76	86	81	83	80