

## Factors Influencing OUD Responses

**Research question (Pyra et al):** How do racial attitudes, political affiliation, or stigma impact support for OUD treatment policies?

**Sample:** 1,161 U.S. adults



Scales/measurements			Policies
Social stigma	10-item scale	e.g., willingness to employ or marry persons with current or history of opioid use disorder or have them married into their family; perceived dangerousness or trustworthiness of individuals with opioid use disorder	Expanding Medicaid benefits to cover OUD treatment
Racial attitudes	8-item scale	e.g., degree of agreement with statements like, "White people in the U.S. have certain advantages because of the color of their skin."	Increasing public funds invested in OUD treatment
Political affiliation	Democrat, republican, leaning toward Democrat, leaning toward Republican, or no affiliation		Making OUD treatment mandatory
			Making naloxone available and easily accessible

**Findings**

**Democrat affiliation increased support**

- expand Medicaid
- increase public spending
- provide Naloxone access
- make treatment mandatory

**Republican, race conservative, stigma decreased support. Black, Hispanic, and Asian American support was lower than that of White respondents**

**Research question (Adams et al, 2022):** How does familiarity with OUD, criminal justice involvement, and respondent demographic characteristics impact stigma towards OUD, discrimination, and policy attitudes in young adults?

**Sample:** 190 young adults (19–29 years old)



Dependent variables	Findings
Social Stigma	Social stigma increased with <i>age</i> and <i>income</i> and decreased with <i>having a family member or friend who misused opioids</i> .
Opioid Policy Scale	Support for opioid treatment policies increased with <i>personal experience with opioid misuse</i> and decreased with <i>personal criminal justice experience</i> .
Opioid Discrimination	Opioid discrimination increased with <i>age, education level, and being unemployed</i> and decreased with <i>having a family member or friend who misused opioids</i> .

## TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Designing and implementing politically and culturally competent public messaging remains a key challenge in crafting and implementing evidence-based responses to the opioid epidemic.
- ✓ Interventions in adolescence may prevent public OUD stigma and increase attitudes supportive of OUD treatment availability.

**Sources:** Adams, Z. W., Taylor, B. G., Flanagan, E., Kwon, E., Johnson-Kwochka, A. V., Elkington, K. S., ... & Aalsma, M. C. (2021). Opioid use disorder stigma, discrimination, and policy attitudes in a national sample of U.S. young adults. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 69*(2), 321-328. Pyra, M., Taylor, B., Flanagan, E., Hotton, A., Lamuda, P., Schneider, J., & Pollack, H. A. (2022). Support for evidence-informed opioid policies and interventions: The role of racial attitudes, political affiliation, and opioid stigma. *Preventive Medicine, 158*, 107034.