



Opioid Settlement Community Outcomes

Chatham County

FY 23 -24 Year in Review

Overview



During FY 23-24, Chatham County hosted a series of community group discussions and conducted a opioid settlement survey. The purpose of this project was to provide transparency around opioid settlement funding and spending, outline current spending plans, as well as hear from community members. The initiative was also an opportunity to collect qualitative data and provide education on the Good Samaritan Law.

By the Numbers



151

Total Survey Respondents



Group Discussion



Three community meetings were held across Chatham Public Libraries; one meeting was held in Chatham Community Library (Pittsboro), Goldston Public Library (Goldston), and Wren Memorial Library (Siler City). A total of 13 attendees (excluding volunteers) participated and were asked 12 questions.



Discussion Questions

- *Of the 12 recommended strategies, what are your top three?*
- *Of the five we have approved for this year, what are your top two?*
- *What specifically under those strategies would you like to see?*
- *What resources are you aware of now in the county?*
- *What are the barriers accessing those resources?*
- *What specifically would help alleviate those barriers?*
- *How has the overdose crisis affected you and your loved ones?*
- *How have current laws and policies affected you and your loved ones?*
- *What hopes do you have for the future of North Carolina's Good Samaritan Law?*
- *What's the best way for us at the health department to communicate public health information to you*
- *What's your dream resource to have in Chatham someday?*
- *What would a community of care look like to you?*

Question 1

Of the 12 Recommended Strategies, what are your Top 3?



Question 2

Of the 5 we have approved for this year, what are your top 2?

6 total responses:

- Evidence-Based Addiction Treatment: 3
- Naloxone Distribution: 2
- Early Intervention: 1
- Collaborative Strategic Planning: 0
- Recovery Support Services: 0

Question 3

What specifically under those strategies would you like to see?

Discussion Themes

- Mental health resources and non-punitive intervention for youth
- Emergency naloxone in public buildings (schools, colleges, libraries, etc)
- Peer support and linkage to care for treatment
- Trauma-informed/mental health first aid trainings for people who work with the public (first responders, social services, medical providers, etc)

Question 4

What resources are you aware of now in the county?

Discussion Themes

- Unaware of any resources in the county for substance use related services
- A few mentions of Piedmont Health, Monarch, Daymark, Vaya, Center for Aging

Question 5

What are the barriers accessing those resources?

Discussion Themes

- Information on what services are available
 - Specifically what's available for low or no cost
- Lack of grassroots sharing of information on resources
- Language barriers
- Care for undocumented people
- Lack of transportation and cohesive infrastructure
- Lack of hands on assistance accessing services
- Lack of wrap around services

Question 6

What specifically would help alleviate those barriers?

Discussion Themes

- Accessing information in various ways
- Paper communications
- Free tablets or devices to see resources/have virtual appointments
- More community outreach and connection
- People with lived experience being more involved
- An up to date accessible list of resources and how to access them

Question 7

How has the overdose crisis affected you and your loved ones?

Discussion Themes

- Lost friends, families, loved ones to overdose death
- Generational trauma and familial substance use
- Concern about potential overdose
- Incarceration and subsequent issues with housing and employment

Question 8

How have current laws and policies affected you and your loved ones?

Discussion Themes

- Fear, stigmatization, shame and blame, othering

Question 9

What hopes do you have for the future of North Carolina's Good Samaritan Law?

Discussion Themes

- Expand immunity granted by GSL
 - Include everyone at the scene of an overdose to reduce fears around calling for help
 - Immunity from arrest, charges, and prosecution
 - No punitive measures from schools/universities for students

Question 10

How have current laws and policies affected you and your loved ones?

Discussion Themes

- Posts and paid ads on social media
- Snail mail
- Flyers in public community spaces (gyms, churches, medical offices, libraries, etc)
- Share with faith leaders/groups

Question 11

What's your dream resource to have in Chatham someday?

Discussion Themes

- One place where people who use substances can get help with all their needs
- Reliable and affordable transportation
- Detox center
- Post-Overdose Response team
- Free naloxone and information available widely
- Homeless/Day Shelter
- Up to date interactive directory with all county resources

Question 12

What would a community of care look like to you?

Discussion Themes

- People with lived experience are involved with educating others
 - Including youth and adults
- Everyone knowing about the resources we already have
- People who used drugs are respected and not stigmatized
- Affordable services across the board
 - Transportation, medical care, social services, housing, etc.

Survey Results

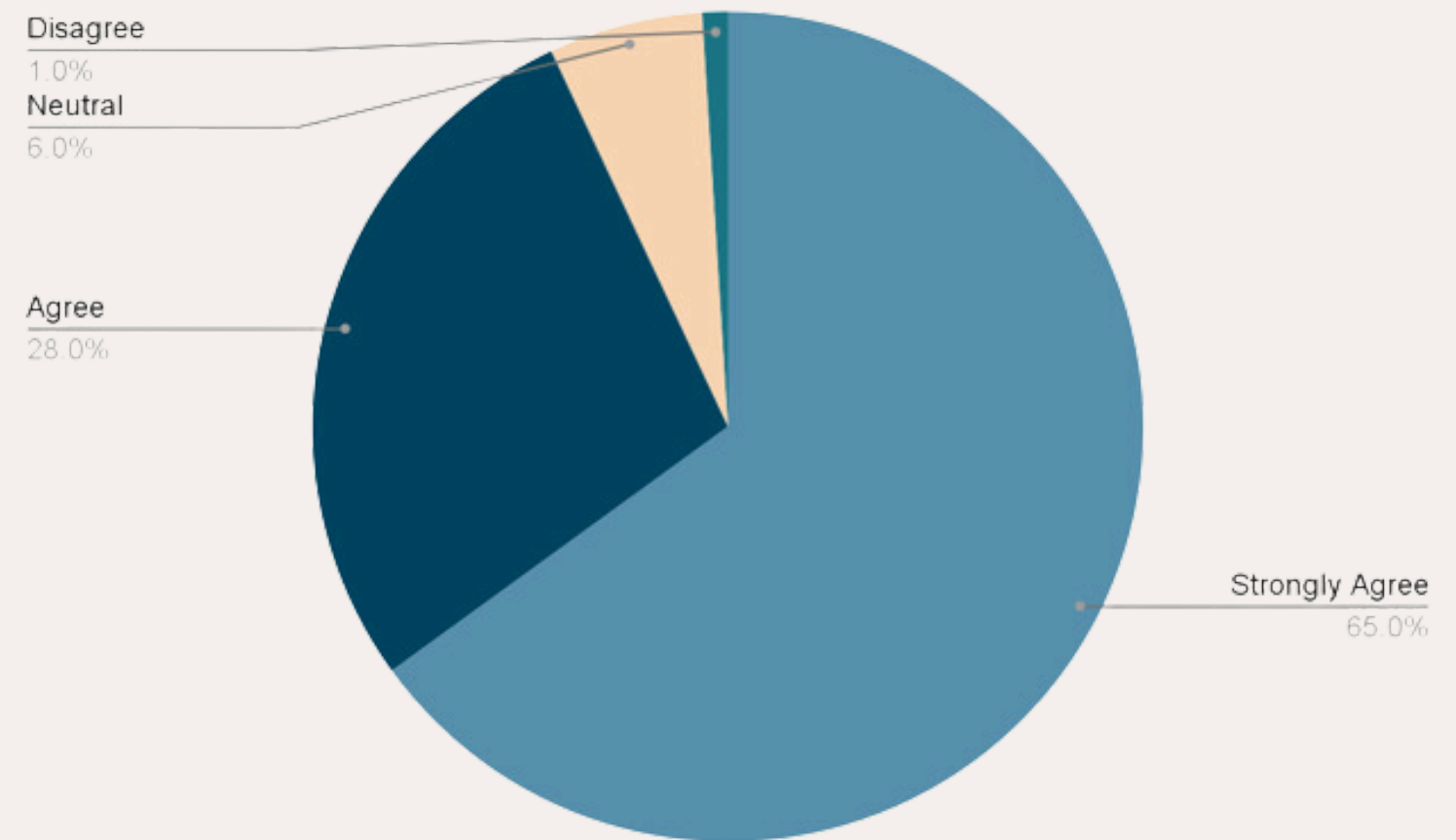


This year's community survey asked Chatham residents several questions, including how the opioid epidemic has impacted the county and how substance use relates personally to residents.

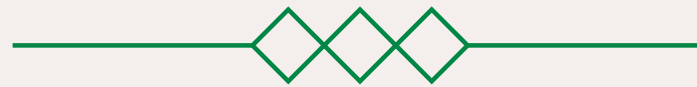


Agree/Disagree

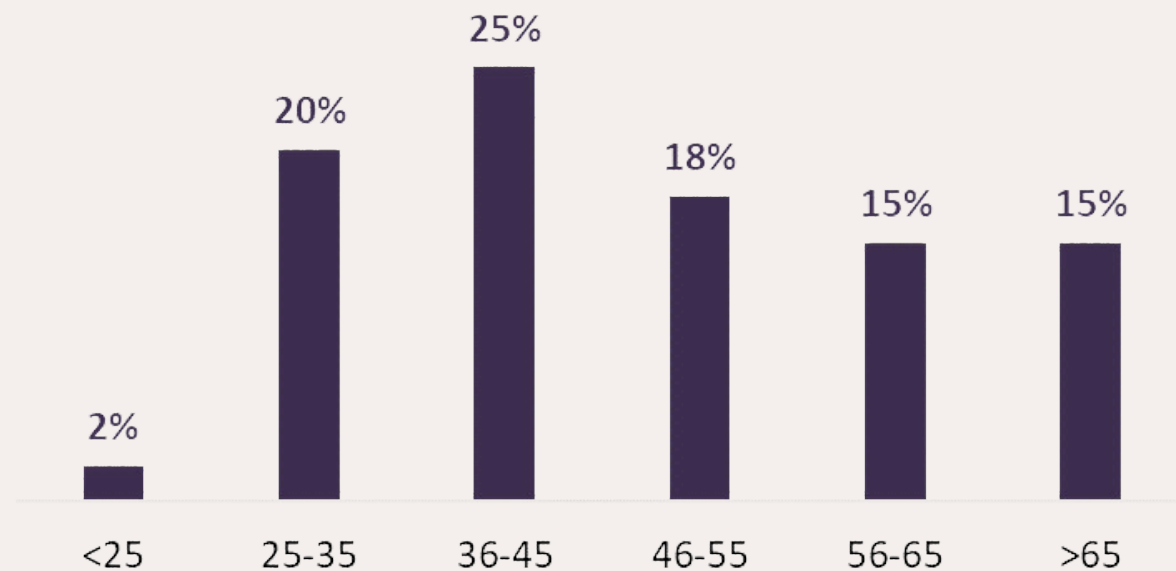
The Opioid Epidemic has Affected Chatham



Demographics



Age of Respondents



Most respondents were above the age of 36. The most common respondent age range was 36-45.

Zip Code (top 10)	Percent of Respondents
27312	37%
27344	19%
27517	5%
27207	5%
27516	4%
27330	3%
27208	2%
27228	2%
27253	2%
27562	2%

A plurality of respondents were located in the county's two largest population centers, Pittsboro/Bynum (27312) and Siler City/Bonlee/Silk Hope (27344).

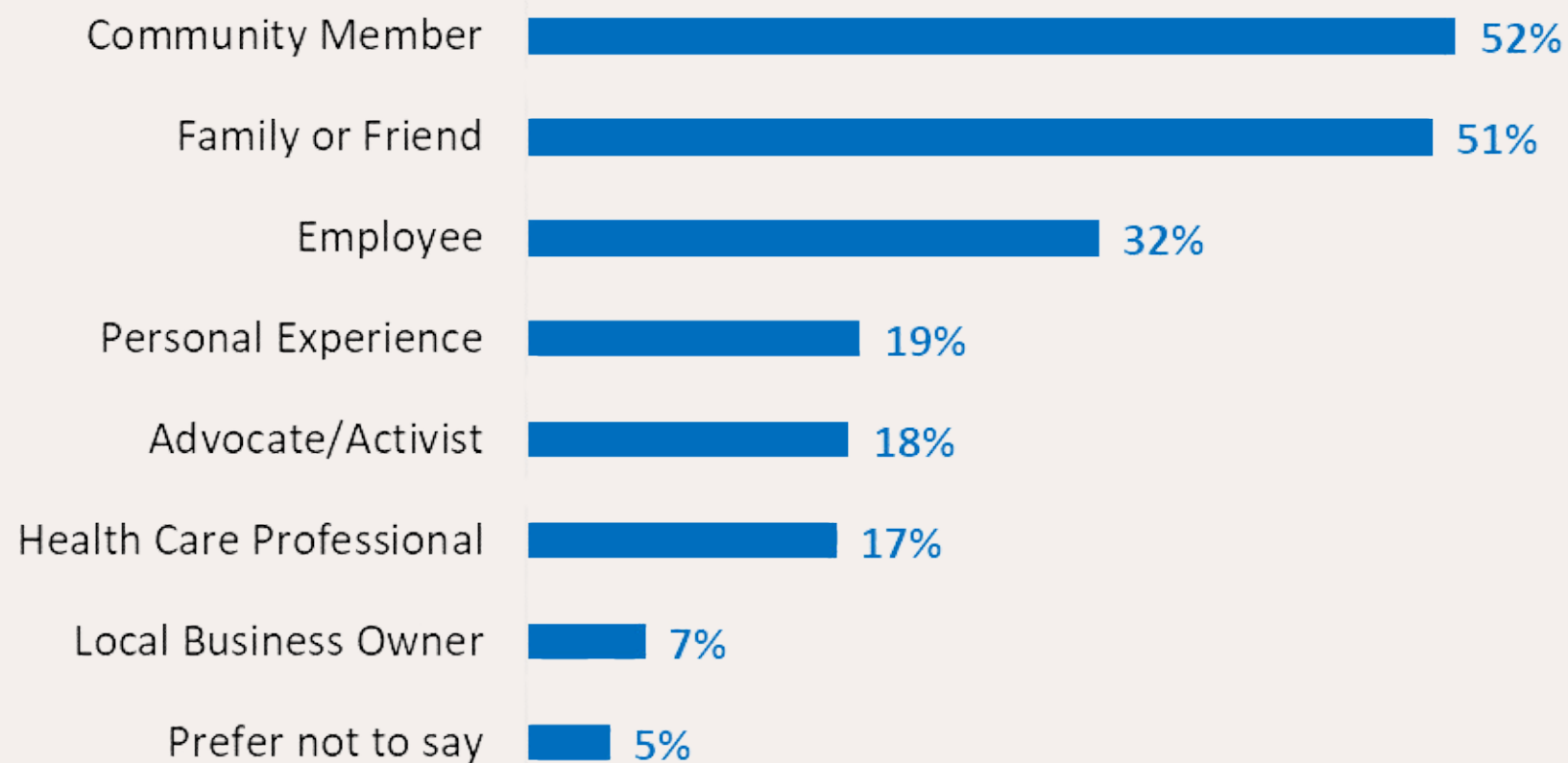
Race/Ethnicity	Percent of Respondents
American Indian or Alaska Native	2%
Asian American or Asian	1%
Black or African American	11%
Hispanic or Latino/a	6%
White	77%

Most respondents were White, slightly under the percentage of White residents in the 2023 Census (77% compared to 81.9%). A lack of Hispanic respondents was noted (only 6% compared to 13.4% in the 2023 Census).

Demographics



Respondent Self-Identification



More than half of respondents identified themselves as family or friend to those who have been affected by opioids.

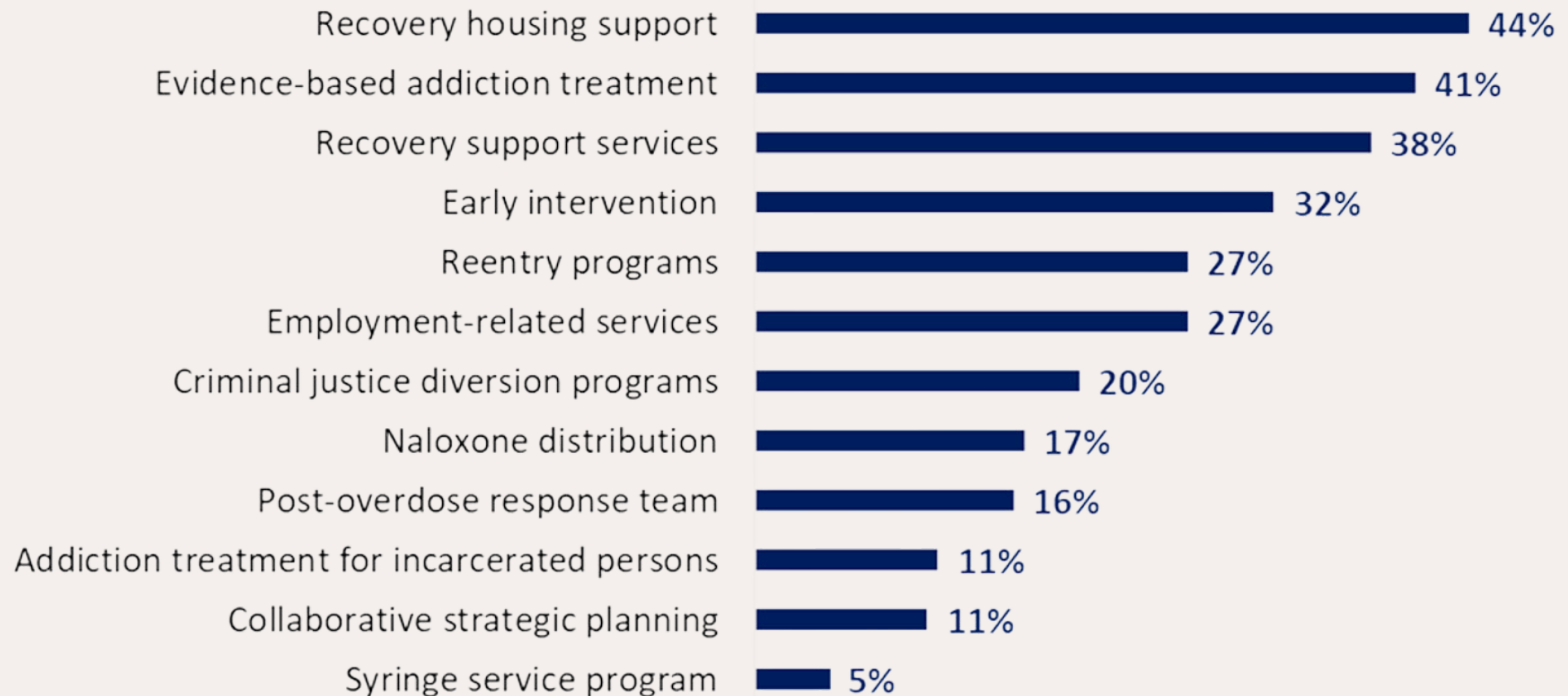
Those who identified as local business owners, advocates/activists and community members were the most likely to say that they had been affected personally by opioids.

Self-ID	% with personal experience	% with family/friend	% with personal experience and/or family/friend
Community Member	21%	49%	53%
Employee	19%	58%	60%
Local Business Owner	30%	90%	90%
Advocate/Activist	30%	56%	56%
Health Care Professional	12%	35%	35%

Evidence-Based Strategy Priorities

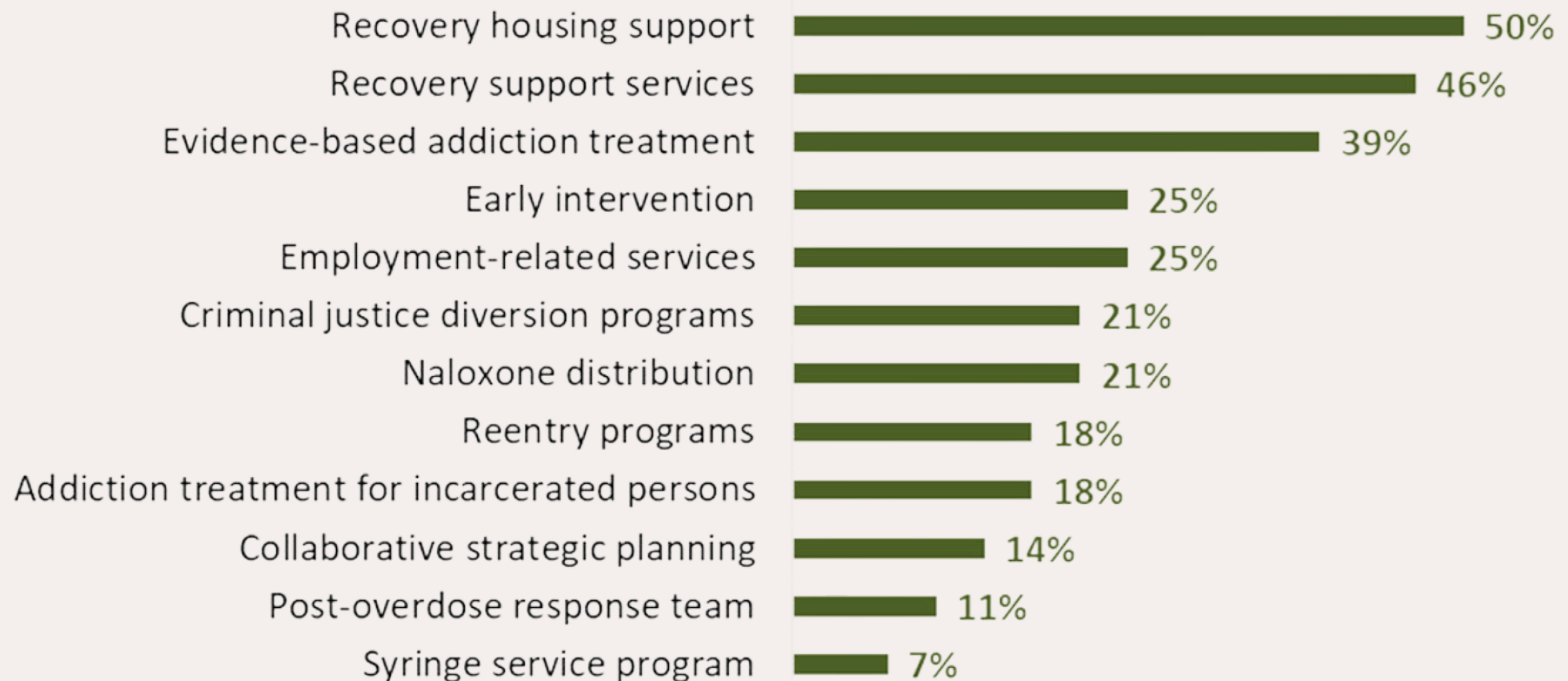
All Respondents

Evidence-based Strategy Priorities



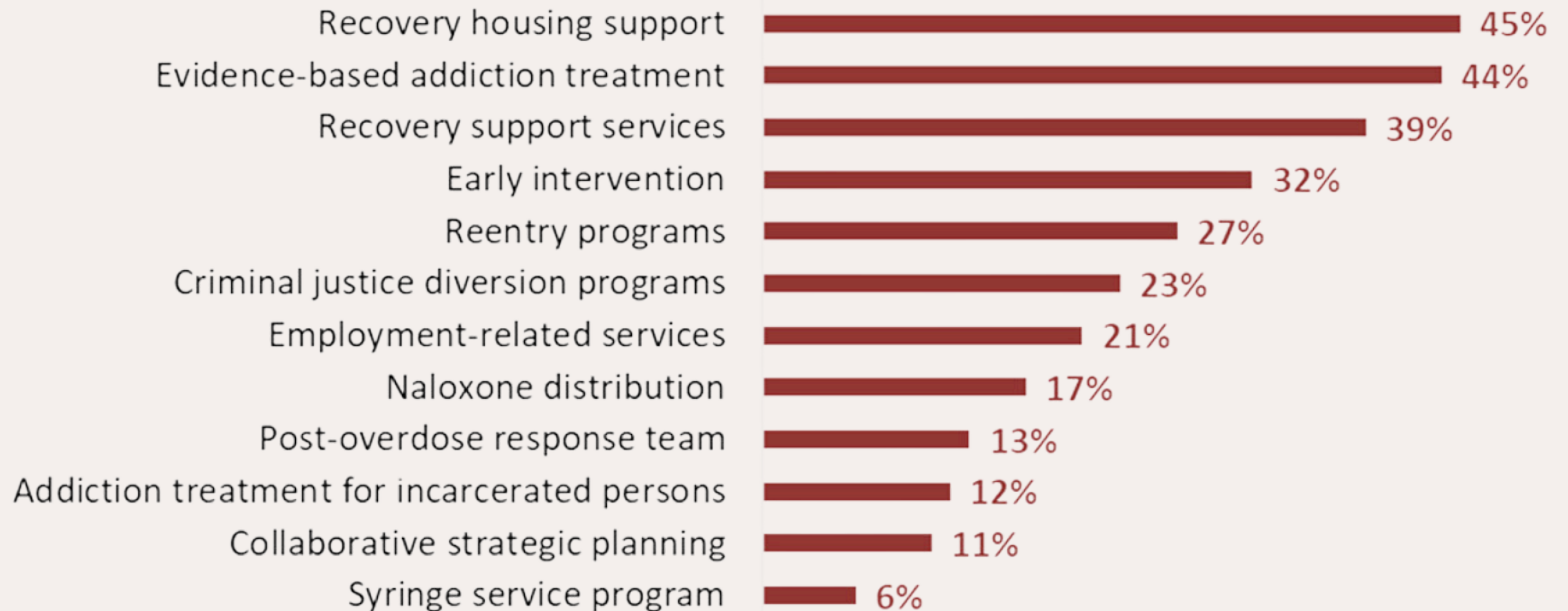
Evidence-Based Strategy Priorities

Personal Experience with Drug Use



Evidence-Based Strategy Priorities

Respondents with Family/Friend Drug Use Experience



Open-Ended Comment



“Healthcare etc workers need educating so they can truly understand!”

“We need to reach the precursors of addiction and not continue to treat addicts and recovering addicts like they're outcasts!”

“We desperately need a residential detox rehab program within our county.”

“...it is clear a Housing First Approach needs to be instituted across the board, especially for folks dealing with homelessness and substance use concurrently.”

“We need TREATMENT; we need Funding for recovery courts; we need support resources for addicts who are in recovery. We need to save people! I've been doing this 28 years and have never experienced the number of deaths we r seeing now We are in crisis.”