

Latest Press Release
Gallup Pakistan

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

PUBLIC OPINION ON DRUGS

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HEROIN AND ALCOHOL CONSIDERED THE MOST DANGEROUS DRUGS

A nation wide Gallup poll reveals that the Pakistani public opinion considers heroin and alcohol as the two most dangerous drugs. There is a serious concern among the public about increasing use of drugs by Pakistani. A majority among the public believes in strict penalties for producers and traffickers of drugs but there are mixed views about how the users should be treated. There are as many people who think users should be strictly punished as those who think they should be provided with treatment. These by findings emerge from a nation wide survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan in all provinces among rural and urban dwellers and including men as well as women. The interviewers were asked to choose two most dangerous drugs form a list of six addictive substances.

Heroin was named by 70% and alcohol by 50% of the respondents. Others drugs rated harmful include opium by 33%, tobacco was also mentioned as a dangerous drug.

Almost 90% Pakistanis believe the use of heroin and opium is a serious problem in Pakistan and 61% think that the use of narcotics is increasing. On the issue of how to control drug usages, 27% recommend more strict penalties for producers while 19% believe that control on the borders can be effective by strict check. 10% believe that educating the youth about the harmfulness of drugs can be an effective check. Another 10% say that producers of opium must be provided with alternate source of income if the production of drugs is to be controlled.

Views are mixed about how to deal with drug users. 48% think addicts should be punished while 42% said that they deserve treatment

Public opinion strongly favors government action against the production trafficking and usage of drugs. 78% believe that stopping the production of heroin and opium should be a top priority of the government. One reason for the high level of public support in favor of drug control is the close relationship which the public sees between drugs and other criminal activity. 78% of the public believes that crimes such as burglary and theft have increased because of increase in the use of heroin and opium.

Question:

Here is a list pf some substances which may be harmful to one s health. In your opinion which two are the most dangerous?

Percent of respondents

Heroin	70
Alcohol	50
Opium	33
Charas	30
Bhang	11
Tobacco	5

Question:

A number of different actions have been suggested as ways to help solve the heroin and opium problems in Pakistan. I will read to you a list of actions. Which one action do you think will help the most?

	Percent of respondents
Increase penalties for heroin and opium producers	27
Control our borders to reduce heroin and opium smuggling	19
Educate youth about heroin and opium's effects	10
Provide other sources of income to opium poppy growers	10
Provide clinics for users of opium and heroin	6
No opinion	27

Question:

In your opinion should people addicted to heroin and opium:

	Percent of respondents
Punished	48
Provided with treatment	42
Be left alone	3
No opinion	7

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The findings presented in this report are based on a nation wide survey of approximately 2200 adults. The sample was selected extremely carefully through two stage area probability sampling technique and includes all geographic income education and linguistic groups in approximately the same proportion by which they are included in the actual population. The sample is therefore a true cross- section of the entire population.

GALLUP PAKISTAN VISTTED BY THE SPEAKER

The speaker of the national assembly Mr.Fakher Imam paid a visit this morning to the offices of Gallup Pakistan (Pakistan of public opinion). He stayed there for 90 minutes and was given a detailed briefing on the current state of public attitudes by the institute's chairman Dr. Ijaz Gilani.

The speaker expressed his appreciation for the technical competence of researchers at the Gallup Institute and expressed the hope that institutes research efforts would play an important role in creating awareness about social and political attitudes of the masses. He regarded public opinion polls to be an essential feature of a democratic society. Mr. Fakhar Imam urged that Gallup Pakistan should assist in conducting scientific surveys on the parliament and other important national issues such as the impact of rural development energy shortage and the mass media.

The speaker indicated his desire that similar briefing sessions would be arranged by Gallup Pakistan for members of the Parliament.

The speaker was also briefed about Gallup Pakistan's study of the 1985 elections which has now been published as a book titled **"Pakistan at the Polls"**.