





## **Key Findings:**

### **1. Opioid Crisis Exposure:**

- Nearly one-third (31%) of respondents reported knowing someone who died from opioid overdoses or knowing someone who knew someone who died. Of these, 59% personally knew someone who had died due to an opioid overdose.
- Middle-aged individuals are more likely to know someone who died from an opioid overdose, while personal overdose experiences are most common among those aged 33 and under.
- New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia reported the highest opioid exposure, with the Northeast most impacted.

### **2. Attribution of Accountability:**

- The majority (51.2%) believe the U.S. federal government is primarily responsible for addressing the opioid crisis. State and local governments are seen as responsible by 20.1%, with no other entities receiving more than 7% of responses.
- Nearly half (49%) of respondents see China as a significant contributor to the opioid crisis, though only 11% view China as the most responsible.
- When asked to identify who is to blame for the opioid crisis, respondents distributed blame across several actors, including the users themselves, the U.S. federal government, pharmaceutical companies, doctors, and international entities such as China and Mexico. When asked to select a single group most responsible other than users, criminal cartels were most frequently identified followed by pharmaceutical companies and the federal government.

### **3. Perceptions of China:**

- A general skepticism towards China is evident, with 61.4% holding a negative view.
- Attributing the opioid crisis to China is linked to a decline in Americans' favorable opinions of the country. Those with limited or no direct experience with China are more likely to blame China for the opioid crisis. Conversely, individuals with direct experience in China are less inclined to attribute blame.

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- Younger generations (born between 1991 and 2010) and Black and Hispanic respondents are less likely to view China as responsible compared to older and White respondents.

**Methodology:** The poll, which surveyed 3,000 American adults, explores how personal exposure to opioids shapes attitudes towards various entities, including China.

### **About PAX *sapiens***

[PAX sapiens](#) is a private foundation established by Giving Pledge members Marcel Arsenault and Cynda Collins Arsenault. PAX *sapiens*' mission is to prevent predictable global catastrophes through the creation of new systems of collective coordination that promise a more peaceful world. work currently focuses on three specific preventable catastrophic risks. These are preventing global pandemics, preventing armed conflicts between the US and China, and preventing the use of nuclear weapons.

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