

TITLE: Oregonians Beliefs and Attitudes Towards M110 and its Impacts

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ABSTRACT: Measure 110 (M110), which decriminalized personal drug possession, is the first of its kind in the U.S. and has dramatically shifted the tide from an approach based on criminalization to one based in public health. However, attitudes regarding the impact of M110 and the plan itself are mixed. We surveyed Oregon residents (N = 455) about their beliefs about the impact M110 will have on various public health, criminal justice, and equity outcomes as well as beliefs about the plan itself. Data was collected in January of 2022 and regional differences in beliefs were examined. Our results suggest that Oregon residents agree on the direct impacts of M110 as measured by the improvements to SUD treatment access and worsening of public drug use. However, there is less agreement about the indirect effects the measure will have, especially relating to complex issues like racial equity and disease incidence. We also find that there are regional differences in beliefs about M110. Our results highlight the biggest concerns Oregon residents have regarding the impact of M110 and can be used to further efforts to address these concerns. Further, regional differences in beliefs should be considered when developing outreach strategies.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify the most prominent concerns about the impact of M110. Compare beliefs about M110 across different regions of Oregon. Describe components of the M110 plan that are most favorable.
