Majority of Marylanders Support Treatment Programs as Sentence for First-Time Conviction of Drug Possession

A telephone survey of Maryland households shows that a majority (59%) of Marylanders believe that individuals convicted for the first time of possessing drugs should be sent to treatment programs. A combination sentence of both incarceration and treatment is supported by another 30% of Marylanders. The poll, conducted in the spring of 1994 for CESAR by the University of Maryland Survey Research Center, was of a sample of Maryland householders aged 18 or older.

Should an Individual Convicted for the First Time of Possessing Drugs for Personal Use Be Sent to Jail, to a Treatment Program, or Both?

![Pie chart showing the distribution of responses to the poll question. The majority (59.3%) supported treatment, followed by a combination of treatment and jail (30.1%), jail (2.5%), and treatment (4.4%).]

SOURCE: Statewide telephone poll of adults aged 18 or older, conducted for CESAR by the University of Maryland Survey Research Center, College Park. (Margin of error: ±3%. Numbers do not total 100% due to rounding.)