



Analysis of Poll Results: Drug Issues in Thai Society

Survey conducted between July 23 - 26, 2024 with a sample size of 1,128 respondents

Key Findings:

Had experience seeing drug use/purchase

47.70%

The reason for drug use had been the ease of buying and selling

82.54%

Solving the drug problem had still been quite ineffective

88.21%

Suppressing drugs had been difficult because they were easy to buy

79.40%

The Changing Status of Cannabis and Hemp

Among the respondents, 36.10% believe that reclassifying cannabis and hemp as narcotics would improve the economy, while 34.74% think it would worsen economic conditions. Regarding the government's image, 45.12% feel that it would enhance its reputation. The differing opinions on the economic impact reflect the varied perspectives of the public, highlighting the need for clear and transparent communication to build understanding and confidence in policy direction.



The survey highlights that drug problems remain widespread in Thai society. When drugs are easy to buy, access becomes easier, leading to increased involvement in drug use. Despite this, drug issues are complex, involving social, economic, and political dimensions. The government has attempted to tackle drug problems through various measures, including prevention efforts among different population groups such as children, youth, and workers, as well as community-level prevention, law enforcement, and rehabilitation of drug users. **However, the survey shows that 88.21% of the population believes the government's approach to drug issues is ineffective. To build public confidence, the government must urgently improve its efforts in drug prevention, crackdown on drug networks, law enforcement, and serious rehabilitation of drug addicts.** It is crucial for all relevant agencies to genuinely integrate their efforts to address these issues effectively.

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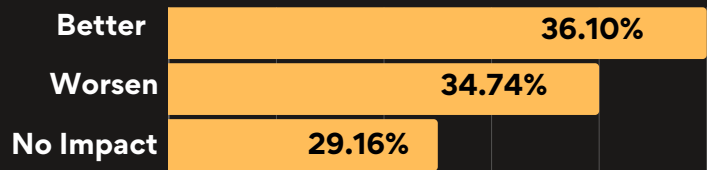
Drugs are Easy to Buy and Sell

47.70% of the respondents had witnessed people close to drugs using or purchasing drugs. Additionally, 82.54% had indicated that buying and selling drugs had become easier, highlighting the alarming spread of drug abuse in Thai society

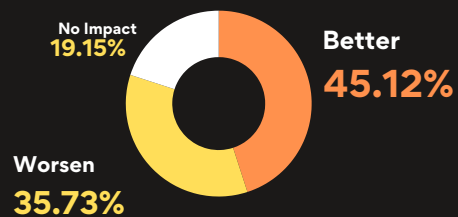
Addressing drug problems requires urgent and serious action

88.21% of respondents believe that the current measures to address drug problems are not quite effective, signaling a need for urgent improvements. Among the respondents, 81.14% suggested increasing penalties and enforcing laws more strictly, while 56.91% expect the Royal Thai Police to crack down on drug trafficking effectively

Impact of Reclassifying Cannabis and Hemp as Narcotics on the Economy



Impact of Reclassifying Cannabis and Hemp as Narcotics on the Government's Image



The survey results indicate that drug problems are no longer hidden in the shadows of society. Drugs are "easy to buy, easy to sell, and elusive." In other words, drugs are cheap, easily accessible, and sellers operate in the shadows, making enforcement insufficient. Consequently, the public perceives that the efforts to address drug problems are not quite as effective as they should be. Therefore, when cannabis and hemp are reclassified as narcotics, some believe it could improve better the government's image. Combating drug issues remains a significant challenge for all involved agencies, which must act urgently to build public confidence.

Summary and Analysis of Poll Results
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