



May 28, 2008

Dear Stakeholder:

In the fall of 2007, as the United States Anti-Doping Agency (“USADA”) concluded its seventh year of operation, USADA decided for the second time to seek input through a formal survey on its efforts from its key stakeholders, athletes and athlete support personnel. Our goal was to obtain information to assist our continuing efforts to be the most effective in fulfilling our mission to protect the rights of clean athletes and the integrity of Olympic sport.

Board of Directors

*Ralph W. Hale, MD
Chair*

*Richard W. Cohen, MD
Vice Chair*

*Barry Axelrod
Treasurer*

*Annette Salmeen, DPhil
Secretary*

Evelyn Ashford

Lawrence Brown, Jr., MD, MPH

Jean Fourcroy, MD, PhD, MPH

Andrew Mecca, Dr PH, MPH

Donald L. Gambriel

Carl J. Swenson

USADA contracted with an outside firm, CorVirtus, to conduct a comprehensive on-line survey. We had a successful response rate which was primarily due to the strong support and assistance from athletes, the United States Olympic Committee, the Olympic Training Centers and National Governing Bodies.

We sincerely hope that you will take the time to review the Executive Summary of the survey results, which can be found at www.usada.org/go/usadasurvey.

In addition to our other efforts, the survey results have and will continue to assist us in setting our goals by allowing us to enhance and improve our programs and services. For example, as identified by the survey, we are working to expand our clean sport initiatives and opportunities for athlete involvement with these educational efforts and we are also working to enhance communication with all of our stakeholders.

While we recognize the successes of the past, we remain dedicated to continuous improvement to best protect the rights and health of athletes and preserving the integrity of sport. We can only accomplish this mission with the continued support and collective commitment from each you. If you have questions or comments regarding the survey, please contact us at usada@usada.org, or at (719) 785-2000.

Thank you for your support of USADA and for taking a stand for sport played with integrity.

Sincerely,

Ralph Hale, M.D.
Chairman, USADA Board of Directors

Sincerely,

Travis T. Tygart
Chief Executive Officer



Athlete & Athlete Support Personnel Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Project Overview:

Following several years of operation and improvement in its anti-doping programs, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) performed an independent evaluation of the perceptions that athletes and athlete support personnel have of USADA and their anti-doping programs in late 2007. To this end, USADA contracted with an independent survey company, CorVirtus (of Colorado Springs), to develop and administer an on-line survey to evaluate the perceived impact of USADA's efforts in the anti-doping movement. Working with CorVirtus allowed a large degree of independence and assured the respondents of the confidentiality of their responses. Athletes that compete at the elite level and respective athlete support personnel (coaches, trainers, nutritionists, doctors, NGB administrators, and other sport related administrators) were surveyed regarding their experiences with, and perceptions of, USADA's programs and services. Online surveys were developed specifically for each of the target groups and between October 15th and December 6th of 2007, 1072 athletes and support personnel responded anonymously to the survey for their respective group. Athletes comprised the majority of the respondents (84%, 805 respondents) with the remaining 16% (157 respondents) identifying themselves as athlete support personnel. Page 4 of this Executive Summary illustrate basic athlete respondent demographics.

For both groups appropriate research methods and statistical sample size requirements were met to be confident the survey results were representative of responses from the target population (elite athletes or athlete support personnel; sampling error- athletes: +/- 3%, athlete support personnel: +/-5%). Respondents participated voluntarily and were notified of the survey via participation cards, direct emails, and phone calls. After completing the survey, respondents were able to register to be randomly selected to win one of six cash prizes for participating.

Questions and content for the Athlete and Athlete Support Personnel Experience Surveys were developed in cooperation with USADA's leadership team. During item development, a focus was placed on producing survey items that would evaluate USADA's major programs and efforts, as well as allowing USADA to identify opportunities for improvement. For analytic and comparative purposes, scales were developed to evaluate the global effectiveness of each of USADA's core functions. Each scale was composed of multiple items designed to evaluate factors theorized to be important to success of the functional area¹. These findings are illustrated in the executive summary graphs on pages 6 and 8.

Item content and delivery was refined through pre-survey focus groups and a beta test of the online survey with both target groups. The focus groups were designed to explore potential survey topic areas and acquire insight into the each group's unique perspective, verbiage, and knowledge of USADA programs and testing processes. The beta test permitted a group of athletes and athlete support personnel to take the survey in its proposed format prior to administration, to evaluate and provide feedback of the proposed content and online interface.

Survey Findings:

There is overwhelming support of USADA's purpose among athletes and athlete support personnel, with 92% indicating² they strongly support USADA. Perhaps even more importantly, athletes and athlete support personnel feel that USADA is having a positive impact on doping perceptions and behaviors and continues to improve their programs. For instance, over 75% of athletes and athlete support personnel indicated that compared to other doping control agencies, USADA has the best doping control program. Respondents also felt that USADA has significantly improved its programs and activities over the past several years (78% agreement). The following findings are illustrated in the graphs on pages 5 and 7 of this summary.

Athletes and athlete support personnel identified several USADA program areas as particularly effective, including:

- The USADA Clean Sport Campaign: Athletes and athlete support personnel support USADA's clean sport campaign and believe it to be effective. 77% of respondents³ indicated that USADA makes it possible for them to take a stand for clean sport and 74% of respondents indicated they believe USADA's clean sport initiatives help shape attitudes about competing clean.
- The Sample Collection and Analysis Process: More than 80% of respondents indicated that USADA's sample collection and analysis procedures are fair, indicating that the process is consistently applied and concerns are addressed when raised by athletes and athlete support personnel.

¹ Items and scales were limited to topics and dimensions that athletes or athlete support personnel have the ability to experience.

² "Indicated": Respondents reported that they either "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" on the item

³ Respondents: Both athletes and athlete support personnel that responded to the item or scale.

- The Athlete Whereabouts System and associated technology: More than 75% of respondents indicated that USADA is doing it's best to ensure compliance with the Athlete Whereabouts System and the use of technology has made it easier to be in compliance.
- The Drug Reference Resources: 77% of respondents are confident in the online resources, 79% of respondents feel the resources are readily available, and 73% of respondents feel USADA's drug reference resources help reduce the unintentional use of prohibited substances and methods. 75% of athletes indicated they use USADA's resources to decide what medications to take.
- USADA Education Sessions: Most respondents felt that USADA's education sessions provide important information (81%), present technical information in an easy to understand format (74%), help them understand the Out of Competition testing process (78%), and ultimately they made use of the knowledge gained in the sessions (75%).

Along with identifying USADA's strengths, athletes and athlete support personnel identified areas of opportunity in which USADA may improve⁴. Overall, athletes and athlete support felt that USADA could improve in the areas of:

- Information Delivery: Currently, the wealth of information provided may be causing some to feel overwhelmed with information. Athletes and athlete support personnel request more explicit information provided through multiple forums.
- Adjudication Support: Athletes and athlete support personnel would like more support while involved in the adjudication process. Only 46% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that USADA's adjudication process was easy to understand and only 43% agreed or strongly agreed that USADA provides helpful support to athletes involved in the adjudication process.
- Research Activities: Few communications have been provided to athletes and athlete support personnel regarding USADA's research methods to athletes and athlete support personnel, and this may be one reason why the advancements in detection of new doping practices through research was not better represented. Whatever the reason, only 51% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that advancements in detection had been gained through USADA's research activities.
- Publications/Press Releases: Athletes and athlete support personnel tend to not utilize USADA publications and press releases. 41% of respondents indicated that they did NOT regularly read USADA's press releases and 42% do NOT regularly refer to USADA's publications.
- Missed Tests/Unintentional Doping: There are mixed impressions of whether USADA effectively supports athletes in avoiding the possibility of missing a drug test. Only 33% of athletes and athlete support personnel agreed that USADA made it easy to avoid missed tests, however nearly the same amount (32%) indicated disagreement with this statement, indicative of inconsistent experiences in this particular area.

Potential Next Steps:

USADA has begun planning ways in which the information gathered from the survey can be used to improve existing and future programs and services. Thus far, this has included planning meetings within USADA's leadership team and with CorVirtus. USADA has identified four broad activities which it will employ to address the areas identified by athletes and athlete support personnel as in need of improvement:

- Feedback Sessions with Athletes/Athlete Support Personnel: Structured feedback sessions centered around topics of concern on the survey will help USADA further understand and diagnose issues and appropriately address concerns.
- New Educational Modules/Licensures: Additional tutorials and training modules focused on specific areas which athletes and athlete support personnel identified as areas of concern might be easily addressed with new training and education programs.

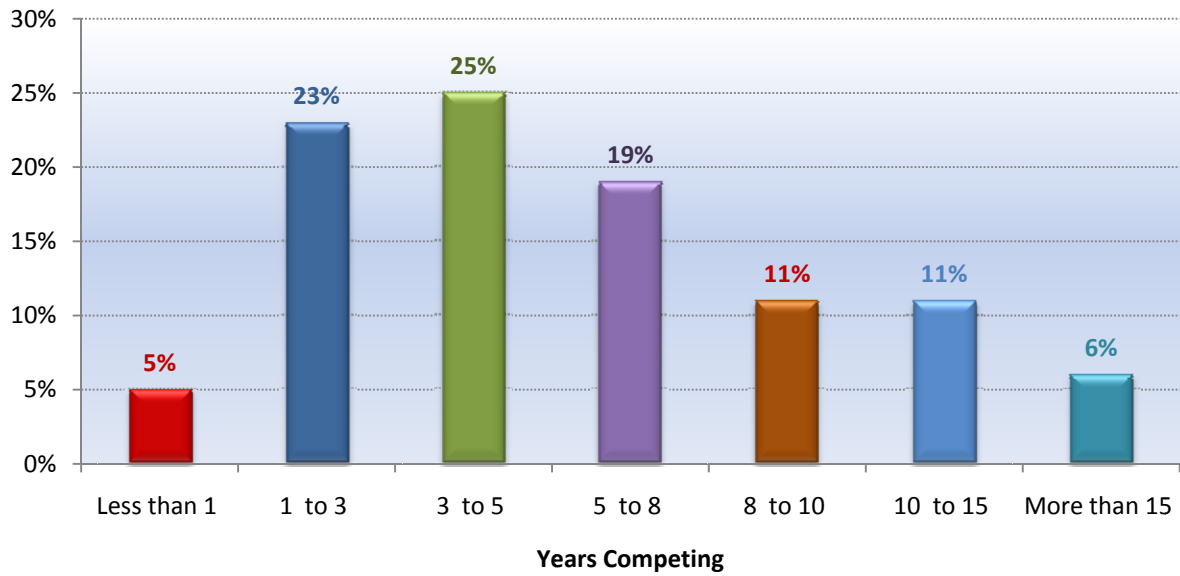
⁴ Opportunities: Athletes and athlete support personnel indicated low "agreement" with the item (or scale) and/or high "disagreement" ("Strongly Disagreed" or "Disagreed") with the item (or scale).

- Evaluation of Communication Processes, including a revision of the USADA Website and Web-based Tools: Improved communication methods and tools can address issues with information delivery.
- Future Surveys: Future surveys will help monitor progress and trends across all areas of strengths and areas for opportunity. Through periodic evaluation of athlete and athlete support personnel's perceptions and experiences, USADA will be better able to further fine tune their programs and protect clean sport.

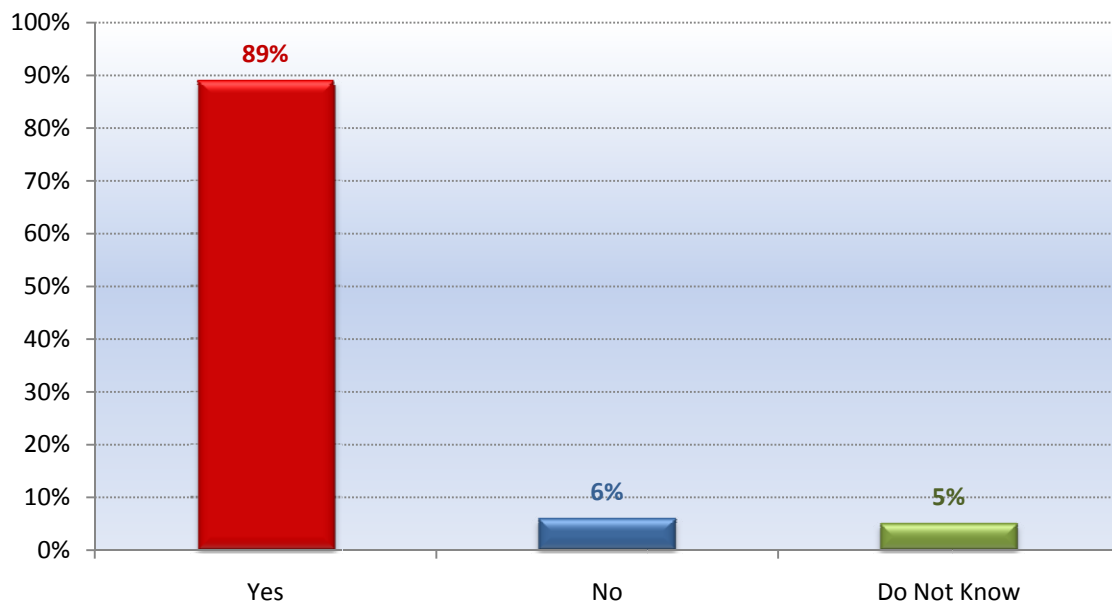
USADA and CorVirtus would like to thank all athletes, the United States Olympic Committee, National Governing Bodies, and athlete support personnel who assisted with this survey effort.

Athlete Demographics, N=805

How long (in years) have you been competing at a national level in your current sport?



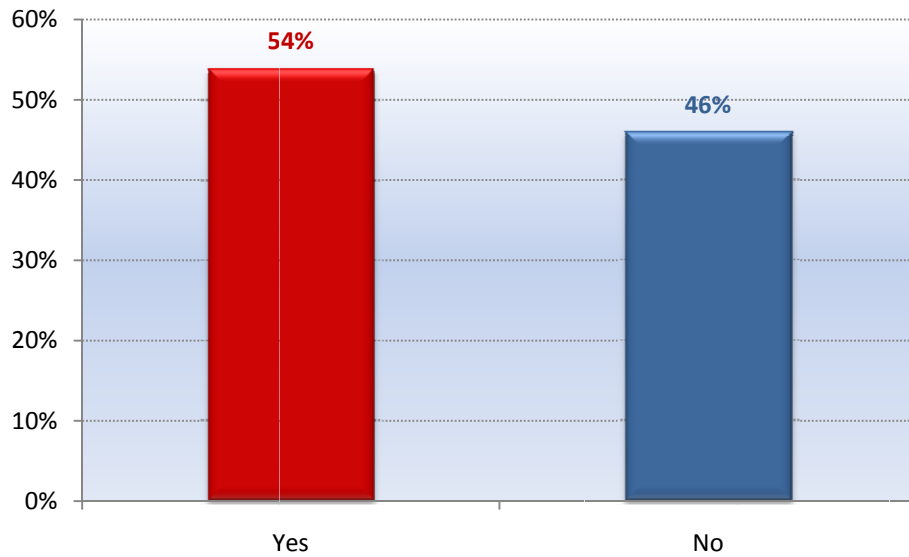
Are you currently enrolled in USADA's Out-of-Competition testing pool?



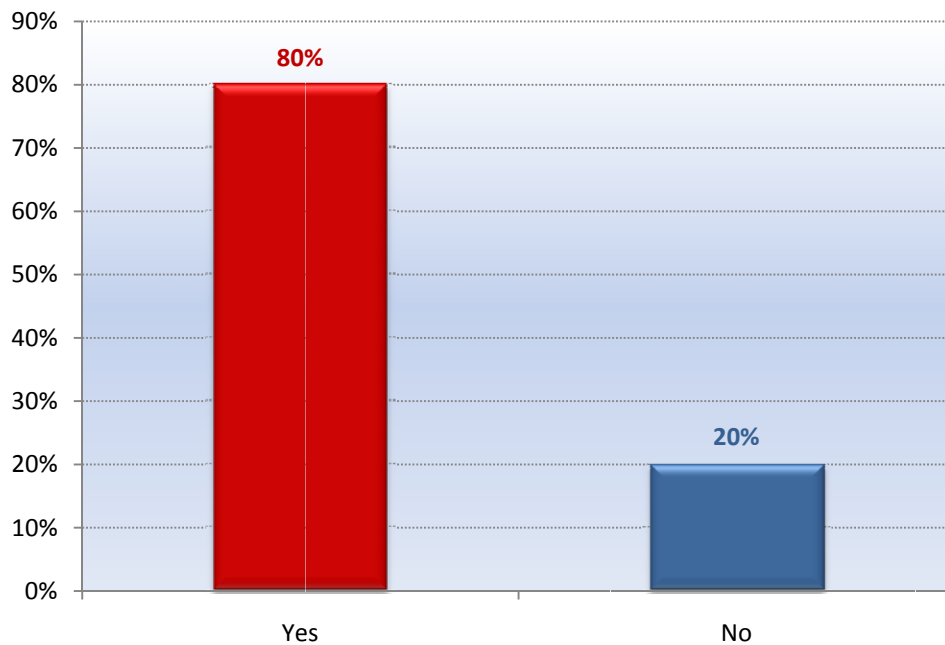
Athlete Demographics, N=805

Testing Experience:

Have you ever been drug tested by an agency other than USADA?



I have been drug tested Out-of-Competition by USADA.

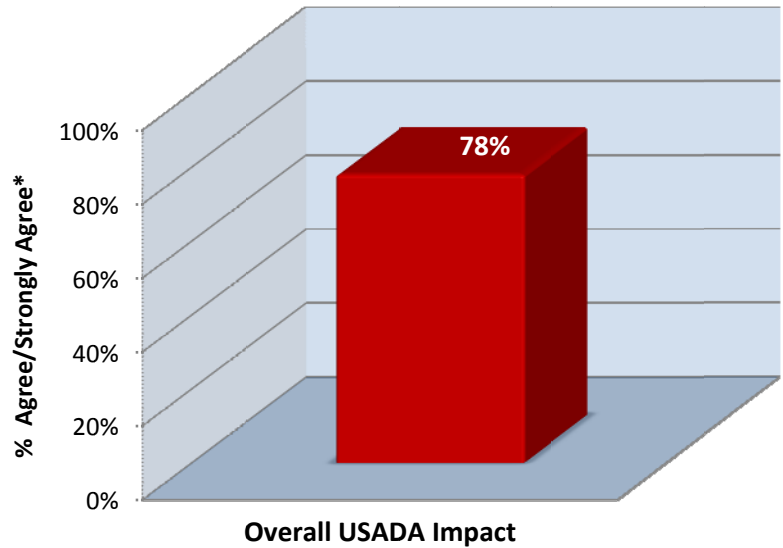


2007 Athlete Survey Result Highlights

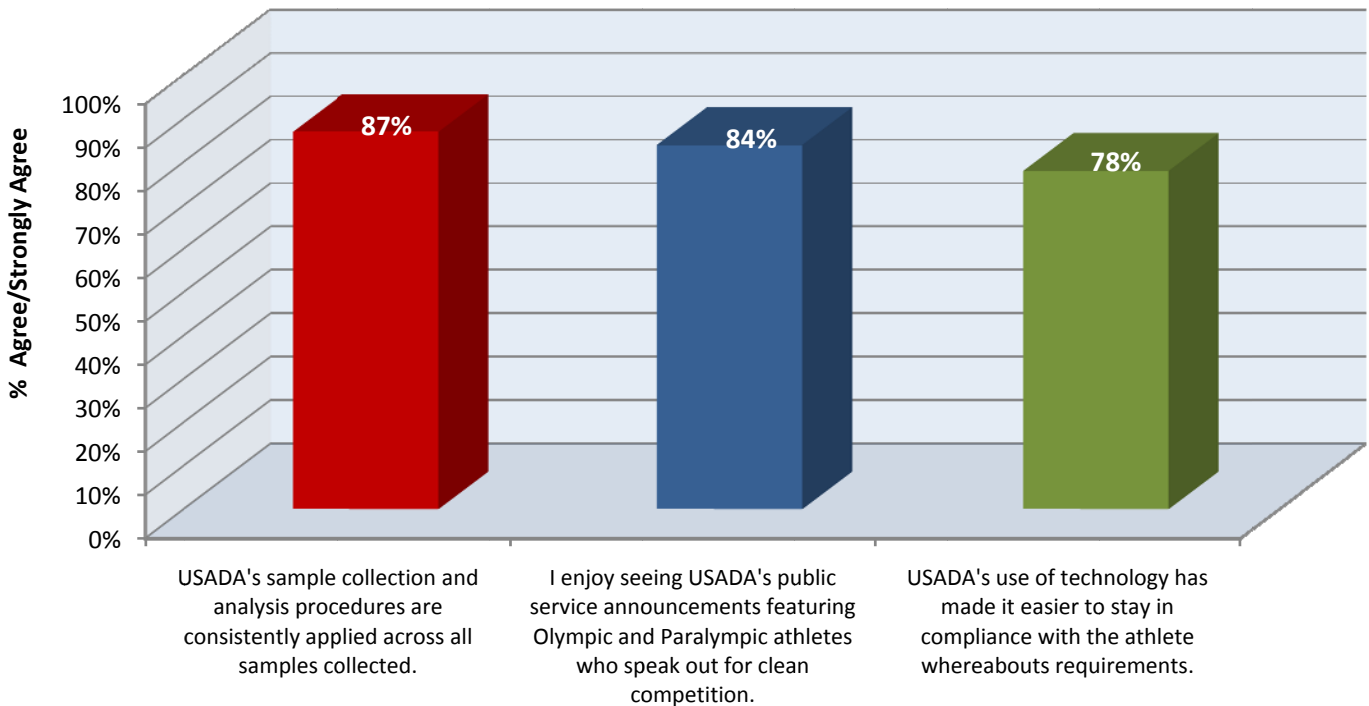
Overall USADA Impact

This result represents the overall perception of USADA effectiveness as measured by the following 4 items:

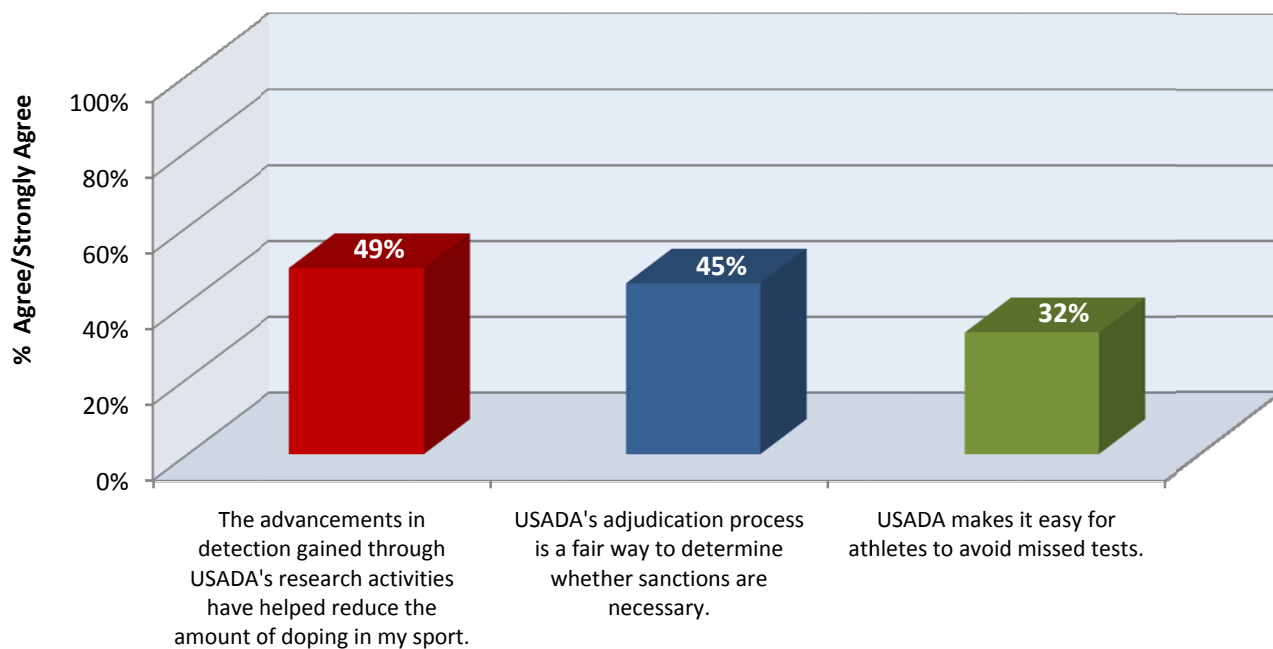
1. USADA makes it possible for me to take a stand for clean sport.
2. I strongly support USADA's purpose.
3. Compared to other doping control agencies, USADA has the best doping control program.
4. USADA has significantly improved its programs and activities over the past several years.



Areas of Celebration

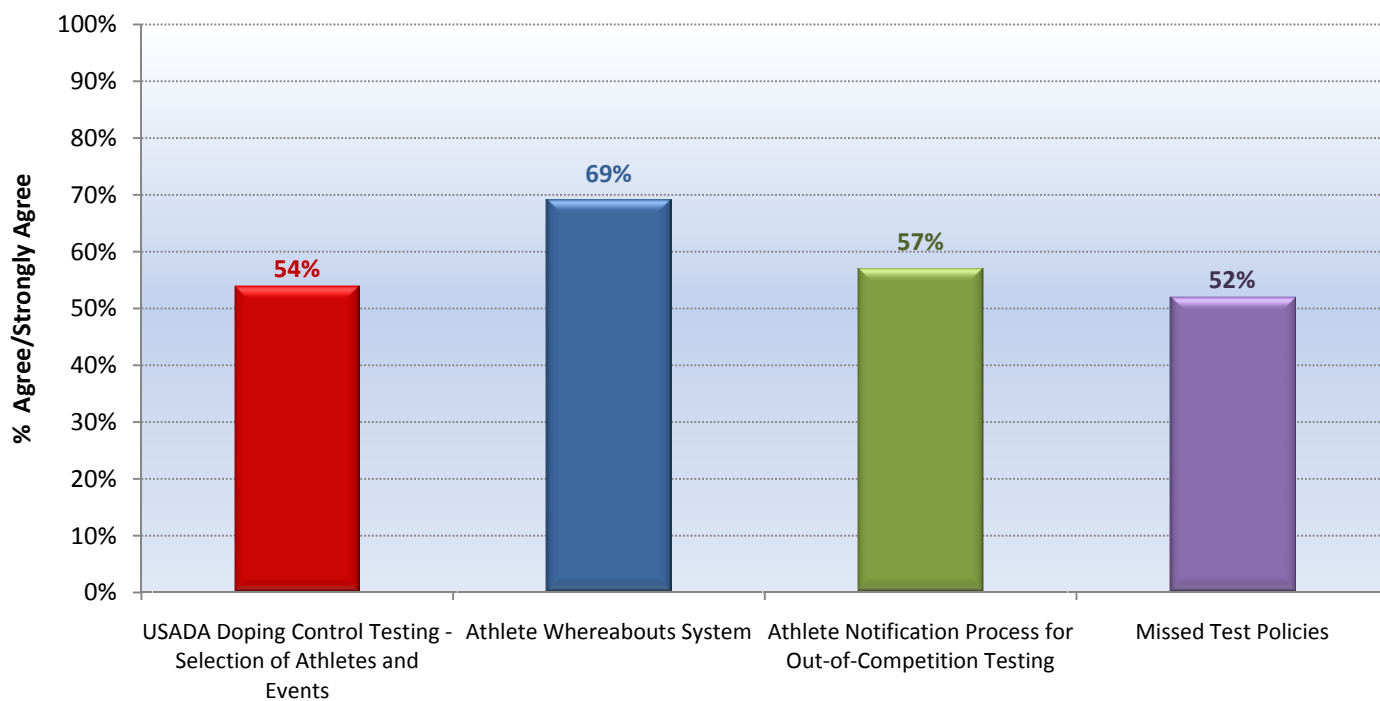


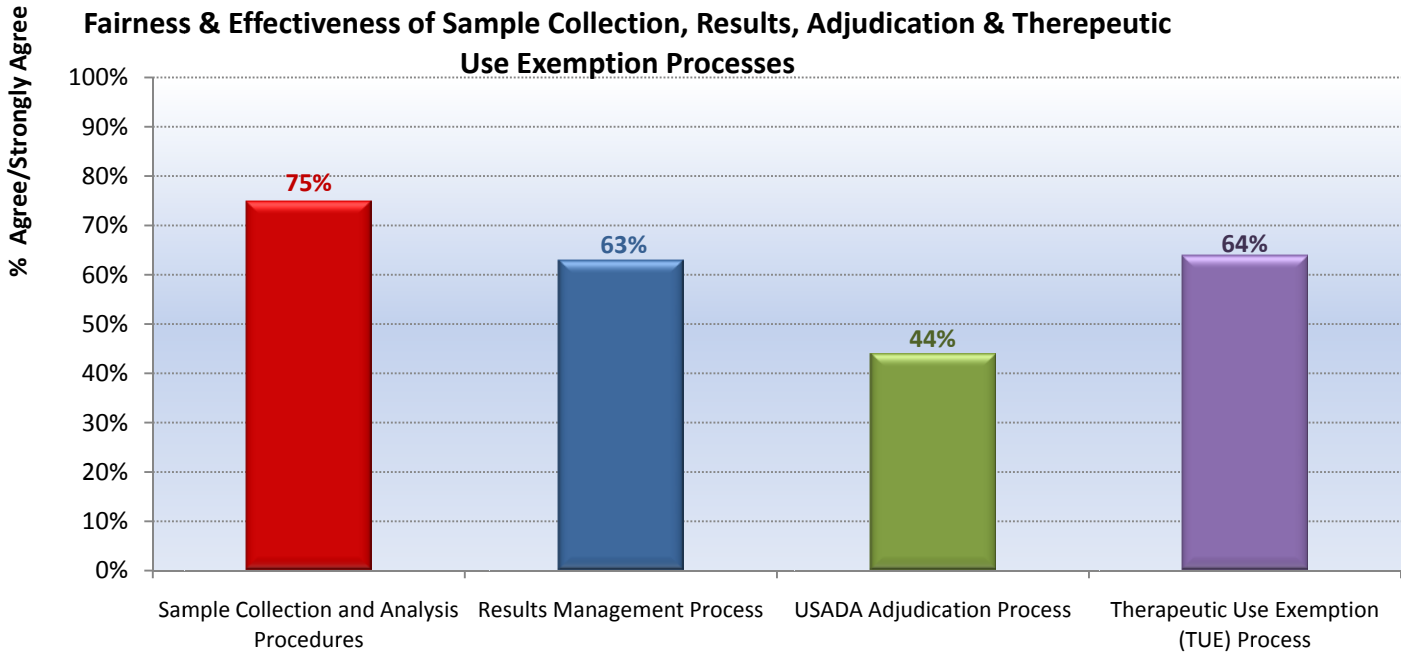
Areas of Opportunity



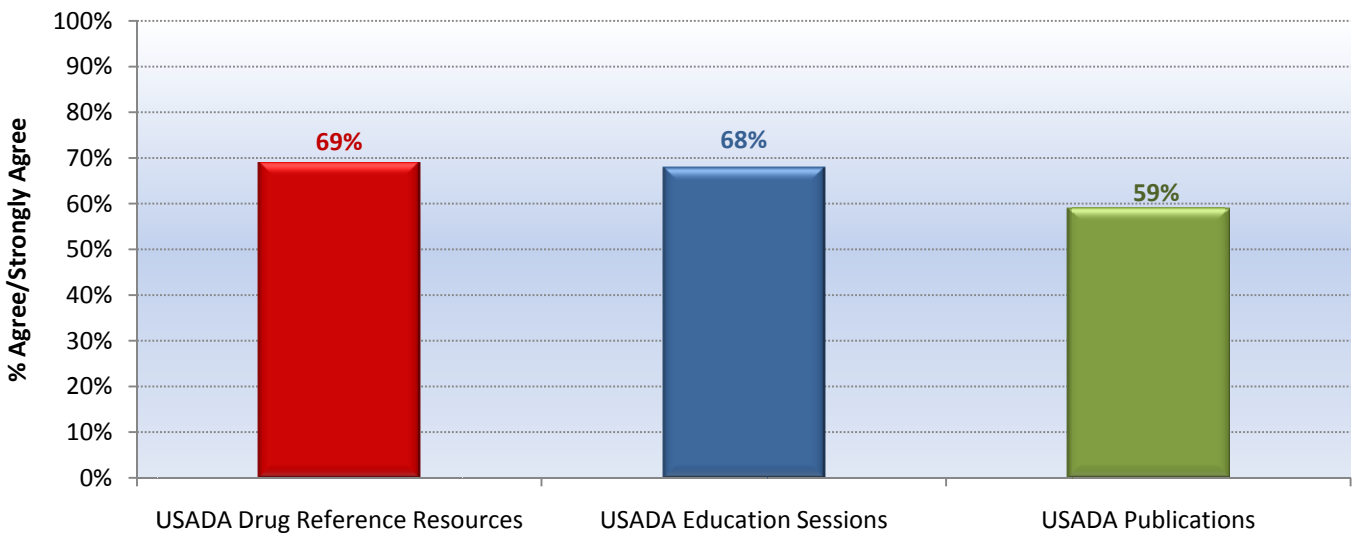
2007 Athlete Experience with USADA Programs and Services

Fairness and Effectiveness of Testing Programs & Policies

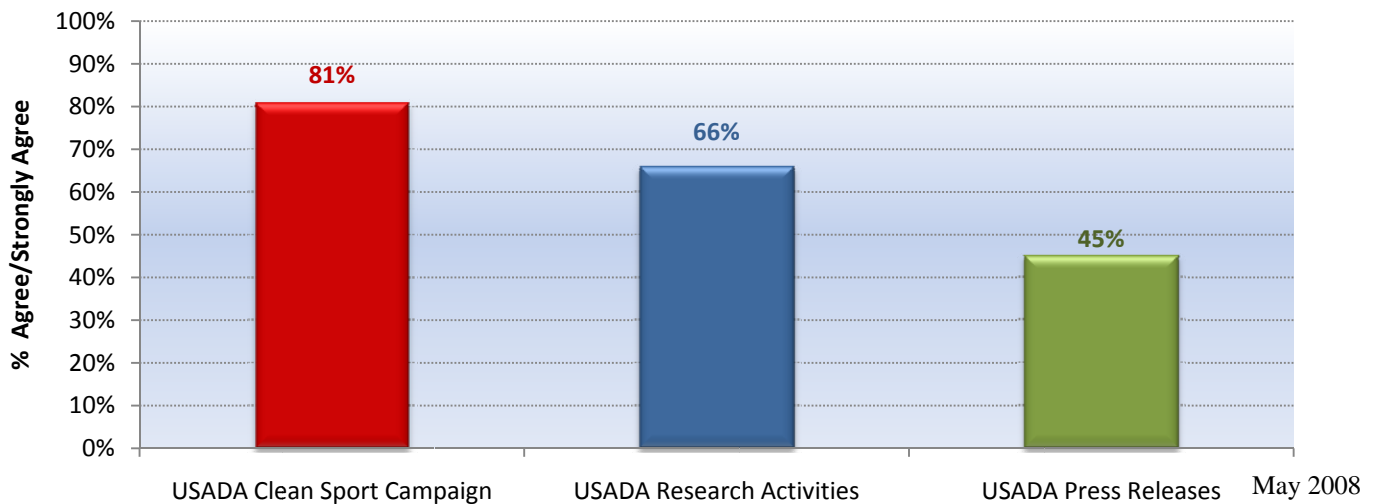




Positive impact of Drug Reference Resources, Education Sessions & Publications



Positive impact of Clean Sport Campaigns, Research Efforts & Press Releases

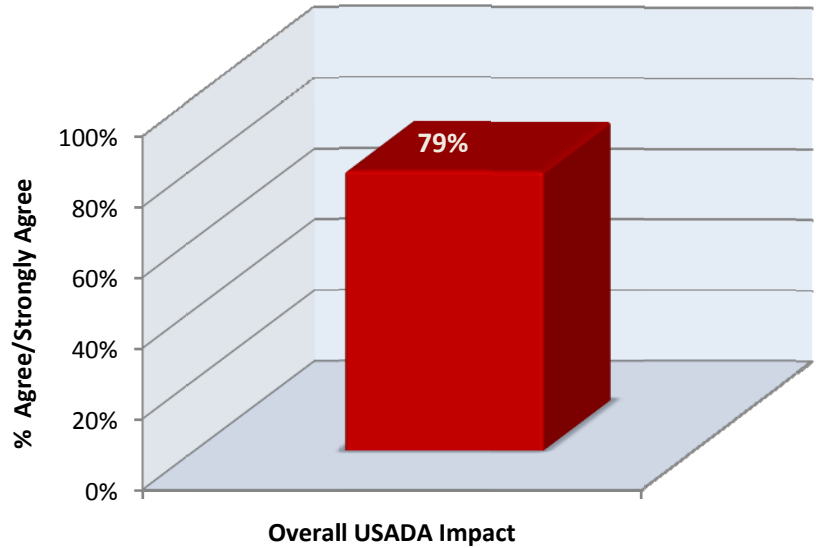


2007 Athlete Support Personnel Survey Result Highlights

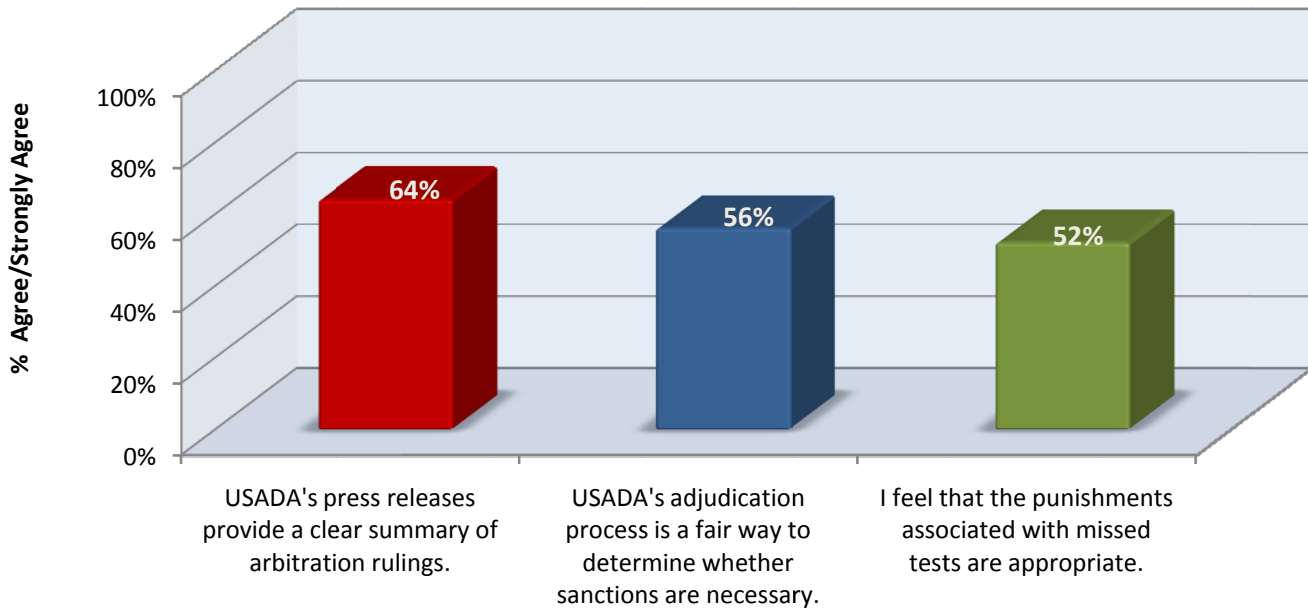
Overall USADA Impact

These results represent the overall perception of USADA effectiveness as measured by the following 4 items:

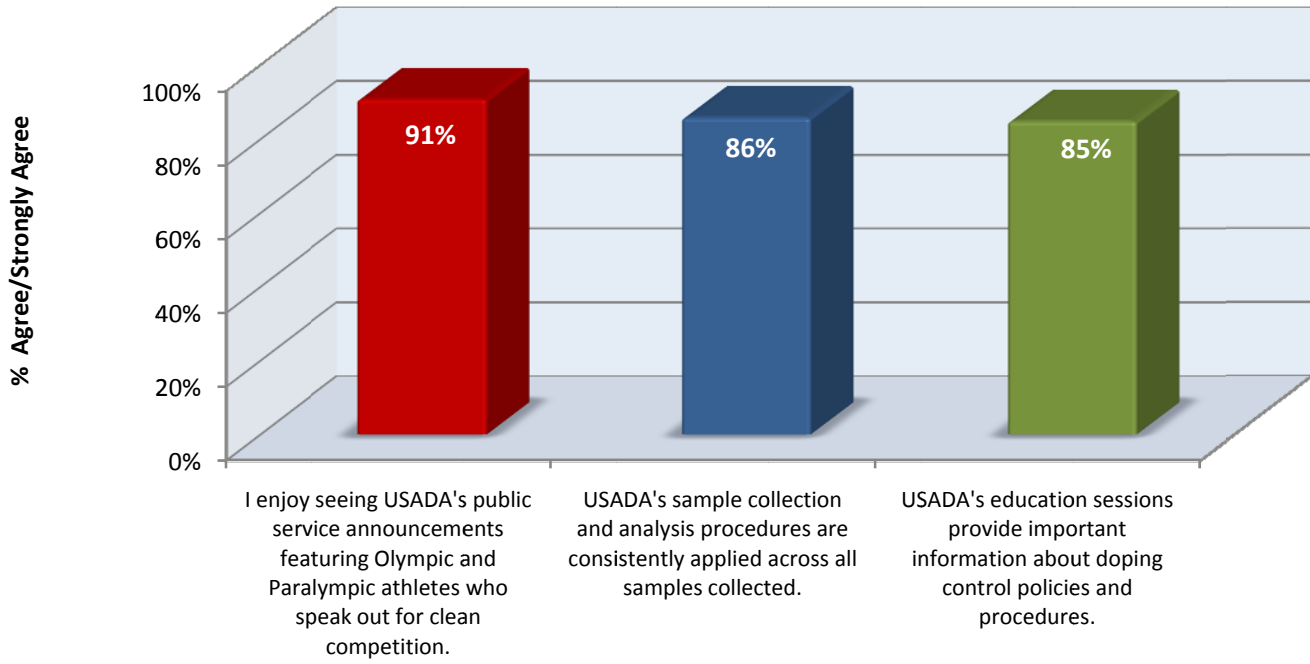
1. USADA makes it possible for me to take a stand for clean sport;.
2. I strongly support USADA's purpose.
3. Compared to other doping control agencies, USADA has the best doping control program.
4. USADA has significantly improved its programs and activities over the past several years.



Areas of Opportunity:

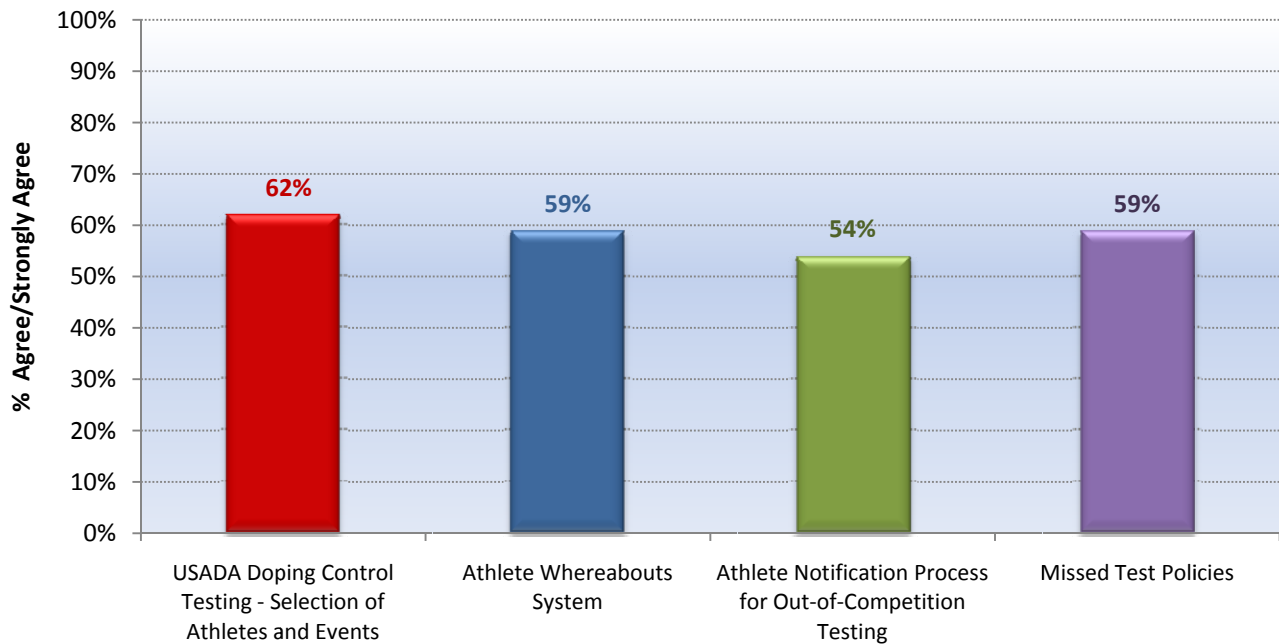


Areas of Celebration:

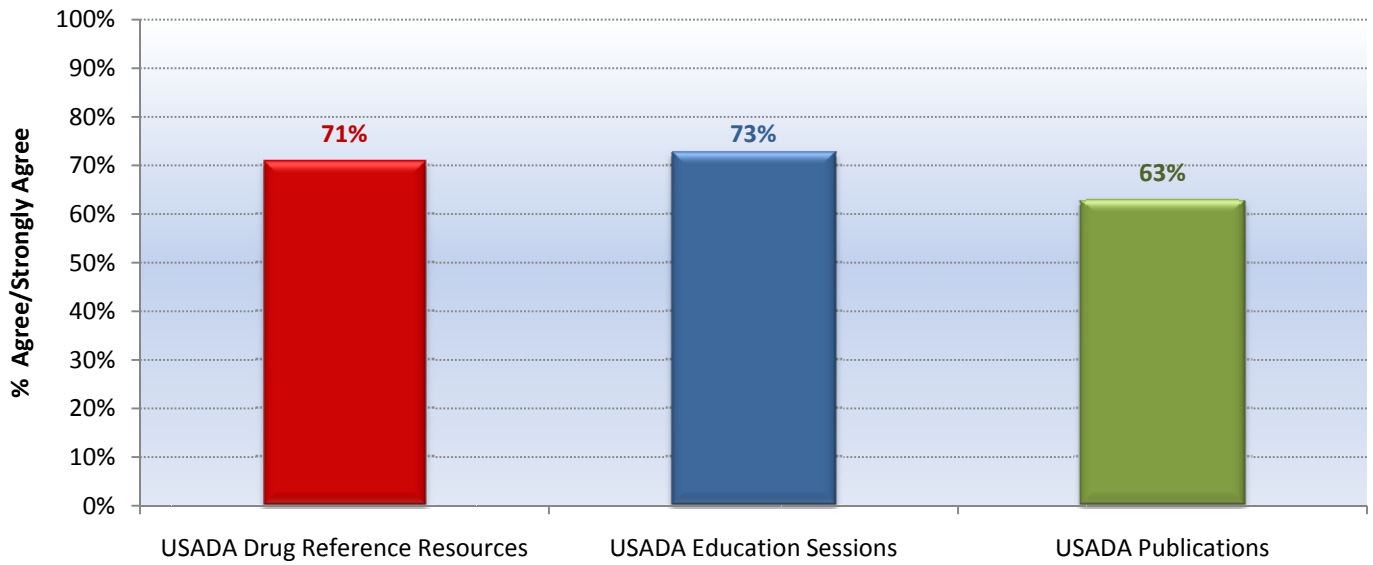


2007 Athlete Support Personnel Experience with USADA Programs and Services

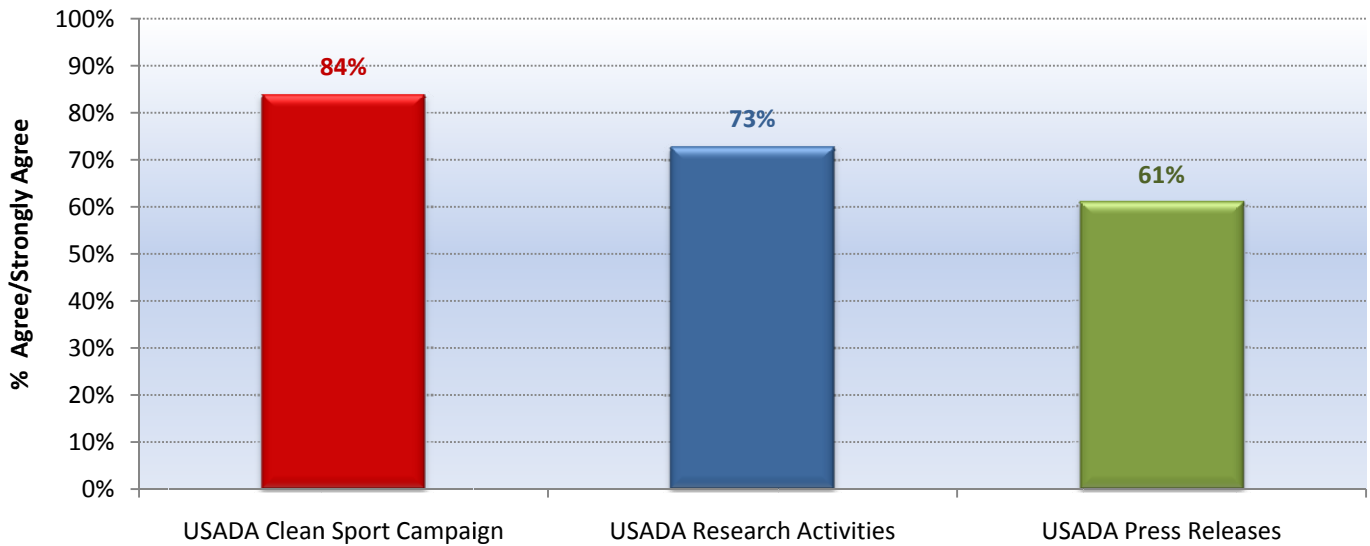
Fairness & Effectiveness of Testing Services



Impact of Drug Reference Resources, Education Sessions & Publications



Positive impact of Clean Sport Initiatives, Research Efforts & Press Releases



Impact of Sample Collection, Results, Adjudication and Therapeutic Use Exemption Processes

