

APRIL 4, 2013

# Majority Now Supports Legalizing Marijuana

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# Majority Now Supports Legalizing Marijuana

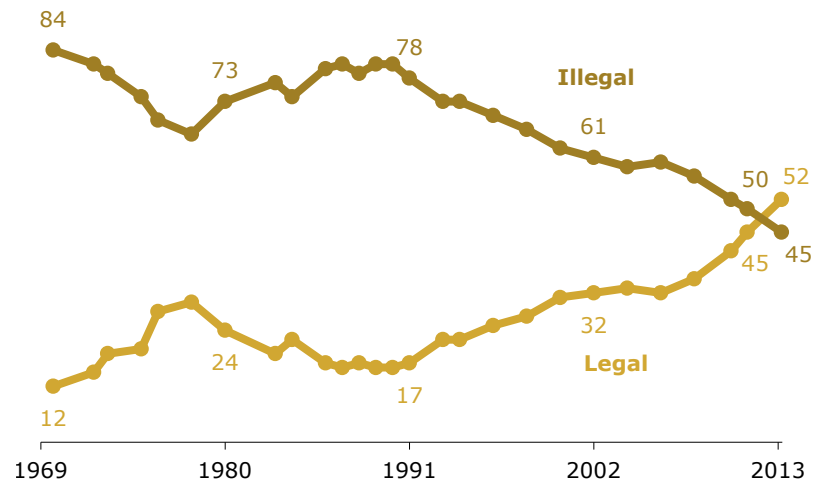
For the first time in more than four decades of polling on the issue, a majority of Americans favor legalizing the use of marijuana. A national survey finds that 52% say that the use of marijuana should be made legal while 45% say it should not.

Support for legalizing marijuana has risen 11 points since 2010. The change is even more dramatic since the late 1960s. A 1969 Gallup survey found that just 12% favored legalizing marijuana use, while 84% were opposed.

The survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted March 13-17 among 1,501 adults, finds that young people are the most supportive of marijuana legalization. Fully 65% of Millennials – born since 1980 and now between 18 and 32 – favor legalizing the use of marijuana, up from just 36% in 2008. Yet there also has been a striking change in long-term

## Views of Legalizing Marijuana: 1969-2013

% saying marijuana should be ...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. 1973-2008 data from General Social Survey; 1969 and 1972 data from Gallup.

## Boomers' Support for Legalization Rebounds to 1970s Levels



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. 1973-2008 data from General Social Survey; 1969 and 1972 data from Gallup. Generational lines shown when significant sample is available.

attitudes among older generations, particularly Baby Boomers.

Half (50%) of Boomers now favor legalizing marijuana, among the highest percentages ever. In 1978, 47% of Boomers favored legalizing marijuana, but support plummeted during the 1980s, reaching a low of 17% in 1990. Since 1994, however, the percentage of Boomers favoring marijuana legalization has doubled, from 24% to 50%.

Generation X, born between 1965 and 1980, came of age in the 1990s when there was widespread opposition to legalizing marijuana. Support for marijuana legalization among Gen X also has risen dramatically – from just 28% in 1994 to 42% a decade later and 54% currently.

The Silent Generation continues to be less supportive of marijuana legalization than younger age cohorts. But the percentage of Silents who favor legalization has nearly doubled –from 17% to 32% – since 2002.

The survey finds that an increasing percentage of Americans say they have tried marijuana. Overall, 48% say they have ever tried marijuana, up from 38% a decade ago. Roughly half in all age groups, except for those 65 and older, say they have tried marijuana.

About one-in-ten (12%) say they have used marijuana in the past year. Age differences are much more pronounced when it comes to the recent use of marijuana: 27% of those younger than 30 say they have used marijuana in the past year, at least three times the percentage in any other age group.

Among those who say they have used marijuana in the past year, 47% say they used it “just for fun,” while 30% say it was for a medical issue; 23% volunteer they used it for medical purposes and also just for fun.

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## Nearly Half Have Ever Tried Marijuana

<i>Have you ever used marijuana?</i>	<b>Mar 2013</b>
	%
Yes	48
<i>Used it in the past year?</i>	
<i>In past year</i>	12
<i>Not in past year</i>	36
No	51
Don't know	<u>1</u>
	100
<i>In the past year, did you use marijuana for* ...</i>	
Medical issue	30
Just for fun	47
Both (Vol.)	23
Don't know	<u>0</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. \*Asked of those who say they used marijuana in past year (N=146). Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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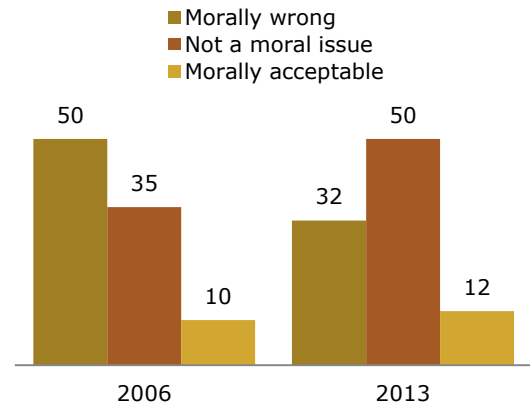
As support for marijuana legalization has grown, there has been a decline in the percentage viewing it as a “gateway drug.” Currently, just 38% agree that “for most people the use of marijuana leads to the use of hard drugs.” In 1977, 60% said its use led to the use of hard drugs.

More recently, there has been a major shift in attitudes on whether it is immoral to smoke marijuana. Currently, 32% say that smoking marijuana is morally wrong, an 18-point decline since 2006 (50%). Over this period, the percentage saying that smoking marijuana is not a moral issue has risen 15 points (from 35% then to 50% today).

Amid changing attitudes about marijuana, a sizable percentage of Americans (72%) say that government efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than they are worth. And 60% say that the federal government should not enforce federal laws prohibiting the use of marijuana in states where it is legal. Last fall, voters in two states – Colorado and Washington state – approved the personal use of small amounts of marijuana for recreational use.

There are partisan differences over legalizing marijuana use and whether smoking marijuana is morally wrong. But Republicans and Democrats have similar views on enforcing marijuana laws: 57% of Republicans and 59% of Democrats say that the federal government should not enforce federal marijuana laws in states that permit its use. Substantial majorities of both Republicans (67%) and Democrats (71%) also say federal enforcement of marijuana laws is not worth the cost.

### More Today Say That Smoking Marijuana Not a Moral Issue



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013.

### Partisans Differ on Legalization, But Agree on Law Enforcement

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
<i>Marijuana should be ...</i>				
Legal	52	37	59	60
Illegal	45	60	39	37
<i>In states that allow use, federal government ...</i>				
Should enforce laws	35	40	35	32
Should not enforce laws	60	57	59	64
<i>Gov't efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than they are worth</i>				
Agree	72	67	71	78
Disagree	23	26	24	18

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.

While Americans increasingly support legalizing marijuana and fewer see its potential dangers, many still do not like the idea of people using marijuana around them. About half (51%) say they would feel uncomfortable if people around them were using marijuana, while 48% would not feel uncomfortable. As with nearly all attitudes about marijuana, there are substantial age differences in discomfort with others using marijuana – 74% of those 65 and older say they would be uncomfortable if people around them used marijuana, compared with 35% of those under 30.

## Recent Rise in Support for Legalization

The long-term shift in favor of legalizing marijuana has accelerated in the past three years. About half (52%) of adults today support legalizing the use of marijuana, up from 41% in 2010. Since then, support for legalization has increased among all demographic and political groups.

Nearly two-thirds of those under 30 (64%) favor legalizing marijuana use, as do about half or more of those 30 to 49 (55%) and 50 to 64 (53%). There is far less support for legalization among those 65 and older (33%); still, there has been an 11-point rise in support among older Americans since 2010.

Men (57%) are somewhat more likely than women (48%) to support marijuana legalization. Support is comparable among racial and ethnic groups — roughly half of whites (52%), blacks (56%) and Hispanics (51%) favor legalizing the use of marijuana.

Only about three-in-ten conservative Republicans (29%) say marijuana use should be legal. Moderate and liberal Republicans are

### Across-the-Board Increase in Support for Marijuana Legalization

	Mar 2010	Mar 2013	10-13 change
<i>% saying marijuana should be legalized</i>	%	%	%
Total	41	52	+11
Men	45	57	+12
Women	38	48	+10
White	42	52	+10
Black	41	56	+15
Hispanic	35	51	+16
18-29	58	64	+6
30-49	42	55	+13
50-64	40	53	+13
65+	22	33	+11
College grad+	39	52	+13
Some college	45	59	+14
HS or less	41	47	+6
Republican	24	37	+13
Conservative Rep	20	29	+9
Mod/Lib Rep	36	53	+17
Democrat	48	59	+11
Cons/Mod Dem	44	52	+8
Liberal Dem	57	73	+16
Independent	49	60	+11
Ever tried marijuana	64	70	+6
Never tried marijuana	25	35	+10

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

far more likely than conservatives to favor legalization (53%).

Like Republicans, Democrats are ideologically divided over legalizing marijuana. While 73% of liberal Democrats favor legalizing use of marijuana, only about half of conservative and moderate Democrats agree (52%).

Fully 70% of those who have ever tried marijuana, including 89% of those who have tried it in the past year, say the use of marijuana should be legal. That compares with just 35% of those who have never tried marijuana. Support for legalization has increased since 2010 among those who have ever tried marijuana (by six points) as well as those who have not (by 10 points).

Opinions about legalizing marijuana vary little among states that have more permissive marijuana laws and those that do not. A majority (55%) of those in states that have legalized medical marijuana or have decriminalized (or legalized) marijuana for personal use favor legalizing marijuana. Yet 50% of those in states in which marijuana is not decriminalized (or legal for any purpose) also favor its legalization.

### Shifting Attitudes about Marijuana

Over the past three decades, there has been a substantial decline in the percentage saying that for most people marijuana leads to the use of hard drugs. Just 38% express that view currently; in a 1977 Gallup survey, 60% said marijuana led to the use of hard drugs.

### Views of Legalization Similar in States with Different Laws

States where ...	Marijuana should be		
	Legal	Illegal	DK
	%	%	%
Medical marijuana is legal; marijuana decriminalized or legal (24 states and D.C.)	55	42	3=100
Just medical is legal (8 states and D.C.)	57	40	3=100
Marijuana is decriminalized; medical marijuana is illegal (6 states)	54	44	2=100
Medical marijuana is legal and marijuana decriminalized (10 states)	55	41	4=100
Not decriminalized or medical (26 states)	50	47	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.

Decriminalization laws reduce the penalties associated with the use or possession of small amounts of marijuana. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. See Appendix for list of states.

### Boomers' Views of Marijuana as 'Gateway' Same Now as in 1977

	Apr 1977	Mar 2013	77-13 change
<i>% saying marijuana use leads to use of hard drugs</i>	%	%	%
Total	60	38	-22
Millennial	--	31	--
Gen X	--	36	--
Boomer	39	37	-2
Silent	62	60	-2
Greatest	76	--	--
Republican	70	48	-22
Democrat	61	37	-24
Independent	53	33	-20
<i>Ever tried marijuana?</i>			
Yes	19	26	+7
No	72	50	-22

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.  
April 1977 data from Gallup.

Much of this shift is the result of generational change. In the 1977 survey, most of those in Greatest Generation (76%), born before 1928, accepted the link between marijuana and hard drug use. The generations that have come of age since 1977 – Gen X and Millennials – are far less likely to say that marijuana use leads to the use of hard drugs (36% of Gen X, 31% of Millennials).

Notably, Boomers view this issue in about the same way as they did in 1977, when there was relatively broad support among this age cohort for legalization. Currently, 37% of Boomers say that marijuana use leads to the use of hard drugs; in 1977, 39% expressed this view. Similarly, 60% of Silents currently say that marijuana use leads to the use of hard drugs, which is virtually the same as opinion among this age cohort in 1977 (62%).

Those who have never tried marijuana are much less likely to view marijuana as a gateway to hard drugs than in the 1970s. In 1977, 72% of those who had never tried marijuana said it led to use of hard drugs; today, just half (50%) of those who have never tried it express this view. In 1977, few who had tried marijuana said there was a link to hard drugs (19%); that remains the case today (26%).

## Most Say Marijuana Has Medical Uses

Opinions also have changed about whether marijuana has legitimate medical uses. By 77% to 16%, most say that marijuana does have legitimate medical uses. In an ABC News survey in 1997, a smaller majority (58%) said it had legitimate medical uses, while 34% said it did not.

There are only modest partisan differences in views of the medical uses of marijuana: 82% of independents, 76% of Democrats and 72% of Republicans say it has legitimate medical uses. Age is also a factor in these views, but even among those 65 and older – who oppose legalizing marijuana use by nearly two-to-one – a majority (60%) says that marijuana has legitimate medical uses.

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### Older Americans Say Marijuana Has Legitimate Medical Uses

<i>Does marijuana have legitimate medical uses?</i>	<b>Does</b> %	<b>Does not</b> %	<b>DK</b> %
Total	77	16	7=100
18-29	84	12	4=100
30-49	81	14	5=100
50-64	77	17	6=100
65+	60	23	16=100
Republican	72	20	8=100
Democrat	76	16	8=100
Independent	82	13	5=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q88. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Morality of Smoking Marijuana

The percentage of Americans who say that smoking marijuana is morally wrong also has declined dramatically since 2006. A survey earlier this year found that 32% of Americans say that smoking marijuana is morally wrong, down 18 points since 2006. Over the same period, the percentage saying it is not a moral issue has increased by 15 points (from 35% to 50%).

As with many of the changes in opinions about marijuana and its use, the decline in the percentages who think that smoking marijuana is morally wrong has occurred across most demographic and political groups.

Those in the Silent Generation are more likely than younger people to say that smoking marijuana is morally wrong. But since 2006, the percentage of Silents expressing this view has decreased from 71% to 48%.

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### More Say That Smoking Marijuana Is Not a Moral Issue

	<b>Feb 2006</b>	<b>Jan 2013</b>	<b>06-13 Change</b>
<i>Smoking marijuana is ...</i>	%	%	
Morally acceptable	10	12	+2
Morally wrong	50	32	-18
Not a moral issue	35	50	+15
Depends/DK	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	+1
	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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### Across Generations, Fewer Think Marijuana Use Is Morally Wrong

<i>% saying that smoking marijuana is morally wrong</i>	<b>Feb 2006</b>	<b>Jan 2013</b>	<b>06-13 Change</b>
	%	%	
Millennial	--	26	
Gen X	47	34	-13
Boomer	47	29	-18
Silent	71	48	-23
Republican	65	47	-18
Democrat	47	26	-21
Independent	41	28	-13

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 9-13, 2013

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## Federal Enforcement of Marijuana Laws

Nearly three-quarters of Americans (72%) say that in general, government efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than they are worth. And when it comes to the question of whether the federal government should enforce marijuana laws in states that have approved marijuana use, a majority (60%) says it should not.

There is agreement across partisan and demographic groups that federal government enforcement of marijuana laws is not worth the cost. Fully 78% of independents, 71% of Democrats and 67% of Republicans say government enforcement efforts cost more than they are worth.

Similarly, there is substantial opposition to the federal government enforcing marijuana laws in states that permit the legal use of marijuana: 64% of independents say the federal government should not enforce federal marijuana laws in such states, as do 59% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans.

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### Gov't Enforcement of Marijuana Laws Seen as Not Worth the Cost

<i>Gov't efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than they are worth</i>	<b>Agree</b> %	<b>Dis-agree</b> %	<b>DK</b> %
Total	72	23	6=100
Republican	67	26	6=100
Democrat	71	24	5=100
Independent	78	18	4=100

<i>Should fed gov't enforce fed laws in states that allow marijuana use?</i>	<b>Should</b> %	<b>Should not</b> %	<b>DK</b> %
Total	35	60	5=100
Republican	40	57	3=100
Democrat	35	59	5=100
Independent	32	64	4=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Reported Marijuana Use Increases over Past Decade

Roughly half of adults (48%) say they have ever tried marijuana, the highest percentage ever. Just two years ago, 40% said they had tried marijuana. In both 2003 and 2001, 38% said they had used marijuana.

Of the 48% who have ever used it, about a quarter of them – 12% of the general public – say they did so in the past year. The other 36% say they have tried marijuana, but not in the past year.

People who say they have used marijuana in the past year did so both for medical reasons and “just for fun.” About half (53%) of those recent users say that a medical issue was part of the reason for their use, including 23% who volunteer that they used marijuana for both medical and recreational purposes. The remaining 47% say they used marijuana just for fun.

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### Nearly Half Say They Have Tried Marijuana

<i>Have you ever happened to try marijuana?</i>	<b>Feb 2001</b>	<b>June 2003</b>	<b>Mar 2010</b>	<b>Mar 2013</b>
	%	%	%	%
Yes	38	38	40	48
No	60	61	58	51
DK/Ref	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q90.

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### Many Recent Users Say It's 'Just for Fun'

<i>Have you ever used marijuana?</i>	<b>Mar 2013</b>
	%
Yes	48
<i>Used it in the past year?</i>	
<i>In past year</i>	12
<i>Not in past year</i>	36
<i>Did you use marijuana for* ...</i>	
Medical issue	30
Just for fun	47
Both (Vol.)	23
DK/Ref (Vol.)	<u>0</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. \*Asked of those who say they used marijuana in past year (N=146). Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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More than half of young people (56%) say they have ever tried marijuana, and 27% say they have tried it in the past year – by far the highest percentage in any age category.

About half of those 30- to 49 (51%) and 50-64 (54%) have ever tried marijuana, although only about one-in-ten did so last year. Just 22% of adults 65 and older have ever used marijuana, including 2% who say they have used it in the past year.

Men are more likely to say they have tried marijuana than women, 54% vs. 42%. Half of whites and blacks (50%) say they have ever tried marijuana, compared with 34% of Hispanics.

Democrats and Republicans are about equally likely to say they have tried the drug over their lifetimes, 47% vs. 43%; independents are somewhat more likely to have used it (53%). However, over the past year, more independents (14%) and Democrats (13%) than Republicans (7%) say they have used marijuana.

There is no significant difference in lifetime or recent use between people in states with some form of legalized marijuana and those in other states.

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## Young People More Likely to Have Used Marijuana in Past Year

*Have you ever happened to try marijuana/In the past year?*

	<b>Yes, ever</b>	<b>Yes, in the past year</b>	<b>Never</b>
	%	%	%
Total	48	12	51
18-29	56	27	43
30-49	51	9	48
50-64	54	7	44
65+	22	2	78
Men	54	13	45
Women	42	10	57
White	50	11	48
Black	50	15	48
Hispanic	34	13	66
Republican	43	7	56
Democrat	47	13	51
Independent	53	14	46

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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## Half Would Be Uncomfortable around Marijuana Users

About half of Americans (51%) say they would feel uncomfortable if people around them used marijuana while 48% would not. Just 35% of those under 30 say they would be uncomfortable if people around them used marijuana, the lowest percentage of any age group. Twice as many of those 65 and older (74%) say they would feel uncomfortable around marijuana use.

More women than men say they would be bothered by people around them using marijuana. Nearly six-in-ten women (57%) say they would feel uncomfortable if people around them used marijuana, compared with 44% of men.

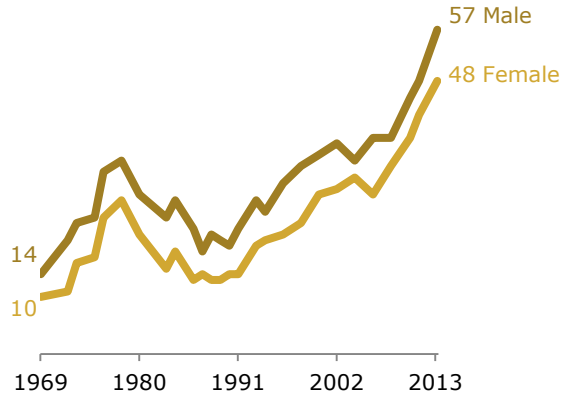
Parents are about as likely as non-parents to have ever tried marijuana and they have similar feelings about people using marijuana around them. About half of parents (50%) and non-parents (51%) say they would feel uncomfortable if people around them used marijuana.

### More Women Feel Uncomfortable Around Marijuana Users

<i>People using marijuana around you would make you feel ...</i>	<b>Uncom- fortable</b>	<b>Not uncom- fortable</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	51	48	1=100
18-29	35	65	*=100
30-49	49	50	1=100
50-64	51	48	1=100
65+	74	24	3=100
Men	44	55	1=100
Women	57	42	1=100
White	51	48	1=100
Black	46	54	*=100
Hispanic	42	48	*=100
College grad+	58	39	2=100
Some college	43	57	1=100
HS or less	52	47	*=100
Republican	61	39	1=100
Democrat	49	49	2=100
Independent	46	54	1=100
Parent	50	49	1=100
Non-Parent	51	48	1=100
<i>Ever tried marijuana?</i>			
Yes	27	72	1=100
No	74	25	1=100

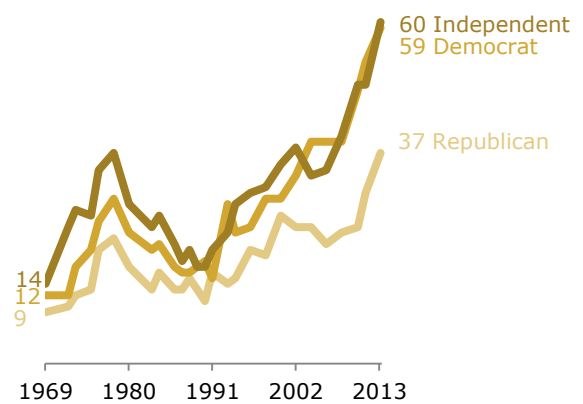
PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Men Historically More in Favor of Legalization



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. 1973-2008 from General Social Survey; 1969 and 1972 from Gallup.

### Republicans Far Less Supportive of Legalizing Marijuana



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. 1973-2008 from General Social Survey; 1969 and 1972 from Gallup.

### Appendix: State Marijuana Laws

Only medical marijuana is legal:

AZ, DE, DC, HI, MI, MT, NJ, NM, VT

Marijuana is decriminalized:

MN, MS, NE, NY, NC, OH

Medical marijuana is legal and marijuana decriminalized:

AK, CA, CO, CT, ME, MA, MS, NV, OR, RI, WA

Not decriminalized or medical:

AL, AR, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MD, MO, NH, ND, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WV, WI, WY

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures and National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, 2013.

## About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 13-17, 2013, among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (750 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 751 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 385 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by Abt SRBI. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample	1,501	2.9 percentage points
Republican	420	5.6 percentage points
Democrat	487	5.2 percentage points
Independent	498	5.1 percentage points
<i>Generations</i>		
Millennial (Born after 1980)	284	6.8 percentage points
Generation X (1965-1980)	322	6.4 percentage points
Baby Boomer (1946-1964)	593	4.7 percentage points
Silent (1928-1945)	258	7.1 percentage points
Tried marijuana	680	4.4 percentage points
Never tried marijuana	800	4.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 9-13, 2013 among a national sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (752 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 750 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 369 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample	1,502	2.9 percentage points
Republicans	403	5.7 percentage points
Democrats	473	5.2 percentage points
Independents	557	4.8 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MARCH 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**March 13-17, 2013**  
**N=1,501**

**QUESTIONS 1, 5d, 6-7, 15a-c, 18, 20-24, 26-29, 35-38, 45-48, 56-57, 61-63, 65, 70-71, 73, 77**  
**PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTIONS 2-4, 8-14, 15d, 16-17, 19, 25, 30-34, 39-44, 49-55, 58-60, 64, 66-69, 72, 74-76, 78-84**

**QUESTIONS 5a-c, 15e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.85 Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

	<u>Yes, legal</u>	<u>No, illegal</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 13-17, 2013	52	45	3
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	45	50	5
Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
<b>Gallup</b>			
October, 2012	48	50	1
October, 2011	50	46	3
October, 2010	46	50	4
October, 2009	44	54	2
October 2005	36	60	4
November, 2003	34	64	2
August, 2001	34	62	4
August, 2000	31	64	5
August, 1995	25	73	2
May, 1985	23	73	4
June, 1980	25	70	5
May, 1979	25	70	5
April, 1977	28	66	6
January, 1973	16	78	6
March, 1972	15	81	4
October, 1969	12	84	4
<b>General Social Survey</b>			
2012	43	49	8
2010	44	47	9
2008	35	57	8
2006	32	60	7
2004	33	59	9
2002	32	61	6
2000	31	63	6
1998	27	67	6
1996	25	70	5
1994	22	73	5
1993	22	73	5
1991	17	78	5
1990	16	81	3
1989	16	81	3
1988	17	79	4
1987	16	81	3
1986	17	80	2
1984	22	74	4
1983	19	77	3
1980	24	73	3
1978	30	66	4



**Q.85 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Yes, legal</u>	<u>No, illegal</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
1976	28	69	3
1975	20	74	5
1973	19	79	2

**ASK ALL:**

Q.86 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. First, do you agree or disagree that **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Do you agree or disagree that (ITEM)?]**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. For most people the use of marijuana leads to the use of hard drugs			
Mar 13-17, 2013	38	58	4
Gallup: April, 1977	60	31	10
b. Government efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than they are worth			
Mar 13-17, 2013	72	23	6

**ASK ALL:**

Q.87 If people were using marijuana around you, would that make you feel UNcomfortable, or not?

Mar 13-17  
2013

51	Would make you feel uncomfortable
48	Not
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.88 Do you think marijuana does or does not have legitimate medical uses?

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

		<u>ABC News</u>
Mar 13-17		May
<u>2013</u>		<u>1997<sup>1</sup></u>
77	Does	58
16	Does not	34
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	8

**ASK ALL:**

Q.89 As you may know, some states have decided to allow marijuana use, but it is still prohibited under federal law. Do you think the federal government should or should not enforce federal marijuana laws in these states?

Mar 13-17  
2013

35	Should
60	Should not
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Results from ABC News May 1997 are shown as a trend for comparison because of differences in the context in which questions were asked.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.90 Keeping in mind that all of your answers in this survey are confidential, have you, yourself, ever happened to try marijuana?

		-----Gallup-----								
Mar 13-17		Mar 10-14	June	Feb	Sept	May	April	Jan	Mar	Oct
<u>2013</u>		<u>2010</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1969</u>
48	Yes	40	38	38	34	33	24	12	11	4
51	No	58	61	60	66	67	76	88	89	94
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1	2	*	0	0	*	0	2

**ASK IF EVER TRIED MARIJUANA (Q.90=1) [N=680]:**

Q.91 Have you used marijuana in the past year, or not?

Mar 13-17	
<u>2013</u>	
25	Yes, used in past year
75	No, not in past year
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF USED MARIJUANA IN PAST YEAR (Q.91=1) [N=146]:**

Q.92 In the past year, did you use marijuana [RANDOMIZE: for a medical issue OR just for fun]?

Mar 13-17	
<u>2013</u>	
30	Medical issue
47	Just for fun
23	Both (VOL.)
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**NO QUESTIONS 93-97****QUESTIONS 98-102 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb. 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED ...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

## ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=623]:

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

Mar 13-17		Feb 13-18	Jan 9-13
<u>2013</u>		<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>
43	Agree	36	35
7	Disagree	9	10
47	No opinion either way	52	51
1	Haven't heard of (VOL.)	1	2
1	Refused (VOL.)	3	2

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JANUARY 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**January 9-13, 2013**  
**N=1,502**

**NOTE: OTHER QUESTIONS FROM THIS SURVEY PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Now, a different kind of question ...

Q.18 Do you personally believe that **[INSERT ITEM AND RANDOMIZE]** is morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not a moral issue. **[IF NECESSARY: And is [INSERT ITEM] morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not a moral issue?]**

		<u>Morally acceptable</u>	<u>Morally wrong</u>	<u>Not a moral issue</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Depends on the situation</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
b.	Smoking marijuana					
	Jan 9-13, 2013	12	32	50	2	4
	February, 2006	10	50	35	4	1