PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Most Americans feel that cannabis should be legalized for at least medicinal use

New Ipsos polling finds that if cannabis was legal in their area, majorities of Americans, regardless of age or race, would support releasing those in jail for cannabis related charges.

Washington, DC, April 19, 2022 – A new Ipsos poll finds that most Americans still support legalizing cannabis for at least medicinal use, an opinion that's held constant since last year. Younger Americans are more likely than older Americans to support legalizing cannabis for recreational and medicinal use. They also are more likely than their older counterparts to believe that cannabis isn't as dangerous to their health as tobacco or alcohol.

Yet, if cannabis was legal in their area, majorities of Americans, regardless of age or race, would support releasing people serving time in jail for cannabis-related charges or removing prior arrests or convictions of cannabis-related charges from someone's criminal record. Partisans largely don't agree on these issues, though if cannabis use was legal, there would be bipartisan support for taxes from cannabis sales going to local public schools.

Detailed Findings

A majority of Americans (69%) feel that cannabis should be legalized for at least medicinal use, a view that is unchanged from last year.

- Just under half of Americans (46%) feel that cannabis should be legalized for recreational and medicinal use. An additional 23% agree that the federal government should legalize cannabis for medicinal use only.
- Compared to older Americans, more younger Americans believe that cannabis isn't as dangerous to their health as tobacco or alcohol. Half (48%) of all Americans feel that cannabis is less harmful to one's health than tobacco or alcohol, with younger people more likely to feel this way than older ones (52% of people under 35 agree vs. 37% of people 65+). Still, overall, about one in three (32%) feel that cannabis will lead people to use more addictive drugs.
- Views on cannabis legalization largely don't change when considering whether people live in states where cannabis use is fully legal, approved for medicinal use, or not fully legal.

Additionally, if cannabis use was legal, majorities of Americans, regardless of age or race, would support restorative justice measures for people who have a criminal record or are serving time for a cannabis/marijuana-related charge.
- For example, if cannabis was legal in their area, over two in three Americans under 35 (69%) and those 35-49 (65%) support releasing those serving time in jail for a cannabis-related charge. A majority of people (56%) over 65 also back this measure. Similar majorities also support removing prior arrests or convictions of cannabis-related offenses from someone's criminal record.
- Likewise, should cannabis be legal in their area, majorities of Black (67%), Hispanic (62%), and white (54%) Americans support investing a portion of the taxes collected from legal sales of cannabis into communities disproportionately affected by drug arrests.

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PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

While partisans do not agree on many of the measures described above, there is bipartisan agreement around using taxes from cannabis sales, if it was legal, to fund local public schools.

- Many Americans (71%) feel that, if cannabis was legal in their area, taxes from those sales should go to local public schools. Majorities of Republicans (64%), Democrats (77%), and independents (74%) would support this measure.

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between April 1-4, 2022. For this survey, a sample of 1,021 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:

Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. Some states have recently legalized the use of recreational marijuana or cannabis. Regardless of the laws in your area, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following outcomes, as a result of the legalization of recreational marijuana or cannabis.

Total Agree Summary

	Total Agree (N=1,021)	Total Agree 04/16-04/18/2021 (N=1,017)*
Cannabis is less harmful to one's own health than alcohol or tobacco	48%	49%
Taxes from cannabis sales will help improve neighborhoods	45%	50%
Cannabis use will lead people to use more addictive drugs	32%	33%
Legalization of cannabis benefits the rich more than the poor	31%	34%
There will be/is more crime near cannabis dispensaries	28%	26%

*In 2021, question wording only included "recreational marijuana". Cannabis was added to the question in 2022.

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PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

1. Some states have recently legalized the use of recreational marijuana or cannabis. Regardless of the laws in your area, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following outcomes, as a result of the legalization of recreational marijuana or cannabis.

a. Cannabis is less harmful to one's own health than alcohol or tobacco

	Total (N=1021)	Total 04/16-04/18/2022 (N=1,017)
Strongly agree	21%	20%
Somewhat agree	27%	30%
Somewhat disagree	15%	16%
Strongly disagree	15%	13%
Unsure	22%	22%
Total Agree (net)	48%	49%
Total Disagree (net)	30%	29%

b. Taxes from cannabis sales will help improve neighborhoods

	Total (N=1021)	Total 04/16-04/18/2022 (N=1,017)
Strongly agree	17%	16%
Somewhat agree	28%	34%
Somewhat disagree	14%	14%
Strongly disagree	14%	13%
Unsure	26%	23%
Total Agree (net)	45%	50%
Total Disagree (net)	28%	27%

c. Cannabis use will lead people to use more addictive drugs

	Total (N=1,021)	Total 04/16-04/18/2022 (N=1,017)
Strongly agree	11%	12%
Somewhat agree	21%	21%
Somewhat disagree	22%	26%
Strongly disagree	27%	26%
Unsure	19%	15%
Total Agree (net)	32%	33%
Total Disagree (net)	49%	52%

GAME CHANGERS

PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

1. Some states have recently legalized the use of recreational marijuana or cannabis. Regardless of the laws in your area, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following outcomes, as a result of the legalization of recreational marijuana or cannabis.

    d.   Legalization of cannabis benefits the rich more than the poor

	Total (N=1,021)	Total 04/16-04/18/2022 (N=1,017)
Strongly agree	11%	13%
Somewhat agree	20%	21%
Somewhat disagree	20%	23%
Strongly disagree	15%	13%
Unsure	34%	30%
Total Agree (net)	*31%*	*34%*
Total Disagree (net)	*35%*	*36%*

    e.   There will be/is more crime near cannabis dispensaries

	Total (N=1,021)	Total 04/16-04/18/2022 (N=1,017)
Strongly agree	10%	8%
Somewhat agree	18%	18%
Somewhat disagree	22%	25%
Strongly disagree	22%	24%
Unsure	28%	24%
Total Agree (net)	*28%*	*26%*
Total Disagree (net)	*44%*	*49%*

2. Which statement comes closest to your view?

	Total (N=1,021)	Total 04/16-04/18/2022 (N=1,017)
The federal government should legalize cannabis for medical and recreational use	46%	45%
The federal government should legalize cannabis for medical uses only	23%	21%
The federal government should defer to the states about legalization of cannabis	19%	21%
The federal government should keep cannabis illegal	12%	11%
Skipped	1%	2%

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PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

3. How much would you support or oppose the following policies if cannabis were fully legal in your area?

Total Support Summary

	Total Support
Investing a portion of the taxes collected from legal sales to local public schools	71%
Releasing those serving time in jail for cannabis-related charges	62%
Removing prior arrests or convictions of cannabis-related offenses from someone's criminal record	60%
Investing a portion of the taxes collected from legal sales to communities disproportionately affected by drug arrests	57%

a. Investing a portion of the taxes collected from legal sales to local public schools

	Total
Strongly support	45%
Somewhat support	27%
Somewhat oppose	6%
Strongly oppose	7%
Don't know	16%
Support (net)	*71%*
Oppose (net)	*13%*

b. Releasing those serving time in jail for cannabis-related charges

	Total
Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	29%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	11%
Don't know	14%
Support (net)	*62%*
Oppose (net)	*23%*

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3. How much would you support or oppose the following policies if cannabis were fully legal in your area?

    c. Removing prior arrests or convictions of cannabis-related offenses from someone's criminal record

	Total
Strongly support	34%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	13%
Don't know	15%
Support (net)	*60%*
Oppose (net)	*25%*

    d. Investing a portion of the taxes collected from legal sales to communities disproportionately affected by drug arrests

	Total
Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	29%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	9%
Don't know	24%
Support (net)	*57%*
Oppose (net)	*18%*

About the Study

This Ipsos poll was conducted April 1-4, 2022, by Ipsos using the probability-based KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a nationally representative probability sample of 1,021 general population adults age 18 or older.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.14. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on other sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

The survey was conducted using KnowledgePanel®, the largest and most well-established online probability-based panel that is representative of the adult US population. Our recruitment process employs a scientifically developed addressed-based sampling methodology using the latest Delivery Sequence File of the USPS – a database with full coverage of all delivery points in the US. Households invited to join the panel are randomly selected from all available households in the U.S. Persons in the sampled households are invited to join and participate in the panel. Those selected who do not already

GAME CHANGERS

PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

have internet access are provided a tablet and internet connection at no cost to the panel member. Those who join the panel and who are selected to participate in a survey are sent a unique password-protected log-in used to complete surveys online. As a result of our recruitment and sampling methodologies, samples from KnowledgePanel® cover all households regardless of their phone or internet status and findings can be reported with a margin of sampling error and projected to the general population.

The data were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race/ethnicity, education, Census region, metropolitan status, household income, race/ethnicity by gender, race/ethnicity by age, and race/ethnicity by education. The demographic benchmarks came from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) except for the metropolitan status, which is not available from the 1-year ACS data, were obtained from the 2020 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

- Gender (Male, Female) by Age (18–25, 26–39, 40-54 and 55+)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Latinx, Asian, Other)
- Education (Less than High School, High School, Some College, Bachelor or higher)
- Census Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West) by Metropolitan status (Metro, non-Metro)
- Household Income (Under $25,000, $25,000-$49,999, $50,000-$74,999, $75,000-$99,999, $100,000-$149,999, $150,000+)
- Race/ethnicity (White/Other Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Latinx, Asian) by Gender (Male, Female)
- Race/ethnicity (White/Other Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Latinx, Asian) by Age (18-44, 45+)
- Race/ethnicity (White/Other Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Latinx, Asian) by Education (Some College or less, Bachelor and beyond)

This poll is trended with an Ipsos poll based on interviews conducted from April 16-18, 2021. A total of 1,017 interviews were completed. The margin of error on weighted data is +/- 3.3 percentage points for the full sample. The design effect for this study was 1.15.

For more information on this study, please contact:

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About Ipsos

Ipsos is the world's third largest Insights and Analytics company, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has been listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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