



Health Poll

Legalizing Marijuana

April 2014

Executive Summary

SURVEY OVERVIEW

Each month, the Truven Health Analytics™-NPR Health Poll surveys approximately 3,000 Americans to gauge attitudes and opinions on a wide range of healthcare issues. Poll results are reported by NPR's Scott Hensley on the health blog Shots (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/>) and on air.

Complete survey results are posted here: www.truvenhealth.com/truven_insights/npr_poll.aspx

NPR's reports on the findings are archived here: www.npr.org/templates/archives/archive.php?thingId=137038712&ps=sh_sttag

The Truven Health Analytics-NPR Health Poll is powered by the Truven Health Analytics PULSE™ Healthcare Survey, an independently funded telephone poll that collects information from more than 100,000 U.S. households annually.

The results depicted here represent responses from 3,010 survey participants interviewed from March 4-17, 2014. The margin of error is +/- 1.8 percent.

The survey asked for respondents' opinions on aspects of legalizing marijuana.

Following were the results:

- Seventy-eight percent of respondents indicated that marijuana should be legalized for medical purposes. The rate tends to decline with increasing age, with the lowest rate (60 percent) among the Silent Generation.
- Less than half (43 percent) of all respondents think that marijuana should be legalized for recreational purposes. 60 percent of respondents with a household income of \$100,000 or more think marijuana should be legalized for recreational purposes.
- While only 14 percent of the Silent Generation thinks that marijuana should be legalized for recreational purposes, this group is least likely (81 percent) to think there should be age restrictions on such use.
- Most (91 percent) respondents believe there should be age restrictions for recreational use of marijuana.
- Half (51 percent) of all respondents believe there should be age restrictions associated with medical use of marijuana. The rate tends to decrease with increasing age and also with increasing level of education.
- There is widespread agreement (90 percent) that healthcare providers should be responsible for providing education to patients using marijuana for medical purposes, although again the Silent Generation is least likely (81 percent) to agree.
- 22 percent of respondents cite impairment of senses as their most significant concern regarding the use of marijuana. Addiction, access by minors, or abuse were cited by a total of 30 percent as their most significant concerns.

Survey Data

Responses in **BOLD** are statistically significant.

Currently, almost 20 states allow the use of marijuana for medical purposes and two states have recently legalized the recreational use of marijuana.

Question 1

Do you believe marijuana should be legalized for medical purposes?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Age	Yes	No
<35	82.1%	17.9%
35 – 64	81.0%	19.0%
65+	63.9%	36.1%
Total	78.2%	21.8%

Education	Yes	No
HS or Less	73.7%	26.3%
Some College/Assoc	80.6%	19.4%
College+	79.3%	20.7%
Total	78.2%	21.8%

Generation	Yes	No
Silent Generation	60.2%	39.8%
Baby Boomers	77.1%	22.9%
Generation X	81.5%	18.5%
Millennials	83.1%	16.9%
Total	78.2%	21.8%

Income	Yes	No
<\$25k	78.2%	21.8%
\$25k - \$49.9k	79.4%	20.6%
\$50k - \$99.9k	78.2%	21.8%
\$100k+	84.6%	15.4%
Total	78.2%	21.8%

Question 2

Do you believe marijuana should be legalized for recreational purposes?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Age	Yes	No
<35	54.6%	45.4%
35 - 64	44.6%	55.4%
65+	18.9%	81.1%
Total	42.7%	57.3%

Education	Yes	No
HS or Less	38.5%	61.5%
Some College/Assoc	45.1%	54.9%
College+	43.7%	56.3%
Total	42.7%	57.3%

Generation	Yes	No
Silent Generation	13.8%	86.2%
Baby Boomers	35.6%	64.4%
Generation X	49.8%	50.2%
Millennials	55.6%	44.4%
Total	42.7%	57.3%

Income	Yes	No
<\$25k	44.0%	56.0%
\$25k - \$49.9k	42.1%	57.9%
\$50k - \$99.9k	40.3%	59.7%
\$100k+	60.4%	39.6%
Total	42.7%	57.3%

Question 3

If the use of marijuana is legal, should there be age restrictions for medical purposes?

a. Yes

b. No

Age	Yes	No
<35	55.7%	44.3%
35 - 64	49.1%	50.9%
65+	48.7%	51.3%
Total	51.0%	49.0%

Education	Yes	No
HS or Less	57.6%	42.4%
Some College/Assoc	52.8%	47.2%
College+	45.3%	54.7%
Total	51.0%	49.0%

Generation	Yes	No
Silent Generation	51.6%	48.4%
Baby Boomers	44.8%	55.2%
Generation X	54.5%	45.5%
Millennials	53.6%	46.4%
Total	51.0%	49.0%

Income	Yes	No
<\$25k	54.9%	45.1%
\$25k - \$49.9k	56.3%	43.7%
\$50k - \$99.9k	47.6%	52.4%
\$100k+	41.5%	58.5%
Total	51.0%	49.0%

Question 4

If the use of marijuana is legal, should there be age restrictions for recreational purposes?

a. Yes

b. No

Age	Yes	No
<35	92.1%	7.9%
35 - 64	92.4%	7.6%
65+	86.0%	14.0%
Total	91.1%	8.9%

Education

HS or Less	88.2%	11.8%
Some College/Assoc	91.1%	8.9%
College+	93.0%	7.0%
Total	91.1%	8.9%

Generation

Silent Generation	81.4%	18.6%
Baby Boomers	92.7%	7.3%
Generation X	92.9%	7.1%
Millennials	91.1%	8.9%
Total	91.1%	8.9%

Income

<\$25k	90.7%	9.3%
\$25k - \$49.9k	90.9%	9.1%
\$50k - \$99.9k	93.0%	7.0%
\$100k+	93.6%	6.4%
Total	91.1%	8.9%

Question 5

Similar to other prescription drugs, should healthcare providers be responsible for providing education to patients intending to purchase marijuana for medical use?

a. Yes

b. No

Age	Yes	No
<35	92.4%	7.6%
35 - 64	91.2%	8.8%
65+	84.7%	15.3%
Total	90.4%	9.6%

Education	Yes	No
HS or Less	86.1%	13.9%
Some College/Assoc	92.4%	7.6%
College+	91.6%	8.4%
Total	90.4%	9.6%

Generation	Yes	No
Silent Generation	81.2%	18.8%
Baby Boomers	89.8%	10.2%
Generation X	92.9%	7.1%
Millennials	91.7%	8.3%
Total	90.4%	9.6%

Income	Yes	No
<\$25k	92.9%	7.1%
\$25k - \$49.9k	89.0%	11.0%
\$50k - \$99.9k	93.8%	6.2%
\$100k+	88.9%	11.1%
Total	90.4%	9.6%

Question 6

In your opinion, what is the most significant concern associated with the use of marijuana?

- a. Addiction
- b. Leads to use of other drugs (gateway drug)
- c. Causes disease
- d. Social stigma
- e. Impairment of senses
- f. Increased risk of minors having access
- g. No significant concerns
- h. Abuse
- i. Long term effects
- j. Other

Age	Addiction	Gateway	Disease	Stigma	Impairment	Minors	Other	No Concerns	Abuse	Long Term Effects
<35	15.3%	10.4%	5.9%	4.1%	19.6%	8.6%	9.4%	20.2%	5.8%	0.6%
35 - 64	14.1%	11.4%	6.5%	3.5%	22.6%	8.4%	13.0%	14.0%	6.1%	0.3%
65+	20.0%	17.1%	4.4%	1.4%	24.9%	6.5%	11.4%	7.0%	6.6%	0.7%
Total	15.5%	12.1%	5.9%	3.3%	22.2%	8.1%	11.7%	14.6%	6.1%	0.5%

Education	Addiction	Gateway	Disease	Stigma	Impairment	Minors	Other	No Concerns	Abuse	Long Term Effects
HS or Less	16.7%	12.1%	5.2%	2.1%	14.8%	10.5%	11.1%	21.9%	5.6%	0.0%
Some College/Assoc	14.3%	9.8%	6.1%	3.0%	23.4%	9.4%	11.7%	16.9%	5.3%	0.1%
College+	15.7%	13.9%	6.3%	4.2%	25.6%	5.7%	12.0%	8.5%	7.0%	1.1%
Total	15.5%	12.1%	5.9%	3.3%	22.2%	8.1%	11.7%	14.6%	6.1%	0.5%

Generation	Addiction	Gateway	Disease	Stigma	Impairment	Minors	Other	No Concerns	Abuse	Long Term Effects
Silent Generation	23.4%	16.1%	4.3%	1.2%	22.4%	8.1%	12.4%	7.1%	4.5%	0.6%
Baby Boomers	11.8%	12.7%	6.3%	2.1%	26.3%	7.8%	13.9%	12.4%	6.0%	0.6%
Generation X	16.3%	12.2%	5.5%	4.5%	21.2%	8.7%	11.5%	13.7%	6.4%	0.1%
Millennials	15.5%	9.7%	6.8%	4.0%	18.4%	7.7%	8.9%	21.7%	6.6%	0.7%
Total	15.5%	12.1%	5.9%	3.3%	22.2%	8.1%	11.7%	14.6%	6.1%	0.5%

Income	Addiction	Gateway	Disease	Stigma	Impairment	Minors	Other	No Concerns	Abuse	Long Term Effects
<\$25k	15.3%	10.3%	6.1%	2.7%	17.3%	10.6%	8.9%	21.2%	7.4%	0.2%
\$25k - \$49.9k	14.1%	13.7%	4.6%	4.3%	22.7%	7.6%	11.4%	15.3%	6.3%	0.1%
\$50k - \$99.9k	16.3%	13.5%	6.9%	3.2%	25.5%	7.0%	11.4%	11.5%	3.7%	1.0%
\$100k+	9.2%	11.0%	4.6%	3.7%	24.9%	8.8%	17.7%	9.7%	9.5%	0.9%
Total	15.5%	12.1%	5.9%	3.3%	22.2%	8.1%	11.7%	14.6%	6.1%	0.5%