



CBS NEWS POLL
 For release: Sunday, May 25, 2014
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Americans Divide on Legalization of Marijuana Use
 May 14-18, 2014

A new CBS News Poll finds Americans split on whether the use of marijuana should be legal. 48% favor that, while 47% oppose it. Earlier this year, a slim majority of 51% supported legalization, compared to 48% today, although that difference is within the poll's margin of error.

Public opinion on legalizing pot has shifted in recent years, and has changed dramatically since 1979 when CBS News first asked about it. Back then, nearly seven in 10 Americans opposed the legalization of marijuana use, while just 27% favored it.

Should Marijuana Use be Legal?

	Now	2/2014	1/2014	4/2013	11/2012	10/2011	7/2009	7/1979
Yes	48%	51%	51%	45%	47%	40%	41%	27%
No	47	46	44	45	47	51	52	69

Most men think marijuana use should be legal, while a majority of women do not. Younger Americans are especially supportive of legal marijuana use: 60% of those under age 30 support legalization, but 58% of seniors do not. Regionally, those in the northeast and in the west are more likely to favor legalization of marijuana, compared to Southerners and those living in the Midwest.

Should Marijuana Use be Legal?

	Total	Men	Women	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	North -east	Mid- West	South	West
Yes	48%	54%	43%	60%	57%	41%	37%	53%	44%	45%	53%
No	47	41	53	37	39	54	58	43	50	51	41

Ideology plays some role. Most conservatives (59%) do not think marijuana use should be legal, but 53% of moderates and 63% of liberals think it should be.

Should Marijuana Use be Legal?

	Total	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes	48%	63%	53%	37%
No	47	33	43	59

This poll was conducted by telephone May 14-18, 2014 among 1,011 adults nationwide. Data collection was conducted on behalf of CBS News by SSRS of Media, PA. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups may be higher. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

SU-01. Do you think that the use of marijuana should be legal, or not?

** Total Respondents **

	Total	Men	Women
	%	%	%
Legal	48	54	43
Not legal	47	41	53
Don't know/No answer	5	5	4

Total respondents: 1,011

Margin of error: 3pts