

Table 2.90

College freshmen reporting that marijuana should be legalized

By sex, United States, 1969-2004

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	Marijuana should be legalized		
	Total	Male	Female
1969	26.2%	28.7%	23.4%
1970	40.6	43.1	37.3
1971	40.4	43.4	37.2
1972	47.6	50.3	44.6
1973	48.3	50.9	45.6
1974	45.6	48.2	42.8
1975	46.1	49.4	42.7
1976	47.3	49.4	45.1
1977	51.3	55.0	47.5
1978	47.8	50.4	45.1
1979	44.6	47.4	41.9
1980	37.1	39.7	34.8
1981	32.5	35.4	29.9
1982	27.8	30.7	25.0
1983	24.5	27.3	21.9
1984	22.7	25.5	20.1
1985	21.4	24.4	18.6
1986	20.8	24.2	17.7
1987	19.1	22.8	15.7
1988	19.8	23.4	16.6
1989	16.7	19.9	13.8
1990	18.8	21.7	16.2
1991	21.2	24.1	18.6
1992	24.8	28.2	21.8
1993	29.3	32.6	26.5
1994	32.7	36.4	29.6
1995	33.4	37.1	30.3
1996	32.4	36.1	29.4
1997	33.1	36.7	30.1
1998	32.7	37.7	28.6
1999	32.4	37.2	28.4
2000	34.2	40.4	29.1
2001	36.5	42.9	31.4
2002	39.7	45.8	34.7
2003	38.8	44.3	34.3
2004	37.2	43.1	32.5

Note: These figures are taken from the Cooperative Institutional Research Program Freshman Survey, which is conducted annually by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California, Los Angeles. The survey covers a wide range of student characteristics including demographic and background information, high school activities, college plans, values, attitudes, and beliefs. Each fall, the HERI surveys approximately 300,000 full-time students entering the freshman classes from a nationally representative sample of colleges and universities in the United States. Both 2-year and 4-year institutions were included in the data for 1969-99. Beginning in 2000, the survey includes only 4-year colleges and universities (baccalaureate institutions). Inclusion of 2-year institutions was discontinued due to declining participation rates and increased need for data adjustment. In order to facilitate comparisons over time, 2-year institutions were removed from the sample and data for years prior to 2000 were recalculated by the Source. The data presented include only 4-year (baccalaureate-granting) institutions for all years and therefore will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

From 1966 to 1970, approximately 15% of the Nation's institutions of higher education were selected by sampling procedures to participate in the program. Beginning in 1971, a stratified sample was selected from all institutions that have entering freshman classes and that respond to the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education General Information Survey. An institution is considered eligible if it was operating at the time of the survey and if it had a full-time freshman class of at least 25 students. The data presented are weighted estimates of all first-time, full-time students entering 4-year colleges and universities in the fall of each year. Published reports on trends over 35 years or reports on individual annual survey results can be obtained by writing to the Higher Education Research Institute, 3005 Moore Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1521.

Response categories were "agree strongly," "agree somewhat," "disagree somewhat," and "disagree strongly." The text or format of the questions or responses may differ slightly in different years.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty-Five Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 2002), pp. 60, 61, 106, 107, 152, 153; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 2002*, Higher Education Research Institute, pp. 36, 56, 76; 2003, pp. 34, 54, 74; 2004, pp. 36, 56, 76 (Los Angeles: University of California). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.