

Table 2.68

Attitudes toward legalization of the use of marijuana

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1976-2002

Question: "Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?"

	1976		1978		1980		1983		1984		1986		1987		1988	
	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not
National	28%	69%	30%	67%	25%	72%	20%	76%	23%	73%	18%	80%	16%	81%	17%	79%
<b>Sex</b>																
Male	32	64	34	63	30	67	25	71	28	68	23	75	19	78	21	74
Female	24	73	26	71	21	76	16	80	19	77	14	84	14	83	14	82
<b>Race</b>																
White	27	70	29	68	25	72	19	77	23	73	18	81	17	80	17	80
Black/other	33	60	38	59	27	71	28	69	22	75	19	77	12	84	18	75
<b>Age</b>																
18 to 20 years	57	39	51	48	45	52	33	67	36	62	16	82	21	74	16	74
21 to 29 years	49	48	49	49	42	56	29	68	34	62	27	71	25	70	24	70
30 to 49 years	25	72	29	69	27	71	21	76	27	68	20	79	19	79	19	78
50 years and older	16	81	16	80	13	84	13	83	9	87	12	87	8	90	12	86
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>																
College	40	56	42	55	35	61	23	74	29	66	22	75	21	75	20	75
High school graduate	26	70	27	70	23	75	21	76	21	75	17	82	13	84	16	80
Less than high school graduate	11	86	13	84	3	88	9	87	7	91	8	91	10	88	12	88
<b>Income</b>																
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Occupation</b>																
Professional/business	36	60	37	60	30	66	22	75	27	68	20	79	20	77	16	80
Clerical/support	26	72	27	71	23	75	18	79	22	72	16	82	11	83	14	82
Manual/service	25	71	28	69	23	74	22	75	20	77	19	79	16	81	20	75
Farming/agriculture	8	92	16	80	12	79	8	82	3	94	9	91	2	95	6	94
<b>Region</b>																
Northeast	32	64	33	62	27	70	20	76	24	74	20	80	18	78	19	76
Midwest	25	72	26	72	20	77	18	79	23	72	16	82	14	83	18	78
South	22	74	27	72	20	78	17	80	20	76	14	84	13	85	12	86
West	37	61	38	59	38	57	30	66	26	70	25	73	23	72	23	72
<b>Religion</b>																
Protestant	22	74	24	74	20	77	17	80	20	76	15	83	13	85	13	84
Catholic	32	64	31	64	26	71	17	78	20	76	18	80	16	81	16	80
Jewish	37	63	62	38	28	62	33	54	48	48	40	60	40	55	52	44
None	54	39	64	33	60	36	54	44	44	50	37	60	42	51	38	55
<b>Politics</b>																
Republican	20	78	19	80	18	80	15	82	17	80	13	86	13	84	14	84
Democrat	26	71	29	67	24	73	20	77	21	75	18	80	15	82	18	78
Independent	34	62	37	60	30	66	24	72	28	68	21	76	19	76	20	75

Note: See Note, table 2.15. The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-2002," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996		1998		2000		2002	
Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not	Should	not
16%	81%	16%	81%	18%	78%	22%	73%	23%	72%	26%	69%	28%	66%	32%	63%	34%	60%
20	76	19	79	23	74	27	68	27	69	30	66	34	60	36	58	38	55
14	84	14	82	14	81	19	76	20	75	22	72	22	71	28	66	30	63
18	80	17	80	18	78	22	73	23	73	26	69	28	65	33	61	36	58
10	85	13	82	16	76	20	75	24	71	22	70	24	70	25	68	24	66
19	75	22	78	21	79	24	69	50	50	38	60	34	64	41	56	59	35
21	76	19	76	25	73	25	70	24	71	30	66	34	59	41	54	41	51
19	78	19	79	22	74	27	67	26	70	28	67	30	63	34	60	38	54
11	86	12	85	10	86	15	81	17	78	19	75	21	73	24	70	24	70
20	77	18	79	21	74	25	70	26	69	27	68	32	62	33	62	37	56
15	82	16	81	16	81	19	76	22	74	24	71	23	70	31	62	29	63
9	88	12	87	8	88	19	80	10	84	22	72	22	72	27	67	31	65
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23	72	24	70	25	70	27	68	31	64	35	59
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22	72	21	76	25	71	29	67	36	58	33	61
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	27	69	20	77	27	68	32	61	34	60	33	59
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23	73	27	69	29	66	26	68	29	65	36	56
20	77	21	77	19	76	24	71	26	69	26	68	31	64	35	60	36	58
10	88	9	87	16	80	19	75	18	79	23	71	23	72	26	67	27	67
17	80	16	80	17	79	24	71	24	72	26	69	28	65	31	62	34	59
25	75	6	88	15	80	5	90	15	82	26	71	42	45	34	63	33	56
14	80	12	84	18	77	24	70	19	75	26	67	28	65	34	58	29	62
14	84	16	81	13	83	19	77	19	76	23	74	27	66	32	63	38	57
14	83	12	84	15	81	19	77	22	74	24	70	22	72	26	68	27	67
26	72	29	71	30	66	28	64	32	64	31	64	37	58	39	57	45	48
13	86	12	85	16	80	18	78	19	77	19	74	21	73	26	69	26	69
16	80	15	84	15	82	21	75	21	74	29	68	27	66	28	64	30	62
35	65	33	60	36	59	30	60	42	49	37	54	56	44	48	48	50	50
40	49	44	51	40	52	47	45	46	49	42	54	48	44	53	42	60	32
14	85	11	86	16	80	14	84	15	82	20	77	19	77	26	70	24	72
16	81	18	79	16	80	28	68	24	73	24	69	29	65	31	63	34	59
19	76	18	78	21	75	23	69	29	64	30	64	31	62	35	58	39	53