

Table 2.88

High school seniors' attitudes toward the legalization of marijuana use

United States, 1975-2003

Question: "There has been a great deal of public debate about whether marijuana use should be legal. Which of the following policies would you favor?"

(Percent favoring policy)

Class of	Using marijuana should be entirely legal	It should be a minor violation like a parking ticket but not a crime	It should be a crime	Don't know
1975	27.3%	25.3%	30.5%	16.8%
1976	32.6	29.0	25.4	13.0
1977	33.6	31.4	21.7	13.4
1978	32.9	30.2	22.2	14.6
1979	32.1	30.1	24.0	13.8
1980	26.3	30.9	26.4	16.4
1981	23.1	29.3	32.1	15.4
1982	20.0	28.2	34.7	17.1
1983	18.9	26.3	36.7	18.1
1984	18.6	23.6	40.6	17.2
1985	16.6	25.7	40.8	16.9
1986	14.9	25.9	42.5	16.7
1987	15.4	24.6	45.3	14.8
1988	15.1	21.9	49.2	13.9
1989	16.6	18.9	50.0	14.6
1990	15.9	17.4	53.2	13.6
1991	18.0	19.2	48.6	14.3
1992	18.7	18.0	47.6	15.7
1993	22.8	18.7	43.4	15.1
1994	26.8	19.0	39.4	14.8
1995	30.4	18.0	37.3	14.4
1996	31.2	21.0	33.8	13.9
1997	30.8	20.7	34.0	14.5
1998	27.9	24.3	32.6	15.2
1999	27.3	23.7	32.5	16.5
2000	31.2	23.4	30.2	15.2
2001	29.2	24.5	31.1	15.3
2002	30.8	24.2	29.1	15.9
2003	29.5	25.8	29.8	14.9

Note: See Note, [table 2.79](#). Sample sizes vary from year to year. The Ns for the years presented range from 2,143 to 3,710; for the class of 2003, the N is 2,444. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston et al., *Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975-2003*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students (Bethesda, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004), p. 320. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.