

Table 2.89

Attitudes toward legalization of the use of marijuana

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-96

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

	1973		1975		1976		1978		1980		1983		1984		1986	
	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not
National	18%	80%	20%	75%	28%	69%	30%	67%	25%	72%	20%	76%	23%	73%	18%	80%
Sex																
Male	22	75	25	69	32	64	34	63	30	67	25	71	28	68	23	75
Female	15	83	16	80	24	73	26	71	21	76	16	80	19	77	14	84
Race																
White	18	80	20	75	27	70	29	68	25	72	19	77	23	73	18	81
Black/other	18	79	22	71	33	60	38	59	27	71	28	69	22	75	19	77
Age																
18 to 20 years	42	56	34	56	57	39	51	48	45	52	33	67	36	62	16	82
21 to 29 years	38	60	40	54	49	48	49	49	42	56	29	68	34	62	27	71
30 to 49 years	14	84	18	79	25	72	29	69	27	71	21	76	27	68	20	79
50 years and older	9	89	9	86	16	81	16	80	13	84	13	83	9	87	12	87
Education^a																
College	32	66	35	59	40	56	42	55	35	61	23	74	29	66	22	75
High school graduate	15	83	16	79	26	70	27	70	23	75	21	76	21	75	17	82
Less than high school graduate	6	94	5	89	11	86	13	84	3	88	9	87	7	91	8	91
Income																
\$50,000 and over	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$30,000 to \$49,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
\$20,000 to \$29,999	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under \$20,000	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Occupation																
Professional/business	23	74	29	65	36	60	37	60	30	66	22	75	27	68	20	79
Clerical	15	83	20	76	26	72	27	71	23	75	18	79	22	72	16	82
Manual	17	82	17	79	25	71	28	69	23	74	22	75	20	77	19	79
Farmer	6	89	3	93	8	92	16	80	12	79	8	82	3	94	9	91
Region																
Northeast	22	74	26	70	32	64	33	62	27	70	20	76	24	74	20	80
Midwest	20	78	20	75	25	72	26	72	20	77	18	79	23	72	16	82
South	11	89	12	84	22	74	27	72	20	78	17	80	20	76	14	84
West	24	73	32	63	37	61	38	59	38	57	30	66	26	70	25	73
Religion																
Protestant	14	84	15	81	22	74	24	74	20	77	17	80	20	76	15	83
Catholic	18	81	21	73	32	64	31	64	26	71	17	78	20	76	18	80
Jewish	33	67	48	48	37	63	62	38	28	62	33	54	48	48	40	60
None	52	43	53	43	54	39	64	33	60	36	54	44	44	50	37	60
Politics																
Republican	11	87	12	86	20	78	19	80	18	80	15	82	17	80	13	86
Democrat	17	82	19	77	26	71	29	67	24	73	20	77	21	75	18	80
Independent	25	72	26	67	34	62	37	60	30	66	24	72	28	68	21	76

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 6.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-94," "General Social Surveys, 1996," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aIn 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996	
Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not
16%	81%	17%	79%	16%	81%	16%	81%	18%	78%	22%	73%	23%	72%	26%	69%
19	78	21	74	20	76	19	79	23	74	27	68	27	69	30	66
14	83	14	82	14	84	14	82	14	81	19	76	20	75	22	72
17	80	17	80	18	80	17	80	18	78	22	73	23	73	26	69
12	84	18	75	10	85	13	82	16	76	20	75	24	71	22	70
21	74	16	74	19	75	22	78	21	79	24	69	50	50	38	60
25	70	24	70	21	76	19	76	25	73	25	70	24	71	30	66
19	79	19	78	19	78	19	79	22	74	27	67	26	70	28	67
8	90	12	86	11	86	12	85	10	86	15	81	17	78	19	75
21	75	20	75	20	77	18	79	21	74	25	70	26	69	27	68
13	84	16	80	15	82	16	81	16	81	19	76	22	74	24	71
10	88	12	88	9	88	12	87	8	88	19	80	10	84	22	72
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	23	72	24	70	25	70
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	22	72	21	76	25	71
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	27	69	20	77	27	68
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	23	73	27	69	29	66
20	77	16	80	20	77	21	77	19	76	24	71	26	69	26	68
11	83	14	82	10	88	9	87	16	80	19	75	18	79	23	71
16	81	20	75	17	80	16	80	17	79	24	71	24	72	26	69
2	95	6	94	25	75	6	88	15	80	5	90	15	82	26	71
18	78	19	76	14	80	12	84	18	77	24	70	19	75	26	67
14	83	18	78	14	84	16	81	13	83	19	77	19	76	23	74
13	85	12	86	14	83	12	84	15	81	19	77	22	74	24	70
23	72	23	72	26	72	29	71	30	66	28	64	32	64	31	64
13	85	13	84	13	86	12	85	16	80	18	78	19	77	19	74
16	81	16	80	16	80	15	84	15	82	21	75	21	74	29	68
40	55	52	44	35	65	33	60	36	59	30	60	42	49	37	54
42	51	38	55	40	49	44	51	40	52	47	45	46	49	42	54
13	84	14	84	14	85	11	86	16	80	14	84	15	82	20	77
15	82	18	78	16	81	18	79	16	80	28	68	24	73	24	69
19	76	20	75	19	76	18	78	21	75	23	69	29	64	30	64