

University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll – Topline Results
Majority of Iowans support legalization of marijuana for medical and recreational
May 19, 2022
March/April poll of Iowans

Sample: 1,063 voting-age residents in Iowa (online and by phone), margin of error +/-3.1%. Among these, 947 respondents took the online version of the survey, with a margin of error of 3.2%.

Results for this release use only responses to the web survey since the questions about marijuana reforms were not asked on the phone version to reduce interview length.

About: The Hawkeye Poll was fielded March 31 to April 13, 2022.

The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the Department of Political Science. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, which uses the facilities of the Iowa Social Science Research Center directed by Frederick J. Boehmke, professor of political science and faculty advisor for the poll. The Department of Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the UI Public Policy Center fund the poll; financial support was provided through a Student Technology Fee award (#1290-91).

The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) assisted with data collection. Responses were gathered by phone (116) and online (947). For the phone portion, the ISRC obtained a random sample of Iowans consisting of 40% household landline numbers and 60% mobile phone numbers. All respondents who stated they were older than 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included. After training, students in the class used the ISRC's computer-assisted interviewing resources to complete the calling and interviews. No quotas were set for the phone component. For the online portion, the ISRC contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of 947 online respondents. Respondents invited to complete the online survey were Iowa adults, aged 18-120 years, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity.

Results for this release use only responses to the web survey since the questions about education reforms were not asked on the phone version to reduce interview length.

Media Contacts:

Frederick Boehmke, faculty advisor for the Hawkeye Poll, 319-335-2342 (office), 716-866-9277 (cell), frederick-boehmke@uiowa.edu; Cassandra Tai, Hawkeye Poll, yuehong-tai@uiowa.edu.

Respondent Identification: All respondents who stated they were older than 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included. Responses were completed online and by phone. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set for the online data collection on the following demographics: sex, age, and urbanicity. No quotas were set for the phone data collection.

Weighting: Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and partisan identification.

Please select the option that most closely describes your opinion on the legalization of medical marijuana.

	%
Marijuana should be legal for medical use	71.1
Marijuana should be illegal but decriminalized for medical use	14.8
Marijuana should be illegal and not be decriminalized for medical use	10.1
Don't Know/Declined	4.0
Total	100.0

Please select the option that most closely describes your opinion on the legalization of recreational marijuana.

	%
Marijuana should be legal for recreational use	52.5
Marijuana should be illegal but decriminalized for recreational use	15.0
Marijuana should be illegal and not be decriminalized for recreational use	22.8
Don't Know/Declined	9.8
Total	100.0

People support marijuana legalization for either medical or recreational use for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you support legalization or not, we are interested in which of these considerations you agree with? Please select all that apply, if any: Marijuana has medicinal benefits.

	%
No	24.7
Yes	71.1
Don't Know/Declined	4.2
Total	100.0

People support marijuana legalization for either medical or recreational use for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you support legalization or not, we are interested in which of these considerations you agree with? Please select all that apply, if any: Legalization would free up law enforcement to focus on other types of crime.

	%
No	44.8
Yes	51.0
Don't Know/Declined	4.2
Total	100.0

People support marijuana legalization for either medical or recreational use for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you support legalization or not, we are interested in which of these considerations you agree with? Please select all that apply, if any: Legalization would provide a good source of tax revenue for state and local governments.

	%
No	43.3
Yes	52.5
Don't Know/Declined	4.2
Total	100.0

People support marijuana legalization for either medical or recreational use for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you support legalization or not, we are interested in which of these considerations you agree with? Please select all that apply, if any: Legalization would decrease the incarceration rate in Iowa.

	%
No	47.3
Yes	48.5
Don't Know/Declined	4.2
Total	100.0

People support marijuana legalization for either medical or recreational use for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you support legalization or not, we are interested in which of these considerations you agree with? Please select all that apply, if any: It would be easier to regulate marijuana if legal.

	%
No	48.6
Yes	47.2
Don't Know/Declined	4.2
Total	100.0

People support marijuana legalization for either medical or recreational use for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you support legalization or not, we are interested in which of these considerations you agree with? Please select all that apply, if any: Legalization would create more jobs in Iowa.

	%
No	54.3
Yes	41.5
Don't Know/Declined	4.2
Total	100.0

People oppose marijuana legalization for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you oppose legalization or not, which of these considerations influence your position not to legalize marijuana even for medicinal use? Please select all that apply, if any: Marijuana has negative side effects on the brain.

	%
No	58.1
Yes	31.2
Don't Know/Declined	10.7
Total	100.0

People oppose marijuana legalization for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you oppose legalization or not, which of these considerations influence your position not to legalize marijuana even for medicinal use? Please select all that apply, if any: Marijuana can negatively impact children's intellectual level and mental health.

	%
No	49.9
Yes	39.3
Don't Know/Declined	10.7
Total	100.0

People oppose marijuana legalization for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you oppose legalization or not, which of these considerations influence your position not to legalize marijuana even for medicinal use? Please select all that apply, if any: Legalization would increase drug usage.

	%
No	60.2
Yes	29.1
Don't Know/Declined	10.7
Total	100.0

People oppose marijuana legalization for a variety of reasons, some of which we've listed below. Whether you oppose legalization or not, which of these considerations influence your position not to legalize marijuana even for medicinal use? Please select all that apply, if any: People would become addicted to marijuana.

	%
No	63.5
Yes	25.8
Don't Know/Declined	10.7
Total	100.0

In this question, we want to ask you about a hypothetical person named Joe. Joe is from Iowa and is searching for a new job. A couple of weeks ago, Joe was interviewed by a local company that later decided to make him an offer. In Iowa, employers can run background checks on applicants and may choose not to hire them based on any criminal convictions that appear.

When the company ran the background check, it learned that Joe was convicted of possession of marijuana. The company decided to rescind the offer. Do you agree or disagree with the company's decision?

	%
Strongly agree	8.7
Agree	16.2
Neither agree nor disagree	19.6
Disagree	25.8
Strongly disagree	26.0
Don't Know/Declined	3.7
Total	100.0

Now imagine that the company learned that Joe was convicted of distributing marijuana and decided to rescind the offer. Do you agree or disagree with the company's decision?

	%
Strongly agree	18.0
Agree	32.1
Neither agree nor disagree	18.5
Disagree	15.6
Strongly disagree	12.2
Don't Know/Declined	3.7
Total	100.0

Finally, what if the company learned that Joe was convicted of manufacture of marijuana and decided to rescind the offer. Do you agree or disagree with the company's decision?

	%
Strongly agree	23.6
Agree	27.9
Neither agree nor disagree	18.7
Disagree	13.9
Strongly disagree	11.5
Don't Know/Declined	4.4
Total	100.0

Support for marijuana legalization for medical use by age categories.

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Marijuana should be legal for medical use	73.0	74.0	69.4	62.8	71.1
Marijuana should be illegal but decriminalized for medical use	12.6	9.1	21.4	21.1	14.8
Marijuana should be illegal and not be decriminalized for medical use	10.6	13.1	5.2	11.0	10.1
Don't Know/Declined	3.8	3.8	4.1	5.1	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Support for marijuana legalization for medical use by party identification.

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Total
	%	%	%	%
Marijuana should be legal for medical use	81.4	55.6	75.2	70.6
Marijuana should be illegal but decriminalized for medical use	10.6	23.8	11.1	15.3
Marijuana should be illegal and not be decriminalized for medical use	5.5	15.8	8.8	10.1
Don't Know/Declined	2.6	4.8	4.8	4.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Support for marijuana legalization for recreational use by age categories.

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
Marijuana should be legal for recreational use	66.2	59.4	41.7	23.8	52.5
Marijuana should be illegal but decriminalized for recreational use	14.1	14.5	18.2	11.8	15.0
Marijuana should be illegal and not be decriminalized for recreational use	13.0	18.4	27.3	48.1	22.8
Don't Know/Declined	6.6	7.7	12.8	16.3	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Support for marijuana legalization for recreational use by party identification.

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Total
	%	%	%	%
Marijuana should be legal for recreational use	64.3	35.1	53.2	50.7
Marijuana should be illegal but decriminalized for recreational use	14.7	19.1	13.6	15.9
Marijuana should be illegal and not be decriminalized for recreational use	11.8	38.6	20.5	23.8
Don't Know/Declined	9.2	7.1	12.6	9.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or what?

	%
Democrat	30.2
Republican	31.0
Independent	29.7
No preference	7.2
Other	1.8
Total	100.0

Four category age variable, recoded from: In what year were you born?

	%
18-34	29.6
35-54	32.4
55-69	25.4
70 and over	12.6
Total	100.0