2017 Public Opinion Survey

of

**New York Registered Voters
Attitudes on Marijuana Policy**

Commissioned by

Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)

& Conducted by

Emerson College

Contents

Methodology

The Emerson College Polling Society, under the supervision of Professor Spencer Kimball is pleased to present Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) with the findings from a survey of registered voters in New York.

All respondents interviewed in this study were part of a fully representative sample using an area probabilistic sampling method of N= 600 (sample size). The margin of error for the sample is +/- 3.9% in 19 of 20 cases.

The survey was administered using both landline, cellphones and online via Survey Sampling International (SSI) and IVR, and was conducted between November 30 and December 2, 2017.

A screening question was used to gauge if respondents were registered voters.

The results presented in this report include univariate and bivariate analysis of the data. Frequency distributions for each item included on the questionnaire are shown in the tables. In all cases, cross-tabulation results are also shown. This type of bivariate analysis examines differences between sub-groups of the overall population.

In the cases where cross tabulation results are presented, a chi-square test, an independent t-test for means, or a Z-test for independent percentages is shown. A chi-square test is used in cases where comparisons are made for categorical variables. A t-test is used in cases where comparisons are made for measurement variables. A Z-test is used in cases where comparisons are made between independent population percentages.
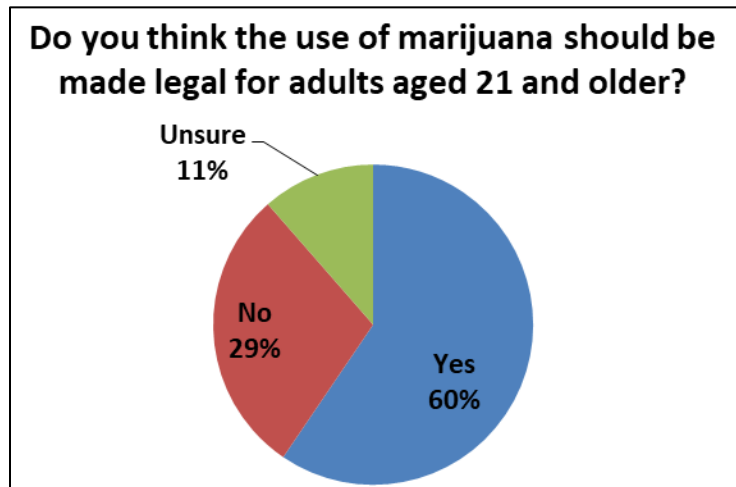
The purpose of these statistical tests is to determine whether or not the observed difference between sub-groups in the sample is due to sampling error or whether it is due to a real difference in the population. When the results are statistically significant, it strongly suggests that the observed difference between sub-groups found in the sample is due to a real difference in the population, and not due to sampling error.

A chi-square significance level of.05 indicates significance at the 95 percent level. In other words, it is 95 percent likely that the results are due to a real difference between comparison groups. A chi-square significance level of .01 indicates significance at the 99 percent level. When a t-test or a Z-test is shown, lower- and upper-case letters indicate significance at the 90 and 95 percent levels respectively.
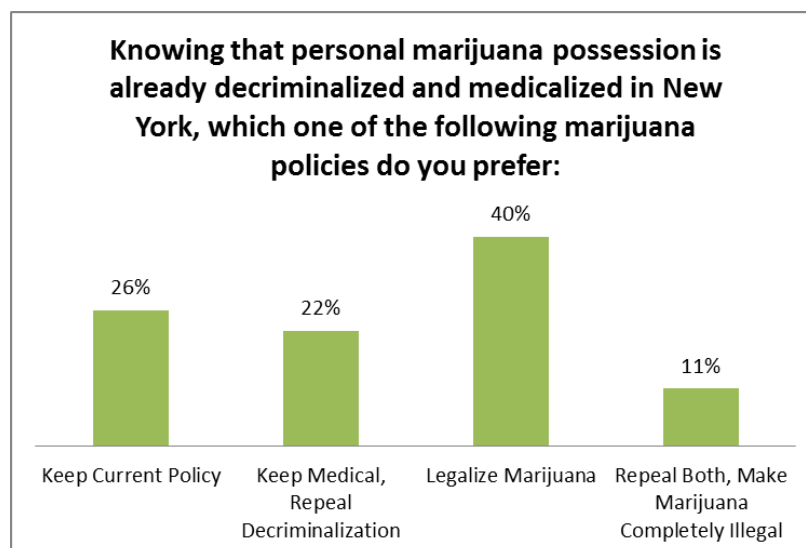
Data was weighted to reflect the 2016 Presidential voting electorate by age, gender, ethnicity, party affiliation and voting preference for President.

Executive Summary

Overall 60% of registered voters support the legalization of marijuana and 29% oppose legalization which is outside the polls 3.9 percentage point margin of error and significant.

Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal for adults aged 21 and older?

- Unsure 11%
- No 29%
- Yes 60%

- Males were slightly less supportive (59% to 34%) of legalization compared to females (60% to 26%)
- Voters who identify as Independent are most in support (71% to 18%)
    - Democrats support 61% to 29%
    - Republicans slightly support (not significant) 46% to 41%
- There were no significant difference based on ethnicity/race of voters
- Voters under 75 support legalization
    - 18-34 support 68% to 24%
    - 35-54 support 61% to 28%
    - 55-74 support 60% to 27%
    - 75+ oppose 61% to 21%

Knowing that personal marijuana possession is already decriminalized and medicalized in New York, which one of the following marijuana policies do you prefer:

- Keep Current Policy 26%
- Keep Medical, Repeal Decriminalization 22%
- Legalize Marijuana 40%
- Repeal Both, Make Marijuana Completely Illegal 11%

Demographics

Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	264	44.0	44.0	44.0
	Female	336	56.0	56.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Party Affiliation

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democrat	288	48.0	48.0	48.0
	Republican	156	26.0	26.0	74.0
	Independent or Other	156	26.0	26.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Ethnicity

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Hispanic or Latino of any race	54	9.0	9.0	9.0
	White or Caucasian	390	65.0	65.0	74.0
	Black or African American	126	21.0	21.0	95.0
	Asian or Indian American	12	2.0	2.0	97.0
	Other or Multiple	18	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-34	139	23.2	23.2	23.2
	35-54	224	37.4	37.4	60.6
	55-74	194	32.3	32.3	92.9
	75 or more	43	7.1	7.1	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Region

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Western NY Region	102	17.0	17.0	17.0
	Central NY Region	133	22.2	22.2	39.3
	North Country Region	73	12.1	12.1	51.4
	Downstate Region (NY City/Long Island)	292	48.6	48.6	100.0
	Total	600	100.0	100.0	

Survey Instrument

1. To start, can you please tell me your gender?
Press 1 for male
Press 2 for female

2. Are you currently registered to vote? If yes, do you consider yourself a member of a political party?
Press 1 for Democrat
Press 2 for Republican
Press 3 for Independent or other
Press 4 if you are not registered to vote

3.Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal for adults aged 21 and older?
Press 1 for yes
Press 2 for no
Press 3 if you are unsure

4. Currently, possessing 25 grams of marijuana is not a crime in New York. Many people call this policy "decriminalization." Medical marijuana use is also legal in New York.

Knowing that personal marijuana possession is already decriminalized and medicalized in New York, which one of the following marijuana policies do you prefer:
Press 1 to Keep the current policy of decriminalization and medical marijuana
Press 2 to Keep medical marijuana only and repeal the decriminalization
Press 3 to legalize marijuana for commercial production, use and sale for recreational use
Press 4 to repeal both decriminalization and medical marijuana making all marijuana use completely illegal

5. For whom did you vote in the 2016 Presidential election?
Press 1 for Donald Trump
Press 2 for Hillary Clinton
Press 3 for someone else or if you did not vote in this election

6. For statistical purposes only, can you please tell me your ethnicity?
Press 1 for Hispanic or Latino of any race
Press 2 for White or Caucasian
Press 3 for Black or African American
Press 4 for Asian or Indian American
Press 5 for other or multiple races

7. What is your age range?
Press 1 for 18-34 years
Press 2 for 35-54 years
Press 3 for 55-74 years
Press 4 for 75 or more years