

# America's Attitude: Cannabis Legalization

## At a glance

- An overwhelming majority of Americans (**68%**) say cannabis should be legal
- A majority across all age groups and races/ethnicities support cannabis legalization
- More than **50%** of Democrats, Republicans & Independents support legalization

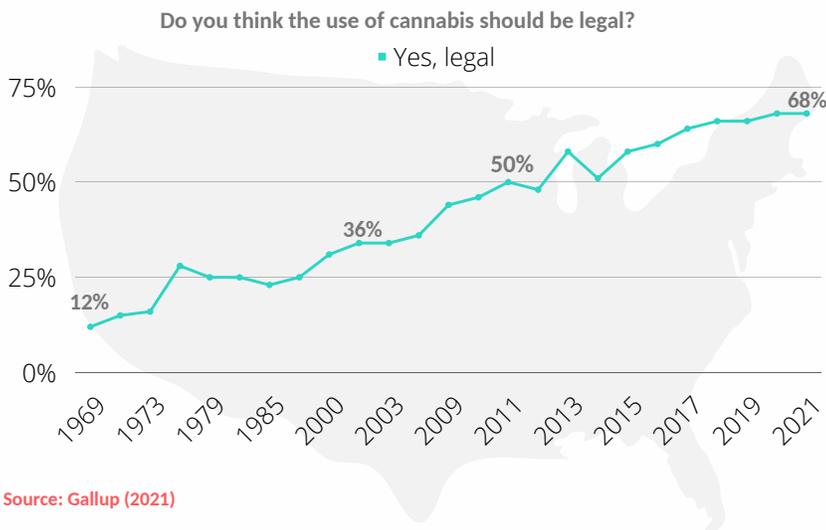
## Did you know?

Less than **15%** of Americans supported **cannabis legalization** in the 1970's.

Today, according to Gallup, that number is a record-high **68%**.

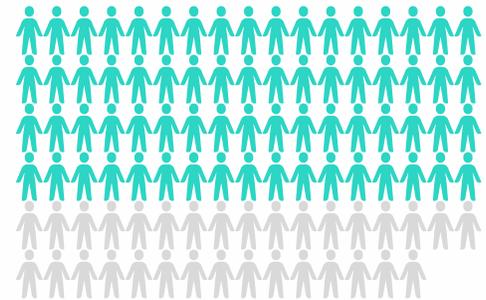
A 2021 Pew report has similar findings: **60%** of U.S. adults support medical and adult-use legalization.

### U.S. Support for Legalizing Cannabis, 1969 - 2021



**68%**

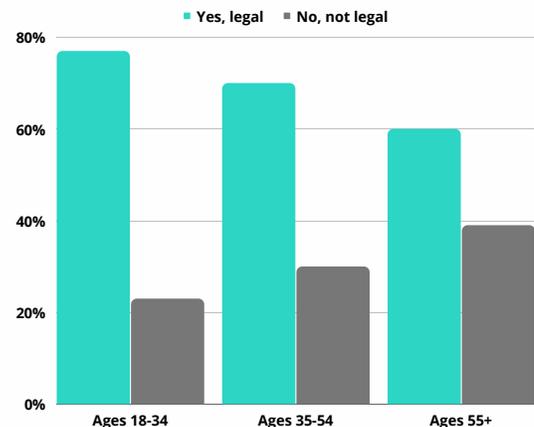
of Americans support cannabis legalization



## Fact

While there is majority support for cannabis legalization across all age groups, **younger Americans** favor legalization in higher numbers, according to the Gallup, Quinnipiac, and Pew polls. Few adults of any age are completely opposed to legalizing cannabis, and support is growing amongst **older populations**.

### Do you think the use of cannabis should be legal?

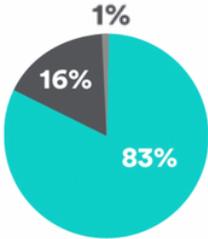


Source: Gallup (2021)

Cannabis is a **bipartisan issue**.  
 According to Gallup, **84%** of Democrats, **71%** of Independents, and **50%** of Republicans support legalization.

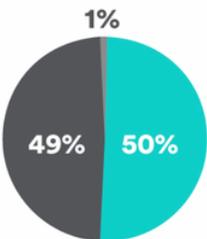
■ Supports legalization ■ Opposes ■ Unsure

**Democrat Support for Cannabis Legalization (2021)**

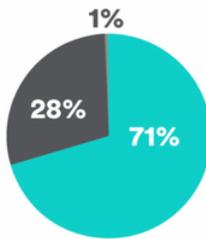


Source: Gallup (2021)

**Republican Support for Cannabis Legalization (2021)**

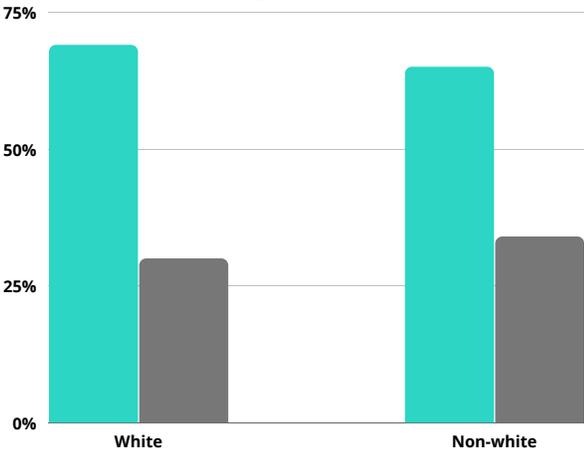


**Independent Support for Cannabis Legalization (2021)**



Do you think the use of cannabis should be legal?

■ Yes, legal ■ No, not legal



Source: Gallup (2021)

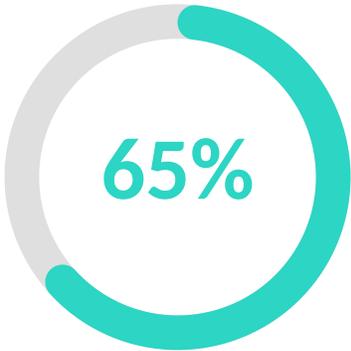
**Fact**

While more than **two-thirds** of white and Black adults believe cannabis should be legal for medical and adult-use purposes, that number is notably smaller among Hispanic and Asian populations. Across all racial and ethnic groups surveyed by Quinnipiac, more than **65%** of adults support legalization. Gallup found that **non-white Americans** were more likely to oppose cannabis legalization than their **white counterparts**. This is consistent with results published by Pew.

**Fact**

Cannabis **decriminalization** is a popular policy supported by a majority of Americans.  
 A 2021 ACLU report found that **65%** of voters support ending the “War on Drugs” and **66%** of voters support “eliminating criminal penalties for drug possession,” including cannabis.

■ Percentage of voters who support ending the war on drugs



Source: ACLU (2021)

**Key Takeaway**

**Most Americans today support the legalization of medical and adult-use cannabis.**  
 This support transcends age, gender, race/ethnicity, and political party affiliation.