

**Marijuana Legalization
(4/5/2016)**

Part 1: Support/oppose legalization itself

Today we're asking Canadians some questions about policies and regulations related to marijuana.

1. First, leaving aside the legal status of marijuana usage and considering only your personal opinion on the substance, would you say it is acceptable or not acceptable for people in each of the following circumstances to use marijuana?

[ROWS]

Using marijuana to relieve pain or anxiety, at the recommendation of a doctor

Using marijuana to relieve pain or anxiety, without a doctor's permission

Using marijuana for personal enjoyment or recreation

[COLUMNS]

Not at all acceptable

Not that acceptable

Somewhat acceptable

Highly acceptable

2. [T] Do you think the use of marijuana in Canada should be made legal, or not?

Yes, make it legal

No, it should remain illegal

3. And, have you always felt this way? Or have you changed your opinion over time?

Have always felt this way

Have changed my opinion on marijuana legalization

4. Thinking about all the issues facing Canada today, where would you rank this issue of marijuana legalization?

Let's use a five-point scale, where 1 means "at the bottom, it's one of the least important issues facing Canada today" and 5 means "at the top, it's one of the most important issues facing Canada today." You can, of course, choose any number in between.

1 One of the LEAST important issues facing Canada

2

3

4

5 One of the MOST important issues facing Canada

Part 2: Mechanics of legalization

[INTRODUCTORY SCREEN]

The federal government has said it plans to introduce legislation to “legalize, regulate, and restrict access to marijuana.” While the specifics of the legislation the government will introduce are not yet known, there has been a fair amount of public debate about what marijuana legalization could or should look like in Canada.

We’d like to ask you a few questions about what you believe the government’s new marijuana laws should and shouldn’t include.

[NEW SCREEN]

5. One issue government must consider in legalizing marijuana is whether to allow individuals to grow their own plants. Which of the following is closest to your own view on this? Should people be allowed to grow:

No marijuana – Private citizens should not be allowed to grow their own plants

At most, a few plants for personal use

At most, a few plants for personal use or for sale

An unlimited number of marijuana plants, for personal use or for sale

6. There has been some debate about how marijuana should be distributed once it has been legalized. Here are some different possibilities. Would you support or oppose regulating the distribution of marijuana in each of the following ways?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Marijuana may be sold through provincial government agencies – similar to liquor control boards

Marijuana may be sold in licensed dispensaries, which sell only marijuana products

Private businesses wishing to sell marijuana may acquire a license to do so

Marijuana may be sold by any business, with no special license required

Citizens may grow and sell their own marijuana

[COLUMNS]

Strongly oppose

Moderately oppose

Moderately support

Strongly support

7. Thinking about this another way, there are various existing models for distributing controlled substances. In your opinion, which of the following is marijuana MOST similar to?

Prescription drugs – sold in pharmacies by specially trained professionals

Tobacco – sold in a variety of stores, but always kept behind a counter, under lock-and-key

Liquor/Spirits (vodka, whiskey, etc.) – sold in specialty stores, but openly displayed on publicly accessible shelves

Lettuce – anyone can grow their own for personal use, but there are regulations for those who want to sell it

8. Assuming marijuana is legalized, many people who have been arrested for possession of the substance will have criminal records for crimes that no longer exist. Some people argue that once marijuana becomes legal, convictions for marijuana possession should be cleared from their records. Others argue that people with possession on their records knew what they were doing was illegal at the time they did it, and convictions for marijuana possession should not be removed from their records.

Which is closer to your opinion? Would you say that if marijuana becomes legal ...

[ROTATE]

Convictions for marijuana possession should be removed from criminal records

Convictions for marijuana possession should NOT be removed from criminal records

9. Some people are currently serving prison sentences for marijuana-related crimes, including possession, cultivation, and trafficking. Assuming marijuana is legalized, what should happen to these people?

Nothing, they should serve out their sentences

They should be considered for release on a case-by-case basis

Those in prison for possession only should be released, but not others

All people in prison for marijuana-related crimes should be released

Part 3: Societal effects of legalization

10. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about what might happen if marijuana is legalized.

[ROWS - RANDOMIZE]

It will be easier for children to get and use marijuana

There will be more cases of impaired driving

The health risks of using marijuana aren't fully understood

Legalization will create more lazy, checked out youth

Marijuana is a gateway drug, people trying marijuana are more likely to try harder drugs

Legalization will hurt organized crime by taking away its marijuana business

Tax revenues will increase if marijuana is legalized

Current marijuana laws are unevenly enforced

Police will be able to spend their resources enforcing other laws

Marijuana users will no longer end up with criminal records

[COLUMNS]

Strongly disagree

Moderately disagree

Moderately agree

Strongly agree

11. For governments, part of the appeal of marijuana legalization and regulation is the potential for additional tax revenues. In the U.S. state of Colorado, for instance, the state government collected \$135 million in taxes on legal marijuana sales in 2015.

In your opinion (again assuming marijuana is legalized), should taxes collected on legal marijuana sales be earmarked for specific purposes, such as health care or drug treatment programs, or should they be considered general revenue that can be used for anything in a government's budget?

[ROTATE]

Marijuana taxes should be earmarked for specific purposes

Marijuana taxes should be general revenue

Part 4: Legalization concepts revisited, plus demographic questions about usage

12. Returning to the overall legal status of marijuana, all things considered, which of the following broad approaches to regulation most closely reflects your own opinion? Should marijuana be:

Banned outright – in all circumstances

Banned in most cases – with exceptions for legitimate medical use

Decriminalized – i.e. growing and selling marijuana remains illegal, but possessing small amounts is not a crime

Legalized, but tightly controlled by government

Legalized and loosely controlled

13. All things considered, which of the following broad statements about marijuana legalization is closer to your own opinion?

[ROTATE]

Marijuana legalization will do more harm than good

Marijuana legalization will do more good than harm

14. Suppose marijuana were legal today. If that were the case, how likely would you be to use it?

Very likely – I would definitely use it

Fairly likely

Not that likely

Not at all likely – I would not use it

15. And, regardless of whether you personally expect to use more marijuana once the substance is made legal, do you think the overall number of Canadians who use marijuana will increase, stay the same, or decrease after marijuana is legalized?

Increase

Stay the same

Decrease

Don't know/Can't say