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## **NEW JERSEY: LEGAL WEED SEEN AS ECONOMIC BOON**

*But poll also finds widespread concern about opioid use*

West Long Branch, NJ – The ***Monmouth University Poll*** finds that 6-in-10 New Jersey residents support legalizing marijuana use, with support now 11 points higher than it was four years ago. Most say that such a policy will help the state’s economy and few think it will lead to an increase in drug crime. But the poll also finds widespread concern over another drug issue – the opioid crisis – with most New Jerseyans saying the state is not doing enough to deal with this problem.

Most New Jersey adults (59%) currently support legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use, while 37% are opposed. Statewide support has increased since Monmouth last asked this question four years ago. Support stood at 48% in April 2014 while opposition was at 47%. Support has increased most dramatically among Democrats, going from 49% in 2014 to 65% currently. Independents’ support increased from 51% to 60% and Republican support increased from 37% to 45% over the same time period.

Helping to drive this opinion is the fact that 60% of New Jerseyans believe that legalizing marijuana would help the state’s economy – including 68% of Democrats, 60% of independents, and even 50% of Republicans. Just 16% of state residents say it would hurt the New Jersey economy and 20% say it would have no impact.

“The strongest argument for marijuana legalization may be the bandwagon effect. With many other states doing it, most New Jerseyans seem to view such a move as a potential economic boon with a limited downside,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Just one-third of state residents (32%) feel that legalizing marijuana would lead to an increase in other drug crimes while 26% say it will actually lead to a decrease in those offenses. Another 39% say marijuana legalization would have no impact on the rate of other drug crimes.

“Even though increasing drug crime is not a major concern in the marijuana legalization debate, the public sees other serious issues with drug use, especially opioids,” said Murray.

Nearly 9-in-10 New Jersey adults (86%) say that addiction to opioids – which include pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin as well as street drugs like heroin and fentanyl – is a very serious problem in the United States. Another 9% say it is somewhat serious and very few say it is either not too (2%) or not at all (1%) serious. One-in-five (20%) say that this issue is a bigger problem in New Jersey than it is in most other parts of the country and 13% say it is less of a problem here, while the majority (59%) say the opioid addiction problem is about the same in New Jersey as it is elsewhere in the country.

Most New Jerseyans (59%) say the state is not doing enough to deal with the opioid problem here. Just 26% say it is doing enough. By party, 64% of Democrats and 62% of independents compared with 47% of Republicans say the state is not doing enough.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from April 6 to 10, 2018 with 703 New Jersey adults. The results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.7 percent for the full sample. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

## QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(\* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1, Q7, Q12 held for future release.] [Q2-6, Q8-11, Q13-25 previously released.]

26. Overall, do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?

	April 2018	April 2014
Support	59%	48%
Oppose	37%	47%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	6%
(n)	(703)	(803)

27. Do you think legalizing marijuana in New Jersey would help the state's economy, hurt the state's economy, or have no impact on the state's economy?

	April 2018
Help	60%
Hurt	16%
No impact	20%
(VOL) Don't know	4%
(n)	(703)

28. Do you think legalizing marijuana in New Jersey would lead to an increase in other drug crimes, lead to a decrease in other drug crimes, or have no impact on the number of other drug crimes?

	April 2018
Increase	32%
Decrease	26%
No impact	39%
(VOL) Don't know	3%
(n)	(703)

29. Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about opioids, which include pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin as well as street drugs like heroin and fentanyl. Is opioid addiction a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious problem in the United States?

	April 2018
Very serious	86%
Somewhat serious	9%
Not too serious	2%
Not at all serious	1%
(VOL) Don't know	2%
(n)	(703)

30. Do you think opioid addiction is a bigger problem in New Jersey than it is in most other parts of the country, is a bigger problem in most other parts of the country than it is in New Jersey, or is about the same in New Jersey as in most other parts of the country?

	April 2018
Bigger problem in New Jersey	20%
Bigger problem in other parts of the country	13%
About the same	59%
(VOL) Don't know	7%
(n)	(703)

31. Is New Jersey doing enough or not doing enough to deal with the opioid problem here?

	April 2018
Doing enough	26%
Not doing enough	59%
(VOL) Doing too much	1%
(VOL) Don't know	14%
(n)	(703)

[Q32-35 held for future release.][Q36-39 previously released.]

## METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from April 6 to 10, 2018 with a random sample of 703 New Jersey adults age 18 and older, in English. This includes 421 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 282 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Trolldahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.7 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-

groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
21% Republican	
41% Independent	
38% Democrat	
48% Male	
52% Female	
28% 18-34	
36% 35-54	
36% 55+	
60% White	
13% Black	
17% Hispanic	
10% Asian/Other	

<i>MARGIN OF ERROR</i>		<i>unweighted</i>	<i>moe</i>
		<i>sample</i>	<i>(+/-)</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>		703	3.7%
<i>REGISTERED VOTER</i>	Yes	632	3.9%
	No	71	11.6%
<i>SELF-REPORTED</i>	Republican	152	8.0%
<i>PARTY ID</i>	Independent	276	5.9%
	Democrat	262	6.1%
<i>GENDER</i>	Male	342	5.3%
	Female	361	5.2%
<i>AGE</i>	18-34	142	8.2%
	35-54	231	6.5%
	55+	320	5.5%
<i>RACE</i>	White non-Hispanic	473	4.5%
	Other	201	6.9%
<i>COLLEGE GRADUATE</i>	No degree	310	5.6%
	4 year degree	389	5.0%
<i>INCOME</i>	<\$50K	163	7.7%
	\$50 to <100K	202	6.9%
	\$100K+	285	5.8%
<i>REGION</i>	North	323	5.5%
	Central	185	7.2%
	South	189	7.1%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/19/18

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q26. Overall, do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?	Support	59%	60%	50%	45%	60%	65%	60%	58%	69%	62%	49%
	Oppose	37%	35%	46%	52%	35%	29%	36%	37%	26%	35%	46%
	[VOL] Dont Know	5%	5%	5%	3%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	3%	5%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q26. Overall, do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?	Support	57%	63%	57%	61%	60%	57%	63%	62%	56%	56%
	Oppose	37%	36%	38%	34%	36%	36%	34%	34%	37%	40%
	[VOL] Dont Know	6%	2%	4%	5%	4%	6%	3%	3%	7%	4%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q27. Do you think legalizing marijuana in New Jersey would help the states economy, hurt the states economy, or have no impact on the states economy?	Help	60%	59%	64%	50%	60%	68%	64%	56%	74%	59%	51%
	Hurt	16%	15%	19%	28%	14%	9%	15%	16%	10%	14%	20%
	No impact	20%	21%	14%	18%	23%	18%	17%	23%	13%	21%	25%
	[VOL] Dont Know	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	6%	4%	5%	3%	6%	4%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q27. Do you think legalizing marijuana in New Jersey would help the states economy, hurt the states economy, or have no impact on the states economy?	Help	59%	62%	60%	60%	60%	61%	60%	62%	59%	58%
	Hurt	16%	15%	17%	13%	21%	14%	10%	17%	10%	19%
	No impact	21%	20%	20%	21%	17%	21%	23%	18%	24%	20%
	[VOL] Dont Know	4%	4%	4%	5%	2%	3%	6%	3%	7%	3%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q28. Do you think legalizing marijuana in New Jersey would lead to an increase in other drug crimes, lead to a decrease in other drug crimes, or have no impact on the number of other drug crimes?	Increase	32%	30%	44%	42%	33%	24%	30%	33%	21%	32%	38%
	Decrease	26%	27%	22%	17%	25%	32%	29%	23%	41%	22%	19%
	No impact	39%	40%	33%	37%	39%	41%	38%	40%	36%	43%	39%
	[VOL] Dont Know	3%	4%	0%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	5%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q28. Do you think legalizing marijuana in New Jersey would lead to an increase in other drug crimes, lead to a decrease in other drug crimes, or have no impact on the number of other drug crimes?	Increase	33%	29%	34%	28%	37%	29%	26%	28%	32%	37%
	Decrease	25%	28%	26%	26%	26%	30%	27%	26%	24%	29%
	No impact	39%	39%	37%	42%	35%	37%	43%	42%	40%	32%
	[VOL] Dont Know	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	4%	4%	4%	2%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/19/18

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Q29. Is opioid addiction a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious problem in the United States?	Very serious	86%	87%	77%	90%	86%	84%	86%	86%	86%	87%	86%
	Somewhat serious	9%	8%	17%	6%	9%	12%	9%	10%	9%	8%	11%
	Not too serious	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%
	Not at all serious	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
	[VOL] Dont Know	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%

		RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE		
		White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North	Central	South
Q29. Is opioid addiction a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious problem in the United States?	Very serious	88%	85%	84%	90%	78%	91%	90%	87%	87%	86%
	Somewhat serious	10%	8%	11%	7%	15%	5%	9%	9%	11%	8%
	Not too serious	1%	4%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%
	Not at all serious	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%
	[VOL] Dont Know	1%	2%	3%	0%	3%	2%	0%	1%	0%	3%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3	
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54
Q30. Do you think opioid addiction is a bigger problem in New Jersey than it is in most other parts of the country, is a bigger problem in most other parts of the country than it is in NJ, or is about the same in NJ as in most other parts of the country?	Bigger problem in New Jersey	20%	20%	20%	22%	23%	15%	20%	20%	24%	19%
	Bigger problem in other parts of the country	13%	14%	10%	8%	15%	16%	14%	12%	20%	11%
	About the same	59%	58%	65%	62%	57%	62%	59%	60%	51%	64%
	[VOL] Dont Know	7%	7%	5%	8%	6%	7%	6%	8%	5%	7%

		AGE 3	RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE
		55+	White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North
Q30. Do you think opioid addiction is a bigger problem in New Jersey than it is in most other parts of the country, is a bigger problem in most other parts of the country than it is in NJ, or is about the same in NJ as in most other parts of the country?	Bigger problem in New Jersey	19%	21%	19%	19%	22%	18%	22%	20%	19%
	Bigger problem in other parts of the country	11%	11%	17%	14%	12%	11%	13%	14%	17%
	About the same	62%	62%	55%	59%	60%	61%	62%	59%	57%
	[VOL] Dont Know	8%	6%	8%	8%	6%	11%	3%	7%	7%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/19/18

		REGION OF STATE	
		Central	South
Q30. Do you think opioid addiction is a bigger problem in New Jersey than it is in most other parts of the country, is a bigger problem in most other parts of the country than it is in NJ, or is about the same in NJ as in most other parts of the country?	Bigger problem in New Jersey	22%	22%
	Bigger problem in other parts of the country	15%	6%
	About the same	55%	65%
	[VOL] Dont Know	7%	7%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			GENDER		AGE 3	
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54
Q31. Is New Jersey doing enough or not doing enough to deal with the opioid problem here?	Doing enough	26%	26%	28%	37%	23%	24%	30%	22%	26%	26%
	Not doing enough	59%	60%	50%	47%	62%	64%	56%	62%	64%	57%
	[VOL] Doing too much	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	[VOL] Dont Know	14%	13%	21%	15%	14%	12%	13%	15%	10%	16%

		AGE 3	RACE 2		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME			REGION OF STATE
		55+	White	Other	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	North
Q31. Is New Jersey doing enough or not doing enough to deal with the opioid problem here?	Doing enough	26%	26%	27%	28%	21%	27%	24%	25%	24%
	Not doing enough	58%	60%	58%	56%	65%	57%	61%	62%	62%
	[VOL] Doing too much	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%
	[VOL] Dont Know	15%	13%	14%	15%	13%	15%	14%	11%	14%

		REGION OF STATE	
		Central	South
Q31. Is New Jersey doing enough or not doing enough to deal with the opioid problem here?	Doing enough	30%	27%
	Not doing enough	59%	55%
	[VOL] Doing too much	2%	1%
	[VOL] Dont Know	9%	17%