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## **NEW JERSEY: QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX SETTLES BACK; JERSEY SHORE PLANS *ALMOST* BACK TO NORMAL**

*Few say marijuana legalization has impacted state's quality of life*

*West Long Branch, NJ* – The public's views of New Jersey's quality of life have settled back to normal from the pandemic rally effect recorded in last year's *Monmouth ("Mon-muth") University Poll*. The poll finds that the number of state residents making plans to visit the Jersey Shore this summer is back to near normal levels, although some families are hesitant about spending a week or more in a beach rental just yet. In other poll results, very few New Jerseyans think the recent legalization of recreational marijuana use has had any impact on the state's quality of life. At the same time, a little more than half are actually aware it is, in fact, legal now.

Monmouth's exclusive Garden State Quality of Life Index score now stands at +25. This is down from +37 in April 2020 during the early days of the pandemic, but is similar to the prior reading of +24 in September 2019. The prior high for this index was +31 in April 2012 and the prior low was +13 in February 2019. The current reading is in line with typical scores for this index over the past decade.

The quality of life index score has dropped across most areas in the state except urban ones. Responses from residents of urban communities result in a +20 score, which is similar to the +18 score last year. The current result puts these areas on more of a par with other parts of the state. The index currently stands at +26 in older towns and suburbs (down from +41 in 2020) and an identical +26 in growing suburbs (down from +45). Of note, the current poll marks the first time that urban sentiment is nearly the same as suburban views in Monmouth's quality of life index trend going back to 2010.

"Perceptions of New Jersey's quality of life have returned to more normal levels after experiencing a brief rally effect when the pandemic struck last year. However, the fact that ratings in urban communities held steady from that spike is worth watching. It may be a blip, but it could also signal

increased optimism among these residents,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

The Garden State Quality of Life Index was created by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in 2010 to serve as a resident-based indicator of the quality of life offered by the state of New Jersey. The index is based on five separate poll questions: overall opinion of the state as a place to live – which contributes half the index score – and ratings of one’s hometown, the performance of local schools, the quality of the local environment, and feelings of safety in one’s own neighborhood. The index can potentially range from –100 to +100.

Nearly 6 in 10 New Jerseyans say the state is either an excellent (16%) or good (43%) place to live, while 27% say it is only fair and 14% rate the state as poor. The current positive rating of 59% is down from 68% last year. The all-time high mark for the state rating was 84% positive in February 1987. The record low was 50% recorded in February 2019, but it had improved to 61% by September of that year. Over the past decade, the state rating has generally been in the low- to mid-60s.

<b>GARDEN STATE QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX</b>											
	<b>NJ</b>	<u>GENDER</u>		<u>AGE</u>			<u>RACE</u>		<u>INCOME</u>		
	<b>TOTAL</b>	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Black/ Hispanic	<\$50K	\$50- 100K	>\$100K
May 2021	<b>+25</b>	+20	+29	+24	+24	+27	+25	+20	+17	+25	+31
April 2020	<b>+37</b>	+34	+41	+34	+38	+40	+43	+26	+29	+37	+44
September 2019	<b>+24</b>	+21	+26	+21	+20	+32	+31	+13	+18	+20	+33
February 2019	<b>+13</b>	+14	+12	+10	+11	+18	+17	+4	+2	+14	+20
April 2018	<b>+18</b>	+16	+20	+22	+14	+20	+22	+5	+8	+16	+27
July 2017	<b>+25</b>	+25	+24	+15	+26	+30	+32	+6	+8	+23	+41
July 2015	<b>+18</b>	+18	+18	+25	+11	+20	+24	+5	n/a	n/a	n/a
February 2015	<b>+23</b>	+21	+26	+26	+18	+28	+29	+10	+13	+30	+31
September 2014	<b>+18</b>	+19	+17	+12	+20	+20	+23	+5	+13	+15	+30
April 2014	<b>+25</b>	+24	+25	+31	+20	+25	+27	+16	+17	+24	+33
February 2014	<b>+23</b>	+28	+18	+23	+21	+26	+27	+11	+8	+23	+35
December 2013	<b>+24</b>	+25	+23	+24	+21	+27	+29	+10	+10	+24	+35
September 2013	<b>+26</b>	+26	+26	+27	+23	+30	+33	+10	+17	+25	+42
April 2013	<b>+21</b>	+19	+24	+19	+19	+27	+29	+3	+12	+19	+35
February 2013	<b>+29</b>	+28	+30	+30	+27	+31	+36	+12	+20	+30	+36
December 2012	<b>+30</b>	+31	+29	+30	+30	+30	+36	+14	+17	+33	+38
September 2012	<b>+24</b>	+28	+20	+16	+21	+32	+30	+5	+10	+23	+37
July 2012	<b>+27</b>	+26	+29	+21	+31	+30	+32	+16	+16	+31	+37
April 2012	<b>+31</b>	+33	+28	+25	+30	+37	+36	+19	+24	+28	+42
February 2012	<b>+25</b>	+20	+30	+25	+24	+26	+29	+13	+17	+23	+38
October 2011	<b>+24</b>	+24	+24	+23	+21	+29	+31	+7	+15	+25	+31
August 2011	<b>+22</b>	+25	+19	+27	+19	+21	+26	+9	+9	+22	+32
May 2011	<b>+23</b>	+24	+22	+23	+22	+23	+26	+14	+15	+22	+32
December 2010	<b>+21</b>	+20	+23	+23	+20	+23	+26	+13	+15	+21	+31

GARDEN STATE QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX											
	REGION							COMMUNITY TYPE			
	North east	Urban Core	Route 1 Corridor	Central Hills	Northern Shore	Delaware Valley	Garden Core	Urban	Stable Town	Growing Suburb	
May 2021	+31	+23	+23	+33	+26	+20	+13	+20	+26	+26	
April 2020	+41	+30	+40	+49	+46	+33	+21	+18	+41	+45	
September 2019	+20	+10	+23	+42	+32	+26	+17	+6	+30	+30	
February 2019	+21	-1	+16	+27	+21	-3	+9	-1	+15	+19	
April 2018	+24	+8	+18	+34	+18	+14	+11	+2	+23	+24	
July 2017	+25	+18	+34	+33	+35	+22	+13	+7	+31	+29	
July 2015	+21	+4	+22	+35	+22	+17	+10	-2	+28	+23	
February 2015	+31	+13	+24	+38	+31	+11	+19	+11	+30	+27	
September 2014	+23	+8	+12	+42	+27	+18	+4	+10	+22	+19	
April 2014	+24	+10	+22	+43	+29	+25	+23	+4	+26	+33	
February 2014	+27	+16	+20	+37	+30	+14	+16	+6	+28	+28	
December 2013	+31	+15	+26	+40	+25	+14	+17	+5	+29	+30	
September 2013	+27	+8	+21	+52	+33	+27	+19	+1	+34	+32	
April 2013	+31	+4	+19	+38	+22	+21	+21	-3	+30	+27	
February 2013	+31	+17	+35	+37	+36	+25	+23	+11	+33	+36	
December 2012	+36	+18	+26	+47	+40	+21	+31	+9	+37	+37	
September 2012	+29	+14	+17	+45	+33	+26	+13	-1	+27	+31	
July 2012	+37	+12	+30	+37	+34	+22	+18	+8	+34	+34	
April 2012	+38	+26	+27	+44	+34	+22	+28	+20	+35	+36	
February 2012	+33	+17	+27	+35	+29	+19	+22	+11	+31	+29	
October 2011	+31	+6	+22	+45	+35	+18	+23	-1	+31	+34	
August 2011	+24	+16	+21	+38	+27	+26	+6	+4	+29	+25	
May 2011	+28	+17	+16	+41	+29	+22	+20	+6	+29	+28	
December 2010	+26	+15	+22	+38	+23	+14	+17	+12	+23	+27	

A key indicator of the state’s quality of life is the health of the Jersey Shore. In what may be the most Jersey-centric metric for whether the state is returning to normal, 58% of residents say they plan to make a trip down the shore this summer. This result is on the low end of the typical range of between 6 in 10 and 7 in 10 New Jerseyans in past polls who said they planned to hit the beach that summer. The current numbers are higher than last year, though. Monmouth’s April 2020 poll found that 58% of the public had been planning a Jersey Shore trip before the pandemic, but only 27% of the public overall said they were likely to go once Covid hit.

The major dip in shore plans this year versus a normal year is due to the lower number who plan to stay at least a week (19%). This number is usually in the low- to mid-20s. Daytrippers and weekenders, though, should be out in nearly full force according to these poll results, representing 39% of the public. However, families with children are among those less likely to be planning a trip to the Jersey shore this year (62%) compared to the same point ten years ago (78%).

“Jersey Shore crowds may be the most iconic indicator of whether the state is getting back to normal. There may be some vacancies in short-term rentals this summer with fewer families making an extended trip, which makes sense since Covid vaccines aren’t available for most children. However, most New Jersey adults are itching to get back on the beaches and boardwalks,” said Murray.

On an unrelated, yet significant, issue that could have an impact on the quality of life, New Jersey legalized the use of marijuana for recreational purposes this year. Overall, 68% support this, which is similar to 65% who said the same a year ago and 67% of the electorate who voted “yes” on the legalization ballot measure last November. However, only a little more than half (53%) of the state public is aware that recreational marijuana is in fact legal. Another 11% wrongly believe it is not legal and 36% are not sure. The vast majority (86%) of New Jerseyans say this change in marijuana laws has had no impact on the state’s quality of life. Another 4% say legalization has made the quality of life better and 6% say it has made it worse.

“The early days of marijuana legalization have been barely a blip on the radar. We’ll see if that changes once production and retail outlets start opening across the state,” said Murray.

Turning back to other metrics that make up the Garden State Quality of Life Index, the rating that has remained most stable since last year is opinion of one’s own community. More than 3 in 4 New Jerseyans rate their own town or city as an excellent (33%) or good (43%) place to live, with 19% saying it is only fair and 5% rating it as poor. The current 76% positive hometown rating is only slightly lower than the record high of 79% recorded last year.

Environmental ratings are down slightly compared with last year. The current poll registers ratings for local environmental quality at 76% positive – 32% excellent and 44% good. Last year’s 81% result marked a high point for this metric. Another 18% in the current poll rate their local environment as only fair and 6% say it is poor.

The percentage of Garden State residents who currently feel very safe in their own neighborhoods at night stands at 67%, which is down from a high of 74% in 2020. Another 31% say they feel somewhat safe and just 2% do not feel safe at all in their neighborhoods at night.

Opinion of schools has seen the biggest drop among the local quality of life index metrics. Ratings for the job local schools are doing stand at 24% excellent, 40% good, 18% fair, and 8% poor. The combined 64% positive rating is down from last year’s all-time high of 73%. The prior high was 68% in February 2012, but this rating has generally hovered in the low 60s throughout the past decade.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from April 29 to May 4, 2021 with 706 New Jersey adults. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.7 percentage points. 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.)

### 1. Overall, how would you rate New Jersey as a place to live – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

TREND*:	<i>Excellent/ Good</i>	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	(VOL) Don't know	(n)
<b>May 2021</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>(706)</b>
April 2020	68%	24%	44%	23%	7%	1%	(704)
September 2019	61%	15%	46%	26%	12%	1%	(713)
February 2019	50%	11%	39%	32%	17%	1%	(604)
April 2018	54%	15%	39%	29%	17%	1%	(703)
July 2017	59%	15%	44%	28%	13%	0%	(800)
May 2016	62%	16%	46%	28%	10%	0%	(806)
July 2015	55%	12%	43%	30%	15%	0%	(503)
May 2015	63%	13%	50%	27%	10%	1%	(500)
February 2015	63%	15%	48%	25%	11%	1%	(805)
September 2014	61%	13%	48%	25%	13%	1%	(802)
June 2014	62%	15%	47%	26%	11%	0%	(800)
April 2014	64%	15%	49%	26%	10%	0%	(803)
February 2014	63%	15%	48%	26%	11%	0%	(803)
December 2013	65%	20%	45%	26%	9%	0%	(802)
September 2013	65%	19%	46%	25%	10%	1%	(783)
April 2013	61%	15%	46%	27%	11%	0%	(806)
February 2013	68%	18%	50%	24%	7%	1%	(803)
December 2012	72%	20%	52%	21%	5%	1%	(816)
September 2012	65%	15%	50%	23%	11%	0%	(805)
July 2012	69%	17%	52%	23%	8%	0%	(803)
April 2012	70%	20%	50%	23%	7%	0%	(804)
February 2012	62%	15%	47%	26%	11%	1%	(803)
October 2011	67%	15%	52%	24%	8%	0%	(817)
August 2011	57%	14%	43%	31%	11%	1%	(802)
May 2011	59%	14%	45%	29%	11%	0%	(807)
December 2010	63%	17%	46%	26%	10%	1%	(2864)
October 2007	63%	17%	46%	25%	12%	1%	(1001)
August 2004	68%	22%	46%	21%	10%	1%	(800)
May 2003	72%	20%	52%	23%	5%	0%	(1002)
April 2001	76%	23%	53%	19%	4%	1%	(802)
March 2000	76%	25%	51%	17%	6%	0%	(800)
May 1999	76%	22%	54%	19%	5%	0%	(800)
February 1994	71%	18%	53%	22%	7%	0%	(801)
March 1990	68%	21%	47%	25%	6%	1%	(800)
February 1988	78%	27%	51%	17%	4%	1%	(800)
February 1987	84%	31%	53%	11%	4%	0%	(800)
May 1985	81%	29%	52%	14%	3%	1%	(500)
October 1984	80%	29%	51%	15%	4%	1%	(1000)
January 1981	66%	16%	50%	26%	7%	1%	(1003)
July 1980	68%	18%	50%	23%	7%	2%	(1005)

[Q2-29 previously released.]

### 30. Will you visit the Jersey Shore this summer, or not? [If YES: Will you stay for a week or longer?]

TREND:	May 2021	Feb. 2013	May 2011	May 2010	May 2009	May 2008	May 2007
For a week or more	<b>19%</b>	28%	23%	27%	21%	26%	23%
For less than a week	<b>39%</b>	43%	42%	42%	38%	34%	37%
No, will not visit	<b>29%</b>	20%	27%	23%	30%	29%	31%
(VOL) Live down shore	<b>8%</b>	6%	5%	6%	7%	7%	5%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>6%</b>	4%	2%	3%	4%	3%	4%
(n)	<b>(706)</b>	(803)	(807)	(804)	(803)	(803)	(804)

31. How would you rate your town or city as a place to live – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

TREND*:	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	(VOL) Don't know	(n)
<b>May 2021</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>(706)</b>
April 2020	79%	39%	40%	16%	5%	0%	(704)
September 2019	72%	32%	40%	20%	7%	0%	(713)
February 2019	67%	30%	37%	21%	11%	0%	(604)
April 2018	71%	30%	41%	20%	9%	0%	(703)
July 2017	77%	37%	40%	16%	7%	0%	(800)
July 2015	71%	29%	42%	19%	10%	0%	(503)
February 2015	72%	29%	43%	21%	7%	0%	(805)
September 2014	69%	24%	45%	22%	10%	0%	(802)
April 2014	71%	27%	44%	20%	9%	0%	(803)
February 2014	70%	31%	39%	23%	7%	0%	(803)
December 2013	70%	29%	41%	21%	8%	1%	(802)
September 2013	72%	32%	40%	18%	9%	1%	(783)
April 2013	67%	29%	38%	25%	8%	0%	(806)
February 2013	73%	30%	43%	20%	7%	0%	(803)
December 2012	74%	32%	42%	17%	9%	0%	(816)
September 2012	72%	33%	39%	19%	9%	0%	(805)
July 2012	74%	32%	42%	18%	7%	1%	(803)
April 2012	76%	34%	42%	17%	7%	0%	(804)
February 2012	74%	33%	41%	21%	5%	0%	(803)
October 2011	73%	26%	47%	20%	8%	0%	(817)
August 2011	76%	28%	48%	18%	6%	0%	(802)
May 2011	73%	33%	40%	20%	7%	0%	(807)
December 2010	73%	27%	46%	20%	8%	0%	(2864)
May 2003	74%	29%	45%	19%	7%	0%	(1002)
April 2001	73%	28%	45%	21%	6%	0%	(802)
May 1995	70%	30%	40%	21%	8%	0%	(802)
June 1994	72%	31%	41%	19%	9%	0%	(801)
September 1988	72%	26%	46%	18%	9%	1%	(500)
October 1984	71%	30%	41%	21%	7%	1%	(999)
June 1980	67%	23%	44%	24%	9%	0%	(1005)
May 1977	66%	25%	41%	24%	10%	0%	(1005)

[QUESTIONS 32-34 WERE ROTATED]

32. How would you rate the quality of the environment in the area where you live – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

TREND*:	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	(VOL) Don't know	(n)
<b>May 2021</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>(706)</b>
April 2020	81%	36%	45%	15%	4%	0%	(704)
September 2019	72%	31%	41%	22%	6%	1%	(713)
February 2019	71%	27%	44%	21%	8%	0%	(604)
April 2018	73%	29%	44%	20%	6%	1%	(703)
July 2017	76%	37%	39%	14%	8%	1%	(800)
July 2015	71%	27%	44%	20%	9%	0%	(503)
February 2015	72%	27%	45%	23%	4%	0%	(805)
September 2014	72%	24%	48%	21%	5%	1%	(802)
April 2014	76%	27%	49%	18%	6%	0%	(803)
February 2014	73%	29%	44%	21%	6%	0%	(803)
December 2013	69%	27%	42%	24%	7%	0%	(802)
September 2013	75%	30%	45%	18%	7%	1%	(783)
April 2013	70%	27%	43%	22%	7%	0%	(806)
February 2013	71%	26%	45%	24%	4%	2%	(803)
December 2012	73%	25%	48%	20%	7%	1%	(816)
September 2012	72%	30%	42%	20%	7%	0%	(805)
July 2012	74%	30%	44%	19%	7%	1%	(803)
April 2012	75%	30%	45%	18%	6%	1%	(804)

TREND*: (Q32 Continued)	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	(VOL) Don't know	(n)
February 2012	77%	29%	48%	17%	5%	0%	(803)
October 2011	72%	25%	47%	19%	9%	0%	(817)
August 2011	79%	31%	48%	16%	5%	0%	(802)
May 2011	79%	33%	46%	15%	6%	0%	(807)
December 2010	66%	14%	52%	25%	9%	0%	(2864)
April 2001	70%	27%	43%	22%	7%	1%	(402)
September 1988	53%	10%	43%	31%	15%	1%	(500)

33. How would you rate the job your local schools are doing – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

TREND*:	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	(VOL) Don't know	(n)
<b>May 2021</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>(706)</b>
April 2020	73%	33%	40%	16%	4%	7%	(704)
September 2019	60%	26%	34%	23%	9%	9%	(713)
February 2019	59%	19%	40%	22%	10%	9%	(604)
April 2018	60%	24%	36%	23%	10%	7%	(703)
July 2017	65%	26%	39%	20%	10%	6%	(800)
July 2015	60%	27%	33%	22%	9%	8%	(503)
February 2015	61%	21%	40%	24%	8%	7%	(805)
September 2014	60%	21%	39%	24%	9%	7%	(802)
April 2014	63%	24%	39%	22%	9%	6%	(803)
February 2014	61%	22%	39%	22%	10%	7%	(803)
December 2013	60%	20%	40%	23%	12%	5%	(802)
September 2013	62%	24%	38%	21%	7%	9%	(783)
April 2013	59%	21%	38%	27%	9%	5%	(806)
February 2013	64%	24%	40%	20%	7%	9%	(803)
December 2012	61%	21%	40%	23%	7%	9%	(816)
September 2012	61%	27%	34%	21%	10%	8%	(805)
July 2012	61%	22%	39%	20%	11%	8%	(803)
April 2012	63%	23%	40%	21%	7%	8%	(804)
February 2012	68%	26%	42%	16%	8%	8%	(803)
October 2011	60%	21%	39%	20%	13%	7%	(817)
August 2011	63%	19%	44%	26%	6%	5%	(802)
May 2011	63%	24%	39%	22%	10%	6%	(807)
December 2010	64%	24%	40%	23%	8%	5%	(2864)
August 2004	61%	24%	37%	17%	12%	9%	(800)
April 2001	64%	21%	43%	21%	6%	9%	(802)
September 1999	62%	18%	44%	21%	9%	8%	(802)
September 1998	62%	20%	42%	23%	9%	7%	(804)
February 1996	60%	20%	40%	20%	11%	9%	(804)
September 1993	52%	16%	36%	29%	14%	5%	(801)
January 1992	53%	15%	38%	26%	15%	5%	(800)
October 1987	60%	14%	46%	23%	6%	11%	(500)
October 1986	55%	15%	40%	26%	10%	9%	(800)
October 1983	59%	16%	43%	23%	10%	8%	(802)
May 1978	52%	12%	40%	25%	12%	11%	(1003)

34. How safe do you feel in your neighborhood at night – very safe, somewhat safe, or not at all safe?

TREND*:	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Not at all safe	(VOL) Don't know	(n)
<b>May 2021</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>(706)</b>
April 2020	74%	22%	3%	1%	(704)
September 2019	68%	27%	5%	0%	(713)
February 2019	64%	29%	7%	0%	(604)
April 2018	65%	29%	5%	0%	(703)
July 2017	71%	22%	6%	0%	(800)
July 2015	67%	27%	6%	0%	(503)
February 2015	62%	33%	4%	0%	(805)

TREND*: (Q34 Continued)	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Not at all safe	(VOL) Don't know	(n)
September 2014	58%	36%	6%	0%	(802)
April 2014	66%	30%	4%	1%	(803)
February 2014	67%	28%	6%	0%	(803)
December 2013	60%	33%	7%	0%	(802)
September 2013	65%	27%	7%	1%	(783)
April 2013	66%	28%	6%	0%	(806)
February 2013	63%	30%	6%	1%	(803)
December 2012	64%	29%	6%	1%	(816)
September 2012	65%	25%	6%	0%	(805)
July 2012	60%	32%	7%	1%	(803)
April 2012	64%	31%	5%	1%	(804)
February 2012	62%	32%	5%	0%	(803)
October 2011	62%	31%	7%	0%	(817)
August 2011	63%	31%	6%	0%	(802)
May 2011	68%	27%	5%	0%	(807)
December 2010	59%	35%	6%	0%	(2864)
February 1993	42%	44%	13%	0%	(801)
October 1987	51%	36%	11%	2%	(499)
October 1984	53%	36%	9%	2%	(500)
May 1981	43%	43%	13%	1%	(497)

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

TREND:	May 2021	April 2020	Feb. 2019	April 2018	April 2014
Support	<b>68%</b>	65%	62%	59%	48%
Oppose	<b>29%</b>	32%	32%	37%	47%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>3%</b>	4%	5%	5%	6%
(n)	<b>(706)</b>	(704)	(604)	(703)	(803)

36. Is it currently legal or not legal in New Jersey for anyone over the age of 21 to use marijuana for recreational purposes, or aren't you sure?

	May 2021
Legal	<b>53%</b>
Not legal	<b>11%</b>
Not sure	<b>36%</b>
(n)	<b>(706)</b>

37. It is now legal in New Jersey for anyone over the age of 21 to use and purchase small quantities of marijuana for recreational purposes. Have you seen a change in the state's quality of life because of this or has there been no real change? [If CHANGE: Has it changed for the better or worse?]

	May 2021
Change for better	<b>4%</b>
Change for worse	<b>6%</b>
No real change	<b>86%</b>
(VOL) Don't know	<b>4%</b>
(n)	<b>(706)</b>

\* Note: All trend results prior to 2005 come from Rutgers University's Eagleton Poll.



**METHODOLOGY**

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from April 29 to May 4, 2021 with a random sample of 706 New Jersey adults age 18 and older, in English. This includes 283 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 423 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 Trol Dahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The full sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information (ACS 2018 one-year survey). Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and Dynata (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.

Region in this report is defined by county boundaries: *Northeast (Bergen, Passaic), Urban Core (Essex, Hudson), Route 1 Corridor (Mercer, Middlesex, Union), Central Hills (Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset), Northern Shore (Monmouth, Ocean), Delaware Valley (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester), and Garden Core (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem, Sussex, Warren).*

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
	<i>22% Republican</i>
	<i>40% Independent</i>
	<i>38% Democrat</i>
	<i>49% Male</i>
	<i>51% Female</i>
	<i>29% 18-34</i>
	<i>35% 35-54</i>
	<i>36% 55+</i>
	<i>57% White</i>
	<i>13% Black</i>
	<i>19% Hispanic</i>
	<i>11% Asian/Other</i>
	<i>63% No degree</i>
	<i>37% 4 year degree</i>

<i>MARGIN OF ERROR</i>			
		<i>unweighted</i>	<i>moe</i>
		<i>sample</i>	<i>(+/-)</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>		706	3.7%
<i>REGISTERED VOTER</i>	<i>Yes</i>	661	3.8%
	<i>No</i>	45	14.6%
<i>SELF-REPORTED</i>	<i>Republican</i>	124	8.8%
<i>PARTY ID</i>	<i>Independent</i>	299	5.7%
	<i>Democrat</i>	267	6.0%
<i>REGION</i>	<i>North</i>	365	5.1%
	<i>Central</i>	176	7.4%
	<i>South</i>	165	7.6%
<i>GENDER</i>	<i>Male</i>	366	5.1%
	<i>Female</i>	340	5.3%
<i>AGE</i>	<i>18-34</i>	135	8.4%
	<i>35-54</i>	271	6.0%
	<i>55+</i>	294	5.7%
<i>RACE</i>	<i>White non-Hispanic</i>	444	4.7%
	<i>Other</i>	236	6.4%
<i>COLLEGE GRADUATE</i>	<i>No degree</i>	276	5.9%
	<i>4 year degree</i>	428	4.7%
<i>INCOME</i>	<i>&lt;\$50K</i>	127	8.7%
	<i>\$50 to &lt;\$100K</i>	232	6.4%
	<i>\$100K+</i>	298	5.7%
<i>CHILDREN IN HOME</i>	<i>Yes</i>	215	6.7%
	<i>No</i>	487	4.5%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 5/24/21

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
1\L1. Overall, how would you rate New Jersey as a place to live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	16%	17%	6%	11%	10%	25%	16%	18%	13%
	Good	43%	41%	60%	41%	39%	47%	42%	47%	40%
	Only Fair	27%	28%	20%	26%	30%	26%	27%	24%	30%
	Poor	14%	14%	14%	22%	20%	3%	14%	12%	16%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
1\L1. Overall, how would you rate New Jersey as a place to live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	15%	17%	16%	16%	16%	15%	18%	14%	20%
	Good	38%	46%	45%	40%	45%	44%	42%	39%	49%
	Only Fair	27%	27%	31%	27%	24%	26%	29%	31%	21%
	Poor	19%	10%	8%	18%	15%	15%	12%	16%	10%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
1\L1. Overall, how would you rate New Jersey as a place to live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	13%	16%	17%	12%	18%
	Good	39%	42%	44%	45%	42%
	Only Fair	32%	29%	24%	27%	27%
	Poor	15%	12%	14%	16%	13%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
30. Will you visit the Jersey Shore this summer, or not? [If YES:] Will you stay for a week or longer?	Yes, week or longer	19%	20%	8%	20%	24%	14%	18%	19%	21%
	Yes, but not a week	39%	40%	30%	44%	36%	41%	40%	42%	33%
	No, will not visit	29%	26%	48%	23%	23%	35%	35%	25%	21%
	(VOL) Live at the Jersey Shore	8%	8%	6%	9%	10%	5%	0%	10%	20%
	[VOL] Dont know	6%	5%	9%	5%	6%	5%	7%	3%	5%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
30. Will you visit the Jersey Shore this summer, or not? [If YES:] Will you stay for a week or longer?	Yes, week or longer	21%	17%	17%	19%	21%	22%	15%	19%	20%
	Yes, but not a week	37%	41%	33%	43%	39%	42%	36%	33%	48%
	No, will not visit	29%	29%	37%	24%	26%	21%	39%	31%	25%
	(VOL) Live at the Jersey Shore	8%	7%	4%	9%	11%	11%	3%	10%	4%
	[VOL] Dont know	5%	6%	8%	6%	3%	4%	7%	7%	3%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 5/24/21

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
30. Will you visit the Jersey Shore this summer, or not? [If YES:] Will you stay for a week or longer?	Yes, week or longer	15%	20%	23%	19%	19%
	Yes, but not a week	38%	39%	41%	43%	37%
	No, will not visit	33%	28%	23%	24%	31%
	(VOL) Live at the Jersey Shore	7%	9%	7%	8%	8%
	[VOL] Dont know	6%	4%	7%	6%	5%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
31L2. How would you rate your town or city as a place to live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	33%	33%	36%	43%	28%	32%	34%	35%	29%
	Good	43%	43%	43%	43%	42%	44%	38%	43%	52%
	Only fair	19%	20%	12%	10%	23%	20%	22%	17%	16%
	Poor	5%	4%	9%	4%	6%	3%	6%	5%	3%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
31L2. How would you rate your town or city as a place to live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	33%	33%	31%	33%	36%	34%	33%	29%	40%
	Good	42%	45%	43%	41%	45%	48%	36%	44%	42%
	Only fair	21%	17%	22%	21%	14%	14%	24%	21%	16%
	Poor	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	7%	6%	2%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
31L2. How would you rate your town or city as a place to live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	19%	33%	42%	33%	33%
	Good	45%	42%	43%	46%	42%
	Only fair	27%	20%	13%	17%	20%
	Poor	8%	5%	2%	4%	5%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
32L3. How would you rate the quality of the environment in the area where you live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	32%	32%	27%	36%	28%	33%	31%	30%	34%
	Good	44%	44%	45%	40%	44%	48%	38%	51%	50%
	Only fair	18%	19%	16%	16%	21%	17%	22%	14%	16%
	Poor	6%	5%	12%	8%	8%	2%	9%	5%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 5/24/21

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
32L3. How would you rate the quality of the environment in the area where you live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	30%	33%	24%	35%	35%	31%	33%	28%	38%
	Good	43%	46%	43%	42%	46%	51%	33%	44%	44%
	Only fair	20%	17%	22%	19%	16%	15%	24%	21%	15%
	Poor	7%	5%	10%	4%	3%	3%	9%	7%	3%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
32L3. How would you rate the quality of the environment in the area where you live - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	21%	32%	40%	40%	28%
	Good	45%	42%	45%	37%	47%
	Only fair	28%	21%	11%	19%	18%
	Poor	7%	4%	4%	4%	6%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
33L4. How would you rate the job your local schools are doing - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	24%	23%	29%	27%	16%	29%	23%	22%	27%
	Good	40%	41%	28%	39%	39%	41%	37%	44%	40%
	Only fair	18%	19%	12%	16%	22%	17%	18%	16%	20%
	Poor	8%	8%	10%	10%	11%	3%	9%	8%	6%
	[VOL] Dont know	10%	9%	21%	9%	11%	10%	13%	11%	6%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
33L4. How would you rate the job your local schools are doing - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	19%	28%	28%	24%	20%	22%	26%	23%	26%
	Good	39%	41%	34%	38%	45%	44%	34%	38%	42%
	Only fair	22%	15%	20%	22%	14%	18%	21%	20%	16%
	Poor	10%	6%	7%	7%	10%	8%	8%	8%	8%
	[VOL] Dont know	10%	11%	11%	10%	10%	8%	11%	12%	8%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
33L4. How would you rate the job your local schools are doing - excellent, good, only fair, or poor?	Excellent	23%	23%	25%	31%	21%
	Good	38%	37%	45%	39%	40%
	Only fair	20%	20%	15%	17%	19%
	Poor	6%	9%	8%	6%	9%
	[VOL] Dont know	13%	12%	7%	7%	12%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 5/24/21

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
34L5. How safe do you feel in your neighborhood at night - very safe, somewhat safe, or not at all safe?	Very safe	67%	67%	62%	62%	65%	72%	63%	73%	69%
	Somewhat safe	31%	30%	35%	36%	32%	26%	32%	26%	31%
	Not at all safe	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	1%	4%	1%	0%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
34L5. How safe do you feel in your neighborhood at night - very safe, somewhat safe, or not at all safe?	Very safe	70%	63%	61%	71%	69%	71%	62%	61%	76%
	Somewhat safe	27%	34%	38%	26%	28%	28%	33%	35%	23%
	Not at all safe	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	4%	3%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
34L5. How safe do you feel in your neighborhood at night - very safe, somewhat safe, or not at all safe?	Very safe	58%	64%	79%	69%	66%
	Somewhat safe	36%	34%	20%	29%	31%
	Not at all safe	6%	1%	1%	2%	2%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
35. Overall, do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?	Support	68%	67%	77%	49%	72%	77%	66%	70%	70%
	Oppose	29%	30%	18%	51%	24%	20%	31%	27%	28%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	3%	5%	0%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
35. Overall, do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?	Support	67%	69%	86%	67%	55%	64%	75%	66%	71%
	Oppose	31%	27%	12%	30%	42%	33%	23%	30%	27%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
35. Overall, do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?	Support	66%	74%	67%	63%	70%
	Oppose	31%	24%	30%	32%	27%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%

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		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
36. Is it currently legal or not legal in New Jersey for anyone over the age of 21 to use marijuana for recreational purposes, or arent you sure?	Legal	53%	53%	51%	49%	56%	54%	56%	52%	49%
	Not legal	11%	10%	16%	15%	11%	8%	10%	9%	13%
	Not sure	36%	37%	33%	37%	34%	38%	33%	40%	38%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
36. Is it currently legal or not legal in New Jersey for anyone over the age of 21 to use marijuana for recreational purposes, or arent you sure?	Legal	54%	52%	61%	54%	45%	51%	55%	50%	57%
	Not legal	10%	11%	9%	14%	9%	11%	11%	11%	11%
	Not sure	35%	37%	30%	32%	46%	38%	35%	39%	32%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
36. Is it currently legal or not legal in New Jersey for anyone over the age of 21 to use marijuana for recreational purposes, or arent you sure?	Legal	45%	59%	53%	56%	52%
	Not legal	12%	10%	11%	16%	8%
	Not sure	43%	31%	36%	29%	39%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
37. It is now legal in New Jersey for anyone over the age of 21 to use and purchase small quantities of marijuana for recreational purposes. Have you seen a change in the states quality of life because of this or has there been no real change? [IF CHANGE:]	Change for better	4%	4%	3%	1%	3%	7%	5%	2%	5%
	Change for worse	6%	6%	1%	10%	5%	4%	6%	9%	4%
	No real change	86%	85%	93%	83%	92%	83%	87%	83%	87%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	4%	2%	6%	1%	6%	2%	6%	4%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
37. It is now legal in New Jersey for anyone over the age of 21 to use and purchase small quantities of marijuana for recreational purposes. Have you seen a change in the states quality of life because of this or has there been no real change? [IF CHANGE:]	Change for better	5%	3%	6%	5%	2%	3%	6%	4%	4%
	Change for worse	6%	6%	1%	9%	7%	6%	5%	6%	6%
	No real change	87%	85%	88%	82%	88%	88%	83%	85%	88%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%	5%	5%	2%

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		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
37. It is now legal in New Jersey for anyone over the age of 21 to use and purchase small quantities of marijuana for recreational purposes. Have you seen a change in the states quality of life because of this or has there been no real change? [IF CHANGE:]	Change for better	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>
	Change for worse	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>5%</b>
	No real change	<b>84%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>87%</b>
	[VOL] Dont know	<b>3%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>