Released:
Monday, October 24, 2022

Contact:
PATRICK MURRAY
pdmurray@monmouth.edu
Follow on Twitter: @PollsterPatrick

NATIONAL: BROAD SUPPORT FOR MARIJUANA PARDONS

Two-thirds back legalization

West Long Branch, NJ – President Joe Biden's decision to issue a blanket pardon for anyone convicted in federal court of simple marijuana possession has been met with broad public approval according to the **Monmouth ("Mon-muth") University Poll**. In all, 2 in 3 Americans support legalizing marijuana, with most saying its use poses less of a danger than alcohol or tobacco.

Overall, two-thirds (68%) of the American public supports legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use. This includes 76% of Democrats and 73% of independents, along with 52% of Republicans. By age, support is highest among those under 35 years old (87%) but also includes a majority of those age 55 and over (53%). Support levels for legalizing marijuana are similar by parental status and by race.

Similarly, 69% of Americans approve of Biden issuing pardons for people convicted on federal charges for simple marijuana possession. This comes even though few know how many pardons were actually issued. About one-fifth to one-quarter think this number is either less than 1,000 convictions (25%), between a 1,000 and 10,000 (26%), or over 10,000 (21%). Another 29% don't hazard a guess. [Note: published reports estimate more than 6,500 federal convictions were pardoned, plus an additional number of local convictions in Washington, DC.]

"Polling from a variety of sources shows that support for marijuana legalization has been increasing consistently over the past twenty years. Biden's action is in line with how the vast majority of Americans feel about this issue," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Most Americans (54%) say legalizing marijuana would have no impact on the number of other drug crimes. One in four (25%) believe it would lead to an increase in other drug crimes while 16% believe these crimes would actually decrease if marijuana was legalized.

Just 3 in 10 say marijuana use is a either a very serious (15%) or moderately serious (16%) problem in the country today. The view that this is at least a moderately serious problem is more likely to be held by Republicans (48%) than Democrats (23%) or independents (26%). Also, those age 55 and older (47%) are much more likely than those under 35 (14%) to feel this way.

A majority (54%) of the public believes that alcohol use is more dangerous than marijuana and a plurality (45%) say the same about tobacco products versus marijuana. Few feel that marijuana is more dangerous than either of these substances – 7% when compared with alcohol and 13% when compared with cigarettes and cigars. Just under 4 in 10 think marijuana use is equally as dangerous as using either of the other substances – 38% for alcohol and 38% for tobacco.

More than half (54%) of American adults report ever having tried marijuana, including similar numbers of Republicans (51%), Democrats (54%), and independents (56%). Unsurprisingly, people with personal experience using marijuana (86%) are more supportive of its legalization than those who have never tried it (47%) – although nearly half of this latter group still falls on the side of legalization.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from October 13 to 17, 2022 with 808 adults in the United States. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 5.2 percentage points 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.)

[*Q1-10 previously released.*]

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

	Oct. 2022
Support	68%
Oppose	26%
(VOL) Don't Know	6%
(n)	(808)

12. Would you say the use of marijuana is a very serious problem in the country today, a moderately serious problem, not too serious, or not really a problem at all?

	Oct. 2022
Very serious	15%
Moderately serious	16%
Not too serious	24%
Not really a problem	43%
(VOL) Don't Know	2%
(n)	(808)

13.   Do you think legalizing marijuana 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?

	Oct. 2022
Increase	25%
Decrease	16%
No impact	54%
(VOL) Don't Know	5%
(n)	*(808)*

[*QUESTIONS 14 & 15 WERE ROTATED*]

14.   Which of the following do you think is more dangerous for people in this country to use – marijuana or alcohol – or are they equally dangerous?

	Oct. 2022
Marijuana	7%
Alcohol	54%
Equally dangerous	38%
(VOL) Don't Know	1%
(n)	*(808)*

15.   Which of the following do you think is more dangerous for people in this country to use – marijuana or tobacco products such as cigarettes or cigars – or are they equally dangerous?

	Oct. 2022
Marijuana	13%
Tobacco	45%
Equally dangerous	38%
(VOL) Don't Know	3%
(n)	*(808)*

16.   President Biden recently issued pardons for people convicted on federal charges for simple marijuana possession. Have you heard about this or not?

	Oct. 2022
Yes	77%
No	23%
(n)	*(808)*

17.   Do you approve or disapprove of these pardons? [*If NEEDED:* Pardons for people convicted on federal charges for simple marijuana possession.]

	Oct. 2022
Approve	69%
Disapprove	23%
(VOL) Don't Know	8%
(n)	*(808)*

17A. How many people do you think were pardoned by this action? [*If NEEDED:* What is your best guess?] *[Note: open-ended responses have been grouped into categories.]*

	Oct. 2022
1,000 or less	25%
1,001-5,000	12%
5,001-10,000	14%
10,001-100,000	14%
Over 100,000	7%
No answer	29%
(n)	*(808)*

18.   Keeping in mind that all your answers in this survey are confidential, have you yourself ever happened to try marijuana?

	Oct. 2022
Yes	54%
No	45%
(VOL) Don't Know	1%
(n)	*(808)*

[*Q19-28 previously released.*]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from October 13 to 17, 2022 with a probability-based national random sample of 808 adults age 18 and older. This includes 284 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 524 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Telephone numbers were selected through a mix of random digit dialing and list-based sampling. Landline respondents were selected with a modified Troldahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Interviewing services were provided by Braun Research, with sample obtained from Dynata (RDD, n=584), Aristotle (list, n=143) and a panel of prior Monmouth poll participants (n=81). 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). 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 5.2 percentage points (adjusted for sample design effects). 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.

DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)
Self-Reported
26% Republican
45% Independent
29% Democrat

49% Male
51% Female

30% 18-34
33% 35-54
37% 55+

63% White
12% Black
16% Hispanic
 9% Asian/Other

69% No degree
31% 4 year degree

MARGIN OF ERROR		*unweighted sample*	*moe (+/-)*
TOTAL		*808*	*5.2%*
REGISTERED VOTER	*Yes*	*756*	*5.4%*
	No	*52*	*20.5%*
SELF-REPORTED PARTY ID	*Republican*	*206*	*10.3%*
	Independent	*367*	*7.7%*
	Democrat	*227*	*9.8%*
IDEOLOGY	*Liberal*	*164*	*11.6%*
	Moderate	*344*	*8.0%*
	Conservative	*274*	*9.0%*
GENDER	*Male*	*398*	*7.4%*
	Female	*410*	*7.3%*
AGE	*18-34*	*135*	*12.7%*
	35-54	*296*	*8.6%*
	55+	*369*	*7.7%*
CHILDREN IN HOME	*Yes*	*188*	*10.8%*
	No	*615*	*6.0%*
RACE	*White, non-Hispanic*	*580*	*6.2%*
	Other	*195*	*10.6%*
COLLEGE GRADUATE	*No degree*	*383*	*7.6%*
	4 year degree	*420*	*7.2%*
WHITE COLLEGE	*White, no degree*	*270*	*9.0%*
	White, 4 year degree	*310*	*8.4%*
INCOME	*<$50K*	*214*	*10.1%*
	$50 to <$100K	*222*	*9.9%*
	$100K+	*309*	*8.4%*

###

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
11. Overall, do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?	Support	68%	67%	82%	52%	73%	76%	88%	77%	48%
	Oppose	26%	28%	11%	40%	22%	20%	9%	18%	45%
	[VOL] Dont know	6%	6%	7%	8%	5%	4%	3%	4%	8%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
11. Overall, do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?	Support	73%	63%	87%	70%	53%	72%	67%	67%	73%
	Oppose	20%	31%	10%	24%	40%	21%	28%	28%	21%
	[VOL] Dont know	6%	6%	2%	7%	7%	8%	5%	6%	6%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<$50K	$50-100K	$100K+
11. Overall, do you support or oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?	Support	67%	72%	64%	72%	69%	69%	72%
	Oppose	26%	25%	29%	25%	25%	29%	22%
	[VOL] Dont know	7%	3%	7%	3%	6%	2%	6%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
12. Would you say the use of marijuana is a very serious problem in the country today, a moderately serious problem, not too serious, or not really a problem at all?	Very serious	15%	16%	9%	22%	9%	18%	8%	11%	23%
	Moderately serious	16%	16%	14%	26%	17%	5%	6%	16%	23%
	Not too serious	24%	22%	33%	23%	22%	27%	26%	25%	22%
	Not really a problem	43%	44%	40%	28%	48%	49%	60%	47%	29%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	2%	4%	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
12. Would you say the use of marijuana is a very serious problem in the country today, a moderately serious problem, not too serious, or not really a problem at all?	Very serious	10%	20%	6%	11%	27%	7%	18%	13%	18%
	Moderately serious	17%	15%	8%	18%	20%	18%	15%	18%	12%
	Not too serious	24%	23%	26%	22%	22%	26%	23%	28%	18%
	Not really a problem	47%	40%	60%	45%	30%	44%	43%	40%	50%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	2%	0%	4%	1%	5%	1%	1%	3%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<$50K	$50-100K	$100K+
12. Would you say the use of marijuana is a very serious problem in the country today, a moderately serious problem, not too serious, or not really a problem at all?	Very serious	16%	13%	14%	11%	19%	15%	9%
	Moderately serious	16%	16%	19%	15%	14%	14%	18%
	Not too serious	20%	30%	24%	34%	20%	29%	26%
	Not really a problem	45%	40%	40%	39%	47%	40%	45%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
13. Do you think legalizing marijuana 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	25%	26%	16%	44%	18%	19%	10%	18%	41%
	Decrease	16%	15%	30%	7%	21%	19%	31%	15%	9%
	No impact	54%	55%	46%	47%	56%	58%	57%	63%	44%
	[VOL] Dont know	5%	4%	8%	3%	6%	4%	2%	4%	5%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
13. Do you think legalizing marijuana 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	24%	26%	10%	21%	40%	18%	27%	28%	19%
	Decrease	17%	16%	30%	17%	6%	20%	15%	16%	19%
	No impact	55%	54%	58%	57%	49%	54%	54%	52%	58%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	5%	2%	5%	5%	8%	3%	4%	5%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<$50K	$50-100K	$100K+
13. Do you think legalizing marijuana 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	26%	23%	31%	23%	25%	29%	19%
	Decrease	16%	18%	15%	18%	17%	19%	16%
	No impact	53%	56%	50%	56%	56%	47%	60%
	[VOL] Dont know	5%	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%	5%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
14. Which of the following do you think is more dangerous for people in this country to use - marijuana or alcohol - or are they equally dangerous?	Marijuana	7%	7%	5%	11%	7%	3%	1%	5%	13%
	Alcohol	54%	52%	74%	37%	59%	62%	79%	55%	38%
	Equally dangerous	38%	40%	21%	51%	33%	34%	18%	38%	49%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
14. Which of the following do you think is more dangerous for people in this country to use - marijuana or alcohol - or are they equally dangerous?	Marijuana	7%	7%	4%	8%	8%	4%	8%	8%	4%
	Alcohol	58%	50%	77%	56%	36%	62%	52%	49%	64%
	Equally dangerous	33%	42%	19%	34%	55%	33%	39%	42%	31%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<$50K	$50-100K	$100K+
14. Which of the following do you think is more dangerous for people in this country to use - marijuana or alcohol - or are they equally dangerous?	Marijuana	6%	10%	6%	12%	7%	7%	7%
	Alcohol	56%	51%	50%	47%	58%	51%	56%
	Equally dangerous	38%	38%	43%	39%	34%	42%	36%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
15. Which of the following do you think is more dangerous for people in this country to use - marijuana or tobacco products such as cigarettes or cigars - or are they equally dangerous?	Marijuana	13%	13%	13%	21%	11%	10%	6%	10%	21%
	Tobacco	45%	44%	59%	35%	45%	55%	68%	50%	26%
	Equally dangerous	38%	40%	23%	42%	41%	32%	24%	38%	49%
	[VOL] Dont know	3%	3%	5%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
15. Which of the following do you think is more dangerous for people in this country to use - marijuana or tobacco products such as cigarettes or cigars - or are they equally dangerous?	Marijuana	13%	14%	8%	14%	17%	11%	14%	15%	11%
	Tobacco	45%	46%	66%	45%	30%	50%	44%	42%	53%
	Equally dangerous	39%	38%	24%	38%	50%	35%	39%	42%	31%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	3%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%	5%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<$50K	$50-100K	$100K+
15. Which of the following do you think is more dangerous for people in this country to use - marijuana or tobacco products such as cigarettes or cigars - or are they equally dangerous?	Marijuana	13%	13%	15%	15%	11%	14%	14%
	Tobacco	46%	43%	41%	42%	46%	45%	48%
	Equally dangerous	37%	42%	42%	41%	40%	40%	35%
	[VOL] Dont know	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
16. President Biden recently issued pardons for people convicted on federal charges for simple marijuana possession. Have you heard about this or not?	Yes	77%	78%	66%	73%	74%	86%	87%	78%	72%
	No	23%	22%	34%	27%	26%	14%	13%	22%	28%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
16. President Biden recently issued pardons for people convicted on federal charges for simple marijuana possession. Have you heard about this or not?	Yes	79%	74%	73%	78%	80%	76%	77%	80%	72%
	No	21%	26%	27%	22%	20%	24%	23%	20%	28%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<$50K	$50-100K	$100K+
16. President Biden recently issued pardons for people convicted on federal charges for simple marijuana possession. Have you heard about this or not?	Yes	74%	83%	77%	86%	75%	74%	84%
	No	26%	17%	23%	14%	25%	26%	16%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
17. Do you approve or disapprove of these pardons? [Pardons for people convicted on federal charges for simple marijuana possession.]	Approve	69%	67%	86%	50%	71%	83%	91%	76%	47%
	Disapprove	23%	25%	4%	41%	19%	13%	7%	16%	43%
	[VOL] Dont know	8%	8%	10%	8%	10%	4%	1%	8%	10%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
17. Do you approve or disapprove of these pardons? [Pardons for people convicted on federal charges for simple marijuana possession.]	Approve	71%	66%	83%	67%	61%	71%	69%	68%	74%
	Disapprove	23%	23%	10%	25%	32%	19%	24%	25%	17%
	[VOL] Dont know	5%	10%	7%	9%	7%	10%	7%	7%	9%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<$50K	$50-100K	$100K+
17. Do you approve or disapprove of these pardons? [Pardons for people convicted on federal charges for simple marijuana possession.]	Approve	68%	73%	65%	74%	74%	65%	71%
	Disapprove	23%	22%	27%	22%	19%	25%	23%
	[VOL] Dont know	9%	5%	8%	5%	7%	10%	6%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
17A. How many people do you think were pardoned by this action? [What is your best guess?] [Open-ended responses were grouped into categories.]	1,000 or less	25%	25%	20%	27%	25%	23%	21%	25%	29%
	1,001-5,000	12%	11%	14%	10%	11%	14%	13%	13%	9%
	5,001-10,000	14%	14%	14%	8%	18%	12%	20%	14%	10%
	10,001-100,000	14%	14%	16%	14%	13%	15%	15%	17%	11%
	Over 100,000	7%	7%	9%	6%	5%	9%	12%	4%	6%
	Dont know	29%	29%	28%	35%	26%	27%	20%	26%	35%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
17A. How many people do you think were pardoned by this action? [What is your best guess?] [Open-ended responses were grouped into categories.]	1,000 or less	24%	26%	27%	27%	22%	23%	26%	21%	33%
	1,001-5,000	11%	13%	9%	12%	14%	9%	13%	12%	11%
	5,001-10,000	18%	9%	21%	11%	10%	18%	13%	14%	13%
	10,001-100,000	15%	13%	12%	20%	10%	20%	12%	14%	15%
	Over 100,000	7%	7%	11%	5%	5%	8%	6%	8%	5%
	Dont know	25%	33%	20%	24%	39%	22%	31%	30%	24%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<$50K	$50-100K	$100K+
17A. How many people do you think were pardoned by this action? [What is your best guess?] [Open-ended responses were grouped into categories.]	1,000 or less	26%	23%	21%	21%	24%	27%	27%
	1,001-5,000	10%	16%	10%	16%	10%	10%	15%
	5,001-10,000	14%	13%	15%	14%	14%	17%	13%
	10,001-100,000	13%	15%	12%	17%	16%	10%	16%
	Over 100,000	6%	9%	9%	7%	6%	8%	8%
	Dont know	31%	25%	33%	25%	31%	28%	21%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
18. Keeping in mind that all your answers in this survey are confidential, have you yourself ever happened to try marijuana?	Yes	54%	54%	54%	51%	56%	54%	57%	59%	47%
	No	45%	45%	45%	48%	43%	45%	43%	40%	52%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			CHILDREN IN HOME		RACE	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth
18. Keeping in mind that all your answers in this survey are confidential, have you yourself ever happened to try marijuana?	Yes	59%	48%	63%	55%	47%	61%	52%	52%	58%
	No	39%	51%	37%	44%	52%	38%	47%	47%	42%
	[VOL] Dont know	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%

		COLLEGE GRAD		WHITE COLLEGE DEGREE		INCOME		
		No degree	4 yr degree	White no degree	White college	<$50K	$50-100K	$100K+
18. Keeping in mind that all your answers in this survey are confidential, have you yourself ever happened to try marijuana?	Yes	55%	51%	51%	54%	56%	55%	54%
	No	44%	47%	48%	45%	43%	44%	45%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%