

DRUGS

Most Americans and Canadians Are Ready to Legalize Marijuana

Two thirds of respondents in the two countries describe the “war on drugs” as a failure.

[NEW YORK – Nov. 28, 2012] - A majority of people in the United States and Canada believe cannabis should be readily available for those who want to use it, a new two-country Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of representative national samples, a majority of Canadians (57%) and Americans (54%) support the legalization of marijuana.

Most respondents in each Canadian region back the legalization of cannabis, including 64 per cent of Atlantic Canadians and 60 per cent of British Columbians.

In the United States, respondents in the Northeast (61%) have the highest level of support for legalizing marijuana, while those in the South hold the lowest (51%).

In Canada, men (64%) are more likely than women (50%) to call for the legalization of cannabis, while there is no wide gender gap in the United States (55% male, 53% female).

The bulk of support for legal marijuana comes from respondents aged 18-to-34 in the United States (65%) and those aged 35-to-54 in Canada (61%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **57% of Canadians and 54% of Americans support the legalization of marijuana**
- **65% of Americans and 43% of Canadians say their respective countries have a serious drug abuse problem**
- **68% of Canadians and 66% of Americans describe the “war on drugs” as a failure**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From November 19 to November 20, 2012, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,005 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists, and 1,002 randomly selected American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1% for both countries. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada and the United States. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

The level of support for legalizing other drugs—such as crack cocaine, powder cocaine, ecstasy, heroin and crystal meth—stands at 11 per cent or lower in each country. Still, two thirds of Canadians (68%) and Americans (66%) describe the “war on drugs” as a failure.

Half of respondents (50% in Canada, 49% in the United States) believe cannabis should be legal in their countries, regardless of what other nations do about it. In addition, two thirds of Americans and Canadians (66%) expect marijuana to be legal in their respective country in the next 10 years.

While two thirds of Americans (65%) say the United States has a serious drug abuse problem, fewer Canadians (43%) feel the same way about their country.

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[Angus Reid Public Opinion](#) is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

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Drugs		
Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?		
	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
[COUNTRY] has a serious drug abuse problem and it affects the whole country	43%	65%
[COUNTRY]'s drug abuse problem is confined to specific areas and people	34%	22%
[COUNTRY] does not have a serious drug abuse problem	12%	7%
Not sure	12%	6%

Drugs		
Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs? – “Support” listed		
	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
Marijuana	57%	54%
Crack cocaine	9%	8%
Powder cocaine	10%	10%
Ecstasy	11%	9%
Heroin	10%	8%
Methamphetamine or “crystal meth”	9%	8%

Drugs

CANADA



Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
– *Marijuana*

	TOTAL	Region					
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QU	AT
Support	57%	60%	51%	59%	58%	55%	64%
Oppose	39%	35%	44%	40%	38%	43%	30%
Not sure	4%	5%	6%	1%	5%	3%	5%

Drugs

UNITED STATES



Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
– *Marijuana*

	TOTAL	Region			
		Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Support	54%	61%	52%	51%	56%
Oppose	42%	36%	45%	43%	40%
Not sure	5%	3%	3%	5%	4%

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Drugs

CANADA



Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
 – *Marijuana*

		Gender		Age		
	TOTAL	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Support	57%	64%	50%	58%	61%	51%
Oppose	39%	34%	43%	38%	35%	44%
Not sure	4%	2%	6%	4%	4%	4%

Drugs

UNITED STATES





Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
 – *Marijuana*

		Gender		Age		
	TOTAL	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Support	54%	55%	53%	65%	49%	49%
Oppose	42%	42%	41%	33%	46%	45%
Not sure	5%	3%	6%	3%	6%	6%

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Drugs		
Which one of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?		
	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
Marijuana should be legal in [COUNTRY], regardless of what other countries do about it	50%	49%
Marijuana should only be legal in [COUNTRY] if other countries also pursue legalization	10%	5%
Marijuana should not be legal in [COUNTRY], regardless of what other countries do about it	31%	35%
Not sure	10%	11%



Drugs		
All things considered, when do you expect marijuana to be legal in [COUNTRY]?		
	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
In the next four years	27%	30%
Five to ten years from now	39%	36%
11 to 20 years from now	12%	10%
More than 20 years from now	4%	7%
Never	19%	18%

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Drugs

The term “War on Drugs” has been used to describe the efforts of governments to reduce the illegal drug trade. From what you have seen, read or heard, would you describe the “War on Drugs” as a success or a failure?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
A success	8%	10%
A failure	68%	66%
Not sure	24%	23%

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