



# Support for Marijuana Policy Reform: A Summary of State and National Polling

Support for allowing medical cannabis is nearly universal — higher than the percent of Americans who believe the earth is round and that NASA astronauts landed on the moon.<sup>[1]</sup>

A 2019 Quinnipiac University poll found that 93% of Americans support “allowing adults to legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it.”<sup>[2]</sup> In 2024, Pew Research Center found 88% of Americans support legalizing cannabis for medical use.<sup>[3]</sup>

Since 1996, 39 states have enacted medical cannabis laws. Nineteen of the laws were adopted by voters, including in some of the most conservative states in the nation: Arkansas (53%, 2016), North Dakota (64%, 2016), Oklahoma (57%, 2018), Utah (53%, 2018), and South Dakota (70%, 2020). Most recently, more than 70% of Nebraska voters approved allowing the medical use of cannabis in November 2024.

Support is exceptionally high among all ages and parties. Quinnipiac found 93% of Americans aged 50-64 and 91% of Americans aged 65 and older support medical cannabis.<sup>[4]</sup> Support reached 99% for those 18-34. The poll found 86% of Republicans, 96% of independents, and 96% of Democrats support allowing medical cannabis.

Despite overwhelming support, 11 states still lack a comprehensive medical cannabis law. Here is a look at polling in those states where the seriously ill are still criminalized for relieving their suffering with cannabis, even if a doctor recommends its use.

## State-By-State Medical Cannabis Poll Results

State	Year/Polling Firm	% in Favor	Question Wording
Georgia	2023, Atlanta Journal-Constitution	76%	Support fully legalizing medical marijuana (the state has a low-THC law now)
Idaho	2022, Idaho Statesman/SurveyUSA	68%	Support making medical marijuana legal
Indiana	2023 Hoosier Survey	86%	Support making marijuana legal “only for medical use” or for “personal use”
Iowa	2022, Hawkeye Poll	71%	"Marijuana should be legal for medical use" (another 15% said it should be decriminalized for medical use)
Kansas	2024, Kansas Speaks	73%	Supports the legalization of medical marijuana

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<b>North Carolina</b>	2024, Meredith Poll	78%	Support "the passage of legislation allowing for the use of medical marijuana"?
<b>South Carolina</b>	2024, Mason Dixon	83%	Support "allowing patients ... who suffer from an approved list of serious medical conditions to use medical marijuana if their doctors recommend it."
<b>Tennessee</b>	2018, Middle Tennessee State University Poll	81%	Support allowing marijuana for medical use
<b>Texas</b>	2023, University of Texas/ Texas Tribune	83%	Combined support for "medical purposes" and "for any purpose"
<b>Wisconsin</b>	2024 Marquette Law School Poll	86%	Think the use of marijuana for medical purposes with a doctor's prescription should be made legal
<b>Wyoming</b>	2020 Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center	85%	Support "allowing adults in Wyoming to legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it"

<sup>[1]</sup> See: Lawrence Hamilton, "Conspiracy vs. Science: A Survey of U.S. Public Beliefs," Carsey School of Public Policy, University of New Hampshire. April 25, 2022. (10% believe the earth is flat, 12% believe the moon landing was faked, and many more are unsure) [carsey.unh.edu/publication/conspiracy-vs-science-survey-us-public-beliefs](https://carsey.unh.edu/publication/conspiracy-vs-science-survey-us-public-beliefs)

<sup>[2]</sup> "U.S. Voters Oppose Trump Emergency Powers On Wall 2-1 Quinnipiac University National Poll Finds; 86% Back Democrats' Bill On Gun Background Checks," Quinnipiac Poll, March 6, 2019

<https://poll.qu.edu/Poll-Release-Legacy?releaseid=2604>

<sup>[3]</sup> "Most Americans Favor Legalizing Marijuana for Medical, Recreational Use," Pew Research Center, March 26, 2024.

<sup>[4]</sup> <https://poll.qu.edu/Poll-Release-Legacy?releaseid=2604>