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# America's New Drug Policy Landscape

*Two-Thirds Favor Treatment, Not Jail, for Use of Heroin, Cocaine*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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## *Two-Thirds Favor Treatment, Not Jail, for Use of Heroin, Cocaine*

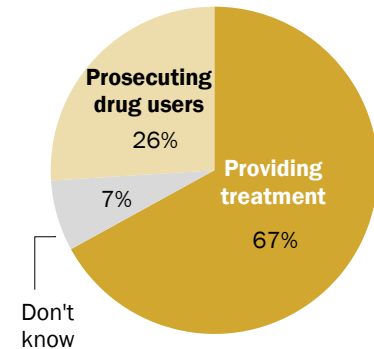
The public appears ready for a truce in the long-running war on drugs. A national survey by the Pew Research Center finds that 67% of Americans say that the government should focus more on providing treatment for those who use illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Just 26% think the government's focus should be on prosecuting users of such hard drugs.

Support for a treatment-based approach to illegal drug use spans nearly all demographic groups. And while Republicans are less supportive of the treatment option than are Democrats or independents, about half of Republicans (51%) say the government should focus more on treatment than prosecution in dealing with illegal drug users.

As a growing number of states ease penalties for drug possession, the public expresses increasingly positive views of the move away from mandatory sentences for non-violent drug crimes. By nearly two-to-one (63% to 32%), more say it is a good thing than a bad thing that some states have moved away from mandatory sentences for non-violent drug offenders. In 2001, Americans were evenly divided over the move by some states to abandon mandatory drug terms.

The survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Feb. 14-23 among 1,821 adults, finds that support for the legalization of marijuana use continues to increase. And fully 75% of the public –including majorities of those who favor and oppose the legal use of marijuana – think that the sale and use of marijuana will eventually be legal nationwide.

### On Drug Policy, Gov't Should Focus More On ...

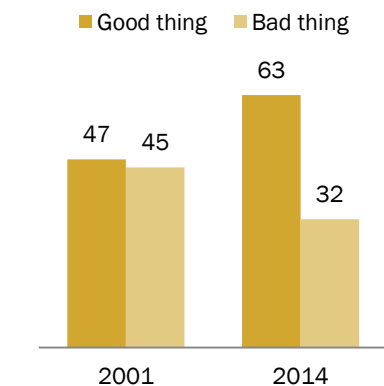


Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014.

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### Support for Move Away from Set Drug Terms

*Some states have moved away from mandatory prison sentences for non-violent drug crimes. Is this a ...*



Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014.

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By wide margins, the public views marijuana as less harmful than alcohol, both to personal health and to society more generally. Moreover, just as most Americans prefer a less punitive approach to the use of drugs such as heroin and cocaine, an even larger majority (76% of the public) – including 69% of Republicans and 79% of Democrats – think that people convicted of possessing small amounts of marijuana should not have to serve time in jail.

The Pew Research Center's report on U.S. drug policy comes at a pivotal moment in the national debate over how best to deal with drug abuse. There is a new bipartisan effort in Congress to give federal judges more discretion in low-level drug cases and reduce mandatory sentences for some drug crimes. [Separately, the United States Sentencing Commission is expected to vote soon](#) on a proposal to lessen the federal sentence for drug dealers.

More and more states are acting to revise drug laws: Between 2009 and 2013, 40 states took some action to ease their drug laws according to a [Pew Research Center analysis](#) of data provided by the National Conference on State Legislatures and the Vera Institute.

The public remains concerned over the problem of drug abuse – both nationally and locally. In fact, a large majority says that drug abuse across the country is either a crisis (32%) or a serious problem (55%). Half regard the problem of drug abuse in their neighborhoods, including its schools, that seriously. These views have not changed much since the mid-1990s.

## Alcohol Seen as Bigger Danger than Marijuana

*Which is more harmful to ...*

	People's health %	Society* %
Alcohol	69	63
Marijuana	15	23
Both/ Neither (Vol.)	14	11
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100

Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014.

\*Question asked which would be more harmful if marijuana were as widely available as alcohol.

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## Most Still View Drug Abuse in U.S. as a Crisis or Serious Problem

*How would you describe problem of drug abuse ...*

	1995	1999	2001	2014
<b>Across the country</b>	%	%	%	%
Crisis	31	30	27	32
Serious problem	63	60	63	55
Minor problem/ Not a problem	6	9	8	13
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>In your neighborhood &amp; schools</b>				
Crisis	10	9	9	12
Serious problem	44	38	37	38
Minor problem/ Not a problem	43	50	47	47
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

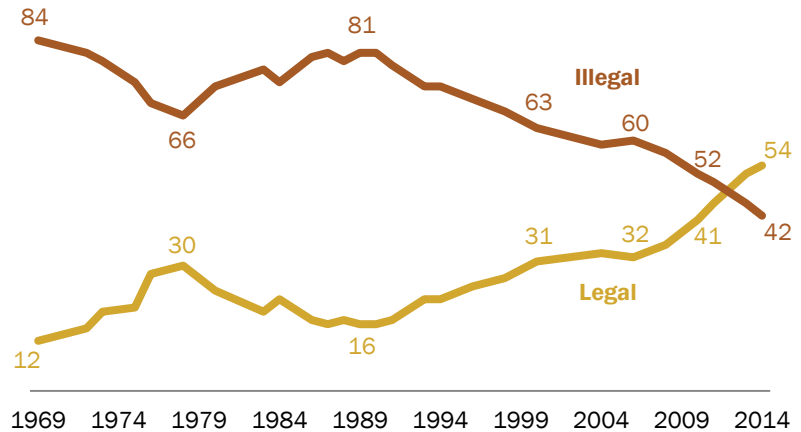
1995, 1999 trends from Gallup/CNN/USA Today.

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At the same time, there has been a major shift in attitudes on whether or not the use of marijuana should be legal. As recently as four years ago, about half (52%) said they thought the use of marijuana should not be legal; 41% said marijuana use should be legal. Today those numbers are roughly reversed – 54% favor marijuana legalization while 42% are opposed. (These findings, based on a separate survey conducted Feb. 12-26, were included in the [“Millennials in Adulthood”](#) report released March 7.)

### Growing Support for Marijuana Legalization

% saying marijuana should be ...



Survey conducted Feb. 12-26, 2014. 1973-2008 data from General Social Survey; 1969 and 1972 data from Gallup

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When asked a more detailed question about marijuana use, 44% say it should be legal only for medicinal use, 39% say it should be legal for personal use and just 16% say it should not be legal at all. Majorities across nearly all demographic and partisan groups say the use of marijuana should be legal, at least for medicinal use.

Despite the growing support for marijuana legalization, however, many Americans express concerns over possible consequences from legalization. More than half (54%) say that legalizing marijuana would lead to more underage people trying it. While people 65 and older are most likely to say that legalization would lead to more underage people trying marijuana (69%), roughly half of those in younger age groups – including 51% of those under 30 – agree.

On a personal level, most Americans say that, if marijuana were legal, they would be bothered by people using the drug in public (63%), though fewer (41%) would be bothered if a store or business selling marijuana opened in their neighborhood. Just 15% would be bothered if people used marijuana in their own homes.

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## Public's Views of Effects of Legalization

<i>Would legalizing marijuana lead to more underage people to try it?</i>	<b>Feb 14-23</b>
	%
Yes, would lead to this	54
No, would not	44
Don't know	2
	100

*% saying they'd be bothered by each, if marijuana were legal ...*

People using marijuana in public	63
A store selling marijuana in your neighborhood	41
People using marijuana in their own homes	15

Surveys conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014.

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## Section 1: Perceptions of Drug Abuse, Views of Drug Policies

The federal government's annual survey on drug use in the United States finds that the use of illicit drugs has increased over the past decade, in part because of a rise in marijuana use. The government treats marijuana as an illicit drug; marijuana is now legal for medicinal use in 18 states and for recreational use in two others (Colorado and Washington).

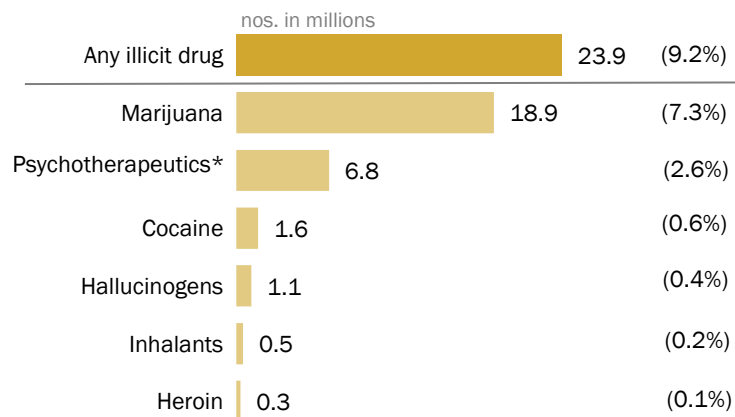
According to the 2012 drug use survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,

approximately 24 million Americans (9.2% of the general public aged 12 or older) reported using an illicit drug in the past month. This is up from 8.3% 10 years earlier.

The number of Americans who had used marijuana in the last month increased from 14.5 million in 2007 (5.8%) to 18.9 million in 2012 (7.3%). Among the so-called "hard drugs," heroin use more than doubled from 166,000 to

335,000 individuals per month between 2002 and 2012. Cocaine use declined slightly over this same period. In 2012, 6.8 million Americans used prescription-type medications that have legitimate medical uses, such as pain relievers including Oxycontin and Vicodin, but for non-medical purposes (referred to as psychotherapeutic drugs). These figures are statistically equivalent to usage levels going back to 2002 (2.7%).

### Federal Government Estimates of Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month



Source: [2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) conducted by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Numbers are millions of users in the last month. Percentages are of the general public, 12-years or older.

\* Psychotherapeutics include: pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants and sedatives used non-medically.

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About a third of all Americans (32%) say that the problem of drug abuse is a crisis across the country and another 55% see it as a serious problem. When asked to think about their own neighborhoods, including the local schools, about one-in-ten (12%) see drug abuse as a crisis in their community and another 38% call it a serious problem.

Opinions about the problem of drug abuse differ little across most demographic and political groups. But young people are less likely than older Americans to say that drug abuse is a crisis nationally. Just 20% of those under 30 think drug abuse is a crisis compared with at least a third in older age groups. And 60% of young people say the problem of drug abuse in their neighborhoods is either a minor problem or not a problem, the lowest percentage of any age group.

### Young People Less Likely to View Drug Abuse as a Crisis Nationally, as a Serious Problem Locally

	Problem of drug abuse across the country is a...			Problem of drug abuse in your neighborhood, including local schools is a...		
	Crisis %	Serious problem %	Minor/Not a problem %	Crisis %	Serious problem %	Minor/Not a problem %
Total	32	55	13	12	38	47
Men	29	55	15	10	38	49
Women	34	55	11	13	38	46
White	32	54	13	11	36	50
Black	36	52	11	15	37	46
Hispanic	28	60	12	15	49	36
18-29	20	56	23	9	29	60
30-49	36	49	14	13	37	47
50-64	34	57	9	13	42	42
65+	36	59	3	10	45	39
College grad +	27	57	15	10	35	51
Some college	34	52	14	9	34	56
HS or less	33	57	10	14	43	38

Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014. Don't know responses not shown. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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Hispanics and those without college experience are more likely to view drug abuse as a serious problem in their neighborhood. A majority of Hispanics (63%) say that drug abuse is either a crisis or serious problem in their neighborhood, compared with about half of both non-Hispanic blacks (51%) and non-Hispanic whites (47%).

Among those with a high school degree or less education, 58% say drug abuse is a neighborhood crisis (14%) or serious problem (43%). College graduates see drug abuse as less of a problem in the neighborhoods where they live: 10% see a crisis, 35% a serious problem.

## Race and Perceptions of Local Drug Abuse

Two decades ago, blacks were far more likely than whites to say that the problem of drug abuse was a crisis in their neighborhoods and schools; in 1995, 28% of blacks and just 9% of whites saw drug abuse as a crisis locally.

The share of blacks saying drug abuse in their communities is a crisis declined later in the 1990s. By 2001, 16% of blacks regarded the problem of local drug abuse as a crisis; that is little different from the current measure (15%).

Compared with 2001, a greater share of whites – particularly less educated whites – say the problem of drug abuse in their communities is a crisis. Currently, 12% of non-college whites say drug abuse is a crisis in their neighborhood, double the percentage that said this 13 years ago.

### Compared with '01, More Non-College Whites View Drug Abuse as a Crisis

*% saying problem of drug abuse locally is a 'crisis' ...*

	1995	1999	2001	2014	'01-'14 Change
	%	%	%	%	
Total	10	9	9	12	+3
White	9	6	5	11	+6
College grad	6	6	4	7	+3
Non college	10	7	6	12	+6
Black	28	17	16	15	-1

Survey conducted Feb.14-23, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic. 1995, 1999 trends from Gallup/CNN/USA TODAY.

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## Views of Drug Policies: States Dropping Mandatory Drug Sentences

More than six-in-ten (63%) say that state governments moving away from mandatory prison terms for non-violent drug crimes is a good thing, while just 32% say these policy changes are a bad thing. This is a substantial shift from 2001 when the public was evenly divided (47% good thing vs. 45% bad thing).

Across nearly all demographic groups majorities say that the move away from mandatory prison terms is a good thing, and in most cases these percentages have increased by double digits since 2001. Majorities of both men (64%) and women (62%) view these policy changes as a good thing – up 13 points among men and 20 points among women. In 2001, women were less supportive than men of sentencing revisions. Half of women said it was a bad thing compared with 40% of men.



As is the case with opinions on other issues related to illegal drug use, older Americans and Republicans are most likely to have reservations about state governments moving away from mandatory drug sentences.

About half of those 65 and older (49%) say that the move away from mandatory drug sentences is a good thing, up only modestly from 2001 (43%). By contrast, majorities among younger age groups have a positive view of the elimination of mandatory drug sentences, and this view has increased by double digits among those under 65 since 2001.

About half of Republicans (49%) have a positive view of the move away from mandatory drug sentences; in 2001, 41% viewed this change positively. Nearly seven-in-ten independents (69%) and 66% of Democrats say this is a good thing, up from 48% each in 2001.

The pattern is similar in opinions about how the government should deal with people who use illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Two-thirds (67%) say the government should focus more on providing treatment for people who use these type of drugs. Just 26% think the focus should be more on prosecuting illegal drug users.

## Most See Shift Away from Mandatory Drug Sentences as a Good Thing

<i>States moving away from mandatory drug sentences ...</i>	2001		2014		Change in good thing
	Good thing	Bad thing	Good thing	Bad thing	
	%	%	%	%	
Total	46	45	63	32	+17
Men	51	40	64	31	+13
Women	42	49	62	33	+20
White	48	44	66	30	+18
Black	45	44	61	33	+16
Hispanic	–	–	52	41	
18-29	50	44	66	30	+16
30-49	47	48	68	28	+21
50-64	47	44	63	33	+16
65+	43	43	49	43	+6
Republican	41	51	49	45	+8
Independent	48	45	69	28	+21
Democrat	48	44	66	29	+18

Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014. Don't know responses not shown. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Too few Hispanics to report in 2001.

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Half or more in virtually every demographic and partisan group says the priority should be treatment, not prosecution. But there are differences across racial and ethnic lines: 81% of blacks say the government should focus more on treatment for drug users, compared with 66% of whites and 61% of Hispanics.

In addition, while large majorities of Democrats (77%) and independents (69%) want the government's focus more on treatment, a smaller share of Republicans (51%) favor this approach. Those 65 and older are less likely than those in younger age groups to say that the government should focus on providing treatment for drug users rather than prosecuting them.

Those who view drug abuse across the country as a crisis are about as likely as those who do not to favor treatment rather than prosecution for those using illegal drugs like heroin and cocaine. Among those who say drug abuse is a crisis in their neighborhood, 64% favor the treatment option, about the same percentage as those who view the problem less seriously (68%).

## Public Wants Government Drug Policy to Focus More on Providing Treatment

*Dealing with drug policy, gov't should focus more on ...*

	Prosecuting illegal drug users %	Treatment for illegal drug users %	DK %
Total	26	67	7=100
White	27	66	7=100
Black	15	81	4=100
Hispanic	33	61	6=100
18-29	20	77	3=100
30-49	25	68	7=100
50-64	27	66	6=100
65+	35	54	12=100
College grad+	18	73	8=100
Some college	25	69	5=100
HS or less	32	61	7=100
Republican	42	51	6=100
Democrat	18	77	5=100
Independent	24	69	7=100

Survey conducted Feb.14-23, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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## Section 2: Views of Marijuana – Legalization, Decriminalization, Concerns

Public support for legalizing marijuana use is at an all-time high of 54%, though it is virtually unchanged from [last year](#) (52%). There is even more agreement that people convicted of possessing small amounts of marijuana should not serve time in jail.

About three-quarters of Americans (76%) say that if marijuana use is not legalized, those who are convicted of possessing small amounts of marijuana should not serve jail time. Just 22% favor jail time for those convicted of minor marijuana possession.

Views of the legalization of marijuana remain divided along partisan, age and ethnic lines. While support for legalization has increased by 15 points among both parties since 2010, Republicans continue to be far less likely than Democrats to favor legalization (39% vs. 63%). Opposition to legalization also is much higher among those 65 and older than younger people and among Hispanics than non-Hispanic whites or blacks.

### Broad Agreement that Minor Possession of Marijuana Should Not Draw Jail Time

*Views of marijuana use ...*

	Should it be legal?		Jail for possession of small amounts?	
	Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %
Total	54	42	22	76
White	55	42	19	79
Black	60	37	23	77
Hispanic	43	53	39	60
18-29	70	28	18	81
30-49	56	39	24	75
50-64	55	43	18	81
65 and older	32	65	32	63
Republican	39	59	29	69
Democrat	63	34	19	79
Independent	58	38	21	78

Surveys conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014, Feb. 12-26, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Don't know responses not shown.

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However, majorities across nearly all partisan and demographic groups say possession of small amounts of marijuana should not result in jail time. The partisan differences in these opinions are relatively modest – 79% of Democrats, 78% of independents and 69% of Republicans do not think people convicted of having small amounts of marijuana should serve time in jail.

People who have tried marijuana are more likely than those who have not to oppose jail time for minor possession. Still, a majority of those who have never tried marijuana (63%) say people convicted of small amounts of marijuana should not spend time in jail. Among those who have tried marijuana, but not in the past year, 88% oppose jail time for possession of small amounts of marijuana, as do 97% of those who have used it in the past year.

## Relative Dangers Posed by Alcohol and Marijuana

When asked which is more harmful to a person's health, 69% of Americans say alcohol, while just 15% consider marijuana to be more harmful. Similarly, 63% say that if marijuana were as widely available as alcohol, the latter would be more harmful to society; 23% say marijuana would do the most harm.

Majorities across most demographic groups say alcohol is more harmful than marijuana to a person's health and to society. But roughly a third of Hispanics (32%), people 65 and older (31%) and Republicans (36%) say marijuana would be more harmful to society than alcohol, if it were as widely available.

Even among those who say the use of marijuana by adults should not be legal, many consider alcohol to be more harmful to a person's health; 45% say this is the case, compared with 29% who think marijuana is more harmful. But those who say marijuana use should not be legal see it as more harmful to society: 51% marijuana say that if marijuana were as widely available as alcohol, it would be more harmful, while 32% say alcohol would be more harmful.

### Alcohol Viewed as More Harmful than Marijuana to Health and Society

	Which is more harmful to a person's health?			If marijuana were as widely available, which would be more harmful to society?		
	Alcohol %	Marijuana %	Both/ Neither	Alcohol %	Marijuana %	Both/ Neither
Total	69	15	14	63	23	11
Men	67	17	13	63	24	10
Women	70	14	14	63	22	13
White	70	15	13	64	22	11
Black	80	9	9	79	14	6
Hispanic	57	21	21	47	32	18
18-29	81	12	6	76	18	5
30-49	71	17	11	67	22	10
50-64	67	14	15	61	25	12
65+	50	19	25	43	31	20
College grad +	66	18	12	63	23	10
Some college	75	13	10	67	21	10
HS or less	66	15	17	60	25	14
Republican	59	24	14	51	36	11
Democrat	76	11	10	74	16	9
Independent	70	13	15	62	22	13

Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014. "Don't know" not shown. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

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## Concerns about Marijuana Use

While many support the legalization – or at least the decriminalization – of marijuana use, most (54%) say legalizing marijuana would lead to more underage people trying it.

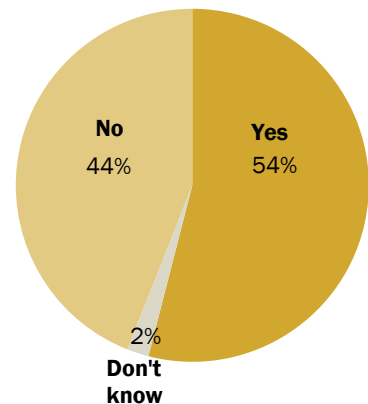
Those ages 65 or older are particularly likely to say the legalization of marijuana would lead to more underage use; 69% in this group say this is the case, compared with about half of those in younger age groups.

Majorities of those who say marijuana use should be illegal and those who say it should only be legal for medicinal purposes are also more likely to say the legalization of marijuana would lead to more underage people trying it (80% and 66%, respectively). In contrast, just 29% of those who say marijuana should be legal for personal use say the same.

The view that legalizing marijuana would lead to more underage people trying it is also more prevalent among Republicans. About two-thirds of Republicans (66%) say this would happen, while about half of Democrats (48%) and independents (51%) agree.

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### Would Legalization of Marijuana Lead to More Underage Use?



Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014.

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## Six-in-Ten Would Be Bothered by Public Use of Marijuana

Americans overwhelmingly say that if marijuana were legal, it would not bother them if people used marijuana in their own homes; 83% say this, including 60% of those who do not think marijuana use should be legal for personal or medicinal purposes.

But 63% would be bothered if people used marijuana in public, including a sizable minority (39%) of those who say marijuana use by adults should be legal for personal use.

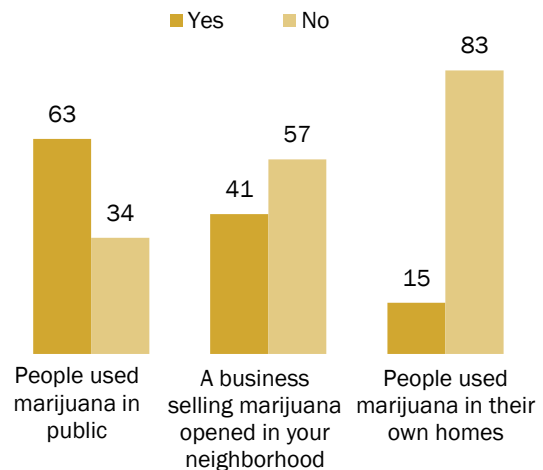
Older Americans are particularly likely to say that if marijuana were legal, they would be bothered by people using it in public, but majorities across all age groups share this view. About three-quarters (76%) of those 65 or older would be bothered by marijuana use in public, as would 56% of those under 30, 60% of those 30-49 and 64% of 50- to 64-year-olds.

When asked if it would bother them if a store or business selling marijuana legally opened up in their neighborhood, about six-in-ten (57%) say they would not be bothered, but majorities of those who say marijuana use should not be legal (76%) and those who say it should only be legal for medicinal use (57%) would be bothered by this.

Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanic whites and blacks to say it would bother them if a store or business selling marijuana opened up in their neighborhood; 51% of Hispanics say they would be bothered and 47% would not. In contrast, about six-in-ten whites (58%) and blacks (62%) would not be bothered by this.

### Most Would Be Bothered by Public, Not Private, Marijuana Use

*If marijuana were legal, would it bother you if ...*



Survey conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014.

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## About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted Feb. 14-23, 2014 among a national sample of 1,821 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, including an oversample of young adults ages 18 to 33 (481 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,340 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 786 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used. In order to increase the number of 18 to 33 year-old respondents in the sample additional interviews were conducted with that cohort by screening separate random digit dial cell sample. The landline and both cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in both cell samples were conducted with the person who answered the phone if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older (main cell sample) or 18-33 (cell phone youth oversample). For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The weights account for the oversample by bringing the proportion of 18-33 year olds in the survey into line with that cohort's share of the US population. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,821	2.6 percentage points
Form 1	900	3.8 percentage points
Form 2	921	3.7 percentage points
White, non-Hispanic	1,236	3.2 percentage points
Black, non-Hispanic	220	7.6 percentage points
Hispanic	216	7.7 percentage points
Republican	406	5.6 percentage points
Democrat	576	4.7 percentage points
Independent	723	4.2 percentage points

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted Feb. 12-26, 2014 among a national sample of 3,338 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (1,671 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,667 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 905 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted under the direction of Abt SRBI. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

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<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	3,338	2.0 percentage points
Republican	849	3.9 percentage points
Democrat	992	3.6 percentage points
Independent	1,307	3.1 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. 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.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
FEBRUARY 2014 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
February 14-23, 2014  
N=1,821**

**QUESTIONS 1, 4, 10, 15-18b, 23-25, 30 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED  
NO QUESTIONS 2-3, 5-9, 11-14, 19-22, 26-29, 31-35  
QUESTION 18c HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=900]:**

Next, I have some questions about drug policy.

Q.36F1 How would you describe the problem of drug abuse across the country? Would you say it is a **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Feb 14-23		<i>-Gallup/CNN/USA Today-</i>		
<u>2014</u>		Feb <u>2001</u> <sup>1</sup>	Sep <u>1999</u> <sup>2</sup>	Sep <u>1995</u>
32	Crisis	27	30	31
55	A serious problem	63	60	63
11	A minor problem, or	7	8	5
2	Not a problem	1	1	*
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	1

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=921]:**

Next, I have some questions about drug policy.

Q.37F2 How would you describe the problem of drug abuse in your neighborhood, including the local schools? Would you say it is a **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Feb 14-23		<i>-Gallup/CNN/USA Today-</i>		
<u>2014</u>		Feb <u>2001</u>	Sep <u>1999</u>	Sep <u>1995</u>
12	Crisis	9	9	10
38	A serious problem	37	38	44
33	A minor problem, or	37	38	37
14	Not a problem	10	12	6
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	4	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.38 In dealing with drug policy, should government focus more on **[RANDOMIZE: prosecuting/providing treatment for]** people who use illegal drugs such as heroin and cocaine, or do you think it should focus more on **[RANDOMIZE: prosecuting/providing treatment for]** people who use these types of drugs?

Feb 14-23	
<u>2014</u>	
26	Prosecuting those who use illegal drugs
67	Providing treatment for those who use illegal drugs
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

<sup>1</sup> In February 2001, September 1999 and September 1995, there were different intros to Q36F1 and Q37F2. The intro in 2001 read "Next I have some questions about the problem of drugs and drug abuse." There was no intro language in 1999. The intro in 1995 read "Now, thinking about illegal drugs."

<sup>2</sup> In September 1999 and September 1995, respondents were asked both Q36F1 and Q37F2—half were asked to assess the problem "across the country" first and half were asked about "in your neighborhood, including the local schools" first. The question ordering did not make a significant difference in the responses, so both sets of respondents are included here.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.39 Some states have moved AWAY from the idea of mandatory prison sentences for non-violent drug offenders. Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?

Feb 14-23		Feb
<u>2014</u>		<u>2001</u> <sup>3</sup>
63	Good thing	47
32	Bad thing	45
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8

**NO QUESTIONS 40-44****QUESTION 45 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.46 Which comes closer to your view about the use of marijuana by adults? **[READ IN REVERSE ORDER FOR ½ SAMPLE]**

Feb 14-23	
<u>2014</u>	
39	It should be legal for personal use
44	It should be legal only for medicinal use [OR]
16	It should not be legal
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.47 If marijuana use is not legalized, do you think people convicted of possessing small amounts of marijuana should serve time in jail, or not?

Feb 14-23	
<u>2014</u>	
22	Yes
76	No
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.48 In your view, would legalizing marijuana lead to more underage people trying it, or not?

Feb 14-23	
<u>2014</u>	
54	Yes
44	No
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**NO QUESTIONS 49-51****RANDOMIZE Q.52 AND Q.53****ASK ALL:**

Q.52 Which do you think is more harmful to a person's health **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Feb 14-23	
<u>2014</u>	
69	Alcohol [OR]
15	Marijuana
14	Both are/Neither is (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

<sup>3</sup> In 2001, the question read "Some states are moving AWAY from the idea of mandatory prison sentences for non-violent drug offenders. Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?"

**RANDOMIZE Q.52 AND Q.53****ASK ALL:**

Q.53 If marijuana were as widely available as alcohol, which do you think would be more harmful to society **[RANDOMIZE: alcohol or marijuana]**?

Feb 14-23

2014

63	Alcohol [OR]
23	Marijuana
11	Both are/Neither is <b>(VOL.)</b>
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTION 54****ASK ALL:**

Q.55 Regardless of your opinion about marijuana, do you think that the sale and use of marijuana eventually will be legal nationwide, or not?

Feb 14-23

2014

75	Yes, it will
22	No, it will not
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.56 If marijuana were legal, would it bother you if **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or would this not bother you? What about if **[NEXT ITEM]** – would this bother you or not? **[IF NECESSARY: If marijuana were legal]**

	<u>Yes, would bother you</u>	<u>No, would not bother you</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Depends</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. A store or business selling marijuana opened up in your neighborhood Feb 14-23, 2014	41	57	1	1
<b>NO ITEM b.</b>				
c. People used marijuana in public Feb 14-23, 2014	63	34	3	1
d. People used marijuana in their own homes Feb 14-23, 2014	15	83	1	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.57 Keeping in mind that all of your answers in the survey are confidential, have you, yourself, ever happened to try marijuana?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 14-23, 2014	47	52	1
Mar 13-17, 2013	48	51	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	40	58	2
June, 2003	38	61	1
February, 2001	38	60	2
Gallup: September, 1999	34	66	*
Gallup: May, 1985	33	67	0
Gallup: April, 1977	24	76	0
Gallup: January 1973	12	88	*
Gallup: March, 1972	11	89	0
Gallup: October, 1969	4	94	2

**ASK ALL:**

Q.57 Keeping in mind that all of your answers in the survey are confidential, have you, yourself, ever happened to try marijuana?

**ASK IF EVER TRIED MARIJUANA (Q.57=1):**

Q.58 Have you used marijuana in the past year, or not?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Feb 14-23 2014		Mar 13-17 2013
47	Yes, have tried marijuana	48
11	Yes, used in past year	12
36	No, not in past year	36
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*
52	No, have not tried marijuana	51
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

**NO QUESTIONS 59, 64-70, 77-99, 106-108****QUESTIONS 60-63, 71-76, 100-105, 109-110 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.) No	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	preference	party		Rep	Dem
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):**

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

**BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=689]:**

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Not
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>Haven't heard of</u>	<u>Refused</u>	<u>heard of/DK</u>
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>4</sup>	43	8	47	1	1	--

<sup>4</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

**TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Haven't heard of</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
FINAL TOPLINE  
February 12-26, 2014  
N=3,338**

**SELECTED QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE  
QUESTIONS B.27, B.27a PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.B110 Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

	<u>Yes, legal</u>	<u>No, illegal</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 12-26, 2014	54	42	3
Mar 13-17, 2013	52	45	3
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	45	50	5
Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
<b>General Social Survey</b>			
2008	35	57	8
2006	32	60	7
2004	33	59	9
2002	32	61	6
2000	31	63	6
1998	27	67	6
1996	25	70	5
1994	22	73	5
1993	22	73	5
1991	17	78	5
1990	16	81	3
1989	16	81	3
1988	17	79	4
1987	16	81	3
1986	17	80	2
1984	22	74	4
1983	19	77	3
1980	24	73	3
1978	30	66	4
1976	28	69	3
1975	20	74	5
1973	19	79	2
<b>Gallup</b>			
March, 1972	15	81	4
October, 1969	12	84	4



**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Feb 12-26, 2014	23	30	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--