



## Angus Reid Poll: 55 Percent Of Adults Support Legalizing Marijuana

**New York, NY, USA:** Fifty-five percent of American adults support legalizing marijuana, [up from 52 percent](#) in 2010, according to the [results](#) of a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll.

Pollsters conducted an online survey of a representative national sample of



1,003 American adults. A [solid majority](#), including 63 percent of Democrats and 61 percent of Independents, said that they endorsed the legalization of marijuana.

Forty percent of those polled said that they opposed the idea and five percent were undecided. The poll's margin of error is +/- 3.1 percent.

The Angus Reid results are slightly higher than those published by other polling firms, such as [Gallup](#), which use random digital dial sampling.

More men (57 percent) than

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### Israel: Government Officially Recognizes Therapeutic Value Of Cannabis -- Codifies Regulations For Producing, Providing It To Patients

**Tel Aviv, Israel:** The Israeli government on Sunday [acknowledged](#) the therapeutic utility of cannabis and announced newly amended guidelines governing the state-sponsored production and distribution of medical cannabis to Israeli patients.

A [prepared statement](#) posted Monday on the website of office of the Israeli Prime Minister states: "The Cabinet today approved arrangements and supervision regarding the supply of cannabis for medical and research uses. This is in recognition that the medical use of cannabis is necessary in certain cases. The Health Ministry will -- in coordination with the Israel Police and the Israel Anti-Drug Authority -- oversee the foregoing and will also be responsible for supplies

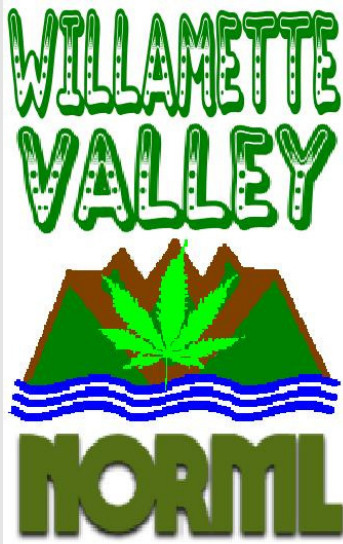
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### Government Survey: Northeastern States Most Likely To Report Widespread Marijuana Consumption

**Rockville, MD, USA:** The northeastern part of the United States [possesses the highest rates of self-reported marijuana consumption](#), according to a new federal government [report](#).

As a region, New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) [rank in the top percentile](#) for marijuana use in virtually every category surveyed -- including 'marijuana use in the past year among youths age 12 to 17,' 'marijuana use in the past year among persons age 18 to 25,' 'marijuana use in the past year among persons aged 12 and older,' and 'marijuana use in the past month among persons age 26 or older.'

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## The Willamette Valley NORML News Report

is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to record and broadcast news, announcements and information about cannabis law reform.

The W-V-NORML News Report is produced by the Eugene, OREGON chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

----- Making contact -----

*You can Snail Mail:*

The W-V-NORML Newsletter team by writing to -

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or phoning: **541-517-0957**

Check 'em out on-line! *visit:*

**WillametteValleyNORML.org**

## A Voice for Responsible Marijuana Smokers

Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers. A nonprofit public-interest advocacy group, NORML represents the interests of the tens of millions of Americans who smoke marijuana responsibly. During the 1970s, NORML led the successful efforts to decriminalize minor marijuana offenses in 11 states and significantly lower marijuana penalties in all others.

The oldest and largest marijuana legalization organization in the country, NORML maintains a professional staff in Washington, DC, and a network of volunteer state and local [NORML Chapters](#) across the country. Check 'em out, and find the one nearest you!

**The NORML mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.**

When marijuana is enjoyed responsibly, subjecting users to harsh criminal and civil penalties provides no public benefit and causes terrible injustices. For reasons of public safety, public health, economics and justice, the prohibition laws should be repealed to the extent that they criminalize responsible marijuana use. **NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws – is located at 1600 K Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20006-2832. Phone (202) 483-5500, Fax: (202) 483-0057 or visit: [www.norml.org](http://www.norml.org)**

Willamette Valley NORML is your local network in the fight to reform state and federal marijuana laws, whether by voter initiative or through the elected legislatures. W-V-NORML will serve as an informational resource to media on marijuana-related stories, providing a perspective to offset the [anti-marijuana propaganda](#) from the government; lobby state and federal legislators in support of reform legislation; publish a regular [newsletter](#); host an informative web site; and serve as the umbrella group for a regional network of citizen-activists committed to ending marijuana prohibition and legalizing marijuana.

Along with their parent organization, W-V-NORML will sponsor public advertising campaigns to better educate the public about marijuana and alternatives to current marijuana policy; provide legal assistance and support to victims of the current laws; and promote relevant research.

W-V-NORML supports the right of adults to use marijuana responsibly, whether for [medical](#) or [personal](#) purposes. All penalties, both civil and criminal, should be eliminated for responsible use. W-V-NORML also advocates the legalization of [hemp](#) (non-psychoactive marijuana) for industrial use. **To find out more, like how you can help, call, write or visit our website. You'll be glad you did!**

<continued from POLL, page 1 > women (53 percent) voiced support for legalizing cannabis. Respondents between the ages of 35 to 54 were most likely to support legalization (57 percent); however, a majority of respondents from every age group polled -- including those age 55 and over -- said that they backed making marijuana legal.

No more than ten percent of respondents said that they favored making any other illicit substance legal. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500.*

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<continued from ISRAEL, page 1 > from imports and local cultivation."

According to the Israeli online news site Haaretz, approximately 6,000 Israeli patients [are supplied](#) with locally grown cannabis as part of a limited government program. This week's announcement indicates that government officials intend to expand the program to more patients and centralize the drug's supply. "[T]here are predictions that doctor and patient satisfaction is so high that the number could reach 40,000 in 2016," The Jerusalem Post [reports](#).

The Israeli Ministry of Health is expected to [oversee the production](#) of marijuana in January 2012.

Similar government-sponsored medical marijuana programs are also active in [Canada](#) and [the Netherlands](#).

By contrast, in July the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) formally [denied](#) a nine-year-old petition calling on the agency to initiate hearings to reassess the present classification of marijuana as a [schedule I](#) controlled substance, [stating](#) in the July 8, 2011 edition of the Federal Register that cannabis has "a high potential for abuse; ... no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States; ... [and] lacks accepted safety for use under medical supervision." *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).*

<continued from NORTHEAST, page 1 > Other states that consistently ranked in the top percentile of marijuana use in the United States are Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, and Oregon.

Nationally, the study [reported](#) "no increases in current illicit drug use occurred in any state" among those aged 12 to 17 between the years 2002-2003 and 2008-2009. The finding rebuffs [claims](#) recently made by the Drug Czar and other federal officials that the implementation of [statewide medical marijuana laws](#) -- most of which were enacted between the years 1998 and 2004 -- is encouraging increased use of cannabis and other illicit substances by young people.

A separate study published in June by the [Marijuana Policy Project](#) also [reported](#), "[O]f the 13 states with available data, teen use rates have stayed the same or *decreased* since enacting medical marijuana laws."

The state-by-state consumption data was compiled from the federal government's annual [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#), which interviewed approximately 138,000 Americans age 12 and over in 2008-2009 on their use of licit and illicit substances.

Full text of the study, "State Estimates of Substance Use and Mental Disorders from the 2008-2009 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health," is available [online](#) from the US Department of Health and Services. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500, or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).*

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## Colorado College Touted As Nation's Top School For Pot Use

**Colorado Springs, CO, USA:** Students at Colorado College are [most likely](#) to report the widespread use of cannabis, according to The Princeton Review's annual sourcebook, "The Best 376 Colleges in America." The [report](#), which is based on candid survey results from 122,000 students nationwide, ranks hundreds of colleges in various categories such as

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Students at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado were ranked as the [least likely](#) to report that cannabis was prevalent on campus. *Full rankings are available online from The Princeton Review at: <http://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings.aspx>.*

## Student Drug Testing Fails To Reduce Teens' Self-Reported Substance Use

***"Consistent with previous research, students in schools that conduct drug testing do not report less substance use"***

### Philadelphia, PA, USA:

Students subjected to student drug testing programs in school [are no less likely](#) to report consuming illicit drugs, tobacco, or alcohol than their peers, according to [survey data](#) published online in the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.



An international team of researchers from the United States, Israel, and Australia assessed the impact of school drug testing programs on a nationally representative sample of 943 high school students.

Investigators reported that the imposition of such programs had no positive impact on males' self-reported drug use. Student drug screening programs were associated with minor reductions in females' self-reported drug history, but only among women who attended schools with 'positive' environments. By contrast, investigators found that the enactment of drug testing programs in 'negative' school environments were most likely

to be associated with "harmful effects on female youth" Authors reported, "[C]onsistent with previous research, students in schools that conduct drug testing do not report less substance use. ... In total, the results indicate that, to the extent drug testing is effective, it is primarily for female students in schools with positive climates."

They concluded: "The current research expands on previous findings indicating that school drug testing does not in and of itself deter substance use. Indeed, drug testing appears to be particularly ineffective for female students in negative climate schools, which tend to have higher substance use rates and thus are in most need of effective substance prevention programs. Interventions that improve school climate may have much greater efficacy. Thus, our findings indicate that drug testing should not be undertaken as a stand-alone substance prevention effort and that improvements in school climate should be considered before implementing drug testing."

[Previous studies](#) assessing the impact of student drug screening programs, including a [2010 study](#) by US Department of Education, have similarly failed to report that drug testing deterred student drug use.

More than one-fifth of US high schools impose some form of student drug testing, according to data compiled by the US Centers for Disease Control. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Student Drug Testing in the Context of Positive and Negative School Climates: Results from a National Survey," appears online in the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.*

## Intravenous Administration Of THC Not Associated With 'Serious Adverse Events' In Human Subjects

**West Haven, CT, USA:** The intravenous administration of cannabis' primary psychoactive compound, delta-9-THC, poses a

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A team of investigators at the West Haven, Connecticut branch of the US Department of Veteran Affairs conducted a review of all intravenous THC studies conducted at the center over a 13-year period. They assessed 11 studies involving 266 subjects (14 schizophrenia patients and 252 healthy subjects, of whom 76 were frequent cannabis users), 351 active THC infusions, and 226 placebo infusions. Study subjects were monitored for subjective and physical adverse events and followed up to 12 months beyond study participation.

Authors reported: "There was one serious and 70 minor adverse events in 9.7 percent of subjects and 7.4 percent of infusions, with 8.5 percent occurring after the end of the test day. Nausea and dizziness were the most frequent side effects associated with intravenous THC administration. Adverse events were more likely to be associated with faster infusion rates (two to five minutes) and higher doses. Of [the] 149 subjects on whom long-term follow-up data were gathered, 94 percent reported either no change or a reduction in their desire to use cannabis in the post-study period, 18 percent stated that their cannabis use decreased, and three percent stated that it increased in the post-study period."

Researchers concluded: "With careful subject selection and screening, risk to subjects is relatively low. Safeguards are generally sufficient and effective, reducing both the duration and severity of adverse events."

Commenting on the study, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano said, "This review once again reaffirms the cannabis is relatively safe, if not safer, than comparable conventional medications or intoxicants. The plant's relatively low toxicity and risk to health in no way justifies the continued criminalization and [arrest of hundreds of thousands of cannabis consumers](#) annually."

*For more information, please contact Paul*

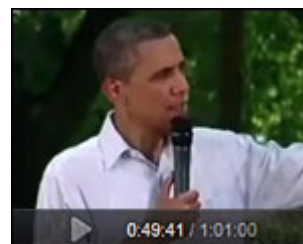
*Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "The safety of studies with intravenous delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol in humans, with case histories," appears online in the journal *Psychopharmacology*.*

## President Balks At Responding To Medical Marijuana Question At Town Hall

**Cannon Falls, MN, USA:** President Barack Obama this week [refused to offer](#) a substantive reply to an audience member's question regarding the administration's failure to take steps to allow for the physician-recommended use of marijuana.

During a Town Hall event on Monday the President was asked: "If you can't legalize marijuana, why can't we just legalize medical marijuana, to help the people that need it?"

Obama [responded](#): "Well, you know, a lot of states are making decisions about medical marijuana. As a controlled substance, the issue then is, you know, is it being prescribed by a doctor, as opposed to, you know -- well -- I'll -- I'll -- I'll -- I'll leave it at that."



In July, the administration issued a [revised memorandum](#) to US Attorneys stating that it opposes any production or distribution of marijuana as a medicine, even when such activities are in compliance with [state law](#).

President Obama had offered similarly vague responses to questions regarding marijuana policy at other Town Hall forums. At a town meeting in 2009, Obama curtly [rejected](#) the proposition that legalizing and regulating cannabis could "boost the economy and reduce drug cartel related violence," stating, "The answer is no, I don't think that [is] a good strategy."

When Obama's former press secretary Robert

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<continued from previous page> Gibbs was later asked to elaborate on the President's position, he [responded](#): "Uh, he, he does not think that, uh, uh, that that is uh, uh, [pause] he opposes it, he doesn't think that that's the, the right plan for America." Prior to Obama's ascension to the Presidency, he [espoused](#) decriminalizing the possession of marijuana.

Commenting on the President's most recent response, NORML Deputy Director Paul Armentano [said](#), "If the President of the United States can't publicly articulate why we continue to arrest [over one-half million Americans each year](#) for possessing marijuana, then why are we as a nation continuing to engage in this destructive and illogical policy?"

The full video of Monday's Town Hall forum is available [online](#) at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOZji2w-i30>. The question from the audience pertaining to medical cannabis and Obama's response is at the 49-minute mark. *For more information, please contact Allen St. Pierre, NORML Executive Director, at (202) 483-5500 or Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org).*

## Cannabis Use Common Among Patients With Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Study Says

**Toronto, Canada:** The use of cannabis is common among patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), according to [survey data](#) to be published in the *European Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.

An international team of researchers from Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto and the Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust in the United Kingdom surveyed one hundred patients with ulcerative colitis (UC) and 191 patients with Crohn's disease (CD) attending a tertiary-care outpatient clinic.

A comparable proportion of patients with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease reported lifetime (51 per cent and 48 per cent) or current (12 per cent and 16 per cent) cannabis use, investigators reported. Of lifetime users,

33 per cent of patients with colitis ulcerosa and 50 per cent of patients with Crohn's disease acknowledged having used the substance to [mitigate symptoms](#) related to inflammatory bowel disease, including abdominal pain, diarrhea and reduced appetite. Authors concluded: "Cannabis use is common amongst patients with IBD for symptom relief, particularly amongst those with a history of abdominal surgery, chronic abdominal pain and/or a low quality of life index. The therapeutic benefits of cannabinoid derivatives in IBD may warrant further exploration."

According to the US government website [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov), investigators at the Meir University Center in Israel [are presently conducting](#) a double blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial to evaluate the effect of cannabis inhalation on patients with IBD. *For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study appears online in the *European Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.*

## Synthetic THC Reduces Motility In Patients With Irritable Bowel Syndrome

**Rochester, MN, USA:** The administration of synthetic THC (aka dronabinol) decreases colonic motility compared to placebo in patients with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), according to [clinical trial data](#) to be published in the journal *Gastroenterology*.

Investigators at the Clinical Enteric Neuroscience Translational and Epidemiological Research (CENTER) in Rochester, Minnesota assessed the impact of oral THC versus placebo in a randomized trial of 75 patients with IBS.

Researchers reported that active THC decreased motility of the large intestine during fasting compared to placebo in all of the study's participants. [Dronabinol](#) administration yielded the most significant results in IBS patients with diarrhea and in subjects with

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<continued from previous page> alternating diarrhea and constipation. "[D]ronabinol may provide potential benefit to those [IBS patients] with accelerated transit," researchers concluded.

Dronabinol is presently a schedule III controlled substance. It is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of severe nausea and cachexia (wasting syndrome).

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) refers to a disorder that involves abdominal pain and cramping, as well as changes in bowel movements. It is a different condition than inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which includes Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Earlier this month, [survey results](#) published online in the *European Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology* reported that patients with IBD commonly use cannabis therapeutically. For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Pharmacogenetic Trial of a Cannabinoid Agonist Shows Reduced Fasting Colonic Motility in Patients with Non-Constipated Irritable Bowel Syndrome," will appear in *Gastroenterology*.

## Medi-Pot Most Often Consumed For Pain, Muscle Spasms, Study Says

**"These data suggest that the patient population has evolved from mostly HIV/AIDS and cancer patients to a significantly more diverse array"**

**Santa Cruz, CA, USA:** Patients in California with a physician's recommendation are predominantly using cannabis to treat symptoms of [pain](#), insomnia, and anxiety, according to population data published in the present issue of the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.

Researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz analyzed data from 1,746 consecutive admissions to nine medical marijuana assessment clinics operating throughout California.

Authors reported, "[R]elief of pain, spasms, headache, and anxiety, as well as to improve



sleep and relaxation were the most common reasons patients cited for using medical marijuana." Patients typically reported that cannabis provided them with more than one therapeutic benefit, and four in five (79.3 percent) reported having first tried other medications prescribed by their physicians, almost half of which were opiates.

Of those sampled, three-fourths of the patients were male and three-fifths were Caucasian. Compared to the US Census of California, the patients in this sample were on average "somewhat younger, report[ed] slightly more years of formal education, and [were] more often employed." Two-fifths of patients in the sample "had not been using marijuana recreationally prior to trying it for medicinal purposes."

Investigators also reported that patients' use of tobacco was "somewhat higher than in the general population, but [that their] prevalence of alcohol use was significantly lower" than that of the general population. Patients use of other illicit substances, including cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin was also lower than that of the general population.

Over 80 percent of the patients in the sample reported consuming cannabis via inhalation (86.1 percent). Twenty-five percent of patients sampled consumed cannabis orally. Twenty-two percent [vaporized](#) cannabis and approximately three percent said that they used the substance topically.

Most patients (40.1 percent) reported consuming up to three grams of cannabis per week. Thirty-six percent of patients reported using four to seven grams of cannabis, and 23.3 percent said they consumed more than seven grams of marijuana per week. A majority of respondents (56.1 percent) said they used cannabis prior to sleep.

Authors concluded: "Compared to earlier studies of medical marijuana patients, these data suggest that the patient population has evolved from mostly HIV/AIDS and cancer patients to a significantly more diverse array. ... This suggests that the patient population is likely to continue evolving as new patients and physicians discover the therapeutic uses of cannabis. "For more information, please contact Paul Armentano, NORML Deputy Director, at: [paul@norml.org](mailto:paul@norml.org). Full text of the study, "Who are medical marijuana patients? Population characteristics from nine California assessment clinics," appears in *The Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.





News From *your* local affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

## Save The Date: Join NORML This December For The 28th Annual Key West Legal Seminar

**Washington, DC, USA:** NORML will be holding its [28th annual Key West Legal Seminar](#) this December at the [Pier House Resort and Caribbean Spa](#).

This year's seminar will take place Thursday, December 1, through Saturday, December 3, 2011. Agenda and registration information for this year's seminar is now available via the NORML website at: [http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=5341](http://norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=5341).

NORML's annual legal seminar is fully accredited in every state that requires continuing legal education (CLE) for attorneys.

## Seattle: America's Largest Ever Three-Day Pot 'Protestival' Takes Place

**Seattle, WA, USA:** Event organizers are expecting to break attendance records this weekend for the 20th annual [Seattle Hempfest](#), taking place this Friday through Sunday at Myrtle Edwards Park along the downtown Seattle waterfront.

Previous years' events, which were limited to two days, have drawn crowds in excesses of 150,000 people.

Over 60 musical acts and over one hundred speakers -- including NORML Executive Director Allen St. Pierre, [NORML Advisory Board](#) Member and travel show host [Rick Steves](#), Ohio Democrat Congressman Dennis Kucinich, and Washington state Representatives Mary Lou Dickerson and Roger Goodman -- will participate in the event. A complete line-up of this year's scheduled events, musicians, and speakers is available online at: <http://www.hempfest.org/drupal/node>. The schedule for NORML-affiliated speakers is available online at: <http://blog.norml.org/2011/08/18/norml-represents-responsible-cannabis-consumers-at-seattle-hempfest-2011/>.

\* **NOTE!** The Willamette Valley NORML Member meeting happens **every 2nd Sat. of the month** and will be at The Voter Power Office. For more info on meeting visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/Members/meeting.html>



The Willamette Valley NORML Public meeting happens (most!) **every 4th Sat. of the month**

(Excepting Holidays - Nov., Dec. - when it takes place 3rd Sat.!)  
and will also be at The Voter Power Office at **687 River Av, Eugene, Oregon** \* For more info on meeting call: **541.517-0957** -or- visit: <http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>

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<http://w-v-norml.org/meeting.html>

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