

# Kentuckians' views on marijuana laws and use

Voters in three states, Colorado, Oregon and Washington, recently decided to legalize recreational marijuana use. An additional 17 states and Washington, D.C., permit marijuana for medicinal use.

In recent years, the Kentucky General Assembly has considered several bills about recreational and medicinal use of marijuana. However, these bills have not passed.

The 2012 *Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)* asked Kentucky adults several questions about who should decide whether marijuana is legal for medical purposes in Kentucky.

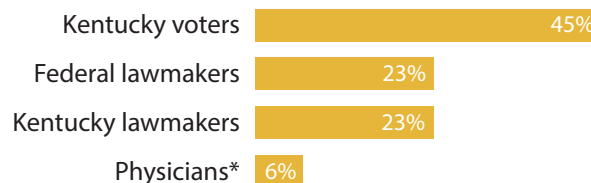
## 4 in 10 think voters should decide whether marijuana is legal for medical purposes

KHIP asked whether federal lawmakers, Kentucky lawmakers or Kentucky voters should decide whether marijuana is legal for medical purposes in Kentucky. More than 4 in 10 Kentucky adults (45%) said Kentucky voters should decide. More than 4 in 10 (46%) said lawmakers should decide (federal 23%; Kentucky 23%). More than 1 in 20 (6%) said doctors should decide, even though this was not one of the response categories offered.

## Most favor marijuana as medicine, oppose other uses

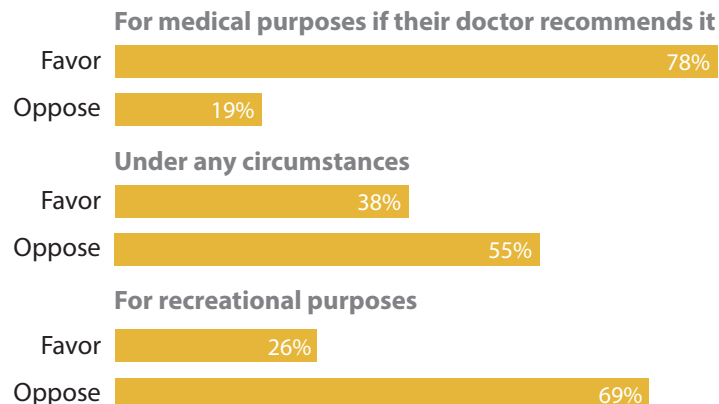
Almost 8 in 10 Kentucky adults (78%) favor allowing residents to buy and use marijuana for medical purposes if it is recommended by their doctor. However, fewer than 4 in 10 Kentucky adults (38%) favor allowing residents to buy and use marijuana under any circumstances. Fewer than 3 in 10 Kentucky adults (26%) favor allowing residents to buy and use marijuana for recreational purposes. Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to favor allowing residents to buy and use marijuana under any circumstances and for recreational use.

**Who do you think should decide whether marijuana is legal for medical purposes in the Commonwealth of Kentucky?**  
(Percentages do not add to 100 because the response "don't know" is not included.)



\* "Physicians" was not one of the choices in the original question, but was offered by some respondents.

**Do you favor or oppose the Commonwealth of Kentucky allowing residents to buy and use marijuana in the following situations?** (Percentages do not add to 100 because the response "don't know" is not included.)



These findings unless otherwise noted are from the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Sept. 20-Oct. 14, 2012, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,680 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,360 landline interviews and 320 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to  $\pm 2.5\%$ . There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias.

For more information about the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, please visit [www.healthy-ky.org](http://www.healthy-ky.org) or [www.healthfoundation.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll](http://www.healthfoundation.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll).