

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
MARCH 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
MARCH 25-29, 2015
N=1,500**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 14a, 16, 25-27, 30, 32-33 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 3-13, 17-19, 23-24, 28-29, 31, 34-39

QUESTIONS 14b-d, 15, 20-22 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.40 Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

	<u>Yes, legal</u>	<u>No, illegal</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 25-29, 2015	53	44	3
Oct 15-20, 2014	52	45	3
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
Gallup			
October, 2012	48	50	1
October, 2011	50	46	3
October, 2010	46	50	4
October, 2009	44	54	2
October 2005	36	60	4
November, 2003	34	64	2
August, 2001	34	62	4
August, 2000	31	64	5
August, 1995	25	73	2
May, 1985	23	73	4
June, 1980	25	70	5
May, 1979	25	70	5
April, 1977	28	66	6
January, 1973	16	78	6
March, 1972	15	81	4
October, 1969	12	84	4
General Social Survey			
2012	43	49	8
2010	44	47	9
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

Q.40 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes, legal</u>	<u>No, illegal</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
1978	30	66	4
1976	28	69	3
1975	20	74	5
1973	19	79	2

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.40 Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

ASK IF LEGAL (Q.40=1):

Q.41 Have you always thought marijuana should be legal, or was there a time when you thought it should be illegal?

ASK IF ILLEGAL (Q.40=2):

Q.43 Have you always thought marijuana should be ILLegal, or was there a time when you thought it should be legal?

Mar 25-29

2015

53	Yes, legal
30	Always thought it should be legal
21	Was a time when thought it should be illegal
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
44	No, illegal
35	Always thought it should be illegal
7	Was a time when thought it should be legal
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTION 42**ASK IF THINK MARIJUANA SHOULD BE LEGAL (Q.40=1) [N=771]:**

Q.44 What's the main reason why you think the use of marijuana should be legal? **[OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL WITH "ANY OTHER REASONS?"]?**

Mar 25-29

2015

41	Marijuana has medicinal benefits
36	Marijuana is not as dangerous as other drugs
27	Legalization leads to better regulation and tax revenue
12	Enforcement of drug laws is expensive and problematic
9	People will have it anyway/Should be able to/Personal liberty
6	Other
1	Refused

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

ASK IF THINK MARIJUANA SHOULD BE ILLEGAL (Q.40=2) [N=681]:

Q.45 What's the main reason why you think the use of marijuana should be illegal? [OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL WITH "ANY OTHER REASONS?"]?

Mar 25-29

2015

43	Marijuana hurts individuals and society/Increases crime and dangerous behavior
30	Marijuana is addictive/dangerous and people abuse it
19	Marijuana is illegal and needs to be policed
11	Marijuana is a gateway to harder drugs
8	Marijuana is particularly bad for young people
7	Recreational use should be illegal, medical use of marijuana is okay
6	Other
4	Refused

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

NO QUESTION 46**ASK ALL:**

Q.47 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]

	Yes, would <u>bother you</u>	No, would <u>not bother you</u>	(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. A store or business selling marijuana opened up in your neighborhood				
Mar 25-29, 2015	41	57	1	1
Feb 14-23, 2014	41	57	1	1
b. People used marijuana in public				
Mar 25-29, 2015	62	33	4	1
Feb 14-23, 2014	63	34	3	1
c. People used marijuana in their own homes				
Mar 25-29, 2015	15	82	1	1
Feb 14-23, 2014	15	83	1	1

ASK ALL:

Q.48 As you may know, some states have decided to allow marijuana use, but it is still prohibited under federal law. Do you think the federal government should or should not enforce federal marijuana laws in these states?

Mar 25-29

2015

37	Should
59	Should not
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Mar 13-17

2013

35
60
5

ASK ALL:

Q.49 Keeping in mind that all of your answers in the survey are confidential, have you, yourself, ever happened to try marijuana?

	Yes	No	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 25-29, 2015	49	51	1
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

Q.49 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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 IF EVER TRIED MARIJUANA (Q.49=1) [N=708]:

Q.50 Have you used marijuana in the past year, or not?

	<u>Yes, used in</u> <u>past year</u>	<u>No, not in</u> <u>past year</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 25-29, 2015	25	74	*
Feb 14-23, 2014	23	77	*
Mar 13-17, 2013	25	75	*

NO QUESTIONS 51-56, 58-59, 63-69, 72-73, 76-79**QUESTIONS 60-62 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTIONS 57, 70-71, 74-75, 80-81 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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) <u>No</u> <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u> <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean</u> <u>Rep</u>	<u>Lean</u> <u>Dem</u>
Mar 25-29, 2015	25	30	39	4	*	2	15	17
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Yearly Totals								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.) No	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>			
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	--	--	--	--	--

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=627]:

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	No opinion <u>either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Mar 25-29, 2015	35	11	52	1	1	--
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	9	54	*	*	--
Jan 7-11, 2015	34	9	54	1	2	--
Dec 3-7, 2014	34	9	55	2	1	--
Nov 6-9, 2014	31	10	57	1	1	--
Oct 15-20, 2014	32	8	56	2	2	--
Sep 2-9, 2014	38	10	50	1	1	--
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12	50	2	1	--
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
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	--

TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/ DK</u>
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 ¹	43	8	47	1	1	--
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

¹ 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."