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**CONTACT:**

Dr. Ashley Koning, Director  
Office: 848-932-8940  
Cell: 908-872-1186  
[akoning@rutgers.edu](mailto:akoning@rutgers.edu)

Release available after embargo at: <http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/NJ-marijuana-October2018>. Find all releases at <http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu>. Follow the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RutgersEagletonPoll> and Twitter [@EagletonPoll](https://twitter.com/EagletonPoll).

**NEW JERSEYANS SUPPORT MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION, EXPUNGEMENT, TAXATION**

**Large majorities believe legalization will help state’s economy, areas in state with high marijuana arrest rates**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – New Jersey legislators haven’t decided whether to legalize cannabis for personal use, but the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll shows more state residents favor than oppose – by a hefty margin of 58 percent to 37 percent – completely legalizing the possession and personal use of recreational marijuana.

Garden State opinions have been changing in recent years: almost one-third of those who currently favor legalization say they used to oppose it. Moreover, most view legalization as an issue of social justice – 79 percent believe individuals penalized for possessing a small amount of marijuana should be allowed to clear their records.

The poll also finds:

- Half of all adults admit to having tried marijuana; one-quarter say they would consider using it if legalized.
- The vast majority of New Jerseyans believe the sale, regulation and taxation of recreational marijuana would help the state’s economy; most (64 percent) say they would not be bothered if a store selling marijuana opened in their town.
- By a 45 percent to 12 percent margin, more people think marijuana is *less* rather than *more* harmful than alcohol.

“As marijuana legalization approaches reality in the state, New Jerseyans are fully on board,” said Ashley Koning, assistant research professor and director of the [Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling \(ECPIP\)](http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu) at [Rutgers University–New Brunswick](http://rutgers.edu). “Support has built up slowly in the past five decades, with this being the first time a majority has ever sided with legalization. New Jerseyans are now almost three times as likely to support it as they were in 1971.” Koning noted that a national [Gallup Poll](http://www.gallup.com) conducted in early October likewise found 66 percent of all

Americans favored the legalization of marijuana.

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,006 adults contacted by live callers on landlines and cell phones from Oct. 12-19. The sample has a margin of error of +/-3.6 percentage points. Interviews were done in English and, when requested, Spanish.

**Some differences, agreement about marijuana's consequences and potential**

In asking about cannabis, the poll found no serious reservations about legalizing it, but there are some areas where the public is divided. About as many feel it would make people more likely to use opioids (22 percent) as less likely (26 percent), with the remainder (44 percent) believing it would not impact opioid usage either way. About as many think legalization will increase (21 percent) as decrease (27 percent) violent crime; 49 percent, on the other hand, say it will not have much of an effect. Similarly, the public is evenly divided over whether legalization will help (34 percent) rather than hurt (26 percent) their own community, as well as areas in the state with high poverty rates (34 percent say help, 30 percent say hurt). Opinion is also split on whether there should be designated public areas for using marijuana (47 percent support, 48 percent oppose).

On the positive side, 64 percent believe the legalization of cannabis will help the state's economy, and 57 percent believe it will help areas in the state with high arrest records for marijuana. Moreover, state residents believe individuals should be able to cultivate marijuana for their own use: far more (60 percent) are opposed to banning private residences from growing marijuana than favor such a ban (33 percent).

**Partisans take sides, but Republicans increasingly supportive**

Not all New Jerseyans fully support marijuana legalization and what may come with it. Just as in years past, partisan divides persist, with Democrats and independents much more supportive – by double digits – on a number of marijuana-related items than Republicans. Nevertheless, despite weaker support than their partisan counterparts, nearly half of Republicans support legalization for personal use, seven in 10 either “strongly” or “somewhat” support erasing prior penalties for possession of a small amount, and six in 10 each favor taxing and regulating the sale of marijuana, as well as allowing the growth of marijuana in private residences.

“Support for marijuana legalization has almost doubled among Republicans in the past few years alone,” said Koning. “There has certainly been a liberalization of attitudes regarding marijuana across partisans of all stripes – though to varying degrees – as legalization efforts move ahead.”

Republicans have not fully embraced everything marijuana-related, however. By a two-to-one margin, the group opposes designating public areas for using marijuana. Republicans also are more split than their counterparts when it comes to marijuana being sold in their town; large majorities of Democrats and independents say marijuana stores and businesses in their town would not bother them. Republicans do see the benefit of marijuana for New Jersey's economy and areas in the state with high marijuana arrest rates, but they do not think legalization will do

much for their own communities. Republicans are slightly more likely to believe legalization will go hand-in-hand with increased violent crime and opioid usage.

**Men, younger residents most supportive**

While there is little difference in marijuana-related attitudes when it comes to race, some contrasts do emerge by gender. Women are slightly less likely than men to say they “strongly support” legalization, public spaces for usage and taxing and regulating the product. They are also more bothered than men about the prospect of marijuana businesses opening up in their town, more likely to believe it can lead to increased violent crime and less hopeful about legalization’s effects on the state’s economy, their own community and areas with high marijuana-related arrest rates. Women are less likely than men to claim they have tried marijuana (43 percent to 56 percent), and less likely to want to try it if legalized (20 percent to 32 percent).

Unsurprisingly, there are also stark generational differences. Millennials (18 to 29 year olds) are twice as likely as those 65 years or older to support legalization, 74 percent to 37 percent. Senior citizens are the most likely of any age group to say they have changed their mind on the subject from opposition to support (36 percent).

Seniors are wholly against public spaces for marijuana use and are split on taxation and regulation of the product. A majority of this group would also be bothered by the opening of marijuana businesses in their town. Younger cohorts feel just the opposite, with only one in 10 millennials saying they would be troubled by this. Seniors are much less likely than their counterparts to feel legalization would help the state’s economy, their community or areas with high marijuana-related arrest rates and are more likely to see a linkage between marijuana and violent crime and opioid usage.

Seniors also are least likely to say they have tried marijuana (36 percent) or would try it if it became legal (13 percent). Over half of middle-age residents have tried it; about a quarter of this group would try it if legal. Nearly half of the state’s youngest residents have tried marijuana, and four in 10 say they would try it if legalized in the future.

**QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**

# # #

**Broadcast interviews:** Rutgers University–New Brunswick has broadcast-quality TV and radio studios available for remote live or taped interviews with Rutgers experts. For more information, contact Neal Buccino [neal.buccino@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:neal.buccino@echo.rutgers.edu).

**ABOUT RUTGERS—NEW BRUNSWICK**

*Rutgers University–New Brunswick is where Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, began more than 250 years ago. Ranked among the world’s top 60 universities, Rutgers’s flagship university is a leading public research institution and a member of the prestigious Association of*

**Marijuana in New Jersey October 2018  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

*American Universities. It is home to internationally acclaimed faculty and has 12 degree-granting schools and a Division I Athletics program. It is the Big Ten Conference's most diverse university. Through its community of teachers, scholars, artists, scientists, and healers, Rutgers is equipped as never before to transform lives.*

**ABOUT THE EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING (ECPIP)**

*Home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, ECPIP was established in 1971 and is the oldest and one of the most respected university-based state survey research centers in the United States. ECPIP's mission is to provide scientifically sound, non-partisan information about public opinion. To read more about ECPIP and view all of our press releases and published research, please visit our website: [eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu](http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu). You can also visit our [extensive data archive](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).*

**Questions and Tables**

*The questions covered in this release are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are registered voters (RV) or likely voters (LV); all percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with caution.*

**Q. There is a bill in the New Jersey state legislature that would legalize recreational marijuana and establish a commercial weed industry in the state if signed into law. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose completely legalizing the possession and personal use of recreational marijuana?**

Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	25%
Don't know (vol)	5%
Unwght N=	1001

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No
Strongly support	39%	36%	17%	38%	28%	33%	34%	43%	39%	32%	18%	51%	14%	71%	18%
Somewhat support	26%	24%	28%	23%	28%	27%	24%	31%	26%	24%	19%	25%	26%	21%	27%
Somewhat oppose	11%	13%	11%	11%	13%	11%	13%	12%	11%	13%	13%	10%	14%	3%	15%
Strongly oppose	18%	23%	38%	23%	27%	25%	24%	9%	20%	27%	45%	11%	39%	2%	34%
Don't know (vol)	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	2%	7%	3%	5%
Unwght N=	347	415	230	526	475	684	295	155	214	308	309	490	490	251	720

**Q. Have you always supported legalizing marijuana, or was there a time when you opposed it?**

Always supported	66%
Time when opposed	30%
Don't know (vol)	5%
Unwght N=	574

**Marijuana in New Jersey October 2018  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No
Always supported	65%	68%	61%	67%	64%	66%	66%	65%	70%	69%	51%	74%	49%	77%	59%
Time when opposed	28%	28%	36%	30%	29%	29%	30%	31%	27%	28%	36%	23%	41%	22%	34%
Don't know (vol)	6%	4%	2%	3%	6%	5%	5%	4%	3%	3%	12%	2%	9%	1%	7%
Unwght N=	231	247	92	315	259	395	170	123	139	178	124	364	197	227	325

**Q. Have you always opposed legalizing marijuana, or was there a time when you supported it?**

Always opposed	81%
Time when supported	16%
Don't know (vol)	3%
Unwght N=	377

**Q. Please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following items also being considered by the current legislation:**

	Allowing individual to clear record of previous penalties for possession of small amount of marijuana	Taxing and regulating the sale of recreational marijuana	Designating public areas throughout state for using marijuana	Banning the growth of marijuana in private residences
Strongly support	58%	49%	27%	20%
Somewhat support	21%	18%	20%	13%
Somewhat oppose	8%	8%	12%	19%
Strongly oppose	10%	21%	36%	41%
Don't know (vol)	4%	5%	6%	7%
Unwght N=	999	1003	1000	1004

**Marijuana in New Jersey October 2018**  
**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**Allowing an individual to clear their record of any previous penalties for the possession of a small amount of marijuana**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No
							wht.								
Strongly support	66%	61%	40%	60%	56%	59%	58%	68%	62%	56%	46%	73%	43%	82%	49%
Somewhat support	17%	21%	27%	20%	22%	22%	19%	20%	18%	24%	22%	16%	26%	11%	25%
Somewhat oppose	7%	6%	12%	8%	8%	8%	7%	4%	9%	8%	9%	4%	11%	4%	9%
Strongly oppose	8%	8%	16%	9%	11%	9%	11%	7%	6%	10%	18%	5%	15%	3%	13%
Don't know (vol)	3%	4%	5%	4%	4%	3%	5%	1%	4%	3%	6%	2%	5%	1%	5%
Unwght N=	348	414	228	526	473	683	294	154	214	307	308	489	489	250	719

**Taxing and regulating the sale of recreational marijuana**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No
							wht.								
Strongly support	49%	51%	44%	55%	42%	51%	46%	50%	53%	53%	33%	57%	39%	62%	43%
Somewhat support	19%	18%	14%	17%	19%	17%	19%	23%	18%	19%	11%	21%	15%	23%	16%
Somewhat oppose	10%	6%	7%	6%	10%	6%	10%	8%	8%	7%	11%	6%	10%	7%	9%
Strongly oppose	16%	20%	32%	20%	22%	21%	21%	16%	18%	17%	37%	13%	29%	6%	27%
Don't know (vol)	7%	4%	3%	2%	7%	5%	4%	3%	3%	5%	8%	2%	7%	3%	5%
Unwght N=	347	418	229	527	476	685	296	155	215	307	310	489	493	251	722

**Designating public areas throughout the state for using marijuana**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No
							wht.								
Strongly support	33%	27%	17%	31%	23%	24%	31%	36%	30%	27%	14%	39%	15%	52%	17%
Somewhat support	21%	20%	17%	17%	22%	20%	20%	32%	18%	17%	14%	22%	17%	24%	18%
Somewhat oppose	11%	13%	9%	13%	11%	13%	8%	9%	12%	13%	10%	11%	12%	9%	13%
Strongly oppose	26%	35%	53%	35%	37%	36%	35%	18%	35%	37%	53%	24%	48%	10%	46%
Don't know (vol)	8%	5%	4%	4%	7%	6%	6%	4%	5%	6%	8%	4%	8%	5%	6%
Unwght N=	348	414	229	527	473	684	294	155	215	306	308	490	489	251	719

**Marijuana in New Jersey October 2018  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**Banning the growth of marijuana in private residences**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non- wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No
Strongly support	18%	23%	17%	18%	22%	21%	21%	16%	21%	23%	21%	21%	19%	24%	19%
Somewhat support	13%	12%	14%	14%	12%	14%	11%	18%	12%	11%	9%	15%	11%	12%	13%
Somewhat oppose	20%	20%	15%	20%	18%	19%	20%	29%	17%	20%	14%	19%	19%	19%	19%
Strongly oppose	41%	38%	45%	40%	41%	40%	41%	33%	42%	38%	49%	40%	42%	39%	41%
Don't know (vol)	7%	6%	9%	7%	7%	7%	7%	3%	7%	9%	7%	5%	8%	6%	7%
Unwght N=	349	418	228	527	477	686	296	155	215	308	310	490	493	251	723

**Q. If the sale and possession of recreational marijuana is made legal in New Jersey, would it bother you or not bother you if a store or business selling marijuana opened up in your town?**

Would bother	33%
Would not bother	64%
Don't know (vol)	3%
Unwght N=	1004

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal		Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non- wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Would bother	26%	31%	46%	27%	38%	34%	30%	9%	29%	36%	56%	20%	45%	5%	43%	8%	73%
Would not bother	72%	66%	51%	71%	58%	63%	67%	88%	70%	60%	41%	78%	51%	92%	54%	90%	25%
Don't know (vol)	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%	4%	3%	2%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Unwght N=	348	418	229	529	475	688	294	155	215	308	310	491	493	251	724	576	376



Q. Please tell me if you think the sale, regulation, and taxation of recreational marijuana would help, hurt, or not make any difference to each of the following:

	New Jersey's economy as a whole	Areas in state with high marijuana arrest rates	Your community	Areas in state with high poverty rates
Help	64%	57%	34%	34%
Hurt	12%	17%	26%	30%
Not make difference	19%	20%	35%	28%
Don't know (vol)	5%	6%	5%	9%
Unwght N=	1004	1002	1002	1000

**New Jersey's economy as a whole**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal		Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Help	71%	65%	51%	67%	61%	66%	63%	75%	71%	64%	43%	78%	50%	83%	57%	84%	34%
Hurt	7%	12%	18%	9%	14%	13%	9%	6%	6%	13%	24%	6%	17%	0%	16%	1%	29%
No difference	15%	18%	24%	20%	18%	16%	22%	17%	18%	17%	24%	13%	24%	14%	21%	12%	30%
Don't know (vol)	7%	4%	6%	4%	7%	6%	5%	3%	4%	6%	8%	2%	8%	3%	6%	3%	7%
Unwght N=	349	418	228	529	475	687	295	155	215	309	309	491	493	251	724	576	376

**Marijuana in New Jersey October 2018  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

**Your community**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal		Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Help	38%	36%	24%	38%	30%	32%	38%	39%	42%	32%	20%	44%	24%	54%	26%	50%	11%
Hurt	20%	23%	39%	22%	29%	25%	25%	16%	20%	27%	41%	15%	37%	5%	34%	4%	62%
No difference	35%	36%	34%	35%	35%	38%	31%	41%	33%	36%	31%	37%	33%	36%	35%	42%	24%
Don't know (vol)	7%	5%	3%	4%	6%	5%	6%	4%	4%	5%	7%	4%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%
Unwght N=	349	415	229	526	476	685	295	155	215	307	309	488	494	249	724	575	375

**Areas in the state with high poverty rates**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal		Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Help	41%	32%	26%	37%	30%	32%	36%	46%	38%	33%	17%	42%	25%	53%	26%	47%	13%
Hurt	22%	29%	43%	27%	33%	30%	28%	21%	25%	30%	47%	22%	37%	11%	37%	13%	59%
No difference	25%	32%	25%	29%	28%	27%	29%	27%	32%	26%	24%	28%	28%	29%	28%	31%	24%
Don't know (vol)	12%	7%	6%	8%	10%	10%	6%	6%	6%	11%	12%	8%	10%	7%	9%	9%	5%
Unwght N=	348	416	227	526	474	683	295	155	215	306	308	487	493	248	724	573	375

**Areas in the state with high marijuana arrest rates**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal		Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Help	64%	57%	44%	62%	52%	57%	57%	70%	65%	58%	32%	71%	42%	78%	48%	76%	27%
Hurt	13%	16%	27%	13%	21%	19%	15%	9%	12%	20%	29%	11%	24%	4%	22%	5%	38%
No difference	15%	22%	23%	21%	19%	17%	23%	19%	20%	16%	25%	15%	25%	15%	22%	15%	27%
Don't know (vol)	8%	5%	6%	4%	9%	7%	5%	2%	3%	5%	15%	3%	9%	3%	7%	4%	8%
Unwght N=	348	416	229	527	475	685	295	155	215	307	309	489	493	250	723	575	375

**Q. Do you think marijuana is more harmful, less harmful, or just as harmful as alcohol?**

More	12%
Less	45%
Just as harmful	39%
Don't know (vol)	4%
Unwght N=	1005

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal		Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No	Support	Oppose
More	8%	11%	18%	12%	13%	13%	9%	1%	9%	13%	24%	7%	17%	2%	16%	2%	28%
Less	47%	49%	33%	51%	39%	41%	51%	67%	51%	39%	25%	59%	30%	74%	33%	64%	16%
Just as harmful	37%	37%	47%	34%	44%	41%	36%	30%	38%	43%	42%	31%	48%	23%	46%	31%	52%
Don't know (vol)	8%	2%	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%	1%	2%	5%	9%	3%	6%	1%	5%	3%	4%
Unwght N=	349	417	230	528	477	688	295	155	215	309	311	490	494	251	724	576	378

**Q. Do you think that legalizing recreational marijuana in New Jersey will make people more likely to use opioids, less likely to use opioids, or won't have much of an impact either way?**

More likely	22%
Less likely	26%
Not much impact	44%
Don't know (vol)	8%
Unwght N=	1003

**Marijuana in New Jersey October 2018**  
**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal		Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No	Support	Oppose
More likely	15%	22%	35%	22%	22%	25%	17%	10%	18%	22%	41%	14%	30%	6%	29%	4%	52%
Less likely	33%	25%	18%	26%	27%	23%	32%	38%	31%	23%	14%	37%	16%	46%	19%	40%	6%
Not much impact	43%	46%	41%	47%	40%	45%	43%	46%	47%	46%	35%	45%	43%	46%	43%	50%	35%
Don't know (vol)	10%	7%	6%	5%	10%	7%	8%	7%	5%	9%	11%	5%	10%	2%	9%	6%	8%
Unwght N=	348	418	228	527	476	685	296	155	214	309	310	490	492	249	724	575	377

**Q. Do you think that legalizing recreational marijuana in New Jersey will increase violent crime, decrease violent crime, or won't have much impact either way?**

Increase	21%
Decrease	27%
Not much impact	49%
Don't know (vol)	4%
Unwght N=	1005

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Would Try if Legal		Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Increase	14%	21%	30%	17%	24%	21%	19%	7%	17%	21%	39%	10%	32%	5%	27%	6%	46%
Decrease	31%	28%	17%	32%	21%	24%	31%	43%	32%	22%	11%	35%	18%	47%	18%	39%	7%
Not much impact	49%	48%	48%	48%	49%	50%	46%	49%	50%	50%	43%	53%	45%	46%	50%	54%	41%
Don't know (vol)	6%	3%	5%	3%	6%	5%	4%	1%	2%	7%	7%	2%	6%	1%	5%	2%	6%
Unwght N=	349	418	229	528	477	687	296	155	215	309	311	491	493	250	725	576	378

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

Yes, I have	49%
No, I haven't	50%
Don't know (vol)	0%
Unwght N=	989

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Support	Oppose
Yes, I have	53%	49%	46%	56%	43%	53%	44%	48%	52%	59%	36%	65%	28%
No, I haven't	47%	51%	53%	43%	57%	46%	56%	52%	48%	40%	64%	35%	71%
Don't know (vol)	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Unwght N=	345	409	227	519	470	677	293	154	211	303	307	563	374

**Q. If marijuana were legalized, would you consider using it?**

Yes	26%
No	71%
Don't know (vol)	3%
Unwght N=	1001

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Tried Marijuana		Legalization	
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yes	No	Support	Oppose
Yes	26%	29%	19%	32%	20%	25%	28%	40%	28%	25%	13%	42%	9%	41%	3%
No	72%	67%	79%	65%	78%	72%	69%	55%	70%	72%	86%	55%	88%	55%	95%
Don't know (vol)	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	5%	3%	3%	1%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Unwght N=	349	415	229	528	473	685	295	155	214	307	310	490	494	572	377

## Methodology

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live callers October 12 to 19, 2018, with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,006 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. The sample contains a subsample of 896 registered voters and 496 likely voters; the latter is comprised of those determined to have a strong likelihood of voting in the November election based on a series of questions assessing their past voting behavior, voting intention, interest in politics, and attention to the campaign. Persons without a telephone could not be included in the random selection process. Respondents within a household are selected by asking randomly for the youngest adult male or female currently available. If the named gender is not available, the youngest adult of the other gender is interviewed. The poll was available in Spanish for respondents who requested it. This telephone poll included 451 adults reached on a landline phone and 555 adults reached on a cell phone, all acquired through random digit dialing. Distribution of household phone use in this sample is:

Cell Only:	30%
Dual Use, Reached on Cell:	25%
Dual Use, Reached on LL:	43%
Landline Only:	2%

The data were weighted to be representative of New Jersey adults. The weighting balanced sample demographics to population parameters. The sample is balanced to match parameters for sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, region and phone use. The sex, age, education, race/ethnicity and region parameters were derived from 2016 American Community Survey PUMS data. The phone use parameter was derived from estimates provided by the National Health Interview Survey Early Release Program.<sup>123</sup> Weighting was done in two stages. The first stage of weighting corrected for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns. This adjustment also accounts for the overlapping landline and cell sample frames and the relative sizes of each frame and each sample. The second stage of weighting balanced sample demographics to match target population parameters. This weighting was accomplished using SPSSINC RAKE, an SPSS extension module that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using the GENLOG procedure. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical

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<sup>1</sup> NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2012-2016; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015; and infoUSA.com consumer database, 2012-2016.

<sup>2</sup> Blumberg SJ, Luke JV. Wireless substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, July–December 2015. National Center for Health Statistics. May 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Blumberg SJ, Luke JV. Wireless substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, July–December 2017. National Center for Health Statistics. June 2018.

**Marijuana in New Jersey October 2018**  
**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. Sampling error should be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population. In this poll, the simple sampling error for 1,006 New Jersey adults is +/-3.1 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The design effect is 1.36, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.6 percentage points. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey adults in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 46.4 and 53.6 percent (50 +/- 3.6) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research, Inc. with sample from Survey Sampling International (SSI). The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). Dr. Cliff Zukin, Professor Emeritus of Political Science and Public Policy and Senior Survey Advisor to ECPIP, assisted with this questionnaire and analysis. William Young assisted with analysis and preparation of this report. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, a non-partisan academic center for the study of politics and the political process. Full questionnaires are available on request, and can also be accessed through our archives at [eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu](http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu). For more information, please contact [poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu](mailto:poll@eagleton.rutgers.edu).

**Weighted Sample Characteristics**  
**1,006 New Jersey Adults**

<b>Male</b>	49%	<b>Democrat</b>	34%	<b>18-29</b>	18%	<b>HS or Less</b>	32%	<b>White</b>	60%
<b>Female</b>	51%	<b>Independent</b>	45%	<b>35-49</b>	31%	<b>Some College</b>	29%	<b>Black</b>	13%
		<b>Republican</b>	21%	<b>50-64</b>	30%	<b>College Grad</b>	24%	<b>Hispanic</b>	17%
				<b>65+</b>	21%	<b>Grad Work</b>	15%	<b>Other</b>	11%