

# Changing Attitudes: Survey Finds Social Acceptance for Open Cannabis Use

A notable shift in American attitudes toward cannabis usage has emerged, with a growing acceptance of open consumption in social settings. Recent findings indicate that a majority of Americans not only support the legalization of marijuana but also deem using it openly as socially acceptable, marking a departure from previous sentiments.

In a recent survey conducted by CBS News, results revealed that a slight majority of Americans perceive using marijuana openly as socially acceptable, contrasting with attitudes from just two years prior. However, notable distinctions exist among demographics, with Republicans, conservatives, seniors over 65, and regular religious service attendees expressing dissent.

Moreover, the study indicates that most Americans wouldn't negatively judge someone for using cannabis, irrespective of their personal usage habits. Additionally, respondents believe that their friends and family members would maintain a similar view if they were to partake in recreational cannabis use themselves.

Interestingly, social acceptability appears to be influenced more by the prevalence of cannabis use within one's social circle rather than personal experience. Individuals who perceive none of their acquaintances to use cannabis are more inclined to judge others and anticipate judgment for their own use.

Despite a majority of Americans abstaining from personal cannabis use, awareness of its consumption within their social circles is prevalent. Over 40% of respondents report acquaintances using cannabis recreationally, indicating a widespread familiarity with its usage.

This evolving social landscape coincides with the rise of a regulated cannabis industry across the nation. While opinions vary on the establishment of licensed dispensaries in neighborhoods, individuals residing near such establishments are more likely to endorse them. Reasons cited include the belief that regulated sales enhance safety, economic benefits, and tax revenue.

Nevertheless, opposition to licensed cannabis sellers persists, driven by concerns about underage access, neighborhood safety, crime rates, health implications, and federal legality issues.

Overall, the survey underscores the ongoing evolution of public attitudes toward cannabis, with a growing acceptance of its recreational use despite lingering apprehensions and demographic divides.

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