

Table 2.107

High school seniors' attitudes toward the legalization of marijuana use

United States, 1984-96

Question: "There has been a great deal of public debate about whether marijuana use should be legal. Which of the following policies would you favor?"

(Percent favoring policy)

Policy	Class of 1984 (N=3,220)	Class of 1985 (N=3,230)	Class of 1986 (N=3,080)	Class of 1987 (N=3,330)	Class of 1988 (N=3,277)	Class of 1989 (N=2,812)	Class of 1990 (N=2,570)	Class of 1991 (N=2,515)	Class of 1992 (N=2,672)	Class of 1993 (N=2,768)	Class of 1994 (N=2,597)	Class of 1995 (N=2,574)	Class of 1996 (N=2,426)
Using marijuana should be entirely legal	18.6%	16.6%	14.9%	15.4%	15.1%	16.6%	15.9%	18.0%	18.7%	22.8%	26.8%	30.4%	31.2%
It should be a minor violation like a parking ticket but not a crime	23.6	25.7	25.9	24.6	21.9	18.9	17.4	19.2	18.0	18.7	19.0	18.0	21.0
It should be a crime	40.6	40.8	42.5	45.3	49.2	50.0	53.2	48.6	47.6	43.4	39.4	37.3	33.8
Don't know	17.2	16.9	16.7	14.8	13.9	14.6	13.6	14.3	15.7	15.1	14.8	14.4	13.9

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.