

*April 28, 2023*

*Release is effective immediately*

**Contact:**

*Nicholas Martini, Lecturer, Department of Political Science, nicholas-martini@uiowa.edu.*

**Student Research Team:**

Joey Lagman, Lauren White, Rina Biancalana, Liam Cleaveland, Margaret Schafer, Will Harter

**Survey shows older Americans are less supportive of progressive social issues**

In June 2022, the United States Supreme Court voted to overturn the landmark court case *Roe v. Wade*, fueling the abortion rights debate. A national poll conducted by the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll (March 24 to April 5) suggests that support for progressive social issues, such as recreational marijuana and abortion, is lower among older Americans. This is especially pronounced for recreational marijuana.

In regard to abortion, respondents were asked to consider if abortion access was a civil right. Sixty-two percent of respondents answered “Yes,” while 25% answered “No,” with the remaining 13% of respondents answering either “Don’t know” or declining to answer.

Support for abortion access decreased in older age cohorts. For respondents ages 18–34, support for abortion access was at 68%. This support dropped to 64% for ages 35–54, and dropped even further to 56% for the 55–69 age group. Support rebounds slightly to 60% for those over 70.

The second social issue in the poll concerned support for cannabis legalization. With this issue, researchers observed an even larger age gap in levels of support.

Overall, 59% of those polled support marijuana legalization for both medical and recreational use; 25% support the legalization only of medical marijuana; and 8% of respondents oppose any level of marijuana legalization.

The 18–34 age cohort expressed the highest level of approval of both medical and recreational marijuana, with 68% in support. Support among the 35–54 age cohort for both medical and recreational marijuana declined to 62%. Support among those ages 55–69 dropped to 55%, and fell to 42% for those 70 and older.

**Respondent Identification:**

The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of 1,123 respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were U.S. adults, ages 18 to 120, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and census region.

**Sample:**

1,123 voting-age residents in the United States, margin of error +/-2.9%.

**Date of Survey:**

The Hawkeye Poll was fielded between March 24 and April 5, 2023.

**Weighting:**

Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and census region.

**About the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll:**

The poll was designed by the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll, composed of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The poll is a teaching and research project and is one of many of the experiential learning undergraduate courses offered in the Department of Political Science. The poll was implemented in collaboration with the Iowa Social Science Research Center.