

Who Favors Legalization of Marijuana?

Research Questions

- How do attitudes towards legalizing marijuana vary by race?
- How does age affect attitudes towards legalizing marijuana?
- Does age moderate the association between race and attitudes towards marijuana legalization?

Significance

- Public opinion about marijuana has also diverged greatly from earlier decades, and today much of society favors the legalization of marijuana (Caulkins et al. 2012).
- Illegal drugs are linked to crime, imprisonment, and wasted lives.
- Harms associated with drugs and drug law enforcement disproportionately affect African Americans (Mears, 1997).

Background

- Percentage of adolescents who perceive great risk in using marijuana once or twice a week has decreased from 55% to 44%.
- 58% of adults support legalization of recreational marijuana (Jones, 2016).
- Colorado and Washington both passed laws to decriminalize the drug.
- A third of students felt marijuana should be entirely legal (Joseph, 2014).

Hypotheses

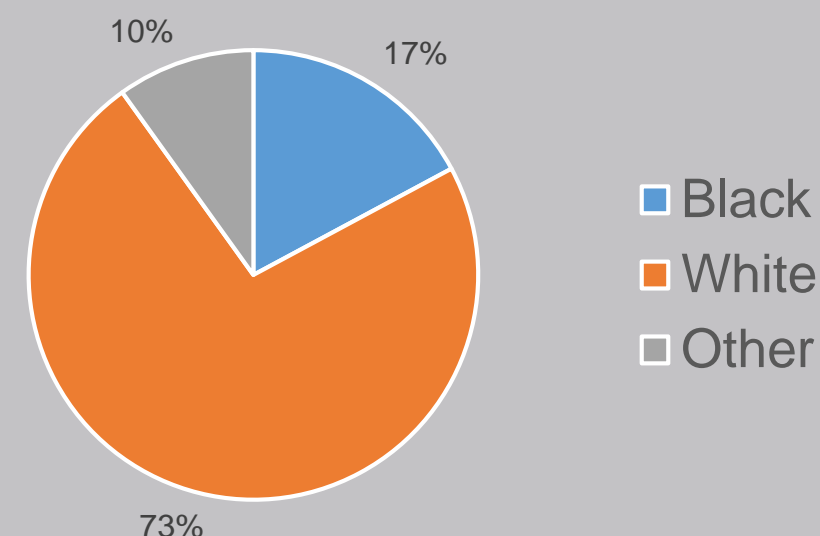
- Blacks will favor legalization of marijuana more so than other races.
- The older a person, the less likely they will favor legalization of marijuana.

Data & Sample

- 2018 General Social Survey (GSS)
- Nationally representative of adults from age 18 and older

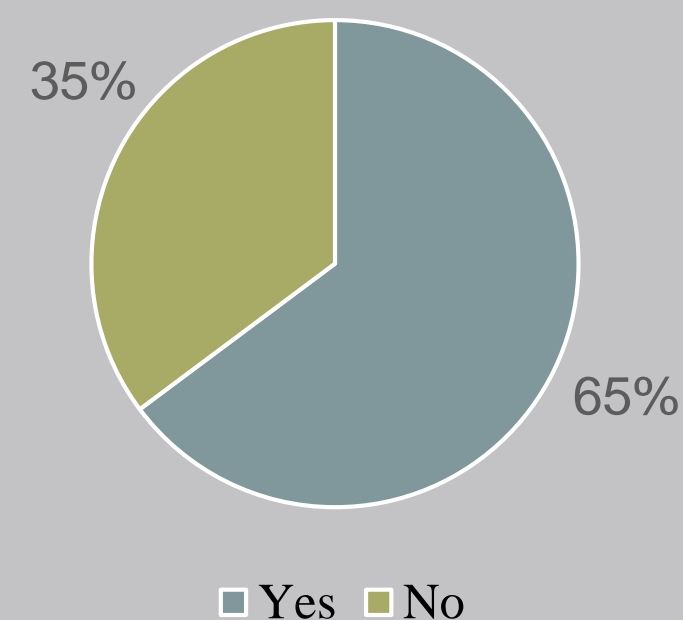
Independent Variable

Respondent's Race



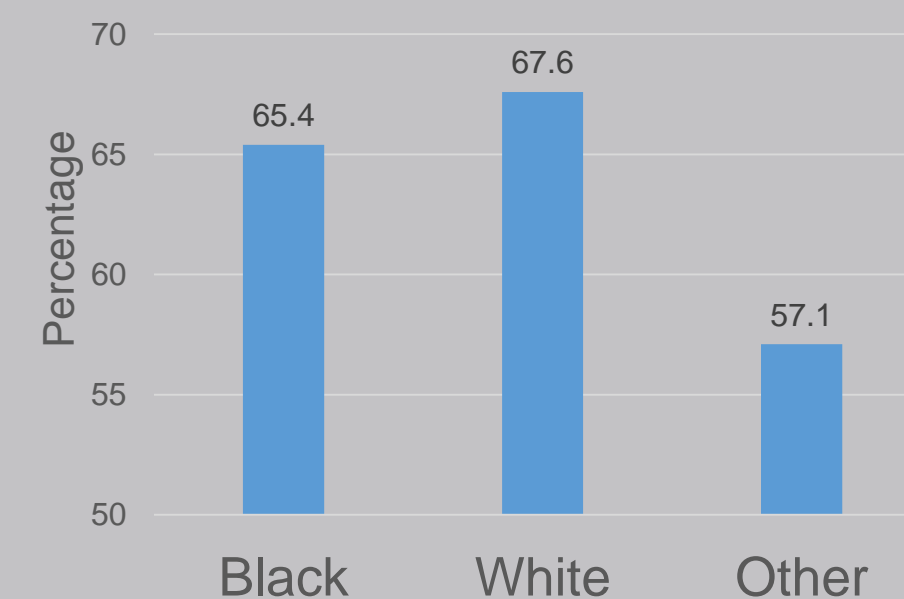
Dependent Variable

Should Marijuana be legalized?

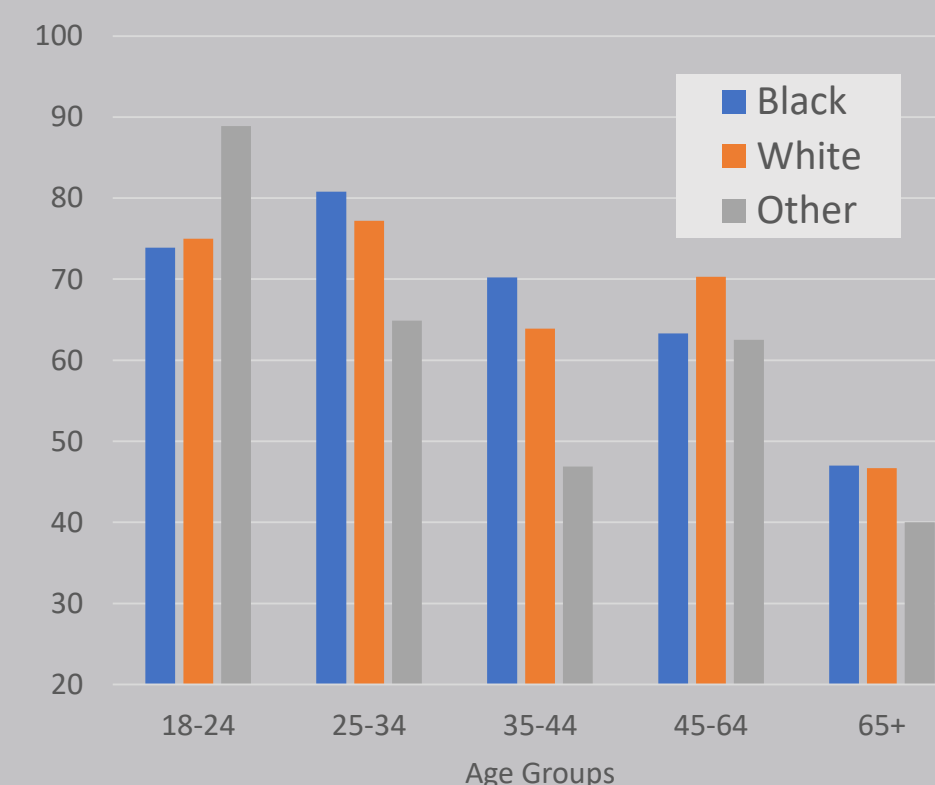


Results

Percentage Favoring Marijuana Legalization by Race



Percentage Favoring Marijuana Legalization by Race and Age



Summary of Findings

- Blacks and Whites have largely similar attitudes regarding legalization of marijuana.
- Persons of other races are least likely to favor legalization.
- Young adults of other races are the most likely to say they favor marijuana legalization.

Future Research

- Future research should consider role of socioeconomic status.
- Future research should also examine gender differences in attitudes regarding legalization of marijuana.

References

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