Pastors’ Views on Marijuana

A SURVEY OF AMERICANS PROTESTANT PASTORS

Lifeway research
Methodology

● The mixed mode survey of 1,007 Protestant pastors was conducted September 2–October 1, 2020 using both phone and online interviews

● Phone: The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size

● Online: Invitations were emailed to the LifeWay Research Pastor Panel followed by three reminders. This probability sample of Protestant churches was created by phone recruiting by LifeWay Research using random samples selected from all Protestant churches. Pastors who agree to be contacted by email for future surveys make up this LifeWay Research Pastor Panel.

● Each survey was completed by the senior or sole pastor or a minister at the church

● Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
78% agree that it is morally wrong to get high smoking marijuana

Among Protestant Pastors

Q: “It is morally wrong to get high smoking marijuana.”
18% agree that marijuana should be legalized for any purpose

Q: “Marijuana should be legalized throughout the country for any purpose.”
Significant Differences

Pastor
Ethnicity
Age
Gender
Education Level
Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church
Religion
Denomination
Average Attendance
## Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor’s ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>ETHNICITY</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>Self-Identified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-34</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>No College Degree</td>
<td>Evangelical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>African American</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>Mainline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Graduate Degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other Ethnicities</td>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church’s region, denomination, and attendance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>DENOMINATION GROUP</th>
<th>ATTENDANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>50-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td>250+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian/Reformed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christian/Church of Christ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations.
“It is morally wrong to get high smoking marijuana.”

- Male pastors are more likely to Agree than females (81% v. 50%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree are the least likely to Agree (72%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (89% v. 47%)
- Baptists (92%) and Pentecostals (97%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (63%), Methodists (66%), Presbyterian/Reformed (57%), and Christian/Church of Christ (74%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to Agree (87%)
“Marijuana should be legalized throughout the country for any purpose.”

- Pastors age 18-44 (24%) are more likely to Agree than pastors age 45-54 (15%) and 65+ (13%)
- Female pastors are more likely to Agree than males (38% v. 16%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (21%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (11%) or a Bachelor’s degree (12%)
- Evangelical pastors are less likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (10% v. 43%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (24%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (16%)
- Methodists (37%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (35%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (7%), Lutherans (15%), Pentecostals (10%), and Christian/Church of Christ (21%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the least likely to Agree (10%)
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