

INFO BRIEF

Status of State Cannabis Legalization: November 2022

This brief provides an update to the status of state cannabis laws in the United States, following the November 2022 election. Although cannabis remains illegal at the federal level, 37 states and the District of Columbia have now legalized medical cannabis use, with 22 of those jurisdictions also legalizing recreational cannabis use. Overall, almost 73% of U.S. residents now live in a state with legalized medical or recreational cannabis use.

FIGURE 1. STATUS OF STATE CANNABIS LEGALIZATION: NOVEMBER 2022

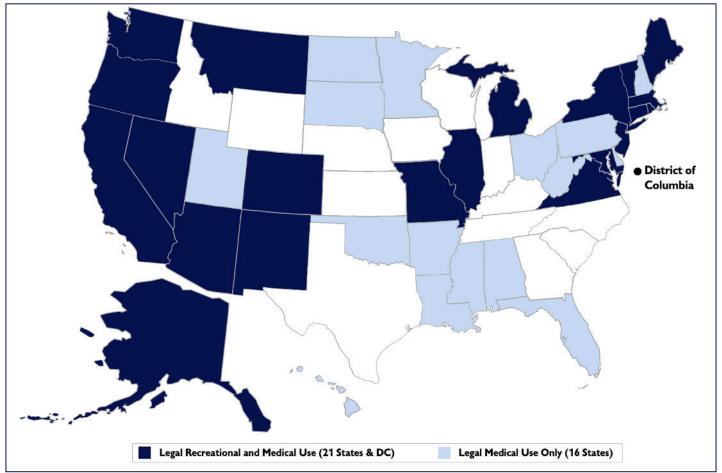


Figure 1 shows the current status of state cannabis laws. Two states legalized recreational use by referendum in the November 2022 election, and another five states legalized recreational use by legislative action in the past two years. Overall, the total share of U.S. residents living in a state with legalized recreational use now stands at almost 48%—up from roughly 34% in November 2020.

Figure 2 depicts the number of states that have legalized in each category, the population affected, and the changes in each area since November 2020. For legalized recreational use, Maryland and Missouri legalized via ballot referendum, whereas Connecticut, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia legalized via legislative action. For medical use, Virginia and Alabama both legalized via legislative action.

Public opinion polling and recent elections show ever-growing support for cannabis legalization. Regardless of the wisdom of legalization, the ballot initiatives, actions by state legislatures and governors, and polls indicate that recreational use legalization is likely to continue. Cannabis stakeholders should be equipped with the information and tools they need to ensure that states can optimize their approaches to protect public health and safety.

Status of State Cannabis Legislation: November 2022

FIGURE 2. STATES AND POPULATION WITH LEGALIZED USE: NOVEMBER 2022^{1, 2, 3}

States with Legalized		States with Legalized		States with Legalized	
Medical Use Only	Population	Recreational and Medical L	se Population	Medical or Recreational Use	Populatio
Alabama	5,039,877	Alaska	732,673	Alabama	5,039,877
Arkansas	3,025,891	Arizona	7,276,316	Alaska	732,673
Delaware	1,003,384	California	39,237,836	Arizona	7,276,316
Florida	21,781,128	Colorado	5,812,069	Arkansas	3,025,891
Hawaii	1,441,553	Connecticut	3,605,597	California	39,237,836
Louisiana	4,624,047	Illinois	12,671,469	Colorado	5,812,069
Minnesota	5,707,390	Maine	1,372,247	Connecticut	3,605,597
Mississippi	2,949,965	Maryland	6,165,129	Delaware	1,003,384
New Hampshire	1,388,992	Massachusetts	6,984,723	Florida	21,781,128
North Dakota	774,948	Michigan	10,050,811	Hawaii	1,441,553
Ohio	11,780,017	Missouri	6,168,187	Illinois	12,671,469
Oklahoma	3,986,639	Montana	1,104,271	Louisiana	4,624,047
Pennsylvania	12,964,056	Nevada	3,143,991	Maine	1,372,247
South Dakota*	895,376	New Jersey	9,267,130	Maryland	6,165,129
Utah	3,337,975	New Mexico	2,115,877	Massachusetts	6,984,723
West Virginia	1,782,959	New York	19,835,913	Michigan	10,050,811
Pop. In Nov. 2022	82,484,197	Oregon	4,246,155	Minnesota	5,707,390
Pop. Added Since Nov. 2020	5,039,877	Rhode Island	1,095,610	Mississippi	2,949,965
Percentage of US Population	24.9%	Vermont	645,570	Missouri	6,168,187
	-	Virginia	8,642,274	Montana	1,104,271
		Washington	7,738,692	Nevada	3,143,991
		District of Columbia	670,050	New Hampshire	1,388,992
		Pop. In Nov. 2022	158,582,590	New Jersey	9,267,130
		Pop. Added Since Nov. 2020	47,628,587	New Mexico	2,115,877
		Percentage of US Pop.	47.8%	New York	19,835,913
			<u></u>	North Dakota	774,948
				Ohio	11,780,017
			-	Oklahoma	3,986,639
300M				Oregon	4,246,155
		73%		Pennsylvania	12,964,056
ion		of US Population		Rhode Island	1,095,610
ulat				South Dakota	895,376
ይ 200M	48%			Utah	3,337,975
200M 200M 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	of US Population			Vermont	645,570
of				Washington	7,738,692
25%				Virginia	8,642,274
0 100M of US Population				West Virginia	1,782,959
				District of Columbia	670,050
				Pop. In Nov. 2022	241,066,787
				Pop. Added Since Nov. 2020	13,682,151
Legalized Medical L Use Only	egalized Recreati. & Medical Use		Population	Percentage of US Pop.	72.6%
	p. In Nov. 2020		020		

NOTES:

- ¹ Population figures were obtained from the US Census, Population Estimates July 1, 2021, American Community Survey.
- ² South Dakota voters approved a ballot referendum to legalize recreational use of cannabis in November 2020. However, a lawsuit overturned this referendum on state constitutional grounds. A similar ballot referendum was voted down in November 2022.
- ³ All states that have legalized recreational use have also prior legalized medical use.

This Info Brief is a publication of Carnevale Associates, LLC. Carnevale Associates brings strategic consulting solutions to governments, organizations, and communities as they confront the policy and program challenges of substance use, behavioral health, and criminal justice. www.carnevaleassociates.com