

# Public views on UK drug policy: Regional Toplines

Is the UK ready for drug policy reform?

UK n=1690

## Attitudes towards medical cannabis:

77 per cent support the recent legalisation of cannabis-based medicines to patients who could benefit

76 per cent would consider using a cannabis-based medicine if they had a condition where there was strong evidence of a benefit

69 per cent are not concerned that cannabis-based medicines will have negative consequences for society, only 17 per cent are concerned

## Attitudes towards home-growing cannabis:

Our survey shows that 22 per cent of public think that anyone should be allowed to grow their own plants under any circumstances and 24 per cent think it should be only for those who have been prescribed cannabis by their doctor. On the other hand, 40 per cent do not think anyone should be allowed to grow cannabis under any circumstances.

## Support for prosecution of those using medical cannabis unlawfully:

52 per cent oppose individuals being prosecuted for unlawfully using cannabis to self-treat medical conditions. Only 17 per cent support prosecution.

## Attitudes towards cannabis for non-medical use:

48 per cent support government legalisation of cannabis. Only 24 per cent outright oppose legalisation.

50 per cent think legal regulation would offer more protection to the young and vulnerable. Only 23 per cent think it would offer less protection

31 per cent of our sample said they had tried cannabis. The vast majority at 71 per cent said that they no longer use it.

## Attitudes towards wider UK drug policy:

76 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments is not effective at deterring individuals who unlawfully use drugs

69 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments are not an effective at deterring individuals who sell drugs

70 per cent said current UK drugs policy has been unsuccessful at reducing the harm done by drug abuse.

79 per cent said UK government was not dealing well with the country's drug problems.

53 per cent think that drug use is best seen as a health issue, which should be dealt with by healthcare professionals and focused on reducing harm, 31 per cent think is best seen as criminal activity that should be dealt with by the police and 16 per cent said drug use is morally wrong.

**Attitudes towards medical cannabis:**

77 per cent support the recent legalisation of cannabis-based medicines to patients who could benefit

82 per cent would consider using a cannabis-based medicine if they had a condition where there was strong evidence of a benefit

72 per cent are not concerned that cannabis-based medicines will have negative consequences for society, only 14 per cent are concerned

**Attitudes towards home-growing cannabis:**

Our survey shows that 29 per cent of public think that anyone should be allowed to grow their own plants under any circumstances and 28 per cent think it should be only for those who have been prescribed cannabis by their doctor. On the other hand, 25 per cent do not think anyone should be allowed to grow cannabis under any circumstances.

**Support for prosecution of those using medical cannabis unlawfully:**

55 per cent oppose individuals being prosecuted for unlawfully using cannabis to self-treat medical conditions. Only 15 per cent support prosecution.

**Attitudes towards cannabis for non-medical use:**

56 per cent support government legalisation of cannabis. Only 18 per cent outright oppose legalisation.

57 percent think legal regulation would offer more protection to the young and vulnerable. Only 16 per cent think it would offer less protection

35 per cent of Londoners said they have tried cannabis but the vast majority at 72 per cent said that they no longer use it.

**Attitudes towards wider UK drug policy:**

69 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments is not effective at deterring individuals who unlawfully use drugs. Only 12% think they are effective.

61 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments are not an effective at deterring individuals who sell drugs. 22 per cent think they are effective.

66 per cent said current UK drugs policy has been unsuccessful at reducing the harm done by drug abuse. Only 12% think it has been successful.

73 per cent said UK government was not dealing well with the country's drug problems. Only 8 per cent perceive the UK government to be dealing well with the country's drug problems.

59 per cent think that drug use is best seen as a health issue, which should be dealt with by healthcare professionals and focused on reducing harm, 23 per cent think is best seen as criminal activity that should be dealt with by the police and 19 per cent said drug use is morally wrong.

**Attitudes towards medical cannabis:**

78 per cent support the recent legalisation of cannabis-based medicines to patients who could benefit

76 per cent would consider using a cannabis-based medicine if they had a condition where there was strong evidence of a benefit

71 per cent are not concerned that cannabis-based medicines will have negative consequences for society, 19 per cent are concerned

**Attitudes towards home-growing cannabis:**

Our survey shows that 19 per cent of public think that anyone should be allowed to grow their own plants under any circumstances and 25 per cent think it should be only for those who have been prescribed cannabis by their doctor. On the other hand, 43 per cent do not think anyone should be allowed to grow cannabis under any circumstances.

**Support for prosecution of those using medical cannabis unlawfully:**

54 per cent oppose individuals being prosecuted for unlawfully using cannabis to self-treat medical conditions. Only 16 per cent support prosecution.

**Attitudes towards cannabis for non-medical use:**

48 per cent support government legalisation of cannabis. Only 27 per cent outright oppose legalisation.

49 per cent think legal regulation would offer more protection to the young and vulnerable. 27 per cent think it would offer less protection

30 per cent said they had tried cannabis (highest use is in London at 35 per cent). The majority at 69 per cent said that they no longer use it.

**Attitudes towards wider UK drug policy:**

77 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments is not effective at deterring individuals who unlawfully use drugs. Only 13 per cent think it is effective.

73 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments are not an effective at deterring individuals who sell drugs. Only 17 per cent think it is effective

73 per cent said current UK drugs policy has been unsuccessful at reducing the harm done by drug abuse. Only 5 per cent think it has been successful in this area.

80 per cent said UK government was not dealing well with the country's drug problems. Only 6 per cent think the UK government has dealt with the country's drug problem well.

50 per cent think that drug use is best seen as a health issue, which should be dealt with by healthcare professionals and focused on reducing harm, 33 per cent think is best seen as criminal activity that should be dealt with by the police and 17 per cent said drug use is morally wrong.

**Attitudes towards medical cannabis:**

72 per cent support the recent legalisation of cannabis-based medicines to patients who could benefit

70 per cent would consider using a cannabis-based medicine if they had a condition where there was strong evidence of a benefit

66 per cent are not concerned that cannabis-based medicines will have negative consequences for society, 18 per cent are concerned

**Attitudes towards home-growing cannabis:**

Our survey shows that 21 per cent of public think that anyone should be allowed to grow their own plants under any circumstances and 22 per cent think it should be only for those who have been prescribed cannabis by their doctor. On the other hand, 40 per cent do not think anyone should be allowed to grow cannabis under any circumstances.

**Support for prosecution of those using medical cannabis unlawfully:**

45 per cent oppose individuals being prosecuted for unlawfully using cannabis to self-treat medical conditions. Only 19 per cent support prosecution.

**Attitudes towards cannabis for non-medical use:**

40 per cent support government legalisation of cannabis. 26 per cent outright oppose legalisation.

44 percent think legal regulation would offer more protection to the young and vulnerable. 24 per cent think it would offer less protection

30 per cent of our sample said they had tried cannabis. The vast majority at 72 per cent said that they no longer use cannabis.

**Attitudes towards wider UK drug policy:**

74 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments is not effective at deterring individuals who unlawfully use drugs. Only 9 per cent say it is effective a deterring drug use.

68 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments are not an effective at deterring individuals who sell drugs. Only 15 per cent think it is effective.

69 per cent said current UK drugs policy has been unsuccessful at reducing the harm done by drug abuse. Only 9 per cent think it has been successful.

80 per cent said UK government was not dealing well with the country's drug problems. Only 3 per cent said UK government was coping well with the country's drug problems.

54 per cent think that drug use is best seen as a health issue, which should be dealt with by healthcare professionals and focused on reducing harm, 33 per cent think is best seen as criminal activity that should be dealt with by the police and 14 per cent said drug use is morally wrong.

**Attitudes towards medical cannabis:**

78 per cent support the recent legalisation of cannabis-based medicines to patients who could benefit

75 per cent would consider using a cannabis-based medicine if they had a condition where there was strong evidence of a benefit

68 per cent are not concerned that cannabis-based medicines will have negative consequences for society, 18 per cent are concerned

**Attitudes towards home-growing cannabis:**

Our survey shows that 27 per cent of public think that anyone should be allowed to grow their own plants under any circumstances and 21 per cent think it should be only for those who have been prescribed cannabis by their doctor. On the other hand, 41 per cent do not think anyone should be allowed to grow cannabis under any circumstances.

**Support for prosecution of those using medical cannabis unlawfully:**

55 per cent oppose individuals being prosecuted for unlawfully using cannabis to self-treat medical conditions. Only 18 per cent support prosecution.

**Attitudes towards cannabis for non-medical use:**

50 per cent support government legalisation of cannabis. Only 21 per cent outright oppose legalisation.

53 percent think legal regulation would offer more protection to the young and vulnerable. Only 22 per cent think it would offer less protection

32 per cent of our sample said they had tried cannabis. Most (68 per cent) said that they no longer use it.

**Attitudes towards wider UK drug policy:**

77 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments is not effective at deterring individuals who unlawfully use drugs. Only 11 per cent think it is effective.

70 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments are not an effective at deterring individuals who sell drugs. Only 18 per cent said it is effective.

70 per cent said current UK drugs policy has been unsuccessful at reducing the harm done by drug abuse. Only 6 per cent think it has been successful.

80 per cent said UK government was not dealing well with the country's drug problems. Only 4 per cent think the government is coping well with the country's drug problems.

52 per cent think that drug use is best seen as a health issue, which should be dealt with by healthcare professionals and focused on reducing harm, 33 per cent think is best seen as criminal activity that should be dealt with by the police and 16 per cent said drug use is morally wrong.

**Attitudes towards medical cannabis:**

81 per cent support the recent legalisation of cannabis-based medicines to patients who could benefit.

80 per cent would consider using a cannabis-based medicine if they had a condition where there was strong evidence of a benefit

74 per cent are not concerned that cannabis-based medicines will have negative consequences for society, 15 per cent are concerned

**Attitudes towards home-growing cannabis:**

Scotland is divided in its views on self-cultivation of cannabis at home. Our survey shows that 16 per cent of the Scotland think that anyone should be allowed to grow their own plants under any circumstances and 24 per cent think it should be only for those who have been prescribed cannabis by their doctor. On the other hand, 50 per cent do not think anyone should be allowed to grow cannabis under any circumstances.

**Support for prosecution of those using medical cannabis unlawfully:**

53 per cent oppose individuals being prosecuted for unlawfully using cannabis to self-treat medical conditions. Only 15 per cent support prosecution.

**Attitudes towards cannabis for non-medical use:**

50 per cent support government legalisation of cannabis. Only 24 per cent outright oppose legalisation.

50 percent think legal regulation would offer more protection to the young and vulnerable. Only 21 per cent think it would offer less protection

25 per cent of the Scottish people we interviewed said they had tried cannabis (the lowest rate of use in GB, with the country average at 31 per cent). The vast majority at 83 per cent said that they no longer use it.

**Attitudes towards wider UK drug policy:**

76 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments is not effective at deterring individuals who unlawfully use drugs. Only 11 per cent think it is effective.

72 per cent think the threat of criminal punishments are not an effective at deterring individuals who sell drugs. 14 per cent think it is effective.

67 per cent said current UK drugs policy has been unsuccessful at reducing the harm done by drug abuse. Only 7 per cent think it has been successful.

81 per cent said UK government was not dealing well with the country's drug problems. Only 4% think the UK government has dealt well with the country's drug problems.

52 per cent think that drug use is best seen as a health issue, which should be dealt with by healthcare professionals and focused on reducing harm, 27 per cent think is best seen as criminal activity that should be dealt with by the police and 21 per cent said drug use is morally wrong.