

56%

APRIL 22, 2022 | [NUMBER OF THE DAY](#)

NJ residents OK with recreational weed being sold in their towns

As legal marijuana sales begin in New Jersey, a majority of adults (56%) would welcome dispensaries selling recreational cannabis in their towns, according to a [Stockton University Poll](#) released Thursday. Some 36% are opposed, while 8% are unsure.

Half of all respondents (50%) would like New Jersey's hospitality industry — which according to state data employs 9% of all private-sector workers — to offer cannabis-related attractions such as lounges and restaurants where weed can be consumed.

The percentage supporting marijuana tourism grew to 55% in New Jersey's six southernmost counties, but conservative Ocean County was generally opposed. Statewide, 43% opposed the tourist industry marketing cannabis-related attractions.

“The South Jersey tourist industry was especially damaged by pandemic restrictions and by customers avoiding public crowds,” said John Froomjian, director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University. “If tourists want to enjoy legal marijuana when they go out, a segment of this region wants to see that market served.”

New Jersey will dedicate 70% of tax revenue raised from recreational marijuana sales to economically struggling communities most harmed by past marijuana convictions. Asked for their spending priorities in those areas, the top responses were education (37%) and social services (13%).

Responses remained consistent and varied little across gender, racial and other demographic categories, said Alyssa Maurice, research associate for the Hughes Center.