# CARNEVALE ASSOCIATES LLC

### **INFO BRIEF**

## Status of State Cannabis Legalization: November 2023

This brief provides an update to the status of state cannabis laws in the United States, following the November 2023 election. Although cannabis remains illegal at the federal level, 38 states and the District of Columbia have now legalized medical cannabis use, with 25 of those jurisdictions also legalizing non-medical (i.e., recreational) cannabis use. Overall, almost 74% of U.S. residents now live in a state with legalized medical or non-medical cannabis use.

FIGURE 1. STATUS OF STATE CANNABIS LEGALIZATION: NOVEMBER 2023

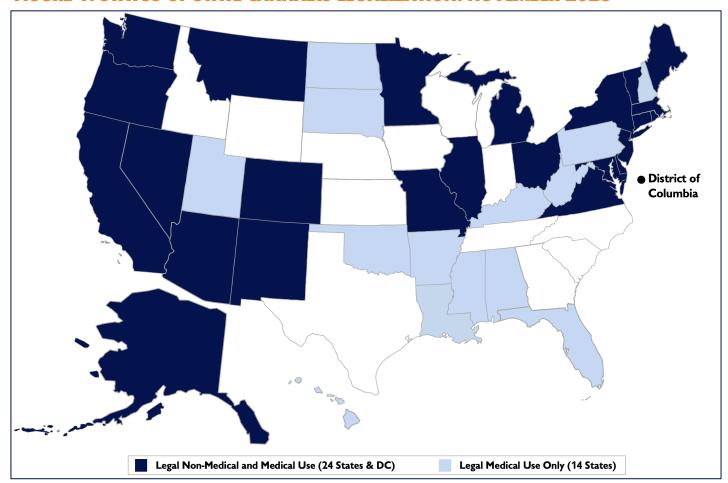


Figure 1 shows the current status of state cannabis laws. Overall, the total share of US residents living in a state with legalized non-medical use now stands at over 53%—up from roughly 48% in November 2022. One state legalized non-medical use by referendum in the November 2023 election, and another two states legalized non-medical use by legislative action in the past year.

Figure 2 depicts the number of states that have legalized in each category, the population affected, and the changes in each area since November 2022. For non-medical use, Ohio legalized via ballot referendum, whereas Delaware and Minnesota legalized via legislative action. For medical use, Kentucky 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 legalization is likely to continue. Cannabis stakeholders should be equipped with the information and tools they need to ensure that states can best optimize their approaches to protect public health and safety.

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## FIGURE 2. STATES AND POPULATION WITH LEGALIZED USE: NOVEMBER 2023<sup>1, 2</sup>

States with Legalized		States with Legalized Non-	-	States with Legalized	
Medical Use Only	Population	Medical and Medical Use	Population	Medical or Non-Medical Use	Population
Alabama	5,074,296	Alaska	733,583	Alabama	5,074,296
Arkansas	3,045,637	Arizona	7,359,197	Alaska	733,583
Florida	22,244,823	California	39,029,342	Arizona	7,359,197
Hawaii	1,440,196	Colorado	5,839,926	Arkansas	3,045,637
Kentucky	4,512,310	Connecticut	3,626,205	California	39,029,342
Louisiana	4,590,241	Delaware	1,018,396	Colorado	5,839,926
Mississippi	2,940,057	Illinois	12,582,032	Connecticut	3,626,205
New Hampshire	1,395,231	Maine	1,385,340	Delaware	1,018,396
North Dakota	779,261	Maryland	6,164,660	Florida	22,244,823
Oklahoma	4,019,800	Massachusetts	6,981,974	Hawaii	1,440,196
Pennsylvania	12,972,008	Michigan	10,034,113	Illinois	12,582,032
South Dakota	909,824	Minnesota	5,717,184	Kentucky	4,512,310
Utah	3,380,800	Missouri	6,177,957	Louisiana	4,590,241
West Virginia	1,775,156	Montana	1,122,867	Maine	1,385,340
Pop. In Nov. 2023	69,079,640	Nevada	3,177,772	Maryland	6,164,660
Pop. Added Since Nov. 2022	4,512,310	New Jersey	9,261,699	Massachusetts	6,981,974
Percentage of US Pop.	20.7%	New Mexico New York	2,113,344 19,677,151	Michigan Minnesota	10,034,113
		Ohio	11,756,058	Mississippi	5,717,184 2,940,057
		Oregon	4,240,137	Missouri	6,177,957
		Rhode Island	1,093,734	Montana	1,122,867
		Vermont	647,064	Nevada	3,177,772
		Virginia	8,683,619	New Hampshire	1,395,231
		Washington	7,785,786	New Jersey	9,261,699
		District of Columbia	671,803	New Mexico	2,113,344
		Pop. In Nov. 2023	176,880,943		19,677,151
		Pop. Added Since Nov. 2022	18,491,638	North Dakota	779,261
		Percentage of US Pop.	53.1%	Ohio	11,756,058
	1	i or contage or our ope	200170	Oklahoma	4,019,800
				Oregon	4,240,137
		_		Pennsylvania	12,972,008
<u> </u>		74%		Rhode Island	1,093,734
ulat		of US Population		South Dakota	909,824
onut of US Population of US Population 200M	53%	_		Utah	3,380,800
S 200M	of US Populatio	n		Vermont	647,064
t of		_		Washington	7,785,786
9 100M <b>21</b> %		_		Virginia	8,683,619
of US Population				West Virginia	1,775,156
				District of Columbia	671,803
				Pop. In Nov. 2023	245,960,583
9	0		Population	Pop. Added Since Nov. 2022	4,512,310
Use Only & Medical Use or Medical Use				Percentage of US Pop.	73.8%
Pop. In Nov. 2022 Pop. Added Since Nov. 2022					

#### **NOTES:**

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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.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Population figures were obtained from the US Census, Population Estimates July 1, 2022, American Community Survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> All states that have legalized recreational use have also prior legalized medical use.