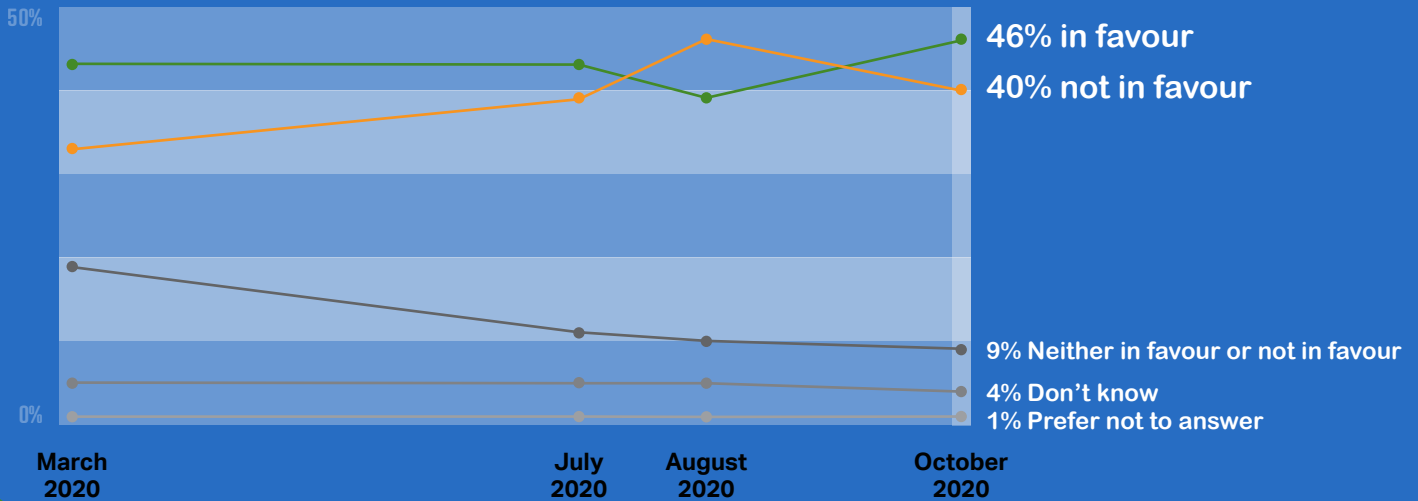




SUPPORT GROWS FOR GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF RECREATIONAL CANNABIS USE IN NZ

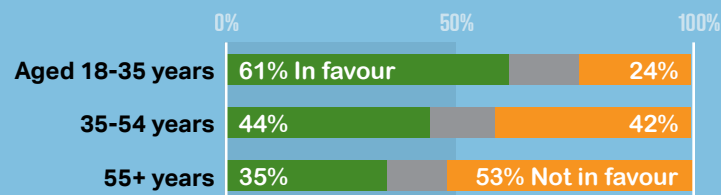
Almost half of New Zealanders (46%) now say they will vote in favour of legalising recreational cannabis, while two-fifths do not plan to vote in favour (40%). This is a statistically significant increase in support for the proposed legalisation of recreational cannabis – up from 39% in our August poll to 46%



The main reasons given for voting in favour were benefits for “all New Zealanders” from taxes generated from legal sales (60%), freeing up the Police to “focus on serious crime” (59%), and supporting the “legalisation of cannabis” (58%).

The main reasons given for voting not in favour were concerns about cannabis use “leading to more harmful drugs” (55%), “people’s health and safety” (54%), any smoking being “bad for health” (54%), and not supporting “the legalisation of cannabis” (54%).

Age is a significant factor, with support for the legalisation of recreational cannabis highest amongst younger New Zealanders aged under 35 years, and lowest amongst those aged 55 or older.



We polled a nationally representative sample of New Zealanders aged 18 years and over; 1,002 respondents between 2 and 4 October, 1,003 respondents between 20 and 23 August, 1,012 respondents between 9 and 13 July, and 1000 respondents between 6 and 9 March 2020. The maximum margin of error is +/- 3.1% (at the 95 percent confidence level). The results have been weighted.