

Naturist Education Foundation

NEF/Roper Poll 2006

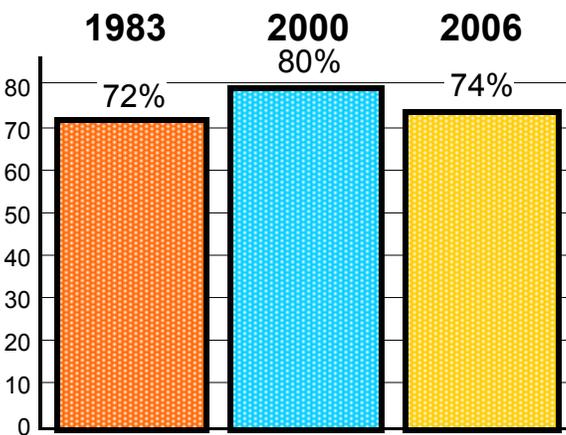
A new poll commissioned by the Naturist Education Foundation (NEF) tests the responses of Americans to questions about nudity. The independent survey, which was conducted for NEF by the prestigious polling firm of Roper Public Affairs, updates previous surveys and adds a new question.

In 1983, The Naturist Society (TNS) commissioned an independent Gallup Poll of the attitudes of Americans concerning skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing. The encouraging results were used for years as evidence of the acceptance of naturist activities in the U.S.

NEF, the nonprofit educational and informational adjunct to The Naturist Society, updated the original poll by commissioning Roper Starch to ask the same three questions in a nationwide survey. Since 2005, Roper has been a unit of GfK NOP, LLC, an international research business.

The 2006 NEF/Roper Poll indicates continued high levels of acceptance for nude sunbathing, with close to three-quarters of the survey sample expressing support for hassle-free nude sunbathing at a beach that is accepted for that purpose.

Personal participation in skinny-dipping has remained consistent at a quarter of the population. Only adults were surveyed, and the present adult population of the U.S. is approximately 220 million. The projected number of American adults who have personally taken part in skinny-dipping or nude sunbathing is an astounding 55 million!



QUESTION number 1

Do you believe that people who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from local officials as long as they do so at a beach that is accepted for that purpose?

2006

YES 74% No 24%
Refused to answer 2%

NEF/ROPER POLL OF 1009 ADULTS
SEPTEMBER, 2006
MARGIN OF ERROR IS ±3 PERCENTAGE POINTS

Sustained Support for Nude Sunbathing

Few American adults object to nude sunbathing that takes place on beaches in designated areas. The conditional acceptance of nude sunbathing measured in 2006 verifies the results from 1983 and 2000, with close to three-quarters of American adults agreeing that it should be allowed without interference from officials.

The slight dropoff from the level of the 2000 NEF/Roper Poll could be real, or it could be attributed to cumulative sampling error. In any case, those interpreting the results must not lose sight of the fact that the sustained overwhelming level of support comes at a time in which American society is far more divided on other issues.



www.naturisteducation.org

Methodology Statement from Roper Public Affairs / GfK NOP

This study was conducted via OmniTel, a weekly national omnibus survey of GfK NOP. Interviews were conducted among 1,009 people ages 18+ from September 8th-10th, 2006. All interviews are conducted by telephone from the four GfK NOP World sites. Together, the four sites have a full-time capacity of 400 lines, and utilize an interviewing procedure known as CATI - Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing. Interviewers have been professionally trained and are continuously monitored and supervised. Each OmniTel study is based on a random digit dialing (RDD) probability sample of all telephone households in the continental United States. The RDD sampling system is totally computer based and provides an equal probability of selection for each and every telephone household. Thus, the sample represents telephone households with both listed and unlisted phones in their proper proportions. All sample numbers selected by this procedure are subject to an original and at least four follow-up attempts to complete an interview.

The margin of error for the entire sample is +/- three percentage points. The margin of error at the subgroup level is higher.

Please note that for questions that do not include a "don't know" answer choice, percentages may not add up to 100%.

Of course, naturism is a family-friendly activity that's often a way of life. Although the survey was limited to adults, naturist activities are not. Naturist parents frequently include their children in wholesome and traditional activities like skinny-dipping that simply don't require the participants to be clothed.

Perhaps the poll's most encouraging response was to the question that asked about designating public land for nude use. A clear majority of those surveyed, 54 percent, agreed that governments should specifically meet the needs of those who enjoy nude sunbathing by setting aside public land for that purpose.

In addition to the questions that had appeared as part of the polls in 1983 and 2000, the Naturist Education Foundation posed a new public opinion question in 2006. The question asked whether people should be able to be nude in their own backyards, even if they might be visible to others.

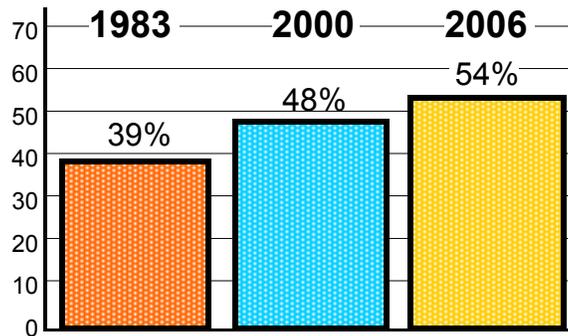
The purpose of this question was simply to establish a baseline, a starting place for measuring progress. The result was surprising. Twenty-four percent of those surveyed believe that people should be able to be nude in their backyards without interference, even if they may be visible to others.

The 2006 NEF/Roper Poll is just one of the NEF projects made possible by the generous voluntary support of the naturist community. For more information on the 2006 NEF/Roper Poll and other NEF projects, visit the Web site of the Naturist Education Foundation:

www.naturisteducation.org

QUESTION number 2

Local and state governments now set aside public land for special types of recreation such as snowmobiling, surfing and hunting. Do you think special and secluded areas should be set aside by the government for people who enjoy nude sunbathing?



2006

YES 54% No 42%
Refused to answer 2%

NEF/ROPER POLL OF 1009 ADULTS
SEPTEMBER, 2006
MARGIN OF ERROR IS ±3 PERCENTAGE POINTS

A Clear Majority Favors Designation of Clothing-Optional Areas

The 2006 NEF/Roper Poll indicates that the idea of setting aside areas for nude sunbathing now enjoys clear majority support among Americans. Public approval for the idea has clearly been building over the years, but governmental agencies have been slow to respond to the emerging demand. Agencies and public land managers must reevaluate their policies toward the designation of public land for people who enjoy nude sunbathing.

Notable successes already exist where agencies have responded positively to this increasing demand. Among its positive efforts to manage for nude recreation, the National Park Service has recognized clothing-optional areas at Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey and at Canaveral National Seashore in Florida. At the state level, Oregon has designated a portion of Rooster Rock State Park to be clothing-optional, and Collins Beach on Sauvie Island has official

clothing-optional signage supplied by the State Department of Fish & Wildlife. Miami-Dade County in Florida has shown vision and has reaped economic rewards by setting aside a portion of Haulover Beach for clothing-optional use.



Maybe You Wondered ...

Nude or Clothing-Optional?

Nudity, even at a “nude” public beach, is never a requirement or an exclusionary designation. It’s a personal option that many people choose when they’re permitted to do so. Places where such a choice exists are often called “clothing-optional.”

Private Resorts / Public Land

Private naturist parks, camps and resorts are wonderful places. They are businesses that cater to selected segments of the nude recreation industry. Nudist facilities range from tiny to large, rustic to posh, and inexpensive to pricey. They typically offer amenities not found at a beach. But for many people who seek a natural experience that doesn’t involve a concrete swimming pool behind fences, walls and gates, nothing comes close to the open freedom of a clothing-optional beach.

Who Chose the Questions?

The original questions, first posed by The Naturist Society in 1983, were developed by TNS founder Lee Baxandall. The directors of the Naturist Education Foundation chose to go with those same questions in 2000 and 2006, adding another question in the most recent poll.

Naturist Education Foundation
Board of Directors - 2006-2007

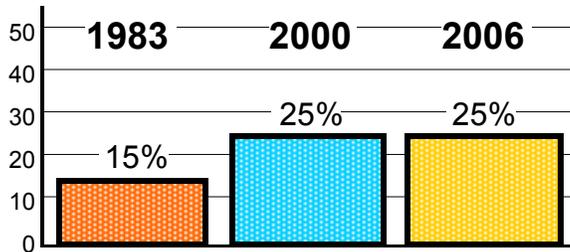
- Bob Morton, Chair - Austin, TX
- George Winlock, Treas - Woburn, MA
- Mark Storey, Sec’y - Seattle, WA
- Morley Schloss - Loxahatchee, FL
- Judy Williams - Vancouver, BC
- Jonathan Shopiro - Scotch Plains, NJ
- Allen Baylis - Huntington Beach, CA
- Bill Schroer - Battle Creek, MI
- Kath Rooney - Kalamazoo, MI

QUESTION number 3

Have you, personally, ever gone “skinny dipping” or nude sunbathing in a mixed group of men and women at a beach, at a pool, or somewhere else?

2006
YES 25% No, 73%
Refused to answer 2%

NEF/ROPER POLL OF 1009 ADULTS
SEPTEMBER, 2006
MARGIN OF ERROR IS ±3 PERCENTAGE POINTS



More than 55 Million Skinny-dippers?

The level of those who say they have gone skinny-dipping or nude sunbathing remains at one of every four American adults. That’s more than 55 million. Those who may choose to call themselves *naturists* or *nudists* are only a small portion of those who have participated.



Surprising Support for a New Question

For 2006, NEF added a new question to determine present sentiment and establish an additional baseline by which progress can be measured in coming years. The results exceeded expectations!

Nearly a quarter of Americans (more than 50 million people) support backyard nudity, without interference, even if those who are nude may be visible to others.

More Information on the Poll

You can find more information about the NEF/Roper Poll 2006 on the Web site of the Naturist Education Foundation.

www.naturisteducation.org

About the Naturist Education Foundation

Founded in 1993, The Naturist Education (NEF) is the informational and educational adjunct to The Naturist Society (TNS), a membership organization that grew and developed from the Free Beach movement. TNS serves tens of thousands of members throughout North America, and it is from that talented pool of naturists that the volunteer leadership of NEF is drawn.

The Naturist Education Foundation is dedicated to:

- **improving the awareness of naturism and body acceptance among both naturists and non-naturists.**
- **achieving an understanding and acceptance of naturists and their activities throughout North America.**

Because NEF is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable foundation, the organization may not engage in lobbying for political purposes. However, it does become involved in judicial challenges, and it produces educational material for lawmakers, like *The Lawmaker's Guide to Skinny-dipping Issues*, a booklet among NEF's publications.

NEF operates a Speakers Bureau, making qualified speakers available for informational addresses, and NEF offers scholarship awards for students who write on naturist topics.

The Naturist Education Foundation complements the activities of the Naturist Action Committee (NAC), the volunteer, nonprofit political adjunct to The Naturist Society.

Choose to make a difference TODAY! Support NEF.

Projects like the NEF/Roper Poll 2006 are expensive. The Naturist Education Foundation relies entirely on voluntary contributions from concerned and involved groups and individuals. Please make a generous donation to support the important work of NEF.

Naturist Education Foundation
P.O. Box 132
Oshkosh, WI 54903

TEL (512) 282-6621
FAX (512) 282-2503
EMAIL nef@naturisteducation.org

NEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable foundation. Donations are tax deductible in most instances. Consult your tax professional.

Other NEF Projects

■ **Chasing the Sun**

An 18-minute video by award winning director Edin Velez. Intended for audiences of civic groups, lawmakers or planners, this is not a recruiting video or a film for insiders. Instead, it presents an informative view of naturists, their activities and their place in the community.

■ **Cinema au Naturel**

Author Mark Storey has put together a definitive 288 page volume covering the treatment given to nudism by film makers from the 1930s through the 1960s. From pseudodocumentary to outright exploitation, Storey uncovers the truths of this fascinating genre.

■ **Toni Egbert Naturist Law Library**

Named for the first chair of the Naturist Education Foundation, this online library includes an ever-expanding collection of legal opinions and other material essential to naturists.

■ **Body-Positive Theater**

Through financial support, the Naturist Education Foundation assists in the production and presentation of live theatrical performances with messages of body acceptance. Recent performances have been staged in Seattle, WA and Topeka, KS.