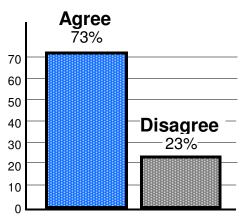
# Naturist Education Foundation

# **NEF New York Poll 2015**



#### **QUESTION** number 1

Do you agree or disagree that people should be able to enjoy nude sunbathing on a beach or other location that is accepted for that purpose?

AGREE 73% Disagree 23% Not sure 5%

NEF-COMMISSIONED ZOGBY ANALYTICS POLL OF 810 NEW YORK ADULTS - NOVEMBER, 2014 MARGIN OF ERROR IS ±3.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS WITH A 95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL.

# Strong Support for Nude Sunbathing

Relatively few New Yorkers object to nude sunbathing that takes place on designated beaches or in other recognized areas. The acceptance of nude sunbathing in New York is even greater than national acceptance figures (65%). Approximately three of every four New York adults agree that clothing-optional recreation should be allowed.



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## A public opinion survey

commissioned by Naturist
Education Foundation (NEF) tests
the responses of New Yorkers to
questions about body
acceptance, recreation and
personal freedoms. The
independent survey was
conducted for NEF by the
prestigious Zogby Analytics
polling firm. Among the results:

- strong support for nude sunbathing.
- majority acceptance for the personal rights of those who are nude in their own homes or on their own property - even if they may occasionally be seen by others.
- significant rejection of the notion that the majority of New Yorkers are personally offended by the non-sexual nudity of others.

# New Yorkers to Government: Set Aside Clothing-Optional Areas

The 2015 NEF/New York Poll indicates that the idea of setting aside areas for nude sunbathing enjoys enormous support. National polls show that public approval for the idea has been building steadily over the years.

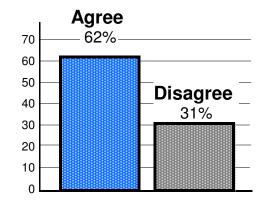
#### **QUESTION** number 2

Do you agree or disagree that areas should be set aside for people who enjoy clothing-optional recreation such as nude sunbathing and swimming?

**AGREE 62%** 

Disagree 31% Not sure 7%

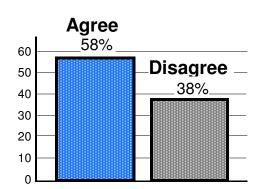
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NOTE 1. DUE TO ROUNDING, TOTALS MAY NOT ALWAYS ADD UP TO 100%.



## **NEF/New York Poll 2015**



#### **QUESTION** number 3

Do you agree or disagree that people have the right to be nude in their homes or on their property, even if they may occasionally be visible to others?

AGREE 58% Disagree 38% Not sure 4%

NEF-COMMISSIONED ZOGBY ANALYTICS POLL OF 810 NEW YORK ADULTS - NOVEMBER, 2014 MARGIN OF ERROR IS ±3.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS WITH A 95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL. Noting that opinion survey sample subsets have larger margins of error than the entire data set, it is nevertheless striking that agreement for this question is uniformly strong across the various geographical, political, and cultural regions that sometimes divide New York. The NEF 2015 New York Poll shows strong support in New York City (65%) and majority agreement (53%) in the suburbs, but it also identifies that 58% of upstate residents agree.

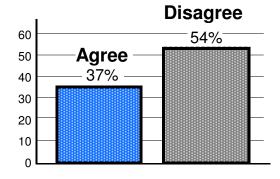
A 56% majority of those without children under 17 agree that people have the right to be nude in their homes or on their property, even if they may be occasionally visible to others. But 61% of New Yorkers *with* children under the age of 17 also agree.

# New Yorkers see nudity as a personal right

In a time of eroding personal freedoms, New Yorkers affirm their support for nudity as a personal right. By a clear majority, New Yorkers believe that people have the right to be nude in their homes or on their property, even if they may occasionally be visible to others.

Note that Question 4 was asked "inside out." Opinion survey respondents who are truly unoffended by the non-sexual nudity of others found themselves having to disagree with this question. Sometimes professional pollsters do this to assure that respondents are not simply falling into a pattern of agreeing with every question.

The significance of testing actual public response to this question is clear. Too many lawmakers and regulators justify restrictions or outright bans on nudity by saying that they're doing "the will of the people." However, when given a chance to speak for themselves, a substantial majority of the people of New York say clearly that they are NOT personally offended by the non-sexual nudity of others.



#### **QUESTION** number 4

Do you agree or disagree that you are personally offended by the non-sexual nudity of others?

DISAGREE 54% Agree 37% Not sure 9%

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## Most New Yorkers are NOT offended by nudity

The notion that most New Yorkers are offended by nudity is shown to be a myth. Fifty-four percent of New York adults say that they are NOT personally offended by the non-sexual nudity of others.

Recalling that survey subsets have larger margins of error associated with them than does the entire data set, the NEF 2015 New York Poll identifies some interesting comparisons between and among subgroups. For example, consider the 57% of union members who are *not* offended by the non-sexual nudity of others, and compare that to

the 53% who are non-union and are similarly unoffended.

Meanwhile, among New Yorkers who are military veterans or on active duty, 56% say they are not offended by nudity. A similar 54% of New York residents who have never served in the military say they are not offended.

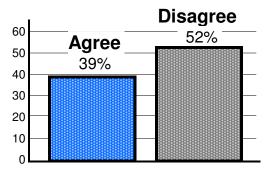
## NEF/New York Doll 2015



# Almost Four out of Ten Favor New York State Park Designation of Clothing-Optional Areas

Agreement of close to 40% is encouraging for those who wish to see portions of state parks set aside for clothing-optional recreation. But compare this to the 62% in Question 2 who agreed more generally that such areas should be set aside for

people who enjoy clothing-optional recreation such as nude sunbathing and swimming. Perhaps this question is too specific, or maybe New Yorkers have other agencies in mind. This questions suggests further exploration in subsequent opinion polling.



#### **QUESTION** number 5

Do you agree or disagree that the New York State Office of Parks. Recreation and Historic Preservation should set aside clothing-optional areas in state parks?

**AGREE 39%** 

Disagree 52%

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Whether or not they choose to label themselves as "naturists," many New Yorkers are among a growing number of Americans who enjoy clothing-optional recreation. Naturism is a family-friendly activity that's often a way of life. Although this 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.

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The Court of Appeals of New York has interpreted state law to allow women to bare their chests where men may do so, except for commercial purposes [New York v. Santorelli et al. 80 N.Y.2d 875, 600 N.E.2d 232]. Regardless, a majority of those surveyed in the 2015 NEF New York Poll say that women should be forced to dress differently from men. Of course, it's not the first time the judiciary has recognized rights of certain groups before the public has understood and accepted those rights.

"Topfreedom," as naturists call it, is certainly a matter of equality. But it's also an issue of

# Growing Support for the Abolishment of Dress Codes that Treat Women Unequally

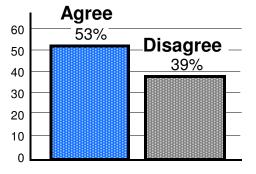
#### **QUESTION** number 6

Women in some jurisdictions are required to cover their chests, even where men are not. Do you agree or disagree that the government should compel women to dress differently in this manner?

DISAGREE 39%

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incremental body acceptance, and body acceptance is a fundamental naturist tenet.



Almost four out of ten New Yorkers believe that setting unequal dress codes is NOT an appropriate role for government.



# ZOGBY ANALYTICS POLLING METHODOLOGY

Zogby Analytics was commissioned by Naturist Education Foundation to conduct an online survey of 810 adults in New York.

Using trusted interactive partner resources, thousands of adults were invited to participate in this interactive survey. Each invitation is password coded and secure so that one respondent can only access the survey one time.

Using information based on census data, voter registration figures, CIA fact books and exit polls, we use complex weighting techniques to best represent the demographics of the population being surveyed. Weighted variables may include age, race, gender, region, party, education, and religion.

Based on a confidence interval of 95%, the margin of error for 810 is +/-3.5 percentage points. This means that all other things being equal, the identical survey repeated will have results within the margin of error 95 times out of 100.

Subsets of the data have a larger margin of error than the whole data set. As a rule we do not rely on the validity of very small subsets of the data especially sets smaller than 50-75 respondents. At that subset we can make estimations based on the data, but in these cases the data is more qualitative than quantitative.

Additional factors can create error, such as question wording and question order.

#### About Zogby Analytics:

Zogby Analytics is respected nationally and internationally for its opinion research capabilities. Since 1984, Zogby has empowered clients with powerful information and knowledge critical for making informed strategic decisions.

## **NEF/New York Poll 2015**

# "Naked Reality" on TV? More than a third of New Yorkers believe it's accurate

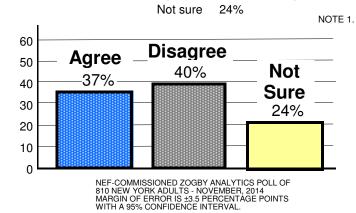
## But greater numbers disagree, and

almost a quarter of those polled are just not sure.

#### QUESTION number 7

Do you agree or disagree that the nudity included in some popular TV "reality" shows is an accurate portrayal of those who actually participate in nude recreation or live clothing-optionally at home?

Agree 37% Disagree 40%



# More than a quarter of New Yorkers would try a clothing-optional beach

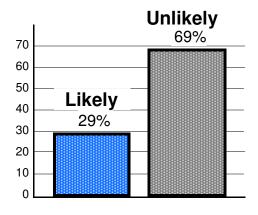
#### **QUESTION** number 8

How likely is it that you would consider going nude at a clothing-optional beach if you knew it was safe and legal?

LIKELY 29% Unlikely 69% Not sure 2%

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The options available to those seeking recreation are numerous and growing. This question asks about clothing-optional beaches. The New York answers reflect, almost exactly, the responses given in the NEF 2015 US Poll, which asked the same question of a nationwide sample.

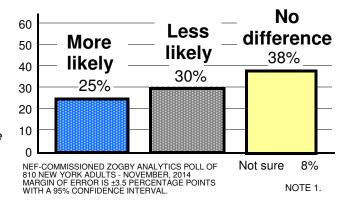


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## **NEF/New York Poll 2015**

# QUESTION number 9

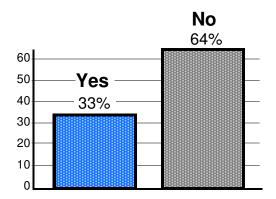
If a candidate for public office supported the designation of clothing-optional areas on public land, would you be more or less likely to support the candidate, or would it make no difference?



# Attn: Savvy New York Political Candidates

If you're a politician who's considering supporting the designation of clothing-optional areas on public land, 38% of New York adults won't hold it against you, and a quarter of them will be more likely to support you.

NOTE 1. DUE TO ROUNDING, TOTALS MAY NOT ALWAYS ADD UP TO 100%.



#### **QUESTION** number 10

Have you, personally, ever gone skinny-dipping or nude sunbathing with others?

YES **33**%

No **64%** Not sure **3%** 

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# 6.5 Million New York Skinny-dippers!

More than 6.5 million New York adults have been skinnydipping or nude sunbathing. If New York skinny-dippers were to be considered separately, they would be a state with the population of Massachusetts.



## More Information on the Poll

You can find more information about the NEF 2015 New York Poll on the Web site of the Naturist Education Foundation.

## naturisteducation.org



# 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 "clothingoptional."

# 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 questions were selected by a subcommittee of NEF board members, inspired by the original 1983 questions of Lee Baxandall, founder of The Naturist Society, and informed and refined by the experience of subsequent NEF polls. Questions were reviewed for form by Zogby Analytics, the independent polling organization that conducted the survey.

#### **Naturist Education Foundation**

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## **NEF/New York Poll 2015**



## 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 2015 New York Poll 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**

### Opinion Polling

The Naturist Education Foundation has commissioned independent nationwide surveys in 2000, 2006 and 2015 to test the opinions of the public toward nudity. The information from those polls, combined with a baseline survey commissioned by The Naturist Society in 1983, paint a clear picture of continuing and expanding respect and support for those who choose clothing-optional recreation on portions of public land.

#### ■ NEF Research Library

The largest library of its kind in North America. Home to thousands of books and periodicals illuminating the history and culture of naturists and nudists. Located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

## ■ 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.

#### Publishing

NEF is pleased to announce its 2nd printing of *Cinema au Naturel*, the definitive book about the fascinating and quirky world of nudist film. Acclaimed researcher and author Mark Storey has crafted an entertaining and informative reference that makes for delightful reading.

#### ■ Scholastic Awards

NEF makes available two levels of scholastic awards:

- college - high school

FOR MORE INFO: naturisteducation.org