

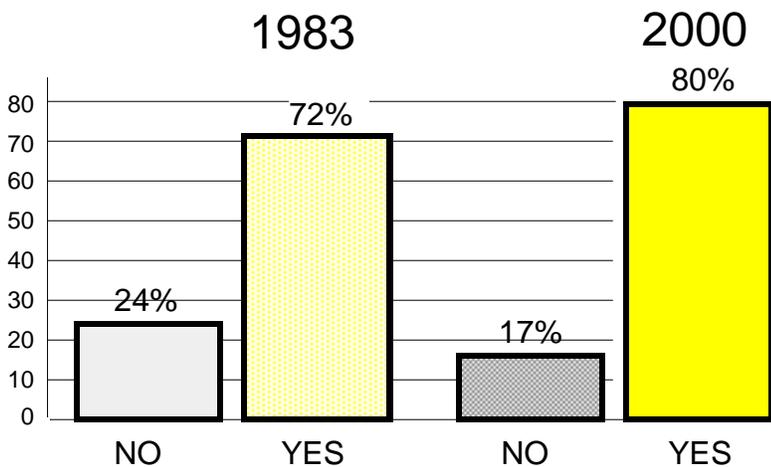
NEF/Roper Poll 2000

American Attitudes on Skinny-dipping and Nude Sunbathing

In 1983, The Naturist Society (TNS) commissioned an independent Gallup poll of the attitudes of Americans concerning skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing. The results were quite encouraging and have been used for years as evidence of the acceptance of naturist activities in the U.S. However, with the approach of a new millennium, the numbers had unquestionably become outdated.

The Naturist Education Foundation (NEF) is the nonprofit educational and informational arm of The Naturist Society. Using the exact same questions asked by Gallup for TNS in 1983, NEF commissioned the well known and highly respected Roper-Starch polling organization to take the pulse of America in 2000.

NEF anticipated good numbers, but the results of the 2000 NEF/Roper Poll carry more positive news for naturists than anyone could have imagined. Here are the three questions asked in the nationwide scientific sampling, along with the gratifying answers of Americans.



QUESTION number 1

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

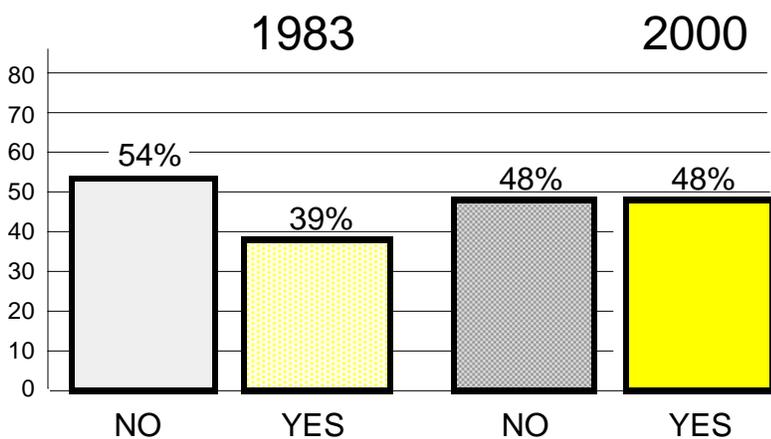
NEF/ROPER POLL OF 1,010 ADULTS
SEPTEMBER, 2000
ERROR RISK: 5%

Nude Sunbathing? No Problem!

Few American adults object to nude sunbathing that takes place at beaches in designated areas. The increase in acceptance over the past 17 years is significant. The **2000 NEF/Roper Poll** indicates that fully four out of five Americans today support nude sunbathing at places accepted for that purpose. Approval for nude beaches remains higher for men than for women, but the support among women has risen from 65% in 1983 to 75% in 2000.

In 2003, some state legislatures and local governments are still seeking to criminalize naturist activities like skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing in remote locations. For years, that officious attitude has ignored the overwhelming sentiment of the American people and has attempted to define an offense where a huge supermajority clearly believes no offense exists.

Through a time period in which many other social issues have seen a hard turn away from tolerance, the NEF/Roper Poll 2000 reflects the American public's increased support for nude beaches. Despite the coordinated and well-funded efforts of those opposed to all nudity, Americans have not only maintained a strong belief that there is no inherent harm in nude sunbathing, their acceptance of nude beaches has actually *increased by more than 8 percent.*



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 for people who enjoy nude sunbathing?

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Designated Nude Beaches - an idea for the 21st Century

As legitimate and recognized of users of public land in the U.S., naturists have finally turned the corner. The idea of setting aside portions of public land for special recreational use is not new, but in 1983, the majority of Americans were not quite ready to approve designated areas for nude sunbathing. In 2000, the idea has achieved parity, with as many people supporting it as are opposed to it. The **2000 NEF/Roper Poll** shows broad support across the country and compared to 1983, an increase of more than 10% in support among women.

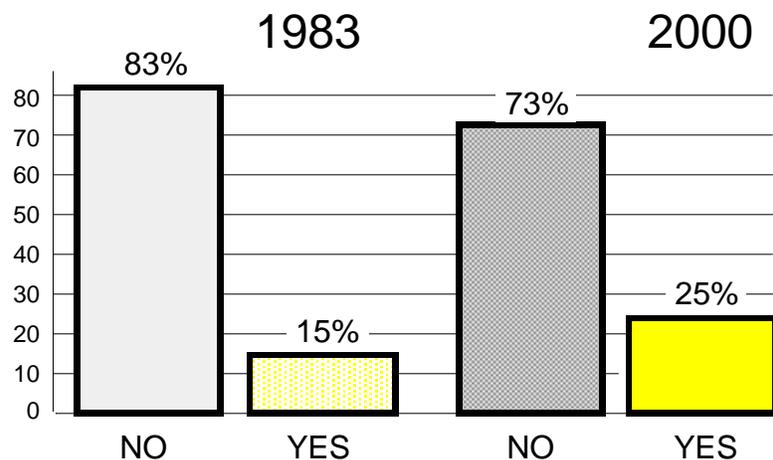
The **2000 NEF/Roper Poll** indicates that the idea of setting aside areas for nude sunbathing is enjoying unprecedented support. Perhaps Americans are beginning to recognize the basic fairness of such an approach, or maybe they realize how easy and inexpensive it is to accommodate a popular and rapidly growing segment of the outdoor recreation spectrum

Government agencies appear ready to respond positively. In the spring of 2000, NEF's sister organization, the Naturist Action Committee, brokered a groundbreaking agreement between naturist groups and a unit of the National Park Service. The agreement grants official recognition of the historic clothing-optional use of a portion of Apollo Beach at Canaveral National Seashore.

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?

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51 Million Skinny-dippers

The **2000 NEF/Roper Poll** shows that one of every four adults in the U.S. has been skinny-dipping or has sunbathed nude in a mixed-gender social setting. Using current population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, the poll suggests more than 51 million Americans have participated at one time or another in nude recreation.

Participation in skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing is relatively evenly distributed across the U.S., with the Southern region reporting the greatest participation by a slight margin. The percentage for those who answered "yes" from metropolitan areas (25%) was almost identical to the percentage answering "yes" from non-metropolitan areas (24%).

Summary

Data from the **2000 NEF/Roper Poll** indicate a large participatory base for nude recreation and an overwhelming level of popular support among Americans for the acceptance of nude sunbathing. Support has increased significantly since the time of the poll of 1983.

Especially significant is the increase in the percentage of Americans who believe that government should set aside special areas for those who enjoy nude sunbathing. Supporters for that idea have achieved parity with those who oppose it, and the clear trend is toward increased support.

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A major nationwide poll is an expensive project. NEF is a volunteer organization that relies on voluntary contributions from involved naturists and others. If you would like to support the Naturist Education Foundation in projects such as this one, please consider making a donation. NEF is a 501(c)3 charitable foundation. Donations are deductible for tax purposes. Consult your tax advisor.