

# Media Release

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## **PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD CLOTHING-OPTIONAL BEACH AREAS: POLLS SHOW WIDE ACCEPTANCE NATIONALLY & IN FLORIDA**

### **1983 – Gallup Poll** (nationwide)

A national Gallup Poll asked “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?” The response: 72% YES, 24% NO, 4% “Don’t know”. (*margin of error +/- 4%*)

### **1983 – Orlando Sentinel Poll** (July 17)

The *Orlando Sentinel* in a July 19<sup>th</sup> article noted responses from readers to its Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> *Sound Off Question*, “whether sections of Florida’s beaches should be designated ‘clothing-optional’”. Of 5,488 callers, 4,498 (82%), answered YES. The *Sentinel* noted most saw this as a question of individual freedom, as in one quoted response, “I’ve never been to a nude beach, but each person has rights. For someone to infringe on those rights just isn’t the American way.”

### **1983 – WXFL TV (NBC) Tampa Poll** (August 1)

WXFL TV (NBC) conducted a telepoll in the Tampa Bay area on August 1<sup>st</sup>, asking viewers if they thought nude sunbathing should be allowed in certain parts of public beaches. With 3,949 people responding, 74% were in favor of allowing nude sunbathing.

### **1997 – Orlando Sentinel Poll**

The *Orlando Sentinel* asked the *Sound Off Question*, “Should nude sunbathing be banned in Florida?” Of 2,270 callers, 72% said “No” (against a ban).

### **2000 & 2006 - Roper Polls** (nationwide)

Roper replicated the 1983 Gallup Poll cited above twice, using the identical question. The YES response was 80% in 2000, and 74% in 2006. (*margin of error of +/- 3%*)

### **2009 – South Florida Sun Sentinel Poll** (January 30)

*What do you think of nude beaches in our area?*

- 9% – They’re obscene and should be banned (203 responses)
- 38% – I don’t oppose them, but wouldn’t go (821 responses)
- 52% – I’m a fan and a frequenter (1128 responses)

*Fractions rounded – Additional Gallup & Roper poll information may be found at [www.naturisteducation.org](http://www.naturisteducation.org)*