



POLL MUST BE SOURCED:
HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll*

Marijuana Use in Pro-Sports:
Keep it Banned, Say More than Six in Ten

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Griffith
Marist College
845.575.5050

Keith Strudler
The Marist College Center for Sports Communication, 845.575.3506

Gregory Domino
HBO Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel, 212.512.5034

This HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll Reports:

Many Americans, including more than six in ten sports fans, think marijuana should continue to be banned in professional sports, regardless of state or federal laws which have legalized the substance. 62% of adults nationally believe the ban should stay in place. 36% of Americans think the ban on marijuana should be lifted, and 2% are unsure. Similar proportions of sports fans share these views.

This HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll has been conducted in conjunction with the Marist College Center for Sports Communication. The current edition of HBO's Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel explores the use of marijuana in the NFL. The program replays multiple times on HBO and will also be available on HBO ON DEMAND and HBO GO.

There are age and gender differences. Older Americans are more likely than younger residents to say that marijuana should be banned. Seven in ten adults 60 and older -- 70% - think marijuana should not be allowed for professional athletes. This compares with 65% of those 45 to 59, 57% of residents 30 to 44, and 51% of Americans under 30. Looking at gender, women -- 67% -- are more likely than men -- 57% -- to think marijuana should be off limits for professional athletes.

*All references to the survey must be sourced as "HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll"

“While marijuana is banned in the NFL, players tell Real Sports it is widely used, and for reasons that many might not expect,” says Joe Perskie, Senior Producer for HBO’s Real Sports.

Does marijuana use by professional athletes to relieve pain and anxiety trump its negative effects on performance? Nearly two-thirds of Americans -- 64% -- say professional athletes should not be allowed to use the drug because of the negative effects it has on their game. 34%, however, believe they should be permitted to use the drug for medicinal purposes, and 3% are unsure. The views of sports fans are in line with the overall population.

“Americans hold professional athletes to very high standards. Smoking marijuana, even if legal, would likely shatter the image of excellence we demand from our sports heroes,” says Dr. Keith Strudler, Director of The Marist College Center for Sports Communication. “In the end, we expect professional athletes to do three things: make physical sacrifice, care deeply about winning, and be role models for kids.”

Again, there are differences by age. Americans under thirty -- 55% -- are more likely to say athletes should be allowed to use marijuana for medicinal purposes. This compares with just 39% of residents 30 to 44 years old, 30% of those 45 to 59, and 23% of Americans 60 and older.

About Keith Strudler, Ph.D.

Keith Strudler, Ph.D., is the director for the Marist College Center for Sports Communication. Dr. Strudler founded Marist’s popular concentration in sports communication in 2002, now one of the nation’s largest in the discipline. He studies and teaches in the areas of sports media, sports and society, and sports reporting and information. Dr. Strudler also writes weekly sports commentary for WAMC, an NPR radio station in Albany, NY.

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How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: HBO Real Sports/Marist National Poll of 1,173 Adults

This survey of 1,173 adults was conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013 by The Marist Poll in partnership with HBO Real Sports and the Marist College Center for Sports Communication. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 Census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results are statistically significant within ± 2.9 percentage points. There are 643 sports fans. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.9 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	Sports Fans
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
National Sports Fans		55%	100%
Gender	Men	49%	58%
	Women	51%	42%
Age	Under 45	41%	38%
	45 or older	59%	62%
Age	18 to 29	17%	15%
	30 to 44	24%	23%
	45 to 59	29%	33%
	60 or older	30%	29%
Race	White	68%	70%
	African American	11%	10%
	Latino	13%	14%
	Other	7%	6%
Region	Northeast	18%	18%
	Midwest	22%	22%
	South	37%	40%
	West	23%	20%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	44%
	\$50,000 or more	51%	56%
Education	Not college graduate	62%	63%
	College graduate	38%	37%
Interview Type	Landline	67%	66%
	Cell phone	33%	34%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=1173 MOE +/- 2.9 percentage points. National Sports Fans: N=643 MOE +/- 3.9 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Marijuana has been legalized for medical use or decriminalized in many states throughout the country. Professional sports include marijuana on a list of banned substances for their athletes. Which comes closer to your opinion:		
		Marijuana should continue to be a banned substance for professional athletes regardless of state or federal laws	Marijuana should not be a banned substance for professional athletes	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		62%	36%	2%
Sports Fans		63%	35%	1%
Region	Northeast	61%	37%	2%
	Midwest	65%	35%	0%
	South	65%	33%	2%
	West	58%	41%	1%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	62%	37%	1%
	\$50,000 or more	64%	35%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	66%	32%	2%
	College graduate	57%	42%	1%
Age	Under 45	54%	45%	1%
	45 or older	67%	30%	2%
Age	18 to 29	51%	48%	1%
	30 to 44	57%	42%	0%
	45 to 59	65%	33%	2%
	60 or older	70%	28%	2%
Race	White	65%	34%	1%
	Non-white	58%	40%	2%
Gender	Men	57%	41%	2%
	Women	67%	31%	1%
Interview Type	Landline	66%	32%	2%
	Cell phone	55%	44%	1%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=1173
 MOE +/- 2.9 percentage points.

Marist Poll National Sports Fans: n=643 MOE +/- 3.9 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Some people think that professional athletes should be allowed to use marijuana to help relieve pain and anxiety. Others say it should not be allowed because it has negative effects on their performance. Do you think professional athletes should or should not be allowed to use marijuana?		
		Should	Should not	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		34%	64%	3%
Sports Fans		32%	66%	2%
Region	Northeast	35%	64%	1%
	Midwest	32%	67%	1%
	South	31%	66%	4%
	West	40%	57%	3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	35%	63%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	35%	64%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	30%	68%	2%
	College graduate	41%	56%	3%
Age	Under 45	46%	53%	1%
	45 or older	26%	71%	3%
Age	18 to 29	55%	45%	0%
	30 to 44	39%	58%	3%
	45 to 59	30%	68%	3%
	60 or older	23%	73%	4%
Race	White	33%	65%	2%
	Non-white	35%	62%	3%
Gender	Men	37%	60%	3%
	Women	31%	67%	2%
Interview Type	Landline	30%	67%	3%
	Cell phone	42%	56%	3%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted December 3rd through December 5th, 2013, n=1173
 MOE +/- 2.9 percentage points.

Marist Poll National Sports Fans: n=643 MOE +/- 3.9 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.