



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

**Americans Oppose Big Game Hunting...
More Than Six in Ten Favor Legal Ban**

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll Reports:

A majority of Americans, 56%, opposes hunting animals for sport, and most Americans, 86%, consider big game hunting to be especially distasteful.

But, should big game hunting be legally prohibited? More than six in ten residents, 62%, say the practice is wrong and *should be* legally banned, including 34% of hunters. Another 24% of Americans and 31% of hunters say they disapprove of the practice but do not think it should be deemed illegal. 11% of adults nationally think the practice is acceptable. Not surprisingly, those who are hunters or have an interest in hunting, 28%, are more likely than Americans, overall, to say there is nothing wrong with big game hunting.

Americans are more opposed to big game hunting when compared with hunting animals for sport. A majority of Americans believes hunting, in general, is wrong. This includes 26% who think it should be illegal and 33% who disapprove but do not think it should be banned. 37% of U.S. residents say there is nothing wrong with hunting animals, more than three times the proportion of Americans who believe big game hunting is acceptable.

Most Americans, 81%, have heard something about the controversy surrounding Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer's big game hunt, including 56% who say they know at least a good

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amount about it. Dr. Palmer drew international attention after he killed an African lion who was collared and part of a study. Dr. Palmer maintains he was unaware that Cecil was a local favorite and relied on his guides to ensure a fair hunt. Do Americans think Palmer acted illegally? About one in three residents, 32%, says he did something illegal while an additional 41% believe his actions were unethical but not illegal. A notable 22% say the dentist did nothing wrong. Hunters, 42%, are nearly twice as likely as residents, overall, to report that Dr. Palmer's actions were acceptable.

Views on big game hunting are not absolute. Nearly four in ten opponents of the sport, 39%, say, if given the information that money paid for big game hunting would be allocated toward conservation efforts and to save animals that would otherwise have died, their view would change either a great deal, 10%, or somewhat, 29%.

How popular is hunting in the United States? More than one in ten Americans, 11%, reports they have hunted within the last couple of years. And, regardless of whether or not they have hunted, one in five Americans, 20%, have interest in the sport.

This HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll has been conducted in conjunction with the Marist College Center for Sports Communication.

"We are far more universally aligned against hunting big game animals than hunting for sport, both generally and in the specific case of Cecil the lion," says Keith Strudler, Director of the Marist College Center for Sports Communication. "We can see that national opinions on this sport are driven more by the type of animal than perhaps general notions of killing animals or even guns."

Poll points:

- 56% of Americans either strongly oppose, 33%, or somewhat oppose, 23%, hunting animals for sport. 41% of adults either strongly favor it, 20%, or somewhat favor the practice, 21%.
- 86% of Americans disapprove of big game hunting. This includes 62% who think big game hunting is wrong and should be prohibited by law and 24% who personally disapprove of the practice but do not think it should be legally banned. 11% say this type of hunting is acceptable.
- Even three in four gun owners, 75%, and about two-thirds of hunters, 65%, are opposed to big game hunting, although, gun owners, 20%, and hunters, 28%, are more likely than Americans, overall, to think big game hunting is acceptable.
- Women, 68%, are more likely than men, 55%, to say big game hunting should be legally prohibited.
- Nearly six in ten adults nationally, 59%, think hunting animals for sport, in general, is unacceptable. Included here are 26% who say hunting should be prohibited by law and 33% who say they personally disapprove but do not think hunting should be illegal. 37% say it is an acceptable practice.

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- Men, 45%, are more likely than women, 30%, to believe there is nothing wrong with hunting.
- When it comes to the controversy surrounding Dr. Walter Palmer, most Americans, 81%, have heard about it. A majority of Americans, 56%, have heard either a great deal, 34%, or a good amount, 22%, about Palmer's hunt in Africa which resulted in the killing of Cecil the lion.
- 73% of Americans believe Palmer did something wrong during his big game hunt. Only 32% say he did something illegal. 41% report Palmer's actions were unethical but not illegal. A notable 22% think Dr. Palmer did nothing wrong.
- Hunters, 42%, and gun owners, 32%, are more likely than Americans, overall, to report Dr. Palmer did nothing wrong.
- If given the knowledge that money paid for big game hunts funded conservation efforts, 61% of Americans who oppose big game hunting say their opinion would not change. 10% say this information would alter their opinion a great deal, and 29% report it would change their view somewhat.
- 20% of Americans say they are interested in hunting as a sport, and 11% say they have been hunting in the past couple of years.
- Gun owners, 29%, are nearly three times as likely as Americans, overall, to say they have hunted recently.
- There is also a gender difference. 18% of men have participated in a hunt over the last couple of years compared with only 5% of women.

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How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll of 1,095 National Adults

This survey of 1,095 adults was conducted October 1st through October 9th, 2015 by The Marist Poll sponsored 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 in English 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. Respondents in the household were randomly selected by first asking for the youngest male. 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 2013 American Community Survey 1-year estimates for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results are statistically significant within ± 3.0 percentage points. There are 277 gun owners and 414 gun owning households. The results for these subsets are statistically significant within ± 5.9 percentage points and ± 4.8 percentage points, respectively. There are 123 hunters and 252 hunters or adults who are interested in hunting. The results for these subsets are statistically significant within ± 8.8 percentage points and ± 6.2 percentage points, respectively. The error margin was not adjusted for sample weights and increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults
		Col %
National Adults		100%
Gun owners		25%
Household with Gun Owner		38%
Hunters		11%
Hunter or Interested in Hunting		23%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Age	Under 45	47%
	45 or older	53%
Age	18 to 29	22%
	30 to 44	26%
	45 to 59	27%
	60 or older	26%
Race	White	62%
	African American	11%
	Latino	14%
	Other	12%
Region	Northeast	18%
	Midwest	22%
	South	37%
	West	23%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	48%
	\$50,000 or more	52%
Education	Not college graduate	59%
	College graduate	41%
Interview Type	Landline	40%
	Cell phone	60%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted October 1st through October 9th, 2015, n=1095 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults				
		Do you generally favor or oppose the hunting of animals for sport? [Do you <favor/oppose> that strongly or do you <favor/oppose> that somewhat?]				
		Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		20%	21%	23%	33%	4%
Gun owners		38%	19%	21%	19%	3%
HH with Gun Owner		35%	22%	21%	19%	3%
Hunters		69%	11%	9%	11%	0%
Hunter or Interested in Hunting		58%	21%	13%	7%	1%
Region	Northeast	17%	20%	23%	35%	4%
	Midwest	24%	18%	19%	32%	6%
	South	20%	22%	22%	33%	3%
	West	17%	21%	27%	32%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	19%	18%	20%	39%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	22%	23%	24%	28%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	21%	18%	23%	33%	5%
	College graduate	18%	24%	23%	32%	2%
Age	Under 45	17%	21%	26%	32%	4%
	45 or older	23%	20%	19%	34%	4%
Age	18 to 29	16%	19%	30%	33%	2%
	30 to 44	18%	23%	23%	31%	5%
	45 to 59	25%	19%	19%	33%	4%
	60 or older	20%	21%	20%	34%	4%
Race	White	25%	22%	22%	27%	4%
	African American	8%	13%	32%	47%	1%
	Latino	15%	23%	19%	42%	2%
Gender	Men	25%	22%	24%	26%	3%
	Women	15%	20%	22%	39%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	19%	20%	23%	33%	5%
	Cell phone	20%	21%	23%	33%	3%

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HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults	
		Have you, yourself gone hunting within the last year or two?	
		Yes, have hunted	No, have not hunted
		Row %	Row %
National Adults		11%	89%
Gun owners		29%	71%
HH with Gun Owner		25%	75%
Region	Northeast	10%	90%
	Midwest	10%	90%
	South	13%	87%
	West	12%	88%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	9%	91%
	\$50,000 or more	15%	85%
Education	Not college graduate	12%	88%
	College graduate	10%	90%
Age	Under 45	15%	85%
	45 or older	8%	92%
Age	18 to 29	16%	84%
	30 to 44	14%	86%
	45 to 59	11%	89%
	60 or older	5%	95%
Race	White	13%	87%
	African American	7%	93%
	Latino	15%	85%
Gender	Men	18%	82%
	Women	5%	95%
Interview Type	Landline	7%	93%
	Cell phone	14%	86%

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HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

National Adults

Regardless of whether or not you hunt, is hunting for sport something you are very interested in doing, interested in doing, not very interested in doing or not interested in doing at all?

		Very interested in doing	Interested in doing	Not very interested in doing	Not interested in doing at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		7%	13%	15%	65%
Gun owners		16%	25%	17%	42%
HH with Gun Owner		15%	21%	17%	47%
Region	Northeast	8%	10%	14%	67%
	Midwest	7%	14%	14%	65%
	South	8%	15%	15%	62%
	West	4%	12%	16%	68%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	6%	13%	16%	65%
	\$50,000 or more	8%	13%	15%	63%
Education	Not college graduate	7%	16%	15%	62%
	College graduate	6%	10%	14%	69%
Age	Under 45	9%	14%	18%	58%
	45 or older	5%	12%	12%	71%
Age	18 to 29	9%	16%	21%	55%
	30 to 44	10%	13%	16%	61%
	45 to 59	6%	15%	13%	67%
	60 or older	4%	10%	12%	74%
Race	White	8%	14%	15%	63%
	African American	6%	10%	9%	74%
	Latino	8%	16%	13%	63%
Gender	Men	12%	18%	20%	50%
	Women	3%	8%	10%	79%
Interview Type	Landline	4%	10%	14%	72%
	Cell phone	9%	15%	15%	60%

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HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults			
		Do you think hunting animals for sport is wrong and should be prohibited by law, is something you personally disapprove of but don't feel it should be illegal, or it is acceptable to hunt animals for sport?			
		Disapprove, but don't		Acceptable	Unsure
		Wrong, should be prohibited by law	think it should be illegal		
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		26%	33%	37%	3%
Gun owners		16%	27%	54%	3%
HH with Gun Owner		17%	28%	52%	3%
Hunters		12%	14%	71%	3%
Hunter or Interested in Hunting		8%	15%	73%	3%
Region	Northeast	28%	33%	36%	3%
	Midwest	30%	30%	38%	3%
	South	24%	33%	40%	3%
	West	25%	39%	34%	3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	33%	31%	33%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	22%	35%	42%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	28%	33%	36%	4%
	College graduate	23%	36%	39%	2%
Age	Under 45	28%	33%	36%	4%
	45 or older	25%	34%	39%	2%
Age	18 to 29	27%	37%	34%	2%
	30 to 44	29%	29%	37%	5%
	45 to 59	27%	32%	39%	2%
	60 or older	23%	36%	39%	2%
Race	White	20%	32%	45%	3%
	African American	43%	35%	21%	1%
	Latino	36%	35%	27%	2%
Gender	Men	20%	33%	45%	2%
	Women	32%	34%	30%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	27%	33%	37%	3%
	Cell phone	26%	34%	38%	3%

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HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults			
		What about big game hunting, do you think hunting big game such as lions and elephants for sport is wrong and should be prohibited by law, is something you personally disapprove of but don't feel it should be illegal, or it is acceptable to hunt big game for sport?			
		Disapprove, but don't			
		Wrong, should be prohibited by law	think it should be illegal	Acceptable	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		62%	24%	11%	4%
Gun owners		48%	27%	20%	5%
HH with Gun Owner		51%	27%	18%	5%
Hunters		34%	31%	28%	7%
Hunter or Interested in Hunting		37%	30%	28%	5%
Region	Northeast	68%	23%	8%	1%
	Midwest	61%	21%	13%	4%
	South	59%	23%	11%	6%
	West	62%	26%	10%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	64%	23%	9%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	61%	24%	13%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	57%	27%	11%	5%
	College graduate	68%	19%	10%	3%
Age	Under 45	62%	24%	10%	4%
	45 or older	62%	23%	11%	4%
Age	18 to 29	68%	23%	6%	3%
	30 to 44	57%	25%	14%	5%
	45 to 59	64%	24%	10%	3%
	60 or older	59%	23%	12%	5%
Race	White	58%	24%	12%	5%
	African American	73%	15%	10%	2%
	Latino	66%	26%	8%	0%
Gender	Men	55%	26%	15%	4%
	Women	68%	21%	7%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	60%	24%	10%	5%
	Cell phone	63%	23%	11%	3%

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HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

National Adults

Have you heard a great deal, a good amount, a little or nothing at all about Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer's hunt in Africa that resulted in the killing of Cecil the lion?

		A great deal	A good amount	A little	Nothing at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		34%	22%	25%	18%
Gun owners		41%	24%	20%	15%
HH with Gun Owner		40%	24%	22%	15%
Hunters		40%	26%	20%	14%
Hunter or Interested in Hunting		37%	24%	23%	16%
Region	Northeast	39%	20%	24%	16%
	Midwest	32%	23%	25%	20%
	South	36%	19%	25%	20%
	West	30%	27%	27%	16%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	30%	21%	23%	26%
	\$50,000 or more	41%	24%	26%	10%
Education	Not college graduate	28%	21%	26%	25%
	College graduate	44%	24%	25%	8%
Age	Under 45	30%	22%	27%	21%
	45 or older	39%	22%	23%	16%
Age	18 to 29	25%	22%	23%	30%
	30 to 44	33%	22%	31%	14%
	45 to 59	39%	21%	22%	18%
	60 or older	38%	23%	25%	14%
Race	White	37%	22%	26%	14%
	African American	31%	15%	23%	31%
	Latino	36%	22%	20%	22%
Gender	Men	35%	20%	27%	18%
	Women	33%	24%	24%	19%
Interview Type	Landline	38%	21%	24%	17%
	Cell phone	32%	22%	26%	19%

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HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

National Adults

Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer says he did not know until after the hunt that Cecil, the lion he killed, was a local favorite and collared as part of a study. He says he relied on local professional guides to ensure a legal hunt. Do you think the dentist did something illegal, something unethical, but not illegal, or did nothing wrong?

Did something unethical, but not

		Did something illegal	illegal	Did nothing wrong	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		32%	41%	22%	5%
Gun owners		25%	39%	32%	4%
HH with Gun Owner		25%	40%	30%	4%
Hunters		24%	29%	42%	5%
Hunter or Interested in Hunting		24%	33%	38%	6%
Region	Northeast	33%	41%	21%	5%
	Midwest	30%	38%	26%	6%
	South	30%	40%	25%	5%
	West	34%	47%	16%	3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	36%	41%	17%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	28%	42%	27%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	31%	42%	22%	5%
	College graduate	34%	41%	22%	3%
Age	Under 45	36%	42%	19%	4%
	45 or older	28%	41%	25%	6%
Age	18 to 29	43%	43%	10%	3%
	30 to 44	30%	40%	26%	4%
	45 to 59	29%	42%	23%	5%
	60 or older	26%	40%	27%	7%
Race	White	28%	43%	24%	5%
	African American	42%	31%	24%	2%
	Latino	38%	42%	16%	3%
Gender	Men	30%	37%	27%	5%
	Women	33%	45%	17%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	28%	43%	23%	6%
	Cell phone	34%	40%	22%	4%

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HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults who Oppose Big Game Hunting		
		It is reported that Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer paid about \$50,000 to go on a big game hunt. If you learned that the money paid for hunting big game, such as lions and elephants, was used for conservation efforts and saved the lives of animals that otherwise would have died, would it change your opinion about big game hunting a great deal, some, or not at all?		
		A great deal	Some	Not at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults who Oppose Big Game Hunting		10%	29%	61%
Gun owners		11%	33%	56%
HH with Gun Owner		10%	32%	58%
Hunters		6%	33%	61%
Hunter or Interested in Hunting		14%	34%	52%
Region	Northeast	12%	29%	59%
	Midwest	8%	32%	60%
	South	12%	28%	60%
	West	7%	28%	64%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	13%	29%	58%
	\$50,000 or more	8%	28%	64%
Education	Not college graduate	12%	31%	57%
	College graduate	7%	26%	67%
Age	Under 45	9%	32%	59%
	45 or older	11%	26%	63%
Age	18 to 29	12%	33%	55%
	30 to 44	6%	30%	63%
	45 to 59	10%	23%	67%
	60 or older	13%	30%	58%
Race	White	8%	31%	60%
	African American	11%	20%	69%
	Latino	15%	25%	60%
Gender	Men	12%	29%	58%
	Women	8%	29%	63%
Interview Type	Landline	11%	31%	58%
	Cell phone	10%	28%	63%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults who Oppose Big Game Hunting: Interviews conducted October 1st through October 9th, 2015, n=921 MOE +/- 3.2 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.