

## **Marist College Institute for Public Opinion**

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

The NFL Draft:

Athletes with History of Domestic Abuse

Undesirable Picks, Say Fans

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#### This HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll Reports:

When it comes to the NFL draft, most American football fans aren't too thrilled if their favorite team ignores a top college prospect's history of questionable behavior. Most fans oppose their favorite NFL team drafting a player with a history of physical violence against women. Three in four football enthusiasts are also against drafting a prospect with a history of using performance-enhancing drugs. But, many fans nationally say it makes no difference to them if their favorite NFL team drafts a player with a history of using marijuana.

Nearly nine in ten football fans, 87%, say they oppose their favorite NFL team drafting a top college prospect with a history of physical violence against women. Three percent favor recruiting such a player, and 9% say it makes no difference to them. Regardless of demographics, more than eight in ten football fans are against signing a player with a history of physical violence against women.

Football fans nationally, 75%, are also wary about drafting a college football player who has been known to use performance-enhancing drugs. Five percent favor recruiting such a player, and 21% say it makes no difference to them.

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

Age matters. While 83% of fans 60 years of age or older do not want their team to sign a player with a history of steroid use, fewer fans under 30, 68%, have this view. About three in four fans age 30 to 44 years old, 74%, or 45 to 59 years of age, 73%, also oppose their favorite NFL team drafting a college athlete with a history of using PED's. Women, 81%, are more likely than men, 69%, to be against selecting a player with a history of such drug use.

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

"Football fans are clear on their view of NFL athletes and domestic violence. Physical violence against women is unacceptable, defying the myth that fans will excuse transgressions that don't impact athletic performance," says Keith Strudler, Director of the Marist College Center for Sports Communication. "Conversely, marijuana is hardly a concern among fans, something the league should consider in their own codes of conduct."

Marijuana use, though, is far less troubling to football fans. Nearly six in ten, 59%, say it makes no difference to them if their favorite NFL team drafts a top college prospect with a history of using marijuana. 28% oppose picking such a player while 14% favor such a selection.

Opinions differ based on age. Younger Americans under 30 years of age, 16%, are the least likely to *oppose* signing a college football player with a history of using marijuana. Those 60 and older, 43%, are the most likely to be against such a draft pick. Still, 45% of the nation's oldest fans say they do not care if their NFL team selects a player with a history of marijuana use. Women, 34%, are more likely than men, 23%, to be concerned with selecting such a player. But, even a majority of women, 53%, say it makes no difference to them if their favorite team signs a player who has used marijuana.

How many Americans are football fans? 67% of Americans say they watch, at least a little, of the sport. 34% report they do not watch any football.

Turning to politics, do American sports fans differ in their political views? When it comes to the rating the job President Donald Trump is doing as president, NASCAR fans, 50%, are more likely than other sports fans to say they approve. With the exception of NASCAR, at least half of fans of other sports, disapprove of how Trump is performing. Basketball fans, 62%, and tennis fans, 61%, are the fans most likely to disapprove of President Trump's performance in office. Among Americans, overall, 37% approve, and 51% disapprove.

NASCAR fans, 49%, are the only sports fans to give President Trump a favorable score which is right-side up. Many basketball fans, 62%, and tennis fans, 60%, have an unfavorable impression of the president. Majorities of football fans, 56%, and baseball fans, 53%, also have a negative view of Trump. Hockey fans divide with 49% saying they have

an unfavorable opinion of the president and 46% reporting they have a positive one. President Trump's favorable score is upside down, 37% to 54%, among Americans overall.

Looking at some of the hot-button issues facing the nation, at least a majority of sports fans think Congress should let the Affordable Care Act stand as it is or expand it so that it does more. Basketball fans, 73%, and tennis fans, 73%, are more likely than other fans to have this view. NASCAR fans, 57%, and hockey fans, 60%, are less likely. Of note, 35% of NASCAR fans and 30% of hockey fans think Obamacare should be completely repealed. 64% of American residents report the ACA should either remain in its current form, 18%, or change so it does more, 46%. 33% believe Obamacare should be adjusted so that it does less, 7%, or be completely repealed, 26%.

About eight in ten sports fans support providing a Pathway to Citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States, if those immigrants meet certain criteria. Among residents nationally, 83% favor a Pathway to Citizenship while 15% oppose it.

Regarding President Trump's executive order to limit entrance to the United States of non-American citizens from six majority-Muslim countries, a majority of NASCAR fans, 58%, favor the president's action. At least half of other sports fans, with the exception of hockey fans who divide, 47% to 49%, oppose the president's order. Tennis fans, 61%, and basketball fans, 60%, are the most likely sports fans to oppose President Trump's executive action.

#### **How the Survey was Conducted**

### Nature of the Sample: HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll of 1,062 National Adults

This survey of 1,062 adults was conducted March 22<sup>nd</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 by The Marist Poll, sponsored and funded in partnership with HBO Real Sports and The Marist College Center for Sports Communication. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the contiguous United States were contacted on landline or mobile numbers and interviewed in English by telephone using live interviewers. Mobile telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from Survey Sampling International. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. Mobile phones are treated as individual devices. After validation of age, personal ownership, and non-business-use of the mobile phone, interviews are typically conducted with the person answering the phone. To increase coverage, this mobile sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of landline phone numbers from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. Within each landline household, a single respondent is selected through a random selection process to increase the representativeness of traditionally undercovered survey populations. The 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 671 football fans. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ±3.8 percentage points. The error margin was not adjusted for sample weights and increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	Football fans
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
National Football Fans		67%	100%
Gender	Men	49%	55%
	Women	51%	45%
Age	Under 45	47%	47%
	45 or older	53%	53%
Age	18 to 29	22%	19%
	30 to 44	25%	28%
	45 to 59	27%	28%
	60 or older	26%	26%
Race	White	62%	63%
	African American	11%	13%
	Latino	14%	13%
	Other	12%	11%
Region	Northeast	18%	18%
	Midwest	21%	21%
	South	37%	39%
	West	24%	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	48%	44%
	\$50,000 or more	52%	56%
Education	Not college graduate	58%	56%
	College graduate	42%	44%
Interview Type	Landline	33%	32%
	Cell phone	67%	68%

HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted March 22nd through March 27th, 2017, n=1062 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. National Football Fans: n=671 MOE +/- 3.8 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

#### Football fans

Please tell me if you would favor or oppose your favorite NFL team drafting their top college prospect even if he has a known history of physical violence against women? If it makes no difference to you, please say so.

		Favor	Oppose	Makes no difference
	_	Row %	Row %	Row %
Football fans		3%	87%	9%
Region	Northeast	1%	89%	9%
	Midwest	3%	87%	9%
	South	5%	85%	11%
	West	3%	91%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	4%	85%	10%
	\$50,000 or more	3%	89%	9%
Education	Not college graduate	4%	86%	10%
	College graduate	2%	89%	8%
Age	Under 45	3%	84%	12%
	45 or older	4%	90%	6%
Age	18 to 29	4%	84%	12%
	30 to 44	3%	84%	13%
	45 to 59	4%	89%	7%
	60 or older	4%	91%	5%
Race	White	3%	90%	7%
	African American	8%	71%	21%
	Latino	4%	88%	8%
Gender	Men	5%	86%	10%
	Women	2%	89%	9%
Interview Type	Landline	3%	92%	5%
	Cell phone	4%	85%	11%

#### Football fans

Please tell me if you would favor or oppose your favorite NFL team drafting their top college prospect even if he has a known history of using marijuana? If it makes no difference to you, please say so.

		Favor	Oppose	Makes no difference
	_	Row %	Row %	Row %
Football fans		14%	28%	59%
Region	Northeast	15%	20%	65%
	Midwest	12%	28%	60%
	South	13%	33%	54%
	West	15%	25%	60%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	13%	30%	57%
	\$50,000 or more	14%	25%	61%
Education	Not college graduate	16%	28%	57%
	College graduate	12%	27%	62%
Age	Under 45	15%	19%	66%
	45 or older	13%	35%	52%
Age	18 to 29	15%	16%	68%
	30 to 44	14%	21%	64%
	45 to 59	13%	28%	59%
	60 or older	12%	43%	45%
Race	White	15%	28%	57%
	African American	12%	25%	63%
	Latino	20%	20%	60%
Gender	Men	14%	23%	63%
	Women	13%	34%	53%
Interview Type	Landline	16%	37%	47%
	Cell phone	13%	23%	64%

#### Football fans

Please tell me if you would favor or oppose your favorite NFL team **drafting their top college prospect even if he has a known history of using performance-enhancing drugs?** If it makes no difference to you, please say so.

		Favor	Oppose	Makes no difference
	<del>-</del>	Row %	Row %	Row %
Football fans		5%	75%	21%
Region	Northeast	6%	79%	15%
	Midwest	2%	78%	20%
	South	5%	74%	21%
	West	5%	70%	26%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	5%	74%	21%
	\$50,000 or more	4%	75%	21%
Education	Not college graduate	4%	74%	21%
	College graduate	5%	75%	20%
Age	Under 45	5%	71%	24%
	45 or older	4%	78%	18%
Age	18 to 29	5%	68%	27%
	30 to 44	5%	74%	21%
	45 to 59	5%	73%	22%
	60 or older	4%	83%	13%
Race	White	6%	76%	19%
	African American	6%	66%	28%
	Latino	1%	74%	25%
Gender	Men	6%	69%	24%
	Women	2%	81%	16%
Interview Type	Landline	5%	83%	12%
	Cell phone	4%	71%	25%

National Adults

Do you watch or follow professional football a great deal, a good amount, a little or not at all?

	•	A great deal	A good amount	A little	Not at all
	•	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		27%	15%	25%	34%
Region	Northeast	20%	16%	30%	34%
	Midwest	24%	18%	22%	36%
	South	31%	14%	25%	30%
	West	26%	12%	24%	38%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	25%	16%	21%	37%
	\$50,000 or more	29%	14%	29%	29%
Education	Not college graduate	29%	13%	22%	36%
	College graduate	23%	17%	30%	30%
Age	Under 45	28%	14%	24%	34%
	45 or older	25%	15%	26%	33%
Age	18 to 29	26%	12%	19%	43%
	30 to 44	30%	15%	29%	27%
	45 to 59	25%	17%	26%	32%
	60 or older	26%	14%	26%	34%
Race	White	25%	16%	26%	32%
	African American	37%	14%	27%	22%
	Latino	33%	9%	20%	38%
Gender	Men	36%	16%	23%	25%
	Women	18%	13%	27%	42%
Interview Type	Landline	22%	16%	27%	36%
	Cell phone	29%	14%	24%	33%

National Adults
Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing
as president?

_	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults	37%	51%	12%
Football fans	37%	53%	10%
Baseball Fans	39%	51%	10%
Basketball Fans	28%	62%	10%
Hockey Fans	42%	50%	8%
Tennis Fans	32%	61%	8%
NASCAR Fans	50%	38%	12%

Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of Donald Trump?

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never Heard
_	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults	37%	54%	8%
Football fans	37%	56%	7%
Baseball Fans	40%	53%	8%
Basketball Fans	30%	62%	9%
Hockey Fans	46%	49%	4%
Tennis Fans	35%	60%	5%
NASCAR Fans	49%	44%	7%

Which one of the following comes closest to your opinion about what Congress should do with the Affordable Care Act known as Obamacare:

_	Let it stand	Change it so it does more	Change it so it does less	Repeal it completely	Unsure
_	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults	18%	46%	7%	26%	3%
Football fans	18%	47%	7%	26%	2%
Baseball Fans	17%	48%	7%	26%	2%
Basketball Fans	21%	52%	7%	19%	2%
Hockey Fans	16%	44%	8%	30%	1%
Tennis Fans	23%	50%	6%	19%	1%
NASCAR Fans	16%	41%	6%	35%	2%

Do you favor or oppose Congress providing a way for undocumented immigrants who are currently in the U.S. to gain legal citizenship if they learn English, pay fines and have jobs that pay taxes?

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults	83%	15%	3%
Football fans	83%	15%	1%
Baseball Fans	82%	17%	2%
Basketball Fans	85%	13%	2%
Hockey Fans	82%	16%	1%
Tennis Fans	84%	14%	2%
NASCAR Fans	76%	21%	2%

Do you favor or oppose Donald Trump's executive order to limit entrance to the United States of non-American citizens from six majority-Muslim countries:

_	Favor	Oppose	Unsure
_	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults	43%	52%	5%
Football fans	44%	53%	3%
Baseball Fans	45%	50%	5%
Basketball Fans	36%	60%	4%
Hockey Fans	47%	49%	4%
Tennis Fans	38%	61%	2%
NASCAR Fans	58%	39%	3%