



More Than Six in Ten Fans Believe Connection to Biogenesis Steroid Clinic Too Little to Justify MLB Suspensions

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

An investigation by Major League Baseball is underway to determine whether or not to suspend players associated with the Miami-based clinic, Biogenesis, that provided performance enhancing drugs to *other* players. But, a majority of baseball fans nationally do not think that an association with the clinic is enough to warrant disciplinary action. 61% of fans say it is not right for the MLB to suspend players who did *not* test positive for performance-enhancing drugs but are connected to the Biogenesis clinic. 28% think it is right for the players to be suspended, and 11% are unsure.

“Sports fans are very loyal to their favorite athletes, and for most, it would take true hard evidence to change their perceptions of these athletes,” says Dr. Keith Strudler, Director of The Marist College Center for Sports Communication. “Circumstantial evidence, no matter how strong, probably isn't going to convince most fans.”

The poll was conducted prior to the suspension of Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun yesterday. At this point, few fans know a lot about the scandal. Just 24% say they have heard either a great deal -- 13% -- or a good amount -- 11% -- about MLB players and the Biogenesis clinic. 26%, have heard a little and 50% know nothing at all about it.

This Marist Poll has been done in conjunction with The Marist College Center for Sports Communication.

The Great Hall of Fame Steroid Debate

More than three in four baseball fans -- 78% -- think players who have used steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs should not be eligible for the Hall of Fame. 18% think these players should be, and 4% are unsure.

"When it's proven that an athlete cheated, most sports fans aren't just upset, they often feel betrayed," says Dr. Keith Strudler, Director of The Marist College Center for Sports Communication. "They seem to show unusual disdain towards their former heroes, refusing them the ultimate reward of entering the Hall of Fame."

Time has not healed all wounds. When Marist last reported this question in April 2009, 70% of baseball fans thought players who used steroids should not be admitted to the Hall of Fame. 24% believed they should be given this honor, and 6%, at the time, were unsure.

There are age differences. Fans under 45 years old are more forgiving than those who are older. 24% of younger fans think steroid use should not keep players from the Hall of Fame. 13% of those 45 and older share this view.

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.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: Marist National Poll of 1,204 Adults

This survey of 1,204 adults was conducted July 15th through July 18th, 2013. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. 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. 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 ± 2.8 percentage points. There are 574 fans of professional baseball. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 4.1 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	Baseball Fans
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
Baseball Fans		48%	100%
Gender	Men	49%	57%
	Women	51%	43%
Age	Under 45	45%	39%
	45 or older	55%	61%
Age	18 to 29	22%	17%
	30 to 44	23%	22%
	45 to 59	27%	30%
	60 or older	28%	31%
Race	White	67%	71%
	Non-white	33%	29%
Region	Northeast	18%	20%
	Midwest	22%	25%
	South	37%	33%
	West	23%	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	42%
	\$50,000 or more	51%	58%
Education	Not college graduate	60%	54%
	College graduate	40%	46%
Interview Type	Landline	64%	66%
	Cell Phone	36%	34%

Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted July 15th through July 18th, 2013, n=1204 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.
National Baseball Fans: n=574 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll National Tables

		Baseball Fans		
		Is it right or not right for Major League Baseball to suspend baseball players who did not test positive for performance enhancing drugs but have been shown to be connected to a Miami clinic, Biogenesis, that provided these drugs to other athletes?		
		Right	Not right	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Baseball Fans		28%	61%	11%
Region	Northeast	33%	53%	14%
	Midwest	33%	56%	12%
	South	26%	61%	13%
	West	20%	74%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	30%	60%	10%
	\$50,000 or more	24%	66%	10%
Education	Not college graduate	30%	59%	11%
	College graduate	25%	64%	12%
Age	Under 45	28%	63%	9%
	45 or older	28%	59%	13%
Age	18 to 29	29%	62%	9%
	30 to 44	27%	65%	9%
	45 to 59	25%	67%	8%
	60 or older	31%	52%	17%
Race	White	27%	59%	13%
	Non-white	30%	65%	5%
Gender	Men	29%	61%	9%
	Women	25%	61%	14%
Interview Type	Landline	28%	60%	12%
	Cell Phone	27%	63%	10%

Marist Poll National Baseball Fans: Interviews conducted July 15th through July 18th, 2013, n=574 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll National Tables

		Baseball Fans			
		Have you heard a great deal, a good amount, a little, or nothing at all about Major League Baseball players and the Miami clinic Biogenesis?			
		A great deal	A good amount	A little	Not at all
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Baseball Fans		13%	11%	26%	50%
Region	Northeast	21%	8%	26%	45%
	Midwest	12%	9%	22%	57%
	South	9%	15%	32%	44%
	West	14%	10%	22%	54%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	9%	9%	23%	59%
	\$50,000 or more	17%	10%	31%	42%
Education	Not college graduate	12%	10%	27%	52%
	College graduate	15%	12%	25%	47%
Age	Under 45	12%	12%	20%	55%
	45 or older	13%	10%	29%	48%
Age	18 to 29	8%	18%	11%	63%
	30 to 44	16%	8%	28%	48%
	45 to 59	15%	11%	28%	46%
	60 or older	11%	9%	30%	50%
Race	White	14%	12%	25%	49%
	Non-white	8%	9%	29%	54%
Gender	Men	19%	16%	27%	37%
	Women	5%	4%	25%	66%
Interview Type	Landline	13%	11%	27%	48%
	Cell Phone	13%	10%	25%	52%

Marist Poll National Baseball Fans: Interviews conducted July 15th through July 18th, 2013, n=574 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll National Tables

		Baseball Fans		
		Do you think a professional baseball player who used steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs should be eligible for the Hall of Fame or should not be eligible for the Hall of Fame?		
		Should be eligible	Should not be eligible	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Baseball Fans		18%	78%	4%
Region	Northeast	20%	77%	3%
	Midwest	14%	82%	4%
	South	18%	79%	2%
	West	21%	73%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	14%	83%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	19%	76%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	17%	80%	3%
	College graduate	20%	76%	4%
Age	Under 45	24%	73%	3%
	45 or older	13%	82%	4%
Age	18 to 29	21%	79%	0%
	30 to 44	26%	68%	6%
	45 to 59	18%	80%	3%
	60 or older	9%	85%	6%
Race	White	15%	81%	4%
	Non-white	26%	71%	3%
Gender	Men	21%	75%	4%
	Women	14%	82%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	16%	80%	4%
	Cell Phone	21%	75%	4%

Marist Poll National Baseball Fans: Interviews conducted July 15th through July 18th, 2013, n=574 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults			
		Do you watch or follow professional baseball 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		10%	8%	31%	52%
Region	Northeast	12%	12%	30%	46%
	Midwest	11%	8%	35%	46%
	South	8%	5%	29%	57%
	West	8%	9%	30%	53%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	8%	6%	28%	58%
	\$50,000 or more	10%	10%	35%	44%
Education	Not college graduate	9%	7%	29%	56%
	College graduate	11%	10%	34%	45%
Age	Under 45	8%	6%	28%	58%
	45 or older	11%	9%	34%	47%
Age	18 to 29	6%	5%	27%	61%
	30 to 44	9%	7%	29%	54%
	45 to 59	11%	9%	33%	47%
	60 or older	12%	8%	34%	46%
Race	White	11%	9%	31%	49%
	Non-white	7%	5%	31%	57%
Gender	Men	13%	10%	33%	45%
	Women	6%	6%	29%	59%
Interview Type	Landline	9%	9%	32%	50%
	Cell Phone	10%	7%	29%	55%

Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted July 15th through July 18th, 2013, n=1204 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.