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Background

A frequently asked question is, “How many naturists/nudists are there in Canada?” It is a difficult question to answer, since naturism is a state of mind and many people are not interested in the label. The thousands of naturists who belong to Canada’s approximately 50 clubs are easy enough to count. However, what about those who visit clothing-optional beaches? For example, Wreck Beach in Vancouver can easily have 5,000 visitors on a nice summer’s day. What about those who like to be nude at their cottage, in their backyard or in a secluded spot? What about those who take vacations to naturist resorts or beaches around the world?

To answer these questions, the Federation of Canadian Naturists commissioned Market Facts of Canada, Ltd. to survey the Canadian population so that we could determine how many Canadians had the “naturist mindset.”

The survey was conducted from January to February 1999 through the Market Facts’ Consumer Mail Panel omnibus survey. Representative samples were drawn by computer random selection within precise census-defined strata: by province and within province by age, household income, population density, home tenure and by language within Quebec. To ensure that the return sample was also representative, returns were weighted to the same set of criteria. The gross mailout sample was 2,300 with 1,172 having responded to the questions.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For the complete survey results or for more information:

www.FCN.ca/media

To arrange an interview, contact:

Stéphane Deschênes (416) 219-5856

2.7 Million Nudists/Naturists in Canada

In a survey commissioned earlier this year, the Federation of Canadian Naturists determined that 2.7 million Canadians have a naturist/nudist mindset because they either visit or are willing to visit clothing-optional beaches or naturist clubs and resorts.

A further 3.5 million Canadians have naturist tendencies because they are comfortable with skinny-dipping in mixed company. This gives us a total of 6.1 million Canadian who have some interest in naturism.

The survey also reveals that while naturists can be found everywhere, they tend to be more common in urban areas. They are also more likely to have a higher income.

"We wanted to know how many naturists there were in Canada," says Stéphane Deschênes, a director in the Federation of Canadian Naturists.

"Naturism is a state of mind, not a label," Deschênes explained. He adds that a survey was the only way to count the many Canadians who only practice naturism in secluded spots or while on vacation.

The survey points out the need for the development of more naturist recreational areas. There are approximately 50 naturist clubs in Canada but many Canadians live too far away from them. Currently, only Toronto and Vancouver have official clothing-optional beaches.

"We hope that this survey will emphasize to governments that naturism is a popular recreational option that needs to be provided for," says Deschênes. "We need to start treating naturism for what it is – a wholesome activity which encourages a healthy mind and body."

As defined by the International Naturist Federation, Naturism is a way of life in harmony with nature, characterized by the practice of communal nudity, with the intention of encouraging respect for oneself, respect for others and for the environment.

The Federation of Canadian Naturists (FCN) and La Fédération Québécoise de Naturisme (FQN) together constitute the national naturist/nudist organization in Canada recognized by the International Naturist Federation (INF). The FCN:

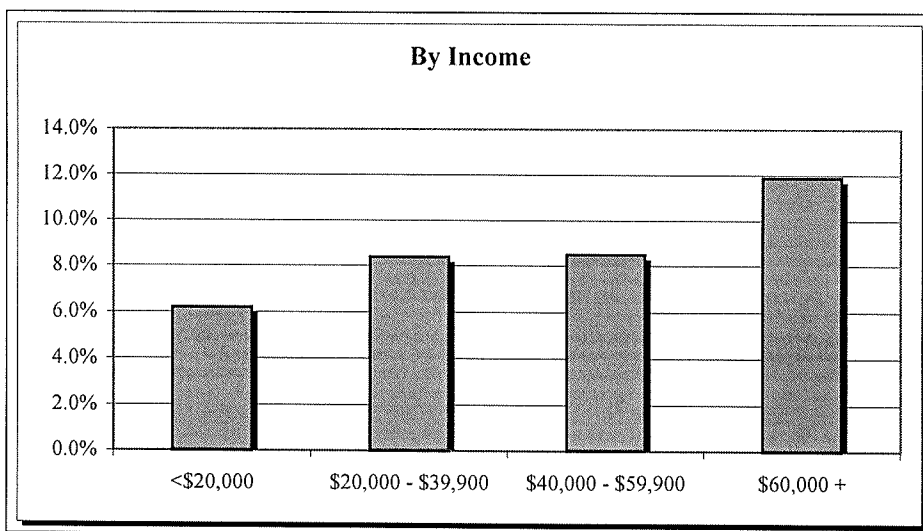
- promotes naturism/nudism to Canadians
- helps naturists/nudists find how and where they may enjoy the naturist/nudist lifestyle
- represents the interests of Canadian naturist/nudist individuals, families, clubs, resorts, and organizations.

The International Naturist Federation (INF) represents naturists in over 30 countries. Founded in August 1953 at the Montalivet naturist resort in France and based in Belgium, it is dedicated to the world-wide acceptance of naturist ideals and lifestyle-recreational social nudism.

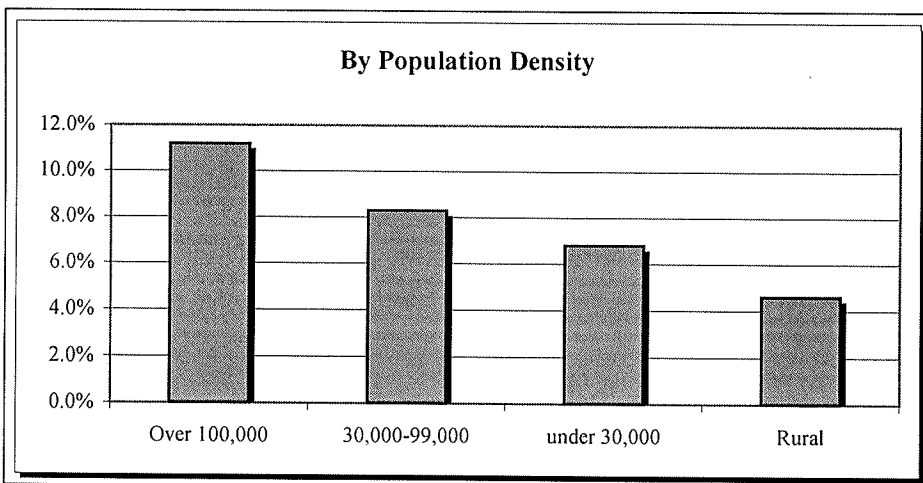
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Survey Conclusions

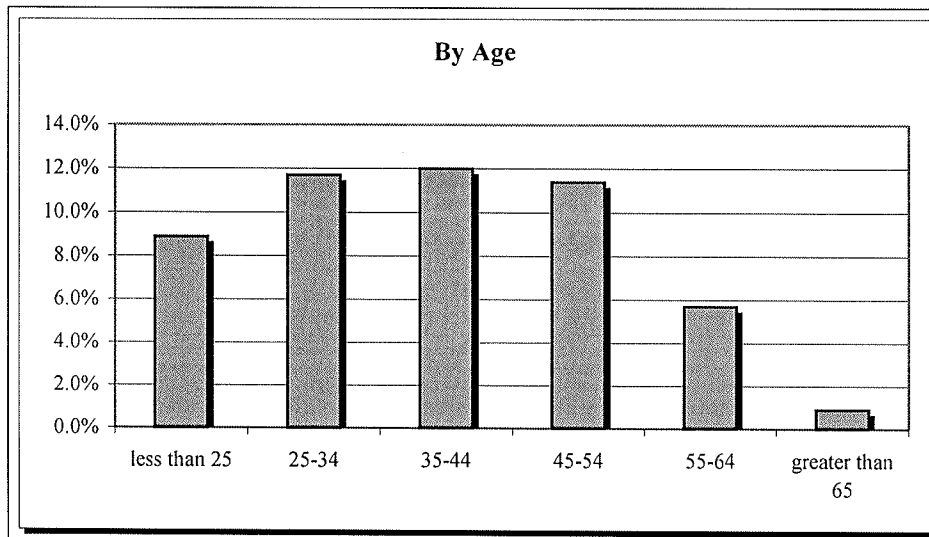
- 8.9% of Canadian households or approximately 2.7 million Canadians have the naturist/nudist mindset (have gone or would go to a nude beach and/or club/resort).
- A further 11.6% of Canadian households or 3.5 million Canadians have naturist/nudist tendencies, since they have gone or would go skinny-dipping in mixed company. That means a total of 20.5% of households or 6.1 million Canadians have some interest in naturism.
- Naturists/nudists tend to have above average incomes.



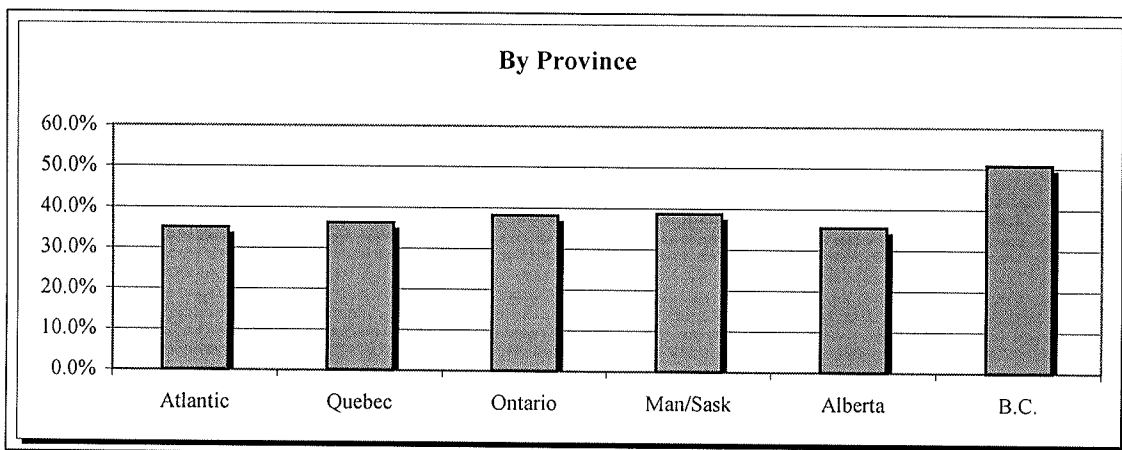
- People who live in urban areas are more likely to be naturists.



- People who are under 54 years of age are more likely to be naturists.

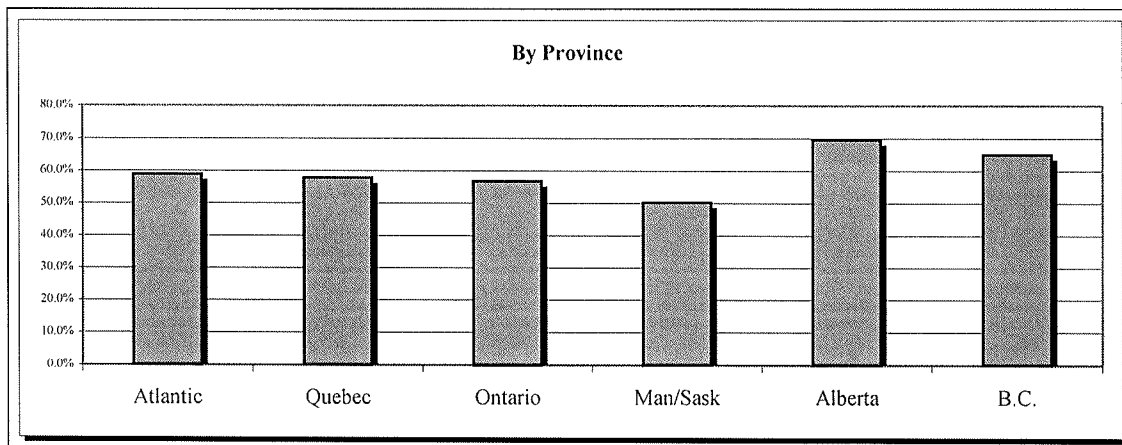


- People under 25 years of age are the most likely to engage in one of the activities (visiting a naturist club/resort, visiting a nude beach, skinny-dipping, walking around the house nude, or sleeping nude).
- 39% of Canadian households or 11.8 million Canadians have walked or would walk around their house nude.
- People in British Columbia are much more likely than in any other province to walk around their house nude.

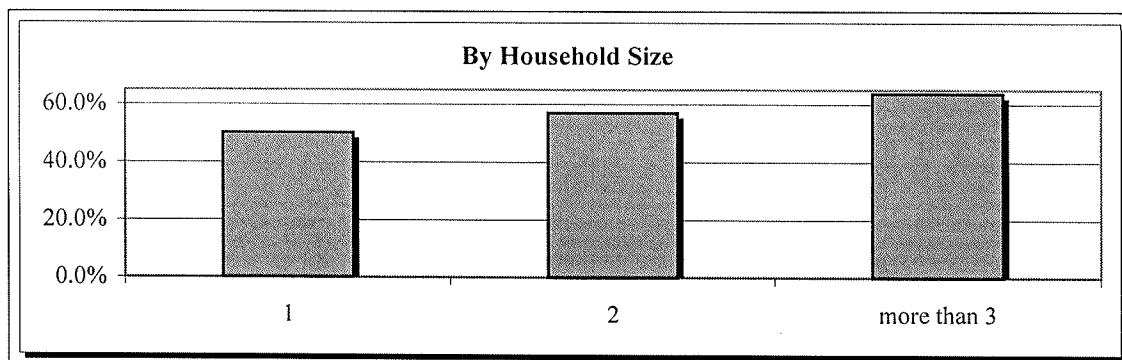


- 59% of Canadian households or 17.9 million Canadians have slept or would sleep nude.

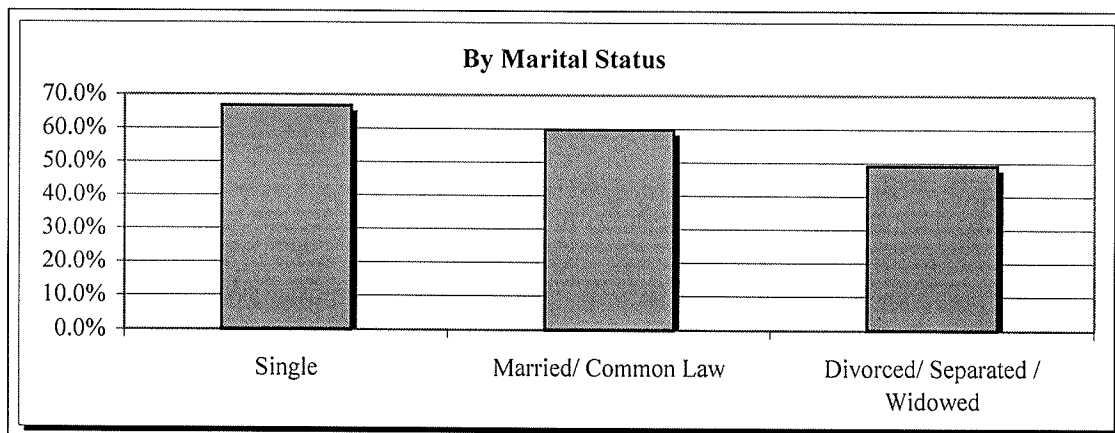
- People in Alberta and British Columbia are more likely to sleep nude than in any other province.



- The more people in the household, the greater the chance that people sleep nude.



- Singles are more likely to sleep nude than married couples.



Note: Only conclusions which are meaningful and statistically significant are listed here. A cursory review of the data may suggest other conclusions but the sample size or the difference between results is too small.

Result Tables

Sample Size: 1172 households

*June 1999 Statistics Canada Estimated Population

	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
1999 Population*	29,975,100	2,385,400	7,329,100	11,363,600	2,126,700	2,784,900	3,884,600
Percent	100.0%	8.0%	24.5%	37.9%	7.1%	9.3%	13.0%
Households	11,199,800	873,200	2,895,500	4,133,400	812,000	1,014,300	1,471,400

Have gone or would go to a nude beach and/or a nudist club/resort

By Region	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
% respondents	8.9%	4.1%	21.6%	42.5%	5.3%	11.2%	15.3%
People	2,667,784	97,801	1,583,086	4,829,530	112,715	311,909	594,344
% province		4.7%	7.5%	10.3%	6.9%	10.6%	10.4%

By Age	less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	greater than 65
% respondents	5.5%	31.4%	32.2%	20.9%	8.4%	1.7%
People	146,728	837,684	859,026	557,567	224,094	45,352
% within category	8.9%	11.7%	12.0%	11.4%	5.7%	0.9%

By Income	<\$20,000	\$20,000-\$39,900	\$40,000-\$59,900	\$60,000 +
% respondents	15.0%	25.9%	20.7%	38.4%
People	400,168	690,956	552,231	1,024,429
% within category	6.2%	8.4%	8.5%	11.9%

By Education	Grade school only	High School	Attended College or University	Completed College or University
% respondents	0.0%	31.7%	22.9%	44.0%
People	-	845,687	610,923	1,173,825
% within category	0.0%	7.2%	12.5%	9.9%

By household size	1	2	more than 3
% respondents	19.3%	42.1%	38.6%
People	514,882	1,123,137	1,029,765
% within category	10.6%	10.3%	7.3%

By Population Density	Over 100,000	30,000-99,000	under 30,000	Rural
% respondents	69.8%	8.8%	10.4%	11.0%
People	1,862,113	234,765	277,450	293,456
% within category	11.2%	8.3%	6.8%	4.6%

By marital status	Single	Married/ Common Law	Divorced/ Separated / Widowed
% respondents	21.5%	65.8%	12.7%
People	573,574	1,755,402	338,809
% within category	14.5%	8.2%	7.5%

Sample Size: 1172 households

*June 1999 Statistics Canada Estimated Population

	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
1999 Population*	29,975,100	2,385,400	7,329,100	11,363,600	2,126,700	2,784,900	3,884,600
Percent	100.0%	8.0%	24.5%	37.9%	7.1%	9.3%	13.0%
Households	11,199,800	873,200	2,895,500	4,133,400	812,000	1,014,300	1,471,400

Have gone or would go to a nude beach and/or a nudist club/resort and/or skinny-dipping in mixed company

By Region	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
% respondents	20.5%	5.8%	28.6%	35.1%	4.9%	8.4%	17.2%
People	6,144,896	138,353	2,096,123	3,988,624	104,208	233,932	668,151
% province		15.4%	22.9%	19.4%	14.6%	18.4%	26.9%

By Age	less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	greater than 65
% respondents	10.1%	31.6%	31.5%	16.9%	7.0%	3.0%
People	620,634	1,941,787	1,935,642	1,038,487	430,143	184,347
% within category	38.1%	26.9%	26.9%	21.2%	10.9%	3.6%

By Income	<\$20,000	\$39,900	\$59,900	\$60,000 +
% respondents	18.2%	25.2%	18.8%	37.7%
People	1,118,371	1,548,514	1,155,240	2,316,626
% within category	17.2%	18.8%	17.7%	26.8%

By Education	Grade school only	High School	Attended College or University	Completed College or University
% respondents	0.0%	29.4%	20.9%	49.0%
People	-	1,806,599	1,284,283	3,010,999
% within category	0.0%	15.5%	26.3%	25.2%

By household size	1	2	more than 3
% respondents	15.1%	34.0%	50.9%
People	927,879	2,089,264	3,127,752
% within category	19.0%	19.1%	22.2%

By Population Density	Over 100,000	30,000-99,000	under 30,000	Rural
% respondents	63.4%	10.3%	10.8%	15.5%
People	3,895,864	632,924	663,649	952,459
% within category	23.4%	22.2%	16.2%	15.0%

By marital status	Single	Married/ Common Law	Divorced/ Separated / Widowed
% respondents	17.9%	71.8%	10.2%
People	1,099,936	4,412,035	626,779
% within category	27.8%	20.6%	13.8%

Sample Size: 1172 households

*June 1999 Statistics Canada Estimated Population

	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
1998 Population	29,975,100	2,385,400	7,329,100	11,363,600	2,126,700	2,784,900	3,884,600
Percent	100.0%	8.0%	24.5%	37.9%	7.1%	9.3%	13.0%
Households	11,199,800	873,200	2,895,500	4,133,400	812,000	1,014,300	1,471,400

Have gone or would go to a nude beach

By Region	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
% respondents	7.9%	4.7%	17.5%	44.1%	4.9%	11.5%	17.3%
People	2,368,033	112,114	1,282,593	5,011,348	104,208	320,264	672,036
% province		4.7%	5.4%	9.4%	5.6%	9.6%	10.4%

By Age	less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	greater than 65
% respondents	4.4%	34.2%	29.4%	21.7%	8.4%	1.9%
People	104,193	809,867	696,202	513,863	198,915	44,993
% within category	6.4%	11.2%	9.6%	10.5%	5.0%	0.9%

By Income	<\$20,000	\$39,900	\$59,900	\$60,000 +
% respondents	13.7%	23.2%	20.6%	42.5%
People	324,421	549,384	487,815	1,006,414
% within category	5.0%	6.6%	7.4%	11.6%

By Education	Grade school only	High School	Attended College or University	Completed College or University
% respondents	0.0%	27.7%	24.5%	46.1%
People	-	655,945	580,168	1,091,663
% within category	0.0%	5.6%	11.8%	9.1%

By household size	1	2	more than 3
% respondents	19.8%	43.9%	36.2%
People	468,871	1,039,566	857,228
% within category	9.5%	9.5%	6.1%

By Population	Over 100,000	30,000-99,000	under 30,000	Rural
Density				
% respondents	70.2%	10.0%	9.1%	10.6%
People	1,662,359	236,803	215,491	251,011
% within category	10.0%	8.3%	5.2%	3.9%

By marital status	Single	Married/ Common Law	Divorced/ Separated / Widowed
% respondents	19.7%	68.0%	12.3%
People	466,502	1,610,262	291,268
% within category	11.7%	7.5%	6.3%

Sample Size: 1172 households

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1998 Population	29,975,100	2,385,400	7,329,100	11,363,600	2,126,700	2,784,900	3,884,600
Percent	100.0%	8.0%	24.5%	37.9%	7.1%	9.3%	13.0%
Households	11,199,800	873,200	2,895,500	4,133,400	812,000	1,014,300	1,471,400

Have gone or would go to a nudist club/resort

By Region	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
% respondents	3.2%	0.0%	25.4%	44.2%	11.5%	12.7%	6.3%
People	959,203	-	1,861,591	5,022,711	244,571	353,682	244,730
% province		0.0%	3.2%	3.9%	5.4%	4.4%	1.6%

By Age	less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	greater than 65
% respondents	12.1%	14.5%	40.7%	27.8%	4.9%	0.0%
People	116,064	139,084	390,396	266,658	47,001	-
% within category	7.2%	1.9%	5.5%	5.5%	1.2%	0.0%

By Income	<\$20,000	\$39,900	\$59,900	\$60,000 +
% respondents	18.6%	35.0%	23.9%	22.5%
People	178,412	335,721	229,250	215,821
% within category	2.8%	4.1%	3.6%	2.5%

By Education	Grade school only	High School	Attended College or University	Completed College or University
% respondents	0.0%	49.2%	18.2%	32.6%
People	-	471,928	174,575	312,700
% within category	0.0%	4.1%	3.6%	2.7%

By household size	1	2	more than 3
% respondents	19.8%	48.3%	31.8%
People	189,922	463,295	305,027
% within category	3.9%	4.3%	2.2%

By Population Density	Over 100,000	30,000-99,000	under 30,000	Rural
% respondents	76.3%	3.8%	9.9%	10.0%
People	731,872	36,450	94,961	95,920
% within category	4.4%	1.3%	2.3%	1.5%

By marital status	Single	Married/ Common Law	Divorced/ Separated / Widowed
% respondents	23.3%	60.8%	16.0%
People	223,494	583,196	153,473
% within category	5.7%	2.8%	3.4%

Sample Size: 1172 households

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1998 Population	29,975,100	2,385,400	7,329,100	11,363,600	2,126,700	2,784,900	3,884,600
Percent	100.0%	8.0%	24.5%	37.9%	7.1%	9.3%	13.0%
Households	11,199,800	873,200	2,895,500	4,133,400	812,000	1,014,300	1,471,400

Have gone or would go skinny-dipping in mixed company

By Region	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
% respondents	17.0%	4.9%	30.7%	34.8%	4.3%	8.7%	16.6%
People	5,095,767	116,885	2,250,034	3,954,533	91,448	242,286	644,844
% province		10.6%	20.4%	16.0%	10.7%	15.8%	21.6%

By Age	less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	greater than 65
% respondents	11.6%	29.3%	33.5%	15.4%	7.5%	2.7%
People	591,109	1,493,060	1,707,082	784,748	382,183	137,586
% within category	36.6%	20.7%	23.8%	16.1%	9.7%	2.7%

By Income	<\$20,000	\$39,900	\$59,900	\$60,000 +
% respondents	17.2%	25.4%	19.3%	38.0%
People	876,472	1,294,325	983,483	1,936,391
% within category	13.5%	15.8%	15.1%	22.4%

By Education	Grade school only	High School	Attended College or University	Completed College or University
% respondents	0.0%	28.4%	19.8%	51.0%
People	-	1,447,198	1,008,962	2,598,841
% within category	0.0%	12.4%	20.7%	21.8%

By household size	1	2	more than 3
% respondents	15.3%	32.7%	52.0%
People	779,652	1,666,316	2,649,799
% within category	15.9%	15.3%	18.8%

By Population Density	Over 100,000	30,000-99,000	under 30,000	Rural
% respondents	64.7%	9.2%	10.8%	15.3%
People	3,296,961	468,811	550,343	779,652
% within category	19.9%	16.4%	13.4%	12.3%

By marital status	Single	Married/ Common Law	Divorced/ Separated / Widowed
% respondents	18.0%	72.4%	9.6%
People	917,238	3,689,335	489,194
% within category	23.2%	17.2%	10.7%

Sample Size: 1172 households

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	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C
1998 Population	29,975,100	2,385,400	7,329,100	11,363,600	2,126,700	2,784,900	3,884,600
Percent	100.0%	8.0%	24.5%	37.9%	7.1%	9.3%	13.0%
Households	11,199,800	873,200	2,895,500	4,133,400	812,000	1,014,300	1,471,400

Have gone or would go skinny-dipping but not in mixed company

By Region	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C
% respondents	27.6%	7.2%	19.9%	42.4%	4.1%	9.5%	16.9%
People	8,273,128	171,749	1,458,491	4,818,166	87,195	264,566	656,497
% province		25.5%	21.5%	31.6%	16.6%	27.9%	35.5%

By Age	less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	greater than 65
% respondents	7.7%	30.4%	30.1%	17.4%	9.5%	4.9%
People	637,031	2,515,031	2,490,211	1,439,524	785,947	405,383
% within category	39.0%	34.8%	34.7%	29.4%	20.0%	8.0%

By Income	<\$20,000	\$20,000-\$39,900	\$40,000-\$59,900	\$60,000 +
% respondents	16.1%	23.2%	22.1%	38.5%
People	1,331,974	1,919,366	1,828,361	3,185,154
% within category	20.5%	23.4%	28.0%	36.7%

By Education	Grade school only	High School	Attended College or University	Completed College or University
% respondents	1.8%	26.4%	20.9%	50.4%
People	148,916	2,184,106	1,729,084	4,169,656
% within category	11.4%	18.7%	35.3%	34.9%

By household size	1	2	more than 3
% respondents	13.0%	34.6%	52.4%
People	1,075,507	2,862,502	4,335,119
% within category	21.9%	26.2%	30.7%

By Population Density	Over 100,000	30,000-99,000	under 30,000	Rural
% respondents	58.4%	10.3%	11.5%	19.8%
People	4,831,507	852,132	951,410	1,638,079
% within category	29.1%	29.7%	23.2%	25.9%

By marital status	Single	Married/ Common Law	Divorced/ Separated / Widowed
% respondents	12.9%	76.3%	10.8%
People	1,067,233	6,312,396	893,498
% within category	26.9%	29.5%	19.6%

Sample Size: 1172 households

*June 1999 Statistics Canada Estimated Population

	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C
1998 Population	29,975,100	2,385,400	7,329,100	11,363,600	2,126,700	2,784,900	3,884,600
Percent	100.0%	8.0%	24.5%	37.9%	7.1%	9.3%	13.0%
Households	11,199,800	873,200	2,895,500	4,133,400	812,000	1,014,300	1,471,400

Have walked or would walk around the house nude

By Region	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C
% respondents	39.0%	7.0%	23.9%	36.4%	6.9%	8.6%	17.2%
People	11,690,289	166,978	1,751,655	4,136,350	146,742	239,501	668,151
% province		35.1%	36.3%	38.3%	38.8%	35.6%	50.8%

By Age	less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	greater than 65
% respondents	10.0%	30.5%	27.6%	15.6%	9.6%	6.7%
People	1,169,029	3,565,538	3,226,520	1,823,685	1,122,268	783,249
% within category	71.1%	49.3%	44.7%	37.3%	28.5%	15.6%

By Income	<\$20,000	\$20,000-\$39,900	\$40,000-\$59,900	\$60,000 +
% respondents	19.7%	27.5%	18.7%	34.1%
People	2,302,987	3,214,829	2,186,084	3,986,389
% within category	35.5%	38.9%	33.5%	45.9%

By Education	Grade school only	High School	Attended College or University	Completed College or University
% respondents	1.3%	35.0%	18.6%	44.8%
People	151,974	4,091,601	2,174,394	5,237,249
% within category	11.2%	34.9%	44.4%	43.7%

By household size	1	2	more than 3
% respondents	18.3%	36.5%	45.2%
People	2,139,323	4,266,955	5,284,011
% within category	43.6%	38.9%	37.4%

By Population Density	Over 100,000	30,000-99,000	under 30,000	Rural
% respondents	60.7%	8.0%	12.5%	18.8%
People	7,096,005	935,223	1,461,286	2,197,774
% within category	42.6%	32.5%	35.6%	34.7%

By marital status	Single	Married/ Common Law	Divorced/ Separated / Widowed
% respondents	19.7%	67.5%	12.8%
People	2,302,987	7,890,945	1,496,357
% within category	58.1%	36.8%	32.6%

Sample Size: 1172 households

*June 1999 Statistics Canada Estimated Population

	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
1998 Population	29,975,100	2,385,400	7,329,100	11,363,600	2,126,700	2,784,900	3,884,600
Percent	100.0%	8.0%	24.5%	37.9%	7.1%	9.3%	13.0%
Households	11,199,800	873,200	2,895,500	4,133,400	812,000	1,014,300	1,471,400

Have slept or would sleep nude

By Region	Canada	Atlantic	Quebec	Ontario	Man/Sask	Alberta	B.C.
% respondents	59.1%	7.8%	25.1%	35.7%	5.9%	11.1%	14.5%
People	17,715,284	186,061	1,839,604	4,056,805	125,475	309,124	563,267
% province		58.9%	57.8%	56.9%	50.3%	69.6%	65.1%

By Age	less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	greater than 65
% respondents	7.9%	28.7%	29.4%	15.4%	10.5%	8.1%
People	1,399,507	5,084,287	5,208,294	2,728,154	1,860,105	1,434,938
% within category	85.6%	70.3%	72.2%	55.9%	47.1%	28.3%

By Income	<\$20,000	\$20,000-\$39,900	\$40,000-\$59,900	\$60,000 +
% respondents	18.5%	26.6%	21.5%	33.3%
People	3,277,328	4,712,266	3,808,786	5,899,190
% within category	50.5%	57.2%	58.3%	68.0%

By Education	Grade school only	High School	Attended College or University	Completed College or University
% respondents	1.9%	34.8%	19.2%	43.9%
People	336,590	6,164,919	3,401,335	7,777,010
% within category	25.0%	52.6%	69.3%	65.0%

By household size	1	2	more than 3
% respondents	13.9%	35.3%	50.8%
People	2,462,424	6,253,495	8,999,364
% within category	50.1%	57.1%	63.8%

By Population Density	Over 100,000	30,000-99,000	under 30,000	Rural
% respondents	56.7%	9.3%	14.0%	20.0%
People	10,044,566	1,647,521	2,480,140	3,543,057
% within category	60.3%	57.8%	60.5%	55.7%

By marital status	Single	Married/ Common Law	Divorced/ Separated / Widowed
% respondents	14.9%	72.3%	12.7%
People	2,639,577	12,808,150	2,249,841
% within category	66.8%	59.8%	49.3%

Actual Survey Questions

The next question may be sensitive in nature but is not meant to embarrass. It is aimed at understanding some of the lifestyle habits of Canadians. Please be assured that your answer will remain strictly confidential.

1. Which of the following activities have you ever done or would you consider doing, either at home or on vacation? ("X" AS MANY AS APPLY)

- Sleep in the nude..... ☐
- Walk around the house in the nude ☐
- Swim nude, i.e. skinny dip, not in mixed company..... ☐
- Swim nude, i.e. skinny dip, in mixed company..... ☐
- Go to a nude beach ☐
- Go to a nudist club/resort..... ☐
- None of the above ☐

La prochaine question porte sur un sujet pouvant être délicat mais n'est pas posée dans l'intention de vous mettre mal à l'aise. Son objectif est de mieux comprendre les habitudes de vie des Canadiens. Soyez assuré que vos réponses demeureront strictement confidentielles.

1. Auxquelles des activités suivantes avez-vous déjà participé ou songeriez-vous participer, soit au foyer soit lorsque vous êtes en vacance? (COCHEZ D'UN «X» TOUTES LES CASES PERTINENTES)

- Dormir nu(e) ☐
- Vous promener nu(e) dans la maison..... ☐
- Vous baigner nu(e) (c'est-à-dire nager nu(e); en l'absence de membres du sexe opposé) ☐
- Vous baigner nu(e) (c'est-à-dire nager nu(e); en présence de membres du sexe opposé) ☐
- Aller à une plage nudiste..... ☐
- Aller à un club/camp nudiste ☐
- Aucune ci-dessus ☐

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[Festivals]

Monday, August 23, 1999



[] Canada Many Canadians prefer nudity
[]+ News 2.7 million are comfortable with naturism
[]+ Reporter Jennifer Prittie
[]+ Politics National Post
[]+ West to East Nearly one in nine Canadians would rather be
naked, according to a new study commissioned by
[] World the Federation of Canadian Naturists.
[]+ News The group reports that 2.7 million Canadians or
[]+ Postcard 8.9% of the population possess a naturist
"mindset" because they have visited, or are
[]+ Observer willing to visit, nude beaches, clubs or resorts.

"We know that naturism has been growing," Stephane
[Careerclick] Deschenes, a director of the federation, said.

"It's growing in the clubs, with more people
[Special Features] joining, but it has also been growing in terms of
the number of [clothing-optional] beaches, and the
people on those beaches."

Naturism, or nudism, refers to the practice of
communal nudity, and can include an interest in
the environment and holistic health.

[Image] "It's very wholesome. It's not pornography in any
Search Help way. In fact, it's a very old movement." The
country's oldest naturist club, Vancouver's Van
Sort by: Tan, opened in 1939.
Date [GO]
Rank But while about 20,000 people belong to one of the
country's almost 50 established clubs, Mr.
Deschenes said a survey was necessary to capture
the great number of people who enjoy taking it all
off in backyards, at cottages, on vacation or on
one of Canada's nude beaches.

[]

"There's a lot of people who wouldn't classify themselves as naturists, yet they're on the beach naked," he explained.

Canada's two official clothing-optional beaches are Vancouver's Wreck Beach, where as many as 5,000 people can congregate on a sunny day, and a newly established site at Toronto's Hanlan's Point. Nearly 50 unofficial beaches also exist in secluded areas across the country.

Provinces with the highest percentage of those with naturist tendencies include Alberta at 10.6%, British Columbia at 10.4%, and Ontario at 10.3%. Naturists are more likely to live in urban areas with populations of more than 100,000, and are above-average earners.

When the definition of a naturist is expanded to include those who have or would go skinny-dipping in mixed company, the percentage of Canadians with such a mindset rises to 20.5%.

The study, based on a 2,300-piece mailout conducted in January and February of this year, also examined a variety of related pastimes.

Thirty-nine percent of Canadians have walked or would walk around the house nude, a practice most popular among British Columbians and Albertans. And more than 59% of the country has slept or would sleep naked.

Mr. Deschenes said that the growing popularity of naturism shows that more naturist-friendly areas are needed across Canada, especially closer to cities.

He also wants to see people who like going about naked abroad to start indulging domestically.

"I'm always amazed by the number of Canadians I meet on nude beaches in Europe and in the Caribbean," he said. "A lot of those people say,

'I've never tried that at home.' "

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