



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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BASEBALL AND STEROIDS
March 15-18, 2008

The 2008 Major League Baseball season opens in parks across America after a winter when the sport's steroids issue once again grabbed headlines. Many fans do not believe that the use of performance-enhancing substances dominates the game, but more suspect player involvement today than did a few years ago.

Only 11% think most players use steroids. In 2002, 6% thought most players were using steroids. Today, another 23% of fans think half of players do. Most - 58% - think a quarter or only a few players do.

The number who thinks use is confined to just a few players has dropped, from 31% six years ago to 22% now.

HOW MANY MLB PLAYERS USE STEROIDS?

(Among baseball fans)

Table with 3 columns: Response category, Now, 7/2002. Rows include Most do, About half do, About quarter do, Only a few.

Suspicious are by far the highest among younger fans: one in five fans under age 30, a generation that has mostly grown up with prominent baseball players suspected of steroid use, say most players are using them.

The steroid issue matters to fans: eight in ten care and most (53%) say they care a lot if players are using illegal substances.

DO YOU CARE IF MLB PLAYERS ARE USING STEROIDS?

(Among baseball fans)

Table with 2 columns: Response category, Percentage. Rows include A lot, A little, Not at all.

However, although many younger fans suspect wider use, they also seem less fazed by it: just one-third care a lot, compared to majorities of fans in all other, older age groups, who do care a lot. Two-thirds of fans over 60 care a lot.

Compared to professional football, though, baseball fans think baseball has gotten rougher treatment about the steroids issue from the news media. 45% say baseball has been more scrutinized than the NFL. Many are not sure.

**COMPARED TO THE NFL, BASEBALL STEROIDS COVERAGE HAS BEEN...**

(Among baseball fans)

Harder	45%
Easier	5
Same	15
Not sure	26

Two of the more prominent baseball players who have been accused (but not proved) to have used steroids are Roger Clemens and Barry Bonds. Some have questioned whether those allegations will impact their Hall of Fame chances. Although Bonds has won more MVP awards than anyone in history, and Clemens has more Cy Young (best pitcher) awards than anyone who's ever taken the mound, many fans say they should not get in the Hall when they're eligible.

Clemens does fare better than Bonds in this regard; 50% of fans think he should get in.

**SHOULD BONDS, CLEMENS GET VOTED INTO HALL OF FAME?**

(Among baseball fans)

Bonds should	44%
Bonds should NOT	40
Clemens should	50%
Clemens should NOT	31

Many fans have often sought to punish those using substances, if it is proven. In a May 2007 CBS News/New York Times Poll, half the fans thought that in general, any record broken under the use of steroids should be stricken from the books.

Overall, 46% of Americans are interested in the game right now - saying they are either very or somewhat interested in Major League Baseball down from early last season. In May 2007, as Barry Bonds was breaking the all-time home run record, 59% called themselves very or somewhat interested in the game.

**FAVORITE PLAYERS**

New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter is the game's most popular player - more fans volunteer him as their favorite than any other; he is named by 9%. Both men and women put him at the top. In second place is his teammate in the Yankees' infield, third baseman Alex Rodriguez, at 5%.

**FAVORITE PLAYER**

(Among baseball fans)

Derek Jeter	9%
Alex Rodriguez	5
Barry Bonds	2
David Ortiz	2
Albert Pujols	2
Chipper Jones	2

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,067 adults nationwide interviewed by telephone March 15-18, 2008. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. A small oversample of African Americans was also conducted for this poll, for a total of 122 interviews among this group. The results were then weighted in proportion to the racial composition of the adult population in the U.S. Census.

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**March 15-18, 2008**

q83 How interested are you in watching or following major league baseball--very interested, somewhat interested, or not interested at all?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **	May07a
	%	%
Very interested	16	18
Somewhat interested	30	41
Not interested at all	53	41
DK/NA	1	0

q84 Which current major league baseball player is your favorite?

	** AMONG BASEBALL FANS **
	%
Derek Jeter	9
Alex Rodriguez	5
Barry Bonds	2
Ken Griffey Jr	2
David Ortiz	2
Albert Pujols	2
Chipper Jones	2
Manny Ramirez	1
Miguel Cabrera	1
Mike Lowell	1
Russell Martin	1
Josh Beckett	1
John Smoltz	1
Tom Glavine	1
Sammy Sosa	1
Curt Schilling	1
Roger Clemens	1
Joe Mauer	1
David Wright	1
No one	9
Other	16
DK/NA	39

q85 BLANK

q86 From what you know so far, do you think Barry Bonds should or should not be eligible for the Baseball Hall of Fame?

Yes, should	44
No, should not	40
Yes, but not on the first	2
DK/NA	14

q87 From what you know so far, do you think Roger Clemens should or should not be eligible for the Baseball Hall of Fame?

\*\* AMONG BASEBALL FANS \*\*

	%
Yes, should	50
No, should not	31
Yes, but not on the first	1
DK/NA	18

q88 How many major league baseball players do you think use steroids to enhance their athletic performance--most of them, about half of them, about a quarter of them, or only a few of them?

		Jul02c
	%	%
Most	11	6
Half	23	20
Quarter	36	24
Only a few	22	31
Don't know/No answer	8	19

q89 How much does it matter to you as a baseball fan if professional baseball players use steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs? Do you care a lot, a little or not at all?

A lot	53
A little	29
Not at all	16
DK/NA	2

q90 Compared to the way the news media have treated steroid use in the N.F.L., have the news media been harder on major league baseball, easier on major league baseball, have they treated major league baseball the same as the N.F.L., or don't you know enough to say?

Harder on MLB	45
Easier on MLB	5
Same as football	15
DK enough to say	26
Don't know/No answer	9

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Total Respondents 1037

Baseball fans 497  
 (those who answered "very" or "somewhat interested" in q83)