

National Golf Foundation studies public's feelings about golf

Golfers and non-golfers across the United States differ on effects of and needs for golf courses in their communities

A study of Americans' attitudes toward golf in their communities shows that while most golfers feel good about the effects of the sport, non-golfers aren't so sure.

The National Golf Foundation reported the results of the survey in which it asked 58,292 individuals:

- how they would describe the overall

effect of golf on their communities;

- how they would feel about increasing the number of courses in their area;
- what level of interest they have in the game of golf; and
- if there were more opportunities to play in their community, would they be more interested in golf.

One of five non-golfers and nearly one of 10 golfers said they would respond negatively or very negatively toward the idea of more golf courses in their area. At the other end of the spectrum, 16 percent of non-golfers and 56 percent of golfers said they would respond positively or very positively to news of more golf courses in their area.

To the first question, 67 percent of golfers and 35 percent of non-golfers felt the effect of golf on their communities is positive. Nearly one-third of each group thought it has no effect. Only three percent thought golf has a negative or very negative impact on the community.

Across the nation, results were similar when respondents were asked if they would be more interested in golf if there were more opportunities to play.

Twelve to 17 percent responded they would be more interested, while 21-22 percent responded "maybe" and 63-66 percent said they would not.

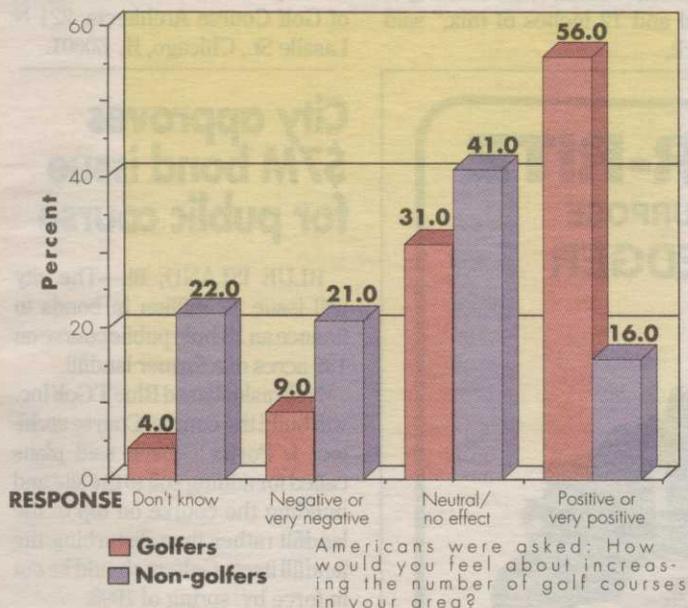
In its report, the NGF found reasons to be optimistic about the results.

The foundation pointed to the fact that "the 39 percent who feel golf affects their communities positively represents a significant segment of the U.S. population. Compared to the U.S. golf participation rate of 13.5 percent, it appears a positive attitude toward golf reaches far beyond the golfing population."

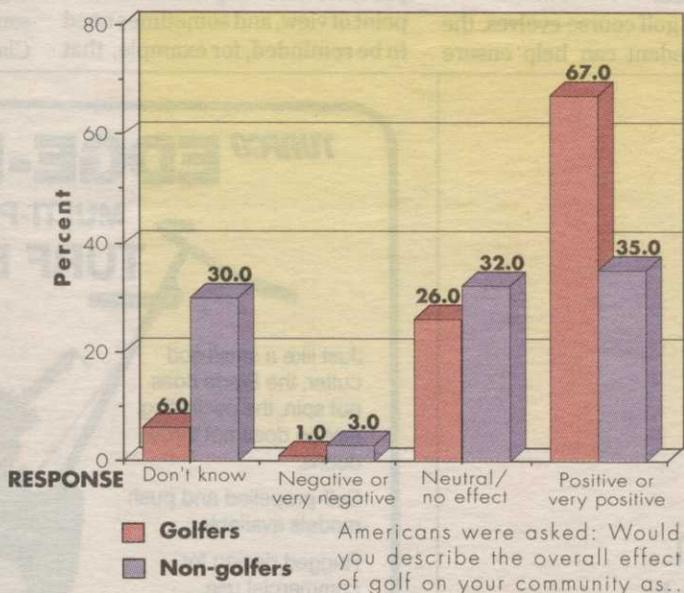
The NGF said the 15 percent who responded "yes" and 21 percent who said "maybe" to the question on their interest in golf "indicate that there is a continued interest in the game of golf across the United States."

The study is available from the NGF, 1150 South U.S. Highway One, Jupiter, Fla. 33477.

Feelings on more courses in the area



Effect of golf on the community



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