

**Y2K Holiday Plans:**

**Most Will Ring in the New Year  
From the Comfort of Their Couch**

Dance bands, maitre-d's and swizzle-stick makers may be in for a millennial letdown: The public's plans for ringing in the year 2000 are looking pretty much the same as any other New Year's Eve.

Eighteen percent of Americans plan to celebrate New Year's in a public place this year, only slightly more than the usual 14 percent. Enough remain undecided to boost turnout somewhat, but gargantuan attendance at public Y2K parties seems unlikely.

If the number of people at public events does rise by, say, five percent, that ain't nothing: Five percent of the adult population is 10 million people. Nonetheless, most Americans – more than three-quarters – say they'll probably spend the holiday at home, or at a friend or family member's place. That's close to the number who usually stay in on New Year's.

		-----Staying in-----		Going out
	NET	At home	At a friend or family members' home	to a public place
This New Year's	77%	61	16	18
Most New Years'	82	66	17	14

Indeed, the number of Americans who plan to spend New Year's at their own home has risen since August, from 54 percent in an ABC News poll then to 61 percent now.

BLASÉ - Other results also show a somewhat blasé response to the odometer's roll to 000. Sixty-eight percent of Americans say it's "just another new year" – also up a bit, from 61 percent in August. The number who think the event has "any special significance" slipped by eight points in the same time, to 30 percent. So much for millennial fever.

With 24 days to go 'til Dec. 31, 1999, 59 percent say they haven't even done any planning as to what they'll be doing on New Year's Eve. However that's down, as you'd expect, from 74 percent in August.

A millennium bust has been in the news lately, with hotels and tour operators cutting prices, airlines cutting back to their regular schedules and event tickets going begging. The Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York canceled its "Celebration 2000" event because of lackluster ticket sales, leaving Aretha Franklin free for the evening.

**WHY HOME** – Most people who plan to spend New Year's in the comfort of their own home don't cite any specific Y2K-related fear; instead 59 percent of them give the simplest possible explanation: It's the way they usually spend New Year's Eve.

Eighteen percent do cite concerns about crowds and safety this particular year; only three percent express concern about Y2K computer problems as a reason to ring in the new at home.

**WHO** – When it comes to party plans, there are some significant differences among groups. Younger people are more apt to plan to spend New Year's Eve outside their home; so are men, higher-income people – and those who aren't married.

	New Year's Eve plans		
	At home	At friend's	Public event
Men	55%	17	22
Women	67	15	15
Age 18-34	50	19	25
Age 65+	74	13	10
Income <\$25K	67	13	14
Income >\$75K	58	19	21
Married	68	14	15
Not married	54	18	22

**METHODOLOGY** – This poll was conducted by telephone Dec. 1-5 among a random national sample of 1,042 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by TNS Intersearch, Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

1. (and 2) What do you usually do on New Year's eve - do you usually go out someplace, or stay in at your home?

	Stay home	Go out	No opin.
12/5/99	66	32	3
8/22/99	68	30	2

(Among those who go out) Do you usually go to a public place, like a restaurant, bar or hotel ballroom; or to a private place, like a friend or family member's home?

NET TABLE:

	-----Stay in-----		Go out	No
NET	At home	At a friend or family members' home	to a public place	opin.

12/5/99 82 66 17 14 4

3. As you know, the year 2000 is coming. Do you feel that the millennium has any special significance, or do you feel that it's just another new year?

	Special significance	Just another new year	No opinion
12/5/99	30	68	2
8/22/99	38	61	1

4. Have you done any planning as to what you'll be doing this coming New Year's eve, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/5/99	40	59	*
8/22/99	26	74	*

5. (and 6) Do you think you'll probably go out someplace this coming New Year's eve, or stay in at your home?

	Stay home	Go out	No opin.
12/5/99	61	35	4
8/22/99	54	38	8

(Among those who go out) Will you probably go to a public place, like a restaurant, bar or hotel ballroom; or to a private place, like a friend or family member's home?

NET TABLE:

	-----Staying in-----			Going out	No
	At	At a friend or	family members' home	to a public	opin.
	NET home			place	
12/5/99	77	61	16	18	5

7. (Among those who stay home) Which of these is the main reason you'll probably stay in at home this New Year's Eve: Is it because you usually spend New Year's Eve at home; because you're worried about crowds and safety on this particular New Year's; because you're worried about Y2K computer problems on this particular New Year's; OR is there some other reason?

	12/5/99
Usually stay home	59
Crowds/safety	18
Y2K computer problems	3
Work	3
Stay home with children	3
Sickness/poor health	2
Just want to stay home	2
Don't want to drink and drive	1
Worried about drunk drivers	1
Want to spend with family	1
Having a party	1
Too costly	1
Other reason	3
No opin.	1