
ABC News/Washington Post Terrorist Attack
Poll #3, September 2001

ABC News/The Washington Post

ICPSR 3294

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST TERRORIST ATTACK POLL #3, SEPTEMBER 2001

(ICPSR 3294)

Principal Investigator

ABC News/The Washington Post

First ICPSR Version

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Inter-university Consortium for

Political and Social Research

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST TERRORIST ATTACK POLL #3, SEPTEMBER 2001 (ICPSR 3294)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, conducted September 20, 2001, was undertaken to assess respondents' reactions to and feelings about the terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center towers in New York City, damaged the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and caused a plane crash in Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001. Respondents were asked whether they approved of President George W. Bush's response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as well as his proposed remedies, what the consequences were of various levels of military action that could be taken in response to the terrorist threat, and how they viewed the state of the nation's economy. Respondents were also asked whether they watched or listened to any of Bush's address to Congress on September 20, 2001, how much Bush's proposed measures such as stricter airport security, stronger law enforcement efforts, and the creation of a new White House office for domestic security would reduce the risk of another major terrorist attack in this country, and whether Bush's speech made respondents more or less confident in the ability of the United States to deal with the crisis. Assuming that the groups and nations responsible for the terrorist attacks were identified, respondents were asked whether they would support military action against these groups, and whether they would support military action even if it meant getting into a war. Opinions were elicited on whether the United States should limit its military action to the terrorist groups and nations responsible for the September 11, 2001, attacks or broaden its actions to include all terrorist groups and nations, whether taking or not taking military action would result in a greater risk of further terrorism in this country, whether large numbers of troops would be killed and wounded, and whether military action would last for a few weeks, a few months, a year or so, or several years. Concerning the nation's economy, respondents were asked to describe the current state of the economy as excellent, good, not so good, or poor, and to comment on whether the economy was heading into a recession. Background information on respondents includes political party, age, race, and gender.

NOTE: (1) The data are provided as an SPSS portable file. (2) This collection has not been processed by ICPSR staff. ICPSR is distributing the data and documentation for this collection in essentially the same form in which they were received. When appropriate, documentation has been converted to Portable Document

Format (PDF), data files have been converted to non-platform-specific formats, and variables have been recoded to ensure respondents' anonymity. (3) The codebook is provided by ICPSR as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided on the ICPSR Web site.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF)

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: REFORM.DOC

Cases: 526

Variables: 29

United States Census Region Codes

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1	NEW ENGLAND	Connecticut	New Hampshire
		Maine	Rhode Island
		Massachusetts	Vermont
2	MIDDLE ATLANTIC	New Jersey	
		New York	
		Pennsylvania	
3	EAST NORTH CENTRAL	Illinois	Ohio
		Indiana	Wisconsin
		Michigan	
4	WEST NORTH CENTRAL	Iowa	Nebraska
		Kansas	North Dakota
		Minnesota	South Dakota
		Missouri	
5	SOUTH ATLANTIC	Delaware	North Carolina
		District of Columbia	South Carolina
		Florida	Virginia
		Georgia	West Virginia
		Maryland	
6	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	Alabama	Mississippi
		Kentucky	Tennessee
7	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	Arkansas	Oklahoma
		Louisiana	Texas
8	MOUNTAIN	Arizona	Nevada
		Colorado	New Mexico
		Idaho	Utah
		Montana	Wyoming
9	PACIFIC	Alaska	Oregon
		California	Washington
		Hawaii	

TNS INTERSEARCH
Horsham, PA

#DL-18438
September 20, 2001
FINAL

(865--TERRORIST POLL #3)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling on behalf of ABC News. We're conducting a public opinion survey about last week's terrorist attacks.

IF RELUCTANT RESPONDENT USE ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

We're not selling anything; we're just interested in your opinions.

It's for a news poll that will be reported on ABC.

We need opinions of average Americans and it will only take a few minutes of your time.

IF RESPONDENT ASKS "WHO ARE YOU," "WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM": My name's _____ and I work for TNS Intersearch, which conducts these polls for ABC.

Our research experts have randomly selected the person in your household that I should speak to, so that all types of people will be represented in our survey. Thinking of all the (male/female) adults age 18 or over who live in your household and are at home right now, may I please speak to the one who last had a birthday? *(IF NO MALE/FEMALE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, ASK: Then may I please speak to the (female/male) who last had a birthday?)*

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the U.S. response to last week's terrorist attacks?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

2. Do you support or oppose taking military action against the groups or nations responsible for the terrorist attacks?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****IF SUPPORT AT Q2*****

3. What if that meant getting into a war - in that case would you support or oppose taking military action?

INTERVIEWER NOTE: Get answer and then ask:

Would you support/oppose that STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

- 1 Support STRONGLY
- 2 Support SOMEWHAT
- 3 Oppose STRONGLY
- 4 Oppose SOMEWHAT
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****IF SUPPORT AT Q2*****

4. Do you think the United States should limit its military action only to those groups or nations responsible for last week's attacks, or should the United States mount a broader war against terrorist groups and the nations that support them?

- 1 Limit action to groups/nations responsible
- 2 Mount a broader war against terrorist groups/nations
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

5. Just your best guess, do you think large numbers of U.S. troops will be killed and wounded in the military action to come, or not that many?

INTERVIEWER NOTE: If respondent asks "What do you mean by large numbers?":
Whatever that means to you.

- 1 Yes, large numbers
- 2 No, not that many
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

6. Again, just your best guess, do you think the U.S. military action to come will last for a few weeks, a few months, a year or so, or several years?

- 1 A few weeks
- 2 A few months
- 3 A year or so
- 4 Several years
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

7. What do you think would create a greater risk of further terrorism in this country - if the United States (**DOES take military action**) against terrorists, or if the United States (**does NOT take military action**)?

- 1 If US DOES take military action
- 2 If US DOES NOT take military action
- 3 (VOL) No difference
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

- 8. CUT
- 9. CUT

10. On another subject, would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Not so good
- 4 Poor
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

11. Just your best guess, do you think the economy is heading into a recession, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

12. Did you watch or listen to any of Bush's address to Congress tonight, **or not**?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

13. Bush proposed measures to combat terrorism including stricter airport security and stronger law enforcement efforts, **including the creation of a new White House office for domestic security**. How much do you think these measures will do to reduce the risk of another major terrorist attack in this country- a great deal, a good amount, only some or just a little?

- 1 A great deal
- 2 A good amount
- 3 Only some
- 4 Just a little
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q12=1, WATCHED BUSH ADDRESS*****

14. Did Bush's speech make you more confident in this country's ability to deal with this crisis, less confident, or what?

- 1 More confident
- 2 Less confident
- 3 (VOL) No difference
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

Now just a few more questions to help classify your answers:

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE ORDER OF CODES 1 and 2****

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (READ LIST)

- 1 A Democrat
- 2 A Republican
- 3 An Independent
- 4 Or what?
- (DO NOT READ BELOW)**
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

910. What is your age?

-- --
DK/No opinion 8888
NA/Refused 9999

918. Are you white, black, or some other race?

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 Other race
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

921. RECORD GENDER

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

*****END*****