
ABC News/Washington Post Terrorist Attack
Poll #4, September 2001

ABC News/The Washington Post

ICPSR 3295

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST TERRORIST ATTACK POLL #4, SEPTEMBER 2001

(ICPSR 3295)

Principal Investigator

ABC News/The Washington Post

First ICPSR Version

October 2001

Inter-university Consortium for

Political and Social Research

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST TERRORIST ATTACK POLL #4, SEPTEMBER 2001 (ICPSR 3295)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, conducted September 25-27, 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 to give their opinions of the way President George W. Bush was handling the presidency and the terrorist attacks. Respondents were also asked whether they would support taking military action in response, and whether they believed that the United States government would go to war as a result of the attacks. They were further asked whether they would feel the same way if military action caused the death of or injured innocent civilians in other countries and large numbers of American troops due to a long war. Respondents were queried on whether they would support mounting a broader war against terrorist groups and the nations that support them, whether they believed there would be more major terrorist attacks in this country, what the United States must do in its war on international terrorism, and, supposing that the United States accomplished all of its objectives, whether it would still have won the war on terrorism if there were to be another major terrorist attack. Respondents' opinions were elicited on Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the attack, who was reportedly living in Afghanistan. They were asked whether they believed that the United States would capture or kill bin Laden, and would be able to significantly reduce terrorist attacks against the United States. Respondents were also asked whether action on education reform and prescription drugs for seniors should be postponed for at least a year because of the war on terrorism. Additional topics covered how much the respondents trusted the government to do the right thing, how patriotic they were, whether they appreciated more the privileges they had in this country, and whether they were more willing to make personal sacrifices for the good of the country. Background information on respondents includes age, gender, political party, education, residency, marital status, children in household, race, and household income.

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: 1,215
Variables: 64

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-18439
September 25, 2001
FINAL

(ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling on behalf of ABC News. We're conducting a public opinion survey **about the recent 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 his job as president?

INTERVIEWER NOTE: Get answer and then ask:

Do you approve/disapprove STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

- 1 Approve STRONGLY
- 2 Approve SOMEWHAT
- 3 Disapprove STRONGLY
- 4 Disapprove SOMEWHAT
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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

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

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

4. What if it meant innocent civilians in other countries might be hurt or killed - 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****

5. What if it meant getting into a long war with large numbers of U.S. troops killed or wounded - in that case would you support or oppose taking military action against the groups or nations responsible for these attacks?

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*****

6. Do you think the United States should limit its military action only to those groups or nations responsible for the recent 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

*****IF Q6=1,2*****

7. Do you feel that way strongly, or not so strongly?

- 1 Strongly
- 2 Not strongly
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

8. Just your best guess, do you think the United States will go to war as a result of the recent attacks, or not?

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

9. How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in this country - is that something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?

- 1 Great deal
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 Not too much
- 4 Not at all
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****SCRAMBLE ITEMS*****

10. I am going to read you a list of things some people say the United States must do in its war on international terrorism, but others say are a lower priority.

For each, please tell me if this is something you think the United States absolutely must do, no matter what; something that would be good to do, but not essential; something that is a lower priority; or something that should not be done at all.

The first is (READ ITEM):

- a. Capture or kill Osama Bin Laden and break up his terrorist network
- b. Overthrow the Taliban government in Afghanistan
- c. Significantly reduce the number of terrorist attacks against the United States.
- d. Significantly reduce the number of attacks by international terrorists against other countries, even if these attacks are not directed at the United States.
- e. Overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, even if he cannot be linked directly to the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington.

- 1 US absolutely must do this
- 2 This would be good to do, but not essential
- 3 This is a lower priority
- 4 This should not be done at all
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

11. Now, suppose the United States accomplishes all of these things in the next few years, including reducing terrorism in the United States and around the world.

If a major terrorist attack were still to occur like the ones in New York and Washington, would you say that the United States still had won the war on terrorism, or not?

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

12. How confident are you that the United States will capture or kill Osama Bin Laden: are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?

- 1 Very confident
- 2 Somewhat confident
- 3 Not too confident
- 4 Not at all confident
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

13. How confident are you that the United States will be able to significantly reduce terrorist attacks against the United States: are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?

- 1 Very confident
- 2 Somewhat confident
- 3 Not too confident
- 4 Not at all confident
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****SCRAMBLE ITEMS*****

14. As part of the effort to combat terrorism, would you support or oppose (READ ITEM.) How about (NEXT ITEM)

*****HALF SAMPLE*****

- a. Allowing wiretaps on suspected terrorists to include cell phones and the internet, as well as regular telephones
- b. Allowing court-ordered wiretaps and electronic surveillance to follow a suspect for up to a year, anywhere that person goes in the United States
- c. Allowing investigators to tap into voicemail and e-mail messages with just a search warrant, rather than a court order
- d. Allowing electronic surveillance conducted overseas by foreign governments to be used in U.S. courts, even if that surveillance would not have been allowed in this country
- e. Allowing airline pilots to carry guns

*****HALF SAMPLE*****

- f. Allowing prosecutors to share secret grand jury information with the CIA and other national security agencies
- g. Increasing the criminal penalties for terrorism and terrorism conspiracy
- h. Allowing the government to deport or indefinitely detain any foreigner in this country who is suspected of supporting any organization involved in terrorism
- i. Allowing the government to confiscate the money in bank accounts linked to terrorists
- j. Creating criminal penalties for money-laundering involving terrorism
- k. Having the federal government take over security screening at U.S. airports, at a cost of nearly one-point-eight billion dollars a year

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

*****SCRAMBLE ITEMS*****

15. Because of the war on terrorism, would you favor or oppose:

- a. Postponing action on education reform for at least a year
- b. Postponing action on prescription drugs for seniors for at least a year

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

16. On another subject, how much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

- 1 Always
- 2 Most
- 3 Only some
- 4 None (vol.)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

17. Do you consider yourself strongly patriotic, somewhat patriotic or not very patriotic at all?

- 1 Strongly patriotic
- 2 Somewhat patriotic
- 3 Not very patriotic at all
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

18. Just your best guess: Do you think the recent terrorist attacks on the United States will make people appreciate more the privileges they have in this country, or not?

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

19. Do you think the terrorist attacks will make people more willing to make personal sacrifices for the good of the country, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 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

908a. Would you say your views on most political matters are liberal, moderate, or conservative?

- 1 Liberal
- 2 Moderate
- 3 Conservative
- 4 (VOL) Don't think in those terms
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

909. What was the last grade of school you completed?

- 1 8th grade or less
- 2 Some high school
- 3 Graduated high school
- 4 Some college (ASK IF SCHOOL WAS A TECHNICAL SCHOOL; IF IT WAS, PUNCH CODE 3,
FOR HIGH SCHOOL)
- 5 Graduated College
- 6 Post-graduate
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

IF Q.909 = 5, GRADUATED COLLEGE

909a. Was that an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, or what?

- 1 Associates degree
- 2 Bachelors degree
- 3 Other
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

910. What is your age?

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

913. Would you describe the area in which you live as a: **(READ LIST)**

- 1 Large city
- 2 Suburb of a large city
- 3 Small town
- 4 Or rural area
- DO NOT READ BELOW---
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

914. Are you: **(READ LIST)**

- 1 Married and living with your spouse
- 2 Separated
- 3 Divorced
- 4 Widowed
- 5 Or never married
- DO NOT READ BELOW---
- 9 NA/Refused

915. Do you have any children under age 18 living at home, or not?

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

976. Are you, or is anyone in your household, currently in military service, a military veteran, or a reservist?

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

918. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?
(IF "YES," ASK:) Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?
(IF "NO," ASK:) Are you white, black, or some other race?

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 White Hispanic
- 4 Black Hispanic
- 5 Hispanic (no race given)
- 6 Other race
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

919. If you added together the yearly incomes, before taxes, of all the members of your household for last year, 2000, would the total be: (READ LIST)

- 1 Less than \$30,000, or
- 2 \$30,000 or more (SKIP TO Q.919.2)
- 9 (DO NOT READ) NA/Refused (SKIP TO 920)

919.1 Would that be: (READ LIST)

- 1 Under \$8,000 (SKIP TO 920)
- 2 \$8,000 but less than \$12,000 (SKIP TO 920)
- 3 \$12,000 but less than \$20,000 (SKIP TO 920)
- 4 \$20,000 but less than \$30,000 (SKIP TO 920)
- 9 (DO NOT READ) NA/Refused (SKIP TO 920)

919.2 Would that be: (READ LIST)

- 1 \$30,000 but less than \$50,000
- 2 \$50,000 but less than \$75,000
- 3 Or more than \$75,000
- 9 (DO NOT READ)NA/Refused

*****ASK ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE RESPONDENTS*****

920.1 May a reporter call you to talk about some of the things we've been discussing?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO Q.921)
- 8 DK/No opinion (SKIP TO Q.921)
- 9 NA/Refused (SKIP TO Q.921)

921. RECORD GENDER

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

*****END*****