
ABC News/Washington Post Afghanistan Attack
Poll #2, October 2001

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST AFGHANISTAN ATTACK POLL #2,
OCTOBER 2001

(ICPSR 3299)

Principal Investigators

ABC News/The Washington Post

First ICPSR Version
October 2001

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST AFGHANISTAN ATTACK POLL #2, OCTOBER 2001 (ICPSR 3299)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, conducted October 8, 2001, was undertaken to assess respondents' reactions to and feelings about the United States military action in Afghanistan. Respondents were asked whether they approved of the way President Bush was handling the response to terrorist attacks in the United States, and whether they supported United States air strikes on Afghanistan and sending a significant number of United States ground troops into that country. Respondents were asked whether they believed that the United States government was doing all it reasonably could do to try to prevent further terrorist attacks and whether they supported United States military action against other countries supporting terrorism. Those polled expressed their level of concern about the possibility of further terrorist attacks (specifically biological and chemical) in America, and how confident they were in the abilities of the federal and local governments, police, and health agencies to respond effectively to a biological or chemical attack in the United States. A battery of questions focused on the Muslim religion and its believers, including whether respondents had a good basic understanding of Islam, how they viewed this religion, whether Arabs and Muslims had positive or negative opinions about the United States and reasons for these opinions, whether they thought the terrorists who attacked the United States in September were close in their views to the mainstream teachings of Islam, and whether they knew anyone who was a Muslim. Respondents also gave their opinions on whether the United States was doing enough to improve its image among Arabs and Muslims. Another subject of this survey was the Middle East. Those polled commented on whether they had more sympathy for Israel or for the Palestinian Authority, whether the United States should increase support for Israel or decrease support for Israel and recognize Palestine as an independent nation, and what was more important at this time--United States relations with Israel or with the Arab nations. Additional questions focused on the possibility of a broader war between the United States and its allies on one side and Arabs and Muslims on the other side, the efforts of the United States to avoid a broader war, and racial profiling and social consent for racial profiling as a tool against terrorism. Background information on respondents includes age, gender, race, Hispanic origin, religion, political party affiliation, political orientation, education, and objective size of community.

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: 1,009
Variables: 58

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-18499
October 8, 2001
FINAL

(868--AFGHANISTAN ATTACK POLL #2)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling on behalf of ABC News. We're conducting a public opinion survey about America's response to 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 the U.S.-led air strikes on Afghanistan that began this week?

INTERVIEWER NOTE: Get answer and then ask:

Do you support/oppose this STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

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

3. Would you support or oppose sending a significant number of U.S. ground troops into Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban government?

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

4. Would you support or oppose U.S. military action against other countries that assist or shelter terrorists?

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

5. How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in the United States - 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

6. Are you personally worried that you or a close relative or friend might be the victim of a further terrorist attack in this country, or is that something you're not especially worried about?

- 1 Worried
- 2 Not worried
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

7. Do you think the United States government is doing all it reasonably can do to try to prevent further terrorist attacks, or do you think it should do more?

- 1 US is doing all it can do
- 2 US should do more
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

23. Specifically, how concerned are you about the possibility of a terrorist attack in the United States using biological or chemical weapons - 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

24. How confident are you in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to a biological or chemical attack in the United States - very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not confident at all?

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

25. How confident are you in the ability of your local government, police and health agencies to respond effectively to a biological or chemical attack in the area where you live - very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not confident at all?

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

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

8. On another subject, in the Middle East, are your sympathies more with (Israel) or more with (the Palestinian Authority)?

- 1 Israel
- 2 Palestinian Authority
- 3 (VOL) Both
- 4 (VOL) Neither
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

9. Do you think the United States should increase its support for Israel, decrease its support for Israel or keep it about the same?

- 1 Increase
- 2 Decrease
- 3 Keep the same
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

10. Do you think the United States should or should not recognize Palestine as an independent nation?

- 1 Yes, should
- 2 No, should not
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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

11. What do you feel is more important at this time - U.S. relations with (Israel), or U.S. relations with (the Arab nations)?

- 1 US relations with Israel
- 2 US relations with Arab nations
- 3 (VOL) Both equally
- 4 (VOL) Neither
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

12. On another subject, do you feel you do or do not have a good basic understanding of the teachings and beliefs of Islam, the Muslim religion?

- 1 Yes, I do
- 2 No, I do not
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

13. Would you say you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of Islam?

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

14. Thinking of the terrorists who attacked the United States last month, do you think their views are close to the mainstream teachings of Islam, or do you think they're part of a radical fringe?

- 1 Mainstream
- 2 Radical fringe
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

15. Do you think most Arabs and Muslims around the world have a positive opinion or a negative opinion of the United States?

- 1 Positive
- 2 Negative
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE: SCRAMBLE ITEMS*****

16. Do you think Arabs and Muslims around the world have a more POSITIVE or more NEGATIVE opinion of the United States because of (READ ITEM)?

IF MORE NEGATIVE: Is that MUCH more negative or SOMEWHAT more negative?

How about (NEXT ITEM)

- a. U.S. support for Israel
- b. The U.S. role in leading the Persian Gulf War against Iraq
- c. U.S. support for non-democratic governments in Arab and Muslim countries
- d. The presence of U.S. military forces in Arab and Muslim countries
- e. The spread of Western culture in Arab and Muslim countries

- 1 More positive
- 2 MUCH MORE negative
- 3 SOMEWHAT MORE negative
- 4 (VOL) No difference
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

17. Do you think the United States IS or IS NOT doing enough to try to improve its image among Arabs and Muslims around the world?

- 1 Yes, IS doing enough
- 2 No, IS NOT doing enough
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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

18. How worried are you that the U.S. war on terrorism will grow into a broader war between (the U.S. and its allies) on one side, and (Arabs and Muslims) on the other side? 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

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

26. Do you think the United States is doing all it reasonably can do to try to prevent this from becoming a broader war between (the U.S. and its allies) on one side and (Arabs and Muslims) on the other side, or do you think it should do more?

- 1 US is doing all it can do
- 2 US should do more
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE: SCRAMBLE ITEMS*****

19. Thinking of the situation here in the United States, please tell me if you support or oppose giving the police powers to stop and search (**READ ITEM**)

How about... (**NEXT ITEM**)

- a. Any person, at random
- b. Any person who fits the profile of a suspected terrorist
- c. Any one who appears to be an Arab or Muslim, at random

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

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE: ROTATE ITEMS*****

20. There are many factors that could go into the profile of a suspected terrorist, such as having contacts with terrorist groups. Do you think (**READ ITEM**) should be part of the profile of a suspected terrorist, or not?

IF YES: Should it be an important part of the profile, or just a secondary part?

How about... (**NEXT ITEM**)

- a. Expressing support for terrorists' goals
- b. Being Arab or Muslim

- 1 Yes, IMPORTANT PART
- 2 Yes, JUST A SECONDARY PART
- 3 No, should not be part of profile
- 8 DK/ No opinion
- 9 NA/ Refused

21. Have last month's terrorist attacks made you personally more suspicious of people who you think are of Arab descent, 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

Q911. What, if anything, is your religion? (DO NOT READ)

- 1 Agnostic
 - 2 Atheist
 - 3 Baptist
 - 4 Catholic/Roman Catholic
 - 5 Christian
 - 6 Episcopalian
 - 24 Islam/Muslim
 - 7 Jewish
 - 8 Lutheran
 - 9 Methodist
 - 10 Pentecostal
 - 11 Presbyterian
 - 12 Protestant
 - 13 Southern Baptist
 - 14 NONE
 - 15 OTHER (Specify)
- ***DO NOT SHOW BELOW ON SCREEN*****
- 16 RESERVED FOR CODING
 - 17 RESERVED FOR CODING
 - 18 RESERVED FOR CODING
 - 19 RESERVED FOR CODING
 - 20 RESERVED FOR CODING
 - 21 Christian (Protestant)
 - 22 Christian (Non-Protestant)
 - 23 Other Non-Christian
 - DK/No opinion
 - NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q911=5 "CHRISTIAN"*****

Q911A. Is that a Protestant denomination, or not?

- 1 Yes PUNCH Q911=21
- 2 No PUNCH Q911=22
- 8 DK/No opinion PUNCH Q911=22
- 9 NA/Refused PUNCH Q911=22

*****ASK ALL EXCEPT Q911=24 "ISLAM/MUSLIM"*****

22. Do you personally know anyone who is a Muslim, or not?

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

Q913. 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

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

921. RECORD GENDER

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

END