
ABC News/Washington Post Anthrax Poll,
October 2001

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST ANTHRAX POLL, OCTOBER 2001

(ICPSR 3300)

Principal Investigators

ABC News/The Washington Post

First ICPSR Version

October 2001

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DATA DISCLAIMER

The original collector of the data, ICPSR, and the relevant funding agency bear no responsibility for uses of this collection or for interpretations or inferences based upon such uses.

DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST ANTHRAX POLL, OCTOBER 2001
(ICPSR 3300)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, conducted October 15, 2001, was undertaken to assess respondents' reactions to and feelings about the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, DC, the United States' war on terrorism, and the recent letters contaminated with anthrax bacteria being distributed through the mail. Respondents were asked how they viewed President George W. Bush and his handling of the United States' campaign against terrorism, whether they believed that the United States government was doing all it could to prevent further terrorist attacks against America, and whether they were concerned about the possibility that there would be more major terrorist attacks in the United States. A series of questions focusing on the anthrax attacks queried respondents on whether they were concerned that they or someone close to them would be a victim of an anthrax attack, how confident they were in the ability of the United States government to respond effectively to a large-scale biological or chemical attack in the United States, and how accurate they thought news media reports on the anthrax situation were. In addition, respondents were asked whether they had purchased or intended to purchase a supply of antibiotics in case of a biological attack, and, if they had purchased antibiotics, what brand they bought. Those queried were asked to assess their level of concern that the United States war on terrorism would grow into a broader war between the United States and its allies and the Arab and Muslim world, and whether the United States was doing all it reasonably could to avoid civilian casualties as a result of the military action in Afghanistan. Background information on respondents includes gender and political party.

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: 509

Variables: 30

United States Census Region Codes

=====

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-18500
October 15, 2001
FINAL

(869--ANTHRAX POLL)

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 the U.S. campaign against terrorism?

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. 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

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

- 1 Doing all it can
- 2 Should do more
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

4. There's been news lately about letters contaminated with the anthrax bacteria being distributed by mail. Is this situation 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

5. What about the chance that you personally, or a close friend or relative, might be the victim of an anthrax attack - does that worry 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 satisfied or dissatisfied with the way government authorities have been handling the anthrax situation?

INTERVIEWER: GET ANSWER AND THEN ASK, "Would you say you are VERY satisfied/dissatisfied or only SOMEWHAT?"

- 1 Very satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Very dissatisfied
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE: ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

7. Given what you know about it, do you think of the anthrax situation as (a few isolated cases limited to a small number of people), or as (the first of an ongoing series of cases that could affect large numbers of people)?

- 1 Isolated cases
- 2 First of ongoing series
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

8. How confident are you in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to a large-scale 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

*****PROGRAMMER NOTE: ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

9. Generally speaking, do you think the news media have (exaggerated the danger of the anthrax situation), or have they (reported the anthrax situation without exaggerating the danger)?

- 1 Exaggerated danger of situation
- 2 DID NOT exaggerate danger
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

10. Since September 11th, have you or has anyone in your household bought a supply of antibiotics in case of biological attack, or not?

- 1 Yes **ASK Q11**
- 2 No **SKIP TO Q12**
- 8 DK/No Opinion **SKIP TO Q12**
- 9 NA/Refused **SKIP TO Q12**

*****ASK IF Q10=1*****

11. What kind of antibiotic did you buy--what brand name, if you remember?

- 1 Cipro/Ciprofloxacin
- 2 Other (Specify)
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q10=2,8,9*****

12. Are you seriously considering doing that, or not?

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

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

13. On another subject, 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

14. Do you think the United States is doing all it reasonably can do to try to avoid civilian casualties in Afghanistan, or do you think it should do more?

- 1 Doing all it can
- 2 Should do more
- 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

*****ASK ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR RESPONDENTS, OR RESPONDENTS WITH Q11=1*****

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)

920.2 May I please have your first name, so the reporter will know who to ask for:

921. RECORD GENDER

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

*****END*****