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*ABC News/Washington Post* Terrorist Attack  
Poll #1, September 2001

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*ABC News/The Washington Post*



ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST TERRORIST ATTACK POLL #1,  
SEPTEMBER 2001

(ICPSR 3289)

Principal Investigators

ABC News/The Washington Post

First ICPSR Version  
October 2001

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#### DATA DISCLAIMER

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## DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST TERRORIST ATTACK POLL #1, SEPTEMBER 2001 (ICPSR 3289)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, conducted September 11, 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 resulted in a plane crash in Pennsylvania, earlier that day. Respondents were asked whether they believed that the United States government did all it reasonably could do to try to prevent the attacks, whether they were confident in the ability of the United States government to prevent further terrorist attacks against America, and whether they were concerned that someone they knew or their community might be a victim of future acts of terrorism. Assuming that the United States is able to identify the groups and/or nations responsible for the attacks, those queried were asked whether they would support taking military action in response, whether they would support such action if it meant war, and whether military action should be taken against countries that assist or shelter known terrorists. The poll gauged respondents' level of confidence in the ability of the United States government to find and punish those responsible and assessed whether respondents were willing to give up some liberties to crack down on terrorism. In addition, those surveyed were asked whether they did any of the following on that day: contacted family and friends, stayed home or left work early, watched or listened to broadcast news, prayed for the victims and their families, and/or changed their daily routines. Background information on respondents includes age, gender, employment status, Hispanic origin, and size of community in which they resided.

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: 608

Variables: 34

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	



(TERRORIST POLL 1)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling on behalf of ABC News. We're conducting a public opinion survey about today'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?)*

As you have probably heard, apparent terrorist attacks today destroyed the World Trade Towers in New York City, damaged the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and caused a plane crash in Pennsylvania. Apparently these attacks were carried out by terrorists who hijacked commercial airplanes.

1. Do you think the United States government did all it reasonably could do to try to prevent these attacks, or do you think it could have done more?

- 1 US did all it could do
- 2 US could have done more
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

2. How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to prevent further terrorist attacks against Americans in this country: a great deal, a good amount, only a fair amount or none at all?

- 1 Great deal
- 2 Good amount
- 3 Fair amount
- 4 None at all
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

3. 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

4. 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

5. How concerned are you about the possibility there will be a major terrorist attack in your own community where you live - 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. If the United States can identify the groups or nations responsible for today's attacks, would you support or oppose taking military action against them?

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

**\*\*\*IF YES to Q6\*\*\***

7. 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

8. Apart from those responsible for today's attacks, would you support or oppose the U.S. taking military action against countries that assist or shelter terrorists?

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

9. How confident are you in the ability of the U.S. government to find and punish the people responsible for these attacks - 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

10. Would you be willing to give up some of the liberties we have in this country in order for the government to crack down on terrorism, or not?

- 1 Would be willing
- 2 Would not be willing
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

11. Did you, personally, do any of the following because of today's attacks:

- a. Call or e-mail a friend or relative in New York or Washington to see how they were
- b. Stay home from work or leave early
- c. Watch or listen to broadcast news reports
- d. Pray for the victims and their families
- e. Change your daily plans or activities in any way

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

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

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

917. At present, are you yourself employed part-time or full-time or are you retired or something else?

- 1 Employed part-time
- 2 Employed full-time
- 3 Unemployed
- 4 Laid off
- 5 Retired
- 6 Full-time homemaker
- 7 Student
- 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

**\*\*\*ASK ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE 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)

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\*\*\***