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*ABC News/Washington Post* Terrorist Attack  
Poll #2, September 2001

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*ABC News/The Washington Post*



ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST TERRORIST ATTACK POLL #2,  
SEPTEMBER 2001

(ICPSR 3290)

Principal Investigators

ABC News/The Washington Post

First ICPSR Version  
October 2001

Inter-university Consortium for  
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## DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST TERRORIST ATTACK POLL #2, SEPTEMBER 2001 (ICPSR 3290)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, conducted September 13, 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 on September 11, 2001. Respondents were asked to give their opinions of President George W. Bush and his handling of the presidency and the terrorist attacks. Respondents were asked whether they believed that the United States government did all it reasonably could do to try to prevent the attacks, and whether they were confident in the ability of the United States government to prevent future terrorist attacks against America. 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. Respondents were asked whether they would feel the same way if military action meant that innocent civilians in other countries might be injured or killed and if military action resulted in a long war with large numbers of troops injured or killed. Those queried were asked whether they believed that the United States would go to war as a result of Tuesday's attacks. Respondents' opinions were elicited on Osama bin Laden, a suspect in the recent attacks, who reportedly lived in Afghanistan and was indicted for directing previous terrorist attacks. They were asked whether they would support attacking Afghanistan militarily if Afghanistan did not turn bin Laden over to the United States. Respondents were also asked whether they would support new laws that would make it easier for the FBI and other authorities to investigate suspected terrorists, giving up some of their personal liberties and privacy as a result of such laws, and whether they would support new airport security measures that might cause long delays in air travel. Those surveyed were asked about their personal safety concerns regarding upcoming air travel and whether they had cancelled or were planning to cancel future travel plans. Additional topics covered whether the attacks had made respondents more suspicious of people of Arab descent, how their children were reacting to the acts of terrorism, and whether the economy was heading into a recession. Background information on respondents includes age, gender, political party, children in household, and frequency of air travel.

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: 609

Variables: 43

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-18437  
September 13, 2001  
**FINAL**

(864--TERRORIST POLL #2)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling on behalf of ABC News. We're conducting a public opinion survey about this 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 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 approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling the U.S. response to this week's terrorist attacks?

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

3. 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

4. If the United States can identify the groups or nations responsible for these attacks, would you support or oppose taking military action against them?

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

**\*\*\*IF SUPPORT AT Q4\*\*\***

5. 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 Q4\*\*\***

6. 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?

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

**\*\*\*IF SUPPORT AT Q4\*\*\***

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

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

8. As you may know, a man named Osama bin Laden, who reportedly lives in Afghanistan, has been indicted for directing previous terrorist attacks and is a suspect in Tuesday's attacks. If Afghanistan does not turn bin Laden over to the United States, would you support or oppose the United States' attacking Afghanistan militarily?

**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

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

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

10. 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

11. Would you support or oppose new laws that would make it easier for the FBI and other authorities to investigate people they suspect of involvement in terrorism?

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

**\*\*\*IF SUPPORT AT Q11\*\*\***

12. What if that meant giving up some of Americans' personal liberties and privacy---in that case would you support it or not?

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

13. Would you support or oppose new airport security measures, even if they cause long delays in air travel?

**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

14. Are you personally worried about traveling by commercial airplane because of the risk of terrorism, or do you think the risk is not that great?

**INTERVIEWER: If WORRIED ask:** Are you very worried or somewhat worried?

- 1 Very worried
- 2 Somewhat worried
- 3 Not worried
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

15. Have you personally cancelled any specific plans to travel by air in the future because of the danger of terrorist attacks, or not?

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

**\*\*\*IF NO TO Q15\*\*\***

16. Do you have any personal air travel plans that you are thinking of canceling, or not?

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

17. Do you think the attacks this week will make 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

910. What is your age?

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

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

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

**\*\*\*IF YES TO Q18\*\*\***

19. What are the ages of those children? Are they: (RECORD ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 1 to 6 years old
- 2 7 to 12 years old
- 3 13 to 15 years old
- 4 16 to 17 years old
- 9 NA/Refused

**\*\*\*IF YES TO Q18\*\*\***

20. Please tell me if your child/children under 12 have reacted to these attacks in any of the following ways:

- a. waking up with nightmares
- b. crying
- c. expressing concern about their own safety

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

21. About how often do you fly on commercial airlines: at least every few months, once or twice a year, less often than that, or have you never flown?

- 1 At least every few months
- 2 Once or twice a year
- 3 Less often than that
- 4 Have never flown
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

22. On another subject, 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

921. RECORD GENDER

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

**\*\*\*END\*\*\***