
ABC News/Washington Post Six Months After
September 11th Poll, March 2002

ABC News/The Washington Post

ICPSR 3431

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST SIX MONTHS AFTER SEPTEMBER 11TH POLL,
MARCH 2002

(ICPSR 3431)

Principal Investigators

ABC News/The Washington Post

First ICPSR Version

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Political and Social Research

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST SIX MONTHS AFTER SEPTEMBER 11TH POLL,
MARCH 2002 (ICPSR 3431)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll was undertaken to assess public opinion on United States military and political action regarding terrorism and terrorist threats six months after September 11, 2001. Respondents were asked to give their opinions of President George W. Bush and his handling of the presidency and the campaign against terrorism. Views were also elicited on the military action in Afghanistan, the likelihood and necessity of capturing Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, foreign diplomacy, the possibility of broader anti-terrorist military action, and the effects of September 11th. A series of questions asked whether those queried supported military action in Afghanistan, whether they thought the military action was going well, whether the campaign would become more or less difficult, whether United States involvement would at some point become comparable to its involvement in the Vietnam War, and whether the United States was doing enough to avoid United States military casualties. In regards to bin Laden and the Al Qaeda network, respondents were asked how confident they were that bin Laden would be captured or killed, whether the success of the war on terrorism depended on bin Laden's being captured or killed, how effectively the United States had limited bin Laden's ability to maintain the Al Qaeda network, whether large numbers of United States military casualties should be risked to capture or kill bin Laden, and whether the United States should focus specifically on capturing/killing bin Laden, neutralizing the Al Qaeda network, neither of the two, or both actions. Another series of questions focused on United States diplomatic relationships and the possibility of expanding the current military campaign to other countries. Respondents were asked if the United States was effectively winning support from its allies in the war on terrorism, if the United States was effectively winning support from Muslims in general in the war against terrorism, if American troops should be sent to countries such as the Philippines and Yemen, and if American military action should be taken against Iraq in order to depose Saddam Hussein. If respondents supported action against Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein, they were asked whether allied opposition to such action would affect their support. With respect to future terrorist attacks, respondents were queried as to how much confidence they had in the United States government to prevent such attacks, how concerned they were about more terrorist attacks, and whether the United States was doing all it could to prevent terrorism. The final section focused on changes brought

about by the events of September 11th and included questions on whether respondents felt those events had changed the United States in a lasting way, and if so whether this change was for the better or worse, whether respondents' personal lives had been changed, and if so whether their day-to-day lives or their feelings about things were more prominently affected. The last question asked about the respondent's pride in being an American. Background information on respondents includes age, gender, political party, education, Hispanic origin, whether they were currently displaying an American flag in their homes or on their cars, and if so, whether they began doing so after September 11, 2002, or had already been displaying the flag beforehand.

SAMPLING: Households were selected by random-digit dialing. Within households, the respondent selected was the adult living in the household who last had a birthday and who was at home at the time of interview.

UNIVERSE: Persons aged 18 and over living in households with telephones in the contiguous 48 United States.

NOTE: (1) The data are provided as an SPSS portable file. (2) Additional information about sampling, interviewing, weighting, and sampling error may be found in the codebook. (3) 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. (4) 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.

RESTRICTIONS: This data collection may not be used for any purpose other than statistical reporting and analysis. Use of these data to learn the identity of any person or establishment is prohibited.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF)

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: REFORM.DOC/ REFORM.DATA

DATA FORMAT: SPSS portable file

Cases: 1,008

Variables: 50

United States Census Division Codes [CENSDIV]

=====

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	

United States Census Region Codes [REGION]

=====

1 EAST

Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

2 MIDWEST

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

3 SOUTH

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

4 WEST

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

ABC News Polling Methodology

By Daniel M. Merkle

Assistant Director of Polling, ABC News

ABC News polls of the general population are conducted by telephone among a random national sample of adults age 18 and over. Sampling and data collection, for most of these polls, are conducted by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pennsylvania. TNSI and its predecessor, Chilton Research Services, have been ABC News' primary field work provider since 1979. ABC News closely oversees TNS sampling and field work procedures.

Sampling

A sample of households in the continental United States is selected via random digit dialing (RDD) procedures, to insure that all possible listed and unlisted phone numbers are included with equal probability of selection. RDD samples are produced using the Genesys Sampling System from a sampling frame that includes all active telephone area codes and exchanges.

Before sampling, exchanges are stratified into nine regions as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau: New England, Middle Atlantic, East North Central, West North Central, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, Mountain, Pacific. Counties within each region are then classified as metropolitan or non-metropolitan, using definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Within each of the resulting 18 strata, exchanges are grouped by state and then sorted by median county income as reported by the Census. These steps help ensure representativeness.

Sampling then occurs in three stages. First, a systematic random sample of telephone exchanges is selected within each stratum, by taking every n th exchange.

Next, telephone banks (the first two digits of the four-digit suffix) with more than one residential listing assigned in white pages directories are classified as working banks. A sample of four-digit suffixes is randomly selected from among working banks in each exchange, resulting in a self-weighting sample of households. This sample is checked against a database of known business telephone numbers to reduce business listings in the sample. The sampled phone numbers are pre-dialed via a non-ringing auto-dialer to reduce dialing of non-working numbers.

The third stage of sampling is respondent selection within the household, accomplished by last-birthday selection. Interviewers ask to speak to the household member age 18 or over at home who's had the last birthday. To compensate for the fact that women tend to be easier to reach, in-house selection is stratified by sex, with interviewers asking to speak with the male household member 75 percent of the time and the female 25 percent of the time. If a person of the selected sex is unavailable, the interviewer asks to speak with the person of the other sex who had the last birthday.

Interviewing

Phone numbers are released for interviewing in replicates by region to allow for sample control. In multi-night polls, numbers are called multiple times during the field period. Interviews are conducted via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). The professional interviewers employed by TNSI, and their supervisors, are extensively trained in interviewing practices, including techniques designed to achieve the highest possible respondent cooperation.

Weighting

Final data are weighted using demographic information from the Census to adjust for sampling and nonsampling deviations from population values. Respondents customarily are classified into one of 48 cells based on age, race, sex and education. Weights are assigned so the proportion in each of these 48 cells matches the actual population proportion according to the Census Bureau's most recent Current Population Survey.

Sampling Error

Poll results may deviate from full population values because a sample, not a census, is interviewed. Sampling error can be calculated when probability sampling methods, such as those described here, are employed. The standard formula to calculate sampling error at the 95 percent confidence level is: $(\text{SQRT}(.25/\text{sample size})) * 1.96$. There can be other sources of differences in polls, such as the wording and order of questions.

TNS INTERSEARCH
Horsham, PA

#DL-19177
March 7, 2002
FINAL

(877-SIX MONTHS LATER)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling on behalf of ABC News. We're conducting a public opinion survey about some current events.

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. 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

3. Do you think the U.S. campaign against terrorism is going very well, fairly well, not too well or not well at all?

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

4. Do you support or oppose the U.S. military action in Afghanistan?

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

5. Do you think the U.S. military action in Afghanistan is going very well, fairly well, not too well or not well at all?

- 1 Very well
- 2 Fairly well
- 3 Not too well
- 4 Not well at all
- 8 DK/ No opinion
- 9 NA/ Refused

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

6. In terms of U.S. military action in Afghanistan, do you think the most difficult part is (over), or do you think the most difficult part is (yet to come)?

- 1 Most difficult part IS OVER
- 2 Most difficult part IS YET TO COME
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

7. Do you think the United States is heading for the same kind of involvement in Afghanistan as it had in the Vietnam war, or do you think the United States will avoid that kind of involvement this time?

- 1 Another Vietnam
- 2 Will avoid that
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

8. Do you think the United States is doing all it reasonably can do to try to avoid U.S. military casualties in Afghanistan, or do you think the United States should be doing more to avoid U.S. military casualties?

- 1 U.S. doing all it can to avoid casualties
- 2 U.S. should be doing more to avoid casualties
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

9. 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
- 5 (VOL) He is dead already
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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

10. Do you think (the United States has to capture or kill Osama bin Laden for the war on terrorism to be a success), or do you think (the war on terrorism can be a success without Osama bin Laden being killed or captured)?

- 1 US MUST capture/kill Osama bin Laden
- 2 War can be a success without capturing/killing bin Laden
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

11. How effective do you think the United States has been in terms of limiting Osama bin Laden's ability to maintain the Al Qaeda terrorist network - very effective, somewhat effective, not too effective or not effective at all?

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

12. Do you think it's worth risking a large number of U.S. military casualties in order to capture or kill Osama bin Laden, or not?

- 1 Yes, worth risk
- 2 No, not worth risk
- 8 DK/ No opinion
- 9 NA/ Refused

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

13. What do you think should be a bigger focus of the campaign against terrorism - (trying to capture or kill Osama bin Laden specifically), or (trying to capture or kill members of the Al Qaeda network in general)?

- 1 Capture/kill Osama bin Laden
- 2 Capture/kill members of Al Qaeda network
- 3 (VOL) Both
- 4 (VOL) Neither
- 8 DK/ No opinion
- 9 NA/ Refused

14. Do you think the United States IS or IS NOT doing enough to win the support of its allies in the campaign against terrorism?

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

15. In its anti-terrorism campaign, do you think the United States IS or IS NOT doing enough to win the support of Muslim people around the world?

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

16. Do you support or oppose sending U.S. troops to try to help capture terrorists in other countries, such as the Phillipines and Yemen?

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

17. Would you favor or oppose having U.S. forces take military action against Iraq to force Saddam Hussein from power?

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

*****ASK IF FAVOR AT Q17*****

18. What if U.S. allies opposed such military action - in that case would you favor or oppose having U.S. forces take military action against Iraq?

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

19. 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

20. 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

21. 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

22. On another subject, do you think the events of September 11th have changed this country in a lasting way, or not?

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

*****IF CHANGED*****

23. Is it a change for the better or a change for the worse?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

24. How about your own personal life - have the events of September 11th changed your own personal life in a lasting way, or not?

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

*****IF CHANGED*****

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

25. Have they mainly changed the way you (live your day-to-day life), or mainly changed the way you (feel about things)?

- 1 Way you live day-to-day life
- 2 Way you feel about things
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****IF CHANGED*****

26. Is it a change for the better or a change for the worse?

- 1 Better
- 2 Worse
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

27. How proud are you to be an American - extremely proud, very proud, moderately proud, only a little proud, or not at all proud?

- 1 Extremely proud
- 2 Very proud
- 3 Moderately proud
- 4 Only a little proud
- 5 Not at all proud
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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

*****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

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 TECHNICAL SCHOOL; IF YES, 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?

--

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

28. Are you displaying an American flag on a daily basis these days - either at your home, on your car or anywhere else - or not?

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

*****IF YES TO Q28*****

29. Did you start displaying the flag on a daily basis after September 11th, or were you doing it before then?

- 1 Started AFTER September 11th
- 2 Was displaying BEFORE September 11th
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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

920.1 May a reporter from ABC NEWS or THE WASHINGTON POST 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*****