
ABC News Bush National Intelligence Poll,
May 2002

ABC News

ICPSR 3566

ABC News Bush National Intelligence Poll, May 2002

(ICPSR 3566)

Principal Investigators

ABC News

First ICPSR Version

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Inter-university Consortium for

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

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DATA DISCLAIMER

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News

ABC News Bush National Intelligence Poll, May 2002
(ICPSR 3566)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll was undertaken to assess respondents' reactions to and feelings about intelligence reports regarding terrorist threats on the United States before and after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, DC. Respondents were asked to give their views of President George W. Bush, his handling of the presidency, and the United States campaign against terrorism. Those polled also expressed their level of confidence in the government's ability to prevent further terrorist attacks against Americans in the United States. Respondents' opinions were elicited on the actions the government took or could have taken to prevent the September 11 terrorist attacks, and to prevent further terrorist attacks. In addition, respondents were queried about their knowledge of past news stories regarding intelligence reports, and they also gave their opinions on the Bush administration's follow-up on those intelligence reports. Other questions focused on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's response to a proposed investigation of Arabs taking flight-school training in the United States, and the United States Congress's investigation of the Bush administration's knowledge of terrorist threats before September 11, 2001, and its handling of that knowledge. Background information includes respondents' political affiliation, education, age, race, and gender.

UNIVERSE: Population of the United States aged 18 and over and having telephones at home.

SAMPLING: Random-digit dialing, using a multistage, stratified sample. Within households, respondents were selected by last-birthday selection.

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

DATA FORMAT: SPSS portable file

Cases: 803

Variables: 34

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 nth 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-19182
May 18, 2002
FINAL

(BUSH INTELLIGENCE FLAP POLL)

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
- DK/No Opinion
- 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
- DK/No Opinion
- NA/Refused

3. 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

4. Do you think the United States government did all it reasonably could do to try to prevent the September 11th terrorist 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

5. 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

6. Do you happen to have heard or read recent news stories that Bush was briefed last summer, before the September 11th terrorist attacks, about intelligence reports of a possible terrorist plot to hijack American airplanes?

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

7. Do you think the Bush administration did or did not do enough to follow up on these intelligence reports, given what was known at the time?

- 1 Did do enough
- 2 Did NOT do enough
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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

8. Does it sound to you like these intelligence reports were (detailed enough for the government to have taken specific action to increase security), or do you think these reports were (too vague for the government to know what action to take)?

- 1 Detailed enough to take action
- 2 Too vague to take action
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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

9. It's also been reported that an FBI agent last July proposed an investigation of Arabs taking flight-school training in the United States. The FBI did not follow up on this proposal. Do you regard this more as (a missed opportunity), or more as (negligence) on the part of the FBI?

- 1 Missed opportunity
- 2 Negligence
- 3 (VOL) Both
- 4 (VOL) Neither
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

10. Do you think the administration should or should not publicly release the intelligence information about terrorist threats that it had last summer?

- 1 Should release
- 2 Should NOT release
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

11. Do you think the U.S. Congress should or should not conduct an investigation into what the Bush administration knew about terrorist threats before September 11th and how it handled that intelligence?

- 1 Should conduct investigation
- 2 Should NOT conduct investigation
- 8 DK/No Opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

12. Compared to the way it handled intelligence reports about terrorist threats last summer, do you think the Bush administration is now doing a better job handling intelligence about terrorist threats, a worse job, or what?

INTERVIEWER: If BETTER ask: Is that much better or somewhat better?

- 1 Now doing MUCH BETTER job
- 2 Now doing SOMEWHAT BETTER job
- 3 Now doing WORSE job
- 4 (VOL) About the same

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

*****ASK EVERY RESPONDENT*****

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*****