



Interviews: 1,000 adults
Margin of error: ± 3.1
Interview dates: October 19-21, 2001

IPSOS-REID Express Poll Results: Public Reaction to War on Terrorism

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Between October 19-21, 2001, Ipsos-Reid Express interviewed a representative sample of 1,000 US adults nationwide by telephone. The margin of error is $\pm 3.1\%$. On questions that were asked of half the sample, the margin of error is $\pm 4.5\%$.

Public Divided on Whether House or Senate Showed Better Judgment

In its poll over the weekend, Ipsos-Reid found 42% think the House did the right thing in closing its offices to conduct more tests after anthrax was found, and 42% think the Senate did the right thing in remaining open after anthrax was found in a Senate building and more than two dozen people were exposed to anthrax as a result.

"Americans are as divided as the Senate and House on the question of which chamber took the right approach," reports Thomas Riehle, President, U.S. Public Affairs, Ipsos-Reid.

Results were about the same for interviews conducted before and after later news that anthrax was also found in a House annex building, and that a D.C.- area postal worker who processed mail addressed to Congressional offices is seriously ill from exposure to anthrax. In the public mind, there is no clear right or wrong way to handle the anthrax scare when it comes to closing public institutions during tests for anthrax.

More than 30 people who work in Congress were exposed to Anthrax this week. The House decided to close its offices in order to determine whether any more Anthrax was present. The Senate decided to stay in session while those additional tests were being done. In your opinion, who showed better judgment, the House or the Senate?

The House	42
The Senate	42
(DO NOT READ) Both used good judgement	6
(DO NOT READ) Neither used good judgement	2
Don't Know/Refused	7

Subgroups:

- ✓ Although the Democratic Party controls the Senate and the Republican Party controls the House, among the public Democrats think the House was right (46% of Democrats say the House did the right thing, 39% the Senate), and Republicans think the Senate was (50% of Republicans agree with the Senate, 37% the House).
- ✓ Women tend to think the House did the right thing (45% of women agree with the House, 38% the Senate), while men tend to agree with the Senate (47% of men agree with the Senate, 38% the House).
- ✓ Younger people tend to agree with the House (among those age 18-34, 47% agree with the House and 38% the Senate; among those age 35-54, 45% agree with the House and 40% the Senate). Older people tend to agree with the Senate (among those age 55 and older, 51% agree with the Senate, 30% the House).



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**Americans Not Fearful of Being Victimized by 'Many' Further Terrorist Attacks;
 Scared, But Not Terrorized**

"Americans are scared, but not terrorized, by events," reports Thomas Riehle, President, U.S. Public Affairs, Ipsos-Reid. "Almost everyone (92%) expects further attempts at terrorism, but only 11% expect 'many' such attempts to succeed.

"A total of 30% of all Americans feel America as a whole is safe, expecting either no more attempts at terrorism in the U.S. (5%) or confident the U.S. government will foil all attempts that are made (25%). Most (55%) expect 'a few' attempted terrorist attacks to succeed." Riehle said. "Only 15% feel they are personally in physical danger from a future attack. People in the Northeast (22%) are more likely to feel personally at risk."

"Almost everyone expects terrorism to survive the war on terrorism, with only 12% saying they expect the war on terrorism to lead to an end to terrorism," Riehle reports, "but most expect some measure of success. Although 17% expect the number of terrorist incidents to increase in the next five years and not be eliminated, more than twice that number (36%) expect attacks to persist but decline in number over the next five years.

"That means a total of almost half (48%) either expect an end to terrorism or a reduction in the number of terrorist incidents over the next five years, while 46% expect the number of terrorist incidents to stay the same (29%) or increase (17%)," Riehle reports.

On a day-to-day basis, do you fear that you personally are in physical danger from a future terrorist attack?

Yes	15
No	84
Don't Know/Refused	1

Do you think that there will be further attempts by terrorist groups to conduct terrorist attacks on U.S. sites?

There will be no further terrorist attempts	5
Don't know if there will be further attempts	2
There will be further terrorist attempts and...	
(A total of 92% expect more terrorist attempts and...)	
....US will successfully block all of them	25
....Only a few terrorist attacks will succeed	55
....Many terrorist attacks will succeed	10
....Don't Know	3

Do you think that the current war on terrorism will lead to the end of terrorism in the world?

Yes	12
No	85
Don't Know/Refused	3



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Looking ahead five years from now, do you think there will be more terrorists incidents around the world, fewer terrorist incidents, or the same amount of terrorist incidents?

Believe war on terrorism will end terrorism	12
Believe war will NOT end terrorism and there will be...	
More terrorist incidents	17
Fewer terrorist incidents	36
About the same amount of terrorist incidents	29
Don't Know/Refused	6



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**Americans Divided on Whether Goal is To Kill or Capture Bin Laden;
 Almost Unanimous in Support of Wider War against Terrorists Outside Afghanistan;
 Ready to Support Forced Removal of Taliban in Afghanistan, Hussein in Iraq**

"Some want bin Laden killed, and some want him captured," reports Thomas Riehle, President, U.S. Public Affairs, Ipsos-Reid. "All agree, however, that the goals of the war on terrorism should be broadly defined to include targeting other terrorist groups (not just the bin Laden group), targeting terrorist operating in other countries (not just those operating in Afghanistan), removing the Taliban from power (not just eliminating the bin Laden terrorist group), and removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq.

"It remains to be seen whether pursuit of those kinds of expansive goals would interfere with the other goal almost all Americans support—namely, an international cooperative effort involving many countries, rather than a go-it-alone U.S. war on terrorism. Only 21% want the U.S. to conduct the war according to its own plans and goals, regardless of what other countries think, while 77% want the war to be a cooperative effort in which many countries agree on plans and goals," Riehle reports.

Do you think a goal of U.S. military action should be to ARREST AND CONVICT Osama bin Laden and others in his terrorist organization or should the goal be to KILL Osama bin Laden and other leaders in his terrorist organization?

Arrest and convict bin Laden and others	42
Kill bin Laden and others	49
(DO NOT READ:) Other/Don't Know/Refused	9

Subgroups:

- ✓ Men (53%), upper-income Americans (53% of those with incomes of \$50,000 or more) and people in the Northeast (55%) tend to favor killing bin Laden.
- ✓ Whites tend to favor killing bin Laden (52%) rather than arresting him (40%). Non-whites tend to favor arresting him (50%) rather than just killing him (36%).
- ✓ Democrats favor arresting bin Laden (50%) rather than killing him (39%), while Republicans take the opposite view (60% favor killing him, 34% arresting him). Independents lean toward the goal of killing (49%) rather than arresting (39%).
- ✓ People who believe the U.S. can block all future terrorist attempts favor arresting bin Laden by a margin of 56%-37%, as do people who think only a few terrorist attempts will succeed (51% favor arrest, 43% killing him). Among those who fear many future terrorist attempts will succeed, however, 47% favor killing bin Laden and 42% want him arrested.
- ✓ Among those who feel the war on terrorism should be a go-it-alone U.S. effort, 65% favor killing bin Laden.

(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE)

In its war against terrorism, should the U.S. . . .

	Percentage Supporting each
Target other terrorist groups outside the Osama bin Laden group	88
Target terrorist groups in other countries in the Middle East or elsewhere in the world	82



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Remove from power the Taliban regime that controls most of Afghanistan, and not just eliminate the Osama bin Laden terrorist group only	75
Remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq	74
(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE)	
Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own opinion?	
The war on terrorism is something the U.S. should conduct according to its own plan and goals, regardless of what other countries think	21
The war on terrorism should be a cooperative effort involving many countries that agree on goals and war plans.	77
Don't Know/Refused	2



**Americans Confident About War Goals, See a Benefit to Afghanis in Removal of Taliban;
Divided on Whether Anthrax Incidents are Part of Same Terrorist Attack;
Split on Whether Muslims in Afghanistan and Elsewhere Have Legitimate Complaints About
U.S.;
Not Willing to Call U.S. Media One-Sided on Failing to Report Muslim Side of Issues**

"Americans believe the U.S.-led military action in Afghanistan represents a legitimate defense of freedom, peace and democracy, but on other questions, a third of Americans say it is too early to tell. Fully 59% believe the people of Afghanistan will be better off if the Taliban is removed from power as a result. Only half (53%) are completely sure the anthrax exposure incidents are part of the same terrorist attack begun on September 11.

"Interestingly, it is the question of whether there is any legitimacy in Muslim complaints that is most closely related to the question of whether further terrorist attacks will succeed. Among those who fear many successful terrorist attacks, 48% say Muslim countries have legitimate complaints about the U.S. role in the region. Among those who expect a few attacks to succeed, 36% say Muslims have legitimate complaints against the U.S., and among those who expect the U.S. to block all further terrorist attempts, only 22% credit Muslims with having legitimate complaints. Overall, 32% say they believe Muslims have legitimate complaints, 32% say they do not, and 33% are not able to say at this time," Riehle reports.

(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE)

Completely Believe, Completely Doubt, or Unable to Say Whether ...

	Believe It	Doubt It	Can't Say
U.S. led military actions against Afghanistan are a legitimate defense of such values as freedom, peace, and democracy.	71	7	21
The people of Afghanistan will be much better off if the U.S. succeeds in removing the Taliban from power and another group takes power there.	59	6	34
The Anthrax contamination in Florida, New York, and Washington, DC are part of a continuing terrorist attack against the United States	53	15	32
The people of Afghanistan and other Muslim countries have legitimate complaints about the role of the U.S. in the region.	32	32	33
U.S. media reports are only giving one side of the issues and not really reporting the Muslim side of the issues	23	34	41