

**Post 9-11:
More Americans are fearful, less are optimistic now than right after the attacks
reports an *Orlando Sentinel* survey conducted by Ipsos U.S. Express**

September 10, 2003, New York, NY – More Americans are fearful of personal harm from a terrorist attack now than just after September 11, 2001, and more are doubtful that terrorism can be eliminated, according to a poll conducted for the *Orlando Sentinel* by Ipsos Public Affairs, a leading public opinion polling firm, and a division of the Ipsos group of companies.

The results compare an Ipsos U.S. Express poll conducted on September 11th as well as October 19-21, 2001, and an Ipsos U.S. Express poll conducted over this past weekend, from September 5-7, 2003.

The survey revealed that two years after the attacks, more Americans believe that the events of 9-11 fundamentally changed the world forever. On the evening of September 11th, 21% of Americans believed things would return to normal, while 74% believed that the events of 9-11 would prove to be a pivotal event. With two years' hindsight, Americans reveal wider belief in the dramatic impact of the events: only 12% now believe things have returned to normal, while the vast majority of Americans (82%) now believe that the events were a turning point that fundamentally changed things forever.

More Americans are now fearful, too. In the poll conducted October 19-21, 2001, only 15% of Americans were afraid of personal physical danger from a future terrorist attack. Despite the U.S. Government's war on terrorism, when the same question was asked September 5-7, 2003, 24% of Americans said they feared personal physical danger from a future terrorist attack.

While the United States invaded Iraq without the support of the United Nations, 70% of Americans believe that the war on terrorism should be waged with the co-operation of allied nations. Less than a third of Americans (27%) believe the war on terrorism is something the U.S. should conduct according to its own plan and goals, regardless of what other countries think.

Whether it is a shift from optimism to pessimism, or if Americans are simply more realistic after the wars against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq, fewer Americans now believe that the war on terrorism will lead to the end of terrorism in the world: only 8% believe that efforts to eliminate the terrorist threat will be successful, compared to 12% of Americans who were hopeful in the previous poll.

Post 9-11 Anniversary Study Results

Interviews: 1,000 adults

Margin of Error: ± 3.1 .

Interview dates: September 5-7, 2003

All results shown are in percentages

1. Looking back, do you tend to think that ...

	September 11, 2001	September 5-7, 2003
Once the events of 9-11 passed, things returned to normal	21	12
The events were a turning point that fundamentally changed things forever	74	82
Both	2	1
Neither	2	3
Not sure	2	2

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

	October 19-21, 2001	September 5-7, 2003
Yes	15	24
No	84	75
Not sure	1	1

3. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your own opinion?

	October 19-21, 2001	September 5-7, 2003
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	27
The war on terrorism should be a cooperative effort involving many countries that agree on goals and war plans	77	70
Not sure	2	3

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

	October 19-21, 2001	September 5-7, 2003
Yes	12	8
No	85	91
Not sure	3	1

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About Ipsos-Public Affairs

Ipsos-Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective public affairs research organization made up of Democratic and Republican campaign and political polling veterans. It was established in August 2001 in Washington, D.C., and is headed by veteran pollster Thomas Riehle, who has more than 15 years of experience as a political pollster in Washington. The division conducts strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of U.S. and international organizations. Typically, the division's studies are based on opinion research, not only public opinion, but often elite stakeholder, corporate and media opinion. Ipsos-Public Affairs is a member of the Ipsos Group, the second largest survey-based marketing research company in the world.

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