The American Mosaic, an ongoing Reuters/Ipsos online poll.

Various parts of this Reuters/Ipsos poll were conducted between Jan. 1st and May 3rd 2012.

NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled. The sample size for each group may be different and depends on various factors including the length of time the questions were in the field, the time frame being examined and the response rate to questions.

The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, each question and group will have a different interval, depending on the size of the sample.

The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by gender, age, education, ethnicity and a political values scale.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.

Questions about the American Mosaic poll should be directed to Maurice Tamman, Reuters Data Editor.

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		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?	Right direction	23.8%	25.5%	24.9%	23.6%
	Wrong track	61.1%	61.9%	62.7%	60.9%
	Don't know	15.1%	12.6%	12.3%	15.5%
	Sample Size	48980	36224	5857	43123
	Credibility Interval	0.5%	0.6%	1.5%	0.5%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?	Approve	26.3%	27.9%	27.2%	26.2%
	Disapprove	35.2%	37.7%	36.9%	34.9%
	Have mixed feelings	34.4%	32.5%	33.0%	34.6%
	Don't know	4.1%	1.9%	2.9%	4.2%
	Sample Size	48980	36224	5857	43123
	Credibility Interval	0.5%	0.6%	1.5%	0.5%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Do you approve or disapprove about the way Barack Obama is handling the following issues? **Healthcare reform**	Strongly approve	14.9%	16.2%	15.7%	14.7%
	Somewhat approve	12.0%	12.5%	12.8%	11.9%
	Lean towards approve	12.5%	12.1%	13.1%	12.4%
	Lean towards disapprove	9.2%	8.3%	12.0%	8.8%
	Somewhat disapprove	7.7%	7.4%	6.8%	7.9%
	Strongly disapprove	37.3%	39.3%	36.3%	37.5%
	Don't know	6.4%	4.1%	3.3%	6.9%

	Sample Size	13630	10735	1617	12013
	Credibility Interval	1.0%	1.1%	2.8%	1.0%

		April 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
If the 2012 Presidential Election were being held today and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney, the Republican, for whom would you vote?	Barack Obama	42.2%	44.8%	44.4%	41.9%
	Mitt Romney	35.3%	39.3%	37.4%	35.0%
	Wouldn't vote	7.7%	2.9%	7.3%	7.8%
	None/other	5.6%	4.9%	5.1%	5.6%
	Don't know	9.3%	8.0%	5.8%	9.7%
	Sample Size	11476	9056	1340	10136
	Credibility Interval	1.1%	1.2%	3.1%	1.1%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
In your opinion, which political party better serves the needs of... **Veterans and their families?**	Democratic Party	30.5%	33.1%	28.2%	30.8%
	Republican Party	29.8%	32.6%	38.0%	28.7%
	Independents	5.4%	5.4%	7.4%	5.2%
	Other	1.4%	1.3%	2.4%	1.3%
	None	10.7%	10.0%	9.2%	10.9%
	Don't know	22.2%	17.7%	14.8%	23.1%
	Sample Size	33951	26625	4008	29943
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following? **The war on terror**	Democratic Party	28.1%	30.1%	28.1%	28.1%
	Republican Party	27.5%	30.4%	33.3%	26.7%
	Independents	4.4%	4.5%	5.2%	4.3%
	Other	1.6%	1.5%	3.2%	1.3%
	None	14.7%	14.1%	12.6%	15.0%
	Don't know	23.7%	19.3%	17.6%	24.5%
	Sample Size	33952	26626	4008	29944
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following? **Iran**	Democratic Party	26.1%	28.1%	25.4%	26.2%
	Republican Party	24.5%	27.3%	31.2%	23.6%
	Independents	4.5%	4.6%	6.3%	4.2%
	Other	1.8%	1.7%	2.3%	1.7%
	None	15.8%	15.2%	14.9%	16.0%
	Don't know	27.2%	23.1%	19.9%	28.2%
	Sample Size	33952	26626	4008	29944
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

			Jan. 1st - May 3rd		
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following? **The US Economy**	Democratic Party	29.9%	32.1%	28.3%	30.1%
	Republican Party	28.6%	31.7%	33.8%	27.9%
	Independents	5.6%	5.7%	8.0%	5.3%
	Other	1.4%	1.4%	2.3%	1.3%
	None	13.9%	13.1%	11.8%	14.2%
	Don't know	20.5%	15.9%	15.8%	21.2%
	Sample Size	33952	26626	4008	29944
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

			Jan. 1st - May 3rd		
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
When you think about the US budget deficit, which of the following solutions comes closest to your opinion?	Cutting existing programs	18.5%	19.6%	20.7%	18.2%
	A mix of both, but with more spending cuts than tax increase	43.3%	45.2%	43.5%	43.3%
	A mix of both, but with more tax increases than spending cut	14.9%	16.1%	14.9%	14.9%
	Raising taxes	4.3%	4.2%	5.1%	4.2%
	Unsure	19.0%	14.9%	15.9%	19.4%
	Sample Size	48976	36221	5857	43119
	Credibility Interval	0.5%	0.6%	1.5%	0.5%

			Jan. 1st - May 3rd		
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
When you think about the US pursuing its interests abroad, which of the following comes closest to your opinion?	The US should always act in its own interest regardless of what other countries think	30.3%	31.9%	31.6%	30.1%
	The US should rarely listen to other countries	9.7%	10.1%	12.2%	9.4%
	The US should listen to other countries more often than not	23.0%	24.3%	22.9%	23.0%
	The US should always listen to other countries before pursuing its own interests	19.3%	19.8%	19.4%	19.3%
	Unsure	17.7%	13.9%	13.8%	18.2%
	Sample Size	27242	21215	3310	23932
	Credibility Interval	0.7%	0.8%	2.0%	0.7%

			Jan. 1st - May 3rd		
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? **People in this country can still live The American Dream**	Strongly agree	21.7%	22.9%	25.1%	21.2%
	Somewhat agree	35.5%	36.9%	34.4%	35.6%
	Neither agree nor disagree	21.2%	19.5%	19.2%	21.4%
	Somewhat disagree	15.1%	14.8%	14.3%	15.1%
	Strongly disagree	6.7%	5.9%	7.0%	6.6%
	Sample Size	33950	26624	4008	29942
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? **Homosexuals should be allowed to openly serve in the US military**	Strongly agree	38.9%	39.4%	35.1%	39.4%
	Somewhat agree	21.4%	22.2%	20.0%	21.6%
	Neither agree nor disagree	22.5%	20.5%	21.6%	22.7%
	Somewhat disagree	6.5%	6.9%	9.2%	6.2%
	Strongly disagree	10.6%	11.0%	14.2%	10.1%
	Sample Size	33949	26624	4007	29942
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? **The US should use military action to keep Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons**	Strongly agree	22.7%	23.0%	26.7%	22.1%
	Somewhat agree	27.5%	28.7%	29.8%	27.2%
	Neither agree nor disagree	32.0%	30.1%	26.9%	32.7%
	Somewhat disagree	10.7%	11.2%	10.0%	10.8%
	Strongly disagree	7.1%	6.9%	6.6%	7.1%
	Sample Size	33949	26624	4007	29942
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? **The United States should spend less money on its military**	Strongly agree	12.5%	12.2%	9.5%	12.9%
	Somewhat agree	18.8%	19.1%	16.4%	19.1%
	Neither agree nor disagree	28.8%	26.2%	22.6%	29.6%
	Somewhat disagree	20.9%	22.2%	21.4%	20.8%
	Strongly disagree	19.0%	20.3%	30.0%	17.6%

		Sample Size			
		33949	26624	4007	29942
		Credibility Interval			
		0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? **The United States should focus military spending on special forces and unmanned systems**	Strongly agree	11.2%	11.3%	13.3%	10.9%
	Somewhat agree	28.2%	29.8%	28.9%	28.1%
	Neither agree nor disagree	46.9%	45.0%	39.7%	47.9%
	Somewhat disagree	9.6%	10.1%	13.7%	9.1%
	Strongly disagree	4.1%	3.8%	4.5%	4.1%
	Sample Size	33949	26624	4007	29942
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

		Jan. 1st - May 3rd			
				Gen at war	
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? **The war in Iraq ended successfully for the United States**	Strongly agree	7.2%	7.4%	10.1%	6.8%
	Somewhat agree	18.2%	19.1%	21.6%	17.8%
	Neither agree nor disagree	37.1%	34.7%	32.2%	37.8%
	Somewhat disagree	22.7%	23.9%	22.0%	22.8%
	Strongly disagree	14.7%	14.9%	14.2%	14.8%
	Sample Size	33949	26624	4007	29942
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

| | | Jan. 1st - May 3rd | | | |
| | | | | Gen at war | |
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? **The United States should continue its military operations in Afghanistan**	Strongly agree	6.8%	7.0%	9.4%	6.5%
	Somewhat agree	17.8%	19.0%	22.6%	17.1%
	Neither agree nor disagree	30.1%	27.8%	26.1%	30.6%
	Somewhat disagree	23.1%	24.2%	21.1%	23.4%
	Strongly disagree	22.2%	22.0%	20.7%	22.4%
	Sample Size	33949	26624	4007	29942
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

| | | Jan. 1st - May 3rd | | | |
| | | | | Gen at war | |
		Total Adults	registered	Post Gulf War Vets and Families	Not Gulf War Vets
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? **The US Government shows appreciation for its veterans**	Strongly agree	14.1%	14.1%	13.9%	14.1%
	Somewhat agree	30.2%	31.1%	31.1%	30.0%
	Neither agree nor disagree	22.5%	20.6%	19.6%	22.9%
	Somewhat disagree	22.5%	23.6%	22.3%	22.5%
	Strongly disagree	10.7%	10.5%	13.0%	10.4%
	Sample Size	33949	26624	4007	29942
	Credibility Interval	0.6%	0.7%	1.8%	0.7%

How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter $\theta\backslash$, i.e., $Y|\theta \sim Bin(n,\theta)$, where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the θ. This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian[1] statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one's knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution ($\pi(\theta/y) \sim \beta(y+a, n-y+b)$), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for θ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for θ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on . Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that a=1 and b=1 and . Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

For the American Mosaic published on May 12, 2012, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect 1+L=1.3 to account for complex weighting[2] Analysis Domain Sample size Credibility intervals American public (online sample) 2475 2.3%

[1] Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC |
ISBN: 158488388X | 2003
[2] Kish, L. (1992). Weighting for unequal Pi . Journal of Official, Statistics, 8, 2, 183200.