



FOR RELEASE:
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2001

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Andrew Kohut, Director
Carroll J. Doherty, Editor

Ratings of Government Effort Slips
WORRIES ABOUT TERRORISM SUBSIDE IN MID-AMERICA

The public's worries over terrorism have declined since mid-October, despite government warnings of new attacks and recurring anthrax incidents. But this decrease in concern is not being felt uniformly across the country, and is not associated with greater confidence in the government's ability to deal with the terrorist threat. If anything, Americans are expressing somewhat less confidence in the war on terrorism both at home and abroad.

The new nationwide survey of 1,000 adults by the Pew Research Center, conducted Oct. 31- Nov. 7, finds a widening gap in concern over future terrorist attacks between people living in major cities on the East and West Coasts versus the rest of the country. Fully half (50%) of coastal urban residents are worried that they or their families could become victims of terrorism, compared with 38% of Americans living elsewhere. These findings represent a significant decline in concern in the heartland since Pew's Oct. 10-14 survey, compared with a more modest decrease in coastal urban areas.

Less Concern, Less Confidence in Government Efforts		
	Mid-Oct <u>2001</u> %	Early Nov <u>2001</u> %
<i>Personally worried about terrorism?</i>		
Very	18	13
Somewhat	32	27
Not too/at all	48	59
Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100
<i>Job government doing reducing terrorist threat</i>		
Very well	48	35
Fairly well	40	46
Not too/at all	8	14
Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100
<i>Job military doing reducing terrorist threat</i>		
Very well	45	30
Fairly well	35	45
Not too/at all	10	16
Don't know/Refused	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100
<i>Job building homeland defense</i>		
Excellent	20	15
Good	47	47
Only fair/poor	26	32
Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100

Americans are rating anti-terrorism efforts less favorably than they did previously, even though they feel less threatened personally. While most

continue to give the government positive evaluations in its struggle against terrorism, the percentage who give the highest rating to anti-terrorism efforts has fallen from 48% to 35% since mid-October. Similarly, just 30% say the military's effort to destroy terrorism is going very well, compared with 45% in the Oct. 10-14 survey.

This month's poll finds lower evaluations of anti-terrorism efforts most apparent among older people, especially older women. Ratings also declined among people in heartland areas of the country, who had previously given government efforts slightly better evaluations than did residents of the coastal cities.

Gender Gap Widens

For the first time since attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. concerns over terrorism are approaching pre-Sept. 11 levels. In the current survey, about one-in-ten Americans (13%) say they are very worried about being victimized and roughly a quarter (27%) say they are somewhat worried. This is nearly the same as in July 1996, when 13% were very worried, 26% somewhat worried.

	Very/ Somewhat <u>Worried</u> %	Not too/ Not at all <u>Worried</u> %	Other/ DK/ <u>Ref</u> %
<i>Then ...</i>			
Top 6 cities*	54	45	1=100
Rest of country	49	49	2=100
<i>Now ...</i>			
Top 6 cities	50	48	2=100
Rest of country	38	61	1=100

* Includes the largest metro areas on the East and West Coasts (in order of size: NYC, LA, WDC, SF, Philadelphia and Boston).

The gender gap in terrorism concerns, evident in previous Pew Research Center polls, has widened a bit even as the public's fears have subsided. Half of all women say they are very or somewhat worried over possible new attacks, compared with 30% of men. In mid-October, the gap stood at 15 points (57% of women expressed concern, 42% of men). As in previous surveys, minorities express more concern than do whites that new terrorist acts will affect them personally.

The number of Americans reporting feelings of depression as a result of the terrorist attacks, which peaked at 71% in mid-September, has declined steadily and now stands at 24%. But while most Americans say they are at least starting to get back to normal, one-quarter say they are not yet feeling back to normal, which is unchanged over the past month.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,000 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period October 31 - November 7, 2001. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=507) or Form 2 (N=493), the sampling error is plus or minus 5 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
EARLY NOVEMBER TRACKING SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
October 31 - November 7, 2001
N = 1,000**

Q.1 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE, WITH ITEM C ALWAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ITEM B]**

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a.	The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan	45	36	12	6	1=100
	October 15-21, 2001	51	35	10	3	1=100
	January, 1991 ¹	67	28	4	1	0=100
b.	Terrorism attacks on the United States	63	26	6	3	2=100
	October 15-21, 2001	78	16	4	1	1=100
	Early October, 2001 ²	73	22	4	1	*=100
	Mid-September, 2001	74	22	3	1	*=100
	July, 1996 ³	69	23	6	2	*=100
	June, 1995 ⁴	58	32	8	2	*=100
c.	Reports of Anthrax cases around the country	47	35	13	4	1=100

1 In January 1991, the question was worded: "How closely have you been following news about the War in the Gulf?"

2 In Early October 2001 and Mid-September 2001 the question was worded: "News about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington?"

3 In July 1996 the question was worded: "the crash of a Paris-bound TWA plane off the coast of New York."

4 In June 1995 the question was worded: "the Oklahoma City bombing."

Q.2 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to the spread of Anthrax, too little coverage to Anthrax, or the right amount of coverage?

40	Too much coverage
7	Too little coverage
47	Right amount of coverage
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.3 In general, how well do you think the U.S. government is doing in reducing the threat of terrorism? **[READ]**

		Oct 10-14
		<u>2001</u>
35	Very well	48
46	Fairly well	40
9	Not too well	6
5	Not at all well	2
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

More specifically ...

Q.4 How well is the MILITARY effort to destroy the terrorist groups going? **[READ]**

		Oct 15-21	Oct 10-14
		<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>
30	Very well	38	45
45	Fairly well	45	35
12	Not too well	9	6
4	Not at all well	2	4
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=507]:

Q.5F1 How would you rate the job the government is doing in BUILDING DEFENSES at home to prevent future terrorist attacks? Would you say the government is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job? **[READ]**

		Oct 15-21	Oct 10-14
		<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>
15	Excellent	18	20
47	Good	51	47
25	Only fair	22	22
7	Poor	5	4
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=493]

Q.5F2 How would you rate the job the government is doing defending Americans at home from future terrorist attacks? Would you say the government is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job? **[READ]**

20	Excellent
50	Good
22	Only fair
4	Poor
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.7 In the past few days, have you yourself felt depressed because of your concerns about terrorist attacks or the war against terrorism?

		Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>	Oct 1-3 <u>2001</u> ⁵	Mid-Sept <u>2001</u> ⁶	GULF WAR <u>Jan. 1991</u>
24	Yes	31	42	71	50
75	No	66	57	27	49
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.8 All in all, how worried are you that you or someone in your family might become a victim of a terrorist attack? Would you say you are **[READ]**

		Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>	Late Sept <u>2001</u>	----- Gallup -----				
				9/14-15 <u>2001</u> ⁷	9/11 <u>2001</u> ⁸	Aug <u>1998</u>	July <u>1996</u>	April <u>1995</u> ⁹
13	Very worried	18	17	18	23	10	13	14
27	Somewhat worried	32	36	33	35	22	26	28
35	Not too worried	29	31	35	24	38	34	33
24	Not at all worried	19	15	13	16	29	27	24
0	Already victim (VOL)	0	*	*	1	--	--	--
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

5 In Early October 2001, the question was worded "... depressed by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?"

6 In Mid-September 2001, the question was worded "Have you yourself felt depressed by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon?"

7 For the September 14-15 Gallup trend the question started with wording, "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred this past Tuesday in New York City and Washington, DC..."

8 For the September 11 Gallup trend the question started with wording, "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred today in New York City and Washington, DC..."

9 For the April 1995 Gallup trend the question was worded, "How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack similar to the bombing in Oklahoma City?"

ASK NOV. 5-7 ONLY [N=454]:

Q.8a As of today, do you feel that your life... [READ]

		Oct 15-21 <u>2001</u>	<i>Newsweek</i> <u>9/27-28/01</u>
41	Has returned to normal	41	40
30	Is BEGINNING to return to normal	31	35
10	Still hasn't begun to return to normal	8	7
15	Will NEVER return to normal?	17	15
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

On a different topic...

Q.9 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '3' OR '9' IN Q.9, ASK:

Q.9a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=774]:

	Republican/ <u>Lean Rep.</u>	Democrat/ <u>Lean Dem.</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
Early November, 2001	44	44	12=100
Early November, 2000	42	48	10=100
Early October, 2000	43	47	10=100
July, 2000	43	47	10=100
February, 2000	44	47	9=100
October, 1999	43	49	8=100
June, 1999	40	50	10=100
November, 1998	42	48	10=100
Late October, 1998	40	47	13=100
Early October, 1998	43	44	13=100
Early September, 1998	45	46	9=100
Late August, 1998	44	45	11=100
Early August, 1998	42	49	9=100
June, 1998	44	46	10=100
March, 1998	40	52	8=100
February, 1998	41	50	9=100
January, 1998	41	51	8=100
August, 1997	45	48	7=100
November, 1996 ¹⁰	44	48	8=100
October, 1996	42	49	9=100
Late September, 1996	43	49	8=100
Early September, 1996	43	51	6=100
July, 1996	46	47	7=100
June, 1996	44	50	6=100
March, 1996	44	49	7=100
January, 1996	46	47	7=100
October, 1995	48	48	4=100
August, 1995	50	43	7=100
November, 1994	45	43	12=100
October, 1994	47	44	9=100
Early October, 1994	52	40	8=100
September, 1994	48	46	6=100
July, 1994	45	47	8=100

10

November 1996 trend based on likely voters.