

Pew Hispanic Center

A project of the University of Southern California
Annenberg School for Communication

Summary of Findings:

Survey of Latino Attitudes on a Possible War with Iraq Conducted February 13 to 16, 2003, Before Invasion of Iraq

Support for U.S. military action against Iraq is weaker in the Hispanic population, particularly among the foreign born, than in the American population overall, according to a Pew Hispanic Center poll of Latino adults taken February 13 to 16, 2003. Several recent polls by news organizations show that 60 to 70 percent of the general public supports military action. In this survey 48 percent of Latinos said they support invading Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein from power and 43 percent are opposed. Among native-born Latinos support for a possible war is 52 percent, and among foreign-born Latinos support is 46 percent in the Pew Hispanic Center poll. Overall Latino views mirror those of the general public on whether Iraq poses an immediate threat to the United States although somewhat fewer Latinos see a long-term threat from Iraq compared to the findings of general population polls.

Latino views are more closely in line with the findings of surveys of the population as a whole on the question of whether the United States should act immediately or give more time to United Nations weapons inspectors with 56 percent of all Latinos and 60 percent of foreign-born Latinos saying the inspectors should be given more time.

As with the population at large, approval of an attack on Iraq is highest when the question presupposes full United Nations' support for the action and drops off significantly when the question presupposes U.S. action only with the support of major allies and without U.N. backing. In both scenarios, approval of an attack is lower among foreign-born Latinos than in the U.S. population overall as measured by other recent surveys.

The survey of Latino attitudes found grave concerns about the likelihood of casualties among U.S. forces as well as the potential economic impact of the war, and it revealed worries, especially among the foreign born, that war could lead to harassment of Latinos by immigration authorities and the police. Two-thirds of all Latinos fear that the country will experience difficult economic times and that they will be personally affected. Half express a great deal of concern that they might lose their jobs.

The nationwide telephone poll was conducted with 400 adults and has a margin of error of 4.9 percent. The sample was representative of the Latino adult population in terms of gender, age, education, national origins and region. The poll was conducted by Bendixen & Associates, a Miami-based public opinion research firm specializing in the Latino population. Interviews were conducted both in English and Spanish. Several of the questions are close to those used in polls of the population overall, and the results from those surveys are shown below for comparison purposes along side the results of this survey.

How would you rate the job that George W. Bush is doing as President?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>Foreign born</u>
Excellent	14	17	13
Good	40	33	44
Mediocre	21	27	19
Poor	18	21	16
Don't Know/	7	2	9
No Answer			

Would you support or oppose invading Iraq with U.S. ground troops in an attempt to remove Saddam Hussein from power?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>Foreign born</u>	<u>Latino male</u>	<u>Latino female</u>	<u>Gallup/CNN USA Today Feb 7-9</u>	<u>CBS/ NY Times Feb 10-12</u>
Support	48	52	46	52	44	63	66
Oppose	43	39	44	39	46	34	29
DK/NA	10	10	10	9	10	--	5

Which comes closest to your view: Iraq poses an immediate threat to the United States, Iraq poses a long-term threat to the U.S., or Iraq does not pose a threat to the United States at all?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>Gallup/CNN USA Today Feb 7-9</u>
Immediate threat	37	36
Long-term threat	45	56
No threat	11	6
DK/NA	7	2

Some people feel that the weapons inspections by the United Nations in Iraq should be given more time to work. Other people feel that it is time to take stronger action against Saddam Hussein, including the use of armed force. Which one of these views comes closer to how you feel?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>Foreign born</u>	<u>CBS/ NY Times Feb 10-12</u>	<u>Gallup/CNN USA Today Feb 7-9</u>
Give UN more time	56	48	60	59	45
Time for stronger action	41	49	37	37	52
Don't Know/No Answer	3	3	4	4	3

Please tell me whether you support or oppose U.S. military action against Iraq for each of these possible circumstances.

The United States joined together with its major allies to attack Iraq, with the full support of the United Nations. Would you favor or oppose U.S military action in this case?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>Foreign born</u>	<u>Newsweek Jan 23-24</u>
Favor	75	83	71	81
Oppose	19	16	21	15
DK/NA	6	1	8	--

The United States and one or two of its major allies attacked Iraq, without the support of the United Nations. Would you favor or oppose U.S military action in this case?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>Foreign born</u>	<u>LA Times Feb 7-8</u>	<u>Newsweek Jan 23-24</u>
Favor	39	42	38	55	40
Oppose	52	54	51	42	53
DK/NA	9	3	11	3	--

Would you favor or oppose taking military action in Iraq to end Saddam Hussein's rule, even if it meant that U.S. forces might suffer thousands of casualties?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>Foreign born</u>	<u>Latino male</u>	<u>Latino female</u>	<u>CBS/ NY Times Feb 10-12</u>	<u>Pew Research Center Jan. 8-12</u>
Favor	36	39	35	47	25	45	43
Oppose	53	56	52	45	62	46	48
DK/NA	11	5	13	8	13	9	9

If the United States goes to war with Iraq, how much concern do you have that the country will experience difficult economic times that will have a negative impact on you and your family?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>Foreign born</u>
Great deal of concern	67	58	71
Some concern	26	32	24
Not concerned at all	6	8	5
DK/NA	1	1	1

How concerned are you that you might lose your job if the United States goes to war with Iraq?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>Foreign born</u>
Great deal of concern	50	28	60
Some concern	23	23	23
Not concerned at all	26	46	15
DK/NA	2	2	1

CBS/NY Times Feb 10-13:

How do you think a war with Iraq would affect the U.S. economy?

Make it better: 23

Make it worse: 41

Same: 31

DK/NA: 5

If there is a war with Iraq and the country's authorities go on high alert, how concerned are you that the immigration authorities and the police would harass immigrants and Latinos only because of the color of their skin? Would you say that you have a great deal of concern, that you have some concern, or that you are not concerned at all?

	<u>Total Latino</u>	<u>U.S. born</u>	<u>Foreign born</u>
Great deal of concern	53	30	64
Some concern	24	27	22
Not concerned at all	21	39	12
DK/NA	2	4	1