

The Star-Ledger/**Eagleton-Rutgers Poll**

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A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo will appear in the Sunday, October 21, Star-Ledger. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to "*The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll.*"

TERRORIST ATTACKS OF 9/11 CONTINUE TO PUNISH NEW JERSEY

More than a month after the terrorist attacks of September 11, just one-quarter of New Jerseyans say their lives have returned to normal. And while another quarter say they are beginning to return to their usual routines, fully half of state residents report suffering some fundamental disruption since the destruction of the World Trade Center Towers, according to a new statewide survey.

The most recent Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll shows how dramatically terrorists hit their mark in New Jersey:

- One-quarter of Garden Staters believe their lives will never return to normal.
- Twenty three percent say they have already put off or cancelled a planned trip.
- One-in-five reports having had bad dreams or nightmares about the attack.

The study, conducted by telephone with 1,005 New Jersey residents between October 13 and 17, also shows the outlines of what could be considerable costs to the state's economy as well: 30 percent of employed New Jerseyans report a decline in business where they work, 23 percent say they have put off making a purchase because of economic insecurity, and half this number report changing their driving patterns—how they get to and from places.

As has been the case nationally, New Jerseyans have rallied to support their president. George W. Bush's job performance rating in the state now stands at 87 percent approval, compared to only 9 percent disapproval. Even 81 percent of Democrats approve of the job Bush is doing as president, as do 86 percent of independents and 99 percent of Republicans.

The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll • Eagleton Institute of Politics

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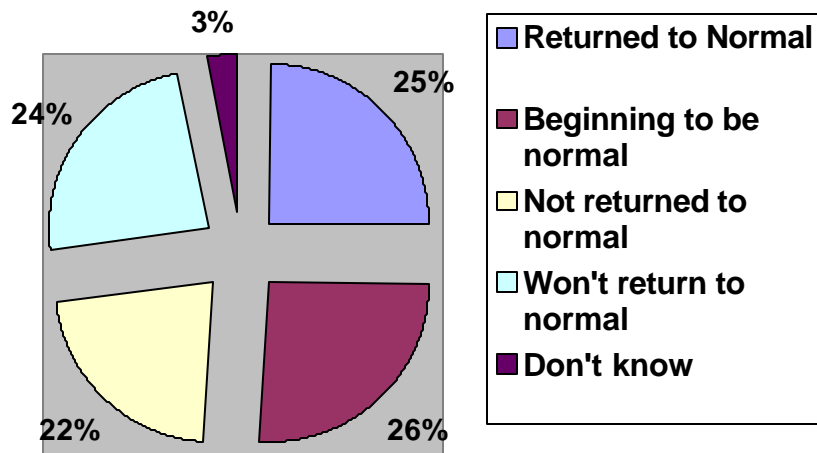
Phone: 732-932-2499 - Website: <http://slerp.rutgers.edu> - Fax: 732-932-1107

Cliff Zukin, director of the Rutgers-based survey commented, “Our data suggest that the terrorist attacks of September 11 and activities since then have had a significant impact on both the psyche and daily routines of a massive number of New Jerseyans. We probably should expect ripple effects to take a toll on individuals’ and families’ personal and financial health in the near future. Clearly, there are going to be long-lasting effects.”

The survey finds that *50 percent of all New Jersey adults report having at least one of the following experiences*: putting off or canceling a planned trip, not buying something as planned because of economic uncertainty, changing their driving patterns, or having had bad dreams or nightmares about the attack. Just fewer than one in five have (19 percent) say they have had two or more of these experiences.

Finally, just over half—55 percent—have been spending more time with family and friends, perhaps reflecting a need for comfort and security.

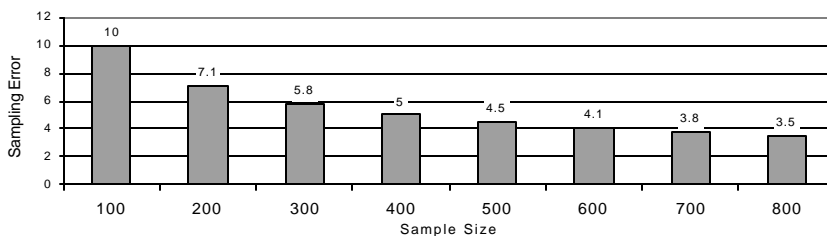
As of Today, Has Your Life...



BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE (EP134-1) October 21, 2001

The latest *Star-Ledger*/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll was conducted by telephone from October 13-17 with a scientifically selected random sample of 1005 New Jersey adults. The figures in this release are based on this sample size. All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error is ± 3.0 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey likely voters were found to support military action against terrorists, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 47 and 53 percent (50 ± 3.0) had all New Jersey likely voters been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported for Republicans, Independents or Democrats, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. The following chart shows the relationship between sample size and sampling error.

Sample Size and Sampling Error



Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects. The verbatim wording of all questions asked is reproduced in this background memo. The sample has been stratified based on county and the data have been weighted on age and education to insure an accurate proportional representation of the state. The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

"It has been about five weeks since the terrorist attacks – as of TODAY, do you feel that your life has returned to normal, is BEGINNING to return to normal, still has not returned to normal, or will NEVER return to normal?" [QT1]

	<u>Return to normal</u>	<u>Beginning to return to normal</u>	<u>Still not returned to normal</u>	<u>Will never return to normal</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October 2001	25%	26%	22%	24%	3%	100%	(1005)
<i>Region</i>							
--North	23	29	23	23	2	100	(449)
--Central	26	26	25	22	2	101	(267)
--South	27	22	19	26	6	100	(272)

"Are you currently employed either full- or part-time?" [QT3]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(N)</u>
October 2001	67%	32%	1%	100%	(1005)
<i>Region</i>					
--North	68	32	1	101	(449)
--Central	76	24	--	100	(267)
--South	61	38	1	100	(272)

ASKED OF THOSE EMPLOYED:

"As a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, would you say you have you lost business where you work, gained business, or has there been no change?" [QT4]

October 2001	<u>Lost</u> 30%	<u>Gained</u> 9%	<u>No change</u> 60%	<u>DK</u> 2%	<u>Total</u> 101%	<u>(n)</u> (707)
<i>Region</i>						
--North	27	10	61	2	100	(318)
--Central	36	9	54	1	100	(200)
--South	27	9	63	1	100	(179)

"I'm going to read you a short list of things some people have done as a result of the September 11 attack. Please just tell me whether or not you have done each of the following – Have you [FILL – RANDOMIZE] ?" [T5]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<u>Put off or cancelled a planned trip</u>					
October 2001	23%	77%	--	100%	(1005)
<i>Region</i>					
--North	27	72	1	100	(449)
--Central	22	78	--	100	(267)
--South	19	81	--	100	(272)
<u>Put off buying something because of economic uncertainty</u>					
October 2001	23%	77%	1%	101%	(1005)
<i>Region</i>					
--North	28	72	1	101	(449)
--Central	17	83	--	100	(267)
--South	19	79	1	99	(272)
<u>Changed your driving patterns—how you get to and from places</u>					
October 2001	11%	89%	--	100%	(1005)
<i>Region</i>					
--North	15	85	--	100	(449)
--Central	8	92	--	100	(267)
--South	7	92	1	100	(272)
<u>Had bad dreams or nightmares about the attack</u>					
October 2001	20%	80%	--	100%	(1005)
<i>Region</i>					
--North	23	77	--	100	(449)
--Central	21	79	--	100	(267)
--South	17	83	--	100	(272)
<u>Been drinking more alcohol</u>					
October 2001	2%	98%	--	100%	(1005)
<i>Region</i>					
--North	3	97	--	100	(449)
--Central	2	98	--	100	(267)
--South	2	98	--	100	(272)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<u>Been spending more time with family and friends</u>					
October 2001	55%	45%	--	100%	(1005)
<u>Region</u>					
--North	59	41	--	100	(449)
--Central	53	47	--	100	(267)
--South	52	48	--	100	(272)

The number of ways (0 to 4) that people were affected by the World Trade Center Terrorist attacks. Including who “had bad dreams or nightmares about the attack” (QT5A), “Changed your driving patterns—how you get to and from places” (QT5B), “Put off buying something because of economic uncertainty” (QT5C), and “Put off or cancelled a planned trip” (QT5D). [QT5]

	<u>0 of 4 ways</u>	<u>1 way</u>	<u>2-4 ways</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October 2001	50%	32%	19%	101%	(1005)
<u>Region</u>					
--North	43	33	24	100	(449)
--Central	53	33	14	100	(267)
--South	57	29	14	100	(272)

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?” [V20]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
October 2001	87%	9%	5%	101%	(1005)
<u>Party ID</u>					
--Democrat	81	12	7	100	(345)
--Independent	86	10	5	101	(360)
--Republican	99	--	1	100	(252)