

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

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Release 136-3

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A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo will appear in the Monday, March 11th *Star-Ledger*. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to “**The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll.**”

9/11 AFTER SIX MONTHS

Life Has Not Returned To Normal

The terrorist attacks of September 11th are still very much a part of New Jerseyans’ lives after six months. According to a new *Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers* Poll, some emotions continue to run high, and life has not returned to normal for most. Only about one-third of New Jerseyans feel their lives have returned to normal, while nearly a quarter of them feel life will NEVER return to normal. These feelings are little changed from last October when 25 percent said life had returned to normal, and a similar quarter said life never would.

Worry over the threat of future terrorist acts continues to nag at most New Jerseyans, although the numbers have dropped some since the weeks immediately following the attacks. Currently, 19 percent worry “a great deal” about themselves or someone close to them being a victim of a future attack, and another 38 percent are “somewhat” worried. In September, two weeks after the attacks, one third worried about it “a great deal,” and another 35 percent worried about it “somewhat.” Additionally, most New Jerseyans have held onto their anger as a result of the attacks, and levels of patriotism are still extremely high – 71 percent report they are still flying a flag either at home or on their car.

These are some of the main findings of a new *Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers* Poll of 803 scientifically selected New Jersey adults. The poll was conducted over the telephone from February 28th through March 6th. The margin of sampling error for the survey is ± 3.5 percentage points.

Interim director of the poll, Monika McDermott, comments on the findings: “New Jerseyans were profoundly affected by the events of September 11th. And despite

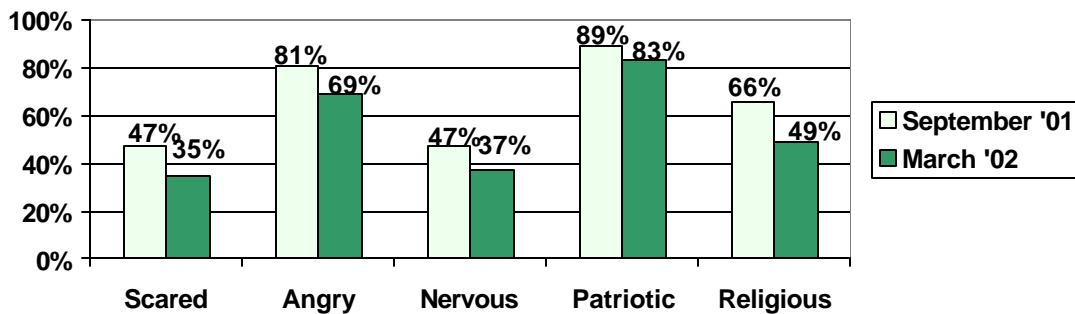
the passage of six months' time, most are still angry and worried as a result of the attacks, and they have yet to settle back into their normal lives.”

At this six-month mark, women’s lives are more shaken up than men’s. Forty percent of men say their lives have returned to normal, but only 27 percent of women feel the same way. Twenty-eight percent of women feel that life will never return to normal, but only 19 percent of men agree.

Overall, levels of fear and nervousness have dropped since September. Only about one-third of New Jerseyans are currently feeling nervous as a result of the attacks, and an equal number are feeling scared. In September, nearly half felt scared and a similar proportion felt nervous. Here again, women are dealing with the tragedy differently than men. Just under half of New Jersey women – 46 percent – have recently been feeling scared and the same number have been feeling nervous. In contrast, only 21 percent of men have been feeling scared, and 27 percent have recently felt nervous as a result of the attacks.

Most New Jerseyans are still angry as a result of the attacks. Over two-thirds – 69 percent – say they have recently been feeling angry. In September, 81 percent were feeling angry in response to the attacks. Religious feelings also remain, although at somewhat reduced levels – currently 49 percent say they have felt religious recently as a result of the attacks, down from the 66 percent who felt that way in September.

How New Jerseyans Feel About Attacks



Patriotic feelings continue throughout the state. Eighty-three percent of New Jerseyans have been feeling patriotic recently as a result of the attacks, down only marginally from the 89 percent who felt that way last September. As an expression of their feelings, New Jerseyans have hung onto their star-spangled banners. Eight in ten

report they put up an American flag either at home or on their car following the attacks, and only 10 percent have taken that flag down.

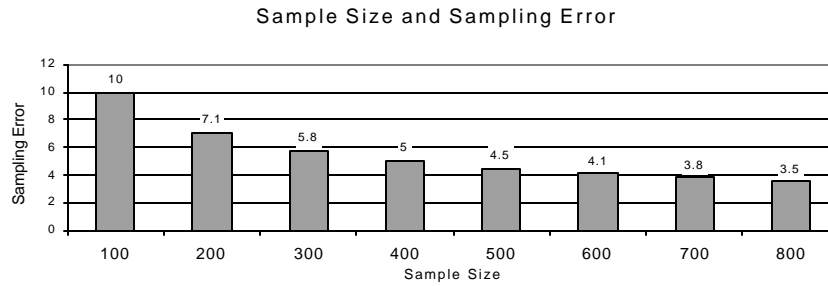
In addition to emotions, behaviors were also affected by the events of September 11th. One-third of respondents report they are currently less likely to travel on an airplane because of the threat of terrorism, and 43 percent are less likely to travel overseas.

Despite the passing of six months, these numbers have changed little since September.

Nearly one in five New Jersey adults have visited the site of the former World Trade Center since the attacks.

BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE (EP136-3) March 11, 2002

The latest *Star-Ledger*/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll was conducted by telephone from February 28 to March 6 with a scientifically selected random sample of 803 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 ± 3.5 percent, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey residents were found to be less likely to travel overseas since the terrorist attacks, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 46.5 and 53.5 percent (50 ± 3.5) had all New Jersey residents 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 residents of North, Central and South Jersey, 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.



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 almost six months since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon – 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?” [T1]

	<u>Returned to normal</u>	<u>Beginning to return...</u>	<u>Still has not returned...</u>	<u>Will NEVER return...</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
March 2002	33%	28%	13%	24%	2%	100%	(803)
<u>Region</u>							
--North	32	26	16	25	1	100	(343)
--Central	31	33	12	25	--	101	(212)
--South	39	27	8	21	4	99	(231)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male	40	25	13	19	3	100	(382)
--Female	27	30	13	28	1	99	(421)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>							
October 2001**	25	26	22	24	3	100	(1005)

**Question wording: "It has been about five weeks since the terrorist attacks – as of TODAY,..."

“How worried are you that you or a close relative or friend might be the victim of a further terrorist attack in this country— a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?” [T2]

	<u>Great Deal</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not Too Worried</u>	<u>Not at all Worried</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
March 2002	19%	38%	23%	19%	1%	100%	(803)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male	15	35	23	24	2	99	(382)
--Female	22	39	23	15	1	100	(421)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>							
September 2001**	34	35	19	12	1	101	(895)

**Question wording: “Are you personally worried that you or a close relative or friend might be the victim of a further terrorist attack in this country—is this something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?”

“I’d like to read you a list of emotions some people had following the attacks. For each one, please tell me whether that describes how you have been feeling RECENTLY as a result of the attacks. First, have you RECENTLY been feeling [FILL – RANDOMIZE] (A. Patriotic, B. Scared, C. Angry, D. Religious, E. Nervous) as a result of the attacks, or not?” [T3A-E]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<u>PATRIOTIC</u>					
March 2002	83%	16%	1%	100%	(803)
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	82	17	1	100	(382)
--Female	83	16	1	100	(421)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001	89	8	2	99	(895)
<u>SCARED</u>					
March 2002	35%	64%	1%	100%	(803)
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	21	77	2	100	(382)
--Female	46	53	--	99	(421)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001	47	53	1	101	(895)
<u>ANGRY</u>					
March 2002	69%	30%	1%	100%	(803)
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	68	30	1	99	(382)
--Female	69	30	1	100	(421)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001	81	18	1	100	(895)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<u>RELIGIOUS</u>					
March 2002	49%	49%	2%	100%	(803)
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	39	58	3	100	(382)
--Female	56	42	2	100	(421)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001	66	33	1	100	(895)
<u>NERVOUS</u>					
March 2002	37%	62%	1%	100%	(803)
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	27	72	1	100	(382)
--Female	46	54	--	100	(421)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001	47	53	1	101	(895)

“Some people have reported that they have changed their behaviors, now that the threat of terrorism has become so real. Others have NOT changed what they do very much. What about you -- are you less likely to travel on airplanes now, or not?” [T4]

	<u>Less likely</u>	<u>Not less likely</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
March 2002	33%	63%	4%	100%	(803)
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	24	73	3	100	(382)
--Female	41	54	5	100	(421)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001	39	59	2	100	(895)

“Are you less likely to travel overseas now, or not?” [T5]

	<u>Less likely</u>	<u>Not less likely</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
March 2002	43%	53%	3%	99%	(803)
<u>Gender</u>					
--Male	34	63	3	100	(382)
--Female	51	45	4	100	(421)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001	43	54	3	100	(895)

“Did you place an American flag on your car, or hang a flag on your home after the terrorist attacks, or not? IF YES, ASK: Do you still have that flag up, or have you taken it down?” [T6]

	<u>Yes, still up</u>	<u>Yes, taken down</u>	<u>Already had flag up (VOL)</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
March 2002	71%	10%	5%	13%	1%	100%	(803)
<i>Gender</i>							
--Male	70	10	13	5	2	100	(382)
--Female	71	10	13	6	--	100	(421)
<i>Previous Surveys</i>							
September 2001**		<u>Yes</u>		<u>No</u>			
		80		20	--	100	(895)

Question wording: “I’d like you to think back to the week following the attack, and tell me whether or not you did any of the following. Just yes or no will be fine. Did you[**RANDOMIZE A-F] (F. Display an American flag on your car or at home)

“Since September 11th have you visited the site of the former World Trade Center?” [T7]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
March 2002	21%	79%	1%	101%	(803)
<i>Gender</i>					
--Male	22	76	1	99	(382)
--Female	19	81	--	100	(421)
<i>Region</i>					
--North	26	73	1	100	(343)
--Central	21	79	--	100	(212)
--South	13	87	--	100	(231)