

# 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 Wednesday, September 11 Star-Ledger. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to "*The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll.*"

## 9-11-02: A Year Later, Little Better

The scars left by the terrorist attack of last September 11 are much more visible in New Jersey than in the country as a whole. And, sadly, three-in-ten believe their markings are a disfigurement they will carry with them the rest of their lives. A statewide survey conducted at the first anniversary of 9/11 finds:

- About one-third (31%) say they know someone who was lost or seriously injured as a result of the attack.
- Even a year later, better than four of every ten New Jerseyans think about the events of last September 11<sup>th</sup> *every day*.
- Already, one-fifth of state residents have gone to see the former site of the World Trade Center.
- Just under half (45%) of the state's 6+ million adults say they plan to do something special today to recognize the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the WTC and Pentagon.

These are some of the stark findings of the latest Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers poll, conducted between September 3 and 8 with a scientifically selected sample of 804 New Jerseyans. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

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

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The survey finds the effects of 9/11 to be deep and long-lasting on New Jerseyans. Just 37 percent say their lives have returned fully to normal; 31 percent saying they are still making progress towards this goal. However, another large number – 29 percent – believe there has been a permanent change – that their lives will never return to what used to be normal for them.

There is little doubt that the events of a year ago have hit closer to home in New Jersey than in the country as a whole. The 31 percent of state residents saying they personally know of someone who was seriously injured or lost as a result of the attack is almost three times higher than the country as a whole. A national survey released last week by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found the comparison figure to be 11 percent of all Americans.

And while the Pew survey shows 28 percent of all Americans finding themselves thinking about the terrorist attack “every day,” the Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers survey shows the comparable number in New Jersey to be 43 percent. Another 26 percent of Garden State residents say they think about the bombing at least “a few times a week,” for a total of 69 percent who live with memories or ramifications of 9/11 on a regular basis. The same high number of New Jerseyans – 69 percent – say the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack has had “a great deal” of emotional impact on them.

On the first anniversary of 9/11 we are a less trusting and confident state than we were a year ago. Indeed, the poll shows a larger backlash against Arab-Americans than people themselves anticipated. Last September, 30 percent of New Jerseyans told pollsters they thought they would trust Arab-Americans less as a result of the threat of terrorism. This

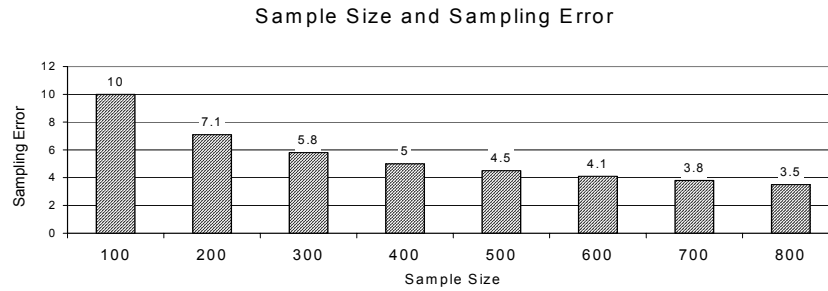
September, when asked to look back over their recent behavior, it is 40 percent of New Jerseyans who in fact say they have trusted Arab-Americans less.

When asked to think back over the last year, encompassing both the attack of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the government's response, 38 percent say they feel less secure than they did, 25 percent more secure, and the remainder no difference. The threat of terrorism has caused many New Jersey residents to modify some fundamental behaviors: 31 percent report traveling less by air in the past year; 26 percent report taking fewer trips into New York City, and 22 percent say they changed their vacation plans as a result of last year's attack.

State residents are undecided about the United States military campaign in Afghanistan. Few are willing to call the effort either a success (16%) or a failure (14%). Most think it is simply too early to tell. However, most New Jerseyans think Osama bin Laden has not been a casualty of the war: far more think he is alive (72%) than dead (12%), with 16 percent venturing no opinion.

**BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE (EP138-1) September 11, 2002**

The latest *Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers* Poll was conducted by telephone from September 3 to September 8 with a scientifically selected random sample of 804 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  $\pm 3.5$  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 ( $50 \pm 3.5$ ) 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 one year 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?” [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>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>							
--North	32	22	14	28	4	100	(325)
--Central	40	15	9	31	5	100	(221)
--South	40	21	9	27	2	99	(253)
<u>Gender</u>							
--Male	42	18	11	24	5	100	(379)
--Female	33	21	11	32	3	100	(425)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>							
March 2002**	33	28	13	24	2	100	(803)
October 2001***	25	26	22	24	3	100	(1005)

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

“Do you personally know someone who was seriously injured or lost as a result of the attacks, or not?” [T2]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>69%</b>	--	<b>100%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>					
--North	35	65	--	100	(325)
--Central	36	64	--	100	(221)
--South	22	78	1	101	(253)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001	23	76	1	100	(895)
<u>National Data</u>					
August 2002**	11	89	--	100	(500)
<u>NYC metro Data</u>					
August 2002**	46	54	--	100	(401)

\*\* Source: Pew Research Center for the People & The Press

Wording: “Do you, yourself, personally know someone who was hurt or killed in the attacks?”

“Do you plan to do anything special this September 11 to recognize the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the attack, OR don’t you think you will do anything out of the ordinary?” [T3]

	<u>Something special</u>	<u>Nothing out of the ordinary</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>					
--North	49	42	8	99	(325)
--Central	47	43	10	100	(221)
--South	40	52	8	100	(253)
<u>Know someone lost/hurt in attacks</u>					
--Yes	60	33	7	100	(278)
--No	39	52	9	100	(524)

“Since September 11<sup>th</sup> have you visited the site of the former World Trade Center?” [T4]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>78%</b>	--	<b>100%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>					
--North	32	68	--	100	(325)
--Central	20	79	1	100	(221)
--South	13	87	--	100	(253)
<u>Know someone lost/hurt in attacks</u>					
--Yes	32	68	--	100	(278)
--No	17	82	--	99	(524)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
March 2002	21	79	1	101	(803)

“These days, how often do you think about the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks? That is, how often do the events of a year ago come to mind?” [T5]

	<u>Every day</u>	<u>A few times a week</u>	<u>Once a week or less</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<i>Region</i>								
--North	42	28	19	9	--	1	99	(325)
--Central	51	26	15	6	1	2	101	(221)
--South	40	24	24	11	1	1	101	(253)
<i>Gender</i>								
--Male	40	25	23	9	1	1	99	(379)
--Female	46	27	16	10	--	1	100	(425)
<i>Know someone lost/hurt in attacks</i>								
--Yes	55	25	17	2	--	--	99	(278)
--No	38	27	21	12	1	2	101	(524)
<b><u>National Data</u></b>								
August 2002**	28	34	25	11	1	1	100	(500)
<b><u>NYC metro Data</u></b>								
August 2002**	40	31	19	8	--	2	100	(401)

\*\* Source: Pew Research Center for the People & The Press

“How much did the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks move you or affect you emotionally?” [T6]

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<i>Region</i>							
--North	67	24	3	5	1	100	(325)
--Central	72	22	3	1	1	99	(221)
--South	68	24	4	3	1	100	(253)
<i>Gender</i>							
--Male	60	28	7	4	1	100	(379)
--Female	76	20	1	3	1	101	(425)
<i>Know someone lost/hurt in attacks</i>							
--Yes	82	15	2	1	--	100	(278)
--No	63	27	4	4	1	99	(524)
<b><u>National Data</u></b>							
August 2002**	67	25	5	3	--	100	(500)
<b><u>NYC metro Data</u></b>							
August 2002**	73	21	4	1	1	100	(401)

\*\* Source: Pew Research Center for the People & The Press

“Much has happened over the last year, with the attacks on the country and the government’s reactions. Do you feel more secure than you were one year ago at this time, less secure, or is there no difference?” [T7]

	<u>More secure</u>	<u>Less secure</u>	<u>No difference</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>						
--North	27	41	31	--	99	(325)
--Central	24	34	41	1	100	(221)
--South	25	38	36	1	100	(253)
<u>Gender</u>						
--Male	32	30	37	1	100	(379)
--Female	20	45	34	--	99	(425)

“Please tell me whether you personally did **LESS** of the following as a result of last year’s attack, or not [**RANDOMIZE A-D**] A. Traveled on airplanes, B. Traveled into New York City, C. Changed your vacation plans, D. Trusted Arab Americans Less? [T8]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<u>Traveled on Airplanes</u>					
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>					
--North	33	66	--	99	(325)
--Central	33	65	2	100	(221)
--South	27	72	1	100	(253)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001*	39	59	2	100	(895)
<u>National Data</u>					
August 2002**	17	82	1	100	(500)
<u>NYC metro Data</u>					
August 2002**	30	69	1	100	(401)
<u>Traveled into New York City</u>					
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>					
--North	33	66	--	99	(325)
--Central	27	72	1	100	(221)
--South	17	83	1	101	(253)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001*	24	76	1	101	(895)

[T8 continued:]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<u>Changed Your Vacation Plans</u>					
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>78%</b>	--	<b>100%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>					
--North	19	81	1	101	(325)
--Central	23	77	--	100	(221)
--South	23	77	--	100	(253)
<u>Trusted Arab Americans Less</u>					
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>					
--North	39	55	6	100	(325)
--Central	41	55	4	100	(221)
--South	40	56	4	100	(253)
<u>Previous Surveys</u>					
September 2001*	30	63	7	100	(895)

\* *Previous Wording*—“Some people have reported that they plan to change their behaviors in the future, now that the threat of terrorism has become so real. Others don’t plan to change what they do very much. Please tell me whether you are, or are not, less likely to do any of the following things as a result of the attacks. First, are you less likely to Travel on airplanes, Travel into New York City, Trust Arab Americans or not?”

\*\* *Source: Pew Research Center for the People & The Press*  
*Question Wording: “As a result of the terrorist attacks have you traveled by air less over the past year or not?”*

“Did you or anyone in your household lose a job or take a cut in pay at least in part as a result of the attacks?” [T9]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<u>Region</u>					
--North	19	80	1	100	(325)
--Central	15	84	1	100	(221)
--South	17	83	1	101	(253)
<u>National Data</u>					
August 2002**	13	86	1	100	(500)
<u>NYC metro Data</u>					
August 2002**	17	83	--	100	(401)

\*\* *Source: Pew Research Center for the People & The Press*



“Do you think the war against terrorist organizations in Afghanistan so far has been a success, a failure, or is it too early to tell?” [T10]

	<u>A success</u>	<u>A failure</u>	<u>Too early to tell</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<i>Region</i>						
--North	17	13	67	2	99	(325)
--Central	13	18	68	1	100	(221)
--South	16	12	68	4	100	(253)
<i>Gender</i>						
--Male	22	15	61	2	100	(379)
--Female	11	13	73	3	100	(425)
<b><u>National Data</u></b>						
August 2002**	15	12	70	3	100	(500)

\*\* Source: Pew Research Center for the People & The Press

“And do you personally believe Osama Bin Laden is alive, or dead?” [T11]

	<u>Alive</u>	<u>Dead</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
<b>September 2002</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(804)</b>
<i>Region</i>					
--North	72	11	17	100	(325)
--Central	72	11	17	100	(221)
--South	73	14	13	100	(253)
<i>Gender</i>					
--Male	67	18	15	100	(379)
--Female	77	7	16	100	(425)