

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

September 11, 2003
(Release 144-2)

CONTACT: CLIFF ZUKIN OR
PATRICK MURRAY
(732) 932-9384

A story based on the survey findings presented in this release and background memo appears in the Thursday, September 11, 2003 Star-Ledger. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to "*The Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll.*"

9/11 TWO YEARS OUT: SCARS STARTING TO FADE

PUBLIC DIVIDED OVER WISDOM OF IRAQ INVASION

The second anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 finds New Jerseyans having healed a bit over the past year: 45 percent now say their life has returned to normal, up from 37 percent a year ago. And while 22 percent continue to think about the events of September 11, 2001 on a daily basis, this is half the number who reported doing so on the first anniversary of the disaster. Still, it is a large number of state residents—26 percent—who say their lives were forever changed by the events of that day, and this number is basically unchanged from last year at this time.

The latest Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll also finds many voicing fundamental doubts about the success of the war on terrorism and the wisdom of invading Iraq. As many describe the war on terrorism as a failure as believe it to be a success, and the public is evenly divided on whether removing Saddam Hussein from power has been worth the price of lives lost and other costs of the war.

Additionally, a large number of state residents are looking over their shoulders for another terrorist attack: one-in-three believe an attack is "very likely" to occur within the United States in the next year or two; one-quarter feel it very likely that another attack will be launched in the New York area within this time frame.

The survey was conducted with a random sample of 802 New Jerseyans 18 years and older, interviewed by telephone between September 2 and 8. The poll has a sampling error of ± 3.5 percentage points.

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

185 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

Director: Cliff Zukin x247 • Associate Director: Patrick Murray x243

Graduate Research Assistant: Robert Suls

Phone: 732-932-9384 - Website: <http://slerp.rutgers.edu> - Fax: 732-932-1551

Two years now after the hijacked planes crashed into and destroyed the World Trade Center towers, just under half of New Jerseyans (45%) say their lives have returned to normal, Another quarter say their lives are in a transition to “normal,” while the remaining quarter feel their lives will never be the same. On the one hand, this is progress from a year ago, when just 37 percent said their lives had returned to normal. But on the other hand, the 26 percent who now say their lives will never return to normal is basically unchanged from the 29 percent who gave this response upon being surveyed at the first year anniversary of 9/11. Thus it seems that the attacks of September 11, 2001 have had a deep and long lasting impact on about one-quarter of Garden State residents.

Still, there is evidence in the most recent survey that the pain of 9/11 has receded for a significant portion of the public. The current survey finds 22 percent saying they think about the terrorist attacks “every day” with another 23 percent saying they think about them “a few times a week.” This combined total of 45 percent is significantly lower than the figure of 70 percent recorded one year ago in September 2002 (44% daily and 26% a few times a week).

The Rutgers-based survey also finds far fewer planning to do something special to recognize the second anniversary of the attack (29%) than was the case on the first anniversary (45%).

A significant number of New Jerseyans voice serious reservations about the country’s success in the war on terrorism and the wisdom of invading Iraq. At this point in time roughly equal numbers describe the war on terrorism as a failure (37%) and as a success (35%), with another 16 percent saying it is too early to tell and the remaining 12 percent expressing no opinion.

And, when asked whether removing Saddam Hussein from power “was worth the loss of American life and other costs of attacking Iraq,” 44 percent say “yes” while 45 percent say “no.” Echoing this deep division, 47 percent say the effort to bring stability and order in Iraq is going well, while 48 percent believe it is going badly

Poll director Cliff Zukin commented, “Now that the dust has settled and the euphoria of the initial military victory has worn off, we find consensus over the wisdom of invading Iraq has broken down, at least in New Jersey. This threatens to be a very divisive issue that will no doubt become a centerpiece of the 2004 presidential election.”

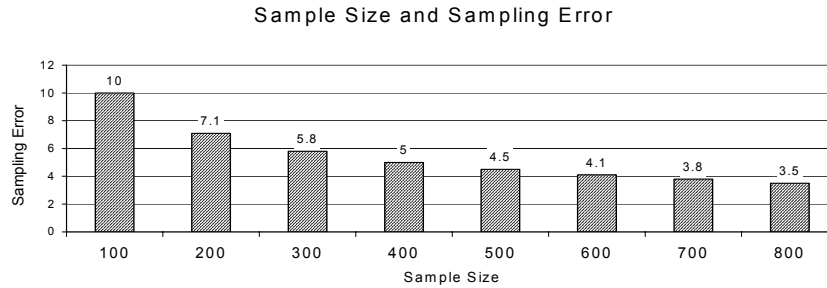
The poll finds that 32 percent of New Jerseyans believing it to be “very likely” that there will be another terrorist attack in the U.S. within the next year or two, and another 41 percent believing that this is “somewhat likely.” And a significant number feel that the New York region is a prime target: 23 percent feel an attack in this area to be “very likely,” with another 44 percent feeling that it is “somewhat likely” to happen.

Finally, there is modest support among the New Jersey public for making September 11 a national holiday: 57 percent favor the idea and 33 percent oppose it, with the remainder offering no opinion.

 **AUDIO COMMENTARY ON THIS POLL IS** 
AVAILABLE BY DIALING 732-932-9384 ext. 302

BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE (EP144-2) September 11, 2003

The latest *Star-Ledger*/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll was conducted by telephone from September 2 to 8 with a scientifically selected random sample of 802 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 agree with a statement, 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 two years 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> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| September 2003 | 45% | 15% | 10% | 26% | 4% | 100% | (802) |
| <i>Region</i> | | | | | | | |
| --North | 45 | 18 | 11 | 24 | 3 | 101 | (367) |
| --Central | 45 | 13 | 9 | 29 | 3 | 99 | (205) |
| --South | 44 | 13 | 10 | 27 | 6 | 100 | (215) |
| <i>Gender</i> | | | | | | | |
| --Male | 47 | 16 | 11 | 23 | 3 | 100 | (386) |
| --Female | 43 | 14 | 9 | 29 | 5 | 100 | (416) |
| <u>PAST SURVEYS</u> | | | | | | | |
| September 2002 | 37 | 20 | 11 | 29 | 4 | 101 | (804) |
| <i>Region</i> | | | | | | | |
| --North | 32 | 22 | 14 | 28 | 4 | 100 | (325) |
| --Central | 40 | 15 | 9 | 31 | 5 | 100 | (221) |
| --South | 40 | 21 | 9 | 27 | 2 | 99 | (253) |
| <i>Gender</i> | | | | | | | |
| --Male | 42 | 18 | 11 | 24 | 5 | 100 | (379) |
| --Female | 33 | 21 | 11 | 32 | 3 | 100 | (425) |
| March 2002 | 33 | 28 | 13 | 24 | 2 | 100 | (803) |
| October 2001 | 25 | 26 | 22 | 24 | 3 | 100 | (1005) |

“Do you plan to do anything special this September 11 to recognize the second anniversary of the attack, OR don’t you think you will do anything out of the ordinary?” [T2]

| | <u>Something special</u> | <u>Nothing out of the ordinary</u> | <u>DK</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>(n)</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| September 2003 | 29% | 66% | 5% | 100% | (802) |
| <i>Region</i> | | | | | |
| --North | 32 | 63 | 5 | 100 | (367) |
| --Central | 26 | 70 | 3 | 99 | (205) |
| --South | 26 | 70 | 4 | 100 | (215) |
| <u>PAST SURVEYS</u> | | | | | |
| September 2002 | 45 | 46 | 9 | 100 | (804) |
| <i>Region</i> | | | | | |
| --North | 49 | 42 | 8 | 99 | (325) |
| --Central | 47 | 43 | 10 | 100 | (221) |
| --South | 40 | 52 | 8 | 100 | (253) |

“These days, how often do you think about the September 11th terrorist attacks? That is, how often do the events of a year ago come to mind-- every day, a few times a week, once a week or less, or rarely?” [T3]

| | <u>Every day</u> | <u>A few times a week</u> | <u>Once a week or less</u> | <u>Rarely</u> | <u>(VOL) Never</u> | <u>DK</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>(n)</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| September 2003 | 22% | 23% | 33% | 18% | 2% | 2% | 100% | (802) |
| <i>Region</i> | | | | | | | | |
| --North | 21 | 25 | 30 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 100 | (367) |
| --Central | 24 | 25 | 34 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 101 | (205) |
| --South | 18 | 19 | 38 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 100 | (215) |
| <i>Gender</i> | | | | | | | | |
| --Male | 22 | 24 | 29 | 21 | 3 | 1 | 100 | (386) |
| --Female | 21 | 23 | 36 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 99 | (416) |
| <u>PAST SURVEYS</u> | | | | | | | | |
| September 2002 | 44 | 26 | 20 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 100 | (804) |
| <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) |

“In general, has the war on terrorism been a success or a failure?” [T4]

| | <u>A success</u> | <u>A failure</u> | <u>Too soon to tell</u> | <u>DK</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>(n)</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| September 2003 | 35% | 37% | 16% | 12% | 100% | (802) |
| <u>PAST SURVEYS</u> | | | | | | |
| September 2002* | 16 | 14 | 68 | 3 | 101 | (804) |

* Previous wording... “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?”

“How likely do you think it is that another terrorist attack will occur in the United States in the next year or two -- very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?” [T5]

| | <u>Very likely</u> | <u>Somewhat likely</u> | <u>Not too likely</u> | <u>Not at all likely</u> | <u>DK</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>(n)</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| September 2003 | 32% | 41% | 15% | 8% | 5% | 101% | (401) |

“How likely do you think it is that another terrorist attack will occur in the New York area in the next year or two -- very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?” [T6]

| | <u>Very likely</u> | <u>Somewhat likely</u> | <u>Not too likely</u> | <u>Not at all likely</u> | <u>DK</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>(n)</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| September 2003 | 23% | 44% | 18% | 10% | 6% | 101% | (401) |

“Would you favor or oppose a law that made September 11 a national holiday?” [T7]

| | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>Depends</u> | <u>DK</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>(n)</u> |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| September 2003 | 57% | 33% | 3% | 6% | 99% | (802) |
| <i>Region</i> | | | | | | |
| --North | 59 | 32 | 4 | 5 | 100 | (367) |
| --Central | 50 | 40 | 3 | 8 | 101 | (205) |
| --South | 60 | 32 | 2 | 6 | 100 | (215) |
| <i>Gender</i> | | | | | | |
| --Male | 56 | 35 | 4 | 5 | 100 | (386) |
| --Female | 58 | 32 | 3 | 7 | 100 | (416) |

“Do you think removing Saddam Hussein from power was worth the loss of American life and other costs of attacking Iraq, or not?” [GB8]

| | <u>Worth it</u> | <u>Not worth it</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>(n)</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| September 2003 | 44% | 45% | 12% | 101% | (401) |
| <i>Party Affiliation</i> | | | | | |
| --Democrat | 36 | 50 | 14 | 100 | (151) |
| --Independent | 44 | 44 | 12 | 100 | (98) |
| --Republican | 59 | 31 | 10 | 100 | (102) |

“How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq. Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?” [GB9]

| | <u>Very well</u> | <u>Somewhat well</u> | <u>Somewhat badly</u> | <u>Very badly</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>(n)</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| September 2003 | 6% | 41% | 35% | 13% | 4% | 99% | (401) |
| <i>Party Affiliation</i> | | | | | | | |
| --Democrat | 6 | 30 | 42 | 18 | 5 | 101 | (151) |
| --Independent | 2 | 41 | 42 | 13 | 2 | 100 | (98) |
| --Republican | 12 | 55 | 28 | 2 | 3 | 100 | (102) |