

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

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9/11 PAIN STILL LINGERS

While the scars of September 11, 2001 are not as deep as they were on the first anniversary of those events, many New Jerseyans still can't shake the specter of that tragedy. Nearly half still think about the attacks at least a few times a week. And while they feel more secure now than they did a couple of years ago, a sizable percentage feel that another terror attack on United States soil is likely in the near future.

The latest *Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll*, which was conducted with 402 New Jersey adults from September 3 to 7, also found that the public continues to be divided on whether the war on terrorism has been a success or failure. The poll has a margin of error of ± 5 percentage points.

Currently, 22 percent of Garden State residents say they still think of the events of September 11th every day and another 25 percent say they these events come to mind a few times a week. Thirty percent think about that fateful day once a week or less and 21 percent say they rarely or never think about it.

The 1-in-5 New Jerseyans who are reminded of the attacks daily is down from the 44 percent who did the same on the first anniversary of 9/11, but is similar to poll results taken last year. And just like last year, more than 1-in-4 residents (28%) say they plan to do something special to mark the anniversary of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

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

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Patrick Murray, acting director of the Rutgers University-based poll, observed, “The fact that the poll numbers this year are similar to those from the second anniversary indicates that this tragedy has had a deep and lasting effect. The scars faded a bit after the first anniversary, but they still linger for a good number of Garden State residents.”

Not only are the scars of 9/11 still evident, but also the fear of another attack—somewhere in the United States if not New York—haunts many New Jerseyans. Nearly 4-in-10 residents (38%) believe that a terror attack on American soil is very likely in the next year. Another 40 percent feel that such an event is somewhat likely. However, residents think that such an attack happening in the New York area again is less probable. Only 22percent say this scenario is very likely.

At the same time, New Jerseyans now feel safer from terrorism than they did in the 12 months immediately following the attack. Currently, 37 percent feel more secure than they did a year or two ago compared to 22 percent who are less secure. Another 38 percent say there has been no change in their feeling of personal safety from a terror attack. In the first year after the events of September 11th, this sentiment was reversed with 25 percent feeling more secure and 38 percent less secure.

“Feelings of personal safety in the wake of terrorism are relative,” remarked Murray. “In the 12 months following September 11th there was a great deal of uncertainty over national security – and not just over the possibility of more violent attacks. The unresolved anthrax scare, which was centered in New Jersey, also caused a great deal of concern for residents. With time, those worries have diminished to some degree.”

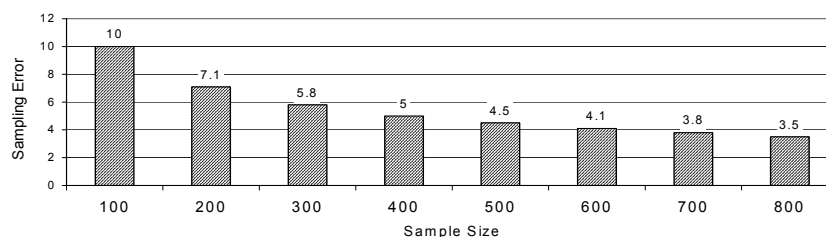
Currently, 36 percent of residents believe that the “war on terrorism” has been a success compared to a similar 38 percent who would call it a failure thus far. This is almost identical to opinion measured one year ago, when 35 percent called it a success and 37 percent a failure.

Murray commented. “We are in an election year where this issue is at the top of voters’ minds and the jury is still out on whether current anti-terrorism policies have been effective. Who can keep us safer is a key question many voters will want answered before casting their ballots.”

BACKGROUND MEMO – RELEASE (EP148-2) September 10, 2004

The latest *Star-Ledger*/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll was conducted by telephone from September 3 to 7 with a scientifically selected random sample of 402 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 ± 5.0 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 45 and 55 percent (50 ± 5.0) 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.

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:

“Do you plan to do anything special this September 11th to recognize the third anniversary of the attack, or don’t you think you will do anything out of the ordinary?” [T1]

	<u>Something special</u>	<u>Nothing out of the ordinary</u>	<u>Don’t Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September 2004	28%	67%	4%	99%	(402)
<i>Region</i>					
--North	27	69	3	99	(188)
--Central	34	60	6	100	(105)
--South	25	70	5	100	(104)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</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)
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 three years ago come to mind-- every day, a few times a week, once a week or less, or rarely?” [T2]

	<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>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September 2004	22%	25%	30%	19%	2%	2%	100%	(402)
<i>Region</i>								
--North	27	22	31	16	3	1	100	(188)
--Central	17	29	29	19	2	4	100	(105)
--South	19	26	30	23	1	1	100	(104)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</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)
September 2002	44	26	20	9	1	1	101	(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)

“In general, has the war on terrorism been a success or a failure?” [T3]

	<u>A success</u>	<u>A failure</u>	<u>Neither/ Too soon to tell (VOL)</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September 2004	36%	38%	17%	9%	100%	(402)
<i>Party ID</i>						
--Democrat	20	53	16	11	100	(140)
--Independent	32	42	17	9	100	(113)
--Republican	71	9	14	6	100	(99)
<i>Gender</i>						
--Male	41	38	14	7	100	(193)
--Female	32	37	20	11	100	(209)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>						
September 2003	35	37	16	12	100	(802)
September 2002 *	16	14	68	3	101	(804)

* Previous wording in 2002: “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?”

“Do you personally feel more secure or less secure from terrorism than you did a year or two ago or has there been no change?” [T4]

	<u>More Secure</u>	<u>Less Secure</u>	<u>No Change</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September 2004	37%	22%	38%	3%	100%	(402)
<i>Party ID</i>						
--Democrat	22	33	42	3	100	(140)
--Independent	29	22	46	4	101	(113)
--Republican	72	6	21	1	100	(99)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>						
September 2002 *	25	38	36	1	100	(804)

* Previous wording: “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?”

“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>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September 2004	38%	40%	11 %	4%	7%	100%	(402)
<i>Party ID</i>							
--Democrat	40	41	10	3	6	100	(140)
--Independent	49	26	16	4	4	99	(113)
--Republican	30	52	9	4	6	101	(99)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</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>Don't Know</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>(n)</u>
September 2004	22%	42%	19%	9%	9%	101%	(402)
<i>Party ID</i>							
--Democrat	18	40	23	12	6	99	(140)
--Independent	29	39	18	5	9	100	(113)
--Republican	17	47	21	7	8	100	(99)
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>							
September 2003	23	44	18	10	6	101	(401)