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Introductory Note

This week report consists of 23 surveys. Four of these are multi-country surveys while the rest of 19 are national surveys.

Summary of Polls

NORTHEAST ASIA

Less Than a Third in Taiwan Approve of Ma

Taiwanese president Ma Ying-jeou continues to show a dismal rapport with his constituents, according to a poll by Global Views. Only 23.5 per cent of respondents are satisfied with Ma's performance, down 4.8 points since November.

January 11, 2010

AFRICA

Sexist Attitudes Pervasive in South Africa

A fifth of South African men think women belong in the house, according to a poll by Ipsos Markinor. 20 per cent of male respondents, and 14 per cent of women, share this point of view.

January 11, 2010

EAST EUROPE

Ukraine's National Election -- a Problem of Democracy?

Pew Research Center surveys show that Ukrainians are not only disenchanted with their current leadership and economic situation; they are also broadly dissatisfied with the democratic and capitalist systems that evolved after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. In fact, of the former Eastern bloc publics surveyed, Ukrainians are the most unhappy with the transition to democracy and free markets.

January 14, 2010

WEST EUROPE

French Disappointed with National Identity Debate

Half of people in France are dissatisfied with a government initiative to launch a "great debate on the national identity," according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 50 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 25 per cent say they are content with it.

January 14, 2010

Britons Want Shorter Time Limit for Abortions

Almost half of the population of Britain wants the time limit on abortion to be reduced from the current 24 weeks, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 47 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 36 per cent would maintain the current limit.

January 14, 2010

Conservatives Retain Large Lead in Britain

The Conservative party maintains a considerable advantage over its rivals in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 40 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in the next general election.

January 12, 2010

Portuguese Split on Same-Sex Marriage

People in Portugal are divided in their opinion of same-sex marriage, according to a poll by Eurosondagem published in *Express*. 49.5 per cent of respondents oppose marriages between people of the same sex, while 45.5 per cent favour them.

January 11, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Obama Image Unscathed By Terrorism Controversy

In the aftermath of the failed Christmas Day terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner, the government's ratings for reducing the threat of terrorism have slipped. In addition, 33% now say that the ability of terrorists to launch a major attack on the U.S. is greater than it was at the time of 9/11; that is up only slightly from November but is the highest percentage expressing this view in surveys dating to 2002.

January 14, 2010

U.S. Fear of Terrorism Steady After Foiled Christmas Attack

Gallup polls bracketing the 2009 Christmas Day terror incident -- in which a Nigerian man attempted to explode a bomb hidden under his clothes on a Northwest Airlines flight -- document little change in U.S. public concern about being victimized by terrorism.

January 13, 2010

Congress and Wall Street Are Blamed the Most for Americans' Current Financial Situation

A new Harris interactive survey shows that almost three-quarters of Americans (72%) say they blame Congress for their financial situation while 71% blame Wall Street.

January 06, 2010

Blacks Upbeat about Black Progress, Prospects

According to a comprehensive new nationwide Pew Research Center survey on race, despite the bad economy, blacks' assessments about the state of black progress in America have improved more dramatically during the past two years than at any time in the past quarter century.

January 12, 2010

Americans Back Profiling Air Travelers to Combat Terrorism

Americans widely endorse the use of profiling to single out airline passengers for more intensive security searches before they board U.S. flights, based on their age, ethnicity, or gender. Seventy-one percent are in favor of this practice and 27% are opposed.

January 15, 2010

In U.S., Air Travelers Take Body Scans in Stride

In the midst of renewed discussion of heightened security measures to thwart terrorist attacks like the Christmas Day attempt to blow up an airplane over Detroit, 78% of U.S. air travelers approve of U.S. airports' using full body scan imaging on airline passengers.

January 11, 2010

Americans Lose Ground in Most Areas of Well-Being in 2009

Americans' overall well-being in 2009 precisely matched their overall well-being in 2008, with a Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index composite score of 65.9 for each year. However, how Americans got to that score was considerably different in 2009 than it was in 2008: 2009 scores fell behind for five of the six well-being sub-indexes, but the Life Evaluation Index score improved so much that it offset the declines in the other five areas.

January 14, 2010

Rating for Harper Drops to 28% in Canada

Fewer Canadians are satisfied with the way their prime minister is handling his duties, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 28 per cent of respondents approve of the Stephen Harper's performance, down four points since December.

January 16, 2010

Dissatisfaction with Prorogation Grows in Canada

More adults in Canada disagree with their federal government's decision to prorogue Parliament, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 61 per cent of respondents share this view, up eight points in a week.

January 15, 2010

Conservatives Face Slight Dip in Canada

Canada's governing Conservative Party begins this year with a drop in popularity, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 34 per cent of respondents would vote for the Tories in the next election to the House of Commons, down two points since December.

January 14, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Survey Highlights Haitians' Vulnerability

The effects of a 7.0-magnitude earthquake would be difficult for any country to cope with -- but they are likely to be particularly crippling and long-lasting for Haiti, whose residents were already less likely than any other population in the Western Hemisphere to have access to essential goods and services.

January 14, 2010

More Brazilians Readily Support Lula

The popularity of Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva shows no signs of receding, according to a poll by Datafolha published in *Folha de Sao Paulo*. 72 per cent of respondents say Lula has done a good or very good job as head of state, up five points since August.

January 13, 2010

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

People in Three Countries Think Iran Wants Nukes

People in three countries believe the Iranian government is attempting to develop nuclear weapons, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 71 per cent of Americans, 66 per cent of Canadians and 63 per cent of Britons agree with this notion.

January 12, 2010

Widespread Anti-Immigrant Sentiment in Italy

According to Pew Research Center survey, Italians have a very negative view of immigrants. They believe that immigrants are having bad impact on the social and economic life of Italy.

January 12, 2010

Arab League Countries' Views of U.S. Leadership Up in 2009

Approval ratings of U.S. leadership increased in 10 of 12 Arab League countries that Gallup surveyed twice in 2009. Between the first survey period from February to March and the second survey period from July to October, U.S. leadership enjoyed the highest approval jump in Bahrain (33 percentage points), Mauritania (22 points), Kuwait (19 points), and Comoros (15 points).

January 13, 2010

Poverty Most Serious World Problem, Says Global Poll

Extreme poverty is a more serious problem for the world than climate change, terrorism, or the state of the global economy, according to a new annual global poll across 23 countries conducted by Globescan for BBC World Service.

January 17, 2010

NORTHEAST ASIA

Less Than a Third in Taiwan Approve of Ma

January 11, 2010

Taiwanese president Ma Ying-jeou continues to show a dismal rapport with his constituents, according to a poll by Global Views. Only 23.5 per cent of respondents are satisfied with Ma's performance, down 4.8 points since November.

In 1895, following a military defeat, China ceded Taiwan to Japan. At the end of World War II, the island was returned to Chinese control. In 1949, as Mao Zedong's communists were gaining prominence in mainland China, Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek established the Republic of China in Taiwan.

A series of democratic reforms implemented by Taiwanese president Lee Teng-hui in the early 1990s allowed Taiwan's residents to take part in free and fair elections. To this date, the People's Republic of China considers Taiwan a "renegade province" and reserves the right to bring it under control.

In March 2008, Ma won the presidential election with 58.45 per cent of the vote as a candidate for the Kuomintang Party (KMT). Frank Hsieh of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) finished second with 41.55 per cent.

The KMT advocates for maintaining the status quo with the Chinese central government, while the DPP has aggressively pursued independence from Beijing.

On Dec. 31, Ma reiterated that he does not plan to seek independence for Taiwan, declaring, "At the present stage any radical political choice, whether it be unification or independence, would trigger serious confrontation and turbulence. I insist on maintaining the situation of 'no unification, no independence, no use of force' to promote cross-strait exchanges and cooperation for peaceful developments in the Taiwan Strait."

Polling Data

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Ma Ying-jeou's performance as president?

	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009
Satisfied	23.5%	28.3%	29.5%
Dissatisfied	62.2%	61.0%	58.6%

Source: Global Views

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,022 Taiwanese adults, conducted from Dec. 14 to Dec. 16, 2009. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

EAST EUROPE

Ukraine's National Election -- a Problem of Democracy?

Economy, Poor Leadership, Corruption Key

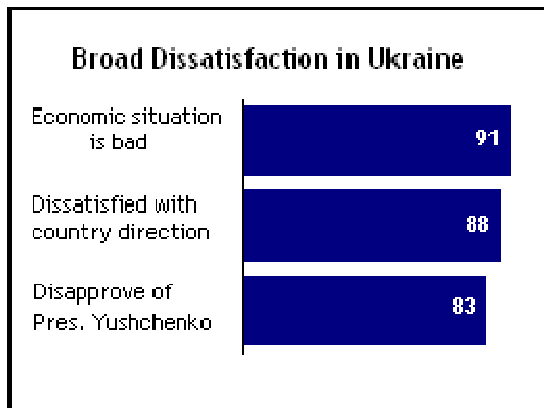
January 14, 2010

The Orange Revolution in Ukraine helped to usher pro-Western liberal Viktor Yushchenko into the president's office in 2005. Yushchenko promised to fight corruption, reform the economy and seek better relations with the West. Five years later, on the eve of new elections, Ukraine's economy is in free fall, corruption is still widespread and NATO membership remains elusive. Opposition leader Viktor Yanukovych is circling with promises of a return to stability and a closer relationship with Russia.

Findings from a September 2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project show that Ukrainians are not only disenchanted with their current leadership and economic situation; they are also broadly dissatisfied with the democratic and capitalist systems that evolved after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. In fact, of the former Eastern bloc publics surveyed, Ukrainians are the most unhappy with the transition to a democracy and free markets.

Dissatisfaction With General Country Direction, Economy and Leadership

Ukrainians are unhappy with the general direction of their country as well as their economic situation and national leadership. Roughly nine-in-ten (88%) Ukrainians are dissatisfied with the way things are going in their country. A roughly equal percentage (91%) describes the current economic situation in Ukraine as somewhat or very bad, with a majority (59%) saying *very* bad.



Also, as of September 2009, most Ukrainians disapproved (83%) of President Yushchenko's handling of his job, with many (41%) saying they *strongly* disapprove. More recent findings show that President Yushchenko remains widely unpopular. A November 2009 survey conducted by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), found that most (83%) Ukrainians view Yushchenko negatively and few (3.5%) say they will vote for him in the first round of the presidential election in January 2010.

One key issue for the current and future administrations in Ukraine will likely be corruption -- an issue Yushchenko promised to address during his successful bid for office. In fact, seven-in-ten (70%) in Ukraine consider corrupt political leaders a very big problem, up from 63% in 2002.

Corruption is far from the only issue Ukrainians consider important. Many also consider pollution (64%), crime (56%), the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases (56%), and illegal drugs (46%) to be *very* big problems.

Disaffection With Changes

Approval of Change to...

	1991 %	2009 %	Change
Multiparty sys.	72	30	-42
Capitalism	52	36	-16

Ukrainians are growing less enamored of the changes made to their political and economic systems since 1991. In a 1991 survey conducted just months before the dissolution of the Soviet Union,¹ a large majority (72%) of Ukrainians approved of the change to a multiparty system, whereas only 30% do now. Also, while half (52%) of Ukrainians approved of the change to a capitalist economic system in the early 1990s, only 36% do now. In fact, Ukraine is the only former Eastern bloc country surveyed where more disapprove than approve of the changes to a multiparty system and market economy.

Men, Younger & Educated More Likely to Approve of Changes to...		
	<u>Multiparty system</u>	<u>Free markets</u>
<u>% Approve</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Men	37	44
Women	25	30
18-29	34	48
30-49	39	43
50-64	22	24
65+	20	20
Oldest-Youngest Gap	-14	-28
Some college-	41	52
No college	25	28

Men, the young and more educated are decidedly more supportive of the dramatic political and economic changes made in the early 1990s. Roughly four-in-ten Ukrainian men approve of the changes to a competitive election system (37%) and a free market economy (44%). Somewhat fewer women express the same views; 25% support the move to multiparty elections and 30% embrace capitalism.

Roughly one-third (34%) of Ukrainians ages 18-29 approve of the change to multiparty elections; only 20% of those 65 or older hold the same view. Nearly half (48%) of 18-29 year-olds in Ukraine also support the move to a free market; only 20% of people 65 or older voice the same opinion.

Ukrainians with at least some college education are also more likely to support the change to multiparty elections (41%) and capitalism (52%) than their less than educated counterparts (25% approve of multiparty system, 28% approve of free markets). By contrast, ethnic Russians in Ukraine are no less likely to approve of these changes than are their ethnic Ukrainian counterparts.

Many now believe a strong leader is better able to solve Ukraine's problems than a democratic form of government. Slightly more than two-thirds of those in Ukraine (69%) say a strong leader is better, compared with 20% who say democratic government. In Ukraine, confidence in democracy has waned since 1991, when 57% said a democratic government could better solve the nation's problems.

In addition, many in Ukraine sense that people were actually better off economically under communism than they are under the current system. When asked to consider whether the economic situation for most people today is better, worse or about the same as it was under communism, 62% in Ukraine say worse.

Few Think Ukraine Has Democratic Institutions

A Democracy Gap: Democracy in Theory vs. Reality			
	Very important %	Very well %	Diff.
Fair judiciary	67	11	-56
Multiparty elections	53	11	-42
Free media	49	13	-36
Civ. control military	30	7	-23
Free speech	43	22	-21
Free religion	51	31	-20

Respondents were asked a series of questions concerning democratic values/institutions. First, they were asked "How important is it to you to live in a country where (INSERT DEMOCRATIC VALUE/INSTITUTION)? Second, they were asked whether (INSERT) describe our country very well, somewhat well, not too well or not well at all?

While many Ukrainians continue to embrace democratic values and institutions, few think their country has these values and institutions.

Large majorities in Ukraine consider it somewhat or very important to live in a country with a fair judiciary (90%), freedom of religion (86%), multiparty elections (85%), a free media (83%), freedom of speech (82%) and civilian control of the military (55%) with many saying *very* important.

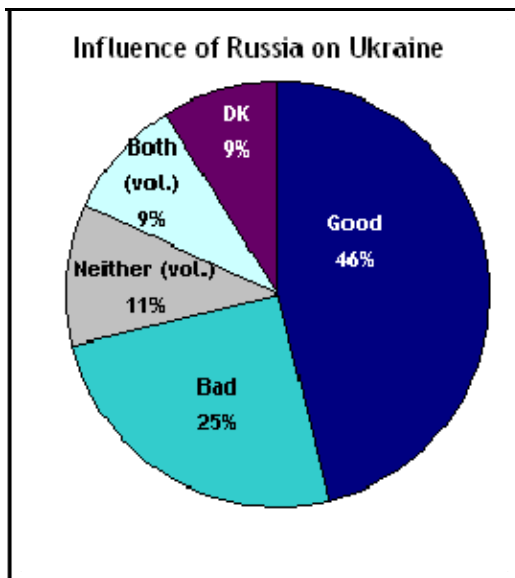
More Ukrainians consider having a fair judicial system *very* important than any of the other democratic elements asked about. Nearly seven-in-ten (67%) consider it very important to have a judicial system that treats everyone the same way. Somewhat fewer say it is *very* important to have multiparty elections (53%), freedom to practice one's religion (51%), and freedom of the media to report information without censorship (49%). Fewer highly value the freedom to speak openly and criticize the government (43%), and civilian control of the military (30%).

However, few in Ukraine feel that their country is doing a good job ensuring most of those rights and freedoms. For example, only about one-in-ten (11%) think the phrase "there is a judicial system that treats everyone in the same way" describes their country *very well*. Likewise, only 11% say the phrase "honest elections are held regularly with a choice of at least two political parties" characterizes their country *very well*, while (13%) feel the same about the media's ability to report the news without government censorship.

More Ukrainians are convinced their country can be characterized as one in which people can practice their religion freely (31%) and openly say what they think and criticize the government (22%).

Relations With Russia

Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich's preference for closer relations between Ukraine and Russia appears consistent with public sentiment. Roughly half (46%) of the respondents in Ukraine say Russia is having a good influence on their country. Only 25% feel that this influence is bad.



Views of Russian influence in Ukraine vary by ethnicity and region. Ethnic Russians (81%) are far more likely to view Russian influence positively than ethnic Ukrainians (52%). In addition more people living in Eastern (87%) and Southern (56%) Ukraine, which are the regions in which most Ethnic Russians live, view the influence of Russia as good than do those in the West (32%).

Ukrainians also view Russia as one of their most dependable allies. When asked to name the countries they can most rely on as a dependable ally in the future, a majority of Ukrainians (58%) think of Russia. Ukrainians were also asked to name the countries and

organizations that pose the greatest threat. More than one-in-four (27%) in Ukraine see the U.S. as one of their top threats.

All is not rosy in terms of Ukrainian views of Russia; just as with other former Soviet and Eastern European publics, Ukrainians are worried about being too dependent on Russia for their energy resources. More than seven-in-ten (73%) in Ukraine express these concerns and, since 2007, worries about dependence on Russian energy resources have increased significantly (+10 percentage points).

Views of NATO

While current President Viktor Yushchenko is a proponent of Ukraine joining NATO, few Ukrainians hold this view. About half in Ukraine hold unfavorable opinions of NATO (51%) and oppose joining this security organization (51%).

Ethnic Russians are far more likely to hold an unfavorable view of NATO (74%) and oppose Ukrainian membership in the security organization (74%) than are ethnic Ukrainians (37% hold a favorable view of NATO, 46% oppose NATO membership).

WEST EUROPE

French Disappointed with National Identity Debate

January 14, 2010

Half of people in France are dissatisfied with a government initiative to launch a "great debate on the national identity," according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 50 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 25 per cent say they are content with it.

Additionally, 29 per cent of respondents say the debate on national identity should be stopped, and 21 per cent say it should be suspended. On the other hand, 34 per cent want the discussion to continue.

Last November, the government of conservative president Nicolas Sarkozy launched the "great debate on the national identity," which critics have accused of fostering fear of French citizens with foreign roots and immigrants. The initiative intends to be a national consultation on defining the French identity through local meetings and a website where people can express their opinions.

On Jan. 4, French minister of immigration and national identity Eric Besson—who is managing the debate initiative—said that it has been an "immense popular success," and denied that it is "focused [exclusively] on immigration and Islam."

Polling Data

In November, the government launched the "great debate on the national identity" through an Internet site and local meetings. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way this debate is proceeding in France?

Satisfied	25%
Dissatisfied	50%
Not sure	25%

Some people believe that the "great debate on the national identity" was not properly initiated, and have asked the government to stop it. Which opinion is closest to what you think should happen?

It is necessary to stop the debate	29%
It is necessary to suspend this debate	21%
It is necessary to continue this debate	34%
Not sure	16%

Source: CSA / Le Parisien

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,005 French adults, conducted on Dec. 16 and Dec. 17, 2009. No margin of error was provided.

Britons Want Shorter Time Limit for Abortions

January 14, 2010

Almost half of the population of Britain wants the time limit on abortion to be reduced from the current 24 weeks, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 47 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 36 per cent would maintain the current limit.

Britain legalized abortion in 1967 through the Abortion Act. A time limit for permitted abortions was set at 28 weeks, since doctors ruled that a foetus is viable outside the womb after that period of time.

Currently, a woman can only request an abortion within the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, provided that certain criteria are met. The limit was lowered from 28 to 24 weeks in 1990.

In May 2008, Conservative party leader David Cameron—who is poised to become Britain's prime minister after the next general election—voted in favour of a bill seeking to lower the time limit on abortions to 22 weeks. Just before the vote, Cameron declared: "I think the reason personally why I want to see it come from 24, definitely to 22, is because there are now children surviving, being born at 22, or 23 weeks who survive. I think that it is very difficult to have a system that is aborting foetuses at that age when children are surviving. That is my personal view."

Polling Data

In Great Britain, it is only legal to have an abortion during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy, provided that certain criteria are met. Thinking about this, which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

The time limit on abortion should be reduced to less than 24 weeks	47%
The time limit on abortion should remain at 24 weeks	36%
The time limit on abortion should be extended to more than 24 weeks	4%
Not sure	13%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,010 British adults, conducted from Jan. 8 to Jan. 10, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Conservatives Retain Large Lead in Britain

January 12, 2010

The Conservative party maintains a considerable advantage over its rivals in Britain, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 40 per cent of respondents would support the Tories in the next general election.

The governing Labour party is second with 24 per cent, followed by the Liberal Democrats with 20 per cent. 17 per cent of respondents would vote for other parties.

In June 2007, Gordon Brown officially became Labour leader and prime minister, replacing Tony Blair. Brown had worked as chancellor of the exchequer. Blair served as Britain's prime minister since May 1997, winning majority mandates in the 1997, 2001 and 2005 elections to the House of Commons.

Since December 2005, David Cameron has been the leader of the Conservative party. In December 2007, current parliamentarian Nick Clegg became the new leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Yesterday, Clegg introduced his party's policies on political reform, declaring, "Only a party which will really disperse power, breaking open the sorry, stale system of governance, rebuilding local government, and embracing fair votes for every level of election can reinvigorate our democracy."

The next election to the House of Commons must be held on or before Jun. 3. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion.

Polling Data

If a General Election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency? - Decided Voters with Leaners

	Jan. 10	Dec. 18	Dec. 10
Conservative	40%	40%	40%
Labour	24%	24%	23%
Liberal Democrats	20%	20%	19%
Other	17%	16%	19%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 2,010 British adults, conducted from Jan. 8 to Jan. 10, 2010. Margin of error is 2.2 per cent.

Portuguese Split on Same-Sex Marriage

January 11, 2010

People in Portugal are divided in their opinion of same-sex marriage, according to a poll by Eurosondagem published in *Express*. 49.5 per cent of respondents oppose marriages between people of the same sex, while 45.5 per cent favour them.

Regarding adoption by same-sex couples, 68.4 per cent of respondents oppose this notion, whereas 21.7 per cent support it.

The Socialist Party (PS) won the February 2005 parliamentary ballot, garnering 45.3 per cent of the vote and electing 121 lawmakers to the 230-seat Assembly of the Republic. Socialist leader Jose Socrates took over as prime minister in March.

In the September 2009 election, the Socialists secured 36.6 per cent of the vote and 97 seats, earning a minority mandate. Socrates was ratified as prime minister.

Homosexuality was considered as a crime in Portugal until 1982. In 2001, the country allowed same-sex couples to be registered as civil unions, with specific legal, tax and property rights.

On Jan. 8, the Assembly of the Republic voted 125-99 to legalize same-sex marriage in Portugal. The bill modifies existing legislation, and states that marriage is between "two people" and not "two people of different genders." It will come into effect as soon as it is signed into law by Portuguese president Anibal Cavaco Silva.

After the vote, Socrates declared: "I am of a generation—as we all are—which is not proud of the way it treated homosexuals. (...) It's a slight change to the law, it's true. But it is a very important and symbolic step towards fully ensuring respect for values that are essential in any democratic, open and tolerant society: the values of freedom, equality and non-discrimination."

Same-sex marriage is currently legal in the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway and Sweden. At least 20 countries offer some form of legal recognition to same-sex unions.

Polling Data

Do you favour or oppose same-sex marriage?

Favour	45.5%
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Oppose	49.5%
--------	-------

Do you favour or oppose adoption by same-sex couples?

Favour	21.7%
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Oppose	68.4%
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Source: Eurosondagem / Expresso

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 1,030 Portuguese adults, conducted from Oct. 29 to Nov. 3, 2009. Margin of error is 3 per cent.

NORTH AMERICA

Obama Image Unscathed By Terrorism Controversy

Few See Personal Upside to Health Care Reform

January 14, 2010

**More Criticism of Government
Anti-Terrorism Policies...**

	Feb <u>2009</u>	Nov <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2010</u>
<i>How well is gov't doing in reducing threat of terrorism?</i>	%	%	%
Very/fairly well	71	73	65
Not too/at all well	22	22	33
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Compared w/ 9/11, terrorists' ability to attack U.S. is...</i>			
Greater	17	29	33
The same	44	38	35
Less	35	29	29
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Gov't anti terror policies...</i>			
Not gone far enough to protect country	42	40	58
Gone too far in restricting civil liberties	36	36	27
Other/DK	<u>22</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100

But Views of Obama Unaffected

<i>Compared w/ Bush, Obama policies have made US...</i>	Jun <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2010</u>	
Safer from terrorism	28	28	
Less safe from terrorism	21	22	
No difference	44	46	
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Obama job approval</i>	Nov <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2010</u>
Approve	51	49	49
Disapprove	36	40	42
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Obama's handling of threat of terrorism</i>	Nov <u>2009</u>	Dec <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2010</u>
Approve	52	--	51
Disapprove	34	--	39
Don't know	<u>14</u>	--	<u>10</u>
	100		100

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

In the aftermath of the failed Christmas Day terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner, the government's ratings for reducing the threat of terrorism have slipped. In addition, 33% now say that the ability of terrorists to launch a major attack on the U.S. is greater than it was at the time of 9/11; that is up only slightly from November but is the highest percentage expressing this view in surveys dating to 2002. The public also has become

far more concerned that government anti-terrorism policies fail to protect the country adequately -- and far less concerned that these policies restrict civil liberties.

Yet there is little evidence that heightened security concerns are affecting Barack Obama's standing and image. At 49%, Obama's job approval rating is unchanged from December. He continues to get markedly higher ratings for his handling of the threat of terrorism (51% approve) than for any other issue. And just 22% say his administration's policies have made the country less safe from terrorism when compared with the policies of the Bush administration; that is virtually unchanged from June (21%).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Jan. 6-10 among 1,504 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds that fully 58% say that their greater concern about anti-terrorism policy is that the government has not gone far enough to protect the country; 27% say their greater concern is that the government has gone too far in restricting civil liberties. That represents a dramatic shift from just two months ago: In November, roughly equal percentages expressed concern about national security (40%) and civil liberties (36%).

Obama's Strongest Issue – Terrorism					
<i>Approve of the way Obama is handling...</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Nov-Jan change</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Threat of terrorism	57	--	52	51	-1
Energy policy	--	46	50	45	-5
Afghanistan	--	47	36	45	+9
Iraq	--	47	41	45	+4
Foreign policy	61	47	44	44	0
The economy	60	38	42	42	0
Health care	51	42	43	38	-5
The budget deficit	50	32	31	32	+1
Immigration policy	--	--	31	30	-1

Q11a-i.

For Obama, however, terrorism stands out as a strong suit, particularly when compared with his lackluster ratings for several key domestic issues. Just 38% approve of his handling of health care policy, while for the first time a majority (52%) disapproves. Obama receives even lower ratings for his handling of the budget deficit (32% approve) and immigration policy (30%). By contrast, Obama's rating for handling the situation in Afghanistan has rebounded to 45%, up from 36% in November.

Obama's personal ratings, on such dimensions as leadership, trustworthiness and effectiveness, remain strong. More than six-in-ten (62%) say they think of Obama as a strong leader, while just 32% say he is not a strong leader. Nearly as many say they think of Obama as trustworthy (61%) and able to get things done (57%). These perceptions have changed little since September, although Obama is not viewed as positively as he was in February 2009, shortly after taking office.

Obama's Personal Image Remains Positive				
<i>Which phrase better describes Obama?</i>	Feb 2009	Sep 2009	Jan 2010	Sep-Jan change
	%	%	%	
A good communicator	92	83	83	0
Not a good communicator	6	13	14	+1
Warm and friendly	87	78	77	-1
Cold and aloof	8	16	16	0
Well-organized	81	69	70	+1
Not well-organized	12	22	23	+1
Well-informed	79	70	69	-1
Not well-informed	15	23	26	+3
Cares about people like me	81	68	64	-4
Doesn't care	14	25	30	+5
A strong leader	77	65	62	-3
Not a strong leader	13	29	32	+3
Trustworthy	76	64	61	-3
Not trustworthy	15	30	31	+1
Able to get things done	70	58	57	-1
Not able to get things done	15	31	35	+4

Q12a-i.

The survey finds that with the health care debate at a crucial stage, more people continue to generally oppose (48%) than generally favor (39%) the health care bills before Congress. Opinion about health care legislation has been stable in recent months.

In assessing the personal impact of health care legislation, relatively few say they expect their insurance coverage to improve should the measure become law. Fewer than half (39%) say their ability to get health insurance with a pre-existing medical condition would get better if the legislation becomes law; fewer (33%) expect they would be better able to obtain insurance if they change jobs or lose their job.

Views of the legislation's potential impact on the cost and quality of health care are even more negative. Pluralities say their out-of-pocket health care costs would get worse

(40%) as a result of the legislation,

Few See Personal Benefits in Health Reform Bills

	Get better	Stay the same	Get worse	Other/DK
	%	%	%	%
<i>Your ability to get coverage...</i>				
If you have a pre-existing cond.	39	29	21	11=100
If you change or lose a job	33	26	26	16=100
<i>Effect on your own...</i>				
Out-of-pocket costs	21	28	40	11=100
Quality of care	18	41	33	8=100
Choice of doctors & hospitals	16	40	34	10=100
Wait time for appointments	14	36	40	11=100

Q.37a-f. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding

while the same percentage says that wait times for medical appointments would get worse. Regarding the quality of health care they receive and choices of doctors and hospitals, pluralities expect no changes as a result of the legislation (41% quality of care, 40% choice of doctors). However, about twice as many people expect that these and other aspects of their own health care would get worse, rather than get better, if the proposed changes become law.

Closely Divided Midterm Voting Intentions

	Vote Republican	Vote Democrat	Other/DK
	%	%	%
January 2010	44	46	10=100
November 2009	42	47	11=100
August 2009	44	45	10=100
<hr/>			
February 2003	41	50	9=100
February 2002	46	45	9=100
January 1998	41	51	8=100
July 1994	45	47	8=100

Q9/Q10. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The survey finds that as 2010 begins, voters are evenly divided in their preferences on the so-called generic ballot: 46% say if the midterm elections were held today they would vote for a Democratic candidate for Congress in their district, or lean Democratic, while 44% say they would vote for a Republican or lean Republican. That represents little change from August 2009, but is a marked shift from the 2006 midterms when Democrats consistently held wide leads.

But this year's midterms lag behind major sporting events -- the Winter Olympics and the Super Bowl -- on the list of the public's most anticipated events in 2010: 61% say they

are especially looking forward to next month's Winter Olympics while 58% say they are especially looking forward to the Super Bowl; fewer (50%) say the same about the midterms. Smaller percentages say they are particularly looking forward to the Academy Awards (31%) and the World Cup soccer tournament (23%).

Not surprisingly, this year's midterms are less highly anticipated than was the 2008 presidential election. In December 2007, fully 70% said they were looking forward to the presidential election, far more than said they were highly anticipating any other event in the year ahead.

Republicans Looking Forward to Midterms, Democrats Not So Much				
<i>Events you're especially looking forward to...</i>				
Jan 2010	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>Midterm elections</i>	%	%	%	%
Yes	50	60	48	47
No	47	38	48	51
Don't know	3	2	4	2
	100	100	100	100
Dec 2007				
<i>Presidential election</i>				
Yes	70	66	82	69
No	28	31	18	30
Don't know	2	3	*	2
	100	100	100	100

Q8. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

For Republicans, the midterms rank among the year's top events. Fully 60% of Republicans say they are especially looking forward to the midterm elections; that is only somewhat fewer than the proportion of Republicans that said they were looking forward to the 2008 presidential election (66%). Among upcoming events, about as many Republicans are anticipating the midterms as are looking forward to the Olympics (64%) and the Super Bowl (60%).

Democrats, however, are not as eagerly anticipating this year's elections: 48% say they are especially looking forward to the elections, while the same percentage says they are not. A little more than two years ago, 82% of Democrats said they were especially looking forward to the 2008 presidential election. When it comes to upcoming events, far more Democrats are looking forward to the Winter Olympics (63%) and Super Bowl (59%) than the elections.

Amid Tough Times, Most See a Better Year Ahead

	Dec 1994	Dec 1998	Dec 1999	Dec 2006	Dec 2007	Jan 2009	Jan 2010
<i>Will coming year be better or worse?</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	59	59	66	57	50	52	67
Worse	28	25	19	23	34	37	26
Don't know	13	16	15	15	16	11	8
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q7. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The survey finds that the national mood remains grim: 27% say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country, a figure that has changed little since the summer. But there is considerable optimism that 2010 will be a better year than 2009 -- 67% say the coming year will better, compared with 52% who said that last January and 50% in December 2007.

There are partisan differences in optimism about the coming year. More than eight-in-ten Democrats (83%) say 2010 will be better than 2009, compared with 60% of independents and 55% of Republicans. But positive assessments of the year ahead have risen among Democrats and Republicans alike: A year ago, 64% of Democrats and just 38% of Republicans said 2009 would be a better year than 2008.

U.S. Fear of Terrorism Steady After Foiled Christmas Attack

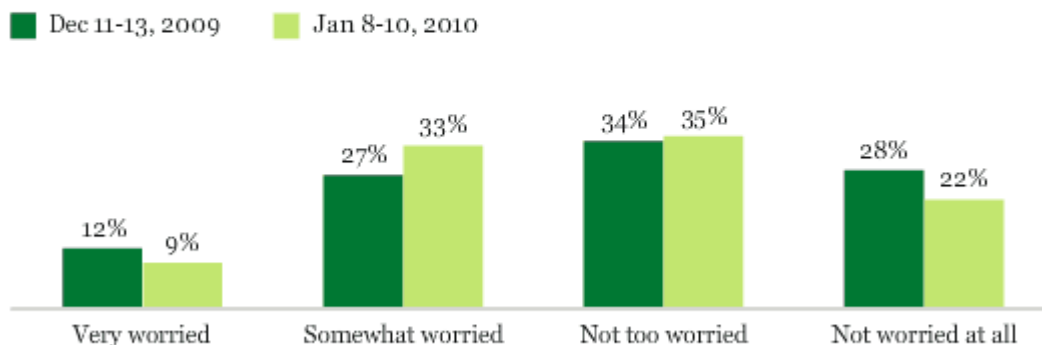
Forty-two percent of Americans now worried, similar to 39% in mid-December

January 13, 2010

Gallup polls bracketing the 2009 Christmas Day terror incident -- in which a Nigerian man attempted to explode a bomb hidden under his clothes on a Northwest Airlines flight -- document little change in U.S. public concern about being victimized by terrorism.

Americans' Worry About Being Victimized by Terrorism -- Recent Trend

Now, thinking for a moment about terrorism, how worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of terrorism -- very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?



GALLUP®

Just prior to the incident, a Dec. 11-13 Gallup survey found 39% of Americans either "very" or "somewhat" worried that they or a family member could be a victim of terrorism. In the latest *USA Today*/Gallup poll, conducted Jan. 8-10, 42% are worried. Across the same period, the percentage saying they are "not worried at all" did fall slightly, from 28% to 22%.

Americans' current level of anxiety about terrorism is close to the average seen on this Gallup measure since Sept. 11, 2001 (which is 41%). Since then, the highest recorded percentage saying they were very or somewhat worried was 59% in early October 2001 and the lowest was 28% in January 2004 (a few weeks after Saddam Hussein was captured in Iraq).

Americans' Worry About Being Victimized by Terrorism -- Trend Since 9/11

■ % Very/Somewhat worried



GALLUP®

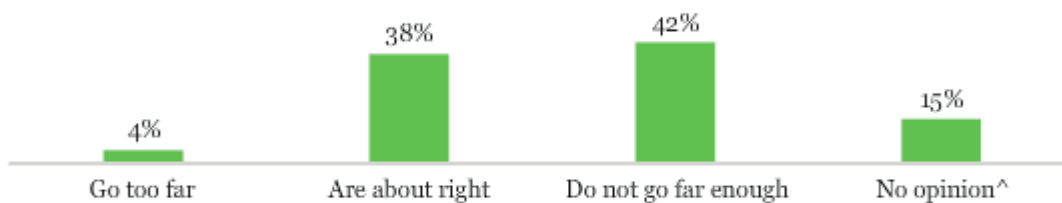
Anti-Terror Steps Get Mixed Reviews

After his receipt of an intelligence report detailing failures that led to the Northwest Airlines incident, President Obama stated in a Jan. 7 speech that the U.S. is at war, and outlined several new anti-terrorism directives.

Four in 10 Americans (42%) believe Obama's prescriptions for preventing terrorism in the wake of the Christmas Day terror incident fall short of what is needed, but nearly as many (38%) say these measures are about right, and 4% say they go too far.

Public's Review of New Anti-Terror Measures Announced by President Obama

Based on what you have heard or read about these new actions to prevent terrorism, do you think these go too far, are about right, or do not go far enough?



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

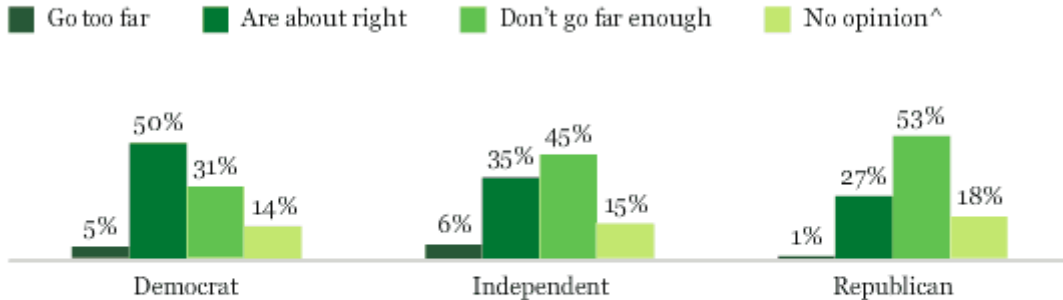
[^] Question asked of respondents who say they have followed the news about the new government actions against terrorism announced by President Obama. "No opinion" includes those who have not followed this news.

GALLUP®

No partisan group, including Democrats, is widely satisfied with the new actions being proposed. Among the three major groups, the percentage saying the measures are about right ranges from 50% among Democrats to 35% among independents and 27% among Republicans. Substantial segments of all three groups (including a majority of Republicans) think the measures don't go far enough.

Review of President Obama's New Anti-Terror Measures -- by Party ID

Based on what you have heard or read about these new actions to prevent terrorism, do you think these go too far, are about right, or do not go far enough?



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

[^]Question asked of respondents who say they have followed the news about the new government actions against terrorism announced by President Obama. "No opinion" includes those who have not followed this news.

GALLUP[®]

Americans and, in particular, Democrats, are more supportive of Obama on the broader issue of terrorism. In contrast to the 38% who say Obama's new anti-terrorism policies are about right, 49% of Americans in the same poll -- including 73% of Democrats -- approve of Obama's overall handling of terrorism.

When thinking longer term about U.S. anti-terrorism efforts, Americans offer a fairly positive review of the strides the country has made since 9/11. Twenty-one percent say the government has made a great deal of progress in protecting Americans from acts of terrorism since the Sept. 11 attacks and 53% say it has made a fair amount of progress. Far fewer -- a combined 26% -- say there has not been much progress (22%) or no progress at all (4%).

Assessment of Progress Since 9/11 in Preventing Terror Attacks

When it comes to protecting Americans from acts of terrorism, in your view, how much progress has the U.S. government made since the September 11th, 2001, terror attacks – a great deal, a fair amount, not much, or none at all?



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

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Bottom Line

Although the Christmas Day bomber failed to bring down Northwest Airlines Flight 253, his attempt represented a clear act of terrorism against the United States nearly a decade after 9/11. Nevertheless, the level of public fear of terrorism today remains about average for the post-9/11 period, and close to where it stood in mid-December. Additionally, Americans are generally positive about the long-term progress the government has made on protecting the country from terrorism.

Among the more visible anti-terrorism measures Obama ordered in his Jan. 7 speech is funding for body scanners for screening airline passengers. While most Americans favor using this technology at airports, far fewer -- 38% -- believe the entire set of new initiatives is sufficient to protect Americans.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,023 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 8-10, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Congress and Wall Street Are Blamed the Most for Americans' Current Financial Situation

Jan 06, 2010

Just under half blame President Obama

As the New Year dawns, many people take stock of their financial situation and, as other Harris Polls have shown, do not feel secure about their household's financial situation. One issue when it comes to finances is who to blame for the current situation -- and considering the past 18 months, there is a lot of blame to go around.

Almost three-quarters of Americans (72%) say they blame Congress for their financial situation while 71% blame Wall Street. And over two in five adults (43%) blame Wall Street a great deal for their financial situation while 38% say the same about Congress. Congress may be controlled by Democrats right now but they are not given much leeway by their partisans with 70% of Democrats blaming them along with three-quarters of both Republicans (75%) and Independents (75%).

These are some of the results of *The Harris Poll* of 2,276 adults surveyed online between December 4 and 17, 2009 by Harris Interactive.

While Wall Street and Congress rise to the top they are not the only ones who get blame. Over three in five Americans (63%) blame large corporations and 60% blame state government for their financial situation. Just under half blame the President (47%) and local government (47%) for their financial situation.

Three groups manage to avoid most of the blame and they are the ones closest to most people. Over four in five adults (85%) say they do not blame their family for their financial situation while 71% say they do not blame their employer and 61% do not blame themselves. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) say they do not blame their family at all for their financial situation.

Partisan and Generational differences

Looking at this by political party, there may be no difference in Congressional blame, but there is one with regard to blaming President Obama. Only 32% of Democrats say they blame the president for their financial situation compared to 67% of Republicans and 48% of Independents. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to blame Wall Street (77% vs. 64%) and large corporations (75% vs. 50%). Three-quarters of Independents blame Wall Street (76%) and Congress (75%). Independents are also more likely to blame themselves (43%) for their financial situation than are both Democrats (39%) and Republicans (35%).

There is also an interesting generational difference that emerges. Matures (those aged 64 and older) are much more likely than Echo Boomers (those aged 18-32) to blame Congress (80% vs. 59%), Wall Street (79% vs. 59%), and the President (56% vs. 43%). On the reverse side, Echo Boomers are more likely than Matures to blame themselves (42% vs. 33%), their employer (33% vs. 16%) and their family (18% vs. 12%).

TABLE 1

BLAME FOR PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION

"How much do you blame each of the following groups or individuals for your financial situation?"

Base: All adults

		BLAME (NET)	A great deal	Somewhat	DO NOT BLAME (NET)	Not very Much	Not at all
Congress	%	72	38	34	28	14	14
Wall Street	%	71	43	28	29	14	14
Large corporations	%	63	35	29	37	18	19
State government	%	60	23	37	40	23	17
The President	%	47	21	26	53	24	29
Local government	%	47	13	34	53	30	23
Yourself	%	39	16	24	61	20	41
Your employer	%	29	10	19	71	22	49
Your family	%	15	4	12	85	19	66

TABLE 2

BLAME FOR PERSONAL FINANCIAL SITUATION – BY GENERATION AND POLITICAL PARTY

"How much do you blame each of the following groups or individuals for your financial situation?"

Percent saying "A great deal/somewhat blame"

Base: All adults

	BLAME (NET)	Generation				Party		
		Echo Boomers (18-32)	Gen. X (33- 44)	Baby Boomers (45-63)	Matures (64+)	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Congress	72	59	68	79	80	75	70	75
Wall Street	71	59	67	79	79	64	77	76
Large corporations	63	57	65	65	67	50	75	64
State government	60	55	60	63	63	60	59	62
The President	47	43	47	47	56	67	32	48
Local government	47	46	43	49	51	45	49	46
Yourself	39	42	47	35	33	35	39	43
Your employer	29	33	36	28	16	25	30	30
Your family	15	18	20	13	12	12	16	16

Methodology

This Harris Poll was conducted online within the United States December 7 and 14, 2009 among 2,276 adults (aged 18 and over). Figures for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are

only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to participate in the Harris Interactive panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

These statements conform to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

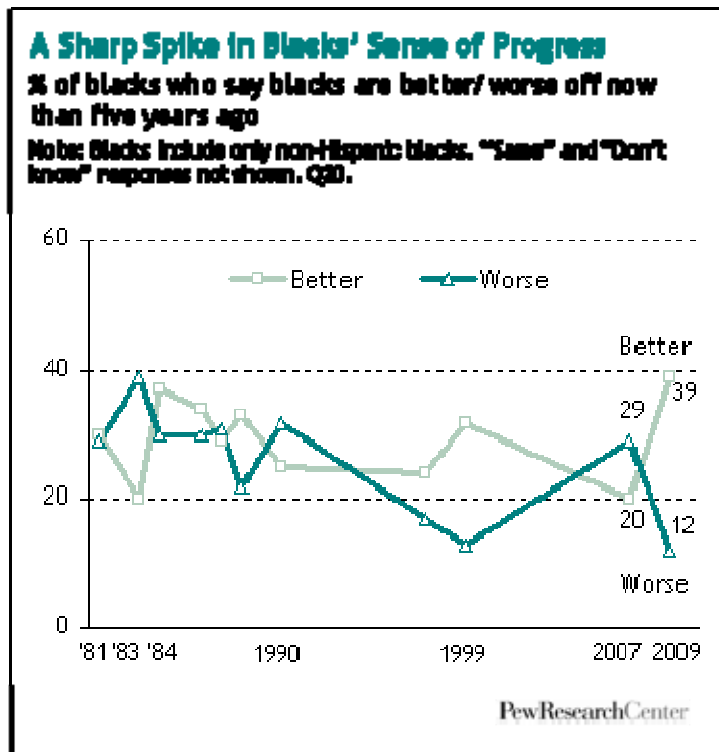
The results of this Harris Poll may not be used in advertising, marketing or promotion without the prior written permission of Harris Interactive.

Blacks Upbeat about Black Progress, Prospects

A Year After Obama's Election

January 12, 2010

Despite the bad economy, blacks' assessments about the state of black progress in America have improved more dramatically during the past two years than at any time in the past quarter century, according to a comprehensive new nationwide Pew Research Center survey on race.



Barack Obama's election as the nation's first black president appears to be the spur for this sharp rise in optimism among African Americans. It may also be reflected in an upbeat set of black views on a range of other matters, including race relations, local community satisfaction and expectations for future black progress.

In each of these realms, the perceptions of blacks have changed for the better over the past two years, despite a deep recession and jobless recovery that have hit blacks especially hard.

The telephone survey was conducted from Oct. 28 to Nov. 30, 2009 among a nationally representative sample of 2,884 adults, including 812 blacks.

In some topic areas, the survey finds little change in black opinions. For example, four decades after the turmoil, triumphs and tragedies of the Civil Rights era, most blacks still doubt the basic racial fairness of American society. More than eight-in-ten blacks -- compared with just over a third of whites -- say the country needs to make more changes to ensure that blacks have equal rights with whites. Blacks also continue to lag behind whites in their satisfaction with their lives and local communities, and most remain skeptical that the police treat blacks and whites equally.

However, in the teeth of what may be the deepest recession since the Great Depression, nearly twice as many blacks now (39%) as in 2007 (20%) say that the "situation of black people in this country" is better than it was five years earlier, and this more positive view

is apparent among blacks of all age groups and income levels. Looking ahead, blacks are even more upbeat. More than half (53%) say that life for blacks in the future will be better than it is now, while just 10% say it will be worse. In 2007, 44% said things would be better for blacks in the future, while 21% said they would be worse.

Blacks More Upbeat on Many Fronts			
% of blacks who say...			
	2007	2009	Change
	%	%	
Blacks are better off than five years ago	20	39	+19
Black-white standard of living gap is smaller than 10 years ago	41	56	+15
The future for blacks will be better	44	53	+9
They are "very satisfied" with local community	36	44	+8
Blacks and whites get along "very well" or "pretty well"	69	76	+7

Note: Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks.
Q20, Q21F1, Q54, Q1a & Q17c.

A majority of blacks (54%) also report that Obama's barrier-breaking election has improved race relations in America; just 7% say it has made race relations worse. Whites, too, see progress on this front, though by much smaller margins. A plurality of whites (45%) say Obama's election has made no difference to race relations, while about a third (32%) say it has made things better and 15% say it has made race relations worse.

For both races, these appraisals are not as effusive as the expectations expressed immediately after the November 2008 election, when nearly half of white voters (48%) and three-quarters of black voters (74%) said they expected to see race relations improve during Obama's presidency.

As for Obama himself, one year into his presidency, his personal favorability rating runs well ahead of public support for his policies, though both have declined in the course of a year marked by highly partisan battles over his policy agenda. His support is higher among blacks than whites, but there is little to suggest that negative opinions about Obama among whites have been driven mostly by race. For example, only a small share of whites (13%) say Obama has been paying too much attention to the concerns of blacks.

Blacks and Whites See a Racial Convergence in Past Decade		
	Whites	Blacks
In past ten years, have values of blacks and whites become more...		
	%	%
Similar	70	60
Different	13	34
No change (vol.)	2	2
Don't know	9	3
Number of respondents	1447	812
In past ten years, standard of living gap between blacks and whites has grown...		
	%	%
Wider	15	33
Narrower	65	56
No change (vol.)	8	5
Don't know	11	6
Number of respondents	734	418
Note: Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks. Q28 & Q22F2.		

And while whites who score low on an index of racial liberalism have much more negative views of Obama than do other whites, it is also the case that many whites with an unfavorable opinion of the president have more liberal racial views.¹

Most See a Black-White Convergence on Values, Living Standards

In what may be some of the most intriguing findings of this survey, most blacks join with most whites in saying that the two racial groups have grown more alike in the past decade, both in their standard of living and their core values.

Seven-in-ten whites (70%) and six-in-ten blacks (60%) say that the values held by blacks and whites have become more similar in the past 10 years. Similarly, a majority of blacks (56%) and nearly two-thirds of whites (65%) say the standard of living gap between whites and blacks has narrowed in the past decade.

Black Household Income as a Percentage of White Household Income

Year	(%)
2008	61.8
2000	64.8
1989	61.5
1979	61.2
1969	56.7

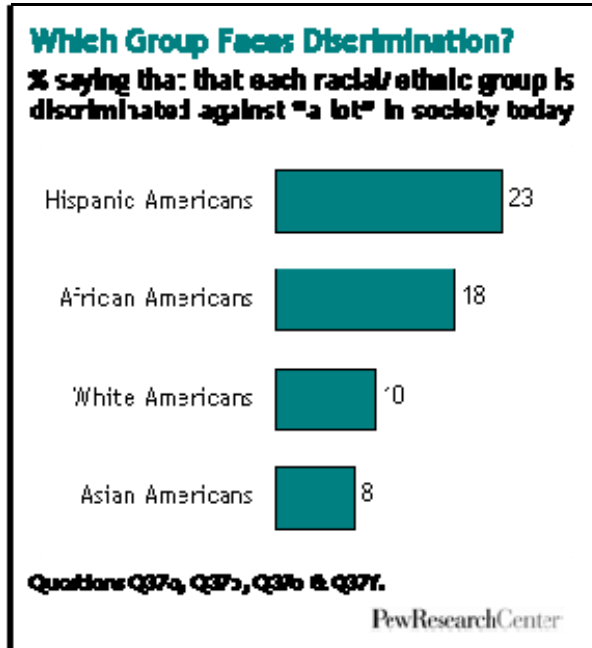
Note: Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks.
Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the Current Population Survey

Compared with 2007, whites have changed little in either perception. But more blacks now say that the values of blacks and whites have become more similar (from 54% then to 60% today) and that the standard of living gap has narrowed (41% then, 56% now).

The changing views about the size of the black-white economic gap are all the more notable because they run counter to underlying economic realities. According to a widely-used indicator of a group's standard of living -- median household income -- blacks in this country have lost ground to whites since 2000, after having spent the previous three decades narrowing the gap. (For details see page 62 in the full report).

Blacks and Discrimination: No Longer the Biggest Target?

Blacks and whites continue to have very different views about the pervasiveness of discrimination against African Americans. Some 43% of blacks now say there is a lot of anti-black discrimination, about the same as in 2001. Among whites, just 13% see a lot of anti-black bias now, down from 20% in 2001.

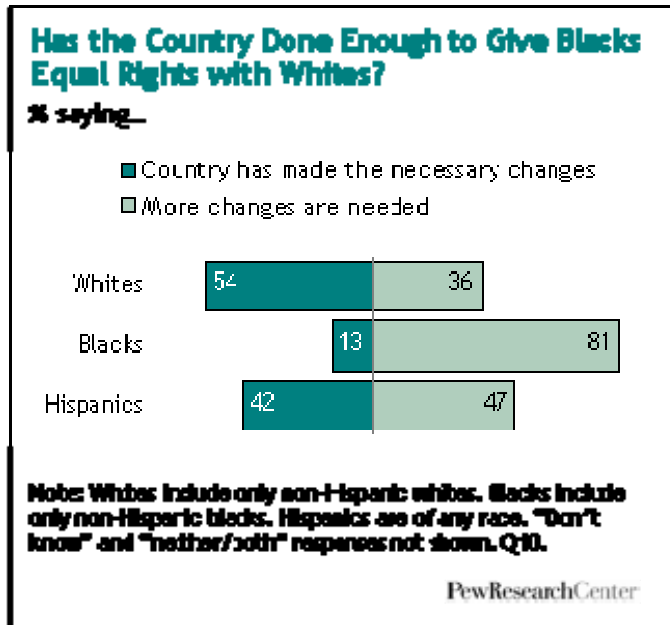


Moreover, among whites some 21% say that Hispanics face a lot of discrimination. As a result, Hispanics have not only passed blacks as the nation's biggest minority group, they are also now seen by slightly more Americans as frequent targets of discrimination (23% vs. 18% for African Americans). This was not the case in 2001.

Fewer Americans see a lot of discrimination against three of four other demographic groups tested in this question: women (13%), whites (10%) and Asian-Americans (8%).

But many Americans see a lot of discrimination against another group tested: gays and lesbians. Nearly half (45%) of all Americans (and 55% of all blacks) say they face a lot of discrimination.

These findings are in sync with surveys taken over the last decade that show the public perceives substantial bias against gays and lesbians.²

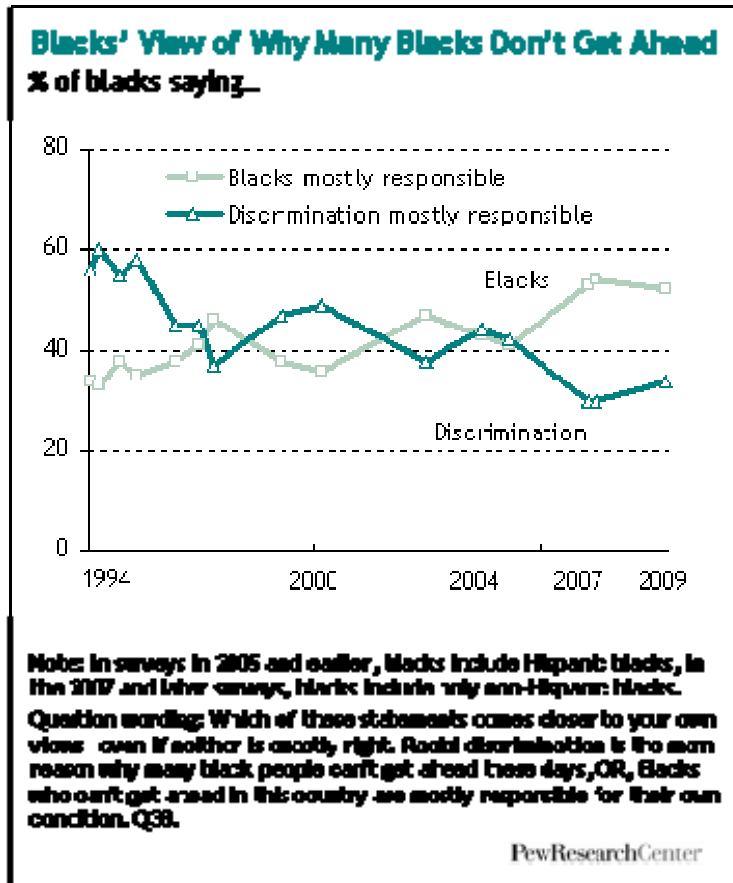


Overall, blacks are much more inclined than whites to see discrimination against all groups tested, except whites.

The survey finds other sizable black-white racial gaps in perceptions of bias. As noted earlier, blacks are much more likely than whites to say that the police do not treat blacks the same as whites.

They are also much more likely to say the country needs to continue to make changes to ensure blacks have equal rights with whites. Fully eight-in-ten blacks (81%) say so, compared with just over a third (36%) of whites.

But on a related question, a majority of blacks (52%) now say that blacks who cannot get ahead in this country are mainly responsible for their own situation, whereas only about a third (34%) say that racial discrimination is the main reason. Fifteen years ago, most blacks held the opposite view. Multiple surveys taken since 1994 show that this shift in blacks' perceptions has occurred in fits and starts over time, and that the change pre-dates the election of Obama.

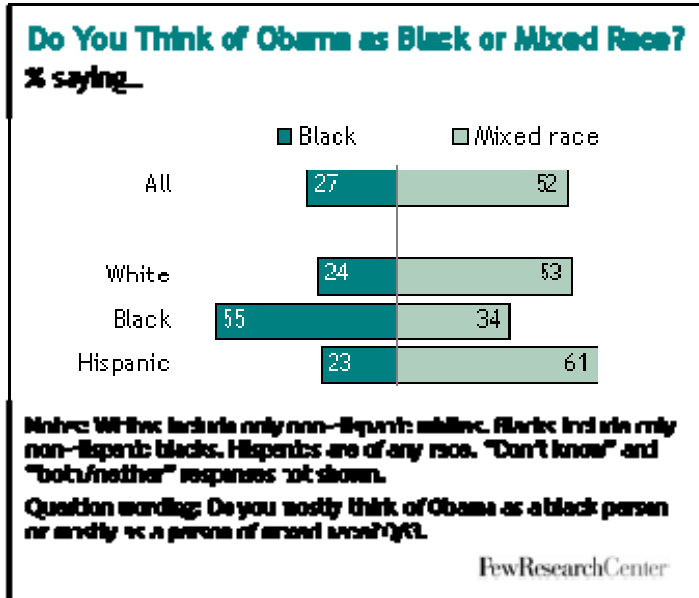


Racial Identity: Do the Old Categories Still Work?

From slavery to segregation to the civil rights era, the terms "black" and "white" have generally been regarded in this country as mutually exclusive. The simplicity of that classification scheme has served to obscure the racial mixing that has always been a part of the national tapestry.

It is not clear if the nation's racial lexicon will one day grow more nuanced. But several findings from this new Pew Research survey demonstrate that, at the very least, the old categories are hard-pressed to describe America's new demographic realities -- and that public opinion has begun to take notice.

A particularly vivid challenge to the old categories comes from the bloodlines of the man who now lives in the White House -- the son of an African father from Kenya and a Caucasian mother from Kansas.



Racially speaking, who is Barack Obama?

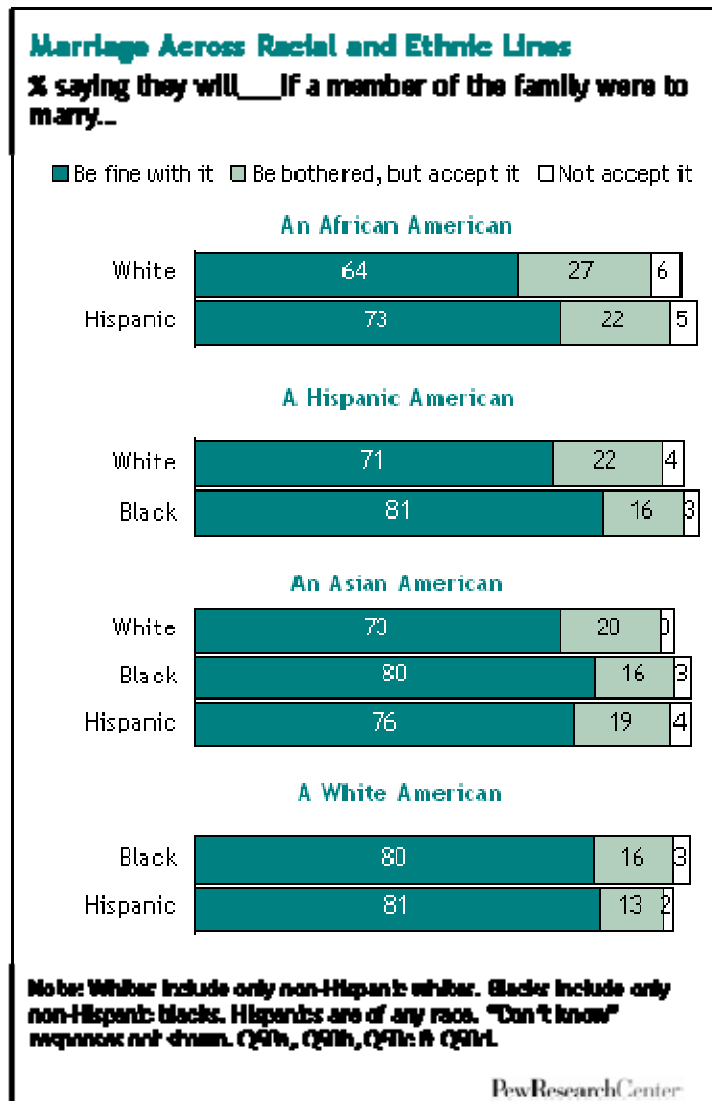
It depends on whom you ask. Offered a choice, most blacks (55%) say Obama is black, while about a third (34%) say he is mixed race. Among whites, the pattern is reversed. Most (53%) say he is mixed race, while just a quarter (24%) say he is black. Hispanics are even more inclined than whites to see him as mixed race; 61% do so.

There are only minor sub-group differences by age, education or income on this question. So race is the overriding factor that divides public opinion on the question of Obama's racial identity. But even within racial groups, there is considerable disagreement -- witness the fact that only a bare majority of both blacks and whites agree among themselves.

Nor is Obama the only source of semantic confusion on the racial classification front. In this survey, when respondents were asked to state what race they are (black; white; Asian; some other race) and told they could choose as many categories as they wished, just 1% chose to identify with more than one category.³ However, later in the same survey, when respondents were asked explicitly if they consider themselves to be of mixed race -- fully one-in-six (16%) said they did, including 20% of blacks, 8% of whites and 37% of Hispanics.

In short, responses to racial identity questions vary widely depending on wording and context -- a sign that the old classification scheme may be losing some of its descriptive power in a country that is rapidly growing more racially and ethnically diverse, and that is experiencing, from a small base, a sharp rise in interracial marriage. As of 2008, 8.1% of marriages in this country were between spouses of a different race, up from 3.2% in 1980, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures.⁴

Interracial Marriage



Once a social and legal taboo in this country, interracial marriage is now widely accepted by Americans of all racial groups. In the Pew Research survey, about two-thirds of whites (64%) say they would be fine with a member of their family marrying a black person; an additional 27% say they would be bothered but would accept it.

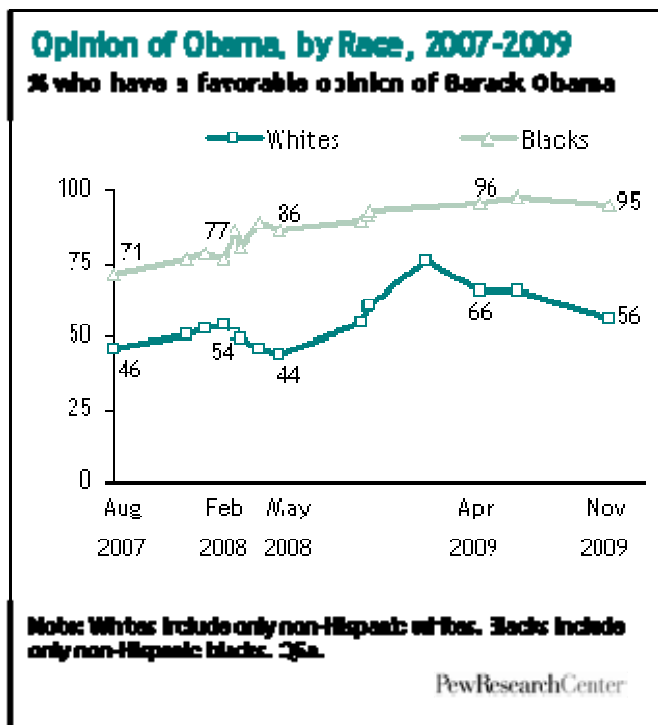
Among blacks, eight-in-ten (80%) say it would be fine with them if a family member were to marry a white person, and another 16% say they would be bothered but would accept it. Just 6% of whites and 3% of blacks say they could not accept a black-white interracial marriage in their family.

Within both races, degrees of acceptance are higher among younger respondents than older ones.

Since 2001, acceptance of black-white interracial marriage has risen slightly among whites. It is still the case that more blacks than whites approve, but the black-white gap on this question has fallen from 31 percentage points in 2001 to 16 percentage points in 2009.

The survey finds that most Americans also are ready to accept intermarriage in their family if the new spouse is Hispanic or Asian. But there is one new spouse that most Americans would have trouble accepting into their families: someone who does not believe in God. Seven-in-ten people who are affiliated with a religion say they either would not accept such as marriage (27%) or be bothered before coming to accept it (42%).

Obama and Race



An overwhelming share of blacks -- 95% -- have a favorable opinion of President Obama. This number has remained in the stratosphere among blacks throughout his first year in office. Among whites, however, Obama has seen his popularity ratings decline significantly -- from a high of 76% just before he was inaugurated to 56% in the current survey. (Even so, Obama's personal favorability ratings continue to run ahead of public approval for his policies; his December Pew Research Center job approval rating among whites was 39% approve and 48% disapprove).

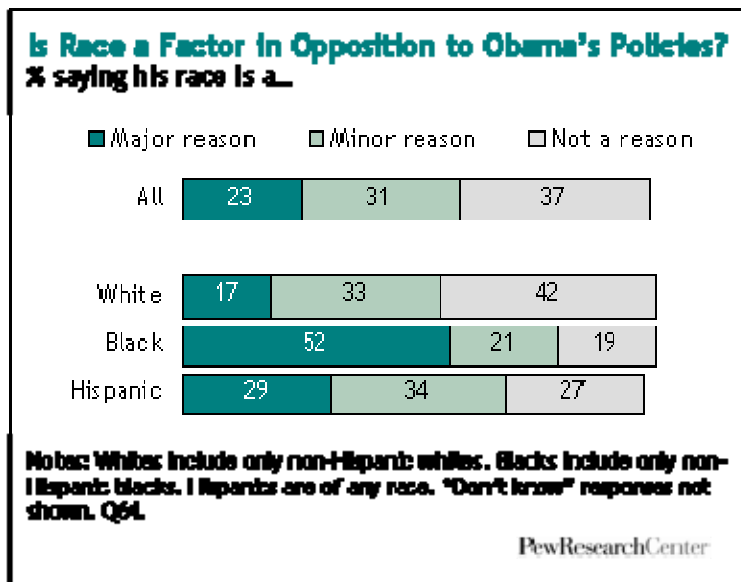
Paralleling the near-unanimous black support for Obama is the near unanimous view among blacks that he shares the values and interests of black people; 61% of blacks say

he shares "a lot" of values and interests with blacks and an additional 31% say he shares "some." These numbers are up from 2007 when, during the early stages of the Democratic nomination contest, some questioned whether the then long-shot candidate was "black enough." In a Pew Research survey taken in the fall of 2007, 42% of blacks said he shared "a lot" of the values and interests of black people, while an additional 33% said he shared "some."

The new survey finds that a year into Obama's presidency, few Americans of any race believe he has been favoring his black constituents over other groups. Just 13% of both whites and Hispanics and 1% of blacks say he is paying too much attention to the concerns of blacks.

A small share of all three groups (10% of whites and Hispanics, 13% of blacks) take the opposite view; that he is paying *too little* attention to the concerns of blacks. A majority of whites (57%) and Hispanics (60%), as well as 80% of blacks say he is paying the right amount of attention to blacks.

The survey findings suggest that blacks are disinclined to press race-based claims on Obama. The share who say the nation's first African-American president is paying too little attention to blacks is not as large as the share of blacks who say he is paying too little attention to the concerns of other groups, including labor unions (23%) and seniors (22%).



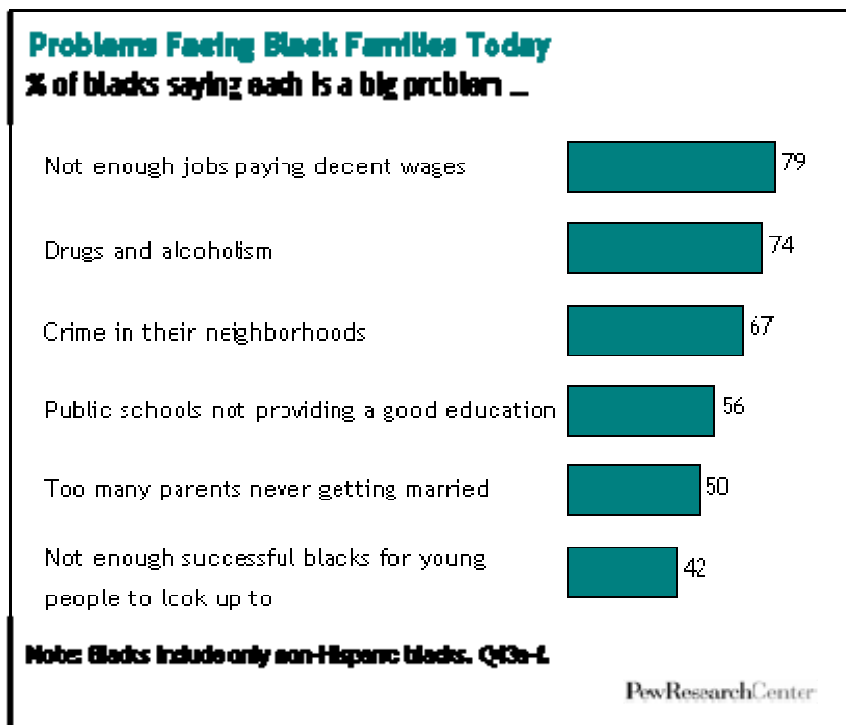
Both whites and Hispanics have more group-based complaints about Obama than blacks do. Fully 42% of Hispanics say he isn't paying enough attention to the concerns of Hispanics. And 22% of whites say he isn't paying enough attention to the concerns of whites.

There are also sharp racial and ethnic differences in perceptions about whether people who oppose Obama's policies are motivated to a significant degree by race. More than half of blacks (52%) say this, compared with 29% of Hispanics and just 17% of whites.

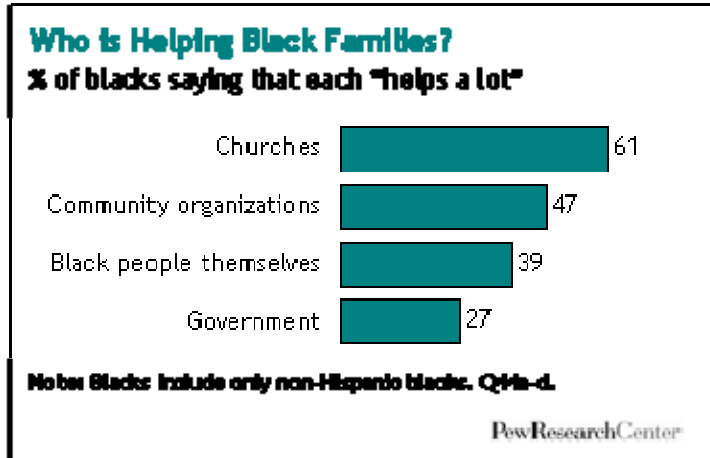
The survey also finds a striking shift in black opinions about Obama's principal opponent for the Democratic presidential nomination, Hillary Clinton. Going back to her years in the 1990s as First Lady, blacks have always held Clinton in very high regard, but her ratings plummeted in the spring of 2008, at the height of her political battle with Obama. At that time, about six-in-10 blacks viewed her favorably, down from about eight-in-ten at the beginning of 2008. However, she has since made up all that lost ground -- and more. Her current favorability rating among blacks is 93%, virtually identical to that of Obama.

Problems in Black Communities and Families

Blacks have long trailed whites in their level of satisfaction with their communities. This is still the case now, but the black-white gap on this question has narrowed in the past two years.

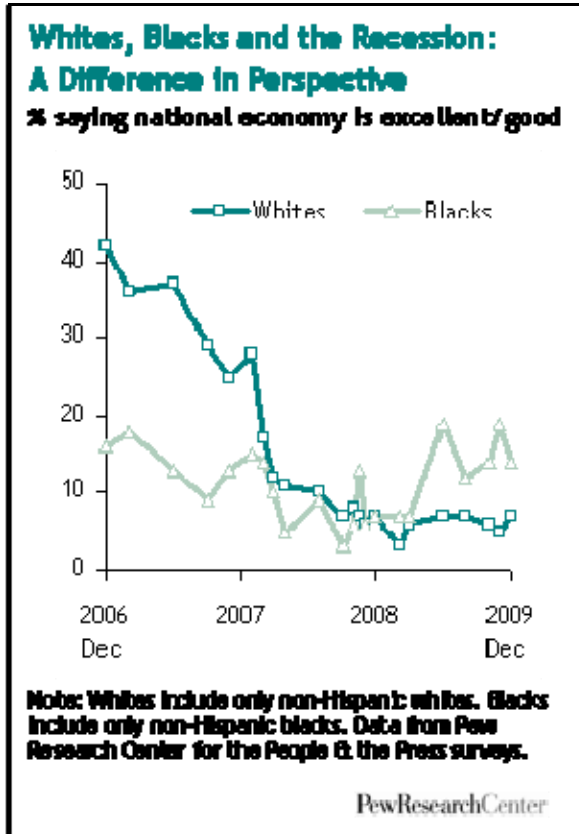


Overall, 44% of blacks say they are very satisfied with their local community as a place to live, compared with 52% of Hispanics and 64% of whites. Two years ago, just 36% of blacks were very satisfied with their community. During the same period, there was no substantial shift in community satisfaction among the other groups.



In response to a question about the problems facing black families, a majority of blacks rate not enough jobs (79%), drugs and alcoholism (74%), crime (67%) and poor public education (56%) as big problems.

Most blacks (61%) say churches are helping "a lot" to tackle these problems. But blacks are less impressed by the problem-solving role being played by community organizations (47% say they help a lot), black people themselves (39%) and the government (26%).



Blacks, Whites and the Economy

When it comes to employment rates, blacks have been hit harder than whites by the recession and so-far jobless recovery. But when it comes to perceptions about the economy, the opposite is true: whites have turned sharply negative since the recession began, while black perceptions (starting from a more downbeat base) have held steady. For example, the share of whites who rate the national economy as excellent or good has plummeted from 42% in late 2006 to just 7% in late 2009. During this same period, black assessments barely budged -- from 16% in December 2006 to 14% three years later.

The contrast is even more dramatic in perceptions about one's personal finances. The share of whites who rate their personal financial situation as excellent or good has declined during this period from 52% to 35%, while the share of blacks who rate their personal finances as excellent or good has changed very little (32% in late 2009, 27% in late 2006).

Americans Back Profiling Air Travelers to Combat Terrorism

Seventy-one percent favor more intensive security checks on basis of age, ethnicity, gender

January 15, 2010

Americans widely endorse the use of profiling to single out airline passengers for more intensive security searches before they board U.S. flights, based on their age, ethnicity, or gender. Seventy-one percent are in favor of this practice and 27% are opposed.

Some people have suggested that airline passengers who fit the profile of terrorists based on their age, ethnicity, or gender should be subjected to special, more intensive security checks before boarding U.S. flights. Do you favor or oppose this practice?



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

GALLUP®

These results are based on a Jan. 8-10 *USA Today*/Gallup poll, conducted in the weeks after the attempted Christmas Day bombing of a Northwest Airlines flight headed for Detroit. The incident sparked renewed discussion of ways to tighten security measures at airports, ranging from expanding the government's "no fly" list to more widespread use of body scan machines at airports.

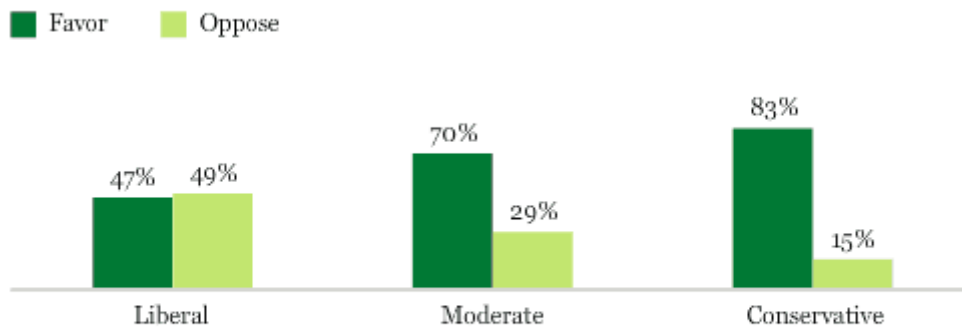
"Eighty-three percent of self-identified conservatives favor the use of profiling, compared with 47% of liberals."

The attempt has renewed debate over the use of profiling on the basis that terrorists generally have certain shared characteristics. The practice is used in Israel, a country noted for its tight airport security, but not in the United States. Two common objections to its use in the U.S. are the potential violation of individual civil liberties and unequal treatment for members of certain groups.

The poll results suggest that Americans seem to give greater weight to protecting citizens against possible terrorism than to protecting against potential violations of individual liberties.

The largest difference in support for profiling among key attitudinal or demographic subgroups is seen by political ideology. Eighty-three percent of self-identified conservatives favor the use of profiling, compared with 47% of liberals. At 70%, moderates are much closer to conservatives than to liberals in their views.

Opinion of Profiling Airline Passengers, by Political Ideology

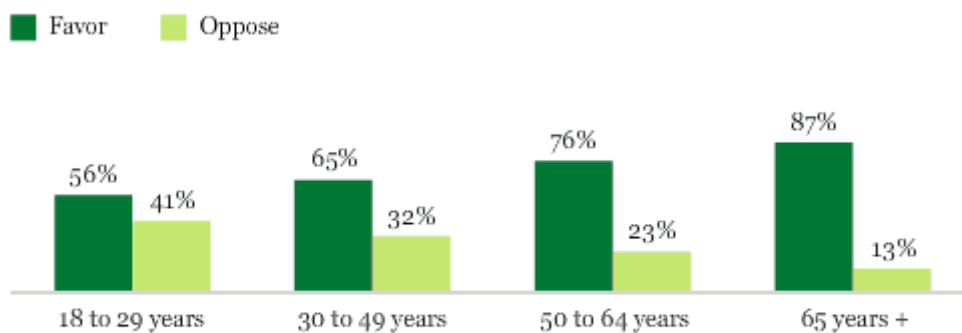


USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

GALLUP®

Apart from liberals, other subgroups show majority support for profiling, although the level of that support does vary. For example, 87% of senior citizens (those aged 65 and older) favor the use of profiling, compared with 56% of young adults (aged 18 to 29).

Opinion of Profiling Airline Passengers, by Age



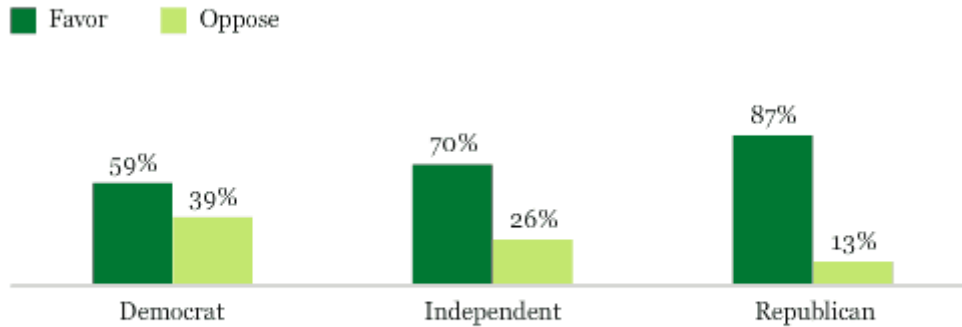
USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

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Non-Hispanic whites (74%) are more supportive than nonwhites (63%), and men (77%) are more supportive than women (65%).

The results by political party are generally similar to those for political ideology, though a majority of Democrats (59%) say they are in favor of profiling air passengers.

Opinion of Profiling Airline Passengers, by Political Party



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

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Bottom Line

Each attempted terrorist attack seems to bring a renewed call for heightened security measures. It is not certain that the U.S. government would ever seriously consider adopting profiling of air passengers based on their personal characteristics as a means of preventing terrorism. But despite concerns about the practice, most Americans seem inclined to favor it.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,023 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 8-10, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

In U.S., Air Travelers Take Body Scans in Stride

Seventy-eight percent approve of U.S. airports' using full body scans on passengers

January 11, 2010

In the midst of renewed discussion of heightened security measures to thwart terrorist attacks like the Christmas Day attempt to blow up an airplane over Detroit, 78% of U.S. air travelers approve of U.S. airports' using full body scan imaging on airline passengers.

Approve/Disapprove of Full Body Scan Security Measures at Airports

One method of airport security that is expected to be used more widely at U.S. airports is a full body scan of passengers as they go through the security checkpoint. The full body scan would show a graphic image of a person's body underneath his or her clothes. The image would be viewed only by federal screeners in a separate, private room. Do you approve or disapprove of U.S. airports using the full body scan on airline passengers?



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 5-6, 2010

Asked of air travelers

GALLUP®

These results are based on a *USA Today*/Gallup poll conducted Jan. 5-6, including interviews with 542 regular air travelers, defined as those who have taken two or more air trips in the past 12 months.

"The majority, 67%, say they would not personally be uncomfortable in undergoing such a scan, with close to half (48%) saying they would not be uncomfortable at all."

The poll finds 29% of air travelers saying they are now more concerned about the safety of air travel than they were before Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab allegedly attempted to detonate explosives hidden in his underwear. Current airport security measures, such as metal detectors, would not detect the type of explosives involved in the Detroit incident, but a body scan image would have. Thus, there are plans to expand the use of such machines at U.S. airports.

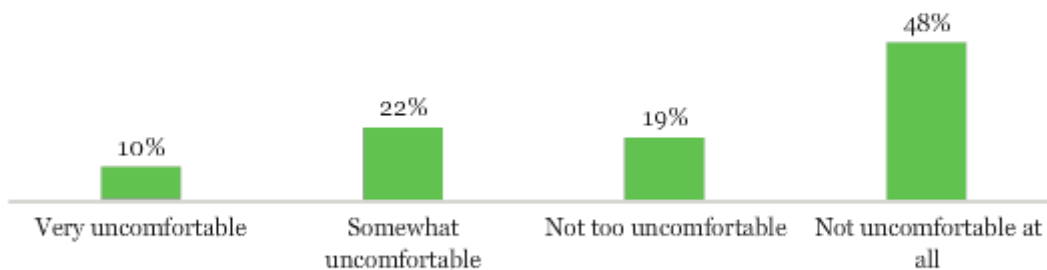
While some have expressed concerns about the implications of full body scans for passenger privacy, given the clarity of the images they would produce, airline passengers themselves do not seem fazed. Seventy-eight percent approve of the procedure, which

was described to them as showing a "graphic image of a person's body underneath his or her clothes" that would be "viewed only by federal screeners in a separate, private room."

Additionally, the majority, 67%, say they would not personally be uncomfortable in undergoing such a scan, with close to half (48%) saying they would not be uncomfortable at all. Ten percent say they would be very uncomfortable if subjected to such a search.

How uncomfortable would you, personally, be with undergoing a full body scan at an airport security checkpoint -- very uncomfortable, somewhat uncomfortable, not too uncomfortable, or not uncomfortable at all?

Asked of air travelers



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 5-6, 2010

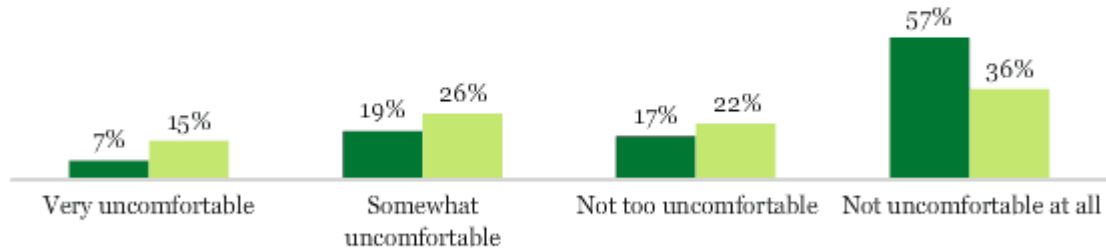
GALLUP®

There is a gender difference in the assumed level of discomfort, with female air travelers more likely than male travelers to express discomfort (41% to 26%). A majority of male air travelers say they would not be uncomfortable at all.

*How Uncomfortable Undergoing a Full Body Scan at an Airport Security Checkpoint,
by Gender*

Asked of air travelers

■ Men ■ Women



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 5-6, 2010

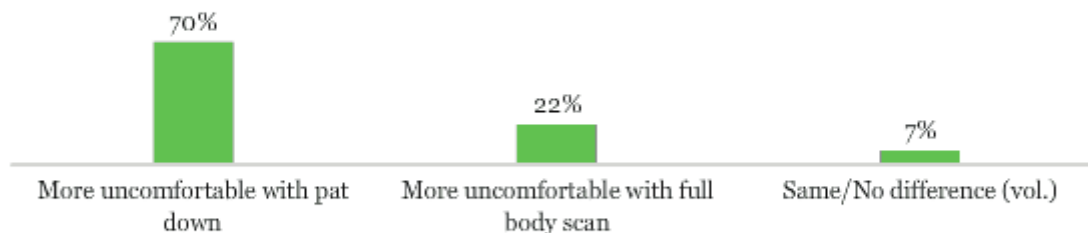
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Perhaps as a result, men are also slightly more likely than women to approve of the use of body scan images (81% to 74%).

Air travelers would most likely not be required to undergo body scans at airports; they could instead opt to be searched or "patted down" by an airport security agent. Among air travelers, the choice is clearly in favor of body scans -- 70% say they would be more uncomfortable with being patted down, while 22% would be more uncomfortable in undergoing a body scan.

More Uncomfortable Security Procedure

As you may know, an alternative to a full body scan would be to have an airport security agent pat passengers down, that is to touch their bodies or clothing to search for hidden objects. Which method would make you more uncomfortable -- [ROTATED: having an airport security agent pat you down (or) undergoing a full body scan at the security checkpoint]?



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 5-6, 2010
Asked of air travelers
(vol.) = Volunteered response

GALLUP®

One reason air travelers generally approve of using full body scans may be because they believe scans will be effective at preventing terrorists from smuggling explosives or other dangerous objects onto airplanes. Eighty-four percent say scans would be effective in this regard, including 38% who say they would be very effective. Thus, air travelers have a compelling reason to potentially counter any personal modesty issues they have related to body scans.

Bottom Line

The attempted terror attack on a U.S. flight on Christmas Day revealed limitations in current security procedures on U.S. flights, and may have ushered in a new era of heightened airport security. One major part of the solution -- airport body scanners -- is not without controversy but is something most air travelers would take in stride.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with 2,017 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 5-6, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of error is ± 3 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of 542 adults who have taken two or more air trips in the past year, the maximum margin of error is ± 5 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones and cellular phones

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Americans Lose Ground in Most Areas of Well-Being in 2009

Overall Well-Being Index score unchanged because of improvement in Life Evaluation

January 14, 2010

Americans' overall well-being in 2009 precisely matched their overall well-being in 2008, with a Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index composite score of 65.9 for each year. However, how Americans got to that score was considerably different in 2009 than it was in 2008: 2009 scores fell behind for five of the six well-being sub-indexes, but the Life Evaluation Index score improved so much that it offset the declines in the other five areas.

Change in Americans' Well-Being: 2009 vs. 2008

	2008	2009	Change
Overall Well-Being Index Composite Score	65.9	65.9	0.0
Well-Being Sub-Indexes			
Life Evaluation Index	40.8	45.8	5.0
Physical Health Index	76.9	76.6	-0.3
Emotional Health Index	79.1	78.7	-0.4
Healthy Behavior Index	63.7	63.0	-0.7
Basic Access Index	83.6	82.1	-1.5
Work Environment Index	51.4	49.2	-2.2

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

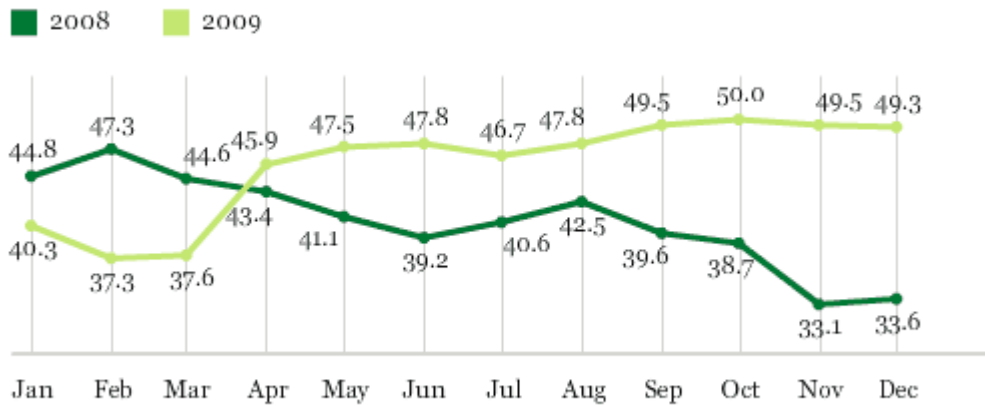
The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, based on six sub-indexes comprising dozens of questions, provides a comprehensive measure of Americans' emotional, physical, and fiscal health. The overall composite score and each of the six sub-indexes are calculated on a scale from 0 to 100, where 100 represents fully realized well-being. Gallup and Healthways initiated the Well-Being Index in January of 2008 and this report is the first spanning two complete years' worth of data.

Life Evaluation Rebounds

In the first three months of 2009, the Life Evaluation Index score remained below comparable 2008 levels. The Life Evaluation score then shot up in April of last year surpassing the score found for the same month in 2008. Each month thereafter, the scores in 2009 were better than the corresponding months in 2008, with generally widening gaps

each passing month. The lowest two months of measurement (out of 24 so far) were in November and December 2008, at the onset of large-scale layoffs and a declining stock market that characterized the deepening global recession.

Life Evaluation Scores Trended Steadily Higher in 2009 Than 2008



Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

The Life Evaluation sub-index is based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, which asks people to evaluate their present and future lives on a scale with steps numbered from 0 to 10, where 0 is the worst possible life and 10 is the best possible life. Those who rate today a "7" or higher and the future an "8" or higher are considered to be "thriving." Those who rate today and the future a "4" or lower on the scale are considered to be "suffering." The overall Life Evaluation Index score is calculated as the percentage of thriving Americans minus the percentage of struggling Americans.

Young adults (aged 18 to 29), those earning incomes between \$24,000 and less than \$48,000 per year, and blacks were the three groups that saw the greatest one-year gain in Life Evaluation scores in 2009 relative to 2008. Blacks' scores in particular jumped more than nine points, the largest one-year gain of any of the demographic groups examined.

Life Evaluation Index Change by Demographics: 2009 vs. 2008

(Ordered based on largest increase since 2008)

	2008	2009	Change
AGE:			
18-29	49.9	57.8	7.9
30-44	44.8	51.6	6.8
45-64	34.3	40.1	5.8
65+	32.2	34.5	2.3
RACE/ETHNICITY:			
Black	40.8	50.0	9.2
Hispanic	37.7	45.9	8.2
Other	35.6	41.3	5.7
White	40.3	44.9	4.6
Asian	47.7	52.1	4.4
ANNUAL INCOME:			
\$24,000-<\$48,000	32.9	41.4	8.5
<\$24,000	21.0	27.5	6.5
\$48,000-<\$90,000	48.8	54.3	5.5
\$90,000+	60.9	64.1	3.2

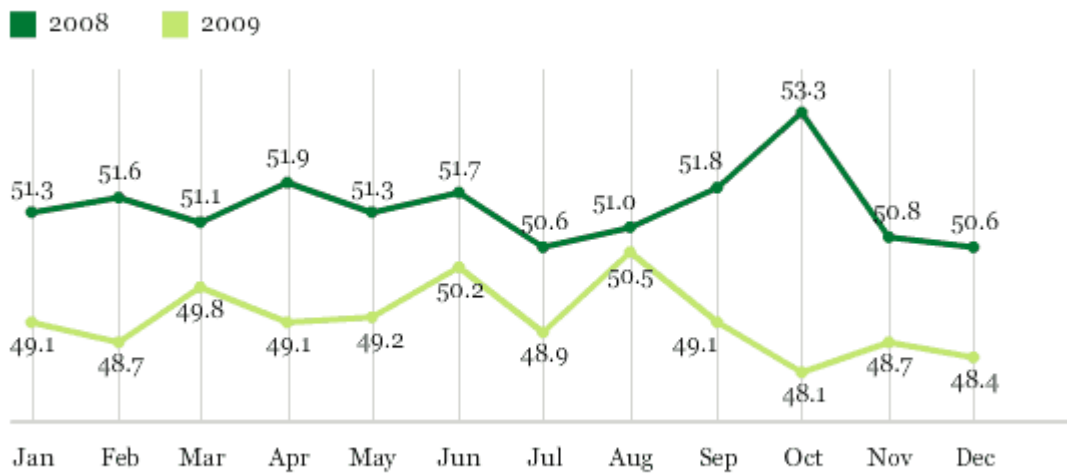
Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

Looking at the two individual questions that make up the Life Evaluation Index reveals key differences across race/ethnicity. In 2009, whites, blacks, Asians, and Hispanics all had identical average scores on "today's" ladder question (6.8). Their respective scores on the future ladder question, however, show that blacks rated their future lives substantially higher than any other group, at an average of 8.5. The impact of President Obama's election is likely the most salient underlying factor in these figures.

Work Environment Index Sees Largest One-Year Decline of All Domains

While adult Americans' Life Evaluation Index scores demonstrated a clear recovery over the last eight months of 2009, the other five well-being sub-indexes did not fare as well. The Work Environment Index saw the largest year-over-year drop, declining to 49.2 in 2009 from 51.4 in 2008, a loss of 2.2 points overall. Additionally, each monthly score in 2009 fell below those from the previous year.

Work Environment Index Trended Consistently Lower in 2009 Than 2008



Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

The Work Environment Index includes four items: job satisfaction, ability to use one's strengths at work, trust and openness in the workplace, and whether one's supervisor treats him or her more like a boss or a partner. The Work Environment Index is the percentage of respondents that give positive response to all four items, and Gallup only asks these item questions of respondents who are currently employed by others. (Job satisfaction is also asked of those who are self-employed.) Looking individually at these four metrics reveals that American workers' decreased job satisfaction (from an average 89.0% in 2008 to 88.0% in 2009) contributed most significantly to the decline in the Work Environment Index overall.

Throughout 2009, the Work Environment Index scores were highest in the West, among whites and Hispanics, and among those with incomes of \$90,000 or more per year. The biggest declines relative to 2008, however, were also found in the West, among Hispanics, and among those making more than \$90,000 per year, revealing that some demographic groups with the strongest Work Environment Index scores in 2009 were also among those with the greatest decline from the year before, resulting in a reduction in range across groups.

Work Environment Index Change by Demographics: 2009 vs. 2008

(Ordered based on largest decline since 2008)

	2008	2009	Change
REGION:			
West	53.8	50.2	-3.6
East	49.3	46.5	-2.8
South	51.0	49.1	-1.9
Midwest	49.8	48.9	-0.9
RACE/ETHNICITY:			
Hispanic	54.3	50.0	-4.3
White	52.4	50.2	-2.2
Black	39.4	37.5	-1.9
Asian	48.6	47.4	-1.2
Other	44.6	45.5	0.9
ANNUAL INCOME:			
\$90,000+	58.8	56.2	-2.6
\$24,000-<\$48,000	47.6	45.0	-2.6
<\$24,000	44.0	41.7	-2.3
\$48,000-<\$90,000	52.8	50.7	-2.1

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

The year-over-year Work Environment Index score decline among workers earning between \$24,000 and less than \$48,000 per year was as large as for those making more than \$90,000, illustrating that eroding well-being in the workplace cuts across income. The East, which had the lowest Work Environment Index score in 2008, shed 2.8 additional points to finish 2009 with the lowest work-related well-being score among the four major regions in the U.S.

Amid Overall Decline in Basic Access, Several Key Improvements Prevail

Although overall Basic Access Index scores -- which measures basic needs optimal for a healthy life such as access to food and medicine, having health insurance, and feeling safe while walking at night -- declined in 2009 compared with a year earlier, more than half of the 13 individual metrics that comprise the index improved. Among the improvements were having enough money to purchase healthcare and medicine and having easy access to medicine when it is needed. Ease of getting affordable fruits and vegetables, too, had a substantial one-year improvement.

Change in Key Basic Access Metrics for American Adults: 2009 vs. 2008

	2008	2009	Change
IMPROVEMENTS (in order of greatest improvement):	%	%	%
Easy to get affordable fruits and vegetables	89.9	92.0	2.1
Enough money to pay for healthcare and/or medicine	79.9	81.0	1.1
Easy to get medicine	90.8	91.7	0.9
Satisfied with city where you live	84.9	85.6	0.7
Easy to get clean and safe water	94.1	94.8	0.7
Feel safe walking alone at night	69.7	70.4	0.7
Adequate shelter last 12 months	90.3	90.5	0.2
Easy to get a safe place to exercise	90.2	90.4	0.2
DECLINES (in order of greatest decline):	%	%	%
City getting better as place to live	56.3	53.9	-2.4
Have health insurance	85.0	83.6	-1.4
Visited dentist in last 12 months	65.7	65.0	-0.7
Enough money for food last 12 months	82.0	81.6	-0.4
Have a personal doctor	80.8	80.5	-0.3

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

However, several other key metrics of basic access had noteworthy declines, the largest of which was the percentage of Americans who said that their city is getting better as a place to live, slipping to 53.9% in 2009 from 56.3% in 2008. The percentage *with* health insurance dropped by 1.4 percentage points to 83.6% in 2009, a decline that spanned nearly all key demographic groups. Visits to dentists during 2009 also dipped slightly to 65.0% from 65.7% the year before.

Bottom Line

While Americans' well-being remained stable in 2009 compared with 2008, analysis of the six individual components of the composite index reveal that the Life Evaluation Index metric alone held up the overall score as each of the other sub-indexes declined. Lower monthly scores at the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 pulled down the full-year results for both calendar years, creating somewhat of a mirror image of American well-being across the course of 24 months of uninterrupted measurement.

A crucial question for 2010 is whether Americans' well-being will reach new heights as the nation emerges from recession. The areas that suffered, including items in the Work Environment, Basic Access, and Healthy Behavior Indexes, are all areas that individuals and leaders can attempt to affect either through individual effort or policy action. Targeted efforts to improve these scores among the American public could pay

significant dividends as the country continues efforts to rebound from the challenges of the past two years.

Survey Methods

Results are based on telephone interviews with more than 350,000 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 2- Dec. 30, 2008, and Jan. 2- Dec. 29, 2009.

For annual results based on the stated total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 0.2 percentage points.

For monthly results based on the stated total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 0.6 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones (for respondents with a landline telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell phone only and cell phone mostly).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

About the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index™

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index measures the daily pulse of U.S. well-being and provides best-in-class solutions for a healthier world. To learn more, please visit well-beingindex.com.

Rating for Harper Drops to 28% in Canada

January 16, 2010

Fewer Canadians are satisfied with the way their prime minister is handling his duties, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 28 per cent of respondents approve of the Stephen Harper's performance, down four points since December.

In addition, 26 per cent of respondents approve of the way New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton is doing his job, while 17 per cent feel the same way about Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff.

Canadians renewed the House of Commons in October 2008. The Conservative party—led by Harper—received 37.6 per cent of the vote, and secured 143 seats in the 308-member lower house. Harper assembled a minority administration. The Tories also earned a minority mandate after the 2006 election, ending more than 12 years of government by the Liberal party. In December, Ignatieff took over as Liberal leader, replacing Stéphane Dion.

Layton became the NDP's leader in January 2003. He was elected to the House of Commons in June 2004, winning the Toronto-Danforth constituency.

On Dec. 30, government spokesman Dimitri Soudas announced that the legislative branch would suspend its activities until March 2010, adding, "This is quite routine but it is also important to give Canadians an overview of where we will be taking the country over the next little while." The measure has proven controversial.

On Jan. 10, Harper discussed the country's economic situation, saying, "Obviously, we're disappointed that employment is down slightly. It's never good news, never acceptable when someone loses their job. That said, if you look over the past two or three months, we are seeing stabilization in our labour force."

The next election to the House of Commons is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 15, 2012. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion. In order to trigger an election, all three opposition parties in the House of Commons—Liberals, NDP and Bloc—would have to defeat the government in a no-confidence motion.

Polling Data

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of Prime Minister and Conservative Party leader Stephen Harper?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Approve	28%	32%	34%
Disapprove	51%	49%	44%
Not sure	21%	18%	22%

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of Liberal and Official Opposition leader Michael Ignatieff?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
Approve	17%	15%	12%
Disapprove	50%	53%	56%
Not sure	32%	31%	32%

Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton?

	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009
--	------------------	------------------	------------------

Approve	26%	29%	24%
Disapprove	33%	36%	40%
Not sure	40%	35%	36%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,077 Canadian adults, conducted on Jan. 12 and Jan. 13, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Dissatisfaction with Prorogation Grows in Canada

January 15, 2010

More adults in Canada disagree with their federal government's decision to prorogue Parliament, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 61 per cent of respondents share this view, up eight points in a week.

Canadians renewed the House of Commons in October 2008. The Conservative party—led by Stephen Harper—received 37.6 per cent of the vote, and secured 143 seats in the 308-member lower house. Harper assembled a minority administration. The Tories also earned a minority mandate after the 2006 election, ending more than 12 years of government by the Liberal party. In December, Michael Ignatieff took over as Liberal leader, replacing Stéphane Dion.

On Dec. 30, government spokesman Dimitri Soudas announced that the legislative branch would suspend its activities until March 2010, adding, "This is quite routine but it is also important to give Canadians an overview of where we will be taking the country over the next little while."

On Jan. 12, Ignatieff criticized the government, declaring, "Mr. Harper gambled on the cynicism of the Canadian public. He thought no one would care if he shut down Parliament. He gambled wrong. In our idea of democracy, it is Parliament that's sovereign, not the prime minister. Any prime minister with respect for democracy must use [prorogation] in the most sparing way possible."

The next election to the House of Commons is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 15, 2012. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion. In order to trigger an election, all three opposition parties in the House of Commons—Liberals, NDP and Bloc Québécois—would have to defeat the government in a no-confidence motion.

Polling Data

Do you agree or disagree with the decision to prorogue Parliament?

	Jan. 13	Jan. 6
Agree	19%	19%

Disagree	61%	53%
Not sure	19%	28%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,077 Canadian adults, conducted on Jan. 12 and Jan. 13, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

Conservatives Face Slight Dip in Canada

January 14, 2010

Canada's governing Conservative Party begins this year with a drop in popularity, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 34 per cent of respondents would vote for the Tories in the next election to the House of Commons, down two points since December.

The opposition Liberal Party is second with 28 per cent, followed by the New Democratic Party (NDP) with 19 per cent, the Bloc Québécois with nine per cent, and the Greens with eight per cent.

Canadians renewed the House of Commons in October 2008. The Conservative party—led by Stephen Harper—received 37.6 per cent of the vote, and secured 143 seats in the 308-member lower house. Harper assembled a minority administration. The Tories also earned a minority mandate after the 2006 election, ending more than 12 years of government by the Liberal party. In December, Michael Ignatieff took over as Liberal leader, replacing Stéphane Dion.

On Dec. 30, government spokesman Dimitri Soudas announced that the legislative branch would suspend its activities until March 2010, adding, "This is quite routine but it is also important to give Canadians an overview of where we will be taking the country over the next little while." The measure has proven controversial.

Yesterday, parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page said that Canada is facing a "structural deficit," and urged the government to act fast to fix the situation, saying, "Deal with it now when it's still a small problem." Page added that Canada will carry a deficit of close to \$18.5 billion U.S. in 2013-2014.

The next election to the House of Commons is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 15, 2012. Sitting prime ministers can dissolve Parliament and call an early ballot at their discretion. In order to trigger an election, all three opposition parties in the House of Commons—Liberals, NDP and Bloc Québécois—would have to defeat the government in a no-confidence motion.

Polling Data

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which one of the following parties would you be most likely to support in your constituency?

Jan. 13	Dec. 10	Nov. 16	Oct. 24
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Conservative	34%	36%	38%	40%
Liberal	28%	29%	23%	26%
New Democratic Party	19%	16%	17%	17%
Bloc Québécois	9%	11%	11%	9%
Green	8%	6%	10%	7%
Other	1%	1%	1%	2%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion Methodology: Online interviews with 1,077 Canadian adults, conducted on Jan. 12 and Jan. 13, 2010. Margin of error is 3.1 per cent.

LATIN AMERICA

Survey Highlights Haitians' Vulnerability

Access to food, shelter, healthcare less prevalent than in neighboring countries

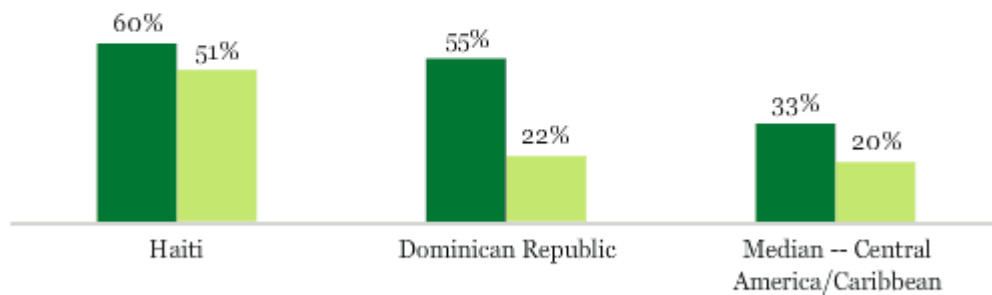
January 14, 2010

The effects of a 7.0-magnitude earthquake would be difficult for any country to cope with -- but they are likely to be particularly crippling and long-lasting for Haiti, whose residents were already less likely than any other population in the Western Hemisphere to have access to essential goods and services. A Gallup study conducted about one year ago highlights the vulnerability of the Haitian people, even relative to their neighbors in the Dominican Republic.

Have there been times in the past 12 months when you did not have enough money to _____ ?

% Yes

- Buy food that you or your family needed
- Provide adequate shelter or housing for you and your family



Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic, July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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"At the time of the survey, Haitians were far less likely than any other population in the region to report having widespread access to health services."

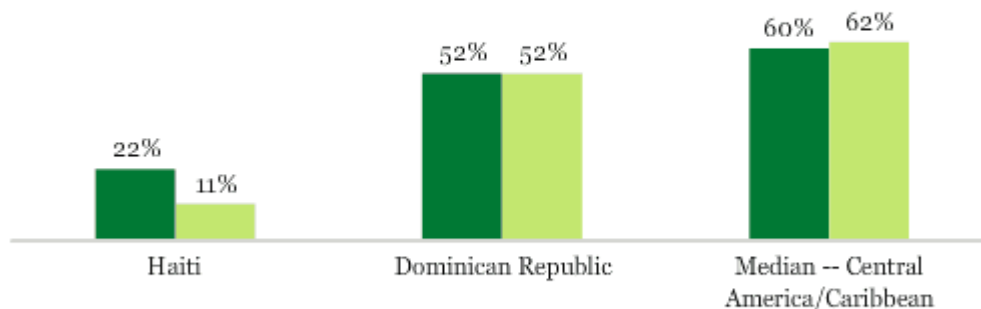
In response to the December 2008 survey, conducted just a few months after Haiti had suffered through a devastating hurricane season, 60% of Haitians said there had been times in the past year when they didn't have enough money to purchase food that their families needed, while 51% said there were times when they could not afford adequate shelter. The first figure is comparable to recent results from the Dominican Republic; however, Haitians were far more likely than any other population in Central America or the Caribbean to say they have had trouble providing shelter -- a particularly alarming finding given the untold number of residences that Tuesday's earthquake destroyed.

Access to Healthcare

In making a desperate appeal for medical supplies and assistance, Haitian President Rene Preval said some hospitals have collapsed as a result of the quake, further handicapping a public healthcare system poorly equipped to handle a disaster of this proportion. At the time of the survey, Haitians were far less likely than any other population in the region to report having widespread access to health services. Fewer than one in four (22%) said they were satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare in their communities, and one in nine (11%) said healthcare is accessible to anyone in the country.

Accessibility of Quality Healthcare

- Satisfied with availability of quality healthcare in local area
- Believe healthcare is accessible to anyone, regardless of their economic situation



Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic, July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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Furthermore, health officials warn that dealing with the injuries caused by the quake itself will be only the beginning of Haiti's public health crisis. Poor sanitation and lack of access to clean water are likely to make cholera and other waterborne diseases a major problem. Water quality was already a problem for many Haitians; 37% said in December 2008 that they were satisfied with the quality of water in their communities, vs. 66% of Dominicans in 2009, and a regional median of 67%.

Infrastructure

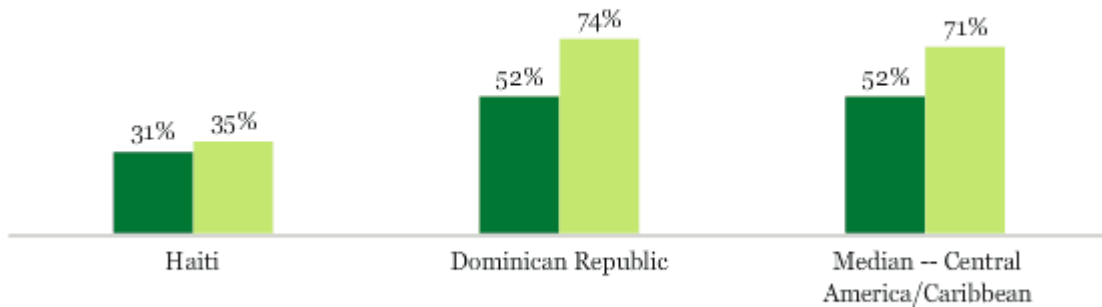
Besides hospitals, other vital infrastructure elements -- including roads and highways, and schools -- were decimated by the quake. These facilities too were already seen as insufficient by most Haitians polled a year ago. About one-third were satisfied with the roads and highways (31%) and the schools (35%) in their communities. Among Dominicans surveyed in 2009, satisfaction levels were considerably higher, similar to the regional medians for both questions.

In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with _____ ?

% Satisfied

■ The roads and highways

■ The educational system or the schools



Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic, July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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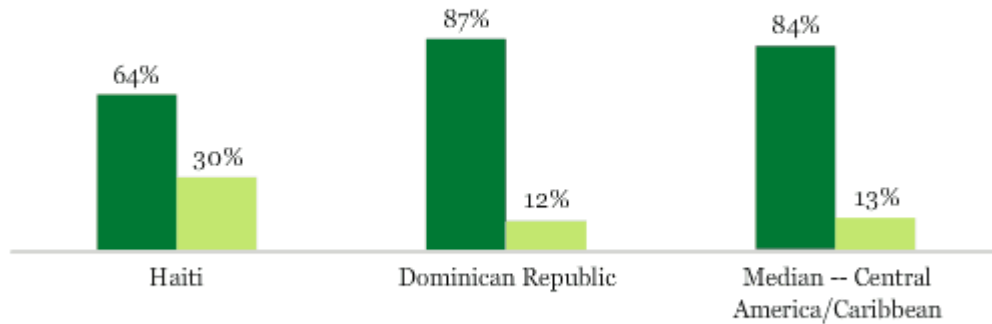
Social Support

In the wake of a disaster, friendships and family ties become lifelines, serving as conduits for material as well as emotional support. Social support is generally strong among Latin American societies, which tend to emphasize the importance of extended family relations.

However, even here Haitians are less well-equipped than residents of any other country in Central America and the Caribbean. At the time of the survey, 30% said they have no relatives or friends they can count on for help -- more than twice the regional median of 13%. The prevalence of poverty in Haiti may lead many residents to conclude that their friends and relatives would be unable to offer much in the way of money or other resources to help them.

If you were in trouble, do you have relatives or friends you can count on to help you whenever you need them, or not?

■ Yes ■ No



Data collected in Haiti Dec. 8-13, 2008; in the Dominican Republic, July 21-Sept. 2, 2009

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Bottom Line

Upon his appointment as United Nations special envoy to Haiti last year, former U.S. President Bill Clinton emphasized the need for foreign aid both to make the country more resilient to natural disasters, and to improve access to basic social services like healthcare. The current crisis makes it clear that the two goals are really one and the same. But Haitians' survey responses demonstrate just how far behind its neighbors the country is with regard to those priorities, and suggest that any sustainable improvement will require development strategies and assistance on a greater scale than any Haiti has seen in the past.

Survey Methods

Results from Haiti are based on face-to-face interviews with 500 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted Dec. 8-13, 2008. For results based on this total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4.7 percentage points.

Results from the Dominican Republic are based on face-to-face interviews with 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted July 21-Sept. 2, 2009. For results based on this total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 3.6 percentage points.

Regional medians for countries in Central America and the Caribbean include results from Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago. All surveys were conducted between June 2006 and September 2009.

For results based on the total samples of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 3.3 percentage points in most countries to a high of ± 4.8 percentage points in Trinidad and Tobago. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

More Brazilians Readily Support Lula

January 13, 2010

The popularity of Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva shows no signs of receding, according to a poll by Datafolha published in *Folha de Sao Paulo*. 72 per cent of respondents say Lula has done a good or very good job as head of state, up five points since August.

Lula—a member of the Worker’s Party (PT)—won the October 2002 presidential election with 61 per cent of the vote in a run-off against Jose Serra of the Brazilian Party of Social Democracy (PSDB). In October 2006, he earned a new four-year term, defeating PSDB candidate Geraldo Alckmin with 60.8 per cent of the vote in the second round. Lula is ineligible for a third consecutive term in office.

In 2006, Lula’s party was affected by a series of corruption scandals. The socialist-leaning president—also a former union leader—led a strong economy with conservative fiscal policies during his first mandate, and was praised for his poverty-reduction initiatives.

On Dec. 21, Lula attended the inauguration of a subway station in Rio de Janeiro’s famous Ipanema beach. The Brazilian president expressed satisfaction with the milestone, adding, "Fifty years ago, Rio was the picture of desolation and abandonment."

The first round of Brazil’s next presidential election is scheduled for Oct. 3, 2010.

Polling Data

How would you rate the performance of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as president?

	Dec. 2009	Aug. 2009	Mar. 2009
Good / Very Good	72%	67%	65%
Average	21%	25%	27%
Bad / Very Bad	6%	8%	8%

Source: Datafolha / Folha de Sao Paulo

Methodology: Telephone interviews with 11,429 Brazilian adults, conducted from Dec. 14 to Dec. 18, 2009. Margin of error is 2 per cent.

MULTI-COUNTRY POLLS

People in Three Countries Think Iran Wants Nukes

January 12, 2010

People in three countries believe the Iranian government is attempting to develop nuclear weapons, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 71 per cent of Americans, 66 per cent of Canadians and 63 per cent of Britons agree with this notion.

After being branded as part of an "axis of evil" by then U.S. president George W. Bush in January 2002, Iran has contended that its nuclear program aims to produce energy, not weapons. In June 2005, former Tehran mayor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won Iran's presidential election in a run-off over Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani with 61.6 per cent of all cast ballots.

In December 2006 and March 2007, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) imposed sanctions against Iran after it failed to stop uranium enrichment—a process needed both to make nuclear weapons and produce electricity.

Last year, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) tendered a proposal, which called on the Iranian government to transfer low-enriched uranium abroad for processing to turn it into fuel-making uranium.

On Jan. 4, U.S. state secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton discussed the nature of the proposal, saying, "We've avoided using the term 'deadline' ourselves. That's not a term that we have used because we want to keep the door to dialogue open."

On Jan. 5, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast declared: "We also agree with Clinton's view. We have believed that setting any deadline by either parties (involved in nuclear talks) would be meaningless and valueless."

Polling Data

From what you have seen, read or heard, do you agree or disagree with the following statement? – "The Government of Iran is attempting to develop nuclear weapons."

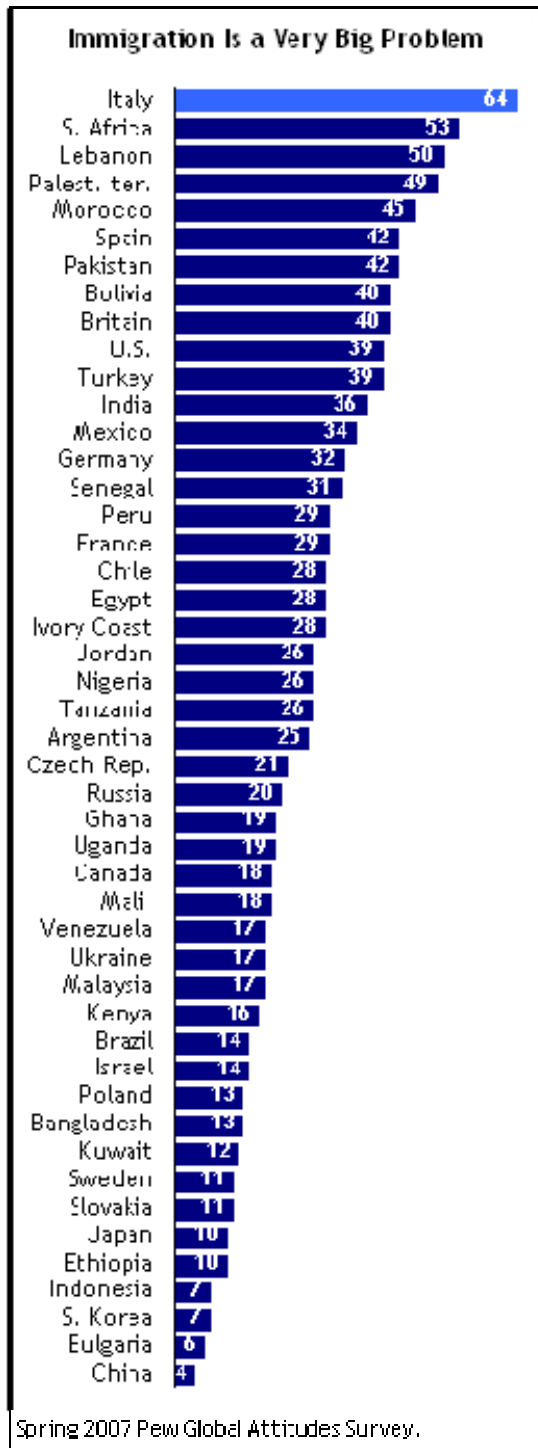
	CAN	USA	BRI
Agree	66%	71%	63%
Disagree	18%	10%	15%
Not sure	16%	18%	21%

Source: Angus Reid Public Opinion

Methodology: Online interviews with 1,019 Canadian adults, 1,001 American adults, and 2,005 British adults, conducted on Jan. 5 and Jan. 6, 2010. Margins of error range from 2.2 per cent to 3.1 per cent.

Widespread Anti-Immigrant Sentiment in Italy

January 12, 2010



More than 1,000 immigrants have been evacuated from southern Italy after a recent wave of violence against African farm workers. Surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project over the past decade find that anti-immigrant sentiment is widespread in Italy.

For example, in 2007, Italians overwhelmingly said that immigration was a big problem in their country and that immigrants -- both from the Middle East and North Africa and from Eastern European countries -- were having a bad impact on Italy. More recently, in the fall of 2009, more than eight-in-ten Italians said they would like to see tighter restrictions on immigration.

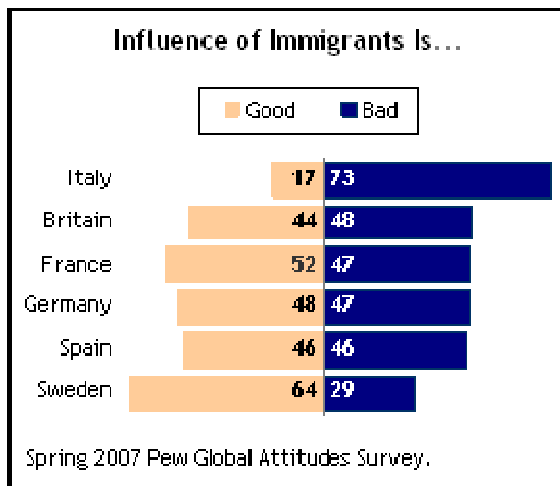
Italians were more likely than any other public included in the 47-nation survey conducted in 2007 to see immigration as a big problem in their country. More than nine-in-ten Italians (94%) considered immigration to be a big problem, including 64% who said it was a very big problem in Italy.

By comparison, a much narrower majority of South Africans (53%) -- the second most likely to rate immigration as a very big problem in their country -- shared that view.

Majorities of Italians across demographic and regional groups saw immigration as a very big problem, but those who lived in the northern parts of the country were especially likely to say that was the case.

About three-quarters (74%) of those who lived in the north saw immigration as a very big problem in Italy, compared with 54% in the south, where the recent violence has been concentrated.

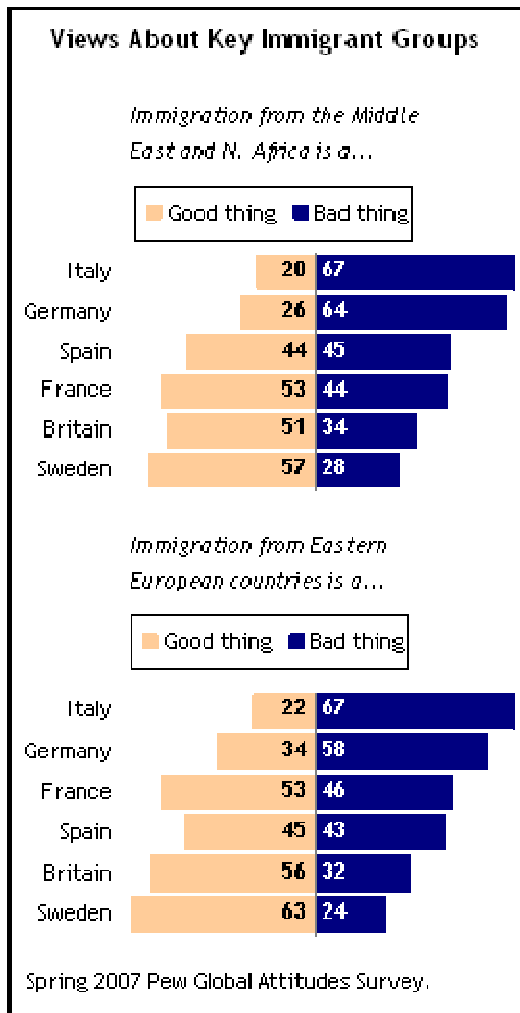
Most Say Immigrants Have a Negative Influence



Italian opinion about the influence immigrants were having on their country was also among the most negative of the 47 nations surveyed in 2007.

Nearly three-quarters of Italians (73%) said immigrants had a bad impact on their country; only in South Africa was this view as widespread -- 75% of South Africans said immigrants had a negative influence on their country.

Italy was the only country of the Western European nations surveyed where a majority viewed the impact of immigrants negatively. Publics in Britain, France, Germany and Spain were divided, while the Swedes had an overwhelmingly positive view of the influence immigrants had on their country.



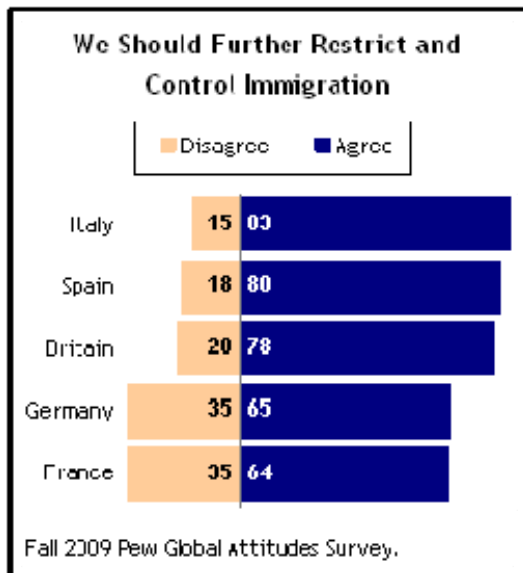
While the recent anti-immigrant violence has been directed at Africans, Italians expressed equally negative views of immigration from Eastern European countries as they do about immigration from the Middle East and Africa. Two-thirds said it was a bad thing that people from the Middle East and North Africa come to live and work in Italy; an equal number said the same about immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Only about one-in-five Italians saw immigration from the Middle East and Africa and Eastern Europe as a good thing for Italy (20% and 22%, respectively).

Germans were also largely unwelcoming of immigrants. Solid majorities in Germany said it was bad that people from the Middle East and North Africa (64%) and from Eastern Europe (58%) moved to their country.

Opinions were more mixed in Spain and France, while many more in Britain and Sweden said immigration from the Middle East and North African and from Eastern European countries was a good thing than said it was a bad thing.

Support for Tighter Immigration Controls



Given Italians' concerns about immigration and negative views about key immigrant groups, it is not surprising that public opinion in that country is overwhelmingly in favor of tighter restrictions on immigration.

A fall 2009 survey found that more than eight-in-ten Italians (83%) agreed that "we should restrict and control entry into our country more than we do now," including 40% who completely agreed with the statement.

Majorities in the other Western European countries included in the 2009 poll also expressed support for tougher restrictions on immigration. About eight-in-ten in Spain (80%) and Britain (78%) shared that view, as did 65% in Germany and 64% in France.

Arab League Countries' Views of U.S. Leadership Up in 2009

Approval ratings increase in 10 of 12 countries between March and October

January 13, 2010

Approval ratings of U.S. leadership increased in 10 of 12 Arab League countries that Gallup surveyed twice in 2009. Between the first survey period from February to March and the second survey period from July to October, U.S. leadership enjoyed the highest approval jump in Bahrain (33 percentage points), Mauritania (22 points), Kuwait (19 points), and Comoros (15 points).

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

Among respondents in Arab League countries in 2009

	% Approve	% Approve	Change from February-March to July-October
Djibouti	69 Mar 2-Mar 12	81 Jul 25-Aug 2	12
Mauritania	56 Feb 20-Mar 1	78 Jul 25-Sep 26	22
Comoros	54 Feb 23-Mar 5	69 Jul 15-Oct 10	15
Bahrain	22 Feb 23-Mar 19	55 Aug 17-Sep 15	33
Kuwait	33 Feb 23-Mar 18	52 Aug 10-Aug 30	19
Algeria	47 Feb 21-Mar 22	43 Aug 1-Sep 12	-4
Morocco	28 Feb 26-Mar 18	38 Aug 7-Aug 24	10
Egypt	25 Mar 7-Mar 22	37 Aug 11-Aug 19	12
Lebanon	22 Feb 18-Mar 20	30 Aug 2-Aug 30	8
Saudi Arabia	29 Feb 17-Mar 20	26 Aug 1-Aug 21	-3
Yemen	14 Feb 24-Mar 19	22 Aug 4-Sep 2	8
Palestinian Territories	7 Feb 13-Feb 22	20 Aug 3-Aug 17	13

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Overall, approval of U.S. leadership among citizens in these countries is highest, and above the majority level, in Djibouti (81%), Mauritania (78%), Comoros (69%), Bahrain (55%), and Kuwait (52%). Majorities in five countries -- Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian Territories, and Yemen -- continue to express disapproval of the

job performance of U.S. leadership. In the 12 nations surveyed, drops in approval ratings, such as in Algeria (four points) and Saudi Arabia (three points), are within the margin of error and thus remain unchanged since the last round of polling in February/March 2009.

The newest data were collected after President Barack Obama's much-covered speech in Cairo, Egypt, which was aimed at outreach to the Muslim world and improving America's image worldwide. The administration's attempts to apply diplomatic pressure on Israel to "freeze" settlement development in the West Bank may have also affected respondents' approval ratings at the time. It should be noted that the data precede Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan and his failure to meet the January 2010 deadline for closing the detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In addition, since the time of polling, the Israeli government's continued refusal to completely freeze settlement development as requested by the Obama administration may have an effect on U.S. job approval in the near future.

While Obama's approval rating among Americans has for the most part declined since the summer, approval of the job performance of U.S. leadership in Arab League countries appeared to be on the upswing at the time of the survey.

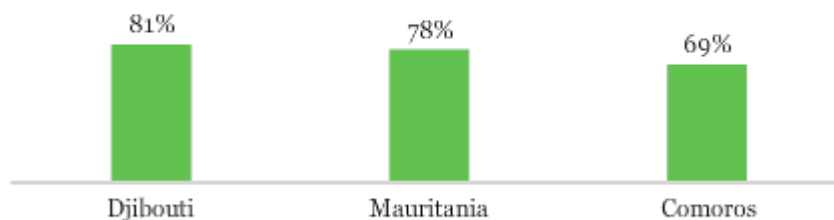
U.S. Leadership Continues to Earn Best Marks in Sub-Saharan Africa

Among these 12 Arab League nations, U.S. leadership enjoyed the highest approval ratings in three countries in sub-Saharan Africa -- where approval in each country far exceeded the majority. This continues a trend seen during the course of the Bush administration with approval ratings of U.S. leadership higher in sub-Saharan Africa than in any other region in the world.

Approval of U.S. Leadership Highest in Three Sub-Saharan African Countries

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the United States?

■ Approve



Data collected in Djibouti July 25-Aug. 2, 2009; in Mauritania July 25-Sept. 26; and in Comoros July 15-Oct. 10, 2009

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Negative to Positive Shifts and Other Surprises

The latest wave of Gallup data from the Arab world found, for the first time, statistically significant increases in the percentage of Palestinians and Lebanese who approve of U.S. leadership. Approval of U.S. leadership in the Palestinian Territories increased 13 points to 20%, while approval ratings in Lebanon increased 8 percentage points to 30%. At the same time, in Saudi Arabia, approval ratings of U.S. leadership, an important U.S. ally in the region and a country Obama visited en route to Cairo for his address, showed no statistical shift positive or negative.

Additionally, the percentage of respondents who said they didn't know or refused to rate the job performance of U.S. leadership shed light on the degree to which respondents feel they are familiar enough with the approach of the current leadership to form an opinion. In many cases, don't know responses dropped noticeably: in Mauritania by 24 points to 1%, in Kuwait by 17 points to 8%, in Comoros by 14 points to 6%, and in Saudi Arabia by 7 points to 11%. On the other hand, don't know responses significantly increased in Bahrain by 8 points to 17%, in Algeria by 7 points to 10%, in Yemen by 6 points to 20%, and in Morocco by 4 points to 9%.

Bottom Line

While approval ratings of U.S. leadership alone cannot serve as a proxy for evaluating U.S.-Arab world relations, Gallup's latest polling in the Arab world suggested some improvement at the time of the survey. Surprises were found in Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories, where opinions improved for the first time since the Bush administration. However, in Saudi Arabia and Algeria, no statistical change in approval ratings of U.S. leadership took place between the two polling periods in 2009. While the president's focus on outreach to the Arab and Muslim worlds may have had a positive effect on the attitudes of many, his ability to follow through on many of the proposed programs for cooperation and development will be crucial to adding more Arab countries to the list of those where a majority approve of the leadership of the United States.

Survey Methods

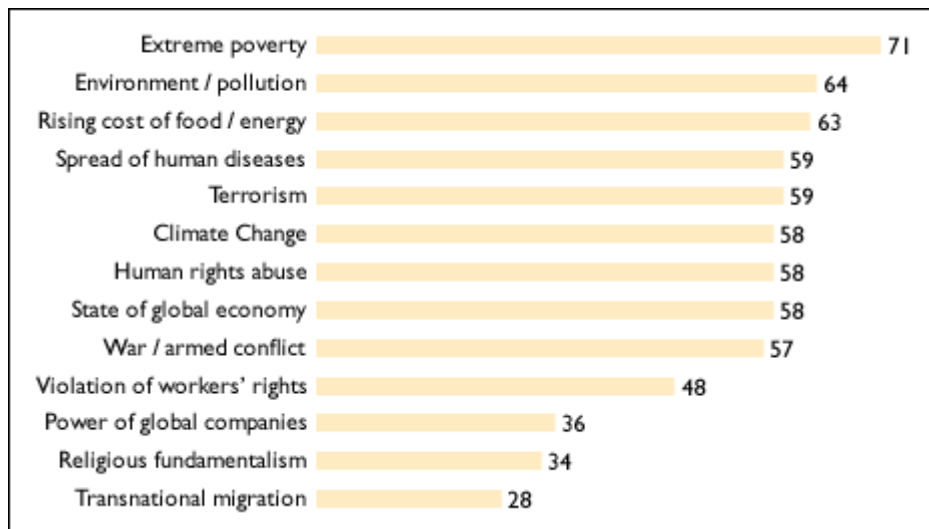
Results are based on face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Palestinian Territories, Mauritania, Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Kuwait, and Yemen between March and April 2009 and July and October 2009. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranged from a low of ± 3.3 percentage points in Bahrain to a high of ± 3.7 percentage points in Yemen. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Poverty Most Serious World Problem, Says Global Poll

January 17, 2010

Extreme poverty is a more serious problem for the world than climate change, terrorism, or the state of the global economy, according to a new annual global poll across 23 countries conducted for BBC World Service.

When more than 25,000 people interviewed by GlobeScan were asked to say how serious they thought each of a range of global problems were, the following percentages of people rated these issues as “very serious”:



In this year's poll, poverty was rated as the most serious global issue in ten of the countries polled, including in the UK, US, Kenya, Australia, Brazil, and Chile. However, in Russia, Turkey, Mexico, Indonesia, and Nigeria more felt that the rising cost of food and energy was very serious.

The poll, which was conducted before the Copenhagen summit took place, also found that the Japanese were the only nation to regard climate change as the most serious global issue—although the Chinese and Costa Ricans identified environmental issues more generally, or pollution, as the most serious. China ranked climate change as the second most serious issue, whereas the US ranked it ninth.

The poll also found that Indians and Pakistanis rated terrorism as the number one concern, and a number of countries which have experienced terrorism also rated it among the top three most serious global problems—Indonesia, Spain, Turkey, and the UK.

Egypt was the only country to rate the spread of human disease as the top issue, although Chile, China, Kenya, and Nigeria rated it in the top three.

If poverty is seen as the world's most serious problem, it is not the most top-of-mind. When respondents were asked to name spontaneously "the most important issue facing the world today," economic problems were most commonly cited, with one in four mentioning them (26%). Terrorism and war followed with 10 per cent.

And while poverty was some distance ahead of other global issues in terms of how serious it was seen to be, it was only one of a number of issues that people had discussed with friends and family recently. The greatest number—30%—said they had talked about rising food and energy costs with their friends and family recently, with extreme poverty and the spread of human diseases the second most discussed issues (29%) and the state of the global economy third (28%).

With recent terrorist attacks in their own countries still fresh in people's minds, Indians, Pakistanis, Turks, and Indonesians were most likely to say they had talked about terrorism recently with their friends and family. In the US, Canada, the UK, Germany, China, Spain, and Australia, the state of the global economy was the most discussed issue. Brazil, meanwhile, was the only country where a majority had discussed the environment with their friends and family over the previous month.

GlobeScan Research Director Sam Mountford said, "Even if the global recession has kept economic problems top of people's minds this year, extreme poverty is clearly viewed as the world's most serious global problem. But with many other global problems seen as very serious, this represents a daunting agenda for institutions like the UN and G20 to address.

"Over time, this poll will show us how public concern on global issues is shifting—and which issues are being discussed most often at dinner tables and workplaces around the world."

The World Speaks is an annual poll from the BBC World Service focusing on what the world is worried about. People from around the world express their concerns, and every year we will track their changing sense of the challenges the world faces.

Face-to-face and telephone interviews were conducted between 19 June and 13 October 2009 with a total of 25,128 citizens in 22 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The 23rd country is Japan where the fieldwork was conducted online. Polling was conducted for BBC Global News by GlobeScan and its research partners in each country. In Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, and Turkey urban samples were used. Questions were asked of half samples in each country.
