

2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion

Introduction

The data reported here are from the 2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, detailing the views of American Jews about a broad range of subjects.

Among the topics covered in the present survey are the consequences of the September 11 terrorist attack on the United States, the Israel-Arab peace process, the attachment of American Jews to Israel, political and social issues in the United States, Jewish perceptions of anti-Semitism, Jewish opinion about various countries, and Jewish identity concerns. Some of the questions appearing in the survey are new; others are drawn from previous American Jewish Committee surveys, including the Annual Surveys of American Jewish Opinion carried out in 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000.

The 2001 survey was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Market Facts, Inc., a leading survey-research organization. Respondents were interviewed by telephone during November 19 - December 4, 2001; no interviewing took place on the Sabbath. The sample consisted of 1,015 self-identified Jewish respondents selected from the Market Facts consumer mail panel. The respondents are demographically representative of the United States adult Jewish population on a variety of measures. The margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

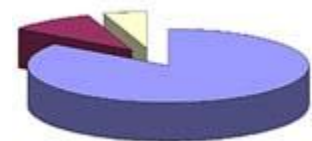
2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - Response to Terrorism

1. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, do you personally feel a lot less safe where you live and work, somewhat less safe, only a little less safe, or as safe as before?

A lot less safe 6
Somewhat less safe 16
Only a little less safe 29
As safe as before 49
Not sure 0

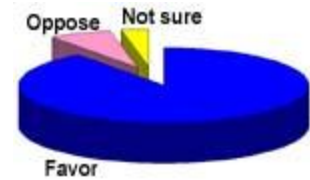
2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President George W. Bush is handling the U.S. campaign against terrorism?

Approve 85
Disapprove 10
Not sure 5



3. Do you favor or oppose the United States taking direct military action in Afghanistan?

Favor 91
Oppose 7
Not sure 3



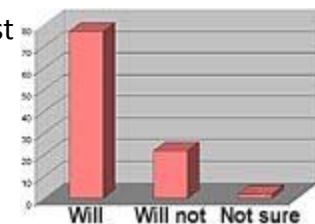
4. Do you think the United States should limit its military action only to those groups or nations responsible for last month's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, or should the United States mount a broader war against terrorist groups and the nations that support them?

Limit action 25
Broader war 69
Not sure 6



5. Do you think that Americans will or will not have to give up some of their personal freedoms in order to make the country safe from terrorist attacks?

Will 77
Will not 22
Not sure 2



6. Here are some increased powers of investigation that law enforcement agencies might use when dealing with people suspected of terrorist activity, which would also affect our civil liberties. For each, please say if you would favor or oppose it.

		Favor	Oppose	Not sure
a.	Expand undercover activities to penetrate groups under suspicion.	92	7	2
b.	Closer monitoring of banking and credit card transactions to trace funding sources	77	20	4
c.	Adoption of a national I.D. system for all U.S. citizens.	70	27	4
d.	Expanded camera surveillance on streets and in public places	66	31	3
e.	Law enforcement monitoring of internet discussions in chat rooms and other forums.	55	42	4
f.	Expanded government monitoring of cell phones and e-mail to intercept communications	50	46	4
g.	Profiling of people and searching them based on their nationality, race, or religion.	32	66	3

2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - Israel

7. How close do you feel to Israel?

Very close 29
 Fairly close 43
 Fairly distant 21
 Very distant 6
 Not sure 1

8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew."

Agree 72
 Disagree 26
 Not sure 2

9. Looking ahead 3 to 5 years, do you see Jews in Israel and in the United States becoming closer, drifting apart, or neither?

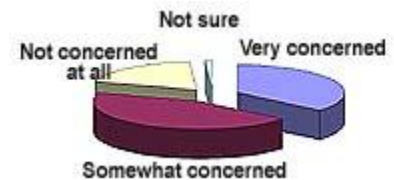
Becoming closer 30
 Drifting apart 7
 Neither 59
 Not sure 3

10. How would you characterize relations between Israel and the United States today? Are they very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

Very positive 15
Somewhat positive 70
Somewhat negative 13
Very negative 1
Not sure 1

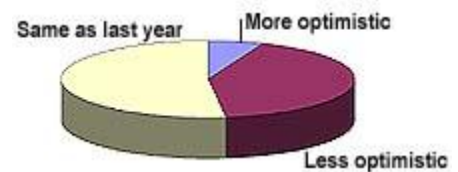
11. How concerned are you that the United States will pressure Israel to make concessions to the Palestinians in order to keep the Arab countries in the anti-terrorist coalition? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?

Very concerned 36
Somewhat concerned 44
Not concerned at all 19
Not sure 1



12. As compared with one year ago, are you now more optimistic about the chance for a lasting peace between Israel and the Arabs, less optimistic, or do you think the chance for a lasting peace is about the same as it was one year ago?

More optimistic now 6
Less optimistic now 42
Same as one year ago 52
Not sure 0

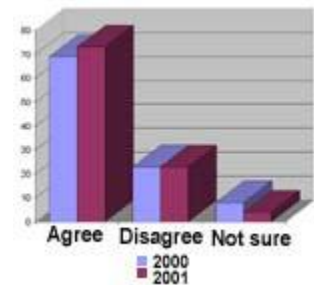


13.To what extent do each of the following Arab leaders support or oppose peace with Israel?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
a. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt	12	44	21	9	15
b. President Bashar Assad of Syria	1	13	27	39	20
c. King Abdullah of Jordan	15	41	19	8	17
d. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir Arafat	2	21	27	44	5

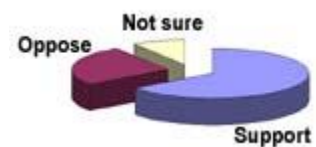
14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The goal of the Arabs is not the return of occupied territories but rather the destruction of Israel."

Agree 73
Disagree 23
Not sure 4



15.Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's current handling of relations with Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority?

Support 65
Oppose 26
Not sure 9



16.Is Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority doing enough or not doing enough to control terrorist activity against Israel by Hamas and other Palestinian extremist groups?

Is doing enough 4
Is not doing enough 93
Not sure 4

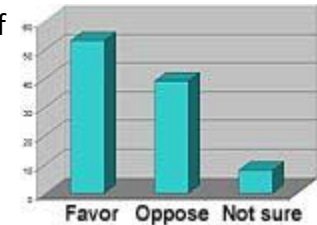


17. Some people assert that Yasir Arafat is Israel's Bin Laden. Do you agree or disagree with this assertion?

Agree 44
Disagree 50
Not sure 6

18. In the current situation, do you favor or oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state?

Favor 53
Oppose 39
Not sure 8



19. In the framework of a permanent peace with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to compromise on the status of Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli jurisdiction?

Yes 44
No 50
Not sure 6

20. As part of a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to dismantle all, some, or none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?

All 9
Some 53
None 34
Not sure 4

21. How much land should Israel be willing to give up on the Golan Heights in order to reach a peace agreement with Syria?

All of it 2
Most of it 4
Some of it 26
Only a small part of it 27
None of it 36
Not sure 5

22. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Regardless of their individual views on the peace negotiations with the Arabs, American Jews should support the policies of the duly elected government of Israel."

Agree 60
 Disagree 36
 Not sure 5

2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - National Affairs

23. Do you think the number of immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come to the United States to live should be increased a lot, increased a little, left the same as it is now, decreased a little, or decreased a lot?

Increased a lot 3
 Increased a little 6
 Left the same as it is now 39
 Decreased a little 21
 Decreased a lot 28
 Not sure 3

24. There are different opinions about immigrants from other countries living in America. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Not sure
a. "Immigrants increase crime rates."	3	17	19	46	14	2
b. "Immigrants are generally good for American's economy."	14	49	18	14	3	1
c. "Immigrants take jobs away from people who were born in America."	7	23	14	42	14	1
d. "Immigrants make America more open to new ideas and cultures."	22	60	8	8	1	0

25. Which do you think is better for the United States - to encourage immigrants to blend into American culture by giving up some important aspects of their own culture, or to encourage immigrants to maintain their own culture more strongly, even if that means they do not blend as well?

Blend in	59
Maintain own culture	31
Both	6
Not sure	5

26. Do you think that the government should or should not provide taxpayer funds for social service programs run by religious institutions, such as churches or synagogues?

Should	22
Should not	76
Not sure	2

27. Do you favor or oppose government aid to parochial or other religious schools?

Favor	21
Oppose	78
Not sure	2

28. I'm going to read you a list of political views that people might hold. They are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

Extremely liberal	3
Liberal	21
Slightly liberal	18
Moderate, middle of the road	32
Slightly conservative	12
Conservative	11
Extremely conservative	2
Not sure	2

2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - International Jewish Issues

29. I would like your opinion of some countries today. Is your overall opinion of (INSERT COUNTRY) very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Very Fav.	Some Fav.	Neutral	Some Unval.	Very Unfav.	Not Sure
a. Iran	1	3	9	31	55	1
b. Australia	54	26	17	1	1	2
c. Saudi Arabia	1	11	17	40	28	2
d. Germany	12	36	31	14	6	1
e. Jordan	6	27	31	26	9	2
f. Egypt	3	26	33	27	10	1
g. Great Britain	67	23	8	1	1	1
h. Pakistan	2	18	26	33	21	1
i. Russia	5	43	37	12	2	1
j. France	15	35	28	16	5	1
k. The Vatican	11	26	42	15	5	2
l. Syria	1	5	17	35	42	2
m. Turkey	8	25	43	17	4	3
n. India	6	27	48	16	3	2
o. China	3	23	37	28	8	1

30. Is your opinion of the United Nations very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Very favorable 19

Somewhat favorable 37

Neutral 23

Somewhat unfavorable 12

Very unfavorable 8

Not sure 0

2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - Jewish Identity

31. How important would you say being Jewish is in your own life?

Very important 48

Fairly important 38

Not very important 14

32. Which one of the following qualities do you consider most important to your Jewish identity?

Being part of the Jewish people 40

Religious observance 14

Support for Israel 5

A commitment to social justice 20

Something else 21

Not sure 1

33. Do you think of yourself as . . .

Orthodox 7

Conservative 29

Reconstructionist 2

Reform 29

Just Jewish 33

34. In your opinion, which is a greater threat to Jewish life in the United States today-- intermarriage or anti-Semitism?

Intermarriage 27

Anti-Semitism 69

Both equally (Vol.) 3

Not sure 1

2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - Anti-Semitism

35. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem 26

Somewhat of a problem 67

Not a problem at all 7

Not sure 0

36. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

Increase greatly 6

Increase somewhat 33

Remain the same 48

Decrease somewhat 10

Decrease greatly 1

Not sure 2

37. In your opinion, what proportion of each of the following groups in the United States is anti-Semitic - most, many, some, very few, or none?

	Most	Many	Some	Very few	None	Not sure
a. Asians	2	3	31	45	12	8
b. Moslems	25	19	37	11	2	5
c. Hispanics	3	5	44	35	6	7
d. blacks	6	13	51	22	3	5
e. The Religious Right	26	20	35	11	3	6
f. Catholics	4	8	54	26	5	4
g. Mainstream Protestants	3	6	50	30	4	8
h. Fundamentalist Protestants	11	15	42	17	3	12
i. Arab Americans	22	21	41	10	1	5

38. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Virtually all positions of influence in the United States are open to Jews."

Agree 59

Disagree 40

Not sure 1

39. Do you think that anti-Semitism around the world is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem 38

Somewhat of a problem 59

Not a problem at all 2

Not sure 0

40. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism around the world will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

Increase greatly 9

Increase somewhat 38

Remain the same 44

Decrease somewhat 7

Decrease greatly 1

Not sure 2