

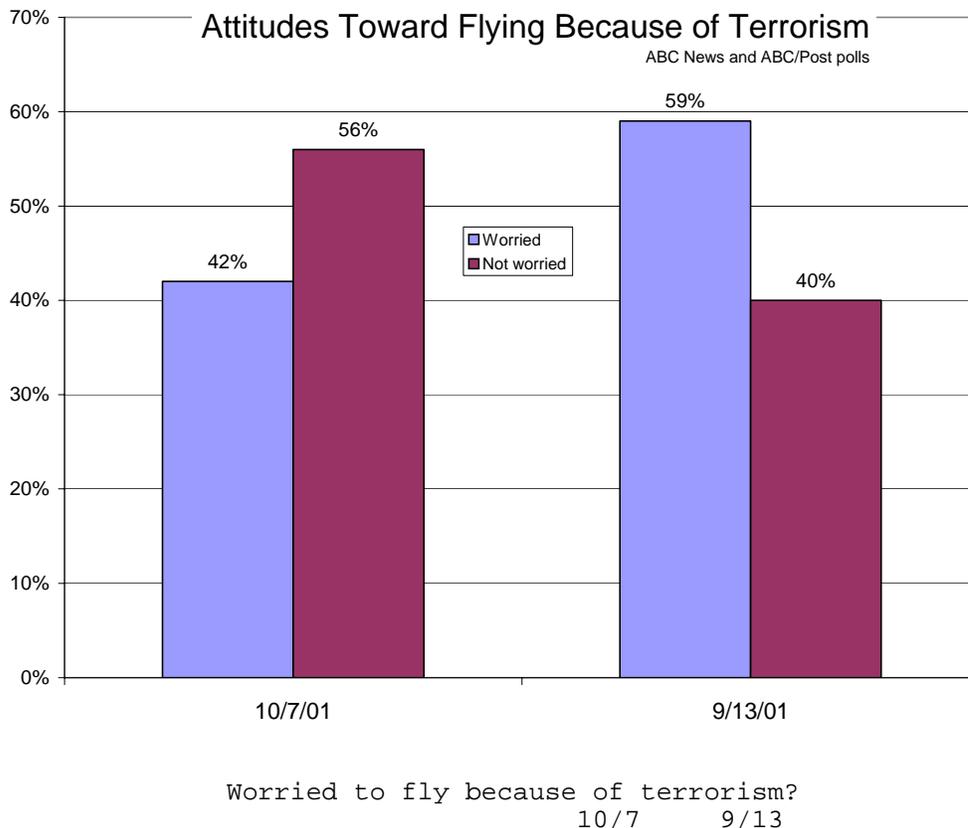
Fear of Flying Eases Somewhat

Confidence in the safety of air travel improved after the initial shock of last month's terror attacks. But it has miles to go before the skies seem safe to millions of Americans.

Forty-two percent in an ABC News poll completed Sunday said they were worried about the risk of air terrorism - a still-troubling figure from the travel industry's perspective, but down from 56 percent just after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The number saying they were "very worried" about terrorist attacks while flying fell by half, from 25 percent to 12 percent, while the number expressing no worry rose 16 points, to 56 percent. Frequent fliers were far less likely to express concern than infrequent fliers or those who've never flown.

Interviews for this poll were conducted Wednesday through Sunday, with nearly all completed before the U.S. air strikes against Afghanistan on Sunday. A separate ABC News poll Sunday night found no change in broader public worries about terrorism in general - 81 percent worried, including 41 percent expressing a "great deal" of worry.



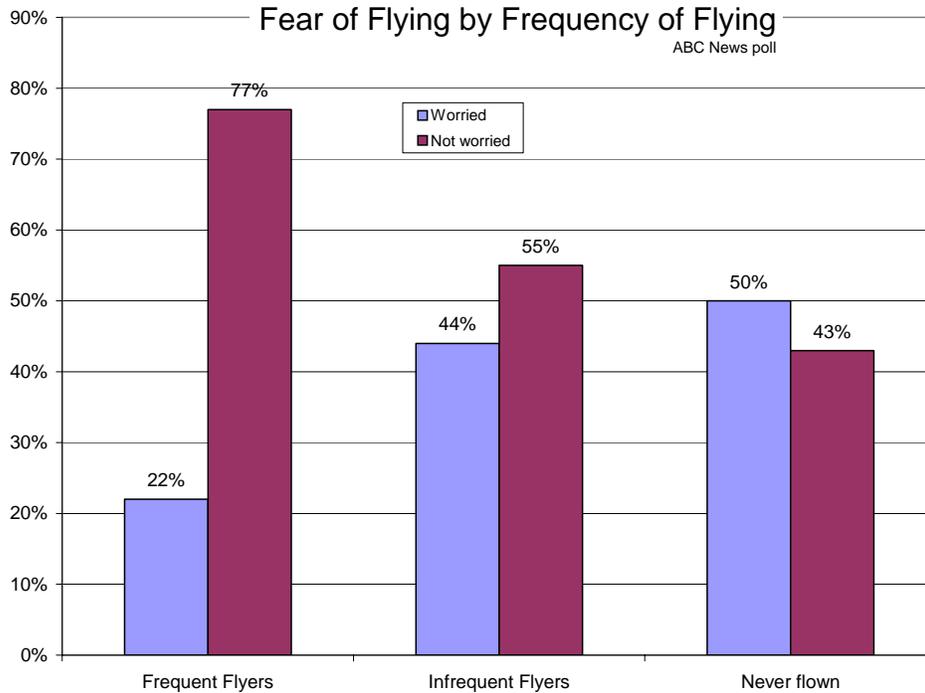
Very/Somewhat Net	42%	59
Very worried	12	25
Somewhat worried	30	35
Not worried	56	40

PLANE vs CAR - Concern is still high. Just 44 percent now say flying in a commercial airplane is safer than driving, while 48 percent think driving is safer. Two years ago, by contrast, Americans picked flying as safer by 19 points. (Far more people are killed in traffic accidents in this country - more than 40,000 last year - than in plane crashes.)

FREQUENT FLIERS – As noted above, experience matters: Frequent fliers are less worried about airline terrorism, and more likely to think flying is safer than driving.

Just 22 percent of frequent flyers (people who fly at least every few months) say they're worried about flying because of the risk of terrorism; this soars to 50 percent of those who've never flown. Similarly, by 66-25 percent, frequent fliers say flying is safer than driving in a car; those who have never flown think driving is safer by 78-12 percent.

More than 85 percent of the public flies infrequently if at all: More than seven in 10 can be described as infrequent flyers, flying once or twice a year or less; and 14 percent have never flown. Another 14 percent fly at least once every few months.



Frequent fliers Infrequent fliers Never flown

Worried to fly	22%	44	50
Not worried	77	55	43

GENDER GAP - Forty-eight percent of women express concern about terrorism in air travel; that falls to 35 percent of men. And most women think driving is safer than flying; men opt for flying, albeit by a fairly narrow 50-43 percent.

	Men	Women
Worried to fly	35%	48
Not worried	63	51
Flying is safer	50	38
Driving is safer	43	54

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone October 3-7, 2001, among a random national sample of 1,024 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Dalia Sussman.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:
<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

Media Contact: Lauren Kapp, (212) 456-2478, lauren.kapp@abc.com

Here are the full results:

*= less than 0.5 percent

108. Are you personally worried about traveling by commercial airplane because of the risk of terrorism, or do you think the risk is not that great?

	-----Worried-----			Not	No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	Worried	opin.
10/7/01	42	12	30	56	2
9/13/01	59	25	35	40	1

109. Which do you feel is safer - flying in a commercial airplane, or driving in a car?

	Flying	Driving	No opinion
10/7/01	44	48	8
11/7/99	58	39	3

END