

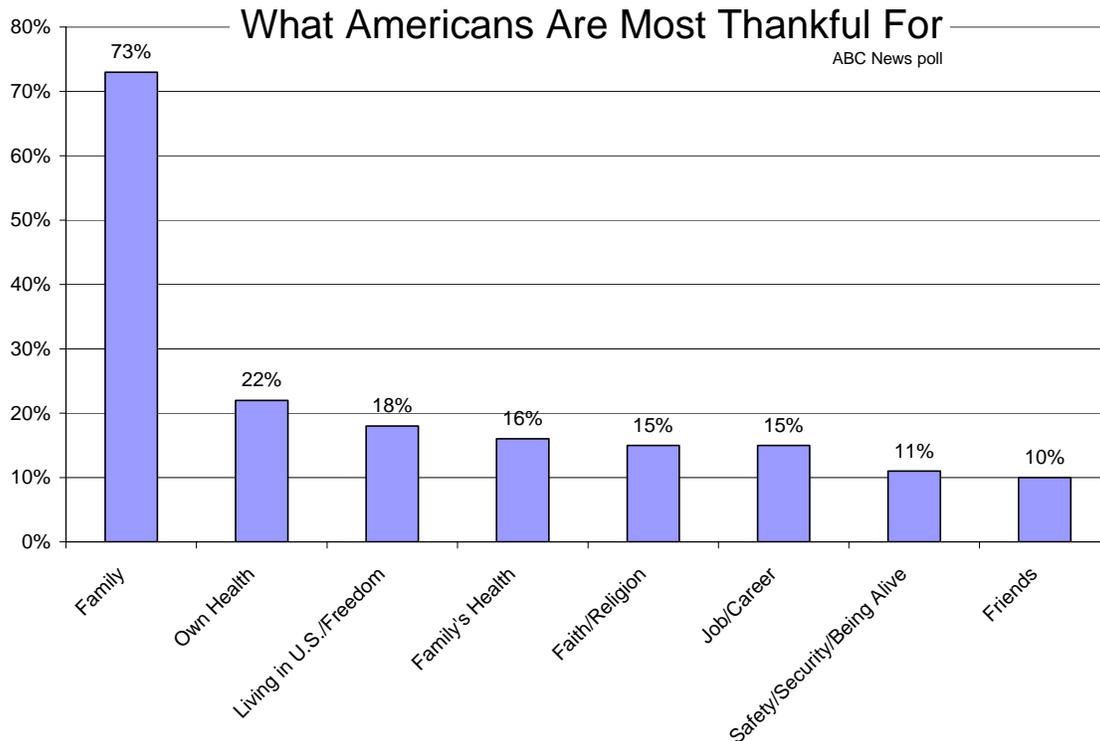
This Thanksgiving, Family Still Comes First

The world may have changed since Sept. 11, but the Thanksgiving tradition of family togetherness has not. Ask Americans what they're most thankful for this holiday and the top answer is the same as it was last year: their families.

Seventy-three percent cite either their family in general or specific family members (chiefly, their children), as one of the things they're most thankful for this Thanksgiving. That's far and away the top finisher in the list, just as it was in a November 2000 poll.

But the No. 2 finisher suggests somewhat less self-absorption this year. Twenty-two percent say they're thankful for their own health, sharply down from 54 percent last year. That might reflect more of an external focus since the Sept. 11 attacks.

In another change, 11 percent mention their and their families' safety and security, something that didn't register at all last year. But there was no increase in mentions of freedom or nationalism (such as living in the United States), and very few mentions of political leadership or the war on terrorism – suggesting that Thanksgiving remains very much a personal, family-oriented time.



	What are you most thankful for? (Up to three answers accepted)	
	11/18/01	11/15/00*
Family	73%	79
Own health	22	54
Living in U.S./Freedom	18	17
Family's health	16	7
Faith/Religion	15	17
Job/Career	15	16
Safety/Security/Being alive	11	-
Friends	10	13
*Gallup poll.		

OTHER – While these items top the list, some Americans express thanks for more unique things as well – ranging from their marital status to their local climate. Here are some of the more colorful examples:

Thankful for...

- “Oklahoma's quarterback is hurt.”
- “Volunteering at the public library.”
- “Younger women, more money, faster horses, older whiskey.”
- “I don't have a wife.”
- “I live in Florida where the sun shines all the time.”
- “I used to be an addict, thus being clean.”
- “My guitar.”
- “Not married, live up in the mountains, no freeways, no smog.”
- “Politics, auto racing, and golf.”
- “Teeth.”
- “Beer.”
- “My roommate because he pays me rent.”
- “That I am nearing retirement.”

GROUPS – Family is the top item in all demographic groups, but especially in families with kids. At least eight in 10 people living in households with three or more people, or with children, say they're thankful for family. This drops to about two-thirds in single-person households or among those with no children at home.

Women, younger adults and those in the highest income group are also more apt to say they're thankful for family.

Older Americans have more of an appreciation of their own health than do younger adults. Thirty-five percent of those 65 or older are thankful for their health, dropping to 13 percent in the youngest age group. That suggests older people are less likely to take their health for granted.

	Most thankful for:	
	Family	Own health
Men	66%	21
Women	80	23
18-34	79	13
65+	56	35
< \$25K	62	23

> \$100K	86	17
One person in HH	64	35
Three or more in HH	80	16
Child in house	86	16
No child	67	26

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone November 14-18, 2001, among a random national sample of 1,023 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Daniel Merkle.

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

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Here are the full results:

116. As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we'd like to know what two or three things are you most thankful for in your life right now? What else are you thankful for? (OPEN-END, MULTIPLE MENTIONS PERMITTED)

	11/18/01	11/15/00*
Family (NET)	73	79
Family (general)	62	59
Child/children	16	17
Wife/Husband	6	11
Parents	1	4
Grandchild/grandchildren	3	3
Health (NET)	34	58
Own health	22	54
Health of family	16	7
Nationalism (NET)	19	17
Freedom/Living in free country/Living in U.S.	18	17
Political leadership/Bush as President	1	-
War on terrorism/How it's going/U.S. military	1	-
Way the country pulled together since 9/11	1	-
Faith/Religion (NET)	15	17
Own faith	5	7
God	7	7
Jesus Christ	4	3
Job/Career	15	16
Safety/security(personal/family)/My life/Being alive	11	-
Friends	10	13
Home/Roof overhead	7	8
Income/Personal finances/Financial security	4	11
Peace/End of war	2	2
Education/School	2	2
Food	1	1
Other	6	6
Everything	2	1
Nothing	*	1

No opinion

2

*

*Gallup poll.