

ABC NEWS POLL: TERRORISM AND CIVIL RIGHTS
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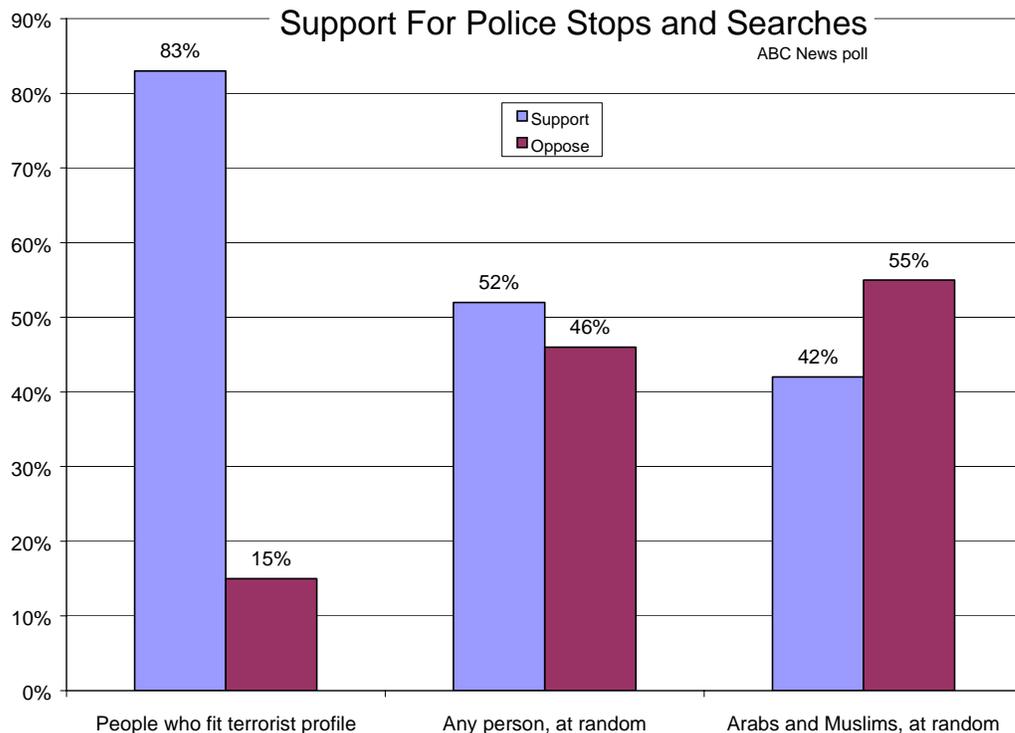
Most Favor Broader Police Authority – But Not Targeted at Arabs or Muslims

Eight in 10 Americans support giving the police authority to stop and search people who fit the profile of a suspected terrorist. And security concerns are running high enough that a narrow majority say they'd even support fully random stops and searches.

But specifically targeting Arabs and Muslims is less popular. Most Americans oppose police stops of Arabs and Muslims at random, and a much larger majority says being Arab or Muslim should not be an important part of the profile of a terror suspect.

Fifty-five percent in a new ABC News poll oppose giving the police powers to stop and search "anyone who appears to be an Arab or Muslim, at random." It reflects today's jitters that the rest, 42 percent, do support such police authority.

Support for random police stops of "any person" is higher, 52 percent - another indication of the level of concern about the risk of terrorism. Most acceptable by far are stops of "any person who fits the profile of a suspected terrorist," favored by 83 percent.



	Police stops and searches	
	Support	Oppose
People who fit a terrorist profile	83%	15
Any person, at random	52	46
Arabs and Muslims, at random	42	55

Support for random stops and searches is highest among people who are especially worried about future terrorist attacks. And jitters certainly exist: Eight in 10 Americans express worry about further attacks against the United States. But fewer than four in 10 express a “great deal” of worry, and that has declined since Sept. 11th (see separate analysis).

PROFILE – The profile of a suspected terrorist can contain many components, such as having had contact with terrorist groups. This poll tested two others, one based on speech - "expressing support for terrorists' goals" - and one based on ethnicity or religion - "being Arab or Muslim."

The former is a far greater concern. Sixty-five percent of Americans say that expressing support for terrorists' goals should qualify as "an important part" of the profile of a suspected terrorist. Far fewer, 27 percent, say that being Arab or Muslim should be an important part of that profile.

An additional 24 percent say that being Arab or Muslim may be part of the profile of a suspected terrorist, but only as a secondary factor. The largest group, 45 percent, says it should not be part of such a profile at all.

	Profile of a terrorist		
	Important	Secondary	Not a part
Expressing support for terror goals	65%	16	14
Being Arab or Muslim	27	24	45

SUSPICION – Many Americans, but still far from most, say last month's terrorist attacks have made them personally more suspicious of people who appear to be of Arab descent. Thirty-eight percent say they're more suspicious of Arabs, compared to 43 percent in an ABC News/Washington Post poll two days after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Logically, people who say they've become more suspicious of Arabs are far more likely than others to support police stops of Arabs or Muslims at random, and to say being Arab or Muslim should be a central part of the profile of a suspected terrorist.

By contrast, people who are Muslims or say they personally know one – 41 percent of Americans – are much less likely to support random police stops of Arabs or Muslims. They’re also less likely, by 18 points, to express suspicion of Arabs as a result of the Sept. 11th attacks.

More suspicious of Arabs	Support random stops of Arabs and Muslims 63%	Support profiling of Arabs and Muslims 41
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Not more suspicious	29	18
Personally know a Muslim	32	23
Don't know a Muslim	50	30

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 8-9, 2001, among a random national sample of 1,009 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Field work by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

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

Media contact: Todd Polkes, (212) 456-4586

Here are the full results (*=less than 0.5 percent)

5. How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in the United States - is that something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?

	-----Concerned-----			-----Not concerned----			No op.
	NET	Grt.deal	Somewhat	NET	Not much	None	
10/9/01	82	36	46	18	12	6	*
10/7/01	81	41	40	18	13	4	1
9/27/01*	83	43	39	17	12	5	*
9/11/01	87	49	38	12	7	4	1
6/13/97	62	21	41	38	24	14	*
6/2/97	63	22	41	37	28	9	*
8/5/96	74	31	43	26	18	8	*
4/20/95	78	38	40	21	16	5	1

*9/27/01 and previous: "How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in this country..."

23. Thinking of the situation here in the United States, please tell me if you support or oppose giving the police powers to stop and search (READ ITEM)

10/9/01

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
a. Any person, at random	52	46	2
b. Any person who fits the profile of a suspected terrorist	83	15	1
c. Any one who appears to be an Arab or Muslim, at random	42	55	3

24. There are many factors that could go into the profile of a suspected terrorist, such as having contacts with terrorist groups. Do you think (READ ITEM) should be part of the profile of a suspected terrorist, or not?

10/9/01

	-----Should be part-----				
	NET	Important part	Secondary part	Not part	No opin.
a. Expressing support for					

terrorists' goals	81	65	16	14	6
b. Being Arab or Muslim	51	27	24	45	4

25. Have last month's terrorist attacks made you personally more suspicious of people who you think are of Arab descent, or not?

	Yes	No	No opin.
10/9/01	38	60	1
9/13/01*	43	56	1

*"Do you think the attacks this week will make you personally more suspicious..."

26. Do you personally know anyone who is a Muslim, or not?

	Yes	No	No opin.
10/9/01	41	58	1

END