

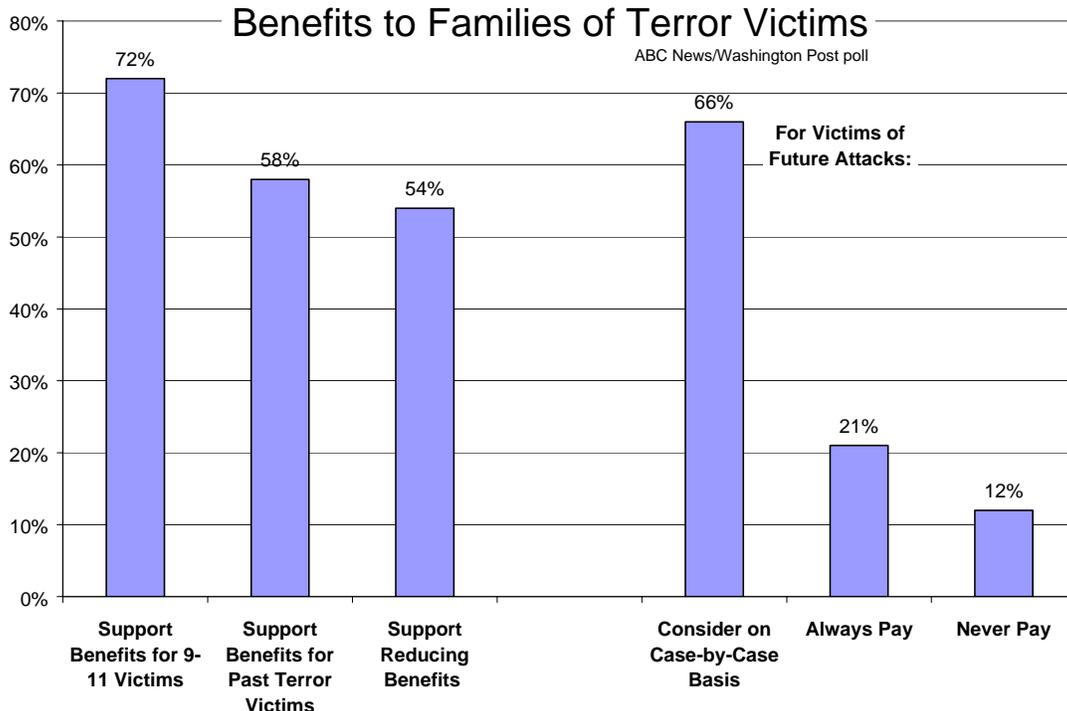
## **Most Support Gov't Plan For 9-11 Compensation**

Americans broadly support paying special federal benefits to the families of victims of the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks. But more than half also favor the government's plan to deduct pensions and life insurance payouts from those benefits.

While some victims' groups and elected officials have assailed the plan, 54 percent of Americans say federal benefits should be reduced for families that have other sources of benefits, such as pensions or life insurance. Forty-three percent oppose any such reduction in federal benefits.

More broadly, the public by a nearly 3-1 margin supports having the government pay some special benefits, with 72 percent in favor. And 58 percent say families of victims of previous terrorist attacks should have also received funds from the government.

But most also say such compensation shouldn't be automatic. Two-thirds think these payments should be decided on a case-by-case basis; only two in 10 think federal benefits should be paid in all cases of terrorism. (Even fewer – about one in 10 – say the government should never pay special benefits to families of terrorist victims.)



Should pay 9-11 victims	72%
Future payments should be on case-by-case basis	66
Should pay victims of past attacks	58
Should pay less for those w/other sources	54

The victims' compensation fund set up by the government for families of the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> victims has been fraught with controversy about the size of payments and the rules for payouts. Final rules are to be released this month; families who accept the compensation will waive their right to sue.

GROUPS – Majorities in all demographic groups support federal payment to victims of Sept. 11, but there is some variation in degree. Younger, less-educated and lower-income Americans are more supportive of the payments. These same groups are also far more apt to say victims of past attacks should have been paid, as are nonwhites, Democrats and women.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone January 24-27, 2002, among a random national sample of 1,507 adults. The results have a 2.5-point error margin. Fieldwork by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Dalia Sussman.

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

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

\*= less than 0.5 percent

34. Do you support or oppose having the federal government pay special benefits to families of the victims of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
1/27/02	72	26	2

35. Do you think the federal payment that victims' families receive should or should not be reduced for families that have other sources of benefits, such as pensions or life insurance?

	Should be reduced	Should not be reduced	No opin.
1/27/02	54	43	4

36. As you may know, the federal government did not pay special benefits to the families of victims of previous terrorist attacks, while it is paying benefits to families of the September 11th victims.

Do you think this is appropriate because of the nature of the September 11th attacks, or should the victims of previous terrorist attacks have been paid benefits as well?

	Appropriate	Previous paid as well	Neither (vol.)	No opin.
1/27/02	26	58	11	5

37. In the future, do you think the federal government should pay special benefits to the families of victims in all cases of terrorism, not pay benefits in any cases of terrorism, or should it consider this on a case-by-case basis?

	All cases	Not in any cases	Case by case	No opin.
1/27/02	21	12	66	1

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