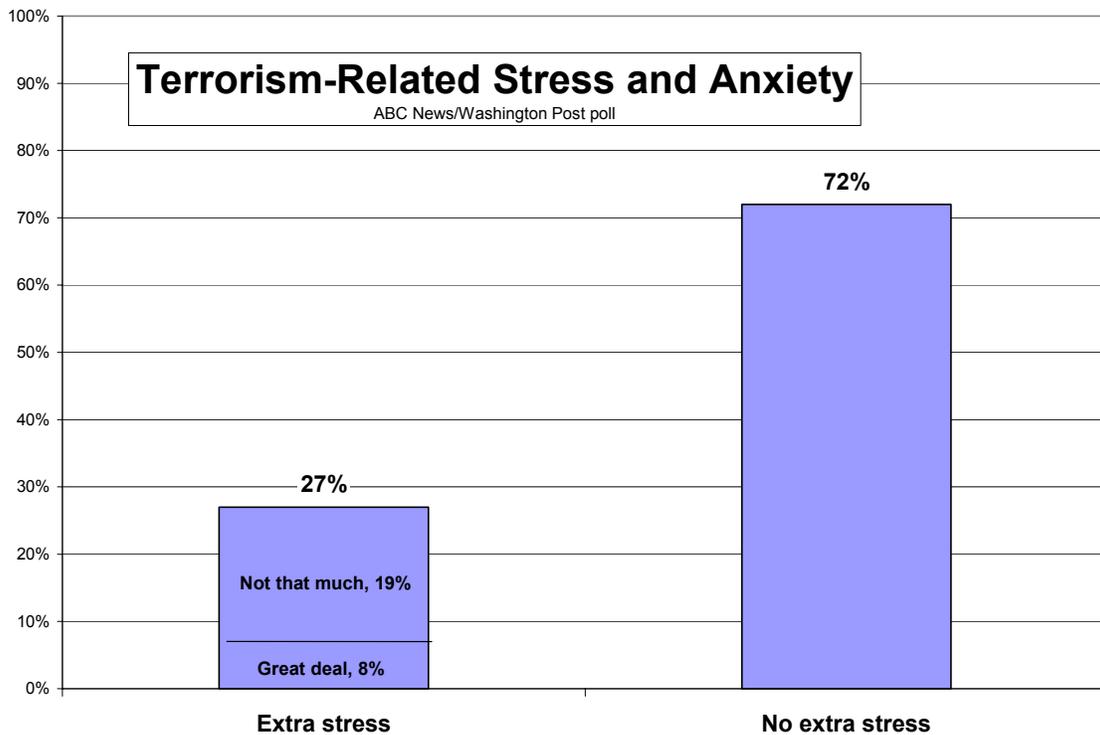


## While a Quarter Lay in Supplies, Most Take Terror Alert in Stride

A quarter of Americans have heeded the government's call to stockpile supplies in case of terrorist attack, with food and water leading the list. Still, the public is taking the alert largely in stride, with few reports of substantial anxiety related to the threat of terrorism.

This ABC News/Washington Post poll finds no spike in public concern about an attack occurring, or about personally becoming a victim. While 27 percent say terrorism has created "extra stress and anxiety" in their lives, fewer than one in 10 report a "great deal" of such stress – and more than seven in 10 report none at all.

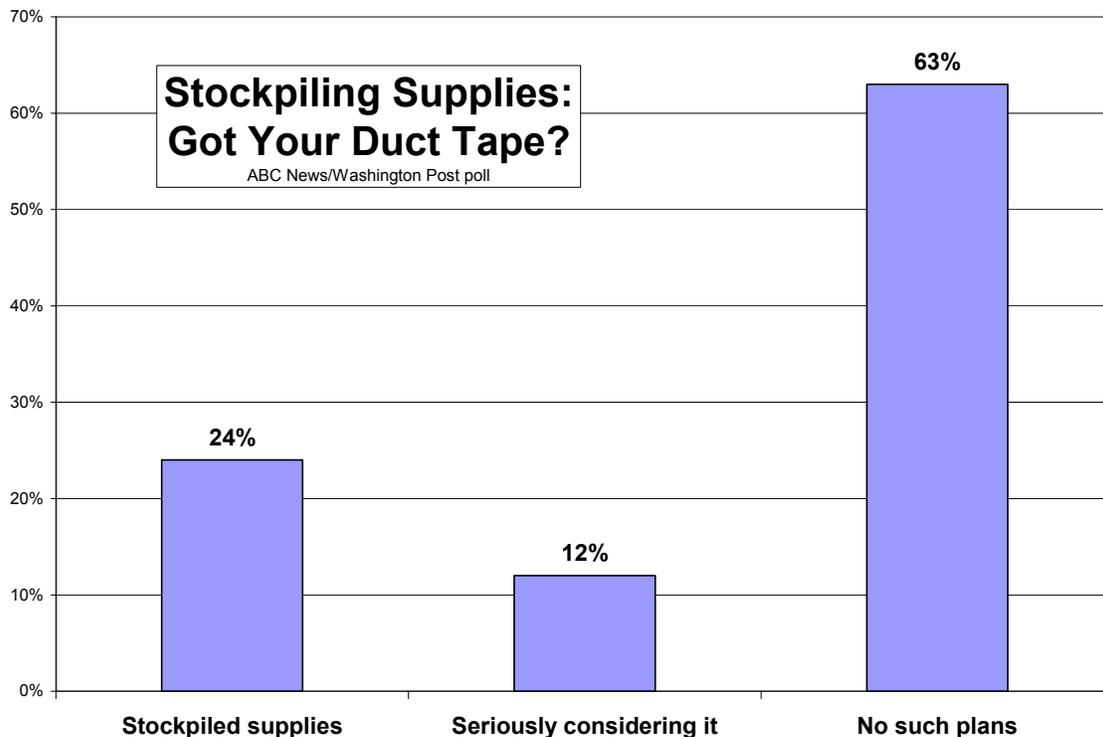
The results are heartening, since they suggest that the threat of terrorism has failed to terrorize the vast majority of Americans in their daily lives.



Has the possibility of terrorism created extra stress and anxiety in your life?

Yes NET	27%
Yes, a great deal	8%
Yes, not that much	19
No	72

Twenty-four percent have stockpiled supplies, and an additional 12 percent are seriously considering it. But that means that contrary to the government’s suggestion, most Americans, 63 percent, haven’t laid in supplies and aren’t planning to do so.



The decision to stockpile is directly related to a sense of personal threat. Among people who are especially worried about being a victim of terrorism, 44 percent have brought in supplies. Among those with no such worries, just 15 percent have done so.

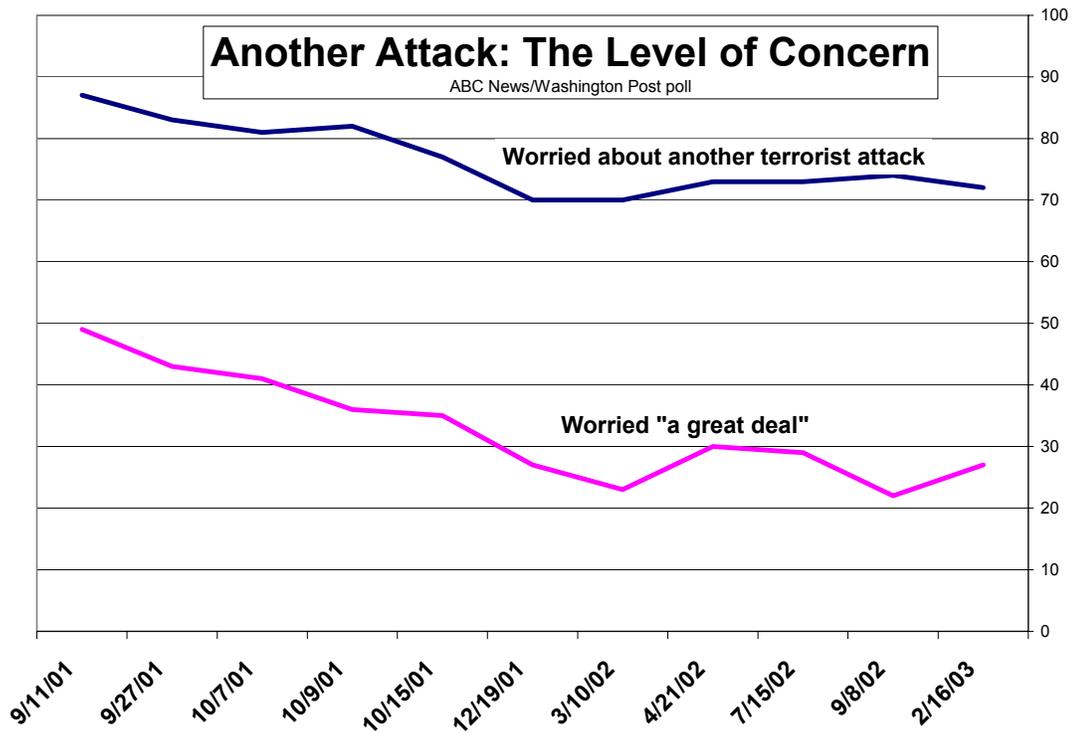
**WORRY** – Overall, about a third of Americans are worried that they personally might be the victim of a terrorist attack; relatively few, 10 percent, express a “great deal” of such worry. These levels are about the same as last fall, and also about the same as they were in November 2001, two months after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Broader concern also is stable: Seventy-two percent are worried about more major attacks somewhere in the nation, the same as it’s been on average in ABC and ABC/Post polls since December 2001. Twenty-seven percent express a “great deal” of worry about an attack somewhere; it peaked in the 40s in September and October 2001.

Americans’ concerns about an attack in their own communities is quite a bit lower, more along the lines of worry about personally being a victim – a third worried, a tenth very much so. These worries peak at 40 percent in cities and 32 percent in suburbs; they’re lowest, 20 percent, in lower-population areas farther away from city centers.

STRESS – As it’s related to stockpiling, worry also is related to stress. Among people who are very worried about being a victim of terrorism, 65 percent say the issue has caused extra stress and anxiety in their lives, including 29 percent who say it’s caused them a lot of stress. Among those who aren’t worried about being a victim, just 11 percent feel any terrorism-related stress, and just two percent report a lot of it.

Looking at it another way, among people who are especially stressed about terrorism, two-thirds express a great deal of worry about another attack happening somewhere in the United States, and 56 percent are worried they might be a victim. Among those with no terrorism-related stress, such worries are vastly lower.



THE SEXES – Worry, and the stress that accompanies it, is higher among women than among men. Forty-two percent of women are worried about being a victim of terrorism, compared to 25 percent of men. And 35 percent of women express a “great deal” of worry about another attack somewhere in the country; that falls to 18 percent of men.

Similarly, women are nearly twice as apt as men to be worried about an attack in their own community, and 14 points more likely than men to report extra stress and anxiety in their lives because of the possibility of terrorism. (Still, few women or men are very worried about a local attack, or report a great deal of stress.)

	Men	Women
Worried about another attack somewhere in the U.S.	65%	79
Very worried about it	18	35

Worried about an attack in your own community	22	42
Very worried about it	7	13
Worried about being a victim	25	42
Very worried about it	8	13
Feel extra stress and anxiety	20	34
Feel a great deal of it	5	12

STOCKS – As noted, food and water are the main items being stockpiled; 17 and 14 percent of Americans, respectively, say they’ve laid in these supplies. Five percent say they have flashlights on hand in case of a problem; and three percent have taken the administration’s advice to lay in some duct tape.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Feb. 12-16, 2003, among a random national sample of 1,042 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork 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/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

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Results follow.

\*= less than 0.5 percent

1. 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	
2/16/03	72	27	45	27	18	9	1
9/8/02	74	22	52	26	19	7	0
7/15/02	73	29	44	27	20	7	*
4/21/02	73	30	43	26	18	9	*
3/10/02	70	23	47	30	21	9	1
12/19/01	70	27	43	29	22	8	1
10/15/01	77	35	43	23	14	9	0
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."

2. How concerned are you about the chance that you personally might be the victim of a terrorist attack - does that worry you a great deal, somewhat, not too much or not at all?

	-----Worried-----			-----Not worried-----			No op.
	NET	Grt.deal	Somewhat	NET	Not much	None	
2/16/03	34	10	23	65	37	28	2
9/8/02	32	7	25	68	35	33	*
11/6/01	35	10	25	64	33	31	*

3. How concerned are you about the possibility there will be a major terrorist attack in your own community where you live - is that something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?

	-----Worried-----			-----Not Worried-----			No op.
	NET	Grt.deal	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not all	
2/16/03	32	10	22	66	36	30	2
9/11/01	42	16	26	58	33	25	*

4. Has the possibility of a terrorist attack created extra stress and anxiety in your personal life, or not? (IF YES) Has it created a great deal of extra stress and anxiety, or not that much?

	-----Yes-----			No	No op.
	NET	Grt.deal	Not that much		
2/16/03	27	8	19	72	1

5. Do you happen to have stockpiled any items in your home to have on hand in case of a terrorist attack, or not?

	Yes	No	No op.
2/16/03	24	76	*

6. (IF YES, Q5) What items would those be?  
Q5/6 NET

	2/16/03
Food	17
Water	14
Flashlight	5
Duct tape	3
Batteries	3
Weapons	3
Medical supplies	2
Plastic sheeting	2
Radio	2
Tools	1
Clothes	1
Fuel	*
Candles	*
Items for heat	*
Gas masks	*
Other	1

7. (IF NO, Q5) Are you seriously considering stockpiling any items in your home in case of a terrorist attack, or not?

Q5/7 NET

	Seriously considering	Already have	Not considering	No op.
2/16/03	12	24	63	*

\*\*\*END\*\*\*