

## 2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion

### Introduction

The data reported here are from the 2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, detailing the views of American Jews about a broad range of subjects.

Among the topics covered in the present survey are the consequences of the September 11 terrorist attack on the United States, the Israel-Arab peace process, the attachment of American Jews to Israel, political and social issues in the United States, Jewish perceptions of anti-Semitism, Jewish opinion about various countries, and Jewish identity concerns. Some of the questions appearing in the survey are new; others are drawn from previous American Jewish Committee surveys, including the Annual Surveys of American Jewish Opinion carried out in 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000.

The 2001 survey was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Market Facts, Inc., a leading survey-research organization. Respondents were interviewed by telephone during November 19 - December 4, 2001; no interviewing took place on the Sabbath. The sample consisted of 1,015 self-identified Jewish respondents selected from the Market Facts consumer mail panel. The respondents are demographically representative of the United States adult Jewish population on a variety of measures. The margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

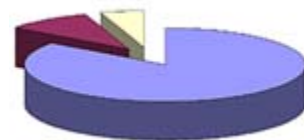
### 2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - Response to Terrorism

1. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, do you personally feel a lot less safe where you live and work, somewhat less safe, only a little less safe, or as safe as before?

A lot less safe 6  
Somewhat less safe 16  
Only a little less safe 29  
As safe as before 49  
Not sure 0

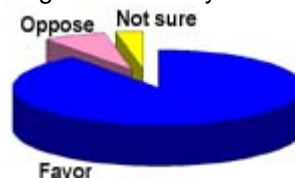
2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President George W. Bush is handling the U.S. campaign against terrorism?

Approve 85  
Disapprove 10  
Not sure 5



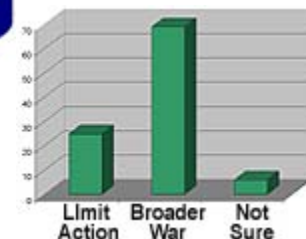
3. Do you favor or oppose the United States taking direct military action in Afghanistan?

Favor 91  
Not sure 3



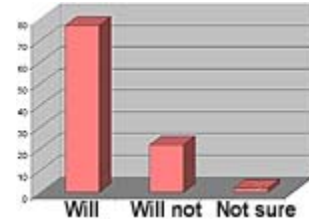
Oppose 7

4. Do you think the United States should limit its military action only to those groups or nations responsible for last month's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, or should the United States mount a broader war against terrorist groups and the nations that support them?



Limit action 25  
 Broader war 69  
 Not sure 6

5. Do you think that Americans will or will not have to give up some of their personal freedoms in order to make the country safe from terrorist attacks?



Will 77  
 Will not 22  
 Not sure 2

6. Here are some increased powers of investigation that law enforcement agencies might use when dealing with people suspected of terrorist activity, which would also affect our civil liberties. For each, please say if you would favor or oppose it.

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
a. Expand undercover activities to penetrate groups under suspicion.	92	7	2
b. Closer monitoring of banking and credit card transactions to trace funding sources	77	20	4
c. Adoption of a national I.D. system for all U.S. citizens.	70	27	4
d. Expanded camera surveillance on streets and in public places	66	31	3
e. Law enforcement monitoring of internet discussions in chat rooms and other forums.	55	42	4
f. Expanded government monitoring of cell phones and e-mail to intercept communications	50	46	4
g. Profiling of people and searching them based on their nationality, race, or religion.	32	66	3

**2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - Israel**

7. How close do you feel to Israel?

Very close 29  
 Fairly close 43  
 Fairly distant 21  
 Very distant 6  
 Not sure 1

8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew."

Agree 72  
 Disagree 26  
 Not sure 2

9. Looking ahead 3 to 5 years, do you see Jews in Israel and in the United States becoming closer, drifting apart, or neither?

Becoming closer 30  
 Drifting apart 7  
 Neither 59  
 Not sure 3

10. How would you characterize relations between Israel and the United States today? Are they very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

Very positive 15  
 Somewhat positive 70  
 Somewhat negative 13  
 Very negative 1  
 Not sure 1

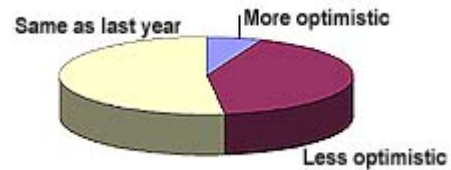
11. How concerned are you that the United States will pressure Israel to make concessions to the Palestinians in order to keep the Arab countries in the anti-terrorist coalition? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?

Very concerned 36  
 Somewhat concerned 44  
 Not concerned at all 19  
 Not sure 1



12. As compared with one year ago, are you now more optimistic about the chance for a lasting peace between Israel and the Arabs, less optimistic, or do you think the chance for a lasting peace is about the same as it was one year ago?

More optimistic now 6  
 Less optimistic now 42  
 Same as one year ago 52  
 Not sure 0

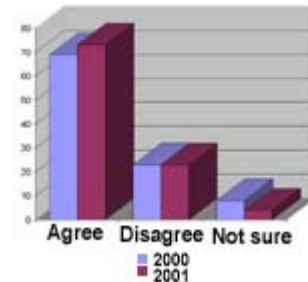


13. To what extent do each of the following Arab leaders support or oppose peace with Israel?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
a. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt	12	44	21	9	15
b. President Bashar Assad of Syria	1	13	27	39	20
c. King Abdullah of Jordan	15	41	19	8	17
d. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir Arafat	2	21	27	44	5

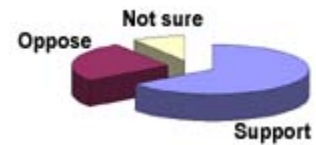
14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The goal of the Arabs is not the return of occupied territories but rather the destruction of Israel."

Agree 73  
 Disagree 23  
 Not sure 4



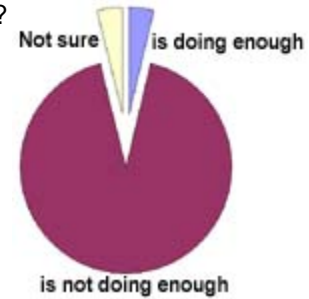
15. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's current handling of relations with Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority?

Support 65  
Oppose 26  
Not sure 9



16. Is Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority doing enough or not doing enough to control terrorist activity against Israel by Hamas and other Palestinian extremist groups?

Is doing enough 4  
Is not doing enough 93  
Not sure 4

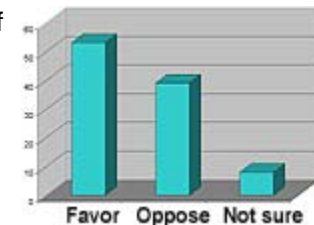


17. Some people assert that Yasir Arafat is Israel's Bin Laden. Do you agree or disagree with this assertion?

Agree 44  
Disagree 50  
Not sure 6

18. In the current situation, do you favor or oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state?

Favor 53  
Oppose 39  
Not sure 8



19. In the framework of a permanent peace with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to compromise on the status of Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli jurisdiction?

Yes 44  
No 50  
Not sure 6

20. As part of a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to dismantle all, some, or none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?

All 9  
Some 53  
None 34  
Not sure 4

21. How much land should Israel be willing to give up on the Golan Heights in order to reach a peace agreement with Syria?

All of it 2  
 Most of it 4  
 Some of it 26  
 Only a small part of it 27  
 None of it 36  
 Not sure 5

22. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Regardless of their individual views on the peace negotiations with the Arabs, American Jews should support the policies of the duly elected government of Israel."

Agree 60  
 Disagree 36  
 Not sure 5

**2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - National Affairs**

23. Do you think the number of immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come to the United States to live should be increased a lot, increased a little, left the same as it is now, decreased a little, or decreased a lot?

Increased a lot 3  
 Increased a little 6  
 Left the same as it is now 39  
 Decreased a little 21  
 Decreased a lot 28  
 Not sure 3

24. There are different opinions about immigrants from other countries living in America. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Not sure
a. "Immigrants increase crime rates."	3	17	19	46	14	2
b. "Immigrants are generally good for American's economy."	14	49	18	14	3	1
c. "Immigrants take jobs away from people who were born in America."	7	23	14	42	14	1
d. "Immigrants make America more open to new ideas and cultures."	22	60	8	8	1	0

25. Which do you think is better for the United States - to encourage immigrants to blend into American culture by giving up some important aspects of their own culture, or to encourage immigrants to maintain their own culture more strongly, even if that means they do not blend as well?

Blend in 59  
 Maintain own culture 31  
 Both 6  
 Not sure 5

26. Do you think that the government should or should not provide taxpayer funds for social service programs run by religious institutions, such as churches or synagogues?

Should 22  
 Should not 76  
 Not sure 2

27. Do you favor or oppose government aid to parochial or other religious schools?

Favor 21  
 Oppose 78  
 Not sure 2

28. I'm going to read you a list of political views that people might hold. They are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

Extremely liberal 3

Liberal 21

Slightly liberal 18

Moderate, middle of the road 32

Slightly conservative 12

Conservative 11

Extremely conservative 2

Not sure 2

**2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - International Jewish Issues**

29. I would like your opinion of some countries today. Is your overall opinion of (INSERT COUNTRY) very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	Very Fav.	Some Fav.	Neutral	Some Unval.	Very Unfav.	Not Sure
a. Iran	1	3	9	31	55	1
b. Australia	54	26	17	1	1	2
c. Saudi Arabia	1	11	17	40	28	2
d. Germany	12	36	31	14	6	1
e. Jordan	6	27	31	26	9	2
f. Egypt	3	26	33	27	10	1
g. Great Britain	67	23	8	1	1	1
h. Pakistan	2	18	26	33	21	1
i. Russia	5	43	37	12	2	1
j. France	15	35	28	16	5	1
k. The Vatican	11	26	42	15	5	2
l. Syria	1	5	17	35	42	2
m. Turkey	8	25	43	17	4	3
n. India	6	27	48	16	3	2

o. China	3	23	37	28	8	1
----------	---	----	----	----	---	---

30. Is your opinion of the United Nations very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Very favorable 19  
 Somewhat favorable 37  
 Neutral 23  
 Somewhat unfavorable 12  
 Very unfavorable 8  
 Not sure 0

### **2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - Jewish Identity**

31. How important would you say being Jewish is in your own life?

Very important 48  
 Fairly important 38  
 Not very important 14

32. Which one of the following qualities do you consider most important to your Jewish identity?

Being part of the Jewish people 40  
 Religious observance 14  
 Support for Israel 5  
 A commitment to social justice 20  
 Something else 21  
 Not sure 1

33. Do you think of yourself as . . .

Orthodox 7  
 Conservative 29  
 Reconstructionist 2  
 Reform 29  
 Just Jewish 33

34. In your opinion, which is a greater threat to Jewish life in the United States today-- intermarriage or anti-Semitism?

Intermarriage 27  
 Anti-Semitism 69  
 Both equally (Vol.) 3  
 Not sure 1

### **2001 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - Anti-Semitism**

35. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem 26  
 Somewhat of a problem 67  
 Not a problem at all 7

Not sure 0

36. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

Increase greatly 6  
Increase somewhat 33  
Remain the same 48  
Decrease somewhat 10  
Decrease greatly 1  
Not sure 2

37. In your opinion, what proportion of each of the following groups in the United States is anti-Semitic - most, many, some, very few, or none?

	Most	Many	Some	Very few	None	Not sure
a. Asians	2	3	31	45	12	8
b. Moslems	25	19	37	11	2	5
c. Hispanics	3	5	44	35	6	7
d. blacks	6	13	51	22	3	5
e. The Religious Right	26	20	35	11	3	6
f. Catholics	4	8	54	26	5	4
g. Mainstream Protestants	3	6	50	30	4	8
h. Fundamentalist Protestants	11	15	42	17	3	12
i. Arab Americans	22	21	41	10	1	5

38. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Virtually all positions of influence in the United States are open to Jews."

Agree 59  
Disagree 40  
Not sure 1

39. Do you think that anti-Semitism around the world is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem 38  
Somewhat of a problem 59  
Not a problem at all 2  
Not sure 0

40. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism around the world will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

Increase greatly 9  
Increase somewhat 38  
Remain the same 44  
Decrease somewhat 7  
Decrease greatly 1  
Not sure 2



