



American Jewish Committee
A Century of Leadership

Publications - Surveys

Russian-Jewish Opinion Survey 2004

Russian-Jewish Opinion Survey 2004

Research Institute for New Americans (RINA)

There were 789 Russian American individuals (American citizens) interviewed by phone in Russian language in the New York metro area from July 20 to August 25, 2004 . They were randomly selected from RINA's data base of 2,300 people who are representative of the entire Russian-speaking immigrant community in the area. All responses are in percentages.

Below is the raw data of the survey.*

*Due to rounding, figures may not add up to 100%

1. Geography and Age

Brooklyn	55
Queens	21
Manhattan	6
Staten Island	6
New Jersey	6
Bronx	1
Other	4

35 years old or below	10
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36 to 65 years old	48
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more then 65 years old	42
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2. Gender:

male	46
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female	54
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3. How long have you lived in the US ?

Arrived 1979 & prior	10
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Arrived between 1980 & 1989	13
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Arrived between 1990 & 1998	77
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4. What immigrant status did you have upon arrival?

Refugee	91
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Asylum	2
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Relative of American Citizen	3
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Parolee	1
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Other	1
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5. Family status:

Married	70
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Never been married	6
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Live separate from my wife/ husband	3
Divorced	8
Widowed	13
Live with partner	.4

6. How many children do you have?

1	34
2	55
3	9
4 or more	2

7. What republic did you live in prior to immigration to the U.S. ?

Ukraine	36
Russia	22
Uzbekistan	14
Belarus	11
Moldova	6
Tadjikistan	4
Latvia	2
Other	5

8. Do you have your first-degree relatives (spouse, children, parents, brothers/sisters) in the former Soviet Union?

Yes	22
No	78

9. How would you assess (on a 10-point scale) your proficiency in English (10 is the highest)?

1	7
2	10
3	15
4	11
5	11
6	7
7	9
8	11
9	8
10	12

10. Your education (highest level completed)?**In former USSR**

Less than complete secondary	6
Diploma of graduation from secondary school	7
Diploma of graduation from middle special Education institution	17
Incomplete Bachelor's degree	4
Complete Bachelor's degree	59
Academic (graduate degree)	7

In America

Less than complete high school	.4
Graduated from high school	.4
Completed a program of professional training	14
Associate degree	4
1-3 years of college	18
Bachelor's Degree	8
Master's or Doctor's degree (or equivalent)	6

Never studied in America 48

11. Where are you studying at the present time (*respondent may mark several answers*)?

Nowhere	91
Computer courses	.1
Professional courses	.5
Courses in English	2
High School	.1
College	3
Graduate School	1

12. Are you employed at the present time (including your own business and part time work)?

yes, I am employed full time	41
yes, I am employed part time	4
yes, I am running a business	2
no, I am not employed	53

13. In what range was the total annual income of your family in the last year (including salary, bank interest, SSI, Welfare and other incomes)?

under \$10,000 per year	35
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from \$10,000 to \$19,999	24
from \$20,000 to \$29,999	8
from \$30,000 to \$39,999	6
from \$40,000 to \$49,999	4
from \$50,000 to \$59,999	5
from \$60,000 to \$69,999	3
from \$70,000 to \$79,999	3
from \$80,000 to \$89,999	3
from \$90,000 to \$99,999	2
from \$100,000 to \$150,000	5
more than \$150,000 a year	3

	All	Employed
Below 30K	67	28
30-60K	15	30
60-90K	9	21
90-150K+	10	22

14. Do you consider yourself Jewish?

Definitely, yes	91
somewhat	3
no	5
hard to say	1

15. Does your spouse consider herself/himself Jewish?

Definitely, yes	67
somewhat	3
no	7

hard to say	1
I am not married	22

16. Do you consider your children to be Jewish?

I do not have children	11
I think all my children are Jewish	77
Some are Jewish, some not	4
None of my children are Jewish	4
Hard to say	4

17. 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	14
somewhat of a problem	41
not a problem at all	24
not sure	20

18. Do you think that anti-Semitism on American college campuses is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem	9
somewhat of a problem	16

not a problem at all	28
not sure	47

19. Do you think that anti-Semitism in Europe is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem	83
somewhat of a problem	7
not a problem at all	1
not sure	10

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

Very serious problem	85
somewhat of a problem	4
not a problem at all	1
not sure	11

21. In your opinion, what proportion of each of the following groups in the United States is anti-Semitic?

	Most	Many	Some	Very Few	None	Not Sure
Asians	3	10	11	17	14	45
Muslims	67	18	4	.4	.7	11

Hispanics	3	12	24	14	9	39
Blacks	7	30	31	10	3	19
Evangelical Protestants	1	7	9	13	9	61
Catholic Christians	3	13	20	20	7	37
Russian Orthodox Christians	5	21	23	14	5	32
Atheists	2	8	12	12	5	61

22. Which religion is the most attractive to you personally and to what extent?

Religion	Mostly	Partly	No
none	38	6	55
Judaism	76	14	10
Christianity	14	13	73
Buddhism	2	6	92
Islam	0.4	3	96
Hinduism	0.8	3	97
all religions are equally attractive to me	8	7	85

23. What role does religion play in your life?

Very important	6
Important	35
Not very important	36
None	19
Hard to say	5

24. Do you think the President should or should not allow his personal religious faith to guide him in making decisions as President?

Yes, he should	16
No, he should not	67
Not sure	17

25. As of today, are you a US citizen?

Yes	95
No	5

26. Are you a registered voter?

yes, I am registered as Democrat	38
yes, I am registered as Republican	19
yes, I am registered as Independent	18
yes, I am registered as other	1
No, I am not registered as voter	24

27. If you are not a registered voter, do you know how one can register?

Yes, I know	56
No, I do not know, but I would like to	31
I am not interested	13

28. Are you planning to participate in the November 2004 elections?

Yes, I am planning	81
Leaning toward participating in elections	5
Leaning toward not participating in elections	1
No, I am not planning	9
Not decided yet, hard to say	5

29. In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself:

Republican	32
Democrat	30
Independent	22
Don't know, hard to say	17

30. If presidential elections were to be held today, whom would you vote for?

	All	Registered voters	Likely voters
For George W. Bush	54	56	58
For John Kerry	14	18	18
For another candidate (indicate, please)	0.3	0.3	0.4
For no one	6	5	2
Not sure, haven't decided yet	25	22	22

31. Did you participate in the presidential elections in 2000?

Yes	50
No	49
Don't remember	1

32. If you participated, whom did you vote for?

For George W. Bush	38
Al Gore	56
For another candidate (indicate, please)	
For no one	2
Not sure, do not remember	4

33. 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	1
liberal	12
slightly liberal	5
moderate, middle of the road	22
slightly conservative	12
Conservative	11
extremely conservative	1
not sure	32
does not understand the question	5

34. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the United States government is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	84
Disapprove	9
Not sure	8

35. Do you approve or disapprove of the war with Iraq?

Approve	55
Disapprove	27
Not sure	18

36. Do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same as a result of the war with Iraq?

Increased	45
Decreased	15
Stayed about the same	30
Not sure	10

37. Should Americans be willing to give up some of their personal freedoms in order to make the country safe from possible terrorist attacks?

Yes	73
Maybe	14
No	5
Hard to say	8

38. Do you approve or disapprove how the current administration handles the economy?

Approve	38
Disapprove	24
Not sure	38

39. Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

Favor	77
Oppose	10
Not sure	13

40. 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	7
Increased a little	11
Left the same as it is	42
Decreased a little	10
Decreased a lot	5
Not sure	24

41. Abortions should be:

Legal under any circumstances	66
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Legal only under certain circumstances	26
Illegal in all circumstances	1
Not sure	6

42. Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the United States Constitution that defines marriage as a union only between a man and a woman and makes same-sex marriages unconstitutional?

Favor	81
Oppose	11
Not sure	8

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

Agree	88
Disagree	5
Not sure	8

44. Have you ever visited Israel?

No, I haven't visited it	51
Yes, I have visited it once	30
Yes, I have visited it twice	8
Yes, I have visited it 3 times or more	10

45. Do you have first-degree relatives (spouse, children, parents, brothers/sisters) in Israel?

Yes	45
No	54
Don't know	1

46. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The goal of the Arabs is the destruction of Israel, not merely the return of occupied territories."

Agree	83
Disagree	7
Don't know	10

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

Favor	26
Oppose	51
Not sure	23

48. In the framework of a permanent peace with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to compromise on the status of Jerusalem?

Yes	7
No	80
Don't know	13

49. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's decision to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip?

Favor	34
Oppose	36
Not sure	30

50. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's decision to build a security fence separating Israelis and Palestinians?

Support	88
Oppose	5
Not sure	30

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

Agree	79
Disagree	6
Not sure	14

52. Did you give any charitable donations during the last 12 months?

Yes	65
No	34

Don't remember	1
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53. Did you give any charitable donation to Jewish organizations or to the Jewish community during the last 12 months?

Yes	66
No	34
Don't remember	1

54. If you gave charitable donations to Jewish organizations or Jewish community in the last 12 months, indicate, please, the amount of you donations:

Less than \$50	47
\$50-\$99	21
\$100-\$299	18
\$300-\$499	4
\$500 or more	7
Don't remember	3

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