



CBS NEWS POLL
 For release: September 11th, 2009
 7:00 A.M. EDT

EIGHT YEARS LATER: AMERICA AND TERRORISM
 August 27-31, 2009

As the country marks the eight-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, only a third of Americans think another terror attack against the U.S. is likely in the coming months, and few think it very likely.

The Obama administration's policies get mixed results on the issue of terrorism. About half of all Americans think the United States is adequately prepared to deal with another terrorist attack, while 44% think it is not.

ASSESSING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON TERRORISM

A quarter of Americans thinks the policies of the Obama administration have made the U.S. safer from terrorism, though nearly as many - 23% - think they have made the country less safe. 42% of Americans think the Obama administration's policies have made no difference. These numbers are similar to what they were in April.

**HAS THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MADE
 THE U.S. SAFER FROM TERRORISM?**

	Now	4/2009
Safer	25%	23%
Less Safe	23	19
No Effect	42	49

Democrats are more inclined to think the policies of the Obama administration have made the country safer while Republicans are more likely to say they have made the country less safe, though a large number of both groups - as well as 44% of independents - think they have made no difference.

**HAS THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MADE
 THE U.S. SAFER FROM TERRORISM?**

	Now	Dems	Reps	Ind
Safer	25%	44%	7%	20%
Less Safe	23	5	44	26
No Effect	42	38	45	44

LOOKING AHEAD: IS AMERICA SAFE?

Most Americans - six in 10 - do not think a terrorist attack is likely within the next few months, the same proportion as in January. One in four thinks a terrorist attack is somewhat likely, but only 7% think one is very likely. Concern about an imminent terrorist attack has dropped steadily since the weeks right after September 11, 2001, when a majority of Americans thought another terrorist attack was very likely.

	LIKELIHOOD OF TERROR ATTACK IN U.S. SOON?				
	Now	1/2009	9/2007	8/2003	10/2001
Very	7%	5%	9%	15%	53%
Somewhat	25	29	39	49	35
Not very/at all	62	63	48	33	10

If an attack were to occur, Americans are divided as to whether or not the United States is adequately prepared to deal with another terrorist attack - though more think it is than is not. These numbers are not much different from what they were a year ago.

IS U.S. ADEQUATELY PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ANOTHER ATTACK?

	Now	9/2008	9/2007	8/2006	3/2003
Yes	50%	52%	39%	49%	64%
No	44	39	56	44	29

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1097 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone August 27-31, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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Eight Years Later: America and Terrorism
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q16 Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States safer from terrorism, less safe from terrorism, or have the policies of the Obama Administration not affected the U.S.' safety from terrorism?

	TOTAL RESPONDENTS					Apr09b
	Total	***** Party ID *****				
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%	
Safer	25	7	44	20	23	
Less safe	23	44	5	26	19	
No effect	42	45	38	44	49	
DK/NA	10	4	13	10	9	

q72 How likely do you think it is that there will be another terrorist attack in the United States within the next few months - very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

					Jan09a
Very likely	7	11	5	7	5
Somewhat likely	25	33	17	27	29
Not very likely	43	38	49	42	42
Not at all likely	19	13	24	19	21
Already happened (Vol.)	0	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	6	5	5	5	3

q73 In general, do you think the United States is adequately prepared to deal with another terrorist attack, or not?

					Sep08a
Prepared	50	48	55	47	52
Not	44	44	39	48	39
DK/NA	6	8	6	5	9

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1097	
Total Republicans	296	276 (25%)
Total Democrats	375	394 (36%)
Total Independents	426	427 (39%)