

1101 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 200  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 (202) 463-7300

Interview dates: January 5-7, 2004  
 Interviews: 1,000 adults  
 Margin of error:  $\pm 3.1$  for all adults

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL  
 CONDUCTED BY IPSOS-PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
 RELEASE DATE: JANUARY 21, 2004**

**NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.**

**(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE.)**

7a. In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing the U.S. today? **(PROBE:)** What are some other important problems facing the U.S.?

	ALL ADULTS			
	1/5-7/04	10/7-9/03	7/8-10/03	4/1-3/03
	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs
<b>FOREIGN AFFAIRS (net)</b> .....	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>51</b>
Terrorism, terrorist attacks .....	21	15	14	20
<b>War (subnet)</b> .....	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>
Wars, unrest throughout the world .....	8	7	6	17
War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq) .....	5	5	2	5
Immigration, letting too many people in, lack of security .....	5	1	3	4
Too much focus on other countries, need to be tougher on other countries .....	4	2	3	2
Improve defense, military readiness.....	4	4	3	3
Other foreign affairs mentions .....	6	8	8	6
<b>DOMESTIC ISSUES (net)</b> .....	<b>44</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Education (subnet)</b> .....	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
Education (unspecified).....	6	7	8	8
Lack of funding for schools .....	1	1	2	1
More structure in schools, standardized.....	-	-	-	-
Uneducated people (e.g. literacy issues) .....	-	-	-	-
Problems with public schools .....	-	-	-	-
Other education mentions .....	1	1	2	1
<b>Political Leaders (subnet)</b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Government, politicians (other mentions).....	3	3	3	3
The president, George W. Bush in office .....	1	1	3	2
<b>Morality (subnet)</b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
Morals, moral decay.....	1	1	3	1
Not family oriented, family values, breakdown of family unit .....	-	1	-	1
Race relations, racism.....	-	1	1	1
Youth, no respect for elders, how kids behave .....	-	-	1	1
Don't care for others, people don't care .....	-	1	-	1
Other morality mentions .....	2	3	3	3
<b>Environment (subnet)</b> .....	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

Q.7a (cont.)

	<b>ALL ADULTS</b>			
	<i>1/5-7/04</i>	<i>10/7-9/03</i>	<i>7/8-10/03</i>	<i>4/1-3/03</i>
	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>
<b>DOMESTIC ISSUES (cont.)</b>				
Environment, pollution (unspecified) .....	2	2	3	3
Other environmental mentions .....	1	-	-	1
<b><u>Crime/Drugs (subnet)</u></b> .....	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Drugs, issues related to drug use, abuse.....	1	-	1	2
Crime (unspecified) .....	1	1	1	1
Violence, domestic violence .....	1	1	-	1
Teen violence (e.g. violence at schools, gangs) .....	-	-	-	-
Other crime mentions .....	-	-	1	1
<b><u>Energy Crisis (subnet)</u></b> .....	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	-	<b>2</b>
Gas prices .....	-	1	-	1
Energy (unspecified) .....	-	-	-	-
Oil shortage .....	-	-	-	-
Other energy crisis mentions .....	-	-	-	1
<b><u>Other Domestic Issues (subnet)</u></b> .....	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
Health care, coverage .....	19	14	15	15
Poverty, hunger, homelessness .....	5	3	5	6
Social Security .....	3	-	2	1
Abortion.....	2	1	-	2
<b><u>ECONOMY (net)</u></b> .....	<b>38</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>
Economy (unspecified).....	18	33	31	31
Unemployment, lack of jobs .....	14	13	15	9
Taxes, taxes are too high .....	2	3	2	4
Cost of living is too high .....	1	2	1	2
Corporate irresponsibility, corruption, fraud, deception, accounting scandals .....	-	-	-	-
Stock market uncertainty, devaluation .....	-	-	1	1
Other economy mentions .....	6	9	3	5
<b><u>OTHER</u></b> .....	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Nothing, nothing else .....	1	-	-	-
Not sure .....	4	3	4	3

**(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE.)**

7a. In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing the U.S. today? **(PROBE:)** What are some other important problems facing the U.S.?

	<b>ALL ADULTS</b>	
	<b>4/1-3/03</b>	<b>1/7-9/03</b>
	<b>Most Imp. Probs</b>	<b>Most Imp. Probs</b>
<b><u>FOREIGN AFFAIRS (net)</u></b> .....	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>
Terrorism, terrorist attacks .....	20	23
Wars, unrest throughout the world .....	17	13
War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq) .....	5	5
Immigration, letting too many people in, lack of security .....	4	1
Improve defense, military readiness.....	3	3
Too much focus on other countries, need to be tougher on other countries .....	2	2
Other foreign affairs mentions .....	6	11
<b><u>ECONOMY (net)</u></b> .....	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>
Economy (unspecified).....	31	36
Unemployment, lack of jobs .....	9	9
Taxes, taxes are too high .....	4	3
Cost of living is too high .....	2	1
Stock market uncertainty, devaluation .....	1	1
Corporate irresponsibility, corruption, fraud, deception, accounting scandals.....	-	1
Other economy mentions .....	5	3
<b><u>DOMESTIC ISSUES (net)</u></b> .....	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>
<b><u>Education (subnet)</u></b> .....	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
Education (unspecified).....	8	8
Lack of funding for schools.....	1	1
More structure in schools, standardized.....	-	-
Uneducated people (e.g. literacy issues) .....	-	-
Problems with public schools .....	-	-
Other education mentions .....	1	1
<b><u>Political Leaders (subnet)</u></b> .....	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
Government, politicians (other mentions).....	3	4
The president, George W. Bush in office.....	2	2
<b><u>Morality (subnet)</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Morals, moral decay .....	1	-
Race relations, racism.....	1	-
Don't care for others, people don't care.....	1	-
Not family oriented, family values, breakdown of family unit.....	1	1
Youth, no respect for elders, how kids behave.....	1	-
Other morality mentions .....	3	4
<b><u>Crime/Drugs (subnet)</u></b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
Drugs, issues related to drug use, abuse .....	2	1
Crime (unspecified) .....	1	1
Violence, domestic violence .....	1	-
Teen violence (e.g. violence at schools, gangs).....	-	1
Other crime mentions .....	1	-

Q.7a (cont.)

	ALL ADULTS	
	4/1-3/03	1/7-9/03
	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs
<b>DOMESTIC ISSUES</b> (cont.)		
<b>Environment (subnet)</b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
Environment, pollution (unspecified).....	3	3
Other environmental mentions.....	1	-
<b>Energy Crisis (subnet)</b> .....	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Gas prices.....	1	1
Energy (unspecified).....	-	-
Oil shortage .....	-	1
Other energy crisis mentions .....	1	-
<b>Other Domestic Issues (subnet)</b> .....	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>
Health care, coverage.....	15	11
Poverty, hunger, homelessness.....	6	5
Abortion .....	2	1
Social Security .....	1	3
<b>OTHER</b> .....	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>
Nothing, nothing else .....	-	-
Not sure .....	3	3

**(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE.)**

7a. In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing the U.S. today? **(PROBE:)** What are some other important problems facing the U.S.?

	<b>ALL ADULTS</b>			
	10/1-3/02	7/11-14/02	4/12-14/02	1/4-6/02
	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs
<b><u>FOREIGN AFFAIRS (net)</u></b> .....	<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>
Terrorism, terrorist attacks .....	29	32	26	31
Wars, unrest throughout the world ....	10	5	9	3
War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq).....	9	-	-	-
Immigration, letting too many people in, lack of security.....	3	3	1	2
Improve defense, military readiness .....	1	1	2	2
Too much focus on other countries, need to be tougher on other countries .....	1	3	-	1
Other foreign affairs mentions .....	7	4	6	2
<b><u>ECONOMY (net)</u></b> .....	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>
Economy (unspecified).....	23	20	7	14
Unemployment, lack of jobs .....	7	5	3	8
Stock market uncertainty, devaluation.....	5	4	-	1
Corporate irresponsibility, corruption, fraud, deception, accounting scandals .....	2	9	-	-
Taxes, taxes are too high.....	1	2	1	2
Cost of living is too high .....	1	-	-	-
Other economy mentions .....	6	7	3	6
<b><u>DOMESTIC ISSUES (net)</u></b> .....	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>
<b><u>Education (net)</u></b> .....	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
Education (unspecified).....	5	9	2	2
Problems with public schools .....	2	3	-	1
Lack of funding for schools .....	2	1	1	-
More structure in schools, standardized .....	-	-	-	1
Uneducated people (e.g. literacy issues).....	-	1	-	-
Other education mentions .....	1	1	1	1
<b><u>Morality (net)</u></b> .....	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
Morals, moral decay.....	3	5	3	2
Not family oriented, family values, breakdown of family unit .....	1	1	2	1
Race relations, racism.....	1	-	-	1
Youth, no respect for elders, how kids behave .....	1	1	-	-
Don't care for others, people don't care .....	-	-	-	-
Other morality mentions .....	3	1	1	-
<b><u>Crime/Drugs (net)</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Crime (unspecified).....	1	1	-	-

Q.7a (cont.)

	<b>ALL ADULTS</b>			
	10/1-3/02	7/11-14/02	4/12-14/02	1/4-6/02
	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>
<b>DOMESTIC ISSUES (cont.)</b>				
Drugs, issues related to drug use, abuse .....	1	2	2	1
Violence, domestic violence .....	-	2	1	-
Teen violence (e.g. violence at schools, gangs) .....	-	-	-	-
Other crime mentions .....	2	1	1	-
<b><u>Environment (net)</u></b> .....	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Environment, pollution (unspecified) .....	2	3	1	1
Other environmental mentions .....	-	1	1	-
<b><u>Energy Crisis (net)</u></b> .....	<b>1</b>	-	<b>2</b>	-
Oil shortage .....	-	-	-	-
Energy (unspecified) .....	-	-	1	-
Gas prices .....	-	-	-	-
Other energy crisis mentions .....	-	-	1	-
<b><u>Other Domestic Issues (net)</u></b> .....	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
Health care, coverage .....	15	15	7	5
Poverty, hunger, homelessness .....	5	4	3	2
Social Security .....	3	2	-	1
Abortion .....	1	-	-	-
<b><u>POLITICAL LEADERS (net)</u></b> .....	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Government, politicians (other mentions) .....	5	3	3	1
The president, George W. Bush in office .....	2	2	-	1
<b><u>OTHER (net)</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>
Other comments .....	5	7	14	5
Nothing, nothing else .....	-	-	7	-
Not sure .....	2	3	5	3

**(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE.)**

7a. In your opinion, what are the most important problems facing the U.S. today? **(PROBE:)** What are some other important problems facing the U.S.?

	<b>ALL ADULTS</b>			
	10/1-3/02	7/11-14/02	4/12-14/02	1/4-6/02
	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs	Most Imp. Probs
<b><u>FOREIGN AFFAIRS (net)</u></b> .....	<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>
Terrorism, terrorist attacks .....	29	32	26	31
Wars, unrest throughout the world ....	10	5	9	3
War with Iraq (any mentions about Iraq).....	9	-	-	-
Immigration, letting too many people in, lack of security .....	3	3	1	2
Improve defense, military readiness .....	1	1	2	2
Too much focus on other countries, need to be tougher on other countries .....	1	3	-	1
Other foreign affairs mentions.....	7	4	6	2
<b><u>ECONOMY (net)</u></b> .....	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>
Economy (unspecified).....	23	20	7	14
Unemployment, lack of jobs .....	7	5	3	8
Stock market uncertainty, devaluation.....	5	4	-	1
Corporate irresponsibility, corruption, fraud, deception, accounting scandals.....	2	9	-	-
Taxes, taxes are too high.....	1	2	1	2
Cost of living is too high .....	1	-	-	-
Other economy mentions .....	6	7	3	6
<b><u>DOMESTIC ISSUES (net)</u></b> .....	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>20</b>
<b><u>Education (net)</u></b> .....	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
Education (unspecified).....	5	9	2	2
Problems with public schools .....	2	3	-	1
Lack of funding for schools .....	2	1	1	-
More structure in schools, standardized .....	-	-	-	1
Uneducated people (e.g. literacy issues).....	-	1	-	-
Other education mentions .....	1	1	1	1
<b><u>Morality (net)</u></b> .....	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
Morals, moral decay.....	3	5	3	2
Not family oriented, family values, breakdown of family unit .....	1	1	2	1
Race relations, racism.....	1	-	-	1
Youth, no respect for elders, how kids behave.....	1	1	-	-
Don't care for others, people don't care .....	-	-	-	-
Other morality mentions .....	3	1	1	-
<b><u>Crime/Drugs (net)</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Crime (unspecified).....	1	1	-	-

Q.7a (cont.)

	<b>ALL ADULTS</b>			
	10/1-3/02	7/11-14/02	4/12-14/02	1/4-6/02
	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>	Most Imp. <u>Probs</u>
<b>DOMESTIC ISSUES (cont.)</b>				
Drugs, issues related to drug use, abuse .....	1	2	2	1
Violence, domestic violence.....	-	2	1	-
Teen violence (e.g. violence at schools, gangs).....	-	-	-	-
Other crime mentions.....	2	1	1	-
<b><u>Environment (net)</u></b> .....	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Environment, pollution (unspecified) .....	2	3	1	1
Other environmental mentions .....	-	1	1	-
<b><u>Energy Crisis (net)</u></b> .....	<b>1</b>	-	<b>2</b>	-
Oil shortage.....	-	-	-	-
Energy (unspecified) .....	-	-	1	-
Gas prices.....	-	-	-	-
Other energy crisis mentions .....	-	-	1	-
<b><u>Other Domestic Issues (net)</u></b> .....	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
Health care, coverage.....	15	15	7	5
Poverty, hunger, homelessness.....	5	4	3	2
Social Security .....	3	2	-	1
Abortion.....	1	-	-	-
<b><u>POLITICAL LEADERS (net)</u></b> .....	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Government, politicians (other mentions).....	5	3	3	1
The president, George W. Bush in office.....	2	2	-	1
<b><u>OTHER (net)</u></b> .....	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>
Other comments .....	5	7	14	5
Nothing, nothing else .....	-	-	7	-
Not sure .....	2	3	5	3