

Wisconsin Public Radio & St. Norbert College Survey Center

THE WISCONSIN SURVEY

Situation in Iraq and the War on Terror

Spring 2004

Survey Information:

Number of Adult Wisconsin Resident Respondents: 402

Interview Period: April 14 – April 21, 2004

Margin of Error: +/- 5% at the 95% confidence level.

Contact:

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Survey Highlights

- The majority of respondents (54%) feel we did the right thing by taking military action against Iraq, while 40% think we should have stayed out (6% were not sure).
- Similarly, 42% said they feel we are winning the War on Terrorism, while 33% think we are losing, 15% think it is a draw, and 9% are unsure.
- The plurality of respondents (i.e., the category of response that has the highest response rate, but is not necessarily a majority) feel things are going *moderately well* for the US in Iraq.
- However, 39% feel we are doing *moderately or very well* (only 4% said we are doing *very well*), compared to 60% of respondents saying we are doing *moderately or very badly* (29% said *moderately badly* and 31% said *very badly*).
- Also, despite feeling like we did the right thing and that we are winning the War on Terrorism, the majority of respondents feel we are less safe due to the US's military action in Iraq (54% of respondents said this). Less than a third (32%) feel we are safer, 8% think it has not changed, and 6% are unsure.
- This is particularly curious given that the President's approval rating for his handling the War on Terrorism at home is 61%, much higher than his approval rating for the War on Terrorism overseas (52% approval rating) and 35% approval for handling the situation in Iraq.
- Only 6% of those who say it was the right thing to intervene in Iraq think things are going very well for the US there, though the majority (55%) of them say we are doing moderately well. Only 8% of those who say it was the wrong thing to intervene say we are doing moderately well in Iraq.

- The majority (56%) of respondents who feel it was the right thing to intervene in Iraq feel safer due to this intervention compared to only 6% who feel it was the wrong thing to do.
- Over two-thirds (68%) of those who feel it was right to intervene in Iraq also think we are winning the War on Terrorism in general. Whereas, only 18% of those who say it was wrong to intervene in Iraq feel we are winning the War on Terrorism.
- Similarly, 63% of those who feel we are winning the War on Terrorism feel safer compared to only 6% of those who feel we are losing the War on Terrorism. This follows for assessment of how well we are doing in Iraq. Those who think we are doing moderately or very well are much more likely to feel safer after the intervention than those who feel things are going moderately or very badly in Iraq.
- Not surprisingly, party identification is highly related to all of these questions. Democrats tend to feel less safe than Republicans; only 17% of Democrats feels safer after our intervention in Iraq compared to 57% of Republicans.
- Only 27% of Democrats feel we are winning the War on Terrorism compared to 73% of Republicans. Twenty-three percent (23%) of Democrats feel we are doing moderately to very well in Iraq, compared to 68% of Republicans.
- The Independents are typically somewhere in between; 31% of Independents feel safer after having intervened in Iraq, 46% feel we are winning the War on Terrorism, 28% say we are doing very or moderately well in Iraq, and 51% think it was right to intervene in Iraq.
- Gender was a significant factor in feelings about safety and assessment of how well we are doing in Iraq.
- Women feel less safe than men in the aftermath of intervention in Iraq; 63% of women feel less safe compared to 51% of men.
- Sixty-five percent (65%) of women feel we are doing moderately or very badly in Iraq compared to 56% of men.
- There was no significant difference between men and women and their assessment of whether we are winning the War on Terrorism or not, and whether intervening in Iraq was the right thing to do or not.
- There are a few differences between age groups; younger people are more likely to think that we did the right thing by intervening in Iraq than older people. For those under 45, approval of intervening in Iraq ranged from 63% for 18 to 24 year-olds, to 71% for those 35 to 44. After this peak, percentage approval declines with a low of 49% approval among those over 65.

FREQUENCIES

Looking back, do you think that the US did the right thing in taking military action to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq or should the US have stayed out?

- Did the Right Thing.....54%
- Should Have Stayed Out.....40%
- Not Sure.....6%
- Refused.....1%

In general, how would you say things are going for the US in Iraq: very well, moderately well, moderately badly, or very badly?

- Very Well.....4%
- Moderately Well.....35%
- Moderately Badly.....29%
- Very Badly.....31%
- Not Sure.....2%
- Refused.....1%

Do you think the war with Iraq has made the US more safe or less safe from terrorism?

- More Safe.....32%
- Less.....54%
- No Change (volunteered).....8%
- Not Sure.....6%
- Refused.....< 1%

Do you think the United States is winning or losing the war on terrorism?

- Winning.....42%
- Losing.....33%
- Neither / A Draw (volunteered).....15%
- Not Sure.....9%
- Refused.....1%

As a reference, approval ratings for the President’s handling of...

	Approve	Disapprove
The War on Terrorism overseas not including Iraq	59%	39%
Policies to protect us at home against terrorism	68%	30%
The situation with Iraq	40%	57%
The Economy	38%	59%

Note: Percentages will not add to 100% due to the omission of "not sure" and "refused" categories.
Please see the press release on presidential approval for a full review.