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AARP Bulletin Survey on 9/11

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This year marks the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. To understand ways in which the public has changed as a result of those events, the *AARP Bulletin* commissioned a nationwide survey. Interviews were conducted for AARP by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS) July 20-24, 2011, among a nationally representative sample of adults at least 18 years old. The key findings are presented below followed by more detailed analysis.

Key findings

- **Half (51%) of adults think 9/11 changed the country for the worse.** Few (14%) think it did not change the country at all while just over a quarter (28%) think it changed the country for the better.
- **More than seven in ten adults say 9/11 had the following effects:**
 - Made them appreciate their friends and/or family more (77%)
 - Increased their awareness of events overseas (73%)
 - Increased their appreciation of local police and/or firefighters (72%)
- **Four to six in ten adults say 9/11 had the following effects:**
 - Increased their patriotism (61%)
 - Made them more concerned about their personal safety (48%)
 - Made them more suspicious of others (46%)
 - Increased their faith (44%)
- **Two to three in ten adults say 9/11 had the following effects:**
 - Prompted them to create an emergency plan and/or disaster supplies kit (30%)
 - Prompted them to volunteer (29%)
 - Made them less likely to travel by air (26%)
 - Led them or someone they know to join the military (26%)
- **Fewer than one in ten adults say 9/11 had the following effect:**
 - Prompted them to move (5%)

DETAILED FINDINGS

Effect on the country

Overall, half (51%) of adults think 9/11 has changed the country for the worse. This increases to 55% of adults at least 50 years old (versus 47% of those age 18-49) and increases to 59% of those whose annual household income is at least \$50,000 (versus 47% of those with less income).

Appreciation of friends and family

More than seven in ten adults (77%) say that 9/11 made them appreciate their friends and/or family more. This figure increases to 84% of women (compared with 70% of men), 81% of

those whose annual household income is less than \$50,000 (compared with 70% who earn more), and 80% of those with a high school degree or less as well as 79% of those with some college education (compared with 69% of those with a college degree or more education). Responses do not vary by age.

Awareness of events overseas

More than seven in ten adults (73%) say that 9/11 increased their awareness of events overseas. Responses do not vary by gender, age, income or education.

Appreciation of local police and/or firefighters

More than seven in ten adults (72%) say that 9/11 increased their appreciation of local police and/or firefighters. This figure increases to 77% of women (compared with 66% of men). Responses do not vary by age, income or education.

Patriotism

Six in ten adults (61%) say that 9/11 increased their patriotism. This figure increases to 66% of adults at least 50 years old (compared with 57% of those younger) and 67% of those with a high school degree or less (compared with 55% of those with some college education and 57% of those with a college degree or more education). Responses do not vary by gender or income.

Concern about personal safety

More than four in ten adults (48%) say that 9/11 made them more concerned about their personal safety. This figure increases to 54% for women (compared with 42% of men) and 53% of those with a high school degree or less education (compared with 44% of those with some college education and 43% of those with a college degree or more education). This figure increases to 61% of those age 45-54, compared with only 43% of those age 18-34, 48% of those age 35-44, 47% of those age 55-64, and 46% of those at least 65 years old. Responses do not vary by income.

Suspicion

More than four in ten adults (46%) say that 9/11 made them more suspicious of others. This figure increases to 50% for adults at least 50 years old (compared with 42% of younger adults) and 52% of those with a high school degree or less education (compared with 40% of those with some college education and 42% of those with a college degree or more education).

Faith

More than four in ten adults (44%) say that 9/11 increased their faith. This figure increases to 48% of women (compared with 39% of men), to 49% of adults at least 50 years old (compared with 41% of younger adults), to 50% of those whose annual household income is under \$50,000 (compared with 32% of those who earn more), and 55% of those with a high school

degree or less education (compared with 35% of those with some college education and 33% of those with a college degree or more education).

Emergency plan and/or disaster supplies kit

Three in ten adults (30%) say that 9/11 prompted them to create an emergency plan and/or disaster supplies kit. This figure increases to 36% for those with a high school degree or less education (compared with 22% of those with some college education and 27% of those with a college degree or more education). Responses do not vary by gender, age or income.

Volunteerism

More than two in ten adults (29%) say that 9/11 prompted them to volunteer. This figure increases to 33% for those aged 18-49 (compared with 23% of older adults). Responses do not vary by gender, income or education.

Air travel

More than two in ten adults (26%) say that 9/11 made them less likely to travel by air. This figure increases to 30% for those with a high school degree or less education (compared with 24% of those with some college education and 20% of those with a college degree or more education). Responses do not vary by gender, age or income.

Military enrollment

More than two in ten adults (26%) say that 9/11 led them or someone they know to join the military. This figure increases to 31% for men (compared with 22% of women) and to 30% of those age 18-49 (compared with 21% of older adults). Responses do not vary by income or education.

Relocation

Fewer than one in ten adults (5%) say that 9/11 prompted them to move. This increases to 8% of those with a high school degree or less education (compared with 1% of those with some college education and 5% of those with a college degree or more education). Responses do not vary by gender, age or income.

Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted for AARP by Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS), an independent research firm. Interviews were conducted July 20-24, 2011, among a nationally representative sample of 1,003 adults age 18 and older. The margin of error for total respondents is $\pm 3.09\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

Bulletin Survey on 9/11 Annotated Questionnaire

This study was conducted for AARP via telephone by ICR/SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from July 20– July 24, 2011 among a nationally representative sample of 1,003 respondents age 18 and older. The margin of error for total respondents is +/-3% at the 95% confidence level.

Do you think 9/11 [PRONOUNCED “nine eleven”] has changed the country (ROTATE: For the better/For the worse), or not changed it at all?

	Total	Aged 18-49	Aged 50+
For the better	28%	30%	27%
For the worse	51%	47%	55%
Not changed it at all	14%	16%	11%
Don't know (VOL)	6%	6%	7%
Refused (VOL)	1%	<0.5%	1%

Has 9/11 [PRONOUNCED “nine eleven”] changed you or how you live in any of the following ways? Has it... (SCRAMBLE ROTATE)

	% who said “yes”		
	Total	Aged 18-49	Aged 50+
Made you appreciate your friends and/or family more	77%	78%	78%
Increased your awareness of events overseas	73%	71%	76%
Increased your appreciation of local police and/or firefighters	72%	69%	76%
Increased your patriotism	61%	57%	66%
Made you more concerned about your personal safety	48%	47%	49%
Made you more suspicious of others	46%	42%	50%
Increased your faith	44%	41%	49%
Prompted you to create an emergency plan and/or disaster supplies kit	30%	33%	27%
Prompted you to volunteer	29%	33%	23%
Made you less likely to travel by air	26%	24%	28%
Led you or someone you know to join the military	26%	30%	21%
Prompted you to move	5%	7%	3%