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# Hamilton College Muslim America Poll

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The Hamilton College Muslim America Poll is the latest in a series of polls conducted by Hamilton students and faculty in collaboration with the polling firm Zogby International. The poll was funded by Hamilton's Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center.

**May 30, 2002**



## **HAMILTON COLLEGE MUSLIM AMERICA POLL**

### ***Executive Summary***

American Muslims do not trust the Bush administration to deal equitably between Israelis and Palestinians in the current conflict, according to a new national poll conducted by researchers at Hamilton College. The Hamilton Muslim America

## **THE HAMILTON COLLEGE MUSLIM AMERICA POLL: ANALYSIS**

By Dennis Gilbert  
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The Hamilton College Muslim America Poll is one of the few recent surveys of the Muslim population in the United States. Over 500 Muslims, most of them U.S. citizens, were contacted by telephone in late April 2002 and polled regarding the war on terrorism, related foreign policy issues, and their own experiences of discrimination and harassment since September 11. The poll was designed and analyzed by the Hamilton researchers. It was funded by Hamilton's Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center and

Muslim Americans.

The poll asked American Muslims about incidents of "anti-Muslim discrimination,

conflict -- probably reinforced, during the polling period, by the Israeli invasion of Palestinian territories and the Bush administration's wavering efforts to mediate. Seventy-five percent "strongly agree" with the statement "the U.S. has always sided with the Israelis against the Palestinians." Sixty percent reject the idea that the Bush administration "is trying to bring about a fair peace between Palestinians and Israelis."

With regard to another preoccupation of American foreign policy, the Iraqi regime, American.1(ty-an.1((u)5.7(s)6)c Tw[/79.1(0)t polal" w.1(0)sym.7(hetic )-10(an)3.7(o-5.6(im)4s br pno(e Pe



60/40 split between men and women. The reweighting had little affect on the final results (under 2 percent on opinion questions).

The Hamilton researchers are grateful for advice on the Muslim America questionnaire from Zahid Bukhari (Georgetown University), Mohamed Nimer (Council on American-Islamic Relations), Myra Hamid (Hamilton '02), and Shahzada Ahmad (Hamilton '01).



## Appendix

### DETAILED POLL RESULTS

*Rewighted for sex. NS/Ref = not sure or refused.*

#### 1) MUSLIM

Are you a Muslim?

	Freq	%
1) Yes	521	100.0
TOTAL	521	100.0

#### 2) REGION

Region

	Freq	%
1) East	131	25.1
2) South	90	17.3
3) Midwest	141	27.0
4) West	159	30.6
TOTAL	521	100.0

#### 3) PLACE

First, which of the following best describes where you live? If you are living away from home, please answer the questions in this section with regard to your family's residence. Rural area, Small town, Suburb, Medium-sized city, Large city, over 500,000.

	Freq	%
1) Rural	24	4.6
2) SmTown	53	10.2
3) Suburb	109	20.9
4) Mid-City	133	25.5
5) Lrg-City	199	38.2
6) NS	3	0.6
TOTAL	521	100.0

#### 4) MOSQUE

Approximately how close is the nearest Mosque to your home? Under 30 minutes, thirty minutes to an hour, or over an hour?

	Freq	%
1) UND30	431	82.7
2) 30-60	65	12.6
3) OV60	18	3.4
4) NS	7	1.3
TOTAL	521	100.0

5) RESTRICT

Have you or other Muslims you know personally in the area had problems with restrictions on religious expression at work? For example, you were refused the right to wear a hijab or a beard, or denied the opportunity to take time for Friday prayers or Eid (Ee-d) by an employer?

	Freq	%
1) Yes	95	18.2
2) No	422	80.9
3) NS/Ref	4	0.8
TOTAL	521	100.0

6) B4SEP11

Other than restrictions on religious expression at work, do you know of any discrimination, harassment, or attacks against individual Muslims, Islamic institutions, or Muslim-owned businesses that took place in your area before Sept 11?

	Freq	%
1) Yes	110	21.1
2) No	406	77.8
3) NS/Ref	6	1.1
TOTAL	521	100.0

7) SINCE911

Do you know of any incidents of this sort in your area, since Sept. 11?

	Freq	%
1) Yes	310	59.5
2) No	206	39.6
3) NS/Ref	5	0.9
TOTAL	521	100.0

8) KNOW

Aside from restrictions on religious expression at work, do you personally know of any Muslim in your area who has suffered anti-Muslim discrimination, harassment, verbal abuse, or physical attack since Sept. 11?

	Freq	%
1) Yes	272	52.3
2) No	243	46.5
3) NS/Ref	6	1.2
TOTAL	521	100.0

9) SELF

Have you yourself experienced any abuse of this sort since Sept.  
11?

13) AMERICANS

How would you rate the attitude of most Americans toward Muslims in the United States today? Very friendly, Friendly, Neutral, Hostile, or Very Hostile?

	Freq	%
1) VFriend	43	8.2
2) Friend	120	23.0
3) Neutral	198	38.1
4) Hostile	112	21.4
5) VHostile	26	5.0
6) NS/Ref	22	4.2
TOTAL	521	100.0

14) BINLAD

Some say that the Al Qaeda network led by Osama Bin Laden was responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Others say that some other group was responsible. Who do you think was responsible?

	Freq.	%
1) AlQaeda	177	34.0
2) Other	114	21.8
3) NS/Ref	230	44.2
TOTAL	521	100.0

15) USWAR

Some describe the U.S. worldwide response to the Sept. 11 attacks as a war on terrorism. Others say it is a war on Islam. Which do you think is more accurate?

	Freq	%
1) Terror	210	40.3
2) Islam	170	32.7
3) Neither	46	8.8
4) Both	57	11.0
5) NS/Ref	38	7.3
TOTAL	521	100.0

16) FEDS

Since Sept. 11, the FBI and other federal law enforcement agents have questioned thousands of Muslims in the U.S. and arrested hundreds. Some people say these actions are necessary to protect the country from a terrorist threat. Others say they are unwarranted abuses of civil liberties. Which opinion comes closer to your own?

	Freq	%
1) Protect	102	19.5
2) Abuse	326	62.6
3) Neither	15	2.8
4) Both	48	9.1
5) NS/Ref	31	6.0
TOTAL	521	100.0

17) AFGHAN

U.S. military action in Afghanistan after Sept 11 was justified under the circumstances. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?

	Freq	%
1) StrAg	127	24.3
2) SomAg	140	26.8
3) SomDis	84	16.1
4) StrDis	139	26.6
5) NS/Ref	32	6.2
TOTAL	521	100.0

18) PALISTN

The U.S. has always sided with the Israelis against the Palestinians.

	Freq	%
1) Str Agree	391	75.1
2) Smwt Agree	56	10.7
3) Smwt Disagree	22	4.2
4) Str Disagree	32	6.2
5) NS/Ref	20	3.8
TOTAL	521	100.0

19) PALISTN2

The Bush administration is trying to bring about a fair peace between Palestinians and Israelis.. Do you Strongly Agree, Somewhat Agree, Somewhat Disagree, Strongly Disagree?

	Freq	%
1) StrAg	76	14.6
2) SomAg	102	19.5
3) SomDis	80	15.3
4) StrDis	235	45.0
5) NS/Ref	29	5.6
TOTAL	521	100.0

20) IRAQ

U.S. policy toward Iraq is causing undue suffering for the Iraqi people. Do you Strongly Agree, Somewhat agree, Somewhat Disagree, Strongly Disagree?

	Freq	%
1) StrAg	306	58.7
2) SomAg	100	19.1
3) SomDis	30	5.8
4) StrDis	36	6.9
5) NS/Ref.	49	9.4
TOTAL	521	100.0

21) SADDAM

The U.S. should try to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power. Do you Strongly Agree, Somewhat agree, Somewhat Disagree, Strongly Disagree?

	Freq	%
1) StrAg	159	30.5
2) SomAg	87	16.6
3) SomDis	75	14.3
4) StrDis	134	25.8
5) NS/Ref	67	12.8
TOTAL	521	100.0

22) SUNNI

Do you identify with the Sunni, Shiah or some other Islamic group?

	Freq	%
1) Sunni	353	67.8
2) Shiah	45	8.6
3) Other	25	4.7
4) None	92	17.6
5) NS/Ref	7	1.3
TOTAL	521	100.0

23) PRAYERMQ

Approximately how often do you attend a Mosque for prayer? 1. More than once a week 2.Once a week 3.Once or twice a month 4.A few times a year 5.Seldom 6.Never (Skip to 28) 9.Not sure/Refuse

	Freq	%
1) >1/wk	112	21.6
2) 1/wk	150	28.9
3) 1-2/mo	58	11.2
4) Few/yr	85	16.3
5) Seldom	55	10.6
6) Never	56	10.8
7) NS/Ref	3	0.6
TOTAL	521	100.0

24) FRIDAY

Did you happen to attend a Mosque for Friday prayer within the last seven days? Yes, No (Those who answered Never or NS on previous question, were not asked this question).

	Freq	%
1) Yes	209	45.3
2) No	253	54.7
TOTAL	462	100.0

25) PRAYER5

[PRAYER5] Yesterday, how many daily Salah were you able to pray? (Not asked of respondents who answered never to Q23).

	Freq	%
1) One	34	7.3
2) Two	25	5.3
3) Three	33	7.1
4) Four	33	7.0
5) Five	232	50.3
6) None	101	21.8
7) NS/Ref	5	1.1
TOTAL	462	100.0

26) SEX

	Freq	%
1) Male	260	50.0
2) Female	261	50.0
TOTAL	521	100.0

27) HIJAB

Over the last 30 days, how often have you worn the hijab? (Not Asked of Males) Never, a few times, once or twice a week, almost every day, or everyday.

	Freq	%
1) Never	130	50.0
2) A Few	21	8.2
3) 1-2/wk	9	3.4
4) AlmDaily	5	1.9
5) Daily	93	35.6
6) NS/Ref	3	1.0
TOTAL	261	100.0

28) HIJAB2

Do you have a close female relative, such as a mother, sister, or spouse, who wears the hijab more than a few times a year? (Not asked of Females)

	Freq	%
1) Yes	156	59.7
2) No	100	38.3
3) NS/Ref	5	1.9
TOTAL	260	100.0

29) ISLAM

On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is Islam in your life? Assume that 1 means not important at all and 10 means extremely important

	Freq	%
1) 1/NOT	11	2.2
2) 2	8	1.5
3) 3	4	0.8
4) 4	7	1.4
5) 5	18	3.5
6) 6	19	3.7
7) 7	25	4.8
8) 8	39	7.5
9) 9	20	3.8
10) 10/Extr.	364	69.8
11) NS/Ref	5	1.0
TOTAL	521	100.0

30) AGE

RANGE: 0 to 88

Mean	39.492	15.410
TOTAL	521	



31) AGE1  
 Age Group 1 (From Q30)

	Freq	%
1) 18-29	138	26.9
2) 30-49	120	23.3
4) 65+	27	5.2
TOTAL	512	100.0

32) AGE2  
 Age Group 2 (From Q30)

	Freq	%
1) 18-24	92	17.9
2) 25-34	103	20.1
3) 35-54	225	43.8
4) 55-69	80	15.5
5) 70+	13	2.6
TOTAL	512	100.0

33) CITIZEN  
 Are you an American citizen?

	Freq	%
1) Yes	467	89.6
2) No	52	10.0
3) NS/Ref	2	0.4
TOTAL	521	100.0

34) MARITAL  
 What is your marital status? Single, married, separated, divorced or widowed or not married, living together.

	Freq	%
1) Single	123	23.7
2) Married	361	69.3
3) D/W/S	35	6.6
4) LivingTo	1	0.2
5) NS/Ref	1	0.2
TOTAL	521	100.0

35) BORN

Where were you born, in the United States, in Pakistan, in an Arabic-speaking country, or in some other country?

	Freq	%
1) US	154	29.5
2) Pak	81	15.6
3) Arab	167	32.0
4) Other	115	22.2
5) NS/Ref	4	0.8
TOTAL	521	100.0

36) FATHER

Where was your father born?

	Freq	%
1) US	70	13.5
2) Pak	59	11.4
3) Arab	213	40.8
4) Other	175	33.5
5) NS/Ref	5	0.9
TOTAL	521	100.0

37) MOTHER

Where was your mother born?

	Freq	%
1) US	75	14.3
2) Pak	65	12.5
3) Arab	203	38.9
4) Other	175	33.7
5) NS/Ref	3	0.6
TOTAL	521	100.0

38) STUDY

Are you currently enrolled in a school or college?

	Freq	%
1) Yes	128	24.5
2) No	391	75.1
3) NS/Ref	2	0.4
TOTAL	521	100.0



42) INCOME

Approximately how much is your family's total annual income from all sources?

	Freq	%
0) NoResp	48	9.3
1) <30K	75	14.5
2) 30-60K	161	30.9
3) 60K+	235	45.3
TOTAL	520	100.0

42) PARTY

Which political party do you prefer? (NoRes = no response recorded)

	Freq	%
0) NoRes	57	11.0
1) Democratic	189	36.3