



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011

Continuing Divide in Views of Islam and Violence

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut

President, Pew Research Center

Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock

Associate Directors

Scott Keeter

Director of Survey Research

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-4350

Fax (202) 419-4399

www.people-press.org

Continuing Divide in Views of Islam and Violence

The public remains divided over whether Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence among its believers. Currently, 40% say the Islamic religion is more likely than others to encourage violence while 42% say it is not.

These opinions have changed little in recent years. But in March 2002, just 25% saw Islam as more likely to encourage violence while twice as many (51%) disagreed.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 22-March 1 among 1,504 adults, finds that most young people reject the idea that Islam is more likely than other religions to promote violence. Nearly six-in-ten (58%) of those younger than 30 say Islam does not encourage violence more than other religions; 31% say it does. By contrast, a plurality of those 50 and older (45%) say Islam is more likely to encourage violence.

Public Remains Split Over Whether Islam Is More Likely to Encourage Violence

	Mar 2002	July 2003	Aug 2007	Aug 2009	Aug 2010	Mar 2011
<i>Islamic religion ...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Is more likely than others to encourage violence	25	44	45	38	35	40
Doesn't encourage violence more than others	51	41	39	45	42	42
Other/Don't know	<u>24</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Political and ideological divisions are even wider: By roughly three-to-one (66% to 21%), conservative Republicans say Islam encourages violence more than other religions. Moderate and liberal Republicans are divided – 46% say Islam is more likely to encourage violence, 47% say it is not.

By more than two-to-one (61% to 29%), liberal Democrats say that Islam is not more likely than other religions to promote violence. Conservative and moderate Democrats, by a smaller margin (48% to 31%), agree.

Fully 67% of those who agree with the Tea Party movement say Islam is more associated with violence than other religions. Among those who disagree with the Tea Party, the balance of opinion is nearly reversed – 62% say Islam is no more likely than other religions to promote violence while 24% say it is. Among the large share of the public that offers no opinion of the Tea Party, 38% say Islam is more likely to promote violence while about the same number (41%) disagrees.

A clear majority of white evangelical Protestants (60%) say that Islam is more likely to encourage violence than are other religions. Far fewer white mainline Protestants (42%) and white Catholics (39%) express this view. And by nearly two-to-one (56% to 30%), the religiously unaffiliated say that the Islamic religion does not encourage violence more than others.

Most Conservatives, Tea Party Supporters Link Islam to Violence

<i>Is Islam more likely than other religions to encourage violence?</i>	More likely %	Not more likely %
Total	40	42
White	44	41
Black	24	53
Hispanic	36	38
18-29	31	58
30-49	41	43
50-64	46	34
65+	42	35
Conservative Republican	66	21
Mod/Lib Republican	46	47
Independent	38	44
Cons/Mod Democrat	31	48
Liberal Democrat	29	61
Protestant	46	37
White evangelical	60	24
White mainline	42	42
Catholic	35	45
White Catholic	39	46
Unaffiliated	30	56
<i>Tea Party movement</i>		
Agree (20%)	67	24
Disagree (25%)	24	62
No opinion (52%)	38	41

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 22-March 1, 2011 among a national sample of 1,504 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (1,021 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 483 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 213 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,504	3.0 percentage points
Republicans	393	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	479	5.5 percentage points
Independents	551	5.5 percentage points
Conservative Reps	286	7.0 percentage points
Moderate/Liberal Reps	101	12.0 percentage points
Conserv/Mod Dems	276	7.5 percentage points
Liberal Dems	186	9.0 percentage points
Tea party movement:		
Agree with movement	347	6.5 percentage points
Disagree/no opinion	1,115	4.0 percentage points
White	1,085	4.0 percentage points
Black	144	10.0 percentage points
Hispanic	127	10.5 percentage points
18-29	194	8.5 percentage points
30-49	456	6.0 percentage points
50-64	498	5.5 percentage points
65+	341	6.5 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley, Senior Researchers
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, and Alec Tyson, Research Associates
Jacob Poushter and Gabriel Velasco, Research Analysts
Danielle Gewurz, Research Assistant

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
2011 MARCH POLITICAL TYPOLOGY SURVEY A
FINAL TOPLINE**

Survey A: February 22-March 1, 2011 N=1504

QUESTIONS A1-A4c, A24-A25 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTIONS A4d, 17, A18-A19, 36-37 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 2-3, 5-16, 20-23, 26-35, 38-44

ASK ALL SURVEY A:

Q.A45 And which comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. **[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**

a.

Feb 22-Mar 1 <u>2011</u>		Aug 19-22 <u>2010</u>	Aug 11-17 <u>2009</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>	July <u>2005</u>	July <u>2004</u>	Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>
40	The Islamic religion is more likely than others to encourage violence among its believers [OR]	35	38	45	36	46	44	25
42	The Islamic religion does not encourage violence more than others	42	45	39	47	37	41	51
3	Neither (VOL.)	6	1	4	3	2	3	3
15	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	18	15	12	14	15	12	21

NO QUESTIONS 47-55, 68-88

QUESTIONS A46, A56-A59, A65-A67 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

QUESTIONS A45b, A60-A64 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
Jan 5-9, 2011	27	32	35	4	*	2	15	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	33	34	5	1	2	13	14
Nov 4-7, 2010	26	30	37	4	*	2	17	13
Oct 27-30, 2010	25	34	31	6	1	4	13	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	25	31	36	4	*	3	16	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	24	32	39	2	*	2	15	17
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Yearly Totals								
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/DK
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ¹	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

¹ In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May through October, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March it was described as "the Tea Party Protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."