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# Mixed Views of Initial U.S. Response to Europe's Migrant Crisis

*Influx of Migrants Registers Widely  
with Public*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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# Mixed Views of Initial U.S. Response to Europe's Migrant Crisis

## *Influx of Migrants Registers Widely with Public*

The public has mixed reactions to the U.S. response to the influx of hundreds of thousands of migrants arriving in Europe in recent weeks. By a narrow 51%-45% margin, more approve than disapprove of the U.S. decision to increase the number of refugees it accepts to help deal with this situation.

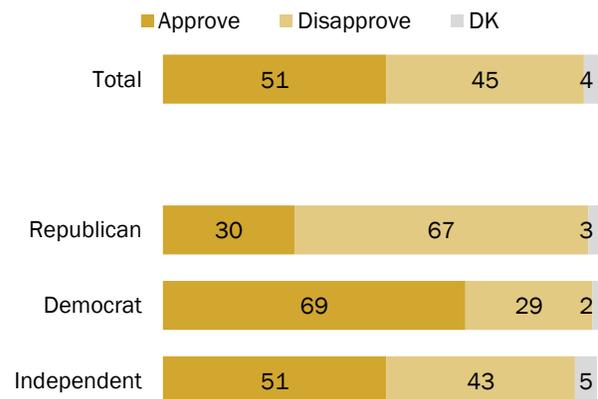
When asked to assess the United States' response to the refugee situation more generally, 44% say the U.S. should be doing more, while 19% say it should be doing less; 31% say the U.S. is doing about what it should.

The latest national poll by the Pew Research Center, conducted Sept. 22-27 among 1,502 adults, finds that the migrant crisis has registered widely with the public: 55% say they have heard a lot about the large number of migrants fleeing violence in Syria and other countries and entering Europe, and an additional 32% have heard a little. Just 12% have heard nothing about the migrant crisis.

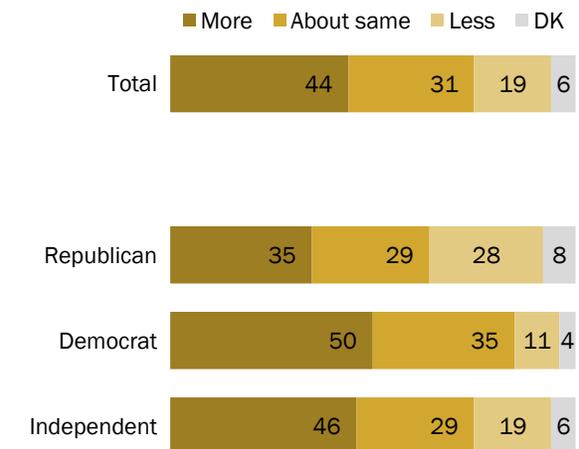
Opinion about the U.S. response to the European migrant situation is divided along partisan lines. By more than two-to-one (69%-29%), Democrats approve of the U.S. decision to increase the number of refugees it accepts. By about the same margin (67% to 30%), Republicans disapprove of this decision.

### U.S. Response to Migrant Crisis

*U.S. decision to accept more refugees (%) ...*



*In response to refugee situation, U.S. should be doing ...*



Survey conducted Sept. 22-27, 2015.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Half of Democrats (50%) say the U.S. should be doing more to address the refugee situation, while just 11% say it should be doing less and 35% say the U.S. is doing about what it should. Among Republicans opinion is divided: 35% say the U.S. should be doing more, 29% say it is doing about what it should and 28% say it should be doing less.

## Differences by Age, Ethnicity in Views of U.S. Decision to Accept More Refugees

The partisan and demographic differences in views of the decision to accept more refugees mirror differences in [opinions of immigrants and their impact on the United States](#).

Hispanics are particularly supportive of the U.S. decision to increase the cap on the number of refugees it accepts over the next few years: 66% approve of this decision while just 27% disapprove. Blacks also approve of the decision by a 58%-39% margin. Among whites, opinion is divided: 46% approve, 50% disapprove.

Younger adults are much more likely to approve of the decision than are older adults. About six-in-ten (63%) of those ages 18-29 say they approve of the U.S. accepting more refugees, compared with just 40% of those age 65 and older.

Across educational lines, 67% of those with post-graduate degrees support increasing the number of refugees the U.S. accepts, as do 61% of those with college degrees. Among those without a college degree, about as many disapprove as approve of the decision.

Views of the U.S. decision to increase the number of refugees it accepts also differ by religious affiliation. About six-in-ten Catholics (59%) – including 69% of Hispanic Catholics and about half (51%) of white Catholics – say they approve of the decision to accept more refugees. White evangelical Protestants disapprove of the decision by a 65%-31% margin; views among white mainline Protestants are

### Hispanics, Young People Broadly Support Accepting More Refugees

*U.S. decision to accept more refugees ...*

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %	N
Total	51	45	4=100	1502
White	46	50	4=100	1058
Black	58	39	3=100	140
Hispanic	66	27	7=100	174
18-29	63	31	5=100	240
30-49	55	41	4=100	423
50-64	43	53	3=100	452
65+	40	57	3=100	375
Post-grad	67	31	1=100	277
College grad	61	36	3=100	357
Some college	47	49	4=100	412
HS or less	46	49	5=100	449
Protestant	42	54	4=100	679
White evangelical	31	65	4=100	282
White mainline	42	53	6=100	211
Black Protestant	58	39	3=100	98
Catholic	59	38	4=100	319
White Catholic	51	47	2=100	196
Hispanic Catholic	69	26	5=100	97
Unaffiliated	60	36	3=100	340
<i>Heard about situation ...</i>				
A lot (55%)	52	45	3=100	937
Less (44%)	50	45	5=100	556

Survey conducted Sept. 22-27, 2015.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic;

Hispanics are of any race.

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more mixed (53% disapprove-42% approve). By contrast, black Protestants say they approve of the U.S. raising its refugee cap (58%-39%).

There are more modest demographic differences when it comes to assessments of the United States' response to the refugee situation more generally.

Overall, 44% say the U.S. should be doing more to address the refugee situation, 19% say it should be doing less and 31% say it is doing about what it should.

Among those who approve of the U.S. decision to increase the number of refugees it accepts, 51% say the U.S. should be doing more to address the situation; just 4% say it should be doing less and 40% say it is doing about what it should.

Those who disapprove of the U.S. decision on the refugee cap hold more mixed views about the U.S.'s efforts: As many say the U.S. should be doing less to address the situation as say it should be doing more (37% each); 21% say the U.S. is doing about what it should.

### In Response to Refugee Situation, U.S. Should Be Doing ...

	More %	Same %	Less %	DK %
Total	44	31	19	6=100
White	42	29	22	6=100
Black	44	41	12	3=100
Hispanic	50	31	11	7=100
18-29	47	32	14	7=100
30-49	46	31	18	5=100
50-64	46	26	21	7=100
65+	35	36	24	6=100
Post-grad	53	34	10	3=100
College degree	41	36	17	7=100
Some college	40	32	22	6=100
HS or less	46	27	20	8=100
Protestant	45	27	22	6=100
White evangelical	42	23	26	9=100
White mainline	47	24	25	4=100
Black	43	43	12	2=100
Catholic	42	37	15	6=100
White Catholic	38	36	21	5=100
Hispanic Catholic	49	37	9	6=100
Unaffiliated	45	33	15	7=100
<i>Decision to accept more refugees ...</i>				
Approve (51%)	51	40	4	5=100
Disapprove (45%)	37	21	37	6=100

Survey conducted Sept. 22-27, 2015.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic;

Hispanics are of any race.

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## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted September 22-27, 2015 among a national sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (525 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 977 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 560 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://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2013 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2014 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 among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,502	2.9 percentage points
Republican	421	5.5 percentage points
Democrat	456	5.3 percentage points
Independent	564	4.7 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.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
SEPTEMBER 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
SEPTEMBER 22-27, 2015  
N=1,502**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 5-6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**NO QUESTIONS 3-4**

**QUESTION 7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.8 How much, if anything, have you heard about large numbers of migrants fleeing violence in Syria and other countries and entering Europe? Have you heard **[READ IN ORDER]**

Sep 22-27

2015

55	A lot
32	A little
12	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.9 In order to help deal with this situation, the United States recently announced it will increase the number of refugees it accepts. All in all, do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

Sep 22-27

2015

51	Approve
45	Disapprove
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTION 10**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.11 In general, do you think the United States **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]** or is the U.S. doing about what it should to address the refugee situation?

Sep 22-27

2015

44	Should be doing more
19	Should be doing less
31	About what it should
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**QUESTIONS 13, 20, 27-28, 33-36, 39, 45-47, 58-59, 62-64 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**NO QUESTIONS 12, 14-19, 21-26, 29-32, 37-38, 40-44, 48-50, 53, 60-61, 65-76**

**QUESTIONS 51-52, 54-57 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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Sep 22-27, 2015	26	30	40	2	*	2	15	16
Jul 14-20, 2015	22	32	41	4	*	1	15	19
May 12-18, 2015	24	32	38	3	1	2	15	18
Mar 25-29, 2015	25	30	39	4	*	2	15	17
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
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
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 REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):**

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

**BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=406]:**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/ DK</u>
Sep 25-27, 2015 <sup>1</sup>	28	11	58	2	1	--
May 12-18, 2015	34	13	51	1	*	--
Mar 25-29, 2015	35	11	52	1	1	--
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	9	54	*	*	--
Jan 7-11, 2015	34	9	54	1	2	--
Dec 3-7, 2014	34	9	55	2	1	--
Nov 6-9, 2014	31	10	57	1	1	--
Oct 15-20, 2014	32	8	56	2	2	--
Sep 2-9, 2014	38	10	50	1	1	--
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12	50	2	1	--
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2012	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--

<sup>1</sup> Question asked September 25-27, N=406.

**TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Haven't heard of</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>2</sup>	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

**QUESTIONS 77-78 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTION 79 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

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**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(WP)	Pew Research Center/Washington Post polls

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<sup>2</sup> 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 2010 through October 2010, 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 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."