

American attitudes on Syria strikes, the travel ban, refugees, and Muslims

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Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted April 12-17, 2017 with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households provided by Survey Sampling International. A total of 2,138 panelists completed the survey. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the US Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification.

The margin of error is 2.12%

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Note: Percentages may not always add to one-hundred due to rounding.

Travel Ban

[DISPLAY ON SCREEN] This past March, the White House issued an executive order to limit travel to the United States from six Muslim-majority nations. The order also aimed to suspend the Refugee Admission Program (USRAP) for 120 days and impose a cap of 50,000 refugees in 2017. This order has been blocked by federal judges including in Hawaii and Maryland.

Now tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following:

Q35a. The executive order is necessary to ensure the safety of all Americans. The government has a responsibility to ensure that nobody entering our country is coming here to do us harm. It is only reasonable to limit immigration from those six countries until we know that the people coming do not pose a threat. While it may be true that many who do not pose a threat will be kept out in the process, our top priority must be reducing the threat to American citizens by keeping potential terrorists out.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Strongly agree	71%	7%	31%	37%
2. Somewhat agree	12	13	17	13
3. Neither agree nor disagree	5	11	14	9
4. Somewhat disagree	4	21	14	13
5. Strongly disagree	7	47	23	27
Refused	<1	1	2	1

Q35b. The United States is a nation of immigrants, one with a long history of taking in those fleeing persecution in their home countries. Refugees have also contributed considerably to America. Data also shows that only a handful of refugees have been charged with terrorist plotting among hundreds of thousands who arrived to the United States in the past decade and a half. The Constitution prohibits restricting immigration based on religion, which some courts have found this order to do.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Strongly agree	8%	59%	25%	33%
2. Somewhat agree	14	19	20	17
3. Neither agree nor disagree	18	12	28	17
4. Somewhat disagree	25	5	12	14
5. Strongly disagree	34	4	13	18
Refused	2	1	2	1

Q36. Having thought about it, do you support or oppose the travel ban?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support	88%	13%	47%	49%
2. Oppose	11	86	52	50
Refused	1	1	1	1

Q37. In your opinion, is this ban principally intended to keep Muslims out of the U.S.?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Yes	23%	86%	56%	56%
2. No	77	13	41	43
Refused	1	1	3	1

Q40. When deciding which immigrants should be allowed to enter the United States, should we give priority to people who are Christians or should we treat all immigrants the same regardless of religion?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Christian immigrants should be given priority	22%	3%	12%	12%
2. All immigrants, regardless of religion should be treated the same	70	93	72	81
3. Don't know	8	4	16	7
Refused	<1	1	1	1

Muslims, Islam, and Refugees

Q67. What is your attitude about each of the following?

Q67a. The Muslim people

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Very Favorable	12%	38%	27%	26%
2. Somewhat Favorable	44	46	44	45
3. Somewhat Unfavorable	30	11	15	20
4. Very Unfavorable	11	4	12	8
Refused	2	1	2	2

Q67b. The Muslim religion

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Very Favorable	6%	23%	11%	14%
2. Somewhat Favorable	19	43	37	32
3. Somewhat Unfavorable	33	23	23	27
4. Very Unfavorable	40	9	28	25
Refused	3	2	3	2

Q71. In general, do you support or oppose the United States taking in refugees from the conflicts in Syria and other Middle Eastern countries after screening them for security risks?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support strongly	9%	49%	14%	28%
2. Support somewhat	27	33	37	31
3. Oppose somewhat	26	10	20	18
4. Oppose strongly	37	5	26	21
Refused	2	2	2	2

Syria

Q91. On April 6, 2017, President Trump ordered a missile strike against a Syrian air force base after reports that the regime of Bashar Assad used chemical weapons that killed and wounded dozens of Syrians. How do you feel about these strikes?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support	81%	31%	34%	52%
2. Oppose	9	43	34	27
3. Don't know	10	26	30	20
Refused	1	<1	2	1

Q92. Thinking about how President Trump made his decision to launch a military attack on Syria, how has this affected your confidence in the president's decision-making?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. More confidence than before	56%	7%	17%	29%
2. Less confidence than before	8	44	31	27
3. About the same level of confidence as before	36	48	49	43
Refused	<1	1	2	1

Q99. Given what you may have read or heard about the use of chemical weapons in Syria this month, which of the following is closest to your view?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Assad probably used chemical weapons	75%	66%	39%	66%
2. A party other than Assad probably used chemical weapons	6	6	10	6
3. I am not convinced chemical weapons were used	3	5	5	4
4. I am uncertain	16	23	44	23
Refused	1	<1	3	1

Q93. How do you think the strike on Syria will affect the prospects of ending the violence in Syria?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. It will make it more likely	33%	10%	14%	20%
2. It will make it less likely	15	35	36	27
3. It will have no impact	50	53	46	51
Refused	2	1	4	2

Q94. How do you believe the strikes on the Syrian air base will affect the level of American military involvement in Syria?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. It makes it more likely that American military involvement will grow	55%	72%	54%	63%
2. It makes it less likely that American military involvement will grow	9	8	15	9
3. It will have no impact	33	19	27	26
Refused	2	2	4	2

Q95. In your opinion, how will the strikes on Syria affect Assad's likely behavior?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. It will likely make him more aggressive in attacking the Syrian opposition	30%	54%	42%	42%
2. It will likely make him less aggressive in attacking the Syrian opposition	36	12	17	23
3. It will have no impact	32	32	37	33
Refused	2	2	5	2