

2005 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion

The data reported here are from the 2005 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, detailing the views of American Jews about a broad range of subjects. Among the topics covered in the present survey are the campaign against terrorism and the war in Iraq, the Israel-Arab conflict, the attachment of American Jews to Israel, political and social issues in the United States, Jewish perceptions of anti-Semitism, Jewish opinion about various countries, and Jewish identity concerns. Some of the questions appearing in the survey are new; others are drawn from previous American Jewish Committee surveys, including the Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion carried out in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

The 2005 survey was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Synovate (formerly Market Facts), a leading survey-research organization. Respondents were interviewed by telephone between November 14 - 27, 2005; no interviewing took place on the Sabbath. The sample consisted of 1,000 self-identifying Jewish respondents selected from the Synovate consumer mail panel. The respondents are demographically representative of the United States adult Jewish population on a variety of measures. The margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

2005 Survey results:

- A. War on Terrorism and Iraq
- B. Israel
- C. World Affairs
- D. National Affairs
- E. Jewish Identity
- F. Anti-Semitism

2005 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion - War on Terrorism and Iraq (2/7)

A. WAR ON TERRORISM AND IRAQ

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States government is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	36
Disapprove	60
Not Sure	4

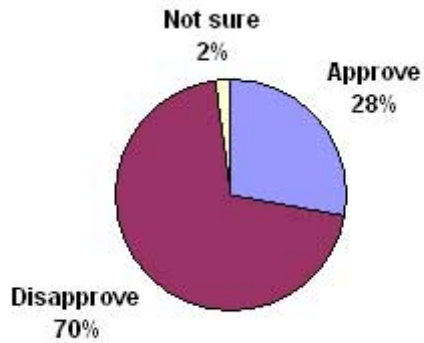


2. Do you approve or disapprove of the war with Iraq?

Approve	28
Disapprove	70

Not Sure

2



3. Would you support or oppose the United States taking military action against Iran to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons?

Support	49
Oppose	46
Not Sure	6

B. ISRAEL

4. How close do you feel to Israel?

Very close	36
Fairly close	41
Fairly distant	18
Very distant	5
Not sure	1

5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew."

Agree	79
Disagree	19
Not sure	1

6. Have you ever been to Israel?

No	59
Yes-once	20
Yes-more than once	20

6a. (IF "NO" TO QUESTION 6) Why have you never been to Israel?

Personal safety concerns	20
Lack of interest	18
Travel costs	49
Hostility to Israel	2

Not sure	11
7. How would you characterize relations between Israel and the United States today? Are they very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?	
Very positive	21
Somewhat positive	65
Somewhat negative	12
Very negative	1
Not sure	1
8. As compared with one year ago, are you now more optimistic about the chance for a lasting peace between Israel and the Arabs, less optimistic, or do you think the chance for a lasting peace is about the same as it was one year ago?	
More optimistic now	21
Less optimistic now	19
Same as one year ago	59
Not sure	1
9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The goal of the Arabs is not the return of occupied territories but rather the destruction of Israel."	
Agree	78
Disagree	18
Not sure	5
10. To what extent do each of the following Arab leaders support or oppose peace with Israel?	
a. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt	
Strongly Support	12
Somewhat Support	48
Somewhat Oppose	19
Strongly Oppose	9
Not Sure	12
b. President Bashar Assad of Syria	
Strongly Support	1
Somewhat Support	10
Somewhat Oppose	22
Strongly Oppose	51
Not Sure	17
c. King Abdullah of Jordan	

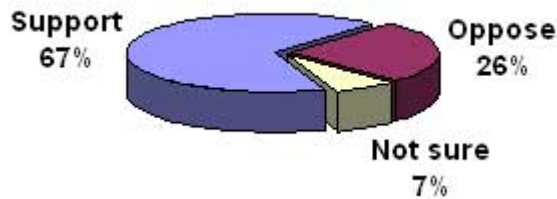
Strongly Support	21
Somewhat Support	42
Somewhat Oppose	18
Strongly Oppose	10
Not Sure	11

d. Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas

Strongly Support	5
Somewhat Support	29
Somewhat Oppose	26
Strongly Oppose	28
Not Sure	13

11. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's current handling of relations with the Palestinian Authority?

Support	67
Oppose	26
Not Sure	7



12. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's decision to build the security fence separating Israelis and Palestinians?

Support	73
Oppose	24
Not Sure	3



13. In the current situation, do you favor or oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state?

Favor	56
Oppose	38
Not Sure	6

14. In the framework of a permanent peace with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to compromise on the status of Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli jurisdiction?

Yes	36
No	60
Not Sure	5



15. As part of a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to dismantle all, some, or none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?

All	15
Some	46
None	36
Not sure	3

C. World Affairs

16. I would like you to rate your feelings toward some countries, with one hundred meaning a very warm, favorable feeling, zero meaning a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred. How would you rate your feelings toward []

	<u>Mean Score</u>
a. Germany	50
b. China	46
c. South Africa	56
d. France	37
e. The Vatican	54
f. Mexico	59
g. Japan	62
h. United States	82
i. India	57
j. Turkey	51

17. I would like you to rate how various foreign governments feel toward Israel, with one hundred meaning a very warm, favorable feeling, zero meaning a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred. How would you rate the government of [] in terms of feelings toward

Israel?

	<u>Mean Score</u>
a. United States	75
b. China	45
c. Germany	50
d. South Africa	51
e. France	33
f. The Vatican	54
g. Mexico	48
h. India	50
i. Turkey	45
j. Japan	53

18. Is your opinion of the United Nations very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?"

Very favorable	7
Somewhat favorable	32
Neutral	21
Somewhat unfavorable	23
Very unfavorable	18
Not sure	

D. National Affairs

19. In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

Republican	16
Democrat	54
Independent	29
Not sure	1

20. I'm going to read you a list of political views that people might hold. They are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

Extremely liberal	7
Liberal	22
Slightly liberal	15
Moderate, middle of the road	29
Slightly conservative	12
Conservative	11
Extremely conservative	3
Not sure	1

21. When the Senate votes on a Supreme court nominee, should it consider only that person's legal qualifications and background, or along with legal background, should the Senate also consider how that nominee might vote on major issues the Supreme Court

decides?	
Legal only	27
Issues, too	70
Not sure	3

22. If a nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court favors overturning the Roe v. Wade decision on abortion, in your view, should that alone disqualify that person from serving on the Supreme Court, or not?

Should	50
Should not	49
Not sure	2

23. Do you think that the government should or should not provide taxpayer funds for social service programs run by religious institutions, such as churches or synagogues?

Should	32
Should not	66
Not sure	3

24. Some people have said that because the people who remained in New Orleans after the hurricane and flooding were mostly African American, help was slow to come, and that if the people who remained left in New Orleans had been mostly white, help would have come faster. Do you think the fact that those who remained in New Orleans were mostly black was a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in the government's response in New Orleans?

Major factor	25
Minor factor	26
Not a factor	47
Not sure	1

25. In your opinion, how important is it that the United States achieve energy independence? Is it very important, somewhat important, or not important at all?

Very important	77
Somewhat important	21
Not important	1
Not sure	0

26. What is the best way for the United States to handle its energy needs-by encouraging greater energy production, by encouraging greater energy conservation, or by developing alternative energy sources?

Greater energy production	6
Greater energy conservation	11
Developing alternative energy sources	72
All three (vol.)	11
Not sure	1

E. Jewish Identity

27. How important would you say being Jewish is in your own life?

Very important	55
Fairly important	33
Not very important	12

28. Please rate the importance of each of the following to your Jewish identity, indicating whether it is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important.

a. Participation in synagogue services

Extremely important	10
Very important	30
Somewhat important	34
Not Important	26

b. Jewish Study

Extremely important	10
Very important	32
Somewhat important	41
Not Important	17

c. Travel to Israel

Extremely important	5
Very important	24
Somewhat important	38
Not Important	32

d. Jewish organizational activity

Extremely important	6
Very important	28
Somewhat important	42
Not Important	24

e. Celebration of Jewish holidays

Extremely important	21
Very important	49
Somewhat important	25
Not Important	5

f. Remembrance of the Holocaust

Extremely important	25
Very important	58
Somewhat important	15
Not Important	2

29. Do you belong to a synagogue or temple?

Yes	57
No	43
30. Do you think of yourself as . . .	
Orthodox	10
Conservative	32
Reconstructionist	2
Reform	29
Just Jewish	26
Not sure	1
31. In your opinion, which is a greater threat to Jewish life in the United States today--intermarriage or anti-Semitism?	
Intermarriage	33
Anti-Semitism	62
Both equally (vol.)	3
Not sure	2
F. Anti-Semitism	
32. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?	
Very serious problem	27
Somewhat of a problem	65
Not a problem at all	8
Not sure	0
33. Do you think that anti-Semitism on American college campuses is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?	
Very serious problem	25
Somewhat of a problem	54
Not a problem at all	13
Not sure	9
34. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?	
Increase greatly	7
Increase somewhat	33
Remain the same	48
Decrease somewhat	9
Decrease greatly	1
Not sure	2
35. In your opinion, what proportion of each of the following groups in the United States is anti-Semitic—most, many, some, very few, or none?	

a. Asians	
Most	1
Many	4
Some	38
Very few	43
None	9
Not sure	6
b. Muslims	
Most	31
Many	27
Some	30
Very few	8
None	1
Not sure	3
c. Hispanics	
Most	2
Many	5
Some	51
Very few	32
None	5
Not sure	5
d. Blacks	
Most	5
Many	14
Some	54
Very few	21
None	3
Not sure	3
e. Evangelical Protestants	
Most	13
Many	15
Some	44
Very few	19
None	4
Not sure	6
f. Catholics	
Most	5
Many	10

Some	56
Very few	24
None	3
Not sure	4

36. I am going to name some countries around the world. In each case tell me whether anti-Semitism in the country is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all.

a. Germany	24
Very serious problem	64
Somewhat of a problem	8
Not a problem at all	3
Not sure	

b. Mexico	
Very serious problem	2
Somewhat of a problem	44
Not a problem at all	45
Not sure	10

c. France	
Very serious problem	54
Somewhat of a problem	38
Not a problem at all	6
Not sure	2

d. China	
Very serious problem	5
Somewhat of a problem	38
Not a problem at all	46
Not sure	11

e. Great Britain	
Very serious problem	7
Somewhat of a problem	57
Not a problem at all	33
Not sure	3

f. India	
Very serious problem	4
Somewhat of a problem	42
Not a problem at all	43
Not sure	12

g. Russia	
Very serious problem	29

Somewhat of a problem	58
Not a problem at all	10
Not sure	3

h. Turkey

Very serious problem	14
Somewhat of a problem	61
Not a problem at all	15
Not sure	10

i. Japan

Very Serious problem	2
Somewhat of a problem	34
Not a problem at all	54
Not sure	11

37. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the Muslim world is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem	76
Somewhat of a problem	22
Not a problem at all	1
Not sure	1

38. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism around the world will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

Increase greatly	16
Increase somewhat	38
Remain the same	40
Decrease somewhat	5
Decrease greatly	1
Not sure	1