



# Women After 9/11



Research conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, Inc  
*for*

Center for the Advancement of Women  
*(formerly Center for Gender Equality)*



**REPORT ON POST-SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> WOMEN'S SURVEY**

**Research conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, Inc.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women's reactions to September 11<sup>th</sup> and the subsequent anthrax attacks remain palpable, with 87 percent of women saying they are following the news very or somewhat closely. But while women continue to feel shock, sadness, and anger at the events, only 37 percent say that the attacks changed their lives. For those who experienced this change, it has brought them closer to friends and family and made them more aware of the events going on around them in the world.

Women have not radically changed their lives in response to the terrorist and anthrax attacks. In the aftermath of the attack, they donated money and went to religious services, and to a lesser degree attended memorials and rallies. A significant number of women report spending more time with friends and family. But the attacks did not lead women to change their travel plans, stock up on gas masks and Cipro, socialize differently or change their children's routines.

Women's concerns about the economy, in fact, are equally as important as their worries about terrorism and their personal security. They are feeling the bite of the recession and are starting to feel anxious about their ability to afford health benefits and about dipping into their savings to get by. They are confronting the reality of paying bills, affording their health insurance and buying groceries at the same time that they are adjusting to the new reality of the post-September 11<sup>th</sup> America.

In fact, a quarter of women in our survey report that their personal economic situation has worsened since September 11<sup>th</sup>, with 18 percent reporting declining 401K or stock value and 15 percent reporting cutbacks (e.g., layoffs, cuts in overtime) at work. Women experiencing the economic consequences of the recession largely blame the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks for the downturn, rather than factors affecting the economy prior to the attacks.

Despite women's attention to the demands of daily life, they do have expectations that their local communities will be prepared for future attacks. Most importantly, women want their hospitals and health systems to be prepared for bioterrorism, including keeping sufficient stocks of vaccines and antibiotics on hand. They are not convinced, however, that local authorities are prepared to handle the challenges of the post-September 11<sup>th</sup> environment.

### Main Findings

These results are based on a national survey of 999 adult women over the age of 18 conducted between November 27 and November 29, 2001. The survey employed random digit dial methodology and has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percent. The key findings of the research are highlighted below, followed by a more detailed analysis.

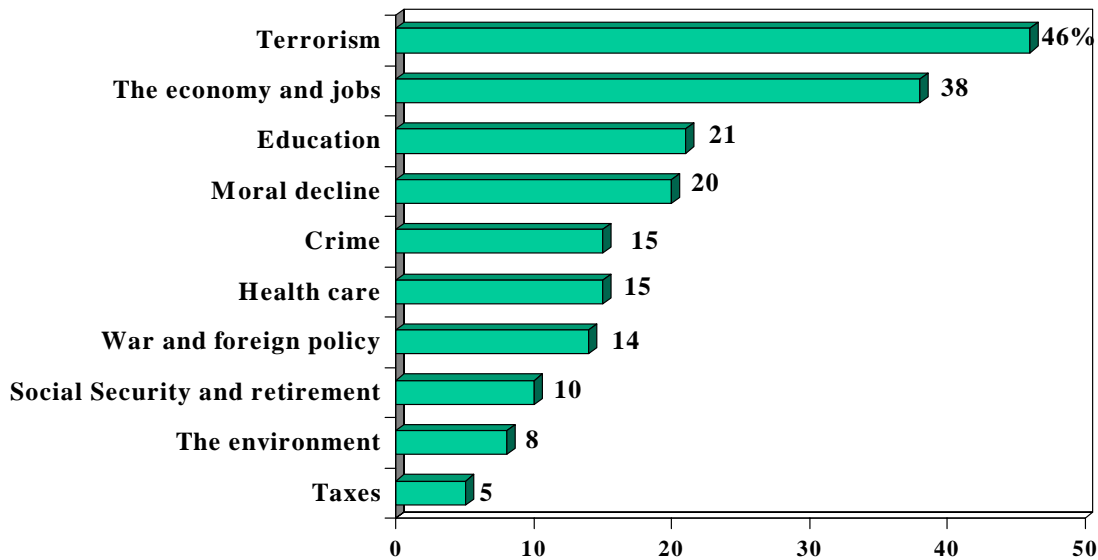
- **Women's concerns about terrorism are tempered by concern about their economic situation.** While women feel the impact of the terrorist attacks, they are equally concerned about their own economic situation and the safety of their children. These concerns are heightened among economically vulnerable women such as single mothers and women without a college education.

- **When women worry about their economic situation, they are primarily concerned that they will deplete their savings or will be unable to meet their healthcare expenses.** A quarter of women worry that they will have to dip into their savings and a fifth worry that they will not be able to pay their health bills.
- **Women report feeling worried and mentally taxed since September 11<sup>th</sup>, but have not fundamentally changed their lives.** Women are experiencing some effects from the attacks – 17 percent of women report deterioration in the state of their mental health. However, women have a variety of challenges to deal with in their everyday lives, and do not let concerns about future terrorist attacks overwhelm their normal day-to-day activities.
- **Younger women express greater concern about their safety and more severe mental health consequences as a result of the attacks than older women.** Women who lived through the horrors of World War II are significantly less likely to worry about future attacks on the nation or personally becoming a victim of terrorism or anthrax attacks.
- **Women with children express anxiety about their children's safety, but have not changed their children's routines as a result of September 11<sup>th</sup>.** Women with children have more mental health concerns and worries than other women in the wake of the terrorist attacks, but like other women, they continue about their daily lives without major changes.
- **Women pay attention to their personal health and want to ensure that they have access to adequate care from hospitals and clinics in the case of future bioterrorist attacks.** They also believe that local governments should make sure that hospitals and clinics are sufficiently equipped to deal with their health concerns in a post-attack environment, though they are not overwhelming confident that local authorities are equipped to deal with a bioterrorist attack.
- **Women remain engaged with the coverage of the war in Afghanistan, demonstrating detailed knowledge about the status of Afghan women and arguing these women should be involved in the creation of a post-Taliban government.** Women understand a great deal about the treatment and circumstances of Afghan women. A majority believes that the United States should insist that Afghan women take part in the negotiations to create a new government.
- **Women continue to follow the news of the attacks and investigation closely.** Women show a great awareness concerning the events surrounding the terrorist attacks, with 87 percent saying that they are following the news very or somewhat closely.

The Mood of Women Post-September 11<sup>th</sup>

While women continue to be concerned about terrorism in this post-September 11<sup>th</sup> environment, they are nearly as anxious about the economy. When asked to choose their top two concerns about the country, 46 percent of women say that terrorism is a top concern, followed closely by the economy and jobs at 38 percent. One in five women respond that education (21 percent) and moral decline (20 percent) are top concerns as well.

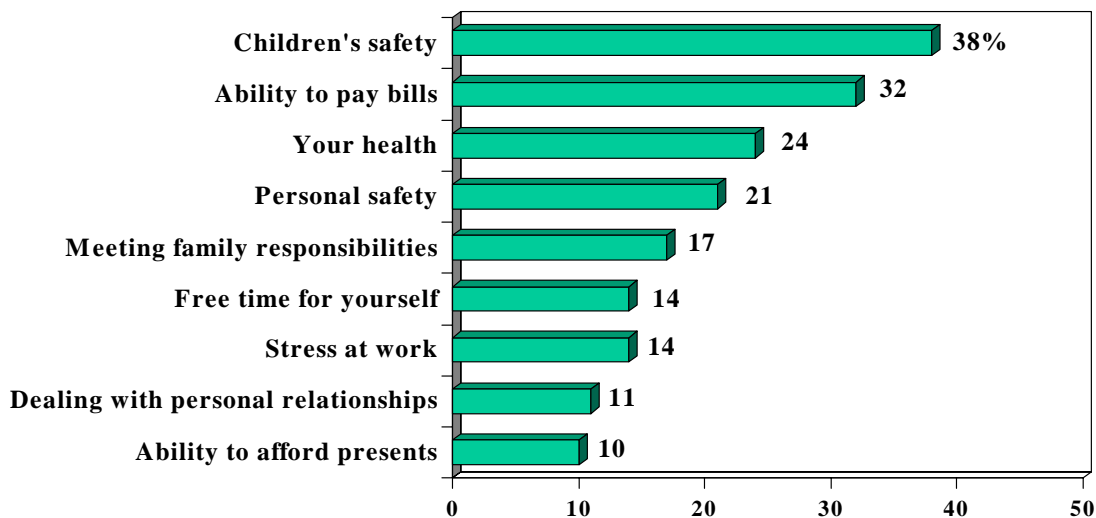
## Concerns About the Country



When asked what they worry about in their daily lives, children's safety leads the list with 35 percent of women naming it as one of the top two concerns, though this result is driven largely by the views of women with children. Economic issues follow quite closely, with 32 percent of women saying that their ability to pay bills is their greatest challenge. In fact, women

without children primarily worry about their ability to meet their expenses. Overall, women are less likely to express anxiety about their personal safety (21 percent).

## Concerns About Daily Life



Undoubtedly, the terrorist attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup> continue to affect women in profound ways. They worry about the possibility of future attacks and how the events might affect the economy. Overall, women are most worried about events on a broad scale: the chance of further terrorist attacks on the U.S. (73 percent), the safety of military and law enforcement personnel (67 percent), the possibility that the U.S. economy will worsen (62 percent), and the chance of further anthrax attacks (62 percent).

When it comes to daily life, however, women are more concerned about their personal economic circumstances than being a victim of an anthrax or terrorist attack. Forty-six percent of women worry that their personal financial situation will worsen in the post-September 11<sup>th</sup> environment compared to 40 percent who say they worry about being a victim of a bioterrorist attack and 39 percent who say they worry about being a victim of a terrorist attack.

<b>Worries after September 11<sup>th</sup> (Percent Very or Somewhat Worried)</b>	
	<b>Total Worried</b>
<b>Further terrorist attacks on the United States</b>	73
<b>The safety of military, reservists, and law enforcement personnel</b>	67
<b>Further anthrax attacks on the United States</b>	62
<b>U.S. economic conditions will worsen</b>	62
<b>Safety on airplanes and in airports</b>	61
<b>The war in Afghanistan will spread to other countries</b>	53
<b>Sufficient supplies of vaccines or antibiotics</b>	48
<b>Your own personal economic situation will worsen</b>	46
<b>Adequate evacuation plans in your community</b>	41
<b>You or a member of your family will be exposed to anthrax or other biochemical attacks</b>	40
<b>You or a member of your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack</b>	39
<b>Handling mail</b>	32
<b>You or a member of your family will lose your job</b>	31

### Economic Concerns

Women have fairly specific economic concerns. Few women believe that they or a family member will be laid off from work, but they feel anxious about a host of other issues. For instance, more than one in four worry that they will have to dip into their savings, while 22 percent of women worry that they will be unable to afford health care expenses. In addition, nearly one in five women say they are worried that they will lose their health care benefits altogether.

Economically vulnerable women feel the effects of the attack most strongly. Women without a college education, single moms and minority women have the greatest concerns about a host of financial problems such as using up their savings or losing their health benefits, while less economically vulnerable women – such as those who are married or have a college education – are less concerned. For instance, a fifth of economically vulnerable women worry they will not be able to afford groceries compared to 10 percent of married women and 9 percent of college educated women.

<b>Post September 11<sup>th</sup> Economic Worries (Percent Responding Very/Somewhat Worried)</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Single Moms</b>	<b>Young non college</b>	<b>Latinas</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>College grads</b>
<b>Have to use savings</b>	<b>25</b>	27	28	32	24	21
<b>Not afford health benefits</b>	<b>22</b>	33	29	32	19	17
<b>Lose health benefits</b>	<b>19</b>	26	23	21	16	15
<b>Not afford car payments</b>	<b>15</b>	24	21	21	13	12
<b>Not afford mortgage</b>	<b>14</b>	18	17	15	13	14
<b>Not afford groceries</b>	<b>14</b>	22	19	19	10	9
<b>Lose your job</b>	<b>13</b>	22	19	25	12	9
<b>Not afford dine out</b>	<b>10</b>	15	13	11	8	7
<b>Not afford house</b>	<b>9</b>	22	12	14	7	7
<b>Not afford appliance</b>	<b>8</b>	13	10	8	8	8
<b>Not afford childcare</b>	<b>8</b>	21	10	13	7	9

Overall, 32 percent of women report some change in their personal employment situation, with consequences ranging from a decrease in the value of their stocks or 401k plans to losing their jobs. Although women across the economic spectrum experienced losses, economically vulnerable women report a greater likelihood of facing some level of lost employment or cutback in hours, while less economically vulnerable women most likely felt an impact through stock values.

<b>Personal Change in Employment Since September 11<sup>th</sup> (Percent Responding)</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Single Moms</b>	<b>Young non college</b>	<b>Latinas</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>College grads</b>
<b>401K/Stocks decreasing</b>	<b>18</b>	12	14	10	22	26
<b>Had hours cut back</b>	<b>5</b>	5	8	13	4	3
<b>Had overtime cut back</b>	<b>3</b>	5	4	6	2	3
<b>Fired from full-time job</b>	<b>2</b>	5	2	6	2	2
<b>Loss of health insurance</b>	<b>2</b>	5	3	4	2	1
<b>Temporarily laid off</b>	<b>1</b>	3	3	1	1	1
<b>Take a lower-paying job</b>	<b>1</b>	3	1	-	-	1
<b>Fired from part-time job</b>	<b>1</b>	2	1	-	-	-
<b>No change/Don't know</b>	<b>68</b>	60	64	60	67	63

### Reactions to the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks

Women's reactions to the terrorist attacks run the gamut from sadness to anger to shock to fear, though only 37 percent say the events changed their lives. This range of emotional responses to the attacks, for some women, also accompanies a worsening in their mental health. Nearly a fifth of women report that their mental health has gotten worse since the attacks. Women, for the most part, rely on friends and family (30 percent) to help them through this trying time or take no action at all (20 percent). Only 17 percent reported going to a physician and 12 percent took prescription drugs.

Women, however, are not monolithic in their response to September 11<sup>th</sup>. Younger women are more likely to report that they are worried about future attacks and that they continue to exhibit a range of mental health consequences. Regionally, women living on the coasts or in areas with higher population density express greater concern about potential attacks than women living in rural areas or in the Heartland. Finally, there is a smaller number of women who have tangible experience with the attacks – either by knowing a victim in some manner or having friends and family serving in the military. Understandably, these women are more likely than women not directly affected to report feeling anxiety and stress about the events

### The Generational Divide

Women's concerns vary with age, which is not surprising given that as women occupy different places in the life cycle, they face different problems and challenges. Younger women (41 percent), who do not rely on government support to the same degree as older women, are more likely to say they are worried about the economy than older women (34 percent). Younger women are more likely to have young children or be part of the education system, and accordingly are more likely to cite education as a top concern (25 percent to 14 percent). Older women, on the other hand, are significantly more concerned about healthcare and Social Security than younger women. Women over 50 years of age are three times more likely than women under 50 years of age to worry about Social Security and retirement.

<b>Concerns about the Country by Age (Percent citing as one of top TWO concerns)</b>			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Under 50</b>	<b>Over 50</b>
<b>Terrorism</b>	46	43	49
<b>Economy and jobs</b>	38	41	34
<b>Education</b>	21	25	14
<b>Moral Decline</b>	20	19	21
<b>Health Care</b>	15	13	20
<b>Crime</b>	15	16	13
<b>War and foreign policy</b>	14	15	13
<b>Social Security/retirement</b>	10	5	18
<b>Environment</b>	8	10	3
<b>Taxes</b>	5	5	5

In daily life, women at different stages of the life cycle also have different concerns. Senior citizens are more worried about their health (48 percent) than women under 30 years of age (13 percent). These young women (48 percent) express far more concern about their ability to pay their bills than women on fixed incomes (25 percent). They also face more daily stress related to work, meeting familial responsibilities and personal relationships.

<b>Women's Concerns about Daily Life by Age (Percent citing as one of top TWO concerns)</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>Over 64</b>
<b>Your children's safety</b>	<b>35</b>	27	46	41	34	28
<b>Ability to pay bills</b>	<b>32</b>	48	37	29	22	25
<b>Your health</b>	<b>24</b>	13	15	20	34	48
<b>Your own personal safety</b>	<b>21</b>	20	18	23	21	25
<b>Family responsibilities</b>	<b>17</b>	15	19	17	20	8
<b>Stress at work</b>	<b>14</b>	14	18	15	17	2
<b>Free time for yourself</b>	<b>14</b>	18	17	11	12	7
<b>Personal relationships</b>	<b>11</b>	16	10	9	10	11
<b>Ability to afford presents</b>	<b>10</b>	15	10	10	6	6

Young women are significantly more likely than older women to worry about future attacks and the future of America's economy. There are especially stark differences between women who have fewer life experiences, and women over 64 years of age, who lived through traumatic events such as World War II and the depression. For example, 64 percent of women under 50 are worried about future anthrax attacks compared to 57 percent of older women. Younger women are also more worried that that will be personally victimized by terrorism or a bioterrorist attack.

Given that young women are more likely than older women to cite inability to pay their bills as a top concern, it should not be surprising that younger women (66 percent vs. 56 percent) are more worried that either the U.S. economy will worsen or their own personal financial situation will worsen.

<b>Post September 11<sup>th</sup> Worries by Age (Percent Responding Very/Somewhat Worried)</b>			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Under 50</b>	<b>Over 50</b>
<b>Further terrorist attacks</b>	<b>73</b>	74	71
<b>Safety of personnel</b>	<b>67</b>	67	66
<b>U.S. economy will worsen</b>	<b>62</b>	66	56
<b>Further anthrax attacks</b>	<b>62</b>	64	57
<b>Airport/airline safety</b>	<b>61</b>	65	54
<b>War will spread</b>	<b>53</b>	53	52
<b>Supplies of vaccines</b>	<b>48</b>	48	48
<b>Personal economic worsen</b>	<b>46</b>	48	42
<b>Evacuation plans</b>	<b>41</b>	41	40
<b>Anthrax exposure</b>	<b>40</b>	43	36
<b>Personal victim terrorism</b>	<b>39</b>	41	37
<b>Handling mail</b>	<b>32</b>	34	31
<b>Lose your job</b>	<b>31</b>	33	27

Younger women's anxiety about the future is so much greater than older women's that they are more likely to report mental health consequences as a result of the attacks. Women under 50 are twice as likely as older women (20 percent to 11 percent) to report that their mental health worsened as a result of the attacks. Young women are also more likely to report a range of mental health consequences including anxiety, lack of energy and inability to concentrate.

<b>Reactions to September 11<sup>th</sup> by Age</b>						
<b>(Percent who experienced since September 11<sup>th</sup>)</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>Over 64</b>
<b>General sadness</b>	<b>52</b>	47	50	63	53	46
<b>Difficulty sleeping</b>	<b>26</b>	28	27	31	26	15
<b>Anxiety or panic</b>	<b>20</b>	25	22	26	17	11
<b>Lack of energy</b>	<b>20</b>	24	23	27	14	12
<b>Unexplained anger</b>	<b>20</b>	25	20	23	17	13
<b>Inability to concentrate</b>	<b>19</b>	23	22	25	15	5
<b>Headaches</b>	<b>18</b>	24	21	19	12	10
<b>Terrorism nightmares</b>	<b>14</b>	16	18	17	14	7

Regional Differences

As would be expected, the top concerns also vary for those living in different regions and settings around the country. Terrorism stands out as more of a concern among women living in large cities (53 percent), and also in the Northeastern region of the country (52 percent) where the terrorist attacks have been concentrated. Women living in the Western and Central regions place their concerns in more economic terms. They rate jobs and the economy as equally important concerns as terrorism, as do women living in rural and suburban areas. In the Western region, for example, terrorism and the economy and jobs are both at the forefront, with 47

percent saying they are concerned about both. Similarly in the Central region, terrorism is the top concern for 39 percent of respondents, while the economy and jobs was one of the top two issues for 38 percent of women.

Regionally, women living in the Northeast and in the West express greater worry about the possibility of future attacks. Eighty percent of women in the Northeast and 77 percent of women in the West say they worry about the possibility of future attacks on the U.S., compared to 64 percent of women in the Central region and 72 percent of Southern women. Meanwhile, women's anxiety about the U.S. economic situation is evident throughout the country – 66 percent of women in the Northeast and 65 percent of women in the West compared to 60 percent of women in the Central region and 59 percent of Southern women.

<b>State of Mental Health Since September 11<sup>th</sup> (Percent Responding)</b>					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>
<b>Better</b>	5	6	8	4	4
<b>Worse</b>	17	21	11	17	18

Women living in coastal regions (New England, Middle Atlantic, Border States, Pacific) express a greater deterioration in their mental health than those living in other parts of the country. Similarly, women living in large cities and suburban areas report more mental health consequences than those living in small cities and towns and rural areas. More than one in five women in large cities or suburbs say their mental health is worse since the September 11<sup>th</sup>

attacks; these women are also more likely to have experienced other health consequences than women who live in small cities, towns, and rural areas. For instance, unexplained anger surfaced most often for city (28 percent) and suburban women (25 percent) but was less apparent in women from small cities (16 percent) and rural areas (17 percent).

<b>Symptoms of Decline in Mental Health since September 11<sup>th</sup> by Area Type (Percent who experienced symptom since September 11<sup>th</sup>)</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Small city</b>	<b>Subur b</b>	<b>Small town</b>	<b>Rural area</b>
<b>General sadness</b>	<b>52</b>	53	48	59	54	52
<b>Difficulty sleeping</b>	<b>26</b>	30	25	30	24	24
<b>Anxiety or panic</b>	<b>20</b>	24	21	20	18	20
<b>Lack of energy</b>	<b>20</b>	25	20	23	19	12
<b>Unexplained anger</b>	<b>20</b>	28	16	25	19	17
<b>Inability to concentrate</b>	<b>19</b>	17	22	16	18	17
<b>Headaches</b>	<b>18</b>	19	16	25	19	11
<b>Terrorism nightmares</b>	<b>14</b>	18	12	16	15	11

Women with Children

Women's daily concerns vary with their circumstances. For mothers, worries about their kids' safety are paramount, while women without children worry about their ability to pay their bills. Women without children worry about their personal health more than their personal security and safety, while moms are more concerned with their personal safety than their health.

<b>Women's Daily Concerns by Parental Status (Percent citing as one of top TWO concerns)</b>			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Has kids</b>	<b>No kids</b>
<b>Your children's safety</b>	<b>35</b>	55	23
<b>Ability to pay bills</b>	<b>32</b>	32	32
<b>Your health</b>	<b>24</b>	13	31
<b>Your own personal safety</b>	<b>21</b>	18	23
<b>Family responsibilities</b>	<b>17</b>	19	15
<b>Stress at work</b>	<b>14</b>	15	14
<b>Free time for yourself</b>	<b>14</b>	13	14
<b>Personal relationships</b>	<b>11</b>	6	15
<b>Ability to afford presents</b>	<b>10</b>	12	8

While their children's safety tops mothers' concerns in their everyday lives, they are not so traumatized by terrorist events that they feel compelled to change their children's routines as a result. Two-thirds of mothers indicate that they spent time talking to their children about the attacks and more than a third (36 percent) talked about what to do in case of an emergency, but far fewer took more extreme action like changing their TV watching habits (19 percent), changing curfews (8 percent), or taking them to see a doctor (6 percent).

Mothers do, however, report more mental stress since the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks than those without kids, with 21 percent of moms saying that their mental health is worse since September 11<sup>th</sup> compared to only 14 percent of women with no children. These mothers also prove more likely than women without kids to experience symptoms of mental stress, such as difficulty sleeping, lack of energy, and an inability to concentrate.

<b>Symptoms of Decline in Mental Health since September 11<sup>th</sup> by Parental Status (Percent who experienced symptom since September 11<sup>th</sup>)</b>			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Has kids</b>	<b>No kids</b>
<b>General sadness</b>	<b>52</b>	54	51
<b>Difficulty sleeping</b>	<b>26</b>	30	24
<b>Anxiety or panic</b>	<b>20</b>	22	19
<b>Lack of energy</b>	<b>20</b>	24	18
<b>Unexplained anger</b>	<b>20</b>	23	19
<b>Inability to concentrate</b>	<b>19</b>	23	16
<b>Headaches</b>	<b>18</b>	21	16
<b>Terrorism nightmares</b>	<b>14</b>	18	12

Women who have children also express greater worry than women without kids regarding economic issues that affect their family. Overall, 27 percent of mothers say that their personal economic situation is worse since September 11<sup>th</sup> compared to 22 percent of women without children. In addition, half of women with children worry that their personal economic situations will worsen in the future, compared to 43 percent of women without children. Not surprisingly, mothers’ concerns are linked to family life, including having to use savings (28

percent) or not being able to afford typical expenses like health care (25 percent), car payments (19 percent), mortgages (17 percent), or childcare (15 percent).

### Who was affected by September 11<sup>th</sup>?

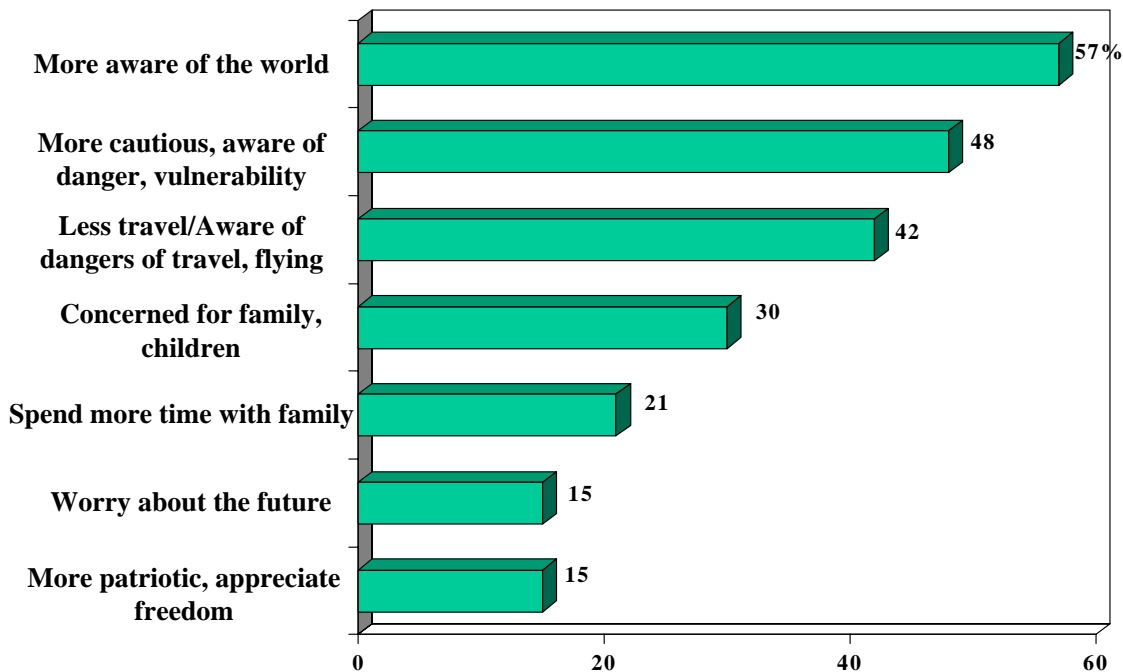
Fourteen percent of women report that they know someone personally who was a victim of the attacks in New York or Washington or the subsequent anthrax exposure. While this number seems high, women may be referring to friends of friends or distant connections as well as direct ties to victims. Primarily women know affected friends (6 percent) or acquaintances (5 percent), rather than immediate relatives. Not surprisingly, women living in the Mid Atlantic region (22 percent overall) are more likely to report knowing a victim (18 percent friend or acquaintance).

For obvious reasons, those who were personally affected by the attacks express greater concern than those who were not. Sixty-one percent of women who report knowing a victim say the event changed their lives. Seventy-seven percent of women who knew a victim of the attacks worry about further terrorist attacks compared to 72 percent of those who did not know any victims. Further, 70 percent of women who were personally acquainted with a victim say they are worried about the safety of airplanes and airports compared to 60 percent of people who knew no victim of the attacks.

What have Women Done in Response?

Despite a myriad of concerns about the possibility of future attacks and mental health consequences, women overall say they have not made significant changes in their daily lives. Only 37 percent of women say their lives were altered by the attacks. Women whose lives changed primarily report that they are now more aware of the larger world around them (57 percent), feelings of vulnerability (48 percent), more caution in traveling (42 percent), and feelings of fear, especially about family and children (30 percent).

### Changes in Women's Lives since Sept. 11th



Women have not radically changed their lives in response to the terrorist and anthrax attacks. The activities in which women chose to participate in the wake of the attacks reflect a sense of normalcy and focus on everyday life – they donated to charity (64 percent), attended religious services (58 percent), and spent more time with families and friends (57 percent). Women's activities since the attacks do not show an overwhelming sense of alarm or panic, as far fewer women reported activities such as stocking up on emergency supplies (22 percent), canceling travel plans (15 percent), or buying gas masks and Cipro (2 percent).

Women who donated to charity in this period after the terrorist attacks come from groups that generally have more economic stability – older women, college graduates, married women, and suburban women – while younger women, single women, and women of color were more likely to choose to spend more time with loved ones or to turn to religion. Seventy-two percent of women gave or sent a check directly to a local organization and 24 percent donated food or supplies to a local group.

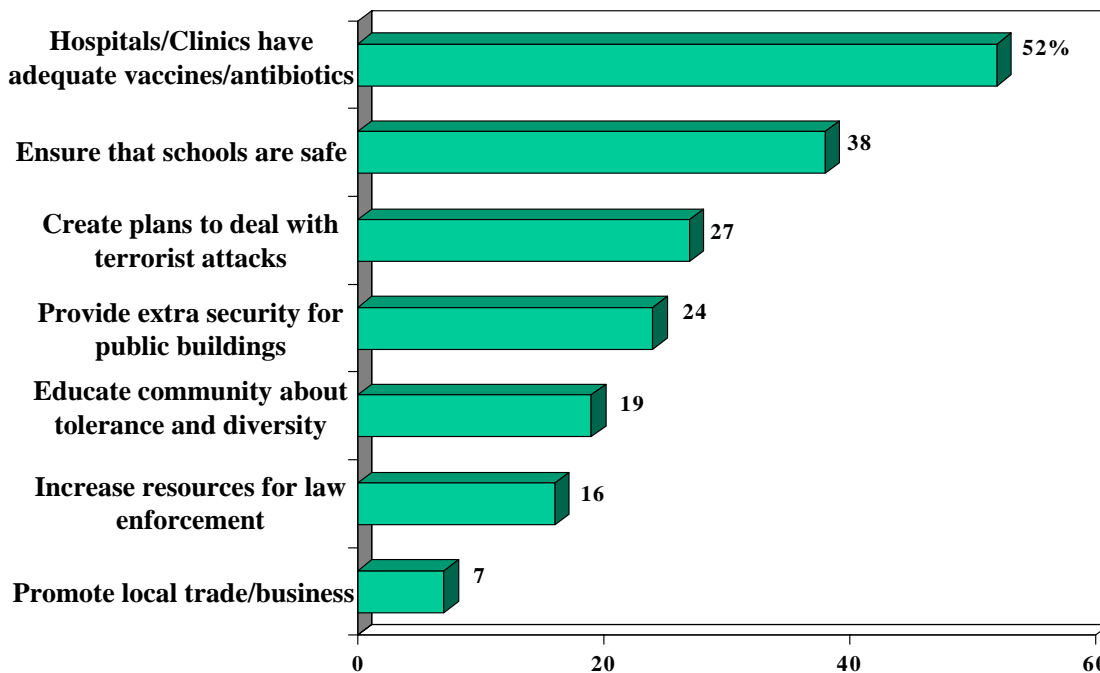
Women who know a victim of the attacks report participating in all of the various activities in the aftermath of the attacks by a greater margin than those who do not personally know a victim.

<b>Post-Attack Activities</b> <b>(Percent Participated in since September 11<sup>th</sup>)</b>			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Knew Victim</b>	<b>Knew no victim</b>
<b>Donated to charity</b>	64	76	62
<b>Attended religious services</b>	58	68	56
<b>Spent time with family/friends</b>	57	72	55
<b>Volunteered</b>	23	43	20
<b>Stocked up on supplies</b>	22	29	20
<b>Attended patriotic rally</b>	19	35	16
<b>Attended memorial service</b>	18	39	14
<b>Donated blood</b>	17	30	16
<b>Cancelled travel plans</b>	15	27	13
<b>Started new exercise routine</b>	11	17	10
<b>Changed dating habits</b>	5	5	4
<b>Bought Cipro or gas masks</b>	2	4	2

What Women Want from Government

When evaluating how local government should focus its response to the terrorist attacks, women strongly believe that hospitals and clinics should have adequate supplies of vaccines and antibiotics, with more than half (52 percent) of women saying this should be one of the top two

## Local Government Priorities



issues for local agencies to address. Thirty-eight percent of women say that ensuring safety in schools should be a top priority for local government to address in response to the terrorist attacks. Once again, personal security is less salient. Only a quarter believe their local government should emphasize creating emergency plans to deal with a potential terrorist attack and providing extra security for public buildings.

Clearly, women think that access to health facilities is an important factor in their overall health and they express a desire to see that hospitals and clinics are prepared to provide help when they need it. In the event of a bioterrorist attack in their community, forty-five percent of women say they would turn to a hospital for help, far more than those saying they would go to a public health clinic or even to their own doctor

But women are divided on the issue of local spending and preparedness. Forty-eight percent say that their local government is spending the right amount on security issues in their community, while another 48 percent believe that local government currently spends too little money (24 percent) or are unsure about how much money local government spends on safety and security (24 percent). They are uncertain about the ability of local authorities to handle future bioterrorist attacks – only 17 percent are very confident in local agencies and law enforcement to respond to a bioterrorist attack in their community compared to 47 percent who are somewhat confident, 20 percent who are a just a little confident and 12 percent who are not confident at all.

Afghan Women

Women are very cognizant of the treatment of women in Afghanistan. In a country with declining attention to the news and relative indifference to international events, an astonishing 85 percent of American women have heard something about the conditions of Afghan women. Women of all ages report exposure to information about the treatment of Afghan women, though women between 18 and 29 years old indicate somewhat lower levels of knowledge.

<b>Level of Knowledge of Treatment of Afghan Women by Age</b>						
<b>(Percent responding)</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>Over 65</b>
<b>Heard a lot</b>	<b>50</b>	37	55	53	61	45
<b>Heard a little</b>	<b>35</b>	37	32	35	31	43
<b>Haven't heard anything</b>	<b>14</b>	24	13	12	8	12

Among those women who indicate having heard about the conditions for Afghan women, the level of specific knowledge is deep. In an open-ended format where women volunteered information about the women in Afghanistan, significant numbers of women know that under the Taliban women must be covered by a burqa or a veil in public (55 percent) and are forbidden from working (46 percent) and attending school (44 percent).

<b>Knowledge of Treatment of Afghan Women</b>	
<b>(Percent responding, multiple responses accepted)</b>	
	<b>Total</b>
<b>General bad treatment</b>	63
<b>Must wear burqa/veil</b>	55
<b>Forbidden to work</b>	46
<b>Forbidden to attend schools</b>	44
<b>Beaten for violating rules</b>	43
<b>Can't leave home without a man</b>	32
<b>Forced prostitution/begging</b>	13
<b>High rate of suicide</b>	8

Women believe in the importance of promoting women's participation in decision and policy-making internationally. A majority of American women believe the U.S. and other countries participating in the efforts to create a post-Taliban government should insist that Afghan women are included in the negotiations. This view is shared widely across the ideological spectrum.

<b>Women's Involvement in Post-Taliban Negotiations by Ideology</b>				
<b>(Percent Responding)</b>				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
<b>Insist on women</b>	<b>50</b>	57	52	45
<b>Stability important</b>	<b>33</b>	32	32	38
<b>(Neither)</b>	<b>5</b>	4	5	6
<b>(Don't know)</b>	<b>11</b>	7	11	10

And while young women are somewhat less informed about the conditions for women in Afghan culture, they prove to be no less likely to support a policy that demands the inclusion of women in negotiations to create a post-Taliban government.

<b>Women's Involvement in Post-Taliban Negotiations by Age</b>						
<b>(Percent responding)</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>Over 65</b>
<b>Insist on women</b>	<b>50</b>	51	51	53	49	49
<b>Stability important</b>	<b>33</b>	34	33	33	35	31
<b>(Neither)</b>	<b>5</b>	6	4	6	6	4
<b>(Don't know)</b>	<b>11</b>	9	11	7	11	17

Generally, women feel that religious leaders in Afghanistan have a negative impact on life in that country, while they see religious influence in the United States as largely positive. Only 9 percent of women say the effect of religious leaders in Afghanistan is very or somewhat positive compared to 64 percent in the United States.

<b>Overall Impact of Religious Leaders (Percent Responding)</b>		
	<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>U.S.</b>
<b>Very positive</b>	2	23
<b>Somewhat positive</b>	8	41
<b>Somewhat negative</b>	21	8
<b>Very negative</b>	33	3
<b>Don't know/Refused</b>	15	15
<b>Total positive</b>	9	64
<b>Total negative</b>	54	11

Only a third of women think that the Bush administration's statements on the treatment of women under the Taliban will have an impact on its policies towards women's rights in the United States. Four in ten think Bush's statements will have no impact at all, and nearly a

quarter are unsure about the chances of having an impact on the administration’s policies towards women’s rights.

Media Awareness

Women are paying close attention to the coverage of events surrounding the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks. Nearly nine out of ten women indicate that they are following the coverage of the attacks and the war in Afghanistan very or somewhat closely. The number of women who report that they are “very closely” following the news increases as age rises. Only 28 percent of women under 30 years of age say they are following the coverage very closely compared to 54 percent of women over 64 years of age.

<b>How Closely Following Coverage of Events by Age</b>						
<b>(Percent Responding)</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>Over 65</b>
<b>Very closely</b>	<b>42</b>	28	30	49	52	54
<b>Somewhat closely</b>	<b>45</b>	47	56	43	42	36
<b>Not very closely</b>	<b>9</b>	18	10	6	3	8
<b>Not at all closely</b>	<b>4</b>	7	4	2	3	2

While women across-the-board turn most often to cable news outlets like CNN and MSNBC for information, some generational differences emerge. While older women are more likely to use newspapers as a main source of information, women ages 18 to 29 – who have been widely exposed to the explosion of technology – indicate a higher use of the internet as a source of news than other groups of women.

<b>Where Women Get Information by Age</b>						
<b>(Percent Responding)</b>						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>Over 65</b>
<b>Cable news like CNN/MSNBC</b>	<b>53</b>	48	52	61	54	50
<b>Local TV news</b>	<b>40</b>	41	41	34	41	42
<b>Newspapers</b>	<b>39</b>	35	36	38	46	42
<b>Network TV news</b>	<b>26</b>	21	30	27	26	30
<b>Radio News</b>	<b>13</b>	17	13	13	11	12
<b>Internet web sites</b>	<b>8</b>	15	6	8	8	1
<b>TV newsmagazine shows</b>	<b>4</b>	5	4	4	3	5
<b>Radio talk shows</b>	<b>3</b>	4	5	3	3	2
<b>Newsmagazines</b>	<b>3</b>	2	4	4	2	3
<b>TV talk shows</b>	<b>2</b>	1	2	3	1	2