

The Iraqi Public on the US Presence and the Future of Iraq -A WorldPublicOpinion.org Poll-

Questionnaire and Methodology

Dates of Survey: September 1-4, 2006
Sample Size: 1000 + 150 Sunni Arab over-sample

Margin of Error: +/- 3 %

* Indicates less than one percent

Q1. Do you think that Iraq today is generally headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	9/06	1/06
Right direction	47%	64%
Kurd	64	76
Shia Arab	59	84
Sunni Arab	6	6
Wrong direction	52	36
Kurd	36	23
Shia Arab	41	16
Sunni Arab	93	93
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1	*

Q2. Thinking about the Iraqi government led by Prime Minister Nouri Maliki, would you say that in its effort to deal with Iraq's problems, the government is doing a very good job, a somewhat good job, somewhat bad or very bad job?

Very good job	17%
Kurd	18
Shia Arab	23
Sunni Arab	1
Somewhat good job.....	46
Kurd.....	54
Shia Arab	54
Sunni Arab	17
Somewhat bad job.....	22
Kurd	21
Shia Arab	17

Sunni Arab	35
Very bad job.....	15
Kurd	7
Shia Arab	6
Sunni Arab	47
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	*

Q3. Please tell me if you think the following are having a mostly positive or mostly negative influence on the situation in Iraq?

	Mostly Positive	Mostly Negative	(No effect/ Neither)	(Ref./ DK)
Q3a. Iran.	27%	52	21	1
January 2006	26	52	21	1
Kurd	8	71	21	0
January 2006	9	63	23	5
Shia Arab	45	28	27	1
January 2006	43	30	26	*
Sunni Arab	1	94	4	1
January 2006	*	93	6	1
Q3b. Syria	15%	55	30	1
January 2006	8	61	30	1
Kurd	9	63	27	1
January 2006	1	55	41	3
Shia Arab	6	68	25	1
January 2006	5	80	16	*
Sunni Arab	41	17	43	*
January 2006	21	25	54	*
Q3c. The United States.	14%	79	6	1
Kurd	48	34	17	1
Shia Arab	8	87	4	*
Sunni Arab	1	96	2	2

Q4a-c. Do you strongly approve, approve somewhat, disapprove somewhat, or strongly disapprove of the following:

	Strongly Approve	Approve Somewhat	Disapprove Somewhat	Strongly Disapprove	(Refused/DK)
a. Attacks on US-led forces in Iraq.....	27%	34	23	16	*
<i>January 2006</i>	23	24	29	23	1
Kurd	6	9	27	59	0
<i>January 2006</i>	8	8	18	63	3
Shia Arab	21	41	29	9	1
<i>January 2006</i>	9	32	41	18	*
Sunni Arab	55	37	7	*	*
<i>January 2006</i>	77	11	9	3	0
b. Attacks on Iraqi government security forces.....	*	4	28	68	*
<i>January 2006</i>	1	6	27	66	*
Kurd	0	3	8	89	0
<i>January 2006</i>	*	*	13	86	*
Shia Arab	0	1	23	76	*
<i>January 2006</i>	2	2	19	78	0
Sunni Arab	1	13	57	29	0
<i>January 2006</i>	*	24	52	24	0
c. Attacks on Iraqi civilians.	*	*	3	97	*
<i>January 2006</i>	*	1	4	95	0
Kurd	1	0	3	97	0
<i>January 2006</i>	*	*	1	98	0
Shia Arab	1	*	2	97	*
<i>January 2006</i>	0	1	5	94	0
Sunni Arab	0	1	4	95	0
<i>January 2006</i>	0	0	5	95	0

[If “APPROVE” in Q4a]

Q4d: If the US made a commitment to withdraw from Iraq according to a timeline would you feel less supportive of attacks against US-led forces or would it make no difference?

Would feel less supportive.....	36%*
Kurd	11
Shia Arab	43
Sunni Arab	42

* Percent of total.

It would make no difference.	23
Kurd	3
Shia Arab	19
Sunni Arab	49
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1

Q5a-g: Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very favorable opinion of:

	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Ref/DK (vol.)
a. Iranian President					
Mahmoud Ahmadinejad	17%	25	21	36	1
Kurd	5	19	34	43	0
Shia Arab	28	36	20	15	1
Sunni Arab	1	1	17	80	1
b. Osama bin Laden	1	7	16	77	-
Kurd	0	1	11	87	-
Shia Arab	1	1	4	94	-
Sunni Arab	3	26	48	23	-
c. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki					
Kurd	29	35	19	18	-
Shia Arab	13	45	22	20	-
Shia Arab	45	41	11	4	-
Sunni Arab	1	13	37	48	-
d. Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani					
Kurd	46	14	19	22	-
Kurd	8	15	39	39	-
Shia Arab	77	18	2	3	-
Sunni Arab	2	3	45	50	-
e. Muqtada al-Sadr	30	19	14	38	*
Kurd	1	6	19	75	0
Shia Arab	52	29	12	8	0
Sunni Arab	1	8	11	80	0
f. al Qaeda	2	5	12	82	*
Kurd	0	1	7	93	0
Shia Arab	1	1	3	95	*
Sunni Arab	5	18	39	38	0
g. Hezbollah.	31	32	20	16	1
Kurd	0	5	29	64	3
Shia Arab	50	41	7	2	*
Sunni Arab	6	35	49	10	0

Q4: Please tell me how much confidence you have in those forces to protect your security. Please say whether you have no confidence, a little confidence, some confidence, or a lot of confidence.

	No confidence	A little confidence	Some confidence	A lot of confidence	Ref./DK (vol.)
a. The Iraqi army	3%	34	40	24	-
Kurd	3	18	43	36	-
Shia Arab	2	34	42	23	-
Sunni Arab	7	47	35	11	-
b. Iraqi Interior Ministry forces	25	13	34	28	1
Kurd	11	16	44	30	0
Shia Arab	9	11	41	38	1
Sunni Arab	76	15	8	1	*
c. Police	10	20	34	37	-
Kurd	4	10	36	51	-
Shia Arab	5	13	39	44	-
Sunni Arab	28	49	14	9	-
d. US military forces	62	22	11	5	-
Kurd	17	28	37	18	-
Shia Arab	66	25	7	2	-
Sunni Arab	85	13	2	0	-

Q7: Do you think that the new Iraqi system of government grants the central government too much power, too little power, or about the right amount of power?

Too much power	37%
Kurd	34
Shia Arab	36
Sunni Arab	46
Too little power.....	35
Kurd	42
Shia Arab	35
Sunni Arab	24
About the right amount of power.....	26
Kurd	24
Shia Arab	27
Sunni Arab	29
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	2

Q8. Do you think the US government plans to have permanent military bases in Iraq or to remove all its military forces once Iraq is stabilized?

	9/06	1/06
US plans to have permanent military bases in Iraq.....	77%	80
Kurd	58	67
Shia Arab	73	79
Sunni Arab	97	92
US plans to remove its military forces once Iraq is stabilized.....	22	18
Kurd	42	28
Shia Arab	25	21
Sunni Arab	2	7
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1	1

Q9. Do you think the US military presence in Iraq is currently a stabilizing force or that it is provoking more conflict than it is preventing?

	Iraqis 9/06	Americans 3/06*
A stabilizing force.....	21%	43%
Kurd	56	
Shia Arab	17	
Sunni Arab	2	
Provoking more conflict than it is preventing.....	78	55
Kurd	41	
Shia Arab	82	
Sunni Arab	97	
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1	2

Q10. Thinking about any hardships you might have suffered since the US- Britain invasion, do you personally think that ousting Saddam Hussein was worth it or not?

	9/06	1/06
Worth it.....	61%	77
Kurd	81	91
Shia Arab	75	98
Sunni Arab	11	13

* Taken from 3/06 WPO study Americans on Iraq: Three Years On.

Not worth it.....	38	22
Kurd	18	8
Shia Arab	23	2
Sunni Arab	89	83

Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1	1
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Q11. Which of the following would *you like* the Iraqi government to ask the US-led forces to do?

	9/06	1/06
Withdraw all US-led forces within six months	37%	35
Kurd	11	13
Shia Arab	36	22
Sunni Arab	57	83

Gradually withdraw US-led forces according to a one-year timeline.....	34%	N/A
Kurd	24	N/A
Shia Arab	38	N/A
Sunni Arab	34	N/A

Gradually withdraw US-led forces according to a two-year timeline.	20	35
Kurd	34	28
Shia Arab	20	49
Sunni Arab	7	11

Only reduce US-led forces as the security situation improves in Iraq.	9	29
Kurd	31	57
Shia Arab	5	29
Sunni Arab	2	4

Don't know/Refused (vol.)	*	1
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Q12: If the US made a commitment to withdraw from Iraq according to a timeline do you think this would strengthen the Iraqi government, weaken it, or have no effect either way?

Strengthen the Iraqi government.....	53%
Kurd	39
Shia Arab	60
Sunni Arab	46

Weaken it	24
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Kurd	37
Shia Arab	18
Sunni Arab	24
Have no effect either way	23
Kurd	24
Shia Arab	21
Sunni Arab	30
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1

Q13. Do you think that six months from now Iraqi security forces will be strong enough to deal with the security challenges Iraq will face or do you think Iraq will still need the help of military forces from other countries?

	9/06	1/06
Strong enough to deal with security challenges on its own	53%	39%
Kurd	40	22
Shia Arab	68	45
Sunni Arab	24	38
Will still need help of military forces from other countries.....	46	59
Kurd	57	73
Shia Arab	31	55
Sunni Arab	75	58
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	2	2

[If “still needs help” Q13 “2” ask Q13a]

Q13a. How much longer do you think Iraqi security forces will still need the help of military forces from other countries?

	9/06*	1/06†
1 year.....	9%	21
Kurd	17	5
Shia Arab	34	25
Sunni Arab	5	21
2 years	21	26
Kurd	23	31
Shia Arab	13	21

* Percent of total

† Percent of total

Sunni Arab	40	31
3 years or more.....	16	12
Kurd	23	33
Shia Arab	7	8
Sunni Arab	31	5
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	*	1

Q14a-b. If US-led forces withdraw from Iraq in the next six months, do you think (.....) will increase a lot, increase a little, decrease a little, decrease a lot, or have no effect either way?

	Increase a lot	Increase a little	Decrease a lot	Decrease a little	No effect either way	Ref./DK (vol)
a. amount of inter-ethnic violence.....	16%	22	35	23	4	*
<i>January 2006</i>	19	14	26	35	5	*
Kurd	26	22	29	18	6	1
<i>January 2006</i>	49	19	17	13	1	1
Shia Arab	17	22	34	23	5	*
<i>January 2006</i>	13	15	24	40	8	*
Sunni Arab	4	22	47	25	2	0
<i>January 2006</i>	9	9	41	40	1	*
b. day to day security for ordinary Iraqis.....	23%	38	22	12	5	*
<i>January 2006</i>	32%	35	14	16	2	1
Kurd	16	33	22	19	9	1
<i>January 2006</i>	29	28	20	20	1	1
Shia Arab	23	34	26	12	5	1
<i>January 2006</i>	28	33	15	21	3	0
Sunni Arab	29	49	15	6	1	0
<i>January 2006</i>	36	47	9	7	*	1

Q15. If the Iraqi government were to tell the US to withdraw all of its forces within six months do you think the US would or would not do so?

	9/06	1/06*
Would withdraw.....	20%	23
Kurd	34	17
Shia Arab	23	32
Sunni Arab	3	5

* The text of the question asked in January 2006 included the word “new” before “Iraqi government”.

Would not withdraw	78	76
Kurd	64	77
Shia Arab	76	67
Sunni Arab	96	94
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	2	2

Q16: Do you think that six months from now the level of violence in Iraq will be higher than it is today, lower, or about the same?

Higher than it is today	30%
Kurd	22
Shia Arab	27
Sunni Arab	43
Lower	38
Kurd	44
Shia Arab	40
Sunni Arab	23
About the same	31
Kurd	33
Shia Arab	31
Sunni Arab	34
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1

Q17: Do you think that the current Iraqi government is or is not the legitimate representative of the Iraqi people?

Is.....	65%
Kurd	76
Shia Arab	82
Sunni Arab	13
Is not.....	35
Kurd	23
Shia Arab	18
Sunni Arab	86
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1

Q18a-c. (Ask All) I am going to read a list of how the US has been involved in Iraq in non-military ways. For each one that I read, please tell me if you approve of the US being involved and think the US is doing a good job, approve but think the US is doing a poor job, or disapprove of the US being involved in Iraq in this way.

	Approve and US is Doing a good job	Approve, but US is doing a poor job	Disapprove (Ref./DK)	
a. training Iraqi security forces				
forces.....	22	41	36	*
<i>January 2006</i>	33	44	23	*
Kurd	50	43	7	0
<i>January 2006</i>	54	42	4	0
Shia Arab	19	45	36	*
<i>January 2006</i>	37	52	11	*
Sunnii Arab	6	29	64	1
<i>January 2006</i>	6	20	74	1
b. helping to mediate between ethnic groups				
.....	8%	39	52	1
<i>January 2006</i>	17	48	34	1
Kurd	26	57	18	0
<i>January 2006</i>	34	54	11	1
Shia Arab	5	38	57	*
<i>January 2006</i>	19	57	24	*
Sunnii Arab	3	26	70	1
<i>January 2006</i>	3	16	81	*
c. helping Iraqis organize their communities to address local needs (such as building schools and health clinics)				
.....	27%	41	32	1
<i>January 2006</i>	25	45	30	*
Kurd	41	46	13	0
<i>January 2006</i>	39	48	11	1
Shia Arab	28	43	29	*
<i>January 2006</i>	29	54	17	0
Sunnii Arab	12	29	59	2
<i>January 2006</i>	6	14	80	*

[If “Disapprove” to any Q18a-c, ask Q18d, otherwise skip to Q19]

Q18d. If the US were to agree to a timetable for withdrawing its forces would that make you more likely to approve of the US being involved in Iraq in these nonmilitary ways or would it make no difference?

	9/06*	1/06†
More likely to approve of US nonmilitary involvement.....	37%	15%
Kurd	16	10
Shia Arab	45	9
Sunni Arab	33	37
Would not make a difference in my opinion.	27	23
Kurd	13	16
Shia Arab	22	17
Sunni Arab	50	47
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1	8

Q19: Over the next year would you most favor:

Withdrawing all foreign military forces from Iraq.....	65%
Kurd	24
Shia Arab	75
Sunni Arab	73
Maintaining US-led forces in Iraq	14
Kurd	48
Shia Arab	7
Sunni Arab	2
Replacing US-led forces with an international peacekeeping force mostly from Islamic countries	20
Kurd	27
Shia Arab	17
Sunni Arab	26
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	*

* Percent of total

† Percent of total

Q20: Do you feel that if all militias were to disarm now, that you could or could not rely on the government alone to ensure security in your area?

Could.....	68%
Kurd	72
Shia Arab	54
Sunni Arab	93
Could not.....	31
Kurd	28
Shia Arab	44
Sunni Arab	6

Don't know/Refused (vol.)1

Q21: Would you prefer to have a strong government that would get rid of all militias or do you think it would be better to continue to have militias to protect your security?

Strong government to get rid of militias.....	77%
Kurd	82
Shia Arab	65
Sunni Arab	100
Continue to have militias	21
Kurd	15
Shia Arab	33
Sunni Arab	*

Don't know/Refused (vol.)1

Q22: Do you think that the attacks on Sunni civilians mainly come from foreign fighters or from other Iraqis?

Foreign fighters.....	54%
Kurd	52
Shia Arab	63
Sunni Arab	31
Other Iraqis	45
Kurd	47
Shia Arab	36
Sunni Arab	69

Don't know/Refused (vol.)1

Q23: Do you think that the attacks on Shia civilians mainly come from foreign fighters or from other Iraqis?

Foreign fighters.....	58%
Kurd	63
Shia Arab	57
Sunni Arab	53
Other Iraqis	42
Kurd	36
Shia Arab	42
Sunni Arab	47
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1

Q24: How much of the violence directed against ethnic groups has the purpose of driving them from their neighborhoods so that an armed group can solidify its power there?

None.....	10%
Kurd	6
Shia Arab	9
Sunni Arab	17
Just a little.....	24
Kurd	41
Shia Arab	15
Sunni Arab	27
Some	39
Kurd	35
Shia Arab	42
Sunni Arab	33
Most	28
Kurd	17
Shia Arab	34
Sunni Arab	23
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	1

Q25: How likely do you think it is that 5 years from now Iraq will still be a single state?

Very likely	30%
Kurd	25
Shia Arab	40
Sunni Arab	10
Somewhat likely.....	42
Kurd	40
Shia Arab	40
Sunni Arab	46
Not very likely	24
Kurd	26
Shia Arab	16
Sunni Arab	43
Not at all likely.....	4
Kurd	9
Shia Arab	3
Sunni Arab	2
Don't know/Refused (vol.)	*

DEMOGRAPHICS

D1. ETHNICITY

Kurd	18%
Shia Arab	55
Sunni Arab	22
Other	5

D2. SEX

Male	52%
Female.....	49

D3. EDUCATION

Primary or less	30%
Secondary.....	42
Higher	28

D4. AGE

18-24	21%
25-34	27
35-44	22
45-54	19
55+	12

METHODOLOGY

The survey was designed and analyzed by the Program on International Policy Attitudes for WorldPublicOpinion.org. Field work was conducted through D3 Systems and its partner KA Research in Iraq. Face-to-face interviews were conducted among a national random sample of 1,000 Iraqi adults 18 years and older. An over sample of 150 Iraqi Sunni Arabs from predominantly Sunni Arab provinces (Anbar, Diyalah and Salah Al-Din) was carried out to provide additional precision with this group. The total sample thus was 1,150 Iraqi adults. The data were weighted to the following targets (Shia Arab, 55%, Sunni Arab 22%, Kurd 18%, other 5%) in order to properly represent the Iraqi ethnic/religious communities.

The sample design was a multi-stage area probability sample conducted in all 18 Iraqi provinces including Baghdad. Urban and rural areas were proportionally represented. Only one rural sampling point of the 115 employed were replaced for security reasons with substitutes in the same province and urban/rural classification. Among all the cases drawn into the sample, a 93% contact rate and 72% completion rate were achieved.