



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2003-II-05]

Contact: Earl de Berge
Research Director

IRAQ WAR MORE LIKELY TO HAVE MADE NEW FRIENDS THAN TORE OLD FRIENDSHIPS APART

Phoenix, Arizona, May 8, 2003. Only two percent of Arizonans interviewed during the military action in Iraq said the conflict resulted in their losing a friend due to differing views on the war. In contrast, 31 percent said they made a new friend with someone who shared their views about the conflict.

The war was not, however, without tension at the personal level for even though only two percent said they broke off a friendship, one of every four admit having had arguments with friends, family members or co-workers. Such arguments were noticeably higher among men than women and rose sharply among younger adults – 29 percent among those under 35 years of age, but only 10 percent among adults 55 and older.

On another level, ten percent of Arizona adults said the war caused them to experience depression severe enough to make them unable to do things they normally do in their everyday lives. The proportion so affected rises above the norm among ethnic minorities, Democrats and among young adults.

Of interest is the finding that approval or disapproval of President Bush reveals no strong correlation to how people answered these questions. Thus, 34 percent of Bush supporters and 27 percent of his detractors made or strengthened friendships as a result of the war. And while 22 percent of Bush supporters had family, friend or co-worker arguments over the war, the figure rose to only 34 percent among Bush detractors.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 700 adults across Arizona conducted between April 7th and April 10th, 2003, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit www.brcpolls.com to read this and other recent polls.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2003-I-05) is based on 700 telephone interviews with adults, conducted from April 7th through April 10th, 2003 throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.8 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical data for reference.

For this and other polls, see www.brcpolls.com/results.

STATISTICAL DATA

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"I would like to read you a list of things you may or may not have experienced as a result of the U.S.-led war in Iraq that started in March. For each, please tell me if you have personally experienced it or not."

	% ANSWERING YES		
	All	Men	Women
<u>Had an argument about the war with:</u>			
A friend	18%	23%	13%
Family member	12	14	11
Co-worker	11	14	9
(Any of the above)	(26)	(28)	(24)
Ended a friendship over the war	2	2	1
Made a friend over the war	31	31	31
Experienced depression that kept you from doing things you normally do	10	9	10
(Any or all of the above)	(50)	(52)	(48)

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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POLITICAL AFFILIATION

|                                                                           | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Democrat</u> | <u>Independent</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <u>Had an argument about the war with:</u>                                |                   |                 |                    |
| A friend                                                                  | 17%               | 19%             | 23%                |
| Family member                                                             | 15                | 14              | 13                 |
| Co-worker                                                                 | 9                 | 15              | 11                 |
| (Any of the above)                                                        | (26)              | (28)            | (29)               |
| Ended a friendship over the war                                           | 1                 | 4               | 0                  |
| Made a friend over the war                                                | 34                | 40              | 23                 |
| (Either of the above)                                                     | (35)              | (40)            | (23)               |
| Experienced depression that kept you<br>from doing things you normally do | 7                 | 14              | 6                  |
| (Any or all of the above)                                                 | (49)              | (61)            | (48)               |

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AGE OF RESPONDENT

	<u>Under 35</u>	<u>35 To 54</u>	<u>55+</u>
<u>Had an argument about the war with:</u>			
A friend	28%	20%	10%
Family member	19	13	8
Co-worker	15	14	6
(Any of the above)	(36)	(28)	(18)
Ended a friendship over the war	*	2	2
Made a friend over the war	45	26	30
(Either of the above)	(46)	(27)	(30)
Experienced depression that kept you from doing things you normally do	11	9	9
(Any or all of the above)	(66)	(60)	(43)

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