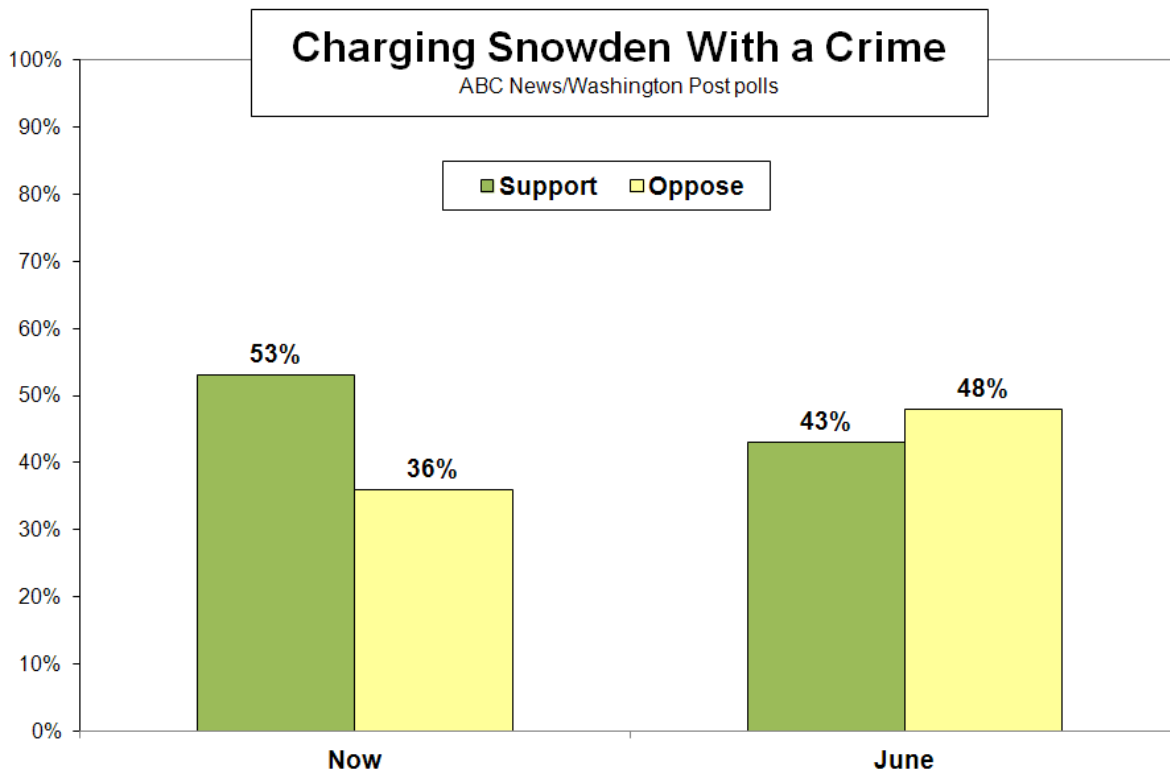


Attitudes Shift Against Snowden; Fewer than Half Say NSA is Unjustified

Public attitudes have shifted against Edward Snowden, with more than half of Americans now supporting criminal charges against the former security contractor who's disclosed details of surveillance by the U.S. National Security Agency. And while most doubt that the NSA's efforts enhance security, most also don't see them as unjustified intrusions on privacy rights.

The public by 57-39 percent in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll also says it's more important for the government to investigate possible terrorist threats than for it to protect privacy rights – a substantial margin, albeit the narrowest in polls since 2002.

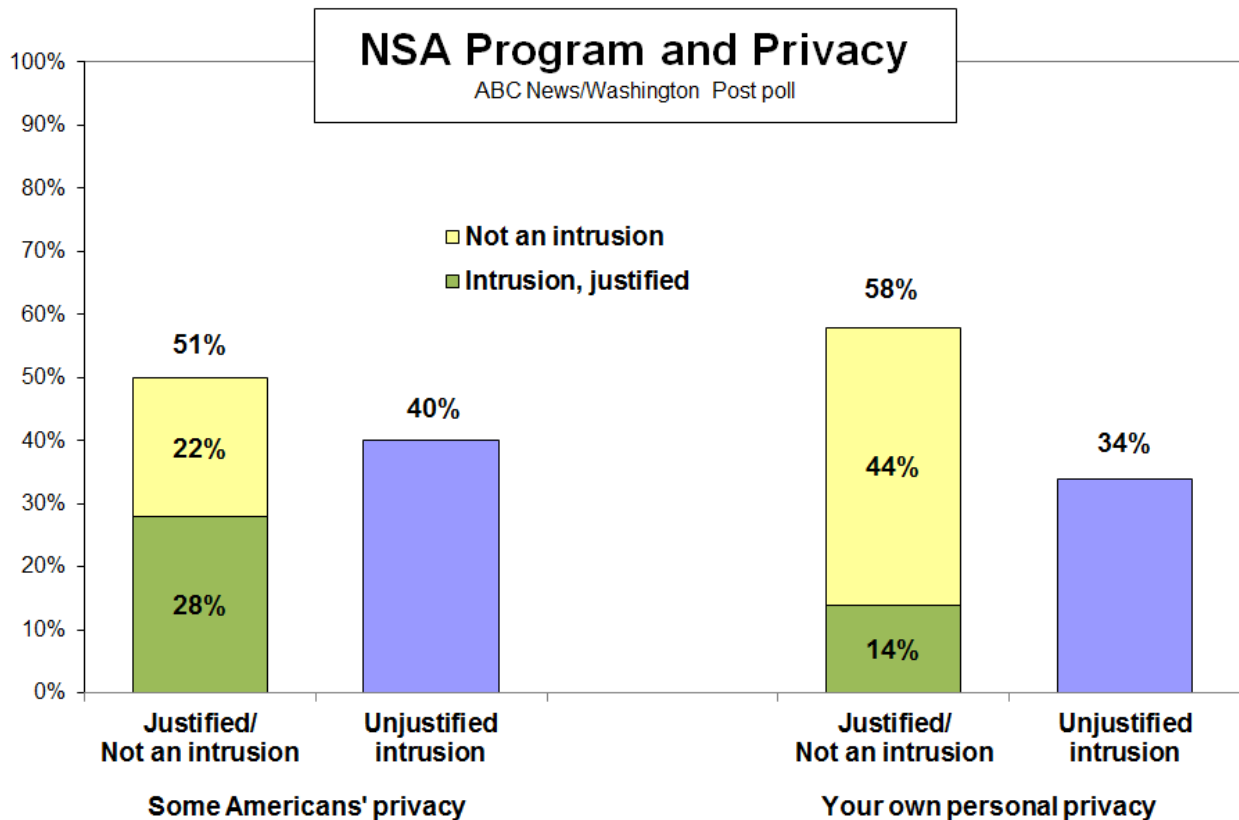
A plurality thinks Snowden's disclosures have harmed national security (49 percent say so, 37 percent not, with the rest unsure). And 53 percent now support charging him with a crime, up from 43 percent last month, with a 13-point rise in "strong" support. People who think Snowden has harmed security are far more apt than others to favor criminal charges.



At the same time, this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds that most oppose the idea of President Obama canceling his planned visit to Russia if that country were to give Snowden temporary asylum. More than half also oppose economic retaliation against any country that provides haven to Snowden. And Americans broadly reject a boycott on the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia if it aids Snowden, as one U.S. senator, Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, has suggested.

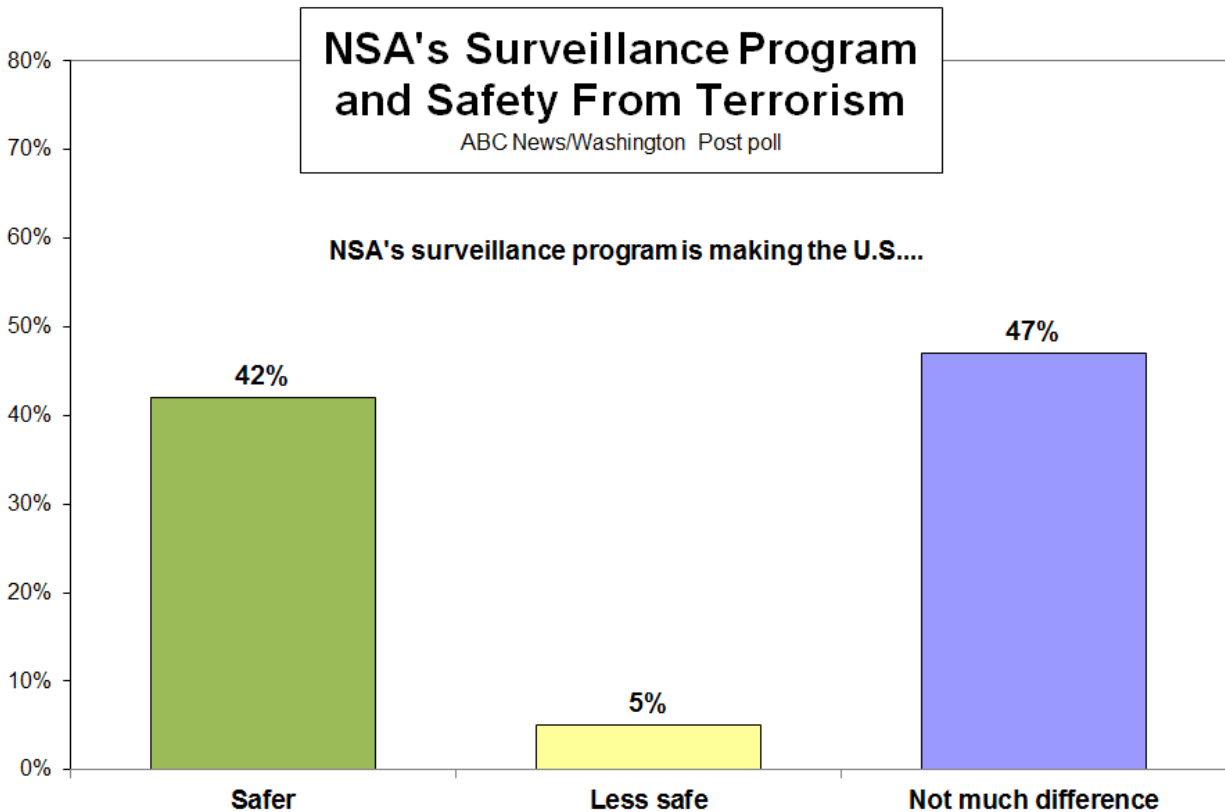
PRIVACY – Americans overwhelmingly think the NSA surveillance efforts intrude on some citizens’ privacy rights – 74 percent say so – and about half, 49 percent, see the spying as an intrusion on their own personal privacy. In each case, though, some also see such intrusions as justified, 39 percent and 28 percent, respectively.

The net result is that 40 percent see the NSA activities not merely as intrusions on some Americans’ privacy rights, but as unjustified intrusions. And 34 percent see the actions as unjustified intrusions on their own personal privacy.



In previous ABC/Post polls, in 2003 and 2006, fewer Americans saw federal anti-terrorism efforts as intruding on some Americans’ privacy rights, and more said such intrusions were justified. As a result, the number who see unjustified intrusions now, while well short of a majority, is 10 percentage points higher than its previous peak, 30 percent in January 2006.

ARGUMENT – One challenge for the Obama administration is either to bolster its case that the surveillance is not intrusive, or that if it is intrusive, it’s justified. Another is to back up the notion that it’s worthwhile in the first place: Currently just 42 percent think the NSA’s surveillance program is making the United States safer from terrorism. Forty-seven percent think it’s not making much difference, and 5 percent say it’s making things worse.



Then again, Snowden faces challenges of his own, beyond his now long-term tenancy at Moscow’s Sheremetyevo Airport. As noted, whatever the utility of the NSA’s activities, there’s substantial public doubt that it carried out unjustified intrusions, and a plurality thinks Snowden’s disclosures have hurt national security (though just 22 percent see “a great deal” of harm). “Strong” support for criminal charges has risen by 13 points since last month, to 36 percent. Only about half as many, 19 percent, strongly oppose such charges, down 8 points.

GROUPS – Views on the Snowden case largely bypass the usual partisan and ideological differences in U.S. politics; that’s because of cross-pressures between customary partisan preferences on security (often emphasized by Republicans and conservatives) vs. views of the Obama administration (particularly supported by Democrats and liberals).

Instead there are differences by age, with younger adults more concerned about privacy rights and less apt to favor charging Snowden with a crime; and by gender, with women far more apt than men to support investigating terrorism threats over protecting privacy rights.

In terms of change from last month, shifts in favor of criminal charges against Snowden have occurred especially among women, middle-aged adults and strong conservatives.

Charging Snowden criminally is supported particularly by people who think that investigating terrorism trumps privacy; that NSA surveillance enhances U.S. security; that the NSA is not intruding on privacy rights, or if so, is acting justifiably; and that his disclosures have harmed national security. The last gap is the largest: Among those who see no damage to security, just 33 percent support criminal charges against Snowden. But among people who think his disclosures have harmed national security, 71 percent say he should be charged with a crime.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone July 18-21, 2013, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including design effect.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

Media contacts: [David Ford](#), (212) 456-7243, and [Julie Townsend](#), (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1-11, 22-24, 28-31 previously released.

25-27, 32-35 held for release.

12. What do you think is more important right now - (for the federal government to investigate possible terrorist threats, even if that intrudes on personal privacy); or (for the federal government not to intrude on personal privacy, even if that limits its ability to investigate possible terrorist threats)?

	Investigate threats	Don't intrude on privacy	No opinion
7/21/13	57	39	4
6/9/13*	62	34	4
11/21/10	68	26	6
1/15/10	75	23	2
12/11/06	63	34	3
9/7/06	65	32	3
5/15/06	67	30	3
5/11/06	65	31	4
1/8/06	65	32	3
9/7/03**	73	21	5
9/8/02	78	18	4
6/9/02	79	18	3

*Washington Post/Pew

**9/7/03 and previous: "FBI" rather than "federal government"

13. A former government contractor named Edward Snowden has released information to the media about intelligence-gathering efforts by the U.S. National Security Agency. Do you support or oppose Snowden being charged with a crime for disclosing the NSA's intelligence-gathering efforts? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/21/13	53	36	17	36	16	19	11
6/16/13*	43	23	20	48	20	27	9

**"surveillance program" instead of "intelligence-gathering efforts"

14. All told, do you think Snowden's disclosures have harmed U.S. security or not? (IF YES) Do you think they have harmed U.S. security a great deal, or somewhat?

	----- Yes -----			No	
	NET	Great deal	Somewhat	No	opinion
7/21/13	49	22	27	37	13

15. (HALF SAMPLE) Obama is scheduled to visit Russia later this summer. If Russia grants temporary asylum to Snowden, helping him to avoid facing charges in the United States, do you think Obama should (cancel his visit to Russia) or (go ahead with his visit regardless)?

	Should cancel his visit	Should go ahead with his visit regardless	No opinion
7/21/13	37	56	7

15a. (HALF SAMPLE) Again, if Russia assists Snowden, do you think the United States should boycott the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Russia or should the United States participate in the Olympic Games regardless?

	Should boycott	Should participate regardless	No opinion
7/21/13	14	82	4

16. (HALF SAMPLE) Say another country grants asylum to Snowden, helping him to avoid facing charges in the United States. Do you think the United States should impose economic penalties by restricting its trade with any such country or do you think the U.S. should not impose economic penalties?

	Should impose economic penalties	Should not impose economic penalties	No opinion
7/21/13	39	54	7

17. Do you think that the National Security Agency's surveillance of telephone call records and internet traffic does or does not intrude on some Americans' privacy rights?

	Does intrude	Does not intrude	No Opinion
7/21/13	74	22	4

Compare to: In investigating terrorism, do you think the federal agencies like the FBI are or are not intruding on some Americans' privacy rights?

	Are	Are not	No opinion
9/7/06	61	35	4
1/8/06*	64	32	4
9/7/03	58	33	8

**do you think federal agencies are or are not"

18. (IF NSA INTRUDES ON AMERICANS' PRIVACY) Do you think those intrusions are justified or not justified?

	Justified	Not justified	No opinion
7/21/13	39	55	6
9/7/06*	54	40	6
1/8/06	49	46	5
9/7/03	63	29	8

*9/7/06 among those who said "federal agencies like the FBI" are intruding; 1/8/06 and earlier "federal agencies are intruding"

17/18 NET:

	----- Intrusion -----			Not an	No	
NET	Just.	Not just.	No op.	intrusion	opin.	
7/21/13	74	28	40	5	22	4
9/7/06	61	33	24	4	35	4
1/8/06	64	31	30	4	32	4
9/7/03	58	36	17	4	33	8

19. Do you think the NSA surveillance program does or does not intrude on your own personal privacy rights?

	Does intrude	Does not intrude	No opinion
7/21/13	49	44	7

20. (IF NSA INTRUDES ON RESPONDENT'S PRIVACY) Do you think those intrusions are justified or not justified?

	Justified	Not justified	No opinion
7/21/13	28	70	2

19/20 NET:

	----- Intrusion -----			Not an	No	
NET	Just.	Not just.	No op.	intrusion	opin.	
7/21/13	49	14	34	1	44	7

21. Would you say the NSA's surveillance program is making the United States (safer) from terrorism, (less safe), or not making much difference?

	Safer	Less safe	Not much difference	No opinion
7/21/13	42	5	47	6

*** END ***