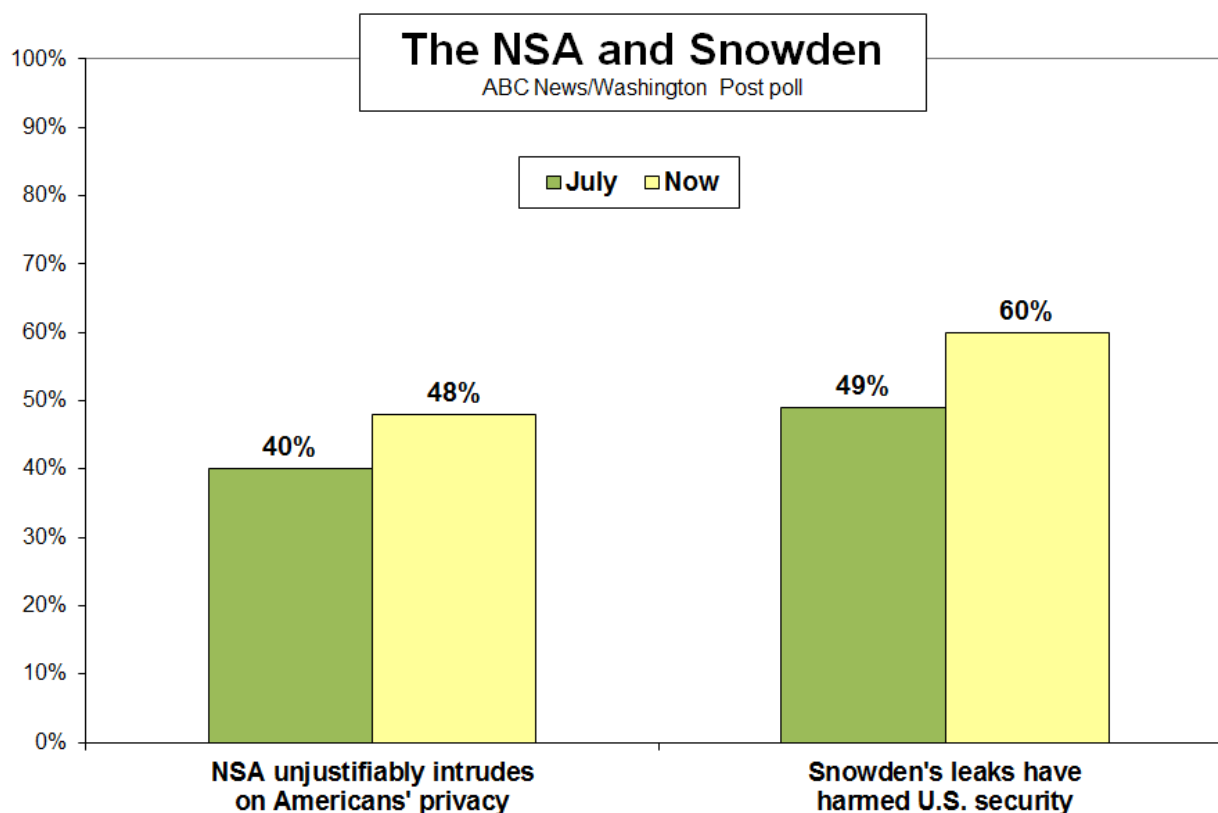


Many View NSA Intrusions as Unjustified But More See Damage from Snowden Leaks

Public belief that the National Security Agency unnecessarily intrudes on privacy rights has grown, but so has the sense that Edward Snowden damaged U.S. security by disclosing the spy agency’s activities – with the latter a more powerful factor in views on charging him with a crime.

Forty-eight percent in this ABC News/Washington Post poll think the NSA intrudes without justification on some Americans’ privacy rights and 42 percent think it intrudes unjustifiably on their own privacy, both up by 8 percentage points since July. Similarly, 46 percent say the spy agency “goes too far” in its surveillance activities.



Many more overall think the agency violates privacy – 68 percent say it does so in terms of “some Americans,” and 54 percent say the NSA intrudes on their own privacy. However two in 10 in the first case, and one in 10 in the latter, see those intrusions as justified.

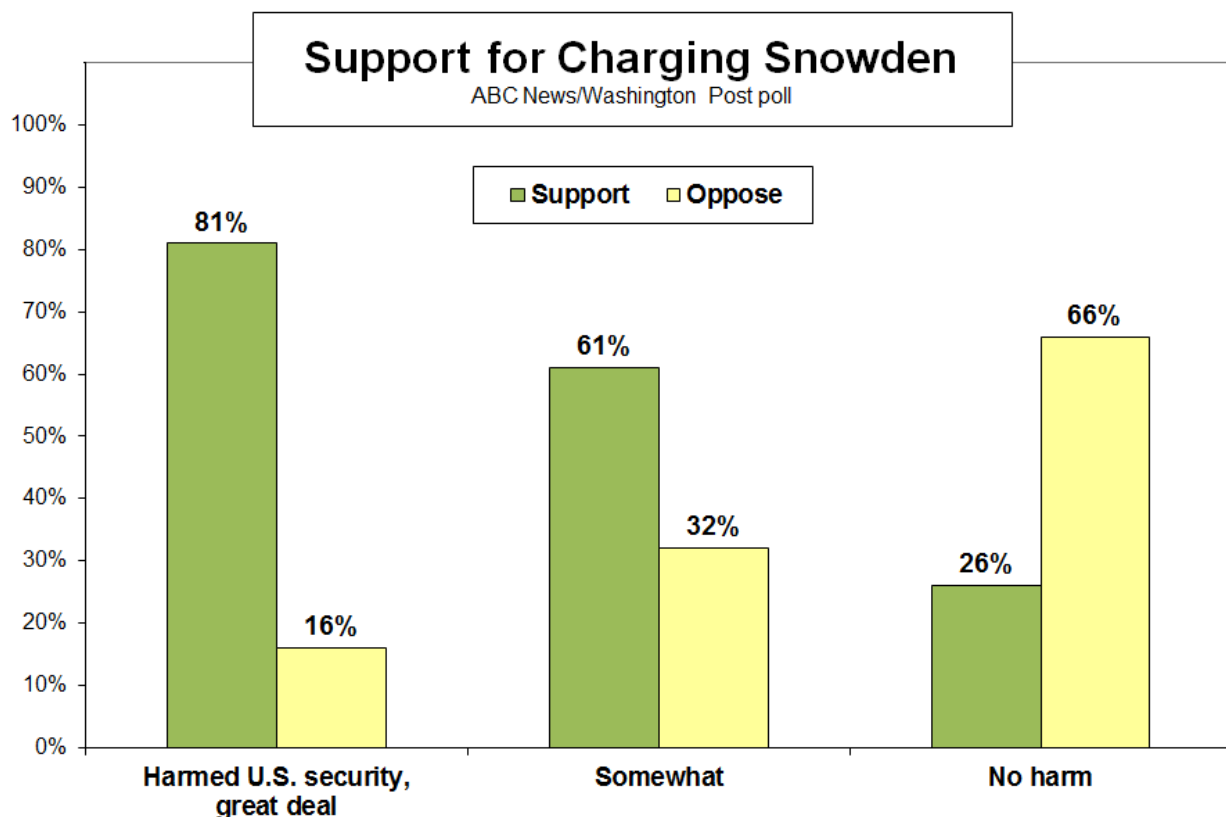
At the same time, the survey, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds an 11-point jump in the belief that disclosures by Snowden, a former NSA contractor now holed up in Russia, have harmed U.S. security: Sixty percent say so, vs. 49 percent last summer.

Many fewer, 29 percent, think his leaks have done “a great deal” of harm to U.S. security. But this too is up, by 7 points. And the belief that Snowden damaged U.S. security is a key driver in support for prosecuting him.

Barack Obama, for his part, has just a 35 percent approval rating for handling NSA surveillance activities, with 53 percent disapproving – reflecting his troubled ratings overall amid strong public criticism of his rollout of the new federal health care law.

CRIME? – All told, 52 percent support prosecuting Snowden, essentially unchanged from July. But that view ranges widely on the basis of two measures: Chiefly, the damage to U.S. security; and, less strongly, whether the NSA is violating personal privacy without justification.

On the first, among people who think Snowden did a great deal of harm to U.S. security, 81 percent favor charging him criminally. That declines to 61 percent of those who think he did less severe damage – and just 26 percent of those who see no harm to U.S. security.



On the second, while the relationship is a weaker one, support for prosecuting Snowden is 42 percent among those who think the NSA is intruding unjustifiably on their personal privacy, vs. 62 percent among those who see either justified intrusions or no intrusions at all.

While the NSA is vulnerable on the intrusion issue, these results suggest greater peril in terms of public opinion for Snowden, to the extent that the case is made, or strengthened, that he's harmed U.S. security. Indeed, regardless of whether he should be charged, 55 percent say he did the "wrong thing" by disclosing the NSA's intelligence gathering, vs. 37 percent who say it was the right thing. That also is strongly influenced by views on the impact of the leaks on national security.

Separately, concerns about unjustified intrusions outside U.S. borders weaken sharply. Just 27 percent of Americans think the NSA is intruding without justification on the rights of foreign citizens, and only 23 percent see unjustified intrusions on the rights of foreign governments.

GROUPS – Typical partisan and ideological divisions largely break down on the NSA issue, given the mix of considerations it raises, including personal liberty and privacy, security concerns and political predispositions alike.

Democrats, protective of the Obama administration, are less critical of the NSA; 37 percent say it "goes too far," for example, vs. 47 percent of Republicans and 51 percent of independents. And Democrats are a broad 18 points less likely than Republicans and independents to think the NSA intrudes unjustifiably on some Americans' privacy rights.

Conservatives, and especially strong conservatives, are much more likely than moderates or liberals to think the NSA intrudes on privacy without justification. In a related result, among strong supporters of the Tea Party political movement, 69 percent think the NSA goes too far, 71 percent think it intrudes unjustifiably on some Americans' privacy and 66 percent think it intrudes without justification on their own privacy rights. Among strong opponents of the Tea Party these shrink to 45, 37 and 31 percent, respectively.

Finally, young adults are sharply different than their elders in views on Snowden, who turned 30 in June. Just 35 percent of those under age 30 say he should be charged with a crime, compared with 57 percent of those 30 and up. And 56 percent of young adults say he did the "right thing" in leaking NSA documents. Just 32 percent of their elders agree.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Nov. 14-17, 2013, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,006 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 contact: [Julie Townsend](#), (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1, 2a-b, 3-12, 18-27 previously released.

2c. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling surveillance activities by the National Security Agency? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
11/17/13	35	15	20	53	18	35	12

I have some questions about the U.S. National Security Agency, called the NSA, which conducts surveillance and other intelligence-gathering operations.

13. Given what you've heard about it, do you think the National Security Agency (goes too far) in its surveillance activities, (does not go far enough), or has it about right?

	Goes too far	Does not go far enough	Has it about right	No opinion
11/17/13	46	10	37	6

14. Do you think the NSA's surveillance of telephone call records and internet traffic does or does not intrude on [ITEM]? (IF NSA DOES INTRUDE) Do you think those intrusions are justified or not justified?

11/17/13 - Summary Table

	----- Intrusion -----				Not an	No
	NET	Just.	Not just.	No op.	intrusion	op.
a. Some Americans' privacy rights	68	18	48	3	28	4
b. Your own personal privacy rights	54	10	42	1	42	5
c. The rights of foreign governments	49	24	23	2	42	9
d. The rights of foreign citizens	48	18	27	2	45	7

Trend:

a. Some Americans' privacy rights

	----- Intrusion -----				Not an	No
	NET	Justified	Not justified	No op.	intrusion	opin.
11/17/13	68	18	48	3	28	4
7/21/13	74	28	40	5	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?

	----- Intrusion -----				Not an	No
	NET	Justified	Not justified	No op.	intrusion	opin.
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

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

b. Your own personal privacy rights

	----- Intrusion -----				Not an	No
	NET	Justified	Not justified	No op.	intrusion	opin.
11/17/13	54	10	42	1	42	5
7/21/13	49	14	34	1	44	7

c-d. No trend.

15. As you may know, a former government contractor named Edward Snowden has released information to the media about intelligence-gathering efforts by the NSA. 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
11/17/13	52	33	19	38	17	21	10
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"

16. 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
11/17/13	60	29	31	32	8
7/21/13	49	22	27	37	13

17. Regardless of whether or not he should be charged with a crime, do you think Snowden did the right thing or the wrong thing by disclosing the NSA intelligence-gathering efforts?

	Right thing	Wrong thing	No opinion
11/17/13	37	55	8

*** END ***