

ABC News blog item for 7 a.m. Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Distrust in Trump Deepens North Korea Concerns

By Allison De Jong

Public concern about North Korea is widespread – alongside skepticism of Donald Trump’s ability to handle the risks.

Eighty-one percent of Americans in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll see North Korea as a threat to the United States, including 66 percent who see it as a “serious” threat, up 12 points from 2005. Nearly three-quarters are concerned about the possibility of a full-scale war, with half of them “very” concerned.

As part of those worries, just 36 percent express trust in Trump’s ability to handle the situation; 63 percent distrust him, with a large portion, 40 percent, trusting him “not at all.” Among those who distrust Trump to handle the situation, worry about a full-scale war soars to 83 percent.

Distrust in Trump on the issue is highly partisan, ranging from 87 percent among Democrats to 19 percent of Republicans in this survey, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). Tipping the balance, it’s 66 percent among independents. And Democrats are most apt to fear a full-scale war – 86 percent, vs. 68 percent of Republicans and independents alike.

Generational differences emerge: Among adults age 40 and older, 87 percent see North Korea as a threat to the United States, and 77 percent see it as a serious threat. Comparable numbers are lower by 17 and 28 points, respectively, among younger adults, who may be less in touch with the nuclear threat of years past. Younger adults also are less apt to trust Trump to deal with the situation – just 29 percent do, vs. 41 percent of those age 40-plus.

There also are large gender gaps on the issue. Women are much less likely than men to trust Trump to handle the situation, 29 to 44 percent. Conversely, women are much more likely to see North Korea as a serious threat, 73 to 59 percent; to be concerned about the risk of full-scale war, 83 vs. 64 percent; and to be very concerned about it, 51 vs. 27 percent. (Note, women typically are more willing than men to express concern in surveys.)

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone July 10-13, 2017, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 35-23-35 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt Associates of Cambridge, Mass. See details on the survey’s methodology [here](#).

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

Media contacts: [Heather Riley](#) or [Julie Townsend](#).

Full results follow.

1-17, 27-31 previously released; 21-26 to be released.

18. Do you think North Korea does or does not pose a threat to the United States? (IF DOES POSE THREAT) Would you say it's a serious threat, or not serious?

	--- Does pose threat ---				
	NET	Serious	Not serious	Does not pose threat	No opinion
7/13/17	81	66	14	15	4
3/13/05	74	54	20	23	3
4/16/03	79	55	24	18	3

19. How much do you trust Trump to handle the situation involving North Korea? Do you trust him a great deal, a good amount, just some or not at all in terms of handling this situation?

	---- Trust more ----			---- Trust less ---			
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Just some	Not at all	No opinion
7/13/17	36	22	14	63	22	40	1

20. How concerned are you about the possibility of the United States getting involved in a full-scale war with North Korea - are you very concerned about this, somewhat concerned, not so concerned or not concerned at all?

	--- More concerned ---			----- Less concerned -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
7/13/17	74	39	35	25	13	12	1

*** END ***