

JRNL 430 Public Opinion and the News Media

Final survey report.

Write a comparative report of the 2012 survey. How have Indiana County Voters' attitudes changed over the past decade? What were the differences between the survey report of 2012 with that of 2000.

2000	1. More than half (54 percent) of the population has lived in Indiana County for more than 20 years; about 33 percent have lived in Indiana County between five and 20 years; 15 percent have lived in the county for less than five years.
2012	A. Almost half, 46.8 percent of the population has lived in Indiana County for more than 20 years; about 18.3 percent has lived in Indiana County between five and 20 years; 33 percent has lived in the county for less than five years.
2000	2. Around 33 percent of the population was between the ages of 46 and 65. A quarter of the population was between ages 36 and 45. Age intervals from 26 to 35, 25 and under and 66 and older accounted for about 15 percent each.
2012	B. Around 45.9 percent of the population was below 26 years of age; 13.8 percent of the population was between 26 and 35 years of age; 10.1 percent of the population was between 36 and 45 years of age; 13.8 percent of the population were between the ages of 46 and 65 years of age; and 16.5 percent of the population was over 65 years of age.
2000	3. Fifty-five percent of the respondents were male, while 45 percent were female.
2012	C. 44 percent of the population was male, and 52.3 percent of the population was female.
2000	4. Almost 66 percent of the respondents were married, while 23 percent said they were single. Only eight percent said they were divorced, and five percent were widowed.
2012	D. About 36.1 percent of the population was married; 59.3 percent of the population was single. Only 4.6 percent of the population was divorced.
2000	5. Almost three-fourths (75 percent) of the respondents have children, while 27 percent of the population does not.
2012	E. About 43 percent of the population has children and 57 percent of the population does not.
2000	6. Of the respondents with children, 55 percent said their children were currently living at home, while 45 percent said their children were not.
2012	F. Of the respondents with children, 37.2 percent of the population has their children currently living at home, while 61.5 percent of the population said their children were not.
2000	7. Most (95 percent) of the respondents were white, while Blacks, Native Americans and Hispanics made up the remaining five percent.
2012	G. Of the respondents surveyed, 65.7 percent of the population was white, 25 percent were Native American, 6.5 percent were Hispanic, and 2.8 percent were other.

2000	8. The majority of respondents (87 percent) went to high school, while 13 percent claimed they did not.
2012	H. 21 percent of the population went to high school
2000	9. More than half (54 percent) of the respondents did not attend a university, while 46 percent did.
2012	I. 60 percent of the population went to a University
2000	10. Just about 80 percent of the population did not attend graduate school, meaning 20 percent of the population did.
2012	J. 8.6 percent of the population went to a graduate school
2000	11. Eighty-seven percent of the population did not attend a technical or trade school, while 13 percent of the respondents did.
2012	K. 3.8 percent of the population went to technical or trade school
2000	12. Almost all (97 percent) of the population claimed they did not attend a school other than high school, college or trade school, while three percent did.
2012	L. 6.7 percent of the population was other.
2000	13. About 70 percent of the population voted in the 1996 presidential election, while 30 percent of the population did not.
2012	M. About 57.4 percent of the population voted in the 2008 presidential election, while 42.6 did not.
2000	14. Around 64 percent of the population voted in the 1992 presidential election, while 36 percent did not.
2012	N. About 51.9 percent of the population voted in the 2004 presidential election, while 48.1 percent did not.
2000	15. More than half (57 percent) of the respondents voted in the latest borough, township or local elections, while 43 percent of the population did not vote in these elections.
2012	O. About 29.9 percent of the population voted in the last borough, township or local elections, while 51.4 percent of the population did not vote.
2000	16. Sixty-five percent of the population claimed they never attended any borough council, township or local government meetings in 1998; Sixteen percent said they attended once, while 14 percent attended two or three meetings; less than five percent went more than three times.
2012	P. About 58.3 percent of the population claimed they never attended any borough council, township or local government meetings in 2011; 13.9 percent said they attended once; 17.6 percent said they went 2 to 3 times; and 10.2 percent said they went more than three times.

2000	17. Around 45 percent of the population reported they were sometimes aware and knew the places and times of meetings of the borough council, township or local government. Twenty-seven percent said they never knew about the meetings, while 18 percent claimed they always knew.
2012	Q. About 18.7 percent of the population knew about the places and times of meetings of the borough council, township or local government. About 38.3 percent sometimes knew of the places and times; while 37.4 percent of the population never knew of the times and places.
2000	18. Almost 45 percent of the population said they were well informed by the media about candidates and their issues when they voted in the 1996 presidential election. Twenty-seven percent believed the information provided was about average, while 19 percent said they were very well informed. Only 10 percent said they were poorly or not informed.
	R. About 28.7 percent of the population said they were very well informed by the media during the 2008 election. About 31.9 percent of the population said they were well informed by the media; 23.4 percent of the population said the information was about average. And 12.8 percent said they were poorly or not informed at all.
2000	19. Almost half (48 percent) of the respondents reported to having read the newspaper every day, while 29 percent claimed to read it between two and four times a week. Twelve percent said they read the newspaper once in a while, while seven percent claimed they read it less than two times a week. Only five percent claimed they never read newspapers.
2012	S. About 36.4 percent of the population said they read a newspaper every day, while 24.3 percent of the population read one 2-4 times a week. About 11.2 percent said they read one less than 2 times a week, and 15.9 percent of the populations said they read one once in a while, and 12.1 percent said they never read a newspaper.
2000	20. Thirty-nine percent of the population claimed to listen to the radio occasionally or once in a while, while 35 percent of the population say they listen less than five hours a day. Nineteen percent claimed to listen to five or more hours of radio a day, while only seven percent said they never listen to radio. T. About 9.3 percent of the population listens to the radio 5 or more hours a day. About 28.7 percent of the population listens to the radio less than 5 hours a day. About 38 percent of the population listens to the radio once in a while, and 24.1 percent of the population never listens to the radio.
2012	21. Almost 48 percent of the respondents surveyed said they rely mostly on television for information about issues. Newspapers are the second most popular form, garnering 37 percent of the population's attention. A little over 11 percent say they rely on the radio and less than 1 percent relies on the Internet. Some respondents said they relied either on nothing (1.2%) or other sources for their information (2.5).
	U. About 26.9 percent of the population relies on newspapers as their most popular form of gathering information. About 32.4 percent said television was their most popular form. About 7.4 percent said radio was their most popular form and 33.3 percent said internet was.

2000	22. Almost 50 percent of the population surveyed report the economy is a very important issue in electoral politics. Another large group of respondents say they fell it is an important issue (42.4%); 5.3 percent said they feel it is not important and 3.3 percent have no opinion on how important the economy is to them.
2012	V. About 58.9 percent of the population said the economy is very important to them; 29 percent said the economy is important to them; 3.7 percent of the population said it is not important; and 8.4 had no opinion.
2000	23. Health is an important issue to voters; 46 percent report it is very important and 44 percent report that it is important; 5.7 percent feel it is not important and 2.9 percent have no opinion at all on how important health is to them.
2012	W. About 55.1 percent of the population said health is very important to them; 35.5 percent of the population said health is just important to them; 3.7 percent of the population is not important to them; and 5.6 had no opinion.
2000	24. Over half the population (52.7 percent) feels education is very important to them; 41 percent said it is important; 2.9 percent said it is not important and 3.3 percent have no opinion at all.
2012	X. About 47.2 percent of the population said education is very important to them; 39.6 percent of the population said is important to them; 7.5 percent said it is not important to them and 5.7 percent had no opinion.
2000	25. Just about half of the respondents (41.6 percent) consider politics important. Less than 19 percent feel it is very important; 33 percent feel it is not important at all and 6.5 percent had no opinion.
2012	Y. About 32.1 percent of the population said politics is very important to them; 34.9 percent said it is important to them; 23.6 percent said it is not important to them; and 9.4 percent of the population had no opinion.
2000	26. Overall, more than 80 percent of the respondents feel morality is an important issue; 32.2 percent feel it is very important, 50.2 percent feel it is important, while 13.5 percent say it is not important and 4.1 percent have no opinion at all.
2012	n/a
2000	27. Overall, 80 percent or respondents report character is an important issue; 33.5 claim it is very important, 47.3 say it is important. Almost 15 percent (14.3) report character is not important at all and almost 5 percent have no opinion (4.9).
2012	n/a
2000	28. Almost 80 percent of the population agree welfare is important to them; 27.5 report it is very important and 51.2 report it is important. Almost 16 percent of the respondents say welfare is not important at all (15.6) and 5.7 percent report having no opinion on the subject.
2012	Z. Almost 27.4 percent of the population agree that welfare is very important to them; 41.5 percent said it is important to them; 15.1 percent said it is no important to them; and 16 percent had no opinion.

2000	29. Overall, less than half of the respondents feel space exploration is important; 42.4 percent say it is important while only 5.3 percent claim it is very important. A large group (39.1 percent) reports it is not important at all and 13.2 percent say they have no opinion about space exploration.
2012	AA. About 16 percent of the population feels space exploration is very important; 37.7 percent think it is important; 32.1 percent say it is not important; while 14.2 percent have no opinion.
2000	30. Over 80 percent report the environment is an important issue; 28.3 percent report it is very important and 57 percent said it was important, while almost 10 percent (9.8) claim the environment is not important at all and almost 5 percent (4.9 percent) said they have no opinion.
2012	BB. About 24 percent of the population say the environment is very important to them; 41.3 percent say it is important to them; 26.9 say it is not important; and 6.7 percent have no opinion.
2000	31. Military defense spending is an important issue to voters; almost 55 percent (54.3 percent) say it is important while 28.3 percent report it is very important. Only about 10 percent say it military defense spending is not important (9.5 percent) and 4.5 percent report having no opinion at all on the subject.
2012	CC. About 22.6 percent of the population said military defense spending is very important to them; 52.8 percent said it is important; 17 percent said it is not important; and 7.5 percent had no opinion.
2000	32. Over 75 percent of the respondents claim they are informed about the economy; 57 percent claim they are well informed, almost 22 (21.7) percent claim they are well informed while 17.2 percent report they are poorly informed and 2.5 percent report they are not informed and 1.6 percent report they have no opinion.
2012	DD. About 24.5 percent of the population said they were very well informed; 54.7 percent said they were well informed; 17 percent said they weren't informed and 2.8 percent had no opinion.
2000	33. A large majority reports they are well informed about health by the media; 59.4 percent said they are well informed while 18 percent said they are very well informed. Almost 19 percent (18.9) report they are poorly informed while only about 2 percent report they are not informed at all. Less than 2 percent (1.6) report they have no opinion.
2012	EE. About 27.9 percent of the population were very informed about health; 43.3 percent of the population were well informed; 21.2 percent weren't informed; and 4.8 percent of the population had no opinion.
2000	34. A large majority reports they are well informed about education by the media; 13.9 percent say they are very well informed, while 59.8 percent said they are well informed. Over 20 percent of the respondents report they are poorly informed (21.7 percent); 3.3 percent report they are not informed at all by the media on education and 1.2 percent report they have no opinion at all.

2012	FF. About 17.9 percent of the population was very well informed about education by the media; 53.8 percent said they were well informed by the media; 18.9 percent said they weren't informed; and 7.5 percent said they had no opinion.
2000	35. Regarding the issue of politics, 45 percent of the respondents were well informed; 28.9 percent considered they very well informed: 19.8 percent said they were poorly informed; 3.3 percent answered that they were not informed and 2.9 percent had no opinion.
2012	GG. About 14.2 percent of the population said they were very well informed by the media about politics; 50 percent said they were well informed; 24.5 percent said they weren't informed; and 10.4 percent had no opinion.
2000	36. As with morality, 45.9 percent considered themselves well informed on this issue. Nearly one-third (31 percent) said they were poorly informed; 11.6 percent responded they were very well informed; 7 percent were not informed and 4.5 percent had no opinion.
2012	n/a
2000	37. "Well informed" was the response that half (50 percent) of the respondent gave regarding how well informed they were in the subject of character. Nearly one-third (29.8 percent) said they were poorly informed; 9.9 percent answered very well informed; 6.2 percent were not informed and 4.1 percent said that they had no opinion.
2012	n/a
2000	38. Over half (55.6 percent) said they were well informed about welfare. Roughly one-quarter (25.1 percent) answered that they were poorly informed; 12.3 percent said very well informed; 5.8 percent said they were not informed and 1.2 percent had no opinion.
2012	HH. About 9.4 percent of the population said they were very well informed about welfare; 47.2 percent said they were informed; 24.5 percent said they weren't informed; and 18.9 percent had no opinion.
2000	39. As with space exploration, 38.2 percent said they were poorly informed about this issue; 33.6 percent answered well informed; not informed was the response of 14.5 percent; 9.1 percent considered themselves very well informed and 4.6 percent had no opinion.
2012	II. As with space exploration, 6.7 percent of the population said they were very well informed about space exploration; 41.9 percent said they were well informed by the media; 26.7 percent said they were not informed; and 21.9 percent had no opinion.
2000	40. Nearly half of the respondents (49.6 percent) said they were well informed about the environment; 34.6 percent answered poorly informed; 10.8 percent were very well informed; 2.5 percent considered themselves not informed and 2.5 percent had no opinion.
2012	JJ. About the environment, about 21.7 percent of the population said they were very well informed about it; 41.5 percent said they were well informed; 21.7 percent said they weren't informed; and 12.3 percent had no opinion.
2000	41. The topic of military (defense spending) brought a mixed bag of results. Of all respondents polled, 43.6 percent said they were well informed on this topic. "Poorly informed" was the answer of 28.6 percent of the respondents; 18.3 percent considered

	themselves very well informed; 8.3 percent were not informed and 1.2 percent had no opinion
2012	KK. About military defense spending, 15.1 percent of the population said they were very well informed by the media; 50 percent were well informed; 24.5 percent were not informed; 8.5 percent had no opinion.
2000	42. When the respondents were asked if they believe the media in general plays a very useful role in informing the public about national issues, 61.2 percent agreed, 24.5 percent strongly agreed, 12.2 percent disagreed, 1.6 percent strongly disagreed and .4 percent had no opinion.
2012	LL. When the respondents were asked if they believe the media in general plays a very useful role in informing the public about national issues, 28.6 percent of the population said they were very well informed by the media; 51.4 percent said they were well informed; 14.3 percent said they weren't informed; and 4.8 percent said they had no opinion.
2000	43. Well over half of the respondents (59.6 percent) agreed that the media in general play a very useful role in informing the public about local issues. Strongly agree was the answer of 18 percent of the respondents, 16.7 disagreed, 3.3 strongly disagreed and .4 percent had no opinion.
2012	MM. When the respondents were asked if they believe the media in general play a very useful role in informing the public about local issues, 19.2 percent of the population said they were very well informed by the media; 59.6 percent were well informed; 15.4 percent were not informed; and 3.8 had no opinion.
2000	44. When asked if voters trust the media in general to keep them fully informed of all issues that are important to the public, 47.8 percent agreed, 25.3 percent disagreed, 20 percent strongly agreed, 4.5 percent strongly disagreed and 2.4 percent had no opinion.
2012	NN. When asked if voters trust the media in general to keep them fully informed of all the issues that are important to the public, 15.4 percent strongly agreed; 43.3 percent agreed; 29.8 percent disagreed; 6.8 percent strongly disagreed; and 4.8 percent had no opinion.
2000	45. The statement "Television tends to entertain rather than inform and/or educate the public" produced close results. Almost half (49.8 percent) said they agreed with this statement, 24 percent disagreed, 22.3 percent strongly agreed, 3.1 percent strongly disagreed and .9 percent had no opinion.
2012	OO. When asked about the statement "Television tends to entertain rather than inform and/or educate the public," 25.7 percent of the population strongly agrees; 42.6 percent agrees; 22.8 disagrees; 5 percent strongly disagrees; and 4 percent had no opinion.
2000	46. As far as newspapers tending to entertain rather than informing and/or educating the public, 57.6 percent of the respondents disagreed, 26.2 percent agreed, 8.3 percent strongly disagreed, 5.7 percent strongly agreed and 2.2 percent had no opinion.

2012	PP. As far as newspapers tending to entertain rather than informing and/or educating the public, 10.7 of the population strongly agreed; 30.1 percent agreed; 36.9 percent disagreed; 13.6 percent strongly disagreed; and 8.7 percent had no opinion.
2000	47. When asked "In general, journalists have abused their freedom of the press," 40.1 percent of the respondents agreed, 34.4 percent disagreed, 13.7 percent strongly agreed, 6.2 percent strongly disagreed and 5.7 percent had no opinion.
2012	QQ. When asked "In general, journalists have abused their freedom of the press," 18.6 percent of the population strongly agreed; 39.2 percent agreed; 27.5 percent disagreed; 6.9 percent strongly disagreed; and 7.8 had no opinion.
2000	48. Nearly one-half of the respondents (46.3 percent) disagreed with the statement that "Journalists have the right to investigate and publish private lives of politicians under any circumstances." Nearly one-third (30.7) strongly disagreed, 22 percent agreed, 9.7 percent strongly agreed and 1.3 percent had no opinion.
2012	RR. When asked the statement, "Journalists have the right to investigate and publish private lives of politicians under any circumstances," about 9.9 percent of the population strongly agreed; 50.5 percent agreed; 33 percent disagreed; 4.4 percent strongly disagreed; and 2.2 percent had no opinion.

1. When asked how important terrorism is to them; 39.6 percent of the population said it was very important to them; 44.3 percent said it is important to them; 8.5 percent said it is not important to them and 7.5 had no opinion.
2. When asked how important Afghanistan is to them; 32.1 percent of the population said it was very important to them; 49.1 percent said it is important to them; 10.4 said it was not important to them; and 8.5 had no opinion.
3. When asked how well informed they were by the media about terrorism; 13.2 percent of the population said they were very well informed; 49.1 percent said they were well informed; 25.5 percent they were poorly informed and 10.4 percent had no opinion.
4. When asked how informed they were by the media about Afghanistan; 13.2 percent of the population said they were very well informed; 46.2 percent of said they were well informed; 28.3 percent said they were poorly informed; and 12.3 percent had no opinion.