

THOMSON REUTERS-NPR HEALTH POLL FLIGHT SAFETY

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Each month, the Thomson Reuters-NPR Health Poll surveys approximately 3,000 Americans to gauge attitudes and opinions on a wide range of healthcare issues. Poll results are reported by NPR's Scott Hensley on the health blog Shots (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/>) and on air.

Complete survey results are posted here:
<http://healthcare.thomsonreuters.com/npr/>

NPR's reports on the findings are archived here:
http://www.npr.org/templates/archives/archive.php?thingId=137038712&ps=sh_sttag

The Thomson Reuters-NPR Health Poll is powered by the Thomson Reuters PULSE™ Healthcare Survey, an independently funded telephone poll which collects information from more than 100,000 U.S. households annually.

The results depicted below represent responses from 3,013 survey participants interviewed from November 1-13, 2011. The margin of error is 1.8 percent.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The survey asked respondents their opinions about health risks associated with air travel. An increase in airport security measures have brought new concerns to light for Americans.

- 22.8% of respondents said that they would refuse a full body scan using the new body scanners located at airports around the country. Respondents under the age of 35 said they would decline the scan and opt for alternative screening the most often (33.6%). 47% of respondents showed no concern with body scanners.
- Health concerns associated with exposure to radiation (22.6%) and personal privacy violations (17.1%) topped the list of concerns respondents had with the new body scanners. Only 13.3% said they were concerned the scanners violated their 4th Amendment right against unreasonable searches.
- Overall, 14.9% said that they felt there are health risks associated with increased air travel security measures.
- 92.8% of respondents said they had no health concerns with flying in general. While only 7.8% of respondents said they had health concerns about flying, 11% said they had become ill in the past as a direct result from flying.
- Of respondents who said they had a health concern about flying, the top five health concerns were crashing (21.1%), contracting the flu or a cold (16%), air quality (7%), anxiety (6.8%) and blood clots (5%).



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SURVEY DATA

Responses in **RED** represent statistically significant differences.

QUESTION 1: Do you feel that the increased security measures at airports carry a risk to your personal health?

Age	Yes	No
<35	8.6%	91.4%
35 – 64	17.2%	82.8%
65+	14.5%	85.5%
Total	14.9%	85.1%

Income	Yes	No
< \$25k	14.8%	85.2%
\$25k – \$49.9k	16.1%	83.9%
\$50k – \$99.9k	15.4%	84.6%
\$100k+	12.6%	87.4%
Total	14.9%	85.1%

Education	Yes	No
High School or Less	16.2%	83.8%
Some College	14.3%	85.7%
College+	14.7%	85.3%
Total	14.9%	85.1%

QUESTION 2: If you were selected for screening using the new body scanning technology found at some airport security checkpoints, would you agree to be scanned?

Age	Yes	No
<35	66.4%	33.6%
35 – 64	79.3%	20.7%
65+	80.8%	19.2%
Total	77.2%	22.8%

Income	Yes	No
< \$25k	72.6%	27.4%
\$25k – \$49.9k	74.0%	26.0%
\$50k – \$99.9k	79.5%	20.5%
\$100k+	88.7%	11.3%
Total	77.2%	22.8%

Education	Yes	No
High School or Less	73.1%	26.9%
Some College	73.2%	26.8%
College+	82.6%	17.4%
Total	77.2%	22.8%



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QUESTION 3: Which of the following best describes your concerns regarding use of the full body scanners? Would you say..?

1. Health concerns associated with exposure to radiation
2. Personal privacy concerns including the potential of sexual harassment
3. Violation of 4th Amendment rights against unreasonable searches
4. No concerns

Age	1	2	3	4
<35	22.0%	26.7%	15.6%	35.7%
35 – 64	22.3%	16.0%	13.9%	47.7%
65+	23.7%	11.2%	9.6%	55.5%
Total	22.6%	17.1%	13.3%	47.0%
Income				
< \$25k	22.5%	20.3%	16.6%	40.6%
\$25k – \$49.9k	26.3%	16.2%	11.9%	45.5%
\$50k – \$99.9k	20.7%	14.9%	15.9%	48.5%
\$100k+	18.7%	18.3%	8.1%	54.9%
Total	22.6%	17.1%	13.3%	47.0%
Education				
High School or Less	25.0%	20.3%	12.6%	42.1%
Some College	22.9%	14.3%	12.1%	50.6%
College+	20.8%	17.2%	14.7%	47.3%
Total	22.6%	17.1%	13.3%	47.0%

QUESTION 4: Do you have any health related concerns associated with flying?

Age	Yes	No
<35	3.0%	97.0%
35 – 64	9.5%	90.5%
65+	7.3%	92.7%
Total	7.8%	92.2%
Income		
<\$25k	10.1%	89.9%
\$25k – \$49.9k	6.4%	93.6%
\$50k – \$99.9k	8.3%	91.7%
\$100k+	7.2%	92.8%
Total	7.8%	92.2%
Education		
High School or Less	7.2%	92.8%
Some College	8.3%	91.7%
College+	7.9%	92.1%
Total	7.8%	92.2%



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QUESTION 5: What do you consider to be the greatest personal health risk?

1. Catching the flu, a cold or another type of infection
2. Developing a blood clot
3. Crashing
4. Anxiety
5. Radiation exposure
6. Ear discomfort
7. Headaches
8. Pressure difference
9. Motion sickness
10. Quality of breathing air on board
11. Can't sit for extended periods
12. Other

Age	1	2	3	4	5	6
<35	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.4%
35 – 64	18.3%	5.2%	22.1%	6.5%	3.3%	0.9%
65+	13.9%	6.0%	25.6%	10.6%	2.3%	6.4%
Total	16.0%	5.0%	21.1%	6.8%	2.9%	3.1%

Income	1	2	3	4	5	6
<\$25k	3.2%	6.7%	24.5%	12.1%	4.0%	2.1%
\$25k – \$49.9k	22.6%	3.7%	13.9%	7.6%	1.7%	9.2%
\$50k – \$99.9k	14.4%	5.2%	29.1%	0.0%	2.8%	0.4%
\$100k+	31.6%	3.2%	12.1%	11.1%	3.8%	0.0%
Total	16.0%	5.0%	21.1%	6.8%	2.9%	3.1%

Education	1	2	3	4	5	6
High School or Less	5.1%	7.2%	36.7%	20.2%	5.1%	3.7%
Some College	17.3%	1.7%	8.3%	1.6%	1.0%	2.8%
College+	21.1%	6.1%	21.7%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%
Total	16.0%	5.0%	21.1%	6.8%	2.9%	3.1%

Age	7	8	9	10	11	12
<35	0.0%	44.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	39.0%
35 – 64	1.9%	1.7%	0.0%	7.5%	5.7%	26.9%
65+	0.0%	4.5%	1.7%	7.4%	3.2%	18.4%
Total	1.4%	5.5%	0.3%	7.0%	4.8%	26.1%

Income	7	8	9	10	11	12
<\$25k	4.4%	11.9%	0.0%	4.8%	10.5%	15.9%
\$25k – \$49.9k	0.0%	1.2%	1.6%	7.8%	2.6%	28.2%
\$50k – \$99.9k	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	2.1%	1.2%	43.4%
\$100k+	0.0%	7.0%	0.0%	16.0%	3.1%	12.1%
Total	1.4%	5.5%	0.3%	7.0%	4.8%	26.1%

Education	7	8	9	10	11	12
High School or Less	5.7%	0.5%	0.0%	3.3%	4.0%	8.5%
Some College	0.0%	14.8%	1.1%	4.1%	7.9%	39.4%
College+	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	10.9%	3.0%	26.4%
Total	1.4%	5.5%	0.3%	7.0%	4.8%	26.1%



QUESTION 6: Do you believe you have ever contracted an illness directly as a result of flying?

Age	Yes	No
<35	10.4%	89.6%
35 – 64	12.4%	87.6%
65+	7.3%	92.7%
Total	11.0%	89.0%

Income		
< \$25k	3.8%	96.2%
\$25k – \$49.9k	10.0%	90.0%
\$50k – \$99.9k	11.4%	88.6%
\$100k+	25.0%	75.0%
Total	11.0%	89.0%

Education		
High School or Less	1.5%	98.5%
Some College	10.2%	89.8%
College+	17.3%	82.7%
Total	11.0%	89.0%



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