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EDITOR'S NOTE: ATTENTION ASSIGNMENT EDITORS, Professor David Redlawsk may be contacted at 319-400-1134, 732-932-9384, ext. 285, or redlawsk@rutgers.edu. Visit <http://eagletonpollblog.wordpress.com> for more commentary.

**RUTGERS-EAGLETON POLL: NEW JERSEYANS PLAN THANKSGIVING TRAVEL
BUT MOST WILL STAY IN STATE**

Thanksgiving a Mostly Stress-Free Holiday

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – Half of New Jerseyans plan some travel for Thanksgiving although only 17 percent will leave the state, according to a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. Spending the day with friends and family is the most enjoyable part of the holiday for 80 percent of respondents while 11 percent place the meal above all and 3 percent call a TV schedule chock full of football the best part of the holiday.

Despite visits with family and the challenges of preparing a large meal, Thanksgiving appears to be mostly stress-free, with only one-in-four respondents (26 percent) feeling worries about the holiday.

While 51 percent of New Jerseyans will travel for Thanksgiving, about one-in-three won't leave the state and 48 percent will celebrate at home. Almost half (45 percent) will enjoy time with immediate family and one-third will celebrate with extended family. Economic considerations may play a role in the decision with whom to celebrate: wealthier Garden Staters are much more likely to travel to extended family, while those earning less than \$50,000 annually will stay home and celebrate with their immediate family.

“Thanksgiving is very family-oriented,” said poll Director David Redlawsk, a professor of political science at Rutgers University. “However, it takes financial resources to get together with extended family, and that’s more difficult for many in these tough economic times.”

Results are from a poll of 753 registered voters conducted Nov. 9-12, and has a margin of error of +/- 3.6 percentage points.

Women more likely to stay home for the holiday

Despite their traditional role of preparing the meal, only 28 percent of women call Thanksgiving stressful, compared to 24 percent of men. At the same time, women are more likely to stay at home for the holiday. Fifty-five percent of woman plan to celebrate at home, while only 41 percent of men will not travel.

“Traveling means that someone else is taking care of the preparations,” Redlawsk said. “It may be that staying home with the responsibility of meal preparation is what causes the slight increase in stress among women.”

Kitchen duty also might explain why men are twice as likely as women to focus on Thanksgiving dinner, with 14 percent of men naming the meal as what they enjoy most, compared to only 7 percent of women. Still, 74 percent of men and 85 percent of women say the holiday is about family.

Thanksgiving most stressful for lower earners

Income affects respondents’ perception of stress. One-third of those making less than \$50,000 say that Thanksgiving comes with at least some stress, but only 20 percent with incomes between \$100,000 and \$150,000 find the holiday stressful. Stress increases for the highest income earners: 28 percent of those earning more than \$150,000 report feeling stressed about Thanksgiving.

Not surprisingly, the wealthy are most likely to say they have out-of-state holiday plans. Fully one-quarter of the highest earning households will leave New Jersey, but only 5 percent of those making under \$50,000 will be joining them outside the Garden State. Instead, 61 percent will stay home and another one-third will travel in-state. Half of high-income residents will play host for the holiday and a quarter will travel in-state.

Wealthier New Jerseyans, who can better afford to travel outside the state, are much more likely to celebrate the holiday with their extended family: 48 percent earning between \$100,000 and \$150,000 will celebrate with extended family compared to 18 percent of those making less than \$50,000. About half (52 percent) of those earning less than \$50,000 will celebrate with immediate family.

Stress greater among most, least educated

Thanksgiving seems to weigh more on those with a high school education or less, and those with graduate degrees. The in-betweeners are much less stressed by the holiday. While about 18 percent with a college education report stress, twice as many of the least educated (37 percent) and most educated (34 percent) say they find the holiday stressful. At the same time, similar percentages of each group plan to stay home for the holiday, so travel is not necessarily causing this difference. Nor is it about with whom people celebrate. While 51 percent of the least educated will celebrate with immediate family, only 34 percent of the most educated say the same.

“This education effect is interesting, but hard to nail down,” said Redlawsk. “Education is clearly related to income, and we see a similar pattern there, but it doesn’t seem we can pin it on who they visit or where they go.”

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QUESTIONS AND TABLES BEGIN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in the release of November 22, 2011 are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are Registered Voters (RV).

Q. Now on to something else. Thanksgiving is almost here. Do you celebrate with your extended family, your immediate family, with friends, or do you not celebrate at all?

Extended family	33%
Immediate family	45%
Friends	3%
Combination of the above (Vol)	16%
Do not celebrate	3%
Unwght N=	748

	Party ID			Ideology			Education			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Extended family	31%	35%	30%	35%	34%	30%	20%	27%	37%	46%
Immediate family	44%	44%	49%	41%	44%	52%	51%	54%	41%	34%
Friends	3%	2%	5%	7%	2%	2%	3%	1%	4%	4%
Comb. of the above	21%	13%	14%	12%	18%	10%	21%	16%	15%	13%
Do not celebrate	2%	5%	2%	4%	2%	5%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Unwght N=	314	217	217	154	408	168	173	184	209	182

	Income				Gender		Religion		
	<50K	50K-100K	100K-150K	150K+	Male	Female	Cath	Protest	Jewish
Extended family	18%	33%	48%	41%	33%	32%	30%	37%	38%
Immediate family	52%	49%	37%	43%	42%	48%	53%	44%	29%
Friends	3%	3%	0%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%	5%
Comb. of the above	17%	14%	15%	12%	19%	13%	14%	15%	16%
Do not celebrate	8%	0%	0%	1%	3%	3%	1%	2%	12%
Unwght N=	163	213	141	102	350	398	314	216	55

	Travel			Level of Stress	
	Outside NJ	W/in NJ	Stay Home	Somewhat Stressful	Not at all Stressful
Extended family	47%	35%	28%	36%	33%
Immediate family	39%	39%	56%	44%	47%
Friends	1%	5%	3%	2%	3%
Comb. of the above	13%	22%	13%	18%	16%
Unwght N=	114	260	339	177	529

Q. Do you expect to travel outside New Jersey, travel within New Jersey, or stay home for Thanksgiving this year?

Travel Outside	17%
Travel W/in	34%
Stay Home	48%
DK	2%
Unwght N=	728

	Party ID			Ideology			Education			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Travel Outside	18%	17%	14%	20%	16%	18%	11%	15%	22%	18%
Travel W/in	35%	31%	36%	26%	35%	35%	33%	35%	32%	34%
Stay Home	46%	51%	47%	52%	49%	45%	54%	50%	45%	46%
DK	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	0%	2%	2%
Unwght N=	308	208	212	148	400	162	167	179	204	177

	Income				Gender		Religion		
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	Male	Female	Cath	Protest	Jewish
Travel Outside	5%	20%	20%	25%	19%	14%	12%	23%	26%
Travel W/in	33%	33%	36%	25%	38%	30%	38%	26%	40%
Stay Home	61%	44%	43%	50%	41%	55%	50%	49%	32%
DK	0%	2%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%
Unwght N=	153	212	141	100	342	386	308	211	53

	Celebrates with				Level of Stress	
	Extend Family	Immed Family	Friends	Combin (Vol)	Somewhat Stressful	Not at all Stressful
Travel Outside	23%	14%	7%	13%	15%	17%
Travel W/in	35%	28%	50%	44%	32%	35%
Stay Home	40%	58%	43%	38%	52%	46%
DK	1%	0%	0%	5%	1%	2%
Unwght N=	235	336	27	123	177	529

**Q. Which of the following do you enjoy MOST about the holiday? [ROTATE 1-4 and READ 1-5] [IF MORE THAN ONE ANSWER, PROMPT: Which would you say you MOST enjoy?]
 Answer Options: Spending the day with family or friends, The holiday meal, The football games, Black Friday shopping Or is it something else [record]**

Family & Friends	80%
Holiday Meal	11%
Football Games	3%
Black Friday Shopping	1%
Other	4%
N=	728

	Party ID			Ideology			Education			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Fam & Friends	78%	81%	80%	77%	80%	86%	85%	73%	80%	82%
Meal	10%	12%	10%	12%	11%	8%	6%	12%	14%	10%
Games	3%	3%	5%	3%	3%	3%	6%	5%	1%	2%
Shopping	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%	3%	1%
Other	7%	2%	5%	6%	4%	3%	2%	8%	3%	4%
N=	308	208	212	149	399	163	167	180	204	177

	Income				Gender		Religion		
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	Male	Female	Cath	Protest	Jewish
Fam & Friends	77%	80%	76%	83%	74%	85%	80%	80%	75%
Meal	12%	10%	15%	8%	14%	7%	10%	10%	6%
Games	5%	3%	2%	2%	5%	2%	4%	6%	0%
Shopping	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%
Other	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	3%	16%
N=	152	212	140	101	342	386	308	212	53

	Celebrates with				Travel			Level of Stress	
	Extend Family	Immed Family	Friends	Combin (Vol)	Travel out NJ	Travel w/in NJ	Stay home	Somewhat Stressful	Not at all Stressful
Fam & Friends	84%	79%	59%	79%	89%	75%	80%	83%	79%
Meal	8%	14%	18%	6%	4%	14%	11%	9%	11%
Games	4%	3%	8%	4%	1%	4%	4%	2%	4%
Shopping	2%	1%	4%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Other	3%	3%	9%	10%	7%	6%	2%	5%	4%
N=	236	336	27	124	113	260	339	176	532

Q. Overall, how stressful do you find the Thanksgiving holiday? Is it very stressful, somewhat stressful, or not at all stressful for you?

Very Stressful	3%
Somewhat Stressful	23%
Not at all Stressful	74%
N=	729

	Party ID			Ideology			Education			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	HS or Less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Very Stressful	2%	3%	1%	7%	2%	0%	3%	1%	4%	2%
Somewhat Stressful	24%	24%	23%	21%	25%	20%	34%	17%	14%	32%
Not at all Stressful	74%	73%	76%	72%	73%	80%	62%	81%	82%	66%
N=	309	208	212	149	400	163	167	180	204	178

	Income				Gender		Religion		
	<50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	Male	Female	Cath	Protest	Jewish
Very Stressful	3%	4%	1%	2%	2%	3%	4%	1%	2%
Somewhat Stressful	29%	22%	19%	26%	22%	25%	26%	19%	22%
Not at all Stressful	67%	74%	80%	72%	76%	72%	69%	79%	76%
N=	153	212	140	101	342	387	309	212	53

	Celebrates with				Travel			Enjoy most		
	Extend Family	Immed Family	Friends	Combin (Vol)	Travel out NJ	Travel w/in NJ	Stay home	Fam or friends	Food	Sports
Very Stressful	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%	1%	4%	2%	3%	0%
Somewhat Stressful	25%	22%	19%	25%	21%	22%	25%	24%	20%	16%
Not at all Stressful	73%	75%	77%	73%	76%	77%	71%	73%	76%	84%
DK	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
N=	236	336	27	124	113	260	340	588	67	26

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll November 9-12, 2011

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from November 9-12, 2011 with a scientifically selected random sample of 753 New Jersey registered voters drawn from a list of all NJ registered voters. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey registered voter population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to US Census Bureau data. All results are reported with these weighted data.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for 753 registered voters is +/-3.6 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey registered voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 53.6 and 46.3 percent (50 +/-3.6) had all New Jersey registered voters been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research Incorporated. The questionnaire was developed and all data analysis was completed in house. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, a non-partisan academic center focused on the study and teaching of politics and the political process.

Weighted Sample Characteristics			
753 New Jersey Registered Voters			
<i>Based on Registration Status</i>			
34% Democrat	47% Male	15% 18-29	72% White
46% Independent	53% Female	35% 30-49	10% Black
21% Republican		28% 50-64	9% Hispanic
		21% 65+	