

# Western New England University

## Polling Institute

### Statewide Telephone Survey

March 31 – April 7, 2014

Boston Marathon Bombings

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## METHODOLOGY

The Western New England University Polling Institute survey consists of telephone interviews with 477 adults ages 18 and older drawn from across Massachusetts using random-digit-dialing March 31 – April 7, 2014. The sample yielded 424 adults who said they are registered to vote in Massachusetts. Unless otherwise noted, the figures in this release are based on the statewide sample of all adults.

Paid interviewers at The Polling Institute dialed household telephone numbers, known as “landline numbers,” and cell phone numbers using random samples obtained from Survey Sampling International of Shelton, CT. In order to draw a representative sample from the landline numbers, interviewers first asked for the youngest male age 18 or older who was home at the time of the call, and if no adult male was present, the youngest female age 18 or older who was at home at the time of the call. Interviewers dialing cell phone numbers interviewed the respondent who answered the cell phone after confirming three things: (1) that the respondent was in a safe setting to complete the survey; (2) that the respondent was an adult age 18 or older; and (3) that the respondent was a resident of Massachusetts. The landline and cell phone data were combined and weighted to reflect the adult population of Massachusetts by gender, race, age, and county of residence using U.S. Census estimates for Massachusetts. The data also were weighted to adjust for cell phone and landline usage based on state-level estimates for Massachusetts from the National Center for Health Statistics.

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 a sample of 477 adults is +/- 4.5 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 55 percent of adults said they are very confident that law enforcement agencies will be able to keep the Boston Marathon safe from violence this year, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 50.5 percent and 59.5 percent (55 percent +/- 4.5 percent) had all Massachusetts adults 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.

Established in 2005, the Western New England University Polling Institute conducts research on issues of importance to Massachusetts and the region. The Institute provides the University’s faculty and students with opportunities to participate in public opinion research. Additional information about the Polling Institute is available at [www1.wne.edu/pollinginst](http://www1.wne.edu/pollinginst).

## TABLES

Next, we'd like to ask some questions about the Boston Marathon. Have you ever attended the Boston Marathon, either as a spectator, participant, volunteer, or in some other role?

		Have You Ever Attended the Boston Marathon?			
		Yes	No	Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	N*
March 31 – April 7, 2014	Adults	47%	53%	0%	477

*\* Samples are unweighted N's, and consist of adults. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

Did you attend the Boston Marathon last year? (Asked of the 218 respondents who said they had attended the Boston Marathon in the past.)

		Did you Attend the Boston Marathon Last Year?			
		Yes	No	Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	N*
March 31 – April 7, 2014	Adults	12%	88%	0%	218

*\* Samples are unweighted N's, and consist of adults. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

Are you planning to attend the Boston Marathon this year, either as a participant, spectator, volunteer, or in some other role?

		Are You Planning to Attend the Boston Marathon This Year?			
		Yes	No	Don't know / Refused (Vol.)	N*
March 31 – April 7, 2014	Adults	13%	83%	4%	477

*\* Samples are unweighted N's, and consist of adults. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

How confident are you that law enforcement agencies will be able to keep the Boston Marathon safe from violence this year? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, (or) not at all confident?

		Confident that Law Enforcement Agencies Can Keep the Marathon Safe This Year						
		Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident	Don't know/Refused (Vol.)	N*	
March 31 – April 7, 2014	Adults	53%	38%	5%	3%	1%	477	
Attended the Marathon in the past	Yes	52%	36%	8%	3%	2%	218	
	No	55%	40%	2%	2%	1%	259	
Gender	Male	56%	35%	4%	2%	2%	238	
	Female	51%	41%	6%	3%	0%	239	
Age	18-39	47%	43%	5%	3%	1%	68	
	40-54	54%	38%	5%	2%	1%	117	
	55-64	57%	37%	4%	2%	0%	103	
	65 and older	65%	29%	3%	1%	1%	183	
Education	High school or less	43%	43%	8%	5%	1%	99	
	Some college	50%	43%	4%	3%	0%	122	
	College graduate	59%	34%	4%	1%	2%	253	
Region	Western MA	51%	44%	3%	2%	1%	99	
	Central MA	50%	38%	3%	8%	1%	62	
	North / South Shore	52%	38%	8%	1%	0%	131	
	Boston and suburbs	59%	33%	4%	2%	2%	181	

*\* Samples are unweighted N's, and consist of adults. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev faces trial on charges that he and his brother set off two bombs at the Boston Marathon last year. If Tsarnaev is found guilty of those charges, should he be sentenced to [death] or [life in prison with no chance of parole]? (*Response categories rotated in random order.*)

		Penalty if Tsarnaev is Found Guilty of Bombing Charges				
		Death	Life in Prison With No Chance of Parole	Don't know (Vol.)	Refused (Vol.)	N*
March 31 – April 7, 2014	Adults	45%	48%	6%	1%	477
Attended the Marathon in the past	Yes	46%	46%	6%	2%	218
	No	43%	50%	6%	1%	259
Party Registration**	Democrat	21%	74%	4%	0%	136
	Republican	61%	33%	6%	0%	60
	Unenrolled	51%	43%	4%	2%	220
Gender	Male	45%	48%	6%	1%	238
	Female	44%	49%	5%	1%	239
Age	18-39	51%	42%	6%	0%	68
	40-54	44%	47%	6%	3%	117
	55-64	42%	50%	8%	1%	103
	65 and older	33%	62%	3%	2%	183
Education	High school or less	41%	54%	4%	1%	99
	Some college	52%	41%	7%	0%	122
	College graduate	43%	50%	6%	2%	253
Region	Western MA	47%	46%	7%	1%	99
	Central MA	64%	32%	4%	0%	62
	North / South Shore	44%	50%	4%	1%	131
	Boston and suburbs	39%	51%	8%	2%	181

\* *Subsamples are unweighted N's, and consist of adults for all categories except party registration, which focuses only on registered voters. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.*

\*\* *Party registration was measured with the following question: "Are you registered as a Democrat, Republican, unenrolled or independent voter, or something else?"*

Generally speaking, do you think the Marathon bombing changed the city of Boston in a lasting way, or not? \*

		Did the Marathon Bombing Change Boston in a Lasting Way?					
		Yes	No	Don't know (Vol.)	Refused (Vol.)	N**	
March 31 – April 7, 2014	Adults	73%	24%	3%	0%	477	
Attended the Marathon in the past	Yes	72%	26%	2%	0%	218	
	No	74%	22%	4%	0%	259	
Gender	Male	70%	26%	3%	0%	238	
	Female	76%	21%	3%	0%	239	
Age	18-39	78%	20%	2%	0%	68	
	40-54	69%	29%	2%	0%	117	
	55-64	73%	25%	2%	0%	103	
	65 and older	72%	22%	6%	0%	183	
Education	High school or less	82%	15%	3%	0%	99	
	Some college	84%	15%	2%	0%	122	
	College graduate	65%	31%	4%	0%	253	
Region	Western MA	70%	21%	9%	0%	99	
	Central MA	80%	19%	1%	0%	62	
	North / South Shore	81%	17%	2%	0%	131	
	Boston and suburbs	66%	31%	3%	0%	181	

\* Adapted from the following questions: "Do you think the terrorist attacks of last September 11th changed this country in a lasting way, or not?" If yes: "Was it a change for the better or a change for the worse?" Washington Post Poll, Sept. 3 – 6, 2002.

\*\* Samples are unweighted N's, and consist of adults. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

Was it a change for the better, or a change for the worse? (Asked of the 342 respondents who said the Marathon bombing had changed the city of Boston in a lasting way.)

		Was It a Change for the Better, or a Change for the Worse?					
		For the better	For the worse	Both better and worse (Vol.)	Don't know (Vol.)	Refused (Vol.)	N*
March 31 – April 7, 2014	Adults	62%	20%	14%	4%	0%	342
Attended the Marathon in the past	Yes	61%	25%	13%	1%	0%	154
	No	62%	17%	14%	6%	0%	188
Gender	Male	61%	23%	11%	4%	0%	161
	Female	62%	18%	16%	4%	0%	181
Age	18-39	50%	26%	17%	6%	0%	53
	40-54	63%	19%	14%	3%	0%	81
	55-64	64%	21%	14%	0%	0%	74
	65 and older	85%	8%	4%	2%	0%	131
Education	High school or less	53%	25%	17%	4%	0%	78
	Some college	68%	18%	13%	0%	0%	99
	College graduate	62%	19%	13%	6%	0%	162
Region	Western MA	72%	13%	11%	4%	0%	65
	Central MA	68%	22%	10%	1%	0%	49
	North / South Shore	61%	25%	13%	0%	0%	101
	Boston and suburbs	63%	20%	10%	8%	0%	123

\* Samples are unweighted N's, and consist of adults. Row percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.