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# *Rocky Mountain Poll*

NEWS RELEASE  
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## DESPITE FEAR OF BIOLOGICAL ATTACK MOST WOULD WAIT BEFORE SEEKING INOCULATIONS

Phoenix, Arizona, December 24, 2001. Between January and October of 2001, the proportion of Arizonans who believe it likely that the U.S. will be the target of biological attacks skyrocketed from 29 to 73 percent (See 2001-IV-04), driven undoubtedly by the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Nonetheless, most Arizonans would wait until a threat of diseases such as anthrax or even smallpox had been declared by public health officials before seeking to get vaccinated. The reluctance to rush out and get vaccinated is particularly true as regards anthrax for which only 28 percent would get inoculated today if a vaccine were available.

For smallpox, the proportion within the total population who say they would immediately get vaccinated rises to 41 percent. The number jumps to a surprising 63 percent among Hispanics and is above normal as well among young adults. The higher readings in these groups may trace to the fact that universal smallpox vaccination programs have been discontinued for at least three decades in the U.S. and may not have been as widespread in the homelands of many Latin American nationals now residing in this country.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2001-IV-15) is based on 602 interviews with adults in Maricopa County conducted from November 9<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, and race were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one may say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.1 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program sponsored by the Center.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**ENCLOSED:** Statistical data for reference.

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

**STATISTICAL DATA**

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Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
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*“Next, if vaccines for the following diseases were available today, would you get vaccinated right away or wait until a threat of the disease had been declared by public health officials in Arizona?”*

	Would Wait	Would Do It Right Away	Unsure
Smallpox	51%	41%	8%
Anthrax	65	28	7

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