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## **NEW JERSEY SANDY RECOVERY VIEW UNCHANGED**

*Less than half feel it is possible to prepare for next storm*

As New Jersey marks the second anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, the latest ***Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll*** finds that Garden State residents' opinions on some aspects of the recovery have improved slightly while others remained unchanged. At the same time, fewer than half of state residents are confident that the state can prepare for another storm of Sandy's magnitude.

Currently, a majority (54%) of New Jersey residents are satisfied with the state's Sandy recovery effort to date, while 35% are dissatisfied. This result marks an improvement from the 48% satisfied to 43% dissatisfied result recorded back in April and is similar to the 55% satisfied to 39% dissatisfied result in February. All of these results, though, are lower than polls taken in the first year after the storm hit the state, when more than 7-in-10 New Jerseyans were satisfied with the recovery effort.

In terms of how the state is handling recovery funds, 51% are confident that these funds are being spent wisely and 42% are not confident. This result is almost identical to the April poll result of 51% confident to 45% not confident. During the first year following the storm, at least 6-in-10 expressed confidence that recovery funds were being spent wisely.

In New Jersey communities that were hardest hit by the storm, 51% of residents are satisfied with the recovery effort and 46% are confident that the funds are being spent wisely. In other parts of the state, 54% are satisfied and 52% are confident. It is worth noting that Monmouth University also conducted a separate study of New Jerseyans who were most impacted by the storm. While those results are based on a non-probability sample of people with significant damage to their homes, the findings released yesterday showed that far fewer (33%) of these hardest-hit New Jerseyans are satisfied with the state's recovery efforts.

Opinion on the recovery is most divided among those who know someone who was displaced from their home for at least a month as a result of Sandy. Among those who know a Sandy victim, 47% are satisfied and 47% are dissatisfied with the recovery effort while 46% are confident and 48% are not confident that recovery funds are being used wisely.

When it comes to the state's efforts specifically to assist New Jersey residents who still need to repair their homes, 41% say the state has done a good job compared to 45% who say it has done a bad job. This result has changed little from a poll that was taken just six months after the storm, when 43% said the state was doing a good job helping residents who needed to repair their homes and 47% said it was doing a bad job.

"Two years after the storm, not a lot has changed. A majority of New Jersey residents are positive about the recovery effort, but the fact that we still have much to do to get people back in their homes tempers those positive feelings. It also makes us wonder whether we can handle the next storm," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

When asked whether they feel New Jersey is prepared to deal with another storm like Sandy, just 11% of residents say the state is very prepared, while 53% feel the state is somewhat prepared. Another 18% say the state is not too prepared and 13% say the state is not at all prepared.

When asked whether it is even possible to be very prepared for this type of storm, 42% say yes and 38% say it is not possible. New Jerseyans who live along the Route 1 corridor (48%) and in the Northwest portion (47%) of the state are the most optimistic about the ability to prepare, followed by those living in the Shore counties (42%). Residents in the Northeast (37%) and Southwest (34%) regions of the state are less likely to feel it is possible to be very prepared for this type of storm.

The poll also asked Garden State residents about recovery efforts specifically around Jersey Shore tourism. The results show that some residents feel that the recovery has slowed compared to last year. Specifically, 43% of New Jerseyans say the Jersey Shore tourism industry has recovered at about the pace they expected, 14% say it has recovered faster than expected and 31% say it has been slower than expected. A poll taken after last year's summer season found that 49% said the Shore tourism industry was recovering at about the pace they expected, 20% said it was recovering faster than expected and 23% said it had been slower than expected.

Nearly half of New Jerseyans say they visited the Jersey Shore this past summer, including 21% who had an overnight stay and 26% who took day trips. Another 8% report that they live down the shore. About 1-in-10 (9%) New Jerseyans report that they spent more time down the shore this past summer than they typically do, 38% spent less time, and 41% spent about the same amount of time as they usually do down the shore. These results for the 2014 summer season are similar to a poll taken one year ago.

The *Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll* was conducted by telephone with 802 New Jersey adults from September 17 to 21, 2014. This sample has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.5$  percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute and originally published by the Asbury Park Press and its sister publications (Courier-Post, Courier News, Daily Journal, Daily Record, and Home News Tribune). The Monmouth University Polling Institute has produced the most extensive set of polling data on Sandy’s impact on New Jersey, including seven statewide polls, one survey of coastal residents and four poll releases from a panel of residents who suffered significant damage from the storm. All the polls can be found at: <http://www.monmouth.edu/polling/reports.asp>

**Methodological Note:**

For this survey, the classification of “Hardest Hit Area” includes zip codes covering coastal communities – on both beach and bay – in the four Jersey Shore counties as well as flooded urban communities in the northern part of the state (e.g. Moonachie, Little Ferry, Hoboken, parts of Jersey City, Perth Amboy, etc.). These areas represent 15% of the survey sample.

The “Region” classification for this Sandy-specific survey is defined by county: Northeast (Bergen, Passaic, Essex), Route 1 (Hudson, Union, Middlesex, Mercer), Northwest (Somerset, Hunterdon, Morris, Warren, Sussex), Shore Counties (Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May), and Southwest (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland).

**DATA TABLES**

*The questions referred to in this release are as follows:*

(\* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

1. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with New Jersey’s Sandy recovery effort so far? [Is that very or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?]

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		KNOW SANDY VICTIM	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Yes	No
Very satisfied	<b>16%</b>	16%	15%	18%	20%	14%	16%	9%	19%	11%	16%	12%	19%
Somewhat satisfied	<b>38%</b>	37%	39%	41%	35%	48%	28%	37%	39%	40%	38%	35%	41%
Somewhat dissatisfied	<b>18%</b>	19%	19%	16%	20%	10%	22%	25%	22%	21%	19%	21%	17%
Very dissatisfied	<b>17%</b>	22%	15%	14%	18%	17%	23%	20%	12%	15%	18%	26%	12%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>10%</b>	5%	12%	11%	7%	11%	11%	8%	8%	13%	9%	7%	12%

TREND:	Sep 2014	Apr 2014	Feb 2014	Dec 2013	Sep 2013	Apr 2013	Feb 2013
Very satisfied	16%	14%	16%	25%	38%	31%	26%
Somewhat satisfied	38%	34%	39%	41%	38%	42%	45%
Somewhat dissatisfied	18%	22%	20%	15%	10%	11%	12%
Very dissatisfied	17%	21%	19%	12%	6%	9%	10%
(VOL) Don't know	10%	9%	6%	7%	8%	6%	7%
Unwid N	802	803	803	802	783	806	803

2. How confident are you that the funds for New Jersey's Sandy recovery effort are being spent wisely – very, somewhat, not too, or not at all confident?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		KNOW SANDY VICTIM	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Yes	No
Very confident	<b>7%</b>	8%	6%	8%	6%	5%	11%	8%	9%	5%	8%	5%	9%
Somewhat confident	<b>44%</b>	44%	42%	48%	43%	48%	44%	40%	44%	41%	44%	41%	46%
Not too confident	<b>22%</b>	20%	23%	23%	25%	12%	24%	23%	27%	21%	22%	22%	21%
Not at all confident	<b>20%</b>	23%	21%	9%	21%	26%	16%	20%	11%	17%	20%	26%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>8%</b>	5%	9%	12%	5%	9%	6%	9%	9%	15%	6%	6%	9%

TREND:	Sep 2014	Apr 2014	Feb 2014*	Sep 2013*	Apr 2013*	Feb 2013*
Very confident	7%	8%	9%	15%	12%	13%
Somewhat confident	44%	43%	48%	47%	48%	51%
Not too confident	22%	22%	21%	17%	19%	17%
Not at all confident	20%	23%	20%	13%	17%	15%
(VOL) Don't know	8%	5%	2%	8%	3%	4%
Unwtd N	802	803	803	783	806	803

\* Question used the term "federal funding"

3. Do you think the state has been doing a good job or bad job helping New Jersey residents who still need to repair their homes?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		KNOW SANDY VICTIM	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Yes	No
Good job	<b>41%</b>	38%	40%	50%	41%	38%	37%	41%	48%	45%	41%	33%	46%
Bad job	<b>45%</b>	50%	45%	33%	48%	44%	43%	51%	39%	44%	45%	58%	36%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>15%</b>	11%	15%	18%	10%	18%	20%	8%	13%	12%	14%	9%	18%

TREND:	Sep 2014	Apr 2013
Good job	41%	43%
Bad job	45%	47%
(VOL) Don't know	15%	10%
Unwtd N	802	803

4. How prepared do you think New Jersey is to deal with another storm like Sandy – very prepared, somewhat prepared, not too prepared, or not at all prepared?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		KNOW SANDY VICTIM	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Yes	No
Very prepared	<b>11%</b>	11%	9%	17%	9%	9%	21%	9%	10%	17%	11%	10%	12%
Somewhat prepared	<b>53%</b>	52%	51%	61%	52%	55%	55%	57%	49%	43%	54%	53%	53%
Not too prepared	<b>18%</b>	21%	20%	9%	26%	15%	15%	14%	22%	24%	18%	20%	18%
Not at all prepared	<b>13%</b>	12%	14%	11%	10%	18%	8%	15%	13%	13%	13%	15%	12%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>4%</b>	4%	5%	2%	4%	3%	2%	5%	5%	2%	4%	2%	5%

5. Do you think it is possible to be very prepared for this type of storm, is not really possible to be very prepared, or aren't you sure?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		KNOW SANDY VICTIM	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Yes	No
Already very prepared from question 4	<b>11%</b>	11%	9%	17%	9%	9%	21%	9%	10%	17%	11%	10%	12%
Is possible	<b>31%</b>	36%	32%	20%	28%	39%	26%	33%	24%	30%	32%	35%	28%
Is not possible	<b>38%</b>	30%	39%	49%	41%	34%	32%	43%	41%	44%	36%	40%	36%
Not sure	<b>20%</b>	22%	20%	14%	22%	18%	21%	15%	25%	9%	20%	15%	23%
(VOL) Refused	<b>0%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

6. Did you visit the Jersey Shore this summer? [If YES: Did you stay over for at least one night or did you just make day trips?]

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		KNOW SANDY VICTIM	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Yes	No
Visited, stayed overnight	<b>21%</b>	17%	21%	30%	25%	18%	17%	12%	28%	24%	22%	28%	16%
Visited, day trips only	<b>26%</b>	29%	26%	21%	20%	30%	16%	33%	33%	20%	28%	29%	25%
No, did not visit	<b>45%</b>	48%	45%	40%	54%	51%	67%	14%	37%	15%	48%	28%	56%
(VOL) Reside at the Jersey Shore	<b>8%</b>	6%	8%	9%	0%	0%	0%	41%	2%	41%	2%	16%	2%
(VOL) Don't know	<b>0%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

TREND:	Sep 2014	Sep 2013
Visited, stayed overnight	21%	29%
Visited, day trips only	26%	29%
No, did not visit	45%	41%
(VOL) Reside at the Jersey Shore	8%	n/a
(VOL) Don't know	0%	1%
Unwtd N	802	783

7. Compared to a typical summer, did you spend more time, less time, or about the same amount of time down the Jersey Shore this summer as you normally do?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		2014 SHORE VISITOR			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Over-night	Day trip	No	Reside at the shore
More time	<b>9%</b>	8%	10%	8%	7%	7%	5%	11%	18%	12%	9%	24%	12%	1%	8%
Less time	<b>38%</b>	46%	36%	28%	42%	40%	40%	26%	38%	25%	41%	23%	40%	46%	27%
About the same	<b>41%</b>	37%	39%	52%	37%	39%	40%	57%	33%	59%	38%	53%	47%	28%	64%
(VOL) Never visit the shore	<b>10%</b>	8%	11%	10%	13%	12%	14%	5%	7%	3%	11%	0%	1%	22%	0%
(VOL) Don't Know	<b>2%</b>	1%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	0%	2%	0%	0%	4%	1%

TREND:	Sep 2014	Sep 2013
More time	9%	9%
Less time	38%	38%
About the same	41%	46%
(VOL) Never visit the shore	10%	n/a
(VOL) Don't Know	2%	7%
Unwtd N	802	783

8. Thinking about rebuilding the Jersey Shore's tourism industry after Sandy, has it recovered at a faster pace, slower pace, or is it about where you expected it would be at this point?

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		2014 SHORE VISITOR			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Over-night	Day trip	No	Reside at the shore
Faster pace	<b>14%</b>	14%	13%	17%	10%	12%	13%	19%	18%	21%	14%	17%	14%	10%	32%
Slower pace	<b>31%</b>	35%	30%	29%	31%	33%	37%	37%	19%	30%	32%	28%	31%	31%	37%
About where expected	<b>43%</b>	39%	46%	44%	48%	42%	34%	38%	50%	41%	44%	53%	50%	38%	23%
(VOL) Don't Know	<b>12%</b>	12%	12%	9%	12%	13%	16%	7%	12%	8%	11%	2%	5%	21%	8%

TREND:	Sep 2014	Sep 2013
Faster pace	14%	20%
Slower pace	31%	23%
About where expected	43%	49%
(VOL) Don't Know	12%	7%
Unwtd N	802	783

9. Do you know anyone who was displaced from their home by Sandy for more than a month? [If YES: Is this you or someone else?]

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		KNOW SANDY VICTIM	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Yes	No
Yes, self	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	3%	1%	4%	1%	3%	0%
Yes, other	36%	27%	41%	43%	29%	40%	35%	65%	19%	62%	34%	94%	0%
Yes, self & other	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	3%	0%	3%	1%	4%	0%
No	61%	69%	57%	55%	69%	59%	63%	28%	81%	32%	64%	0%	100%

The *Monmouth University/Asbury Park Press Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from September 17 to 21, 2014 with a statewide random sample of 802 adult residents, including 602 contacted via live interview on a landline telephone and 200 via live interview on a cell phone. It was partially funded by the Asbury Park Press. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The final sample was weighted by age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)			
36% Dem	50% Male	28% 18-34	63% White
45% Ind	50% Female	38% 35-54	13% Black
19% Rep		34% 55+	15% Hispanic
			9% Asian/Other

	TOTAL	PARTY ID			MARGIN OF ERROR NJ REGION					HARDEST HIT AREA		KNOW SANDY VICTIM		2014 SHORE VISITOR			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	North-east	Route 1	North-west	Shore counties	South-west	Yes	Other	Yes	No	Over-night	Day trip	No	Reside at the shore
Unweighted N	802	261	352	149	189	187	112	140	144	107	638	341	461	172	208	352	69
moe	3.5%	6.1%	5.2%	8.0%	7.1%	7.2%	9.3%	8.3%	8.2%	9.5%	3.9%	5.3%	4.6%	7.5%	6.8%	5.2%	11.8%

It is the Monmouth University Polling Institute's policy to conduct surveys of all adult New Jersey residents, including voters and non-voters, on issues that affect the state. Specific voter surveys are conducted when appropriate during election cycles.

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