

YouGov / Amnesty Survey Results

Sample Size: 1000 US Adults

Fieldwork: 13th - 17th November 2014

	Age			Gender		Race		Party Id			Region			
Total	18-40	41+	Male	Female	White	Non-white	Dem	Rep	Ind	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	
Weighted Sample 1000	383	611	471	522	662	331	328	227	335	159	211	384	240	
Unweighted Sample	369	624	477	516	665	328	336	234	323	162	209	375	247	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	

In December 1984, there was an industrial disaster at the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India.

Before today, were you aware of this?

Yes, I was	33	19	41	44	22	37	24	29	40	38	33	34	32	33
No, I was not	67	81	59	56	78	63	76	71	60	62	67	66	68	67

The Indian government estimates that around 5,000 people died as a result of the disaster, while non-governmental organizations estimate the total death toll as approximately 20,000. An estimated 500,000 people were also injured.

Critics of Union Carbide claim that poor maintenance and management were responsible for the gas leak. Union Carbide claims that the disaster was as a result of sabotage by a disgruntled employee.

The Bhopal plant was owned and operated by a company called Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL), which was a subsidiary of Union Carbide (UCC) head-quartered in the USA.

Which of these comes closer to your view?

The US parent company had a responsibility for the plant	43	40	45	48	39	48	32	51	39	45	45	49	41	40
The US parent company did not have a responsibility for the plant	21	20	21	21	20	19	23	18	25	23	19	18	20	25
Don't know	36	39	35	31	41	32	44	31	36	33	35	33	40	35

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%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

In 1989, Union Carbide paid US\$470 million as compensation in a legal settlement.

The Government of India is seeking additional compensation from Union Carbide, as it claims the numbers of people who died or were injured are now estimated to be higher than the figures used in 1989.

Union Carbide says that as it has already agreed to a legal settlement and paid compensation, it has no further obligations. The Indian Supreme Court rejected objections from non-government organizations (NGOs) on two occasions (1991 and 2007) following its initial validation of the settlement in 1989.

Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

Any claims for compensation were resolved by the 1989 settlement	47	37	54	51	44	53	37	41	65	51	47	52	49	42
The 1989 compensation settlement should be reassessed	21	26	18	22	21	21	22	29	11	22	28	19	16	27
Neither	5	6	4	4	6	4	6	4	3	5	5	5	5	5
Don't know	26	31	23	23	29	22	34	25	21	22	20	23	30	27

In 1987 criminal charges were filed in India against Union Carbide in relation to the gas leak as Union Carbide had overall ownership of Union Carbide India Limited.

Union Carbide says it has not appeared in the criminal proceedings because it is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Indian courts, since it did not operate the factory directly.

Do you think Union Carbide should or should not attend the Indian courts about its role in the gas leak at the Bhopal plant?

Should attend the Indian courts about its role in the gas leak at the Bhopal plant	43	43	42	42	43	45	38	58	30	43	50	44	39	42
Should not attend the Indian courts about its role in the gas leak at the Bhopal plant	26	19	30	30	22	27	24	16	42	29	25	23	24	32
Don't know	31	37	28	28	35	28	37	26	27	28	25	33	36	26

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Who should play a role in ensuring accountability for the Bhopal disaster, including with relation to US companies involved?

The Indian and US governments and courts	43	46	41	43	44	47	36	52	37	45	43	44	44	41
Only the Indian government and courts	24	20	27	29	21	24	25	20	29	30	26	25	21	28
Only the US government and courts	2	4	1	1	3	1	5	3	1	3	3	1	2	3
None of these	6	6	6	6	5	6	5	5	9	3	7	5	6	6
Don't know	24	23	25	21	27	23	28	20	23	20	20	25	27	22

In 1998, the lease on the Bhopal factory site was surrendered to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. At the time, the State Government said "the civil and criminal liabilities of Union Carbide will remain unchanged". Union Carbide Corporation says that the State Government assumed "all accountability for the site".

A number of scientific studies have shown that there is pollution at the former factory site in Bhopal, linked to operations at the factory before the gas leak. This is recognised by the Indian courts. Union Carbide says that any ongoing contamination is not its responsibility.

Who do you think should pay to clean up the pollution?

The companies that operated and designed the factory	45	44	46	45	45	47	43	55	36	49	54	50	41	42
The Madhya Pradesh State Government which now owns the site	30	28	32	32	29	32	28	28	41	32	24	31	31	34
Neither	3	5	1	3	2	2	4	3	2	2	4	1	2	4
Don't know	21	22	21	19	23	20	25	15	21	18	18	18	26	20