

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX  
JANUARY 13-16, 2010 OMNIBUS  
FINAL TOPLINE  
N=1,000**

**PEW.1-PEW.2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the shooting in Tucson, Arizona last week...

PEW.3 Do you think this shooting reflects broader problems in American society, or are things like this just the isolated acts of troubled individuals?

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Jan 13-16 <u>2011</u>		April 18-22 <u>2007<sup>1</sup></u>
31	Broader problems	46
58	Isolated acts	47
12	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	7

**IF PEW.3= 1 ("BROADER PROBLEMS"), ASK [N=307]:**

PEW.4 Just in your own view, what broader problems does this shooting reflect? **[OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES; DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]**

Jan 13-16

2011

**27 SOCIAL CLIMATE (NET)**

- 8 Breakdown of society (general)
- 6 Poor child rearing/Bad family/Bad kids/Bad education system
- 4 Lack of civility/respect
- 3 Feelings of frustration/discontent/hopelessness (general)
- 2 Lack of religion/God pushed out of society
- 2 Lack of discipline/self control
- 2 Anger
- 2 Lack of morals
- 1 Stupidity

**21 POLITICAL/MEDIA CLIMATE (NET)**

- 11 Partisan hatred/Political divisiveness
- 7 Dissatisfaction/upset with government
- 2 Polarizing rhetoric
- 2 Media coverage of politics/Talk show hosts
- 2 Extremists within the Republican Party/The Republican Party is to blame

- 14 Lack of mental health services/Mental health problems
- 13 Lack of gun control/access to guns
- 9 Dissatisfaction/upset with economy/unemployment
- 6 Violence (general)
- 1 Security issues
- 17 Other
- 8 Don't know/Refused

*Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.*

<sup>1</sup> Question was asked after the shooting at Virginia Tech and asked about "this shooting and others like it."

**TREND FOR COMPARISON: Virginia Tech Shooting**

April 18-22

2007**37 MORALITY/SOCIAL VALUES (NET)**

- 11 Moral breakdown / People don't know right from wrong
- 9 Violence in society/Movies/TV/Music/Video games
- 9 Family breakdown / Children neglected
- 5 Lack of community / No one cares or pays attention
- 5 Youth out of control / Selfish / No discipline
- 3 Lack of religion

**23 SOCIAL/GOVERNMENT SYSTEM FAILURES (NET)**

- 13 Mental health system not helping those in need
- 5 Legal system / Laws don't allow these people to be locked up
- 3 Not enough security
- 3 School system failing

14 Gun laws/Too easy to get guns

**12 SOCIAL/PERSONAL PRESSURES (NET)**

- 4 Social alienation / Isolation / Despair
- 3 Young people can't cope / High-pressure/fast-paced society breeds insecurity
- 2 Rich-poor divide breeds anger
- 2 Racial divisions / Minorities face pressures
- 1 Bullying
- 5 Copycat violence / Media coverage glorifies/sensationalizes
- 4 Crazy people in the world / He was crazy
- 2 Immigration
- 7 Other
- 11 Don't know/Refused

**[N=687]****PEW.5-PEW.8 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO PEW.9 OR PEW.10****PEW.11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PEW.12 What do you think is more important—to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

	<u>Protect right to own guns</u>	<u>Control gun ownership</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
January 13-16, 2011	49	46	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	46	50	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	46	7
Mar 31-Apr 1, 2009	45	49	6
Apr, 2008	37	58	5
Nov, 2007	42	55	3
Apr, 2007	32	60	8
Feb, 2004	37	58	5
Jun, 2003	42	54	4
May, 2000	38	57	5
Apr, 2000	37	55	8
Mar, 2000	29	66	5
Jun, 1999	33	62	5
May, 1999	30	65	5
Dec, 1993	34	57	9