

**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 73 PATHWAYS/SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
August 31-September 7, 2020  
N=9,220**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

NEWSHEARD Thinking about some stories covered by news organizations in the past several weeks...

Regardless of your own views and opinions, how much, if anything, have you heard or read about each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS; PLEASE ADD A LINE OF SPACE BETWEEN THE QUESTION STEM AND FIRST SUB-ITEM; SPLIT ITEMS RANDOMLY ACROSS TWO SCREENS]**

**NO ITEMS a-o**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
p. How increased mail-in voting could affect the 2020 presidential election Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	64	30	6	*
q. The Trump administration considering banning the social media app TikTok Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	40	49	11	*
r. Reports that Russia paid bounties to Afghan militants for killing U.S. troops Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	19	43	37	*
s. The debate over whether professional and college sports should be played in the current environment Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	30	51	19	*
t. Donald Trump's criticism of and his administration's actions towards the U.S. postal service Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	49	39	12	*
u. Attempts in Congress to pass another federal relief and stimulus bill Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	40	51	9	*
v. On-going confrontations between law enforcement and protestors in cities around the country Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	78	18	4	*

**NEWSHEARD CONTINUED...**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
w. Discussions of the extent of child abuse and trafficking in the U.S. Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	22	49	29	*

**ASK ALL:**

NEWSATTN

Thinking about some major events in the news, how much attention do you think news organizations are giving each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 3 LAST]**

	<u>Too much attention</u>	<u>Too little attention</u>	<u>Right amount of attention</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The 2020 presidential election Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	25	17	58	1
b. The coronavirus outbreak Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	35	18	46	1
c. The protests over racial inequality and other issues Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	41	23	36	1

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDFOL

How closely have you been following news about the outbreak of the coronavirus strain known as COVID-19?

Aug 31-Sep 7 <u>2020</u>		Jun 4-10 <u>2020</u>	Apr 20-26 <u>2020</u>	Mar 19-24 <u>2020</u>	Mar 10-16 <u>2020</u>
35	Very closely	39	46	57	51
46	Fairly closely	46	42	35	38
14	Not too closely	11	10	7	9
4	Not at all closely	3	2	1	2
*	No answer	*	*	*	*

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDTRUMPFOL

How closely, if at all, have you been following what Donald Trump has been saying about the coronavirus outbreak?

Aug 31-Sep 7 <u>2020</u>		Jun 4-10 <u>2020</u>
22	Very closely	29
35	Fairly closely	41
31	Not too closely	23
10	Not at all closely	6
3	No answer	1

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDCOVER1 How well do you think the news media have covered the coronavirus outbreak?

Aug 31-Sep 7 <u>2020</u>		Jun 4-10 <u>2020</u>	Apr 20-26 <u>2020</u>	Mar 10-16 <u>2020</u>
20	Very well	28	27	30
44	Somewhat well	43	42	40
22	Not too well	17	18	17
12	Not at all well	10	11	11
2	No answer	1	2	1

**ASK ALL:**COVIDFACTS How often, if ever, do you think each of the following get the facts right when it comes to the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]**

	<u>Almost all of the time</u>	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Hardly ever</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Donald Trump and his administration						
Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	6	21	28	38	7	*
Jun 4-10, 2020	8	21	29	36	5	*
b. The news media in general						
Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	8	32	37	16	6	*
Jun 4-10, 2020	9	35	36	16	5	*
c. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and other public health organizations						
Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	18	39	29	8	6	*
Jun 4-10, 2020	22	42	24	7	5	*
d. Your governor and state government						
Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	11	35	33	15	6	*
Jun 4-10, 2020	14	39	30	11	6	*
e. The local news media in your area						
Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	10	37	34	10	9	*
Jun 4-10, 2020	10	40	33	9	7	*
f. Friends, family and acquaintances						
Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	4	24	53	11	8	*

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDTRUMPMSG From what you've seen or heard, do you generally think Donald Trump has been delivering the right message or the wrong message to the country in response to the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1-4 AND 4-1]**

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

10	Completely RIGHT message
32	Mostly RIGHT message
23	Mostly WRONG message
34	Completely WRONG message
2	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDTOPICA How closely are you following news and information about each of these topics related to the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT ITEMS RANDOMLY ACROSS TWO SCREENS]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Somewhat closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The economic impact of the outbreak Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	37	44	15	4	*
<b>No item b</b>					
c. The number of confirmed cases and deaths in the U.S. Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	29	39	24	8	*
<b>No items d-g</b>					
h. Public health guidelines, such as social distancing and wearing masks Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	45	38	12	4	*
i. The impact it may have on the presidential election Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	27	42	23	8	1
j. The quality and availability of testing and testing results Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	21	43	28	8	*
k. Effects on different parts of the country Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	20	45	26	8	*
l. The development of vaccines and treatments Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	26	42	24	7	*
m. The impact on schools Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	41	40	15	4	*

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDNEWSCHNG

Thinking about how you get news now compared to the FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS of the outbreak in the U.S. around the middle of March...

Compared to the FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS of the outbreak, are you... **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS; SHOW RESPONSES 1-3 IN ORDER; SHOW EACH ITEM ON SEPARATE SCREEN; SHOW INTRO TEXT ON FIRST SCREEN, REPEAT STEM ON EACH FOLLOWING SCREEN]**

**No items a-b**

c.	Finding it HARDER to understand what is happening with <u>the outbreak</u>	Finding it EASIER to understand what is happening with <u>the outbreak</u>	No change	No answer
Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	29	39	31	1
Jun 4-10, 2020	31	35	33	1

**No item d**

e.	Finding it HARDER to identify what is true and what is false about <u>the outbreak</u>	Finding it EASIER to identify what is true and what is false about <u>the outbreak</u>	No change	No answer
Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	38	36	26	*
Jun 4-10, 2020	38	30	31	1

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDAVOID

Which of the following statements best describes you? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Aug 31-Sep 7  
2020

31	I try to tune out news about the coronavirus outbreak
68	I try to stay tuned in to news about the coronavirus outbreak
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDDEAL

All in all, do you think that the coronavirus outbreak has been... **[RANDOMIZE ANSWER CHOICES 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK ANSWER CHOICE 3 LAST]**

Aug 31-Sep 7 <u>2020</u>		Jun 4-10 <u>2020</u>	Apr 20-26 <u>2020</u>
39	Made a BIGGER deal than it really is	38	29
26	Made a SMALLER deal than it really is	21	27
33	Approached about right	40	42
2	No answer	1	1

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDCONTROL Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

37	The U.S. has controlled the outbreak as much as it could have
61	The U.S. has not controlled the outbreak as much as it could have
2	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWCOVIDELECT Regardless of whether you think it should be done or not, does the president have the authority to delay the elections this November because of the coronavirus outbreak?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

10	Yes, the president has this authority
66	No, the president does not have this authority (correct)
24	Not sure
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWCOVIDYOUNG From what you've seen and heard in the news, overall, how susceptible do you think people under 18 are to becoming infected with the coronavirus? **[RANDOMIZE 1-3 AND 3-1]**

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

9	Far more susceptible than adults
50	About as susceptible as adults
29	Far less susceptible than adults
11	Not sure
*	No answer

On a different topic...

**ASK ALL:**

On a different topic...

CAMPNII How closely have you been following news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election?

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>No answer</u>
<b>2020 election</b>					
Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	30	35	23	11	*
Jun 4-10, 2020	21	23	29	17	1
Apr 20-26, 2020	19	33	31	16	*
Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	23	37	29	12	*
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	15	37	34	14	*
<b>2016 election</b>					
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016 <sup>1</sup>	41	37	16	6	*
Sept 27-Oct 10, 2016	35	40	18	7	*
June 7-July 5, 2016	35	43	18	4	*

**ASK ALL:**

CAMPCOVER1 How well do you think the news media have covered the 2020 presidential election?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

12	Very well
46	Somewhat well
27	Not too well
14	Not at all well
2	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

CAMP20MISINFO How much, if any, news and information have you seen or heard about the 2020 presidential election that seemed completely made up?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

25	A lot
44	Some
22	Not much
7	None at all
2	No answer

<sup>1</sup> In surveys conducted in 2016, question asked about 2016 presidential election.

**ASK ALL:**

INFOCREATE2 How much, if any, made-up news and information about the 2020 presidential election do you think is created by each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Journalists Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	29	36	26	7	2
b. Political leaders and their staff Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	45	41	8	4	2
c. Members of the public Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	25	49	19	5	2
d. Foreign governments or individuals Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	21	45	25	7	2
e. Activist groups Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	44	37	13	5	2

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF CAMP20CONVENREP AND CAMP20CONVENDEM****ASK ALL:**

CAMP20CONVENREP How closely did you follow the news and events surrounding the REPUBLICAN national convention?

Aug 31-Sep 7  
2020

12	Very closely
24	Fairly closely
33	Not too closely
30	Not at all closely
*	No answer

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF CAMP20CONVENREP AND CAMP20CONVENDEM****ASK ALL:**

CAMP20CONVENDEM How closely did you follow the news and events surrounding the DEMOCRATIC national convention?

Aug 31-Sep 7  
2020

13	Very closely
24	Fairly closely
32	Not too closely
30	Not at all closely
*	No answer



**ASK ALL:**

DEMVPIDEO

Please indicate how you would describe Kamala Harris' political views. **[ROTATE DISPLAY OF OPTIONS 1-7 AND 7-1; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 8 LAST]**

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

25	Very liberal
18	Mostly liberal
11	Slightly liberal
13	Moderate
3	Slightly conservative
2	Mostly conservative
1	Very conservative
25	Not sure
*	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWHARRIS1

Do you happen to know what position Kamala Harris held in California before she was a senator? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 5 LAST]**

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

1	Lieutenant Governor
52	Attorney General (correct)
5	U.S. House Representative
2	Mayor of San Francisco
39	Not sure
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWBIDENPOL

As far as you know, has Joe Biden publicly voiced his support for defunding police departments?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

27	Yes, has voiced support
35	No, has not voiced support (correct)
37	Not sure
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWMAILELECT

As far as you know, have any U.S. states ever conducted voting in a presidential election entirely by mail?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

24	Yes, states have done this (correct)
34	No, states have not done this
41	Not sure
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWMAILFRAUD

As far as you know, how big of a problem has voter fraud been when it comes to voting by mail in U.S. presidential elections?

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

25	Major problem
27	Minor problem
27	Not a problem at all
20	Not sure
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

NEWS\_MOST

What is the most common way you get political and election news? **[RANDOMIZE; OMIT RESPONSE OPTIONS 6 AND 7 FOR RESPONDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS (XTABLET=1)]**

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

3	Print newspaper or magazines
6	Radio
15	Local television
14	National network television
15	Cable television
17	Social media
28	News website or app
2	No answer

Oct 29-Nov 11

2019

3
8
16
13
16
18
25
1 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> In Nov. 2019, 10 respondents were shown and selected options that they should not have received due to a programming error. For this question, those 10 responses are coded as "No answer".

**ASK ALL:**

CAMP20NEWS Please indicate whether each of the following is a source of political and election news for you. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT ITEMS RANDOMLY ACROSS TWO SCREENS]**

	<u>Major source</u>	<u>Minor source</u>	<u>Not a source</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Fox News Cable Channel Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	21	28	50	1
b. CNN Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	20	34	46	1
c. MSNBC Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	13	28	58	1
d. ABC, CBS, or NBC national network TV Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	32	37	31	1
e. NPR Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	15	22	62	2
f. The New York Times Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	14	28	57	1
g. Washington Post Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	11	28	60	1
h. Talk radio, such as Sean Hannity or Rush Limbaugh Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	10	17	72	1

**ASK ALL:**

CAMPAIGNNEWS Please indicate whether each of the following is a source of political and election news for you. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Major source</u>	<u>Minor source</u>	<u>Not a source</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The Donald Trump campaign Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	15	24	60	1
b. The Joe Biden campaign Aug 31-Sep 7, 2020	13	27	59	1

On a different topic...

**ASK ALL:**

QAHRD How much, if anything, have you heard or read about QAnon?<sup>3</sup>

Aug 31-Sep 7		Feb 18-Mar 2	
<u>2020</u>		<u>2020</u>	
9	A lot	3	
38	A little	20	
53	Nothing at all	76	
*	No answer	2	

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT QANON (QAHRD=1,2) [N=5,408]:**

QATHREAT Do you think QAnon is a... **[RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSES 1-4 OR 4-1]**

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

57	Very bad thing for the country
17	Somewhat bad thing for the country
16	Somewhat good thing for the country
4	Very good thing for the country
6	No answer

**ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT QANON (QAHRD=1,2) [N=5,408]:**

QATRUMP From what you've heard or read, to what extent, if at all, does Donald Trump support people who promote the QAnon theories? **[RANDOMIZE FIRST TWO ITEMS]**

Aug 31-Sep 7

2020

60	Seems to support them
7	Seems to oppose them
11	Neither
21	Not sure
1	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>4</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
27	30	28	13	1	17	21

<sup>3</sup> The same American Trends Panel members were sampled for the March survey and the current survey. This raises the possibility that some of the increase in QAnon awareness is attributable to re-asking the same people. [Several studies](#) have found significant effects from this measurement issue (known as panel conditioning) on knowledge questions. While this study provides strong support for a real increase in Americans' awareness of QAnon, these data offer only a rough approximation for the exact size of that increase due to this limitation. Studies have found little to no conditioning effects on survey questions unrelated to knowledge about particular topics.

<sup>4</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.