

2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
Wave 85 March Survey
TOPLINE
March 8-14, 2021
N=12,045

ASK ALL:

TOPICFOL How closely, if at all, have you been following news about... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

| | Very <u>closely</u> | Fairly <u>closely</u> | Not too <u>closely</u> | Not at all <u>closely</u> | No <u>answer</u> |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. The actions and initiatives of the Biden administration since the inauguration March 8-14, 2021 | 22 | 44 | 25 | 9 | * |
| b. The distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S. March 8-14, 2021 | 27 | 44 | 23 | 7 | * |
| c. The aftermath and discussion of the January 6th attack on the Capitol March 8-14, 2021 | 22 | 36 | 31 | 11 | * |

ASK ALL:

BIDENMEDIA Do you think that the relationship between **[RANDOMIZE: the Biden administration and the U.S. news media / the U.S. news media and the Biden administration]** is generally...

March 8-14

2021

| | |
|----|-----------|
| 66 | Healthy |
| 32 | Unhealthy |
| 2 | No answer |

ASK ALL:

MAINSOURCE_OE What news source do you turn to most often for political news? Please list the name of the specific news organization or source.

[OPEN-END RESPONSES RECODED]**SOURCES MENTIONED**

March 8-14

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| | |
|----|--|
| 14 | CNN |
| 13 | Fox News/Fox News Cable Channel/Fox |
| 6 | Local television stations |
| 4 | NPR |
| 4 | NBC News |
| 4 | ABC News |
| 4 | MSNBC |
| 3 | The New York Times |
| 3 | CBS News |
| 2 | Newsmax |
| 2 | YouTube (including specific channels, not including Young Turks) |
| 1 | Internet (including "social media," "website," no specific source) |
| 1 | Television (no specific source) |
| 1 | Univision |
| 1 | One America News Network / OAN / OANN |
| 1 | The Washington Post |
| 1 | Facebook (including specific groups) |
| 1 | Local news (no specific source) |
| 18 | All other sources |
| 15 | Refused/Don't know |

ASK IF PROVIDED A RESPONSE TO MAINSOPOL_OE [N=11,223]:

MAINSOURCE2 Thinking about your main news source you entered in the previous question, do you think that news source is part of the mainstream media?

March 8-14

2021

| | |
|----|--|
| 74 | Yes, it is part of the mainstream media |
| 25 | No, it is not part of the mainstream media |
| 1 | No answer |

ASK IF PROVIDED A RESPONSE TO MAINSOPOL_OE [N=11,223]:

MAINSOURCE3 Do you think your main news source presents the news in a different way from most media outlets?

March 8-14

2021

| | |
|----|-----------|
| 53 | Yes |
| 46 | No |
| 1 | No answer |

¹ Respondents were asked to provide their main source for political and election news. If respondents volunteered more than one source, the first one mentioned was accepted. Sources shown individually are those that were named by at least 1.0% of respondents.

ASK ALL:

SOURCEUSE2 Please click on all of the sources that you got political news from in the past week. This includes any way that you can get the source. If you are unsure, please DO NOT click it.

For second screen of images, should say: "Again, please click on all that you got political news from in the past week."

DO NOT SHOW THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO RESPONDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS (XTABLET=1): HuffPost; Breitbart; BuzzFeed; Business Insider; Vox

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,045]:

| March 8-14 <u>2021</u> | | March 8-14 <u>2021</u> | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 43 | Fox News | 36 | ABC News |
| 27 | MSNBC | 41 | NBC News |
| 45 | CNN | 37 | CBS News |
| 16 | PBS | 22 | NPR |
| 15 | The Wall Street Journal | 4 | Mark Levin Show (radio) |
| 15 | USA Today | 7 | Sean Hannity Show (radio) |
| 12 | Politico | 23 | Washington Post |
| 9 | BuzzFeed | 26 | The New York Times |
| 7 | Newsweek | 9 | HuffPost |
| 7 | Business Insider (now a part of Insider) | 4 | Breitbart |
| 7 | Vox | 9 | New York Post |
| 8 | The Hill | 7 | One America News Network |
| 2 | Washington Examiner | | |
| 10 | Newsmax | | |

[ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE]

ASK ALL:

SOURCESKEP2 How much do you trust the accuracy of the political news and information that you get from...
[RANDOMIZE ITEM B-E; KEEP ITEM A FIRST; SPLIT OVER TWO SCREENS]

| | A great <u>deal</u> | <u>Some</u> | <u>Not much</u> | <u>Not at all</u> | No <u>answer</u> |
|--|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| a. Your main news source March 8-14, 2021 | 38 | 45 | 12 | 5 | * |
| b. Political leaders and public officials March 8-14, 2021 | 6 | 48 | 33 | 12 | 1 |
| c. Friends and family March 8-14, 2021 | 10 | 57 | 27 | 5 | 1 |
| d. Social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat) March 8-14, 2021 | 4 | 25 | 38 | 32 | 1 |
| e. National news organizations March 8-14, 2021 | 18 | 46 | 23 | 12 | 1 |

ASK ALL:

NEWSPAIRS For each pair of opposite phrases, which one do you feel better describes news organizations generally? If you think neither phrase applies, please indicate so.

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE ITEMS C,D,G, SHOW RESPONSES 1-3 IN ORDER;
 DISPLAY C,D,G ON THE SAME SCREEN WITH A LINE SEPARATING EACH SET OF
 RESPONSES]**

[ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE]

| d. | <u>Growing in influence</u> | <u>Declining in influence</u> | <u>Neither applies</u> | No <u>answer</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| March 8-14, 2021 | 41 | 33 | 25 | 1 |
| Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020 | 32 | 48 | 19 | 1 |
| PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON: | | | | |
| July 2011 | 52 | 34 | 7 | 7 |
| July 2009 | 52 | 34 | 7 | 7 |
| July 2007 | 52 | 36 | 6 | 6 |
| June 2005 | 49 | 36 | 7 | 8 |
| Early July 2003 | 55 | 29 | 8 | 8 |
| July 2002 | 57 | 29 | 7 | 7 |
| Early Sep 2001 | 55 | 29 | 9 | 7 |
| Feb 1999 | 59 | 32 | 6 | 3 |
| July 1985 | 63 | 17 | 7 | 13 |

[ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE]

ASK ALL:

SOURCEMEDIA Would you say that each of the following news sources is part of the mainstream news media?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT OVER 4 SCREENS]

| | | Yes, this is part of the mainstream <u>news media</u> | No, this is not part of the mainstream <u>news media</u> | Do not know enough about this news source to <u>decide</u> | No <u>answer</u> |
|----|--|--|---|---|---------------------|
| a. | Fox News March 8-14, 2021 | 73 | 18 | 8 | 1 |
| b. | CNN March 8-14, 2021 | 87 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| c. | MSNBC March 8-14, 2021 | 78 | 7 | 14 | 1 |
| d. | New York Times March 8-14, 2021 | 79 | 5 | 15 | 1 |
| e. | Wall Street Journal March 8-14, 2021 | 71 | 9 | 19 | 1 |
| f. | Huffpost March 8-14, 2021 | 37 | 20 | 41 | 1 |
| g. | Breitbart March 8-14, 2021 | 9 | 34 | 56 | 1 |
| h. | Sean Hannity Show (radio) March 8-14, 2021 | 20 | 37 | 43 | 1 |
| i. | Newsmax March 8-14, 2021 | 12 | 30 | 57 | 1 |
| j. | ABC News March 8-14, 2021 | 87 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| k. | BuzzFeed March 8-14, 2021 | 22 | 31 | 46 | 1 |
| l. | Vox March 8-14, 2021 | 12 | 21 | 65 | 1 |
| m. | New York Post March 8-14, 2021 | 61 | 14 | 24 | 1 |

ASK ALL:

STORYSOURCE As you may know, journalists often quote or get information from various sources for a news story, such as experts, politicians, or people involved in the event.

How closely do you pay attention to the sources cited in a news story?

March 8-14

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| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 22 | Very closely |
| 45 | Somewhat closely |
| 24 | Not too closely |
| 9 | Not at all closely |
| * | No answer |

[ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE]**ASK ALL:**

STORYWHY

When you read, watch or listen to a news story, how important is each of the following in deciding whether it is trustworthy? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

| | <u>Very important</u> | <u>Somewhat important</u> | <u>Not very important</u> | <u>Not at all important</u> | <u>No answer</u> |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. The news organization that publishes the story March 8-14, 2021 | 50 | 38 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| b. The person, if any, who shares the story with me March 8-14, 2021 | 23 | 45 | 22 | 10 | 1 |
| c. The story has a lot of shares, comments or likes on social media March 8-14, 2021 | 6 | 18 | 33 | 42 | 1 |
| d. The sources that are cited in the story March 8-14, 2021 | 47 | 39 | 9 | 4 | 1 |
| e. The specific journalist who reported the story March 8-14, 2021 | 24 | 42 | 23 | 9 | 1 |
| f. My gut instinct about the story March 8-14, 2021 | 30 | 48 | 16 | 6 | 1 |

ASK ALL:

ASSESSMENT Thinking now about what you see and hear in the news about the Biden administration, would you say you see... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2; KEEP OPTION 3 LAST]**

March 8-14
2021

| | |
|----|--|
| 46 | Mostly positive assessments of the administration |
| 14 | Mostly negative assessments of the administration |
| 39 | About an even mix of positive and negative assessments of the administration |
| 1 | No answer |

ASK ALL:

ASSESS_FAIR And would you say that the news coverage you've seen of the Biden administration has been... **[RANDOMIZE]**

March 8-14
2021

| | |
|----|---------------|
| 76 | Mostly fair |
| 21 | Mostly unfair |
| 3 | No answer |

ASK ALL:

ADMINTOPIC In the news you are getting about the Biden administration, are you seeing more about... **[RANDOMIZE]**

March 8-14
2021

| | |
|----|---|
| 27 | Biden's character and leadership skills |
| 69 | Biden's policy positions and agenda |
| 4 | No answer |

ASK ALL:

ASSESS_ACC And would you say that the news coverage you've seen of the Biden administration has been ... **[RANDOMIZE]**

March 8-14
2021

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 69 | Mostly accurate |
| 26 | Mostly inaccurate |
| 5 | No answer |

ASK ALL:

BIDENATTN Thinking of some of the early issues that the Biden administration has focused on how much attention do you think news organizations are giving to each of the following?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2 IN THE SAME ORDER FOR EACH RESPONDENT; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 3 LAST]

| | Too much <u>attention</u> | Too little <u>attention</u> | Right amount <u>of attention</u> | No <u>answer</u> |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. The coronavirus outbreak March 8-14, 2021 | 28 | 13 | 58 | 1 |
| b. The U.S. economy March 8-14, 2021 | 8 | 44 | 47 | 1 |
| c. Immigration March 8-14, 2021 | 18 | 43 | 37 | 1 |
| d. Climate policy March 8-14, 2021 | 24 | 39 | 35 | 2 |
| e. Racial inequality March 8-14, 2021 | 36 | 28 | 35 | 1 |

ASK ALL:

BIDENATTN2 And, in their coverage of the Biden administration, which of these issues are your main news sources giving the most attention to? **[RANDOMIZE]**

March 8-14
2021

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 55 | The coronavirus outbreak |
| 21 | The U.S. economy |
| 11 | Immigration |
| 2 | Climate policy |
| 9 | Racial inequality |
| 2 | No answer |

ASK ALL:

BIDENHEARD 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 efforts of the Biden administration? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

| | <u>A lot</u> | <u>A little</u> | <u>Nothing at all</u> | <u>No answer</u> |
|--|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Passage of a new economic stimulus bill March 8-14, 2021 | 77 | 19 | 3 | 1 |
| b. Distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to Americans March 8-14, 2021 | 74 | 23 | 3 | * |
| c. Reforming immigration policy March 8-14, 2021 | 30 | 51 | 19 | 1 |
| d. Using executive actions to reverse many of the Trump administration's policies March 8-14, 2021 | 52 | 36 | 12 | 1 |
| e. Rejoining international organizations and agreements March 8-14, 2021 | 31 | 50 | 19 | 1 |
| f. Pursuing talks with Iran March 8-14, 2021 | 10 | 50 | 39 | 1 |
| g. The reopening of schools March 8-14, 2021 | 35 | 51 | 13 | 1 |

ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST 'A LITTLE' ABOUT EACH ITEM IN BIDENHEARD (BIDENHEARD_A-G=1,2)
 BIDENHEARD2 How would you describe the news you have heard or read about the Biden administration's efforts on each of the following?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER FOR EACH RESPONDENT; KEEP OPTION 3 LAST]

| | Mostly <u>positive</u> | Mostly <u>negative</u> | About an even mix of positive <u>and negative</u> | No <u>answer</u> |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| a. Passage of a new economic stimulus bill March 8-14, 2021 [N=11,787] | 56 | 14 | 29 | 1 |
| b. Distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to Americans March 8-14, 2021 [N=11,789] | 65 | 9 | 25 | 1 |
| c. Reforming immigration policy March 8-14, 2021 [N=10,272] | 34 | 26 | 39 | 1 |
| d. Using executive actions to reverse many of the Trump administration's policies March 8-14, 2021 [N=11,109] | 42 | 26 | 30 | 2 |
| e. Rejoining international organizations and agreements March 8-14, 2021 [N=8,196] | 52 | 17 | 30 | 1 |
| f. Pursuing talks with Iran March 8-14, 2021 [N=8,196] | 26 | 25 | 47 | 2 |
| g. The reopening of schools March 8-14, 2021 [N=10,849] | 38 | 18 | 43 | 1 |

ASK ALL:

KNOWVACC1 As you may know, the Biden administration had previously set a goal of vaccinating 1 million Americans a day.

As far as you know, is the administration meeting this initial goal?

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2021

| | |
|----|---|
| 33 | Yes, they are meeting or exceeding this goal {correct} |
| 27 | No, they are not meeting this goal [space] |
| 40 | Not sure |
| * | No answer |

ASK ALL:

KNOWVACC2 As far as you know, which is true about the number of doses required for the COVID-19 vaccines currently approved for use in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-3; KEEP OPTION 4 LAST]**

March 8-14

2021

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | All vaccines require only 1 dose |
| 18 | All vaccines require 2 doses |
| | The number of doses required varies |
| 69 | {correct} |
| | [space] |
| 9 | Not sure |
| 1 | No answer |

ASK ALL:

KNOWMIN As you may know, Joe Biden included an increase in the national minimum wage in his January stimulus proposal. As far as you know, what was the new minimum wage he proposed?

March 8-14

2021

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | \$7.25 |
| 2 | \$10.00 |
| 2 | \$13.25 |
| 81 | \$15.00 {correct} |
| 1 | \$17.25 |
| | [space] |
| 13 | Not sure |
| * | No answer |

ASK ALL:

KNOWBORDER As far as you know, which of the following has the Biden administration done regarding immigration policy? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2, 3 AND 4 ALWAYS LAST]**

March 8-14

2021

- | | |
|----|---|
| 43 | Stopped federal funding for the construction of the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico {correct} |
| 3 | Ordered that parts of the existing border wall between the U.S. and Mexico be taken down |
| 20 | Both of these things |
| | [space] |
| 33 | Not sure |
| 1 | No answer |

ASK ALL:

KNOWCLIMATE As far as you know, which of the following has the Biden administration done regarding climate policy? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 and 2, 3 AND 4 ALWAYS LAST]**

March 8-14

2021

| | |
|----|--|
| 14 | Reentered the Paris agreement |
| 8 | Rescinded construction permits for the Keystone pipeline |
| 49 | Both of these things {most correct} |
| | [space] |
| 28 | Not sure |
| 1 | No answer |

On a different topic...

ASK ALL:

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

| March 8-14 | | Nov 18-29 | Oct 6-12 | Aug 31-Sep 7 | Jun 4-10 | Apr 20-26 | Mar 19-24 | Mar 10-16 |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2021</u> | | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> |
| 31 | Very closely | 37 | 37 | 35 | 39 | 46 | 57 | 51 |
| 43 | Fairly closely | 42 | 42 | 46 | 46 | 42 | 35 | 38 |
| 19 | Not too closely | 15 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| 5 | Not at all closely | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 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]**

| March 8-14 | | Nov 18-29 | Oct 6-12 | Aug 31-Sep 7 | Jun 4-10 | Apr 20-26 |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>2021</u> | | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> |
| 34 | Made a BIGGER deal than it really is | 34 | 36 | 39 | 38 | 29 |
| 23 | Made a SMALLER deal than it really is | 30 | 30 | 26 | 21 | 27 |
| 43 | Approached about right | 36 | 33 | 33 | 40 | 42 |
| 1 | No answer | * | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

ASK ALL:

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

| March 8-14 | | Nov 18-29 | Oct 6-12 | Aug 31-Sep 7 |
|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| <u>2021</u> | | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2020</u> |
| 42 | The U.S. has controlled the outbreak as much as it could have | 36 | 38 | 37 |
| 56 | The U.S. has not controlled the outbreak as much as it could have | 62 | 61 | 61 |
| 2 | No answer | 1 | 1 | 2 |

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

| | |
|----|----------------|
| 24 | Republican |
| 32 | Democrat |
| 28 | Independent |
| 14 | Something else |
| 2 | No answer |

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING [N=4,757]:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...²

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,045]:

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| 19 | The Republican Party |
| 20 | The Democratic Party |
| 5 | No answer |

² PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.