



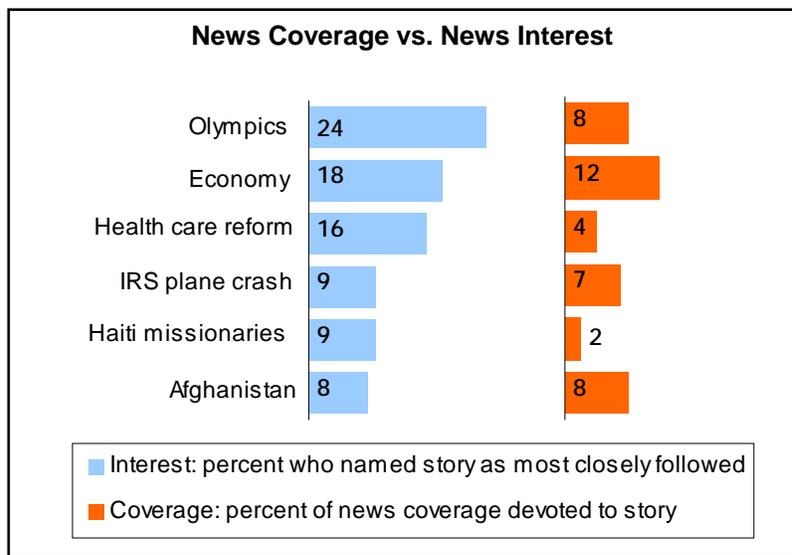
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Wednesday, February 24, 2010**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**  
**Andrew Kohut, Director**  
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## **More Than Half Say They Have Made Haiti Donation** **WINTER OLYMPICS TOPS PUBLIC'S NEWS INTERESTS**

Americans say they followed news about the Winter Olympics in Vancouver more closely than any other major news story last week. The Olympics also proved to be one of two stories people talked about most frequently with friends. The other was Tiger Woods' televised apology for marital infidelities.

About a quarter of the public (24%) says they followed news about the Winter Olympics more closely than any other news story last week. But Americans also kept a close watch on two long-running stories: the troubled U.S. economy (18% most closely) and the debate over health care reform (16% most closely), according to the latest News Interest Index survey, conducted Feb. 19-22 among 1,007 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.



According to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, no single story dominated coverage last week. Coverage of the economy made up 12% of the newshole. The Olympics and the ongoing war in Afghanistan each accounted for 8%, while the IRS plane crash – and reports about the pilot's grievances with the tax agency – made up 7% of the newshole. The debate over health care reform received relatively little coverage last week (4%), while reports out of Haiti about the release of some of the American missionaries accused of kidnapping Haitian children accounted for 2%.

## Most Talked About: Tiger, Olympics

When people are asked which news story they talked about with friends, 18% mention Tiger Woods and his Feb. 19 apology, while 16% say they talked about the Olympics.

None of the week's other stories come close: 8% say they talked about the plane crash into the IRS office in Austin, while comparable percentages talked about health care reform (7%), the economy (6%), the Haiti earthquake and the release of the U.S. missionaries (6%) and politics (5%).

### News the Public Is Talking About

*What recent news story, if any, have you and your friends been talking about?*

%
18 Tiger Woods
16 Olympics
8 IRS plane crash
7 Health care reform
6 The economy/jobs
6 Haiti earthquake/Americans released
5 Politics (general)
3 Local stories
2 Weather
1 Afghanistan
1 Iraq
1 Obama
1 Shooting at University of Alabama
1 Sports

Q1. Open-ended question.

## Sports Stories Closely Tracked by Women and Men

Close to three-in-ten women (28%) say they followed news about the Winter Olympics more closely than any other news last week, slightly greater than the 21% of men who say the same. Moreover, a greater proportion of women (19%) than men (12%) cite the Olympics as a story they have talked about with friends.

Overall, 53% say they heard a lot about Woods' apology while 32% say they heard a little; just 15% say they heard nothing at all about this story. Slightly more women (57%) than men (49%) say they heard a lot about Woods' apology. However, just as many women (17%) as men (18%) talked about the Woods story with friends.

### Most Heard "A Lot" About Woods' Apology

	A <u>lot</u> %	A <u>little</u> %	Nothing <u>at all</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Tiger Woods' televised apology	53	32	15	*=100
Professor accused of shooting colleagues	34	41	25	*=100
Sen. Bayh announces he won't run again	25	38	36	1=100
Arrests of Taliban leaders in Pakistan	21	47	32	1=100

Q5a-d. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

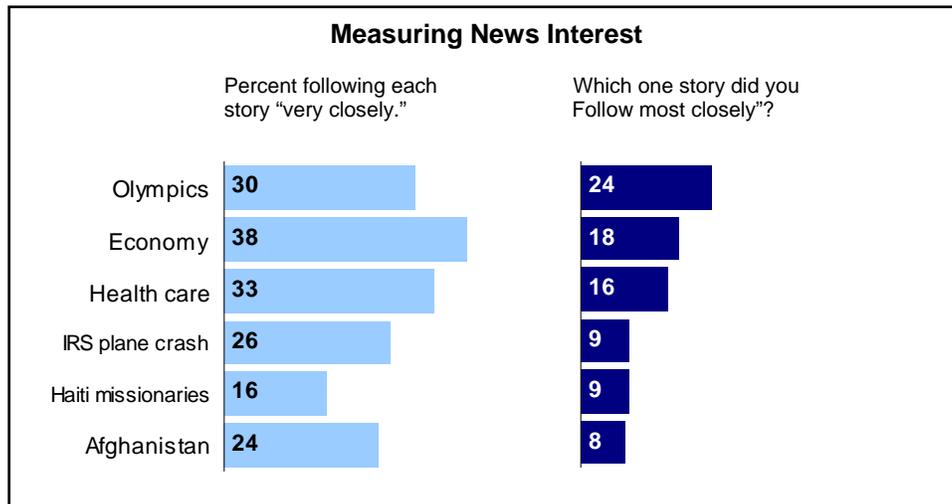
Among other stories, 34% say they heard a lot about the female biology professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville who allegedly killed three colleagues in a shooting rampage, 25% say they heard a lot about the announcement by Sen. Evan Bayh that he would not seek re-election this year, while 21% say they heard a lot about the arrests by Pakistan's military of high level Taliban leaders in that country. About as many women as men heard a lot about the

shooting case involving the professor in Alabama, while more men than women say they heard a lot about Bayh's announcement and the arrests of Taliban leaders.

### The Week's Other News

Using a separate measure, 38% of Americans say they followed news about the economy very closely, while 33% say they followed the debate over health care reform very closely and 30% say they tracked the Winter Olympics very closely. Smaller percentages say they very closely followed the plane crash at the IRS offices in Austin (26%), the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan (24%) and the release of some of the U.S. missionaries accused of kidnapping Haitian children (16%).

Meanwhile, Americans continue to say that lawmakers in Washington are unlikely to enact health care reform legislation this year. The week before President Obama's bipartisan health care summit, 27% say they think a health care reform bill will pass this year, while 62% say they do not think legislation will be enacted. That is largely unchanged from the last week in January, when 29% said it would pass and 60% said it would not. Democrats remain more likely to say legislation will pass this year (35%) than Republicans (14%) or independents (26%).



## Haiti Interest, Donations

There was considerably less public interest in news about the release of most of the U.S. missionaries accused of kidnapping Haitian children than there has been in the massive earthquake that struck Haiti and its aftermath.

Just 16% say they followed news about the freed missionaries very closely. In the days following the Jan. 12 quake, 60% followed news about the Haiti earthquake very closely. While interest slipped over the next four weeks (to 37% very closely in Feb. 12-15 survey), the aftermath of the quake remained the public's most closely story during each of those weeks.

Moreover, most Americans say they have made a donation to help the victims of the Haiti earthquake. A separate survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 3-9 among 1,383 adults, found that more than half of Americans (52%) say that they or someone in their household has made a donation to help those affected by the earthquake in Haiti; another 12% said they were planning to make a donation. In the days immediately following the quake, just 18% said they had made a donation and another 30% said they planned to give.

There are substantial demographic and political differences in the proportions that say they have made (or plan to make) a donation to those affected by the earthquake. Fully 61% of African Americans say they or someone in their household has made a donation while another 27% plan to give. That compares with 48% of whites who have made a donation and 10% who plan to.

A majority of Democrats (59%) say they or someone in their household has made a Haiti donation, compared with 49% of independents and 47% of Republicans. There also are sharp regional differences: 62% of those living in the Northeast say they have made a donation to those

### Increasing Number Report Making Donation to Haiti Victims

	Jan 14-17	Feb 3-9*
<i>Made donation?</i>	%	%
Yes, made donation	18	52
Planning to do so	30	12
Don't plan to donate now	46	35
Don't know	6	1
	100	100

\* Pew Research Center survey of 1,383 adults. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Made Donation to Those Affected By the Haiti Earthquake?

	Made <u>donation</u> %	Plan to <u>donate</u> %	Don't <u>plan to</u> %	DK %
Total	52	12	35	1=100
White	48	10	40	2=100
Black	61	27	12	0=100
Republican	47	15	37	1=100
Democrat	59	14	27	1=100
Independent	49	9	40	1=100
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000 or more	68	11	21	*=100
\$30k-\$74,999	53	11	34	2=100
Less than \$30,000	40	14	46	*=100
Northeast	62	11	26	1=100
Midwest	42	12	45	2=100
South	50	16	33	1=100
West	57	7	35	1=100

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks do not include Hispanics.

affected by the earthquake, compared with 50% in the South and 42% in the Midwest. Among those in the West, 57% say they gave to relief efforts.

And, as expected, those with higher family incomes are far more likely than the less affluent to say they have made a donation: 68% of those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more say they have made donation compared with 53% of those with incomes of \$30,000 to \$74,999 and 40% of those with family incomes of less than \$30,000.

That survey found that the Obama administration continues to receive positive ratings for the government's response to the earthquake in Haiti. Nearly two-thirds (66%) say they approve of the administration's response to the crisis while just 16% disapprove. More than eight-in-ten Democrats (84%), 65% of independents and 49% of Republicans approve of the administration's response to the earthquake. The administration's approval ratings on Haiti were little changed from mid-January, shortly after the earthquake struck (64% approve, 14% disapprove).

Findings about donations for Haitian earthquake relief and the Obama administration's response to the Haitian earthquake are drawn from a Feb. 3-9 study conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press among 1,383 adults.

Findings about the public's interest in various news stories are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected Feb. 15-21, 2010, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected Feb. 19-22, 2010, from a nationally representative sample of 1,007 adults.

## About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events.

This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. The News Interest Index survey collects data from Friday through Monday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for the weekly surveys are based on landline telephone interviews among a nationwide sample of approximately 1,000 adults, 18 years of age or older, conducted under the direction of ORC (Opinion Research Corporation). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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, and that results based on subgroups will have larger margins of error.

For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to [www.journalism.org](http://www.journalism.org).

## About the February 2010 Political Survey

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,383 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from February 3-9, 2010 (1,024 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 359 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 132 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample	1,383	3.5 percentage points
Registered voters	1,129	3.5 percentage points
Republicans	391	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	438	6.0 percentage points
Independents	472	5.5 percentage points

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.

## **About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press**

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director  
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research  
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors  
Michael Remez, Senior Writer  
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian, Jocelyn Kiley and Alec Tyson, Research Associates  
Jacob Poushter, Research Assistant

For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to [www.people-press.org](http://www.people-press.org).

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**February 19-22, 2010 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,007**

Q.1 What recent news story, if any, have you and your friends been talking about? [OPEN END. PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY. RECORD ONLY ONE RESPONSE. DO NOT READ PRECODE LIST. DO NOT SUGGEST ANSWERS]?

18	Tiger Woods
16	The Olympics
8	Plane crashing into IRS office in Austin, Texas
7	Health care reform
6	The economy/jobs
6	Haiti earthquake relief/Release of Americans accused of attempted kidnapping in Haiti
5	Politics (General)
3	Local Stories
2	Weather
1	Afghanistan
1	Iraq
1	Obama
1	Shooting at University of Alabama at Huntsville
1	Sports
6	Other
20	No answer

Q.2 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY “Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?”]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
February 19-22, 2010	38	34	15	12	*
February 12-15, 2010	35	34	15	16	*
February 5-8, 2010	43	36	13	9	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	32	13	10	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	34	14	10	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	38	14	11	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	33	15	12	*
December 18-21, 2009	45	31	14	10	0
December 11-14, 2009	42	31	14	13	*
December 4-7, 2009	41	36	13	9	1
November 13-16, 2009	38	33	14	15	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	34	32	17	16	*
October 23-26, 2009	44	30	15	10	1
October 9-12, 2009	41	29	16	13	*
October 2-5, 2009	44	30	15	11	0
September 25-28, 2009	44	37	10	10	*
September 18-21, 2009	44	34	15	7	*
September 11-14, 2009	45	32	14	9	*
September 3-6, 2009	41	31	15	13	*
August 28-31, 2009	45	30	13	12	1
August 21-24, 2009	50	27	13	10	1
August 14-17, 2009	41	37	11	12	*
August 7-10, 2009	42	34	13	10	*
July 31-August 3, 2009	46	34	11	8	*
July 24-27, 2009	45	35	12	8	*
July 17-20, 2009	43	35	11	11	1
July 10-13, 2009	37	38	13	11	*
July 2-5, 2009	38	35	15	12	*
June 19-22, 2009	42	33	15	10	*
June 12-15, 2009	41	35	12	12	*
June 5-8, 2009	41	34	11	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
May 1-4, 2009	47	36	11	5	1
April 17-20, 2009	52	30	10	7	1
April 9-13, 2009	48	29	13	10	0
March 27-30, 2009	48	32	10	10	*
March 20-23, 2009	52	34	8	6	*
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1
b. A man crashing a small plane into an IRS office in Austin, Texas					
February 19-22, 2010	26	33	18	23	1
c. Haiti releasing most of the Americans who were accused of attempted kidnapping					
February 19-22, 2010	16	30	29	23	*
February 12-15, 2010: <i>The aftermath of a major earthquake and relief efforts in Haiti</i>	37	37	17	8	*
February 5-8, 2010	42	39	13	6	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	38	13	4	*
January 22-25, 2010	50	40	8	3	*
January 15-18, 2010: <i>A major earthquake in Haiti</i>	60	28	8	4	*
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
August 14-17, 2009: <i>A typhoon that caused flooding and mudslides in Taiwan</i>	7	21	30	41	1
April 9-13, 2009: <i>A major earthquake in Italy</i>	18	35	25	22	*
May 16-19, 2008: <i>The earthquake in China</i>	30	41	17	12	*
May 9-12, 2008: <i>Reports about the cyclone that hit Burma</i>	23	35	23	19	*

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
November 2-5, 2007: <i>The impact of Hurricane Noel on the Bahamas and Cuba</i>	11	22	31	35	1
September 7-10, 2007: <i>The impact of Hurricanes Felix and Henriette on Mexico and Central America</i>	14	29	29	27	1
August 24-27, 2007: <i>The destruction caused by Hurricane Dean in Mexico and the Caribbean</i>	18	39	24	18	1
October, 2005: <i>The earthquake in Pakistan</i>	22	39	23	16	*
January 2005: <i>The earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean</i>	58	32	7	3	*
January 2004: <i>The earthquake in Iran</i>	16	34	31	19	*
February 2001: <i>The earthquake in India</i>	15	33	31	20	1
March 2000: <i>Flood rescue efforts in Mozambique</i>	10	26	30	34	*
September 1999: <i>The earthquake in Turkey</i>	27	37	23	12	1
November 1998: <i>Hurricane Mitch and the rain and mudslides in Central America</i>	36	36	16	11	1
February 1995: <i>The earthquake in Japan</i>	25	47	20	8	*
May 1991: <i>The cyclone that devastated Bangladesh</i>	23	36	23	17	1
July 1990: <i>The earthquake in Iran</i>	20	36	28	16	*
<b>d. Debate over health care reform</b>					
February 19-22, 2010	33	28	19	19	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	39	27	16	17	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	32	15	11	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	27	19	18	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	26	20	15	*
December 18-21, 2009	42	27	16	14	*
December 11-14, 2009	42	30	15	14	*
December 4-7, 2009	42	28	15	14	1
November 20-23, 2009	42	29	14	15	*
November 13-16, 2009	38	26	17	17	1
November 6-9, 2009	35	28	15	22	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	32	26	19	23	*
October 23-26, 2009	40	27	16	17	1
October 16-19, 2009	36	28	15	21	*
October 9-12, 2009	37	29	14	19	1
October 2-5, 2009	39	29	16	16	*
September 25-28, 2009	45	31	12	12	0
September 18-21, 2009	44	26	19	11	*
September 11-14, 2009	44	27	14	15	*
September 3-6, 2009	40	26	16	17	0
August 28-31, 2009	40	28	17	14	1
August 21-24, 2009	49	24	12	15	1
August 14-17, 2009	39	31	15	15	1

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:<sup>1</sup></b>					
August 7-10, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over health care reform</i>	40	27	17	15	1
July 31-August 3, 2009	47	26	14	13	1
July 24-27, 2009	44	28	15	13	*
July 17-20, 2009	33	31	13	21	2
July 10-13, 2009	24	29	20	27	*
June 26-29, 2009	29	26	20	25	1
June 19-22, 2009	28	28	20	23	*
June 12-15, 2009	29	26	18	26	*
May 15-18, 2009	25	30	20	24	*
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
September, 1994: <i>The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals</i>	32	41	18	9	*
June, 1994	34	40	19	7	*
May, 1994	37	37	16	9	1
January, 1994	38	38	15	9	*
Early January, 1994	40	40	14	6	*
December, 1993	45	35	12	7	1
October, 1993	44	32	17	6	1
September, 1993	49	34	11	6	*
August, 1993: <i>Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton</i>	27	32	25	15	1
June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*
May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1
e. The Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada					
February 19-22, 2010	30	25	19	25	*
February 12-15, 2010: <i>The start of the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada</i>	18	23	23	35	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
Aug 22-25, 2008: <i>The Olympic Games in Beijing, China</i>	35	31	19	15	*
August 15-18, 2008	35	31	17	16	1
August 8-11, 2008	24	29	24	23	*
August 1-4, 2008 <sup>2</sup>	13	33	31	23	*
July 25-28, 2008	12	31	29	28	*
April 4-7, 2008	5	18	31	45	1
Early September, 2004: <i>Summer/Athens</i>	25	25	21	29	*
February 12-18, 2002: <i>Winter/Utah</i>	22	30	21	26	1
Early October, 2000: <i>Summer/Sydney</i>	27	28	24	21	*
Early September, 1996: <i>Summer/Atlanta</i>	32	34	20	14	*

<sup>1</sup> June 12-15, 2009 through August 7-10, 2009 asked about: "Debate in Washington over health care reform." May 15-18, 2009 asked about: "Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans." March 6-9, 2009 asked about: "Barack Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling the U.S. health care system." September, 1993 through September, 1994 asked about: "The Clinton Administration's health care reform proposals." May, 1993 through August, 1993 asked about: "Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton."

<sup>2</sup> For August 1-4, 2008 and April 4-7, 2008 the story was listed as "News about the upcoming Olympic games in Beijing, China." For July 25-28, 2008 the story was listed as "News about China as the Beijing Olympic Games approach."

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
July, 1996: <i>Summer/Atlanta</i>	45	30	13	11	1
February, 1992: <i>Winter/France</i>	33	30	19	17	1
f. The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan					
February 19-22, 2010	24	36	21	19	*
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
January 8-11, 2010: <i>Suicide bombing that killed seven Americans at a CIA base in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	27	17	1
December 11-14, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	35	33	18	13	*
December 4-7, 2009 <sup>3</sup>	43	33	14	8	1
November 20-23, 2009	29	31	17	22	1
November 13-16, 2009	29	28	20	22	1
November 6-9, 2009	22	35	24	18	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	24	32	21	22	*
October 23-26, 2009	32	29	21	18	*
October 16-19, 2009	25	31	20	24	*
October 9-12, 2009	31	31	21	17	0
September 25-28, 2009	27	40	17	16	*
September 18-21, 2009	26	33	25	16	*
September 11-14, 2009	25	35	22	18	1
September 3-6, 2009	23	33	23	21	0
August 7-10, 2009	24	32	23	21	1
March 20-23, 2009	24	32	22	22	*
February 20-23, 2009	27	29	24	19	1
January 30-February 2, 2009	26	34	24	16	*
January 2-4, 2009	22	33	23	21	1
October 24-27, 2008	28	32	22	17	1
October 10-13, 2008	19	34	29	18	*
September 12-15, 2008	21	34	25	19	1
August 29-31, 2008	18	27	32	23	*
July 18-21, 2008	27	33	24	16	*
July 11-14, 2008	19	28	29	23	1
July 3-7, 2008	19	28	32	21	*
June 20-23, 2008	20	30	30	20	*
Late July, 2002	41	38	13	7	1
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1
January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1

<sup>3</sup> December 4-7, 2009 asked about "President Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan." From November 13-16, 2009, to November 20-23, 2009, the question asked about "The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan." From October 9-12, 2009, through November 6-9, 2009, the question asked about "The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan." September 25-28, 2009 asked about "The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan." February 20-23, 2009 asked about "The Obama administration's decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan." From June 20-23, 2008 to October 10-13, 2008 the story was listed as "The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters." All other dates asked about "The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan."

Q.3 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? **[DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]**

Feb 19-22

2010

- 24 The Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada
- 18 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
- 16 Debate over health care reform
- 9 A man crashing a small plane into an IRS office in Austin, Texas
- 9 Haiti releasing most of the Americans who were accused of attempted kidnapping
- 8 The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan
- 7 Some other story (VOL.)
- 8 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.4 Thinking now about the issue of health care, from what you've seen and heard, do you think a health care reform bill will pass this year or not?

	<u>Yes, will</u>	<u>No, will not</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
February 19-22, 2010	27	62	11
January 29-February 1, 2010	29	60	11
January 22-25, 2010	27	67	5
January 15-18, 2010	57	33	10
January 8-11, 2010	59	29	11
December 18-21, 2009 <sup>4</sup>	61	34	5
December 11-14, 2009	56	38	6
December 4-7, 2009	52	35	14
November 20-23, 2009	52	37	11
November 13-16, 2009	49	37	14
November 6-9, 2009	48	40	11
October 30-November 2, 2009	47	39	14
October 23-26, 2009	53	40	7
October 16-19, 2009	57	38	5
October 9-12, 2009	45	46	9

Q.5 How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>(VOL.) Don't know</u>
a. Indiana Democrat Evan Bayh announcing he will not seek a third term in the U.S. Senate	25	38	36	1
b. A professor accused of shooting colleagues at the University of Alabama in Huntsville	34	41	25	*
c. The Pakistani military arresting several high-ranking Taliban leaders	21	47	32	1
d. Tiger Woods' televised apology for his marital infidelities	53	32	15	*

<sup>4</sup> For December 18-21, 2009 and earlier, the question asked about the chance of a health care reform bill passing "over the next year or not".

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**FEBRUARY 2010 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**February 3-9, 2010**  
**N=1,383**

**QUESTIONS 1-2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTION 3**

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the earthquake in Haiti ...

Q.4 All in all, do you approve or disapprove of the way the Obama Administration has handled the government's response to the earthquake in Haiti?<sup>5</sup>

Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Jan 14-17 <u>2010</u>
66	Approve	64
16	Disapprove	14
18	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	21

**ASK ALL:**

Q.5 Have you or anyone in your household made a donation to help those affected by the earthquake in Haiti, are you planning to do so, or is this something you don't think you will do right now?

		<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>			
		<i>Hurricane Katrina</i>	<i>Earthquake/Tsunami in Indian Ocean</i>		
Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>		Jan 14-17 <u>2010</u>	Sept 6-7 <u>2005</u>	Jan 5-9 <u>2005</u>	
52	Yes, have made a donation	18	56	30	
12	Planning to do so	30	28	30	
35	No, don't think will donate right now	46	15	37	
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	1	3	

**NO QUESTION 6 THROUGH 7**

**QUESTIONS 8 THROUGH 25h PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**QUESTIONS 25i THROUGH k HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**QUESTIONS 25l THROUGH 78 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

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5 January 14-17, 2010, survey asked about "the government's response to the situation" in Haiti.