



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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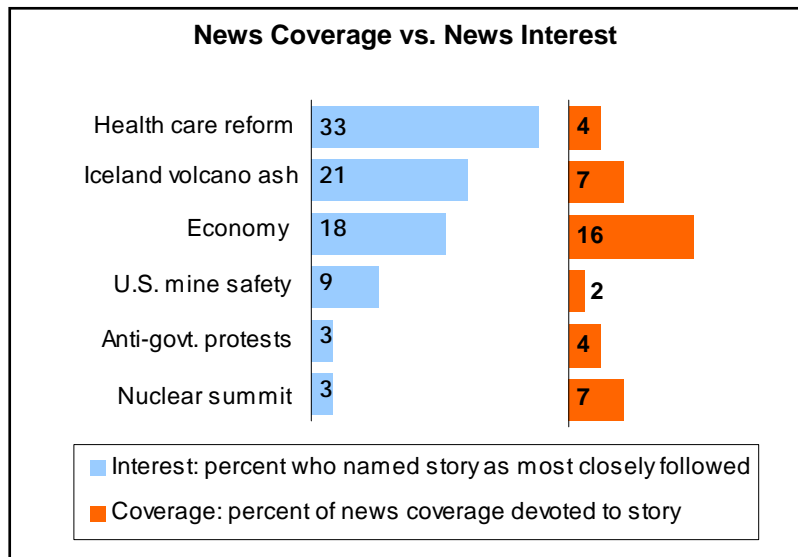
Awareness of Tea Party Movement Increasing **HEALTH CARE STILL TOP STORY, BUT MANY TRACK VOLCANO**

Americans say they followed news about the new health care law more closely than any other major story last week, but many also kept a close watch on the economy and the ash-spewing volcano in Iceland that disrupted international air travel.

Though media coverage of the health care debate has dropped significantly since President Obama signed the

legislation into law on March 23, Americans continue to say this is the story they are following most closely (33%), according to the latest News Interest Index Survey conducted April 16-19 among 1,008 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. This likely reflects the perceived importance of this issue to the general public. Last week, the story accounted for 4% of the newshole

About two-in-ten (21%) say they followed news about the volcano spreading ash over Europe more closely than any other story, while 18% say the economy was the story they followed most closely. According to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ), news about the economic crisis made up 16% of the newshole, news about the volcano accounted for 7% and news about U.S. nuclear weapons policies and the nuclear summit in Washington accounted for another 7%.



A smaller percentage say they followed news about the anti-government protests on April 15, tax filing day, more closely than any other story (3%), while 16% say they followed these stories very closely. Still, awareness of the Tea Party movement, the driving force behind the protests, has increased over the past month.

Growing Awareness of the Tea Party Movement

Four-in-ten Americans now say they have heard a lot about the Tea Party movement; 37% say they have heard a little and 23% say they have heard nothing at all. In mid-March (March 11-21), 26% said they had heard a lot about the Tea Party protests that have taken place over the past year, 42% said they had had heard a little about this and 30% said they had heard nothing at all.

A plurality of those who heard at least a little about the Tea Party movement (41%) say news organizations have given it the right amount of coverage. About a quarter (24%) say the movement has gotten too much coverage and 29% say it has gotten too little. Close to half (46%) of those who heard at least a little about the Tea Party movement say the press has been fair in its coverage; 24% say coverage has been too tough and 17% say it has been too easy.

Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to say the movement has gotten too much coverage (37% vs. 8%). About a quarter of independents (24%) say this as well. On the other hand, there is little partisan difference in the numbers saying the movement has gotten the right amount of coverage: 46% of Republicans, 42% of Democrats and 38% of independents.

Close to four-in-ten Republicans (38%) say the movement has gotten too little coverage, more than double the 16% of Democrats that say this. About a third of independents agree (32%).

The Tea Party Movement		
	Mar 11-21	Apr 16-19
<i>How much have you heard about it?</i>	%	%
A lot	26	40
A little	42	37
Nothing at all	30	23
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100
<i>Coverage of the movement is...*</i>		
Too much		24
Too little		29
Right amount		41
Don't know		<u>6</u>
		100
<i>Coverage of the movement has been...*</i>		
Too easy		17
Too tough		24
Fair		46
Don't know		<u>12</u>
		100

Q3, Q5, Q6. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Mar 11-21 survey asked about "Tea Party protests."
* Based on those who had heard "a lot" or "a little" in Q3.

Tea Party Media Coverage Is...				
	Too <u>much</u> %	Right <u>amount</u> %	Too <u>little</u> %	Don't <u>know</u> %
Total	24	41	29	6=100
Republican	8	46	38	8=100
Democrat	37	42	16	4=100
Independent	24	38	32	5=100
<i>Followed 4/15 protests:</i>				
Very closely	18	31	46	5=100
Less closely	26	43	25	6=100

Q5. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Based on those who had heard "a lot" or "a little" in Q3.

Among those who followed news about the April 15 anti-government protests very closely, 46% say the Tea Party movement has gotten too little coverage; 31% say it has gotten the right amount and 18% say it has gotten too much coverage. Among those following last week's protests less closely, 25% say the Tea Party movement has gotten too little coverage, 26% say too much and 43% say the right amount.

Partisans also have differing views on whether media coverage of the Tea Party movement has been too easy, too tough or fair. More than six-in-ten Democrats (62%) say coverage has been fair, compared with 40% of Republicans and 42% of independents. More than four-in-ten Republicans (42%) say coverage has been too tough, compared with just 6% of Democrats and 26% of independents. Just 7% of Republicans say coverage has been too easy, compared with 23% of Democrats and 20% of independents.

	Too <u>easy</u> %	Too <u>tough</u> %	<u>Fair</u> %	Don't <u>know</u> %
Total	17	24	46	12=100
Republican	7	42	40	11=100
Democrat	23	6	62	10=100
Independent	20	26	42	12=100
<i>Followed</i>				
<i>4/15 protests:</i>				
Very closely	16	41	34	9=100
Less closely	18	20	50	12=100

Q6. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Based on those who had heard "a lot" or "a little" in Q3.

Of those who say they followed the April 15 Tax Day protests very closely, 41% say coverage of the Tea Party movement has been too tough, 34% say it has been fair and 16% say it has been too easy. Among those who followed the protests less closely, half say coverage of the movement has been fair, 20% say it has been too tough and 18% say it has been too easy.

One-Word Impressions of the Tea Party Movement

When Americans are asked what one word describes their impression of the Tea Party movement, the most frequently offered responses are "great" (34 mentions), "interesting" (also 34 mentions), and "patriotic" (31 references). Overall, however, more respondents offer negative terms than positive to describe the movement.

A plurality of the responses (44%) are negative, while about a

#	<u>Positive terms</u>	#	<u>Negative terms</u>
34	Great	18	Ridiculous
31	Patriots/Patriotic	16	Misinformed/Uninformed
23	Good	15	Radical
11	Needed	14	Stupid
9	Excellent	10	Angry
9	Fantastic	10	Not interested/Uninterested
9	Necessary	8	Crazy
8	Freedom	8	Idiot/Idiotic/Idiocy
7	American	6	Confused/Confusing
6	Awesome	6	Extreme/Extremist
		6	Ignorant
		6	Nuts
		6	Racist
		6	Useless

Q.4. "What one word best describes your impression of the Tea Party movement? Just the one word that best describes it."
NOTE: These are the numbers of respondents who offered each of the top responses. These are NOT percentages.

third (32%) are positive. About a quarter (24%) are neutral.

Respondents offered a wider range of negative terms than positive, though none got more than 18 individual mentions. Among the most common were “ridiculous” (18 references), “misinformed” or “uninformed” (16), “radical” (15) and “stupid” (14). The numbers are actual mentions – not percentages – out of the 751 responses to this question.

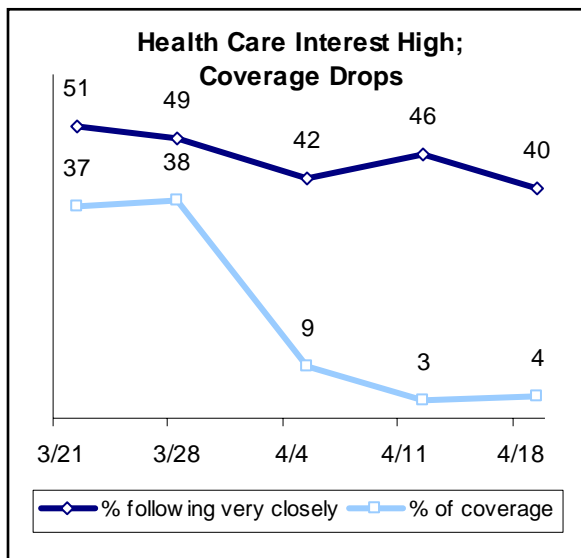
Not surprisingly, Republicans are much more likely to offer positive descriptions (53%) than are Democrats (7%). About a third of independents (34%) also offer positive words. On the other hand, seven-in-ten Democrats (71%) provide negative words, compared with 20% of Republicans and 42% of independents.

More than six-in-ten (63%) of those who say press coverage of the Tea Party movement has been too tough offer positive words; 14% provide a negative response and 23% offer a neutral description. The results are flipped for those who see coverage as too easy: 64% offer a negative description, 21% neutral and 15% positive. Among those who say coverage has been fair, 52% provide a negative description, 28% a neutral one and 20% a positive one.

Many Still Focusing on Health Care Debate

Four-in-ten Americans say they very closely followed news about the new health care reform law last week; just as many say they followed news about the economy very closely. However, substantially more people say news about the health care law is the story they followed most closely: 33% say this about health care, while 18% say it about the economy.

Attentiveness to the health care law has diminished somewhat since its passage, but it remains high. The percentage of people that say they are following the health care reform debate or the new health care law very closely has dropped 11 points since March 19-22, just before the bill was signed into law. Meanwhile, coverage of the health care issue has plummeted in recent weeks.



Health care consumed almost 40% of the newshole in mid-to-late March, but coverage dropped off dramatically after the legislation became law: For the week that included the day

Obama signed the bill (March 22-28), the health care debate itself accounted for 38% of coverage, according to PEJ. The following week, it accounted for 9% of coverage.

As the bill neared final passage and Obama’s signature, men were paying slightly more attention to the debate than were women (55% following very closely vs. 47%). Now they are about equally likely to be following the new law very closely (42% for men, 39% for women).

Republican interest in health care reform has changed little over the past month: 49% of Republicans said they were following the debate over health care reform very closely just prior to the bill being signed; 45% say the same now. Interest has fallen among Democrats (56% following very closely then, 39% now) and independents (52% then, 40% now).

Older Americans remain much more likely to say they are following the issue very closely than do those younger than 40. Similarly, those with more education continue to pay more attention than do those with less, though, interest has waned among college graduates and high school graduates. There has been little change among those with some college.

Many Continue to Follow Health Care Very Closely						
<i>% following very closely</i>	March <u>19-22</u> %	March <u>26-29</u> %	April <u>1-5</u> %	April <u>9-12</u> %	April <u>16-19</u> %	<u>3/22-4/19</u> <i>Change</i>
Total	51	49	42	46	40	-11
Men	55	53	48	52	42	-13
Women	47	46	37	40	39	-8
White	50	52	41	46	39	-11
Black	67	50	47	50	57	-10
18-39	36	37	32	37	27	-9
40-64	61	55	46	47	46	-15
65+	60	63	54	55	54	-6
College grad+	63	61	52	58	49	-14
Some college	42	48	44	41	40	-2
HS or less	46	40	36	41	36	-10
Republican	49	58	47	57	45	-4
Democrat	56	47	43	44	39	-17
Independent	52	47	41	41	40	-12

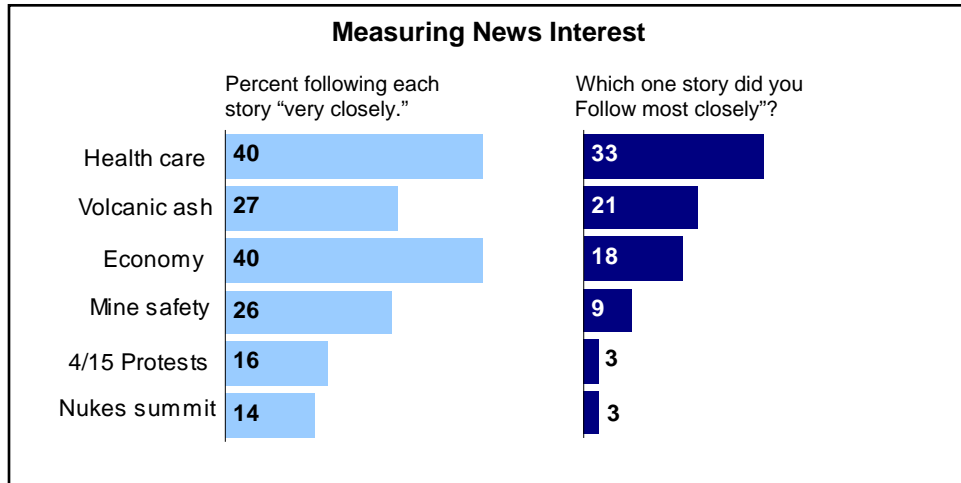
Q1d. For March 19-22 through March 26-29, 2010, the question asked about “debate over health care reform.” Since April 1-5, the question has asked about “the new health care reform law.” President Obama signed the health care legislation into law on March 23, 2010.

The Week’s Other News

In other news, about a quarter of Americans (27%) followed stories about volcanic ash from Iceland wafting over Europe and grounding airplanes; 21% say this is the story they followed most closely. Another quarter of Americans (26%) tracked stories about the safety of U.S. mines very closely, following the deadly explosion April 5 at a West Virginia coal mine. Fewer (9%) say this is the story they followed most closely.

The anti-government protests on April 15 and the nuclear summit in Washington, D.C. attracted less attention: 16% say they followed news about the protests very closely, while 14% say the same about the nuclear summit. Just 3% say the protest story is the one they followed most closely; 3% say the same about the nuclear summit.

Those who had heard a lot about the Tea Party movement are much more likely to say they followed stories about the protests very closely: 30% of those who had heard a lot about the Tea Party movement followed the protests very closely, compared with 7% of those who had heard a little or nothing at all about the movement.



These findings 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 April 12-18, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected April 16-19, from a nationally representative sample of 1,008 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. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.) 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, under the direction of Infogroup/ORC (Opinion Research Corporation). The sample is produced by ORC from data provided by Marketing Systems Group. Interviews are conducted in English. Data 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. 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 current survey, conducted April 16-19, 2010:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,008	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	247	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	321	7.0 percentage points
Independents	391	6.0 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:

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For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to www.people-press.org.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
April 16-19, 2010 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,008

Q.1 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					
April 16-19, 2010	40	32	14	14	0
April 9-12, 2010	40	32	15	13	*
April 1-5, 2010	33	34	14	19	*
March 19-22, 2010	41	32	14	13	*
March 12-15, 2010	41	35	12	12	*
March 5-8, 2010	40	34	12	13	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	31	33	17	19	*
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

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
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	*
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

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
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	*
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1
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. Concerns about the safety of U.S. mines after a					
deadly explosion in a West Virginia coal mine					
April 16-19, 2010	26	35	23	16	*
April 9-12, 2010: <i>A deadly explosion in a coal</i>					
<i>mine in West Virginia</i>	33	36	18	13	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
August 17-20, 2007: <i>The six trapped Utah coal</i>					
<i>miners</i>	32	38	18	12	*
August 10-13, 2007	36	35	14	15	*
January, 2006: <i>The death of 12 miners in</i>					
<i>a West Virginia coal mine</i>	47	33	11	8	1

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
c. News about the nuclear summit in Washington, D.C.					
April 16-19, 2010	14	25	21	39	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
April 9-12, 2010: <i>President Obama changing U.S. nuclear weapons policies and signing a nuclear weapons treaty with Russia</i>	24	27	22	26	1
d. News about the new health care reform law					
April 16-19, 2010	40	30	16	14	*
April 9-12, 2010	46	27	15	12	*
April 1-5, 2010	42	27	14	16	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
March 26-29, 2010: <i>Debate over health care reform</i>	49	29	12	10	*
March 19-22, 2010	51	24	11	14	*
March 12-15, 2010	40	31	16	13	*
March 5-8, 2010	42	27	17	15	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	29	29	19	22	*
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
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: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans</i>	25	30	20	24	*

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
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. A volcano in Iceland spreading ash over much of Europe, forcing the cancelation of many flights April 16-19, 2010	27	34	22	17	*
f. Anti-government protests on April 15 April 16-19, 2010	16	21	21	41	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
February 5-8, 2010: <i>The National Tea Party Convention in Nashville, Tennessee</i>	10	14	24	52	*
April 17-20, 2009: <i>Tea party protests against taxes and government spending</i>	27	25	22	25	1

Q.2 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.]

April 16-19

2010

33	News about the new health care reform law
21	A volcano in Iceland spreading ash over much of Europe, forcing the cancellation of many flights
18	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
9	Concerns about the safety of U.S. mines after a deadly explosion in a West Virginia coal mine
3	Anti-government protests on April 15
3	News about the nuclear summit in Washington, D.C.
7	Some other story (VOL.)
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.3 How much if anything, have you heard about the Tea Party movement? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?

April 16-19		TREND FOR COMPARISON¹:	
<u>2010</u>		March 11-21	
		<u>2010</u>	
40	A lot	26	
37	A little	42	
23	Nothing at all	30	
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	

¹ Question asked about the "Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

IF Q3= A LOT, A LITTLE (1,2) ASK [N=841]:

Q.4 What one word best describes your impression of the Tea Party movement? Just the one word that best describes it. [OPEN END. PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY. RECORD ONLY ONE RESPONSE. DO NOT READ PRECODE LIST. DO NOT SUGGEST ANSWERS]?

April 16-19 <u>2010</u>		April 16-19 <u>2010</u>	
34	Great	5	Positive
34	Interesting	5	Waste/Wasteful/Waste of time
31	Patriots/Patriotic	4	Active/Activists
23	Good	4	Bad
18	Ridiculous	4	Boring
	Misinformed/Not	4	Disgusting/Disgusted
16	informed/Uninformed	4	Hopeful
15	Radical	4	Justified/Justifiable
14	Stupid	4	Noisy
11	Needed	4	Nonsense
10	Angry	4	Protest
10	Conservative	4	Rebellion/Rebellious
10	Not interested/Uninterested	4	Silly
9	Excellent	4	Terrible
9	Fantastic	4	Unorganized/Disorganized
9	Necessary	3	About time
8	Concern/Concerned	3	Agree
8	Crazy	3	Attention/Attention getter
8	Freedom	3	Bull
8	Idiot/Idiotic/Idiocy	3	Change/Changes
8	Politics/Political	3	Constitution/Constitutionalist
7	American	3	Correct
6	Awesome	3	Curious
6	Confused/Confusing	3	Different
6	Extreme/Extremist	3	Encouraging
6	Ignorant	3	Exciting/Excited
6	Nuts	3	Futile
6	Racist	3	Motivated
6	Republican	3	Negative
6	Useless	3	OK
5	Fringe	3	Outstanding
5	Frustration/Frustrated	3	Right
5	Go	3	Ultra-conservative/Too
5	Grassroots		conservative
5	Important	3	Unknown
5	Impressive/Impressed	3	Wonderful
5	Misguided	3	

NOTE: The figures above are the number of people who gave each answer; these are NOT percentages. Answers offered by three or more respondents shown.

Percent of respondents offering positive, neutral or negative descriptions of the Tea Party movement (based on those who had heard at least a little about the Tea Party movement and offered a description [N=751]):

%	
32	Positive
24	Neutral
44	Negative

IF Q3=A LOT, A LITTLE (1,2) ASK [N=841]:

Q.5 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage, or the right amount of coverage to the Tea Party movement?

April 16-19

2010

24	Too much coverage
29	Too little coverage
41	Right amount of coverage
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

IF Q3=A LOT, A LITTLE (1,2) ASK [N=841]:

Q.6 Would you say the press has been too easy, too tough or fair in the way it has covered the Tea Party movement?

April 16-19

2010

17	Too easy
24	Too tough
46	Fair
12	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)