

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2001 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
February 14-19, 2001
N = 1,513

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [**IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK.**]

		----- Gallup -----			
		Clinton	Bush	Reagan	Carter
		<u>Feb 1993</u>	<u>Feb 1989</u>	<u>Feb 1981</u>	<u>Feb 1977</u>
53	Approve	56	63	55	71
21	Disapprove	25	13	18	9
<u>26</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>19</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.2F1 Based on what you've seen or heard so far, what, if anything, would you say you have LIKED most about George W. Bush? [**IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION**]

22	Personal Traits (NET)
8	Honesty/Integrity/Trustworthy
4	His character/Good man/Wants to do the right thing/Moral
3	A Christian/Man of faith
3	Way he presents himself/Relaxed/Calm/Dignified
5	Other personal traits
14	Policy Positions and Proposals (NET)
7	Tax proposals/Economy
3	Support of the military
2	Stand on abortion/Cutting funds for abortion clinics
2	Education policy
3	Other policy position/proposal
13	Political Traits (NET)
	Trying to keep campaign promises/Following his campaign agenda/Doing what he said he would
3	Leadership style/Takes charge/No nonsense/Sticks to his guns/Consistent
2	Republican/Conservative
2	Bipartisan/Reaches out/Conciliatory
2	Getting things done/Taken quick action
2	Other political trait
2	He's OK/Good President/Good job
2	Don't like him
2	Appointments
2	Too early to tell/Hasn't been President long enough to judge
2	Everything
8	Other
20	Nothing
17	Don't know/Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.3F2 Based on what you've seen or heard so far, what, if anything, would you say you have DISliked most about George W. Bush? **[IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

- 16 Policy Positions and Proposals (NET)
 - 6 Tax proposals/Economy
 - 4 Stand on abortion/Will take away a woman's right to chose
 - 2 Education policy
 - 6 Other policy position/proposal
- 11 Personal Traits (NET)
 - 2 Not articulate/Poor public speaker
 - 2 Attitude/Arrogant/Self-righteous/Cocky
 - 1 Deceitful/Don't trust him/Not trustful
 - 1 Stupid/Lack of knowledge
 - 1 His looks/Appearance/Dress
 - 1 Past sins/(cocaine use/DUI)
- 4 Political Traits (NET)
 - 1 Republican/Not a Democrat
 - 1 Inexperienced
 - 3 Other political traits
- 4 The way he got the job/Stole the election
- 3 Too early to tell/Hasn't been President long enough to judge
- 2 Appointments
- 2 Everything
- 1 His not taking action against Clinton (furniture, pardons, pranks)
- 1 Handling current issues (Iraq, Mexico, Submarine)
- 1 Like him/The job he's doing
- 1 Just don't like him
- 4 Other
- 39 Nothing
- 15 Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.4F1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	
February, 2001	46	43	11=100	(N=728)
January, 2001	55	41	4=100	
September, 2000	51	41	8=100	
June, 2000	47	45	8=100	
April, 2000	48	43	9=100	
August, 1999	56	39	5=100	
January, 1999	53	41	6=100	
November, 1998	46	44	10=100	
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100	
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100	
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100	
February, 1998	59	37	4=100	
January, 1998	46	50	4=100	
September, 1997	45	49	6=100	
August, 1997	49	46	5=100	
January, 1997	38	58	4=100	
July, 1996	29	67	4=100	
March, 1996	28	70	2=100	
October, 1995	23	73	4=100	
June, 1995	25	73	2=100	
April, 1995	23	74	3=100	
July, 1994	24	73	3=100	
March, 1994	24	71	5=100	
October, 1993	22	73	5=100	
September, 1993	20	75	4=100	
May, 1993	22	71	7=100	
January, 1993	39	50	11=100	
January, 1992	28	68	4=100	
November, 1991	34	61	5=100	
<i>Late February, 1991 (Gallup)</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>3=100</i>	
August, 1990	47	48	5=100	
May, 1990	41	54	5=100	
January, 1989	45	50	5=100	
September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100	
May, 1988	41	54	5=100	
January, 1988	39	55	6=100	

Q.4F2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your local community today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	
February, 2001	73	22	5=100	(N=785)
March, 1994	68	27	5=100	

Q.5F1 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

		Aug 1999	June 1999	May 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995	Mar 1994	Dec 1993	June 1993	Jan 1992	May 1990	Feb 1989	April 1987
12	Morality/Ethics/Family values	13	11	10	9	13	12	10	6	7	3	5	2	3
11	Education	8	7	9	5	6	6	5	5	5	2	4	4	0
8	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	12	11	13	12	19	22	31	25	7	3	7	8	3
7	Economy (general)	2	3	4	4	4	5	4	6	17	43	5	4	7
6	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	4	6	6	7	10	12	15	19	22	7	9	13	
6	Drugs/Alcohol	6	5	7	7	8	5	10	8	5	4	37	23	6
6	Health care/Cost/ availability of health care	6	3	4	5	4	7	14	14	11	3	3	1	*
4	Energy crisis/rising gas/heating prices	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	3	3	5	4	8	6	5	2	5	2	2	1	0
3	Other social issues	4	4	3	--	2	0	*	3	*	*	*	*	*
3	Poverty	4	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	3	1	3	4	6
3	Taxes	3	2	4	3	3	3	3	2	4	1	3	2	0
3	Inflation/Difference between wages/costs	1	*	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
2	Other International issues	2	4	3	--	*	4	1	2	3	4	6	10	22
2	Youth/Teenage kids not acting responsible	2	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Racism	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	0	0
2	Homelessness	2	4	2	3	2	4	3	5	5	6	8	10	*
2	Immigration	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Recession/slowing of the economy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Issues related to elderly	1	3	3	1	2	*	1	1	2	1	2	2	0
1	Other defense issues	--	--	1	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	3	1	6	5	7	9	5	6	13	4	11	19	12
1	Social Security	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Welfare abuse	2	1	3	1	7	5	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
1	Scandal/Corruption in govt	3	2	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Teen violence in school	6	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Too much foreign aid/ Spend money at home	2	4	2	1	5	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	0
1	Other economic issues	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Environment/Pollution	*	*	2	1	1	1	2	1	*	1	8	2	0
1	Too many guns/Gun control	4	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Medicare	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Uneven distribution of wealth	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Other health care mentions	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Other domestic issues	4	1	1	--	2	5	1	3	2	10	11	10	21

Q.5F1 CONTINUED ...

	Aug 1999	June 1999	May 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995	Mar 1994	Dec 1993	June 1993	Jan 1992	May 1990	Feb 1989	April 1987
* Terrorism	*	*	*	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
* AIDS	--	*	--	--	1	1	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
* HMO Reform	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5 Other	1	6	5	6	2	2	2	*	4	1	5	9	1
2 None	*	1	*	1	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7 Don't know/No answer	11	11	12	7	6	3	4	6	2	3	1	3	3
26 ECONOMIC (NET)	15	8	16	18	18	28	26	33	53	76	26	28	35
10 HEALTHCARE (NET)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
DEFENSE/INTER-													
5 NATIONAL (NET)	7	11	5	10	1	9	2	*	*	*	*	*	*
5 POVERTY/HOMELESS (NET)	6	6	6	6	5	8	6	*	*	*	*	*	*

Q.5F2 What do you think is the most important problem facing your local community today? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

	March 1994
14 Education	11
12 Crime/Gangs/Justice system/Violence	29
11 Drugs/Alcohol	9
9 Unemployment/Lack of jobs	12
7 Development/Growth/Overcrowding/Traffic	4
6 Roads/Sewers/Infrastructure/Transportation	5
6 Taxes	8
4 Dissatisfaction with government/politics	2
4 Power crisis/Costs of gas/Power	--
4 Problems with children/Delinquency	4
2 Inflation/Differences between wages and costs	1
2 Morality/Ethics/Family values	2
1 Environment/Pollution	3
1 Health care (cost/accessibility)	2
1 Racism	1
1 Funding availability for local services	4
1 Poverty/Homeless	2
* Costs/Fees for local services	*
9 Other	3
5 No problem	4
10 Don't know	11
18 ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL (NET)	25

Q.6 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]

		Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/Ref
FORM 1 [N=728]; FORM 2 [N=785]:						
a.F1	George W. Bush's education plan	21	35	23	19	2=100
b.	George W. Bush's tax-cut plan	31	35	19	14	1=100
c.F2	The controversy over the pardons Bill Clinton granted as he left office	28	32	20	19	1=100
d.	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	30	39	18	12	1=100
	January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
	June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
	March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
	February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
	December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
	October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
	June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
	May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
	January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
	Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
	December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
	October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
	September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
	Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
	August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
	May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
	February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
	January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
	September, 1992	43	37	13	6	*=100
	May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
	March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
	February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
	January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
	October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
e.F1	The earthquake in India	15	33	31	20	1=100
f.F1	The California energy crisis	25	36	20	18	1=100
g.F2	Ariel Sharon's election victory in Israel	9	16	29	44	2=100
h.F2	The collision of a U.S. Navy submarine with a Japanese ship	26	40	19	14	1=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.7F1 In your opinion, are the news organizations you are familiar with being fair or unfair to **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**?

		<u>Fair</u>	<u>Unfair</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The Bush administration	65	19	16=100
	Clinton: Feb 1993	72	17	11=100
	Bush: Aug 1989	82	12	6=100
	Reagan: June 1985	78	12	10=100
b.	Bill Clinton since leaving office	56	30	14=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.8F2 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage, or the right amount of coverage to **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**? How about...**[NEXT ITEM]**

		<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too Little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Bill Clinton's activities as he was leaving office	53	9	31	7=100
b.	George W. Bush's policy proposals since he took office	10	28	52	10=100
c.	Signs of an economic slowdown	21	25	46	8=100
d.	Rising energy costs	17	36	42	5=100

ASK ALL:

Q.9 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of George W. Bush so far. (First,) does George W. Bush impress you as... **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**

		<u>GW Bush Oct 1999</u>	<u>Clinton Jan 1993</u>
a.	60 Trustworthy or	59	63
	28 NOT trustworthy	33	29
	4 Neither particularly (VOL)	2	3
	<u>8</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100
b.	67 Warm and friendly or		90
	21 Cold and aloof		7
	6 Neither particularly (VOL)		1
	<u>6</u> Don't know/Refused		<u>2</u>
	100		100
c.	60 Able to get things done or		
	18 NOT able to get things done		
	7 Neither particularly (VOL)		
	<u>15</u> Don't know/Refused		
	100		

Q.9 CONTINUED ...

Clinton
Jan 1993

d.	62	Well informed or	79
	27	NOT well informed	14
	4	Neither particularly (VOL)	2
	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>
	100		100
e.	66	Well organized or	
	22	NOT well organized	
	3	Neither particularly (VOL)	
	<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	
	100		
f.	7	Liberal,	
	39	Middle of the road or	
	44	Conservative	
	2	Neither particularly (VOL)	
	<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	
	100		

Q.10 How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the Internet? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE]

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' TELEVISION AS EITHER FIRST OR SECOND RESPONSE IN Q.10 ASK:

Q.11 Do you get most of your news about national and international issues from network TV news, from local TV news, or from cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE]

		Oct <u>1999</u>	Jan <u>1999</u>	Jan <u>1996</u>	Sept <u>1995</u> ¹	Jan <u>1994</u>	Sept <u>1993</u>	Jan <u>1993</u>
76	Television	80	82	88	82	83	83	83
	20 Network TV news	22	--	--	--	--	--	39
	25 Local TV news	31	--	--	--	--	--	30
	35 Cable news ²	35	--	--	--	--	--	38
	1 Other	2	--	--	--	--	--	2
	1 Don't know	*	--	--	--	--	--	1
40	Newspapers	48	42	61	63	51	60	52
16	Radio	19	18	25	20	15	17	17
4	Magazines	5	4	8	10	10	9	5
10	Internet ³	11	6	--	--	--	--	--
2	Other (VOL)	2	2	2	1	5	3	1
1	Don't know/Refused	*	*	*	1	1	*	1

¹ In September 1995, question wording did not include "international."

² Beginning in October 1999, "cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC" was substituted for "CNN," which was used previously.

³ Beginning in February 2001, "Internet" has been substituted for "computer online sources," which was used previously.

On another subject...

Q.12 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

		<i>Gallup</i>	<i>CBS News/New</i>
		Clinton	Bush, Sr.
		<u>Feb 1993</u>	<u>April 1989</u>
50	Approve	45	45
22	Disapprove	35	35
<u>28</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
100		100	100

ASK FORM 1 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=728]:

Q.13 As you may know, the federal government now has a budget SURPLUS. In your opinion, which ONE of the following should be done with the available money? Should the money be used **[READ AND ROTATE OPTIONS]**... For a tax cut; to pay off the national debt more quickly; for increased spending on domestic programs such as health, education, and the environment; or to help make the Social Security and Medicare programs financially sound?

	<u>Tax Cut</u>	<u>National Debt</u>	<u>Domestic Programs</u>	<u>Social Security/Medicare</u>	<u>(VOL) DK/Ref</u>
February, 2001	19	17	23	37	4=100
September, 2000 (<i>RVs</i>)	14	21	25	38	2=100
February, 2000	12	18	24	44	2=100
Mid-January, 1999 ⁴	14	12	21	50	3=100
Early August, 1998	10	19	29	39	3=100
June, 1998	9	17	28	44	2=100
January, 1998	11	22	33	32	2=100

ASK FORM 2 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=785]:

Now thinking specifically about the debate over taxes,

Q.14 Do you approve or disapprove of George W. Bush's tax proposal?

43	Approve
34	Disapprove
<u>23</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

4

In Mid-January 1999, Early August, June and January 1998, the question was worded: "If it turns out that the federal government has a budget SURPLUS this year, in your opinion, which ONE of the following should be done with the available money? Should the money be used ..."

ASK ALL:

Q.15 People have differing views on WHY we should cut taxes. In your view, what's the better reason for a national tax cut? To provide tax relief for people like yourself or to stimulate the economy to prevent a recession?

32	To provide tax relief for people like yourself
49	To stimulate the economy to prevent a recession
10	Both (VOL)
5	Neither/No good reason for tax cuts (VOL)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.16 If George W. Bush's tax bill becomes law, do you think the tax cuts will generally be fair to everyone, OR will the tax cuts mainly benefit some people much more than others?

		<u>Sept 1999⁵</u>
26	Will be fair	12
65	Benefit some people much more than others	82
1	Other (VOL)	2
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

IF '2' "BENEFIT SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS" IN Q.16, ASK [N=1,001]:

Q.17 Who will mainly benefit from the tax cuts: the wealthy, the middle class, or the poor?

		<u>Sept 1999</u>
79	Wealthy	80
12	Middle class	9
4	Poor	6
1	Other (VOL)	1
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

[NO Q.18]

⁵ In September 1999 the question was asked "As you may know, there has been discussion in Washington recently about a major tax cut that would take place over the next 10 years. If this bill becomes law, do you think the tax cuts will generally be fair to everyone, OR will the tax cuts mainly benefit some people much more than others?"

Q.19F1/F2 Next, as I read you some problem areas, please tell me how you think each is affecting **[FORM 1: "this country" FORM 2: "your local community"]** today. (First,) do you think the problem of... **[INSERT ITEM. ROTATE.]** is ABOUT THE SAME as it has been, that (the country/your community) is MAKING PROGRESS in this area, or that (the country/your community) is LOSING GROUND?
ITEMS A - E BASED ON FORM 1 [N=728] AND FORM 2 [N=785]; ITEMS F AND G BASED ON FORM 1 ONLY; ITEM H BASED ON FORM 2 ONLY.

		<u>Making Progress</u>	<u>About The Same</u>	<u>Losing Ground</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a.	Crime				
	<i>National</i>	29	31	38	2=100
	November, 1997	24	30	44	2=100
	December, 1996	15	23	61	1=100
	April, 1995	9	13	77	1=100
	March, 1994	7	15	77	1=100
	March, 1989	15	19	64	2=100
	<i>Community</i>	32	42	23	3=100
	March, 1994	14	29	56	1=100
b.	Drugs				
	<i>National</i>	13	29	54	4=100
	November, 1997	15	25	58	2=100
	December, 1996	13	21	64	2=100
	April, 1995	10	22	66	2=100
	March, 1994	13	22	62	3=100
	March, 1989	17	12	69	2=100
	<i>Community</i>	23	33	37	7=100
	March, 1994	16	28	51	5=100
c.	The quality of public education				
	<i>National</i>	23	20	53	4=100
	November, 1997	26	26	46	2=100
	December, 1996	24	22	52	2=100
	April, 1995	18	20	60	2=100
	March, 1994	17	19	61	3=100
	<i>Community</i>	34	30	31	5=100
	March, 1994	23	28	44	5=100
d.	Conflict among racial, religious or ethnic groups				
	<i>National</i>	29	38	29	4=100
	November, 1997	31	39	27	3=100
	December, 1996 ⁶	27	31	39	3=100
	April, 1995	27	36	35	2=100
	March, 1994	21	32	41	3=100
	<i>Community</i>	33	47	15	5=100
	March, 1994	19	46	30	5=100

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This month the question was asked "Conflict among racial groups."

Q.19F1/F2 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Making Progress</u>	<u>About The Same</u>	<u>Losing Ground</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
e.	The availability of good-paying jobs				
	<i>National</i>	33	26	36	5=100
	November, 1997	31	28	37	4=100
	December, 1996	19	26	51	4=100
	April, 1995	17	24	55	4=100
	March, 1994	10	23	63	4=100
	<i>Community</i>	24	35	35	6=100
	March, 1994	14	31	49	6=100
f.	Planning and managing growth in and around our cities				
	<i>National</i>	31	28	32	9=100
g.	The way the health care system is working				
	<i>National</i>	13	29	53	5=100
	November, 1997	16	26	54	4=100
	December, 1996	20	25	52	3=100
	April, 1995	14	30	53	3=100
	March, 1994	16	31	49	4=100
h.	Planning and managing growth in and around your local area				
	<i>Community</i>	36	31	28	5=100

On another subject...

ASK FORM 1 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=728]:

Q.20F1 Would you say that you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing religious organizations to apply, along with other organizations, for government funding to provide social services such as job training or drug treatment counseling to people who need them?

<u>GP</u>	<u>RVs</u>		<u>Sept 2000⁷</u>
28	28	Strongly favor	32
36	35	Favor	35
19	19	Oppose	17
11	13	Strongly oppose	12
<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100	100		100

(N=585)

ASK FORM 2 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=785]:

Q.21F2 Did you happen to hear about the creation of an office in the White House to enlarge the role that religious organizations play in providing social services, or haven't you heard about this?

40	Yes
59	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

⁷

In September 2000 this question was part of a series, and the figures are based on registered voters.

ASK FORM 2 RESPONDENTS ONLY [N=785]:

Q.22F2 Do you think it's a good idea or a bad idea to have an office such as this in the White House?

46	Good idea
38	Bad idea
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.23 How much, if anything, have you heard about the recent debate over whether the U.S. should develop a national missile defense system to protect against missile attacks — a lot, a little or nothing at all?

		<u>May 2000</u>
20	A lot	10
47	A little	43
31	Nothing at all	47
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	*
100		<u>100</u>

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.24F1 Do you favor or oppose the development of a national missile defense system?

54	Favor
32	Oppose
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.25F2 Some people feel the U.S. should try to develop a ground- and space-based missile defense system to protect the U.S. from missile attack. Others oppose such an effort because they say it would be too costly and might interfere with existing arms treaties with the Russians. Which position comes closer to your view?

				<i>-- Gallup --</i>		
		Early Oct	May	May	Dec	Aug
		<u>2000⁸</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1987⁹</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
49	Should develop a ground- and space-	47	52	44	52	45
40	based missile defense system	35	37	42	40	47
<u>11</u>	Oppose developing such a system	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
100	Don't know/Refused	100	100	100	100	100

⁸ Early October 2000 figures are based on registered voters.

⁹ In May 1987, December 1986, and August 1985, question was worded: "Some people feel the U.S. should try to develop a space-based "Star Wars" system to protect the U.S. from nuclear attack. Others oppose such an effort because they say it would be too costly and further escalate the arms race. Which position comes closer to your view?"

ASK ALL:

Q.26 Now I'd like you to think about some concerns that people may have. How concerned are you, if at all, about... [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE.]? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about this? What about [NEXT ITEM]...?¹⁰

SPLIT FORM: FORM 1 [N=728]; FORM 2 [N=785]:

		Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not too Concerned	Does Not Not at all Concerned	Apply (VOL)	Don't Know
a.	Having a family member become involved with drugs?	44	13	17	25	*	1=100
	March, 1994	43	15	16	25	1	*=100
	May, 1988	36	22	23	15	2	2=100
b.	Having a family member develop an alcohol problem?	37	14	18	29	1	1=100
	March, 1994	36	14	19	29	2	*=100
	May, 1988	32	23	25	16	2	2=100
c.F1	Being unable to afford necessary health care when a family member gets sick?	60	18	9	11	1	1=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	63	19	8	8	2	*=100
	October, 1999	60	19	13	7	1	*=100
	May, 1997	50	20	16	13	1	*=100
	October, 1996 (RVs)	61	18	12	7	1	1=100
	March, 1996	68	16	10	6	*	*=100
	October, 1995	66	17	9	7	1	*=100
d.F2	Becoming a victim of a crime?	38	27	23	12	0	*=100
	October, 1999	39	32	22	7	*	*=100
	May, 1997	38	29	22	10	0	1=100
	October, 1995	51	30	15	4	*	*=100
	May, 1988	36	36	21	5	*	2=100
e.F1	Not having enough money for your retirement?	55	24	10	9	1	1=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	55	24	11	8	1	1=100
	October, 1999	51	27	13	8	1	*=100
	May, 1997	42	26	15	13	3	1=100
	October, 1996 (RVs)	56	24	11	7	1	1=100
	March, 1996	59	23	9	7	2	*=100
	October, 1995	48	29	10	8	4	1=100
	May, 1988	34	35	15	8	4	4=100
f.F2	Losing your job or taking a cut in pay?	34	14	15	27	9	1=100
	May, 1997	30	15	19	20	16	*=100
	March, 1996	47	16	14	15	8	*=100
	October, 1995	34	17	16	17	16	*=100
	March, 1994	28	16	14	21	21	*=100

¹⁰

In March 1994 the question was asked: "Now I'd like you to think about the future. As I read some different things that might affect your personal future, please tell me how concerned you are about each one happening to you. First, how concerned are you about..."

Next I have some questions about the problem of drugs and drug abuse.

Q.27 How would you describe the problem of drug abuse [FORM 1: "across the country" FORM 2: "in your neighborhood, including the local schools"]? Would you say it is a crisis, a serious problem, a minor problem, or not a problem?

----- Gallup/CNN/USA Today -----

			September 1999		September 1995	
Country	Neighborhood		Country	Neighborhood	Country	Neighborhood
27	9	Crisis	30	9	31	10
63	37	Serious problem	60	38	63	44
7	37	Minor problem	8	38	5	37
1	10	Not a problem	1	12	*	6
<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
100	100		100	100	100	100
(N=728)	(N=785)					

Q.28 I'm going to mention some actions the government could take to control the use of drugs. I'd like you to rate the effectiveness of each. First, would a big government push to [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] be very effective in controlling drugs, only somewhat effective, or not very effective at all? ... How about a big push to [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Very Effective</u>	<u>Somewhat Effective</u>	<u>Not Very Effective</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
a.	Stop the illegal importation of drugs from other countries	52	27	19	2=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : September, 1989	42	42	14	2=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : September, 1988	66	22	12	0=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : August, 1986	61	28	10	1=100
b.	Arrest people who sell illegal drugs in this country	49	33	17	1=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : September, 1989	52	38	10	0=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : September, 1988	59	27	13	1=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : August, 1986	56	32	11	1=100
c.	Arrest drug users in this country	30	34	34	2=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : September, 1989	42	37	20	1=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : September, 1988	37	33	30	*=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : August, 1986	34	36	30	*=100
d.	Educate Americans about the dangers of using illegal drugs	35	41	22	2=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : September, 1989	44	43	13	0=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : September, 1988	51	37	12	0=100
	<i>ABC News</i> : August, 1986	46	41	13	*=100
e.	Provide drug treatment programs for drug users	36	43	19	2=100

ASK OF RESPONDENTS WHO RATED MORE THAN ONE "EFFECTIVE" IN Q.28:

Q.29 Of the actions you think are (very/somewhat) effective, which ONE do you think would be the MOST effective? [READ OPTIONS (BELOW) WHICH WERE CODED "1" IN Q.28A-E. IF NONE CODED "1" READ OPTIONS (BELOW) WHICH WERE CODED "2" IN Q.28A-E]

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

- 48 Stopping the illegal importation of drugs from other countries
- 19 Arresting people who sell illegal drugs in this country
- 4 Arresting drug users in this country
- 15 Educating Americans about the dangers of using illegal drugs
- 10 Providing drug treatment programs for drug users
- 2 All five actions rated "not very effective"
- 2 Don't Know/Refused
- 100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.30F1 As you may know, the United States provides substantial financial assistance to countries like Columbia and Peru every year in order to help these countries fight drug trafficking. In your opinion, should the U.S. be providing more financial assistance to these countries, less financial assistance, or are we providing about the right amount of assistance now?

- 11 More
- 42 Less
- 36 About the right amount now
- 11 Don't know/Refused
- 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.31F2 As you may know, the United States provides substantial military assistance to countries like Columbia and Peru every year in order to help these countries fight drug trafficking. In your opinion, should the U.S. be providing more military assistance to these countries, less military assistance, or are we providing about the right amount of assistance now?

- 23 More
- 28 Less
- 37 About the right amount now
- 12 Don't know/Refused
- 100

ASK ALL:

Q.32 Do you think the possession of small amounts of marijuana should or should not be treated as a criminal offense?

		----- Gallup -----			
		<u>Aug</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>April</u>
		<u>2000</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1977</u>
49	Yes, treated as a criminal offense	51	50	43	41
46	No, not treated as a criminal offense	47	46	52	53
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.33 Regardless of what you think about the personal non-medical use of marijuana, do you think doctors should or should not be allowed to prescribe marijuana for medical purposes to treat their patients?

		<u>ABC</u> <u>May 1997</u>
73	Should be allowed	70
21	Should not be allowed	27
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
100		100

Q.34 Has drug abuse ever been a cause of trouble in your family?

		----- Gallup -----			----- ABC -----			<i>ABC/W.Post</i>
		<u>Aug</u> <u>2000</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>1999</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>1989</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>1988</u>	<u>Aug</u> <u>1986</u>	<u>May</u> <u>1985</u>
21	Yes	22	17	19	18	14	13	9
79	No	78	83	81	82	86	87	91
<u>*</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

[NO Q.35 OR Q.36]

Q.37 How big a factor do you think the following things are in determining whether a teenager tries illegal drugs or not? Would you say [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] is a major factor in whether a teenager tries illegal drugs, a minor factor, or not a factor at all.

		<u>Major</u> <u>Factor</u>	<u>Minor</u> <u>Factor</u>	<u>Not A</u> <u>Factor</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Peer pressure	82	14	2	2=100
b.	Whether the teen's parents drink or smoke	52	32	13	3=100
c.	The portrayal of drug use in movies, music and TV	55	32	10	3=100
d.	Boredom	42	38	16	4=100
e.	A lack of information about the dangers of drugs	44	35	19	2=100
g.	Living in poverty	45	33	18	4=100
h.	Whether the teenager is raised in the city, suburbs or country	25	30	42	3=100
i.	How easy or difficult it is for the teen to get access to drugs	74	17	5	4=100
j.	Lack of parental supervision	79	15	4	2=100

Q.38 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **[READ AND ROTATE ITEMS a THRU j.**

SPLIT FORM: FORM 1 [N=728]; FORM 2 [N=785]:		<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	Legalizing marijuana would make it easier for law enforcement to control more serious drugs.	36	59	5=100
b.	Too many people are put in jail just for possessing drugs.	47	47	6=100
c.	We are losing the drug war.	74	20	6=100
NO ITEM d				
e.	Parents who used drugs in their youth don't do enough to help their kids stay away from drugs.	59	30	11=100
f.F1	Latin American governments will never be able to control the problem of drug trafficking.	68	27	5=100
g.F2	We will never be able to stop drugs from coming into this country because the demand for drugs is so high in the U.S.	74	24	2=100
h.	People should be allowed to take any drug they want so long as they don't hurt someone else.	12	86	2=100
	<i>ABC News: September, 1988</i>	15	84	1=100
	<i>ABC News: August, 1986</i>	15	85	*=100
i.	The television and motion picture industries fail to accurately portray the dangers of drug abuse.	68	28	4=100
j.F2	If marijuana were legalized, it would be harder to control the use of more serious drugs such as heroin and cocaine.	44	50	6=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=728]:

Q.39F1 Some states are moving AWAY from the idea of mandatory prison sentences for non-violent drug offenders. Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?

47 Good thing
 45 Bad thing
8 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=785]:

Q.40F2 All in all, should drug use be treated more like a crime or more like a disease?

35 A crime
 52 A disease
 9 Both (VOL)
 1 Neither (VOL)
3 Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK ALL:

Q.41 Keeping in mind that all of your answers in this survey are confidential, have you, yourself, ever happened to try marijuana?

		----- Gallup -----					
		Sept	May	April	Jan	Mar	Oct
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1969</u>
38	Yes	34	33	24	12	11	4
60	No	66	67	76	88	89	94
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

Finally, I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only...

Q.42 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, at home or anywhere else on at least an occasional basis?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
February, 2001	72	28	0=100
January, 2001	71	29	*=100
July, 2000	68	31	1=100
June, 2000	68	31	1=100
April, 2000	68	32	*=100
March, 2000 ¹¹	72	28	0=100
February, 2000	67	33	*=100
January, 2000	68	32	*=100
December, 1999	67	33	*=100
October, 1999	67	33	*=100
Late September, 1999	68	32	*=100
September, 1999	70	30	*=100
August, 1999	67	33	*=100
July, 1999	68	32	*=100
June, 1999	64	35	1=100
May, 1999	66	33	1=100
April, 1999	71	29	*=100
March, 1999	68	32	*=100
February, 1999	68	32	*=100
January, 1999	69	31	*=100
Early December, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early September, 1998	64	36	*=100
Late August, 1998	66	34	0=100
Early August, 1998	66	34	*=100
April, 1998	61	39	*=100
January, 1998	65	35	*=100
November, 1997	66	34	*=100
June, 1997	60	40	0=100
Early September, 1996	56	44	*=100
July, 1996	56	44	*=100
April, 1996	58	42	*=100
March, 1996	61	39	*=100
February, 1996	60	40	0=100
January, 1996	59	41	0=100

¹¹

In March 2000, "or anywhere else" was added to the question wording.

IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.42, ASK:

Q.43 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

	<u>Goes Online</u>	<u>Doesn't Go Online</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2001	60	40	*=100
January, 2001	61	39	0=100
July, 2000	55	45	*=100
June, 2000	56	44	*=100
April, 2000	54	46	*=100
March, 2000	61	39	0=100
February, 2000	52	48	0=100
January, 2000	52	48	*=100
December, 1999	53	47	0=100
October, 1999	50	50	0=100
Late September, 1999	52	48	*=100
September, 1999	53	47	0=100
August, 1999	52	48	0=100
July, 1999	49	51	0=100
June, 1999	50	50	*=100
May, 1999	48	52	0=100
April, 1999	51	49	*=100
March, 1999	49	51	*=100
February, 1999	49	51	*=100
January, 1999	47	53	*=100
Early December, 1998	42	58	0=100
November, 1998	37	63	*=100
Early September, 1998	42	58	*=100
Late August, 1998	43	57	*=100
Early August, 1998	41	59	*=100
April, 1998	36	64	0=100
January, 1998	37	63	0=100
November, 1997	36	63	1=100
July, 1996	23	77	0=100
April, 1996	21	79	*=100
March, 1996	22	78	0=100
February, 1996	21	79	*=100
January, 1996	21	79	0=100
June, 1995 ¹²	14	86	*=100

12

The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:

(1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)

(2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?