**Health News Index**

**Question:** I am going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. . . .

![Pie chart](chart1.png)

**Question:** Did you happen to follow election returns on Tuesday night, or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Asked of reinterviewed registered voters who voted in 2000 election.


**Question:** How late did you follow the coverage on election night?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 11 PM EST</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 PM to before 1 AM EST</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 AM to before 3 AM EST</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 AM EST and after</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Asked of reinterviewed registered voters who voted in 2000 election and who said they followed the coverage election night.


**Question:** Would you say that you strongly approve, approve, disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the way each of the following handled the situation surrounding the results of Tuesday’s election for president? How about . . . the news media?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly approve</th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
<th>Strongly disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Survey by Gallup/CNN/USA Today, November 11-12, 2000.

**Source:** Survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, Health News Index, November 29-December 3, 2000.
**Question:** In your opinion, what should news organizations do on election night: Wait to announce the winner in a state until nearly all the votes are counted, or should they predict a winner when they feel confident about the outcome of the election based on early returns?

**Note:** Asked of reinterviewed registered voters who voted in 2000 election.


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**Question:** What was your reaction when you first learned that news organizations had made a mistake early Wednesday morning in declaring George W. Bush the winner of the presidential election? Were you angry with the news organizations, just disappointed in them, or didn’t it bother you that much?

**Note:** Asked of reinterviewed registered voters who voted in 2000 election.


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**Question:** Early on election night, news organizations mistakenly declared Al Gore the winner in Florida. Do you think this mistake had any effect on how people in other parts of the country voted, or don’t you think it had any impact?

**Note:** Asked of reinterviewed registered voters who voted in 2000 election.


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**Question:** Why do you think news organizations sometimes make projections of election results too quickly? Is it mostly because they want to be first to call the winner or mostly because they feel it is important for their audience to know the outcome as soon as possible?

**Note:** Asked of reinterviewed registered voters who voted in 2000 election.


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**Question:** Thinking about the way the media declared winners in Florida on election night, do you think the media acted responsibly or irresponsibly?

**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners/Time/CNN, November 10, 2000.

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**Question:** In announcing election results, do you think the media are more interested in getting results out first, or more interested in getting the results right?

**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners/Time/CNN, November 10, 2000.