### Health News Index

**Question:** I’m 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....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Story</th>
<th>Very Close</th>
<th>Fairly Close</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States military efforts in Afghanistan</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports of anthrax cases around the country and the ongoing investigation</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The crash of American Airlines flight 587 in Queens, New York</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports of an economic slowdown in the US</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns about possible future bioterrorism involving smallpox</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economic stimulus package being debated in Congress</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing news about patients who have received the new self-contained artificial heart</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New federal action challenging Oregon's assisted suicide law</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### News Interest Index

**Question:** 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....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Story</th>
<th>Very Close</th>
<th>Fairly Close</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism attacks on the United States</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The US military effort in Afghanistan</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports of anthrax cases around the country</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The recent crash of an American Airlines plane near Kennedy Airport in New York</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports about the condition of the US economy</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The capture of Kabul by Afghan opponents of the Taliban</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The debate in Washington over whether airport security personnel should be federal employees or not</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Question:

Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree... I find it hard to get interested in news stories that don’t deal with terrorism in some way.

- Strongly agree/Agree: 18%
- Disagree/Strongly disagree: 80%
- Don't know: 2%

**Question:**
Do you think President Bush has done an excellent job of explaining the developments in Afghanistan and at home since September 11, or do you think he has done a good job, or only a fair job, or do you think he has done a poor job?

- Excellent job: 26%
- Good job: 50%
- Fair job: 18%
- Poor job: 4%


**Question:**
Do you think George W. Bush has explained clearly enough what the goals are in the United States war against terrorism, or hasn't he explained it clearly enough?

- Percent responding Bush has explained clearly: 79%
- Percent responding Bush has explained clearly: 77%


**Question:**
Generally speaking, do you think the media are behaving responsibly when it comes to balancing national security with the right of the American people to know what is going on in Afghanistan, with the anthrax situation, and with other threats at home, or do you think the media are not behaving responsibly in that regard?

- Very responsibly/Somewhat responsibly: 48%
- Somewhat irresponsibly/Very irresponsibly: 48%
- Don't know: 4%


**Question:**
In your view, has the government been too quick to release information it receives about possible terrorist attacks, or has it acted about right in releasing information it receives about possible attacks?

- Too quick: 25%
- About right: 69%
- Not sure: 6%

Source: Survey by Harris Interactive/Time/CNN, November 7-8, 2001.

**Question:**
If the government believes a terrorist attack may occur somewhere in the US but cannot release any of the details, which do you think is better for the government to do—issue a nationwide alert without any details, or not issue an alert at all?

- Issue an alert without any details: 71%
- Not issue any alert at all: 3%
- No opinion: 26%


**Question:**
Do you think the government warnings of further terrorist attacks have mostly helped people or just scared people?

- Scared people: 55%
- Helped people: 40%
- Not enough: 4%