

In the News

Top Stories

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....

United States military efforts in Afghanistan

VERY CLOSELY FAIRLY CLOSELY

64% 25%

Reports of anthrax cases around the country and the ongoing investigation

50% 33%

The crash of American Airlines flight 587 in queens, new York

47% 34%

Reports of an economic slowdown in the US

43% 33%

Concerns about possible future bioterrorism involving smallpox

34% 31%

The economic stimulus package being debated in Congress

14% 28%

Ongoing news about patients who have received the new self-contained artificial heart

12%
28%

New federal action challenging Oregon's assisted suicide law

7%
15%

Source: Survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *Health News Index*, November 29-December 2, 2001.

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....

	VERY CLOSELY	FAIRLY CLOSELY
Terrorism attacks on the United States	66%	25%

The US military effort in Afghanistan	49%	36%
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Reports of anthrax cases around the country	41%	41%
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The recent crash of an American Airlines plane near Kennedy Airport in New York	48%	34%
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Reports about the condition of the US economy	41%	36%
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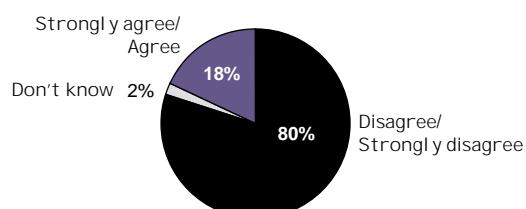
The capture of Kabul by Afghan opponents of the Taliban	36%	33%
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The debate in Washington over whether airport security personnel should be federal employees or not	31%	32%
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Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Pew Research Center, November 13-19, 2001.

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.

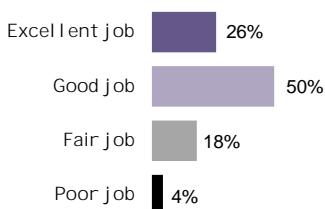


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Pew Research Center, November 13-19, 2001.

Keep Us Posted

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?

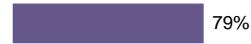


Source: Survey by *Los Angeles Times*, November 10-13, 2001.

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



...[Has he explained the goals of the] attack on Afghanistan...?

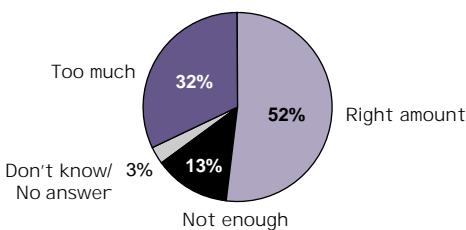
PERCENT RESPONDING BUSH HAS EXPLAINED CLEARLY



Source: Survey by CBS/*New York Times*, October 25-28, 2001.

Question:

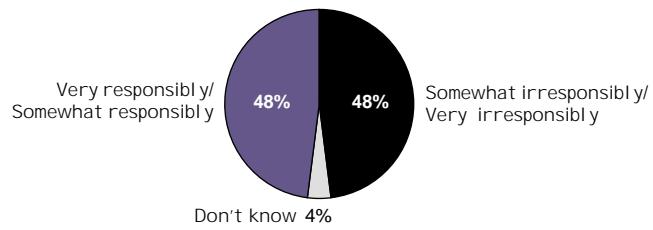
Do you think the Bush administration is giving out too much information to the media about the war in Afghanistan and threats here at home, including the anthrax investigation, or about the right amount of information, or not enough information?



Source: Survey by *Los Angeles Times*, November 10-13, 2001.

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?

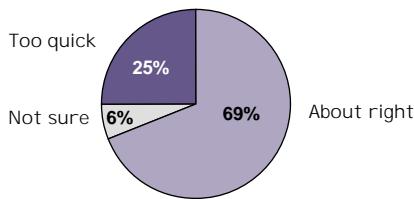


Source: Survey by *Los Angeles Times*, November 10-13, 2001.

Warning or 'Wolf'?

Question:

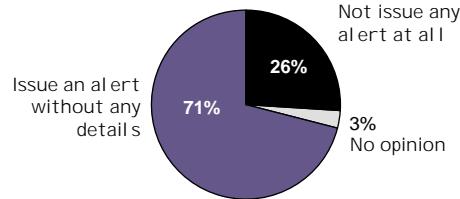
In your view, has the government been too quick to release information it receives about possible terrorist attacks, or has it acted about right in releasing information it receives about possible attacks?



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

Question:

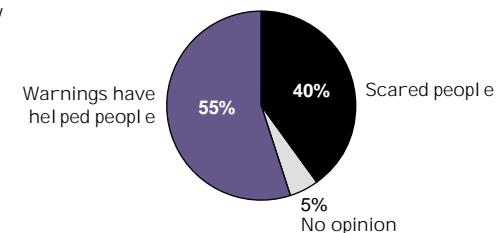
If the government believes a terrorist attack may occur somewhere in the US but cannot release any of the details, which do you think is better for the government to do—issue a nationwide alert without any details, or not issue any alert at all?



Source: Survey by Gallup/CNN/*USA Today*, November 2-4, 2001.

Question:

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



Source: Survey by Gallup/CNN/*USA Today*, November 2-4, 2001.