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Six-in-Ten Say Post-9/11 Steps Have Made
Country Safer

Most Expect 'Occasional Acts of Terrorism'
in the Future

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Six-in-Ten Say Post-9/11 Steps Have Made Country Safer Most Expect ‘Occasional Acts of Terrorism’ in the Future

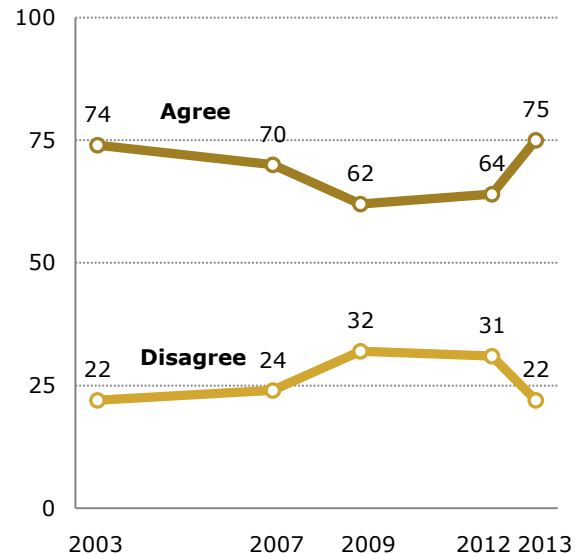
Last week’s bombings at the Boston Marathon attracted broad public interest: 63% of Americans say they followed the story very closely, among the highest interest in any news story in the past decade. And the bombings drew far more public attention than any terrorist event since Sept. 11, 2001, which 78% reported following very closely in mid-October of that year.

While the Boston bombings riveted most Americans, the incident appeared to confirm the public’s long-held belief that occasional terrorist acts are to be expected. Over the past decade, majorities have consistently said that “occasional acts of terrorism in the U.S. will be part of life in the future.” This sentiment has spiked to 75% in the wake of the Boston bombings from 64% a year ago and now matches the previous high of 74% in 2003.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted April 18-21 among 1,002 adults, finds that the public is evenly divided over whether there is more the government can do to prevent attacks like the one in Boston: 49% say there is more the government can do to prevent such attacks, but nearly as many (45%) say there is not much more that can be done.

Three-in-Four See Occasional Terrorism as Part of Life in Future

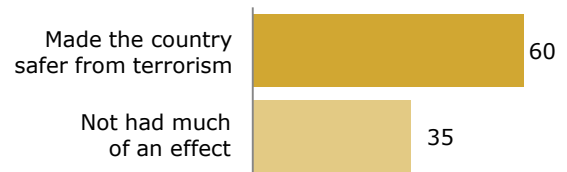
(Agree/Disagree) Occasional acts of terrorism in the U.S. will be part of life in the future



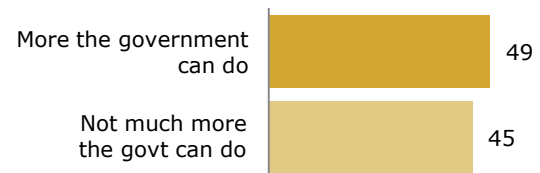
PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 18-21, 2013.

Public Split Over Gov’t Ability to Stop Attacks Like One in Boston

Steps the government has taken since 9/11 have...



To prevent attacks like the one in Boston, there is...



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The steps the government has taken since 9/11 are generally seen as having made the country safer. Six-in-ten (60%) say steps taken by the government since Sept. 11, 2001 have made the country safer, while 35% say these actions have not had much of an effect.

The survey finds only modest partisan differences in these opinions. Republicans and Democrats are about equally likely to say terrorism will be part of life in the future (78% of Republicans, 73% of Democrats). Members of both parties are divided over whether or not there is more the government can do to prevent this type of attack. However, Republicans (69%) are more likely to credit the government's post-Sept. 11 actions for making the country safer than are independents (59%) or Democrats (58%).

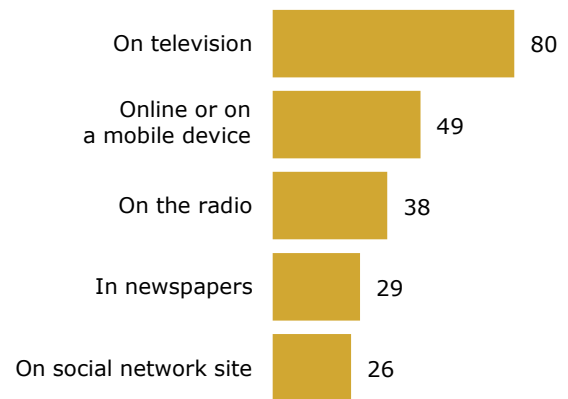
TV Was Top Source of Information on Boston Attacks

Television was far-and-away the most widely-used source of information about the bombing and its aftermath; 80% of Americans followed the story on TV. About half (49%) say they kept up with news and information online or on a mobile device, and 38% followed the story on the radio. Only 29% say they kept up with the story in newspapers, about the same number (26%) tracked the story on social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter.

Despite some factual errors over the course of the week, the press receives generally favorable marks for its coverage of the news from Boston. About seven-in-ten say the press has done either an excellent (32%) or good (40%) job; only about a quarter rate the press coverage as only fair (14%) or poor (8%). About as many Republicans (75%) as Democrats (79%) rate news coverage of the attacks positively.

Following the Boston Bombings

Kept up with news and information about the bombings at the Boston Marathon...



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More See Terrorism in Future, but Worries Do Not Rise

In April 2012, more than a decade removed from the 9/11 attacks, 64% agreed that occasional acts of terrorism in the U.S. will be part of life in the future. Today, 75% express this view, with much of the increase over the past year coming among young people.

A year ago, 18-29 year-olds were far less likely than older Americans to see terrorism as part of life in the future: just 54% agreed with this statement, compared with 74% of those age 65 and older. But the share of young people who say this has increased 20 points in the wake of the Boston bombings, and is now roughly on par with older age groups.

There has also been a closing of the partisan gap on this question. A year ago, 74% of Republicans saw terrorism as part of life in the future, compared with 60% of Democrats and 63% of independents. Today, there is no significant difference across party lines, as the number of Democrats and independents who hold this view has increased.

Despite these changing expectations, there is little evidence that the public's overall worries about terrorism have spiked. Currently, 23% say they are very worried that there will soon be another terrorist attack in the U.S. This is comparable to public views in previous years. Even in October 2001 – roughly a month after the 9/11 attacks – 29% said they were very worried about this.

More Young People Now See Occasional Terrorism in the Future

<i>Occasional acts of terrorism will be part of life in the future (% Agree)</i>	Apr 2012	Apr 2013	Change
	%	%	
Total	64	75	+11
Men	65	72	+7
Women	64	78	+14
18-29	54	74	+20
30-49	62	78	+16
50-64	69	73	+4
65+	74	79	+5
Republican	74	78	+4
Democrat	60	73	+13
Independent	63	80	+17

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Terrorism Worries Largely Unchanged

<i>Worried about another attack in the U.S.?</i>	Very	Some-what	Not too/Not at all	DK
	%	%	%	%
April 2013	23	35	41	1=100
November 2010	21	38	38	3=100
July 2007	20	42	36	2=100
August 2006	23	44	31	2=100
July 2005	26	42	31	1=100
October 2004	17	43	39	1=100
June 2004	25	42	32	1=100
January 2004	20	45	34	1=100
August 2003	13	45	41	1=100
March 2003	22	42	34	2=100
February 2003	34	41	24	1=100
January 2003	18	50	31	1=100
December 2002	31	42	26	1=100
August 2002	16	46	37	1=100
June 2002	32	44	24	*=100
January 2002	20	42	37	1=100
October 2001	29	42	28	1=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 18-21, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Comparable percentages of Democrats (27%), Republicans (24%) and independents (20%) express a great deal of concern that another attack will occur soon.

There also are only small partisan differences in some other reactions to the attack. About half of independents (52%), Democrats (49%) and Republicans (48%) say there is more that the government can do to prevent attacks like the one in Boston.

However, Republicans (69%) are more likely than Democrats (58%) and independents (59%) to say that the steps the government has taken since the Sept. 11 attacks have made the country safer.

Small Partisan Differences in Reactions to Boston Attack

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Worried will soon be another attack...</i>	%	%	%	%
Very	23	24	27	20
Somewhat	35	43	30	38
Not too	27	23	27	25
Not at all	14	10	14	16
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>To prevent attacks like this ...</i>				
More gov't can do	49	48	49	52
Not much more can do	45	47	45	44
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Gov't steps since 9/11 have made country...</i>				
Safer	60	69	58	59
Not much of effect	35	30	36	38
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Press coverage of bombings ...</i>				
Excellent	32	32	39	27
Good	40	44	39	41
Only fair	14	14	13	15
Poor	8	8	5	10
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 18-21, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Young People as Likely to Follow Boston News Online As on TV

Overall, 63% say they followed news about the Boston attack very closely, the highest level of interest for any story since the 2008 financial crisis; in September of that year, 70% tracked news about the economy very closely.

Interest in the Boston bombings is on par with such recent events as the Iraq war (63% very closely), the debate over the Wall Street bailout (62%), the Haiti earthquake (60%) and the 2008 (61%) and 2012 (60%) presidential elections.

While television was the public's top source for news on the bombing overall, people younger than 30 were as likely to follow this news online as on television; 70% say they kept up with news about the bombings online while 68% tracked the news on television. Among older age groups, far more kept up with information about the bombings on television than followed it online.

And a majority of young people (56%) say they kept up with news and information about the bombings on social networks like Facebook and Twitter. Among older age groups no more than about a quarter followed news about the attack on social networks.

Public's Top Stories: 2001-2013

	% following very closely
9/11 terrorist attacks Oct 2001	78
Hurricane Katrina and Rita Oct 2005	73
Condition of U.S. economy Sept 2008	70
Sniper shootings near D.C. Oct 2002	65
Bombing at Boston Marathon Apr 2013	63
Iraq War May 2003	63
Debate over Wall St. bailout Oct 2008	62
2008 presidential election Oct 2008	61
Major earthquake in Haiti Jan 2010	60
Debate over Iraq war Oct 2002	60
2012 presidential election Sept 2012	60
Decline in stock market Oct 2008	59
Gulf of Mexico oil spill July 2010	59
Indian Ocean tsunami Jan 2005	58
Newtown CT school shooting Dec 2012	57

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Young People Turn to Web, Social Networks for Boston News

	18- 29	30- 49	50- 64	65+
<i>Following Boston bombing news ...</i>	%	%	%	%
On television	68	78	85	89
On the radio	41	41	40	24
In newspapers	25	23	30	42
NET: Traditional	85	90	93	94
Online/mobile device	70	59	40	19
On social network site	56	28	15	6
NET: Digital	79	63	45	22

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Overall, 26% say they have been keeping up with news and information about the bombing at the Boston Marathon through social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter.

When asked an open-ended question about why they are following news on social networks, the two most common responses are that the news “is just there” on social networking sites, or that they are already on their computer and can’t avoid it (18%), and that it is another way to keep up with the news and get more information (13%).

About one-in-ten cite the ease and convenience of following news on social networking sites (12%) and the fact that it is fast to use and up-to-date (11%). Another 6% say they used social networks to keep up with friends and family in Boston.

Relatively few people who followed news about the Boston attack on social networks specifically mention the quality of the information. However, 7% say the main reason they went to social networks to follow news about the attacks is that is an alternative to television and 6% cite the variety of different perspectives on social networks or note that the information is uncensored.

Press Coverage Gets Good Marks

About seven-in-ten (72%) say the press has done either an excellent (32%) or good (40%) job covering the Boston marathon bombing; relatively few say they have done an only fair (14%) or poor (8%) job in their reporting.

Main Reason You’ve Been Using Social Networks to Follow Story?

	April 18-21
	%
It’s just there/Already on computer/Can’t avoid it	18
Keeping up with the news/More information	13
Easy/Convenient	12
Fast/Up-to-date	11
It’s where people post	8
Accessible/Alternative to TV	7
Enjoyment of social networks	7
Keep up w/ friends/family in Boston	6
Variety of perspective/Uncensored	6

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Open-ended question; based on those who kept up with news about bombings on social networks.

Press ratings are similar to those given in March 2011 in response to coverage of the shooting of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, Arizona. The press has generally received more positive than negative ratings for its coverage of other major news events, including the shootings at Virginia Tech and Hurricane Katrina.

Ratings were particularly high for the job the press did covering the September 11th terrorist attacks: in September, 2001, nearly nine-in-ten (89%) said the press had done an excellent (56%) or good (33%) job covering the story.

Positive Views of Coverage of Boston Attack

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	DK
<i>Job press has done covering</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Bombings in Boston Apr 2013	32	40	14	8	5=100
Tucson shootings Mar 2011	34	40	14	8	5=100
VA Tech shootings Apr 2007	23	43	20	10	4=100
Hurricane Katrina Sept 2005	26	37	18	18	1=100
Terrorist attacks Sept 2001	56	33	6	3	2=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 18-21, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted April 18-21, 2013 among a national sample of 1,002 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 501 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 237 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Universal Survey under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,002	3.7 percentage points
Republicans	239	7.6 percentage points
Democrats	316	6.6 percentage points
Independents	362	6.2 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
April 18-21, 2013, OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,002

ASK ALL:

PEW.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>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. A terrorist bombing at the Boston Marathon April 18-21, 2013	63	22	10	5	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
November 4-7, 2010: <i>News about recent plots in the United States and Europe</i>	29	31	19	20	*
October 28-November 1, 2010	28	33	17	21	1
June 24-27, 2010: <i>The man who attempted to bomb Times Square pleading guilty</i>	18	28	26	27	1
May 7-10, 2010: <i>The investigation and arrests following an attempted car bombing in Times Square in New York</i>	37	32	16	15	*
January 8-11, 2010: <i>The government's response to an attempted terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound plane on Christmas</i>	37	36	14	12	*
November 13-16, 2009: <i>The investigations into the shootings at Fort Hood Army post in Texas</i>	35	37	16	11	1
November 6-9, 2009: <i>A shooter killing 13 people at Fort Hood Army post in Texas</i>	44	34	14	8	*
September 25-28, 2009: <i>News about recent terrorist plots in the United States</i>	32	38	17	14	0
May 11-14, 2007: <i>The arrest of six men charged with plotting an attack on the Fort Dix Army base</i>	19	29	20	31	1
July, 2002: <i>Defending against terrorist attacks in the U.S.</i>	51	33	9	6	1
June, 2002: <i>The arrest of a man for planning a "dirty bomb" attack on the U.S.</i>	30	30	24	15	1
June, 2002: <i>Defending against terrorist attacks in the U.S.</i>	45	35	12	7	1
April, 2002	46	36	10	7	1
Early April, 2002	49	35	10	5	1
January 2002: <i>Reports on the failed suicide bombing of an American Airlines jet coming from Paris</i>	20	34	22	23	1
December, 2001: <i>Terrorism attacks on the United States</i>	60	29	7	3	1
Mid-November, 2001	66	25	6	2	1
Early November, 2001	63	26	6	3	2
Mid-October, 2001	78	16	4	1	1
Early October, 2001: <i>News about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington</i>	73	22	4	1	*
Mid-September, 2001	74	22	3	1	*
January, 2000: <i>The recent arrests of suspected terrorists in the U.S.</i>	23	36	23	17	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
b. Debate over gun control in the U.S.					
April 18-21, 2013	39	27	16	18	*
April 4-7, 2013	37	28	17	18	*
February 14-17, 2013	37	29	15	19	*
January 31-February 3, 2013	42	32	13	12	1
January 3-6, 2013	34	30	18	16	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 17-20, 2013: <i>President Obama announcing proposals for strengthening gun laws</i>	43	29	15	13	1
June, 1999: <i>Debates about gun control legislation in Congress and state legislatures</i>	28	37	22	12	1
c. A fatal explosion at a fertilizer plant in Texas					
April 18-21, 2013	27	32	22	19	*
d. Debate over immigration policy in the U.S.					
April 18-21, 2013	21	22	25	31	1
April 4-7, 2013	23	22	22	32	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 31-February 3, 2013: <i>Debate in Washington over immigration policy</i>	23	25	22	29	1
June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on Arizona's immigration law</i>	29	21	19	30	1
April 26-29, 2012: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	24	26	27	1
May 12-15, 2011	18	22	27	32	1
September 2-6, 2010	30	31	19	20	1
August 12-15, 2010	27	31	19	21	1
July 29-August 1, 2010: <i>A court ruling that stops most of Arizona's immigration law from going into effect</i>	40	32	17	10	1
July 8-11, 2010: <i>The U.S. Justice Department challenging the legality of Arizona's recent immigration law</i>	30	27	19	23	1
July 1-5, 2010: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	34	30	20	14	1
May 7-10, 2010: <i>A new Arizona law that gives police more authority to question people they suspect might be illegal immigrants</i>	38	27	13	21	1
April 30-May 3, 2010	36	31	13	20	*
October 12-15, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	23	29	19	29	*
June 29-July 2, 2007: <i>The debate in Congress over new immigration policy</i>	26	30	21	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	24	28	22	26	*
June 15-18, 2007	22	32	21	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	24	29	20	26	1
May 24-27, 2007	27	31	22	19	1
April 12-16, 2007: <i>The issue of immigration</i>	21	29	24	26	*
August, 2006	34	40	16	9	1
June, 2006	36	41	15	7	1
May, 2006	44	33	13	9	1
April, 2006	39	34	16	10	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
December, 1994: <i>Passage of Proposition 187, the California law that bars education, health and welfare benefits from illegal immigrants and their children</i>	26	32	22	20	*
e. The arrest of a Mississippi man for allegedly sending poisoned letters to President Obama and a U.S. senator April 18-21, 2013	19	26	26	29	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
February 11-16, 2004: <i>The poison Ricin found in a Senate office building</i>	12	30	28	29	1
Mid-November, 2001: <i>Reports of Anthrax cases around the country</i>	41	41	12	5	1
Early November, 2001	47	35	13	4	1

PEW.2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS PEW.3-PEW.6****ASK ALL:**

PEW.7 How have you been keeping up with news and information about the bombing at the Boston Marathon? Have you been following it **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, or not? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. On television April 18-21, 2013	80	20	*
b. Online or on a mobile device, such as a cell phone or tablet computer April 18-21, 2013	49	51	*
c. In newspapers April 18-21, 2013	29	71	*
d. On the radio April 18-21, 2013	38	62	*
e. On social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter April 18-21, 2013	26	73	*

ASK IF FOLLOWING ON SOCIAL NETWORKS (PEW.7e=1) [N=213]:

PEW.8 What's the main reason you have been using social networks like Facebook and Twitter to follow news about the Boston Marathon bombing? **[OPEN END: RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

April 18-21

2013

18	It's just there/Already on computer/social networks/Can't avoid it
13	Keeping up with the news/More information
12	Easy/Convenient
11	Fast/Up-to-date
8	It's where people post
7	Accessible/Alternative to television
7	General enjoyment of sites/networking
6	Friends or family in Boston
6	Variety of perspectives/Uncensored
3	To share own opinion
2	Is a Boston/New England resident
1	Professional reasons
10	Other
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.9 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the Boston Marathon bombing **[READ]**

April 18-21

2013

32	Excellent
40	Good
14	Only fair
8	Poor
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS PEW.10-PEW.12**ASK ALL:**

PEW.13 How worried are you that there will soon be another terrorist attack in the United States? **[READ]**

	Very <u>worried</u>	Somewhat <u>worried</u>	Not too <u>worried</u>	Not at all <u>worried</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
April 18-21, 2013	23	35	27	14	1
November 4-7, 2010	21	38	24	14	3
July, 2007	20	42	25	11	2
August, 2006	23	44	21	10	2
July, 2005	26	42	19	12	1
Mid-October, 2004	17	43	27	12	1
August, 2004	20	44	25	10	1
July, 2004	17	41	26	15	1
June, 2004	25	42	20	12	1
Mid-March, 2004	20	42	25	12	1
Early February, 2004	13	42	28	16	1
Mid-January, 2004	20	45	24	10	1
August, 2003	13	45	29	12	1
March, 2003	22	42	20	14	2
February, 2003	34	41	17	7	1
January, 2003	18	50	23	8	1
December, 2002	31	42	18	8	1
Early October, 2002	20	46	22	11	1
Late August, 2002	16	46	25	12	1
June, 2002	32	44	17	7	*

PEW.13 CONTINUED ...

	Very <u>worried</u>	Somewhat <u>worried</u>	Not too <u>worried</u>	Not at all <u>worried</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2002	20	42	28	9	1
December, 2001	13	39	27	19	2
October 15-21, 2001	29	42	18	10	1
October 10-14, 2001	27	40	19	12	2
Early October, 2001	28	45	15	11	1

ASK ALL:

PEW.14 Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statement. Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree that occasional acts of terrorism in the U.S. will be part of life in the future?

	-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	<u>Net</u>	<u>Com- pletely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Com- pletely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	
Apr 18-21, 2013	75	23	52	22	5	17	3
Apr 4-15, 2012	64	23	41	31	11	20	5
April, 2009	62	18	44	32	10	22	6
January, 2007	70	21	49	24	8	16	6
August, 2003	74	25	49	22	7	15	4

ASK ALL:

PEW.15 Do you think there is **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** to prevent attacks like the one in Boston, or is there **[INSERT]** to prevent this type of attack?

Apr 18-21

2013

49	More the government can do
45	Not much more the government can do
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.16 All things considered, do you think the steps the government has taken since September 11th, 2001 have made the country safer from terrorism, or have they not had much of an effect?

Apr 18-21

2013

60	Made the country safer
35	Not had much of an effect
5	Don't know/refused (VOL.)