



**THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**For The People & The Press**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Tuesday, August 2, 2010**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**  
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## Public Continues to Track Oil Spill Mixed Reactions to Leak of Afghanistan Documents

The disclosure of more than 75,000 classified documents about the war in Afghanistan by the website WikiLeaks garnered significant media coverage last week, and those familiar with the story were split over the effect of the leak: about equal percentages say the release harms the public interest as say it serves the public interest.

The latest News Interest Index survey, conducted July 29-August 1 among 1,003 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, finds that while news about the Gulf oil leak continues to top public interest, attention to news from Afghanistan spiked following the WikiLeaks report, with 34% following Afghanistan reports very closely, up from 22% the previous week. This is the highest interest in Afghanistan news since

December 2009, in the weeks following Barack Obama's decision to increase troop deployments there.

Most Americans have heard either a lot (37%) or a little (36%) about the WikiLeaks story specifically, though 27% say they heard nothing at all about it. Among those who have heard about the

leak, 47% say the disclosure of classified documents about the war in Afghanistan harms the public interest while 42% say it serves the public interest.

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### WikiLeaks Release and the Public Interest

<i>Release of documents on Afghan war ...</i>	<b>Serves public interest</b>	<b>Harms public interest</b>	<b>Neither/ Both</b>	<b>DK</b>
Total*	42	47	6	5=100
<i>Heard about leaks</i>				
A lot	42	<b>53</b>	4	1=100
A little	42	40	9	9=100
18-49	48	40	8	4=100
50+	34	55	6	5=100

\* Based on those who read or heard about WikiLeaks.  
 PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 29-August 1, 2010.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Those most attentive to the story take a more critical view of the WikiLeaks release. Among the 37% of the public that has heard a lot about it, most (53%) say the disclosure of classified documents about the Afghanistan war harms the public interest; those following the story less closely are divided: 42% say the leak serves the public interest, 40% say it harms the public interest, while another 18% say they don't know or say it does both or neither.

Age is also a factor in views of the classified document leak with younger Americans taking a less critical view of the disclosure made on the WikiLeaks website. On balance, those under age 50 think the leak serves the public interest (48% serve, 40% harm). By contrast, those over 50 say the leak harms the public interest by a 55%-40% margin.

### Too Little WikiLeaks, Too Much Chelsea

The WikiLeaks disclosure of classified documents about the war in Afghanistan was seen as receiving too little coverage by a 41% plurality of the public. About a third (32%) say the press devoted the right amount of coverage to the story and relatively few (15%) say there has been too much coverage of the story.

By contrast, most of the public says the marriage of Chelsea Clinton and Marc Mezvinsky in Rhinebeck, New York received too much attention from the press. A 58% majority say the wedding of Chelsea Clinton has received too much coverage from news organizations; a quarter (25%) say it received the right amount of coverage and just 8% say it received too little coverage.

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#### Most Say Too Much Chelsea Clinton Coverage

	<b>Too much</b> %	<b>Right amount</b> %	<b>Too little</b> %	<b>DK</b> %
Chelsea Clinton's wedding	58	25	8	9=100
Gulf oil spill	28	50	21	1=100
Congressional elections	18	43	35	4=100
Leak of classified documents on Afghanistan war	15	32	41	12=100
Economy	14	42	42	2=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 29-August 1, 2010.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Men (63% too much) were somewhat more likely than women (54% too much) to say the wedding was overcovered by the press.

Half say the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico received the right amount of coverage. Among those saying the amount of coverage was disproportionate, somewhat more described it as too much (28%) rather than too little (21%).

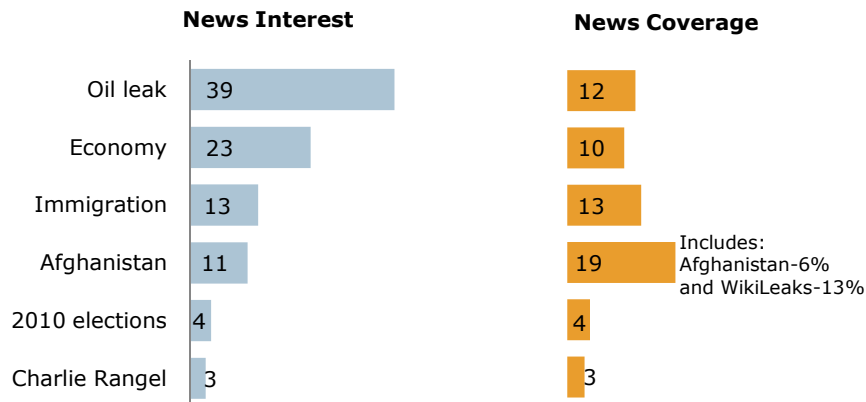
Equal percentages describe coverage of the economy as too little and the right amount (42% each); 14% say there has been too much coverage of economic news.

### The Week's News

As it has been for most of the summer, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico remains the public's top news story. Nearly six-in-ten (57%) say they followed news about the oil leak very closely and 39% say it was the one story they followed more closely than any other. News coverage of the story accounted for 12% of the newshole, according to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. While the public had a clear top story of the week in the Gulf oil leak, the media divided its attention between several leading stories, including: Afghanistan and WikiLeaks, immigration, the oil spill and the economy.

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### Comparing News Interest and News Coverage



News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, July 29-August 1, 2010. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, July 26-August 1, 2010.

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About half (51%) say they followed reports about the condition of the U.S. economy very closely, 23% call this their top story of the week. Coverage accounted for 10% of the newshole, according to PEJ.

Four-in-ten say they paid very close attention to a court ruling that stops most of Arizona’s immigration law from going into effect; 13% say they followed the story more closely than any other. While interest was moderate, the immigration debate was a big story for the media; coverage filled 13% of the newshole.

Very close interest in the situation and events in Afghanistan jumped to 34% last week – up from 22% a week prior – though public interest in the war continues to lag behind other leading stories and only about one-in-ten (11%) say it was the one story they followed most closely. Coverage of the war, not including the WikiLeaks story, accounted for 6% of the newshole; WikiLeaks as a separate storyline accounted for an additional 13% of coverage.

Interest in this year’s congressional elections was modest with about three-in-ten (29%) following election news very closely and just 4% naming it their top story of the week. The media devoted 4% of its overall coverage to the midterms.

Even fewer followed news about ethics charges against Congressman Charlie Rangel: 21% say they followed this story very closely, 3% named it as their top story of the week. The media devoted 3% of its coverage to the Congressional scandal.

### Most Heard about Obama’s Appearance on the View

Three-quarters of the public say they have heard a lot (35%) or a little (40%) about Obama’s appearance on ABC’s morning show, The View. There are few differences by sex or partisanship, with all groups about equally likely to have heard about the appearance.

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#### What the Public is Hearing About

	<b>A lot</b> %	<b>A little</b> %	<b>Nothing at all</b> %	<b>DK</b> %
Leak of classified documents on Afghanistan war	37	36	27	*=100
Chelsea Clinton’s wedding	34	43	23	*=100
Obama’s appearance on the View	35	40	25	*=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 29-August 1, 2010.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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The WikiLeaks disclosure and Chelsea Clinton's wedding registered similar amounts of public awareness. For both stories, roughly three-quarters say they heard at least a little about them, while about a quarter say they heard nothing at all.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected July 26-August 1, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected July 29-August 1, from a nationally representative sample of 1,003 adults.

## About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to [www.journalism.org](http://www.journalism.org).) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Friday through Monday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,003 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from July 29-August 1, 2010 (673 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 330 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 75 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2009 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 within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,003	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	255	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	326	7.0 percentage points
Independents	329	6.5 percentage points

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.

## **About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press**

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director

Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research

Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors

Michael Remez, Senior Writer

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For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to [www.people-press.org](http://www.people-press.org).

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX  
JULY 29-AUGUST 1, 2010 OMNIBUS  
FINAL TOPLINE  
N=1003**

**PEW.1 - PEW.2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.3 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>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
July 29-August 1, 2010	51	33	11	5	*
July 22-25, 2010	46	33	14	6	1
July 15-18, 2010	37	33	14	15	1
July 8-11, 2010	36	33	15	16	*
July 1-5, 2010	48	30	13	8	*
June 24-27, 2010	37	37	15	11	1
June 17-20, 2010	38	34	15	13	*
June 10-13, 2010	39	35	17	9	*
June 3-6, 2010	35	33	16	14	1
May 27-30, 2010	43	29	13	15	*
May 20-23, 2010	40	35	13	11	*
May 13-16, 2010	49	32	11	8	1
May 7-10, 2010	42	34	11	12	*
April 30-May 3, 2010	32	37	17	14	1
April 23-26, 2010	42	31	13	14	*
April 16-19, 2010	40	32	14	14	0
April 9-12, 2010	40	32	15	13	*
April 1-5, 2010	33	34	14	19	*
March 19-22, 2010	41	32	14	13	*
March 12-15, 2010	41	35	12	12	*
March 5-8, 2010	40	34	12	13	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	31	33	17	19	*
February 19-22, 2010	38	34	15	12	*
February 12-15, 2010	35	34	15	16	*
February 5-8, 2010	43	36	13	9	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	32	13	10	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	34	14	10	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	38	14	11	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	33	15	12	*
December 18-21, 2009	45	31	14	10	0
December 11-14, 2009	42	31	14	13	*
December 4-7, 2009	41	36	13	9	1
November 13-16, 2009	38	33	14	15	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	34	32	17	16	*
October 23-26, 2009	44	30	15	10	1
October 9-12, 2009	41	29	16	13	*
October 2-5, 2009	44	30	15	11	0
September 25-28, 2009	44	37	10	10	*
September 18-21, 2009	44	34	15	7	*
September 11-14, 2009	45	32	14	9	*
September 3-6, 2009	41	31	15	13	*
August 28-31, 2009	45	30	13	12	1
August 21-24, 2009	50	27	13	10	1
August 14-17, 2009	41	37	11	12	*
August 7-10, 2009	42	34	13	10	*



**PEW.3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
July 31-August 3, 2009	46	34	11	8	*
July 24-27, 2009	45	35	12	8	*
July 17-20, 2009	43	35	11	11	1
July 10-13, 2009	37	38	13	11	*
July 2-5, 2009	38	35	15	12	*
June 19-22, 2009	42	33	15	10	*
June 12-15, 2009	41	35	12	12	*
June 5-8, 2009	41	34	11	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
May 1-4, 2009	47	36	11	5	1
April 17-20, 2009	52	30	10	7	1
April 9-13, 2009	48	29	13	10	0
March 27-30, 2009	48	32	10	10	*
March 20-23, 2009	52	34	8	6	*
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*

**PEW.3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1

b. The major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico

July 29-August 1, 2010	57	31	10	2	0
July 22-25, 2010	59	29	8	3	*
July 15-18, 2010	50	32	10	7	*
July 8-11, 2010	43	40	10	6	1
July 1-5, 2010	57	29	9	5	*
June 24-27, 2010	56	31	8	5	*
June 17-20, 2010	55	32	6	6	*
June 10-13, 2010	55	31	9	5	*
June 3-6, 2010	57	27	9	6	*

**PEW.3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
May 27-30, 2010	55	26	11	7	*
May 20-23, 2010: <i>An oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico threatening the coast of several states</i>	47	35	11	7	*
May 13-16, 2010	58	29	9	4	*
May 7-10, 2010	46	33	11	10	*
April 30-May 3, 2010: <i>Oil leaking into the ocean near the Louisiana coast after an off-shore oil rig explosion</i>	44	35	11	10	*
April 23-26, 2010: <i>An explosion on an off-shore oil rig near the coast of Louisiana</i>	21	35	22	23	*
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
April 1-5, 2010: <i>President Obama's proposal to allow offshore oil and gas drilling</i>	20	24	21	33	1
July 25-28, 2008: <i>A major oil spill into the Mississippi River</i>	14	19	25	41	1
December 4-8, 2002: <i>The large oil spill polluting the coast of Spain</i>	15	29	28	27	1
May 4-7, 1989: <i>The Alaska oil spill</i>	52	37	7	4	--

c. The current situation and events in Afghanistan

July 29-August 1, 2010	34	35	22	9	*
July 15-18, 2010	22	33	23	22	*
July 8-11, 2010	23	32	24	20	1
July 1-5, 2010	29	34	23	14	1
June 17-20, 2010	21	30	27	22	*
May 20-23, 2010	22	33	25	20	*
April 9-12, 2010	21	29	27	22	1

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

June 24-27, 2010: <i>General Stanley McChrystal resigning as head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after being quoted criticizing President Obama and his Afghanistan strategy</i>	28	31	19	21	1
February 19-22, 2010: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	24	36	21	19	*
January 8-11, 2010: <i>Suicide bombing that killed seven Americans at a CIA base in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	27	17	1
December 11-14, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	35	33	18	13	*
December 4-7, 2009: <i>President Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	43	33	14	8	1
November 20-23, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	29	31	17	22	1
November 13-16, 2009	29	28	20	22	1
November 6-9, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	22	35	24	18	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	24	32	21	22	*
October 23-26, 2009	32	29	21	18	*
October 16-19, 2009	25	31	20	24	*
October 9-12, 2009	31	31	21	17	0
September 25-28, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	40	17	16	*
September 18-21, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	33	25	16	*
September 11-14, 2009	25	35	22	18	1

**PEW.3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
September 3-6, 2009	23	33	23	21	0
August 7-10, 2009	24	32	23	21	1
March 20-23, 2009	24	32	22	22	*
February 20-23, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	29	24	19	1
January 30-February 2, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	34	24	16	*
January 2-4, 2009	22	33	23	21	1
October 24-27, 2008	28	32	22	17	1
October 10-13, 2008: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i>	19	34	29	18	*
September 12-15, 2008	21	34	25	19	1
August 29-31, 2008	18	27	32	23	*
July 18-21, 2008	27	33	24	16	*
July 11-14, 2008	19	28	29	23	1
July 3-7, 2008	19	28	32	21	*
June 20-23, 2008	20	30	30	20	*
Late July, 2002: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	41	38	13	7	1
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1
January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1
<b>d. News about this year's congressional elections</b>					
July 29-August 1, 2010	29	34	22	14	*
July 15-18, 2010	17	23	26	33	1
June 10-13, 2010	20	29	24	27	1
May 20-23, 2010	23	25	24	27	*
April 23-26, 2010	20	25	19	35	*
March 5-8, 2010	25	27	21	26	1
January 8-11, 2010	20	24	26	29	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
October 24-27, 2008: <i>News about candidates for local and statewide elections</i>	20	35	24	20	1
Early November, 2006: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	27	37	18	17	1
Late October, 2006 (RVs)	27	45	17	11	*
Early October, 2006	21	38	25	15	1
Early September, 2006	16	32	28	23	1
August, 2006	20	29	28	22	1
June, 2006	18	30	29	21	2
May, 2006	18	28	30	23	1
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	27	46	18	9	*
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	28	34	24	13	1
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	21	46	22	10	1
Early September, 2002	17	29	29	24	1
Late October, 1998 (RVs)	26	45	20	9	*
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	21	43	24	11	1
Early September, 1998	17	32	28	23	*
Early August, 1998	13	30	28	23	1
June, 1998	9	27	33	30	1

**PEW.3 CONTINUED...**

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
April, 1998 <sup>1</sup>	16	33	24	27	*
November, 1994	18	42	25	15	*
Late October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1
Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1
September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*
November, 1990	38	34	17	11	*
October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*
e. A court ruling that stops most of Arizona's immigration law from going into effect July 29-August 1, 2010	40	32	17	10	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
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
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	*
f. Ethics charges against Congressman Charlie Rangel July 29-August 1, 2010	21	25	24	29	1
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
May, 2005: <i>News about ethics complaints made against the House majority leader Tom DeLay</i>	8	21	28	42	1
January, 1997: <i>Charges that Newt Gingrich violated House ethics rules</i>	23	35	22	19	1
May, 1989: <i>The ethics committee's investigation of Speaker of the House Jim Wright</i>	15	30	25	30	*

<sup>1</sup> In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state." In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.4 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]

- 39 The major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico
- 23 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
- 13 A court ruling that stops most of Arizona's immigration law from going into effect
- 11 The current situation and events in Afghanistan
- 4 News about this year's Congressional elections
- 3 Ethics charges against Congressman Charlie Rangel
- 2 Some other story (VOL.)
- 5 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.5 How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The release of several thousand classified documents about the war in Afghanistan by the WikiLeaks website July 29-August 1, 2010	37	36	27	*
b. The wedding of Chelsea Clinton this weekend July 29-August 1, 2010	34	43	23	*
c. Barack Obama's appearance on the daytime TV show, The View July 29-August 1, 2010	35	40	25	*
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>				
Michelle Obama's appearance on the daytime TV show, The View June 20-23, 2008	29	31	40	*

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.6 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage, or the right amount of coverage to each of the following? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Too much coverage</u>	<u>Too little coverage</u>	<u>Right amount of coverage</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico				
July 29-August 1, 2010	28	21	50	1
July 22-25, 2010	31	18	49	2
July 8-11, 2010	15	27	53	5
June 17-20, 2010	19	21	53	6
May 20-23, 2010 <sup>2</sup>	14	24	59	3
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy				
July 29-August 1, 2010	14	42	42	2
July 22-25, 2010	13	41	43	3
July 8-11, 2010	8	45	42	5
April 1-5, 2010	15	34	46	6
February 12-15, 2010	16	34	46	4
January 22-25, 2010	9	38	52	2
October 2-5, 2009	22	32	44	2
July 17-20, 2009	16	30	51	4
March 20-23, 2009	21	26	51	2
January 18-21, 2008	11	32	52	5

<sup>2</sup> For May 20-23, 2010, the question asked about "an oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico threatening the coast of several states."

**PEW.6 CONTINUED...**

		Too much <u>coverage</u>	Too little <u>coverage</u>	Right amount of <u>coverage</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	February, 2001: <i>Signs of an economic slowdown</i>	21	25	46	8
c.	The Congressional elections				
	July 29-August 1, 2010	18	35	43	4
	June 4-8, 1998	15	24	53	8
d.	The wedding of Chelsea Clinton				
	July 29-August 1, 2010	58	8	25	9
e.	The release of several thousand classified documents about Afghanistan by the WikiLeaks website				
	July 29-August 1, 2010	15	41	32	12

**ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE ABOUT WIKILEAKS (PEW.5a=1,2) [N=758]:**

PEW.7 From what you've read and heard, do you think the release of the classified documents about the war in Afghanistan by WikiLeaks **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]:**

**TREND FOR COMPARISON**

		<i>News leaks</i>	
		Mar <sup>3</sup>	Jul
		<u>2007</u>	<u>1986</u>
Jul 29-Aug 1			
<u>2010</u>	Serves the public interest [OR]	42	43
	Harms the public interest	44	42
	Neither/Both (VOL.)	--	--
	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	14	15

**PEW.8 – PEW.9 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

<sup>3</sup> In March 2007 and July 1986 question was worded "Which comes closer to your opinion: news leaks serve the public interest more by providing Americans with information they should have OR news leaks harm the public interest by revealing information that people ought not to have?" In these years, question was asked only of those who had heard of the term "news leak" and could correctly identify it as "a government official providing information."