

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
August 29-September 1, 2013 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,000

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.) DK/Ref
a. Possible U.S. airstrikes in Syria in response to reports that the Syrian government used chemical weapons					
August 29-September 1, 2013	39	29	15	16	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 14-16, 2013: <i>Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups</i>	15	30	20	33	2
June 6-9, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	23	22	42	*
May 9-12, 2013	17	24	25	33	1
April 25-28, 2013: <i>Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups</i>	18	25	24	33	1
March 28-31, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	22	25	40	1
December 13-16, 2012	14	26	26	33	1
December 6-9, 2012	19	28	23	29	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	15	23	23	39	1
August 16-19, 2012	12	24	26	37	2
July 19-22, 2012	17	24	23	36	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	13	19	26	42	*
June 14-17, 2012	15	24	21	40	1
May 31-June 3, 2012	12	25	25	37	1
April 12-15, 2012: <i>International efforts to stop political violence in Syria</i>	14	23	25	37	1
April 5-8, 2012	15	21	27	37	1
March 15-18, 2012: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	16	26	27	30	1
March 8-11, 2012	17	23	23	37	1
February 23-26, 2012	18	24	21	35	1
February 9-12, 2012	17	23	23	36	*
January 12-15, 2012	12	17	26	45	1
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	10	19	26	44	1
June 2-5, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	25	25	32	*
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	14	27	30	28	1
April 28-May 1, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	29	25	27	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
b. Wildfires in California					
August 29-September 1, 2013	20	33	23	24	*

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>
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>Large wildfires in Colorado</i>	27	28	21	23	1
June 14-17, 2012: <i>Wildfires in Colorado and other Western states</i>	17	28	24	32	*
September 8-11, 2011: <i>Wildfires in Texas</i>	20	27	25	27	1
June 23-26, 2011: <i>Wildfires in the West and South</i>	21	24	26	28	1
June 9-12, 2011: <i>Wildfires in Arizona</i>	18	27	24	30	*
September 3-6, 2009: <i>Southern California wildfires</i>	22	32	29	16	0
April 24-27, 2009: <i>Wildfires in South Carolina</i>	12	21	29	38	*
November 14-17, 2008: <i>California wildfires</i>	21	28	29	22	*
October 17-20, 2008	15	28	33	24	*
July 11-14, 2008	22	34	28	16	*
October 26-29, 2007	40	41	13	6	*
January 12-15, 2007: <i>Fires in Malibu, California</i>	10	20	31	38	1
November, 2003: <i>California wildfires</i>	38	35	17	9	1
June, 2002: <i>Wildfires in Colorado and other western states</i>	30	36	25	9	*
September, 2001: <i>Wild fires in the west</i>	28	37	24	11	*
December, 1993: <i>Southern California fires</i>	44	39	13	4	*
July, 1990	29	35	24	12	0
c. News about parts of the health care law that are about to take effect					
August 29-September 1, 2013	23	25	21	30	*
July 18-21, 2013	25	25	19	30	*
June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on the 2010 health care law</i>	45	21	14	19	*
March 29-April 1, 2012: <i>Supreme Court hearings about the 2010 health care reform law</i>	29	27	17	27	*
November 17-20, 2011: <i>The U.S. Supreme Court agreeing to hear legal challenges to last year's health care reform law</i>	18	24	24	33	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>A federal judge ruling that part of the new health care law is unconstitutional</i>	25	28	19	28	1
January 20-23, 2011: <i>News about Republican efforts to repeal last year's health care law</i>	29	29	20	21	1
December 16-19, 2010: <i>A federal judge ruling that parts of the new health care law are unconstitutional</i>	28	24	17	30	1
September 23-26, 2010: <i>News about portions of this year's health care reform law beginning to take effect</i>	37	31	17	14	1
April 16-19, 2010: <i>News about the new health care reform law</i>	40	30	16	14	*
April 9-12, 2010	46	27	15	12	*
April 1-5, 2010	42	27	14	16	*
March 26-29, 2010: <i>Debate over health care reform</i>	49	29	12	10	*
March 19-22, 2010	51	24	11	14	*
March 12-15, 2010	40	31	16	13	*
March 5-8, 2010	42	27	17	15	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	29	29	19	22	*

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
February 19-22, 2010	33	28	19	19	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	39	27	16	17	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	32	15	11	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	27	19	18	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	26	20	15	*
December 18-21, 2009	42	27	16	14	*
December 11-14, 2009	42	30	15	14	*
December 4-7, 2009	42	28	15	14	1
November 20-23, 2009	42	29	14	15	*
November 13-16, 2009	38	26	17	17	1
November 6-9, 2009	35	28	15	22	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	32	26	19	23	*
October 23-26, 2009	40	27	16	17	1
October 16-19, 2009	36	28	15	21	*
October 9-12, 2009	37	29	14	19	1
October 2-5, 2009	39	29	16	16	*
September 25-28, 2009	45	31	12	12	0
September 18-21, 2009	44	26	19	11	*
September 11-14, 2009	44	27	14	15	*
September 3-6, 2009	40	26	16	17	0
August 28-31, 2009	40	28	17	14	1
August 21-24, 2009	49	24	12	15	1
August 14-17, 2009	39	31	15	15	1
August 7-10, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over health care reform</i>	40	27	17	15	1
July 31-August 3, 2009	47	26	14	13	1
July 24-27, 2009	44	28	15	13	*
July 17-20, 2009	33	31	13	21	2
July 10-13, 2009	24	29	20	27	*
June 26-29, 2009	29	26	20	25	1
June 19-22, 2009	28	28	20	23	*
June 12-15, 2009	29	26	18	26	*
May 15-18, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans</i>	25	30	20	24	*
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
September, 1994: <i>The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals</i>	32	41	18	9	*
June, 1994	34	40	19	7	*
May, 1994	37	37	16	9	1
January, 1994	38	38	15	9	*
Early January, 1994	40	40	14	6	*
December, 1993	45	35	12	7	1
October, 1993	44	32	17	6	1
September, 1993	49	34	11	6	*
August, 1993: <i>Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton</i>	27	32	25	15	1
June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*
May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1
d. The 50 th anniversary of the March on Washington, when Martin Luther King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech August 29-September 1, 2013	20	30	23	28	*

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>
e. The NFL's proposed agreement with former players over concussion-related lawsuits August 29-September 1, 2013	9	18	21	51	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON: May 3-6, 2012: <i>The death of former NFL linebacker Junior Seau in an apparent suicide</i>	16	19	25	37	1

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 Would you favor or oppose the U.S. conducting military airstrikes against Syria in response to reports that the Syrian government used chemical weapons?

Aug 29-Sep 1

2013

29	Favor
48	Oppose
23	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTION PEW.3**ASK ALL:**

PEW.4 Do you think Barack Obama has explained clearly why the U.S. should launch military airstrikes against Syrian military targets or has he not explained the reasons clearly enough?

	<u>Explained clearly</u>	<u>Not clearly enough</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
August 29-September 1, 2013	32	48	20
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: March, 2003: <i>Do you think George W. Bush has explained clearly what's at stake as to why the U.S. might use military force to end the rule of Saddam Hussein, or do you think he has not explained the reasons clearly enough?</i>	49	47	4
February, 2003	53	40	7
January, 2003	42	53	5
December, 2002	48	45	7
Late October, 2002	48	45	7
Mid-September, 2002	52	37	11
Late August, 2002	37	52	11
<i>New York Times</i> August, 1990: <i>Do you think George Bush has explained clearly what's at stake and why the U.S. is sending troops to Saudi Arabia, or do you think he has not explained the reasons clearly enough?</i>	50	41	9

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 Do you think U.S. airstrikes in Syria **[INSERT, RANDOMIZE]** or not?

	<u>Yes, likely</u>	<u>No, not likely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Are likely to lead to a long-term U.S. military commitment there August 29-September 1, 2013	61	26	13
b. Are likely to create a backlash against the U.S. and its allies in the region August 29-September 1, 2013	74	15	11
c. Are likely to be effective in discouraging the use of chemical weapons August 29-September 1, 2013	33	51	16

ASK ALL:

PEW.6 Should the U.S. first get a United Nations resolution to use force before taking military action against Syria or don't you think the U.S. needs to do this?

	Should first get <u>a UN resolution</u>	Does not need <u>to do this</u>	(VOL.) Should not use <u>force in Syria</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
August 29-September 1, 2013	59	28	2	11
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
March, 2003: <i>Military action against Iraq</i>	54	35	1	10
February, 2003	57	33	*	10

ASK ALL:

PEW.7 From what you've read and heard, do you think there is clear evidence that the Syrian government used chemical weapons against civilians, or not?

Aug 29-Sep 1

2013

53	Yes, there is clear evidence
23	No, there is not clear evidence
24	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)