**2017 PEW RESEARCH CENTER’S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL**

**WAVE 25 MARCH**

**MARCH 13-27, 2017**[[1]](#footnote-1)

**ASK ALL:**

ESSENTIALRIGHTS Please indicate whether you think each of these is essential to your own sense of freedom, important but not essential, or not important. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. Freedom of speech

b. Freedom of religion

c. The right to own guns

d. The right to vote

e. The right to privacy

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:**

1 Essential

2 Important but not essential

3 Not important

**ASK ALL:**

NEWS\_LEVEL How closely do you follow…

1. International news
2. Very closely
3. Somewhat closely
4. Not very closely
5. Not at all closely
6. National news
7. Very closely
8. Somewhat closely
9. Not very closely
10. Not at all closely
11. Local news
12. Very closely
13. Somewhat closely
14. Not very closely
15. Not at all closely
16. News about your neighborhood
17. Very closely
18. Somewhat closely
19. Not very closely
20. Not at all closely

**ASK ALL:**

NEWS\_DEVICE Thinking about news (by news we mean information about events and issues

that involve more than just your friends and family), how often do you get

news… **[RANDOMIZE]**

1. On a desktop or laptop computer?
   1. Often
   2. Sometimes
   3. Hardly ever
   4. Never
2. On a mobile device (such as a smartphone or tablet)?
   1. Often
   2. Sometimes
   3. Hardly ever
   4. Never

*Soft prompt: “If you’re sure you want to skip, click Next.”*

**ASK IF GETS NEWS ON BOTH COMPUTER AND MOBILE DEVICE (NEWS\_DEVICEa=1-3 & NEWS\_DEVICEb=1-3):**

NEWSDIGPREF Do you prefer to get your news…

1. On a desktop or laptop computer
2. On a mobile device (such as a smartphone or tablet)

**RANDOMIZE WHETHER LOCALMEDIA\_JOB AND NATLMEDIA\_JOB ARE ASKED FIRST:**

**ASK ALL:**

LOCALMEDIA\_JOB Regardless of how closely you follow news about YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY, how well do the local news media keep you informed of the most important local stories of the day?

1. Very well
2. Fairly well
3. Not too well
4. Not at all well

**RANDOMIZE WHETHER LOCALMEDIA\_JOB AND NATLMEDIA\_JOB ARE ASKED FIRST:**

**ASK ALL:**

NATLMEDIA\_JOB Regardless of how closely you follow NATIONAL NEWS, how well do the national news media keep you informed of the most important national stories of the day?

1. Very well
2. Fairly well
3. Not too well
4. Not at all well

**ASK ALL:**

GROUP\_TRUST How much, if at all, do you trust the information you get from…?

1. National news organizations
2. A lot
3. Some
4. Not too much
5. Not at all
6. Local news organizations
7. A lot
8. Some
9. Not too much
10. Not at all
11. Friends, family, and acquaintances
12. A lot
13. Some
14. Not too much
15. Not at all
16. Social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter
17. A lot
18. Some
19. Not too much
20. Not at all

**RANDOMIZE WATCHDOG\_1 & WATCHDOG\_3:**

**ASK ALL:**

WATCHDOG\_1 Some people think that by criticizing leaders, news organizations keep political leaders from doing their job. Others think that such criticism is worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done. Which position is closer to your opinion?

1. Keep political leaders from doing their job
2. Keep political leaders from doing things that shouldn’t be done

**RANDOMIZE WATCHDOG\_1 & WATCHDOG\_3:**

**ASK ALL:**

WATCHDOG\_3 In presenting the news dealing with political and social issues, do you think that news organizations deal fairly with all sides, or do they tend to favor one side?

1. Deal fairly with all sides
2. Tend to favor one side

**ASK ALL:**

STORYTRUST How much impact does each of the following have on whether you think a news story is trustworthy? **[RANDOMIZE]**

1. The news organization that publishes the story
2. A large impact
3. Some impact
4. No impact at all
5. The person, if any, who shares the story with me
6. A large impact
7. Some impact
8. No impact at all
9. The sources the story cites
10. A large impact
11. Some impact
12. No impact at all
13. My gut instinct about the story
14. A large impact
15. Some impact
16. No impact at all

Now we are going to ask you some questions about the news you get online, whether on a computer, phone, or tablet. Again, by news we mean information about events and issues that involve more than just your friends or family.

**ASK IF GETS NEWS DIGITALLY (NEWS\_DEVICEa=1-3 OR NEWS\_DEVICEb=1-3):**

NEWS\_SOURCE How often do you get news online from… **[RANDOMIZE]**

a. People that you are close with

1 Often

2 Sometimes

3 Hardly ever

4 Never

b. People you are not particularly close with

1 Often

2 Sometimes

3 Hardly ever

4 Never

c. News organizations

1 Often

2 Sometimes

3 Hardly ever

4 Never

**ASK IF AT LEAST HARDLY EVER TO AT LEAST 1 ITEM IN NEWS\_SOURCE (NEWS\_SOURCEa-c=1-3); SHOW ONLY THOSE AT LEAST HARDLY EVER IN NEWS\_SOURCE (NEWS\_SOURCEa-c=1-3):**

NEWSACC How accurate, do you think, is the news posted online by… **[KEEP IN SAME ORDER AS NEWS\_SOURCE]**

a. People that you are close with

1 Very accurate

2 Somewhat accurate

3 Not too accurate

4 Not at all accurate

b. People you are not particularly close with

1 Very accurate

2 Somewhat accurate

3 Not too accurate

4 Not at all accurate

c. News organizations

1 Very accurate

2 Somewhat accurate

3 Not too accurate

4 Not at all accurate

**ASK IF GETS NEWS DIGITALLY (NEWS\_DEVICEa=1-3 OR NEWS\_DEVICEb=1-3):**

DIGWDOG\_3 Thinking about the news that your friends, family and acquaintances post or send you online about political and social issues, overall, do you think the mix of news you get from them… **[RANDOMIZE 1 & 2; KEEP 3 LAST]**

1. Represents just one side
2. Represents more than one side

**INCLUDE SPACE**

1. They don’t send me news about political and social issues

**ASK ALL:**

ADMIN1 How much, if anything, have you heard about the relationship between the [**RANDOMIZE ORDER:** Trump administration and the U.S. news media/U.S. news media and the Trump administration]?

1. A lot
2. A little
3. Nothing at all

**ASK ALL:**

ADMIN2 Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**

1. Despite current tensions, the relationship between the [**USE SAME ORDER FROM ADMIN1**: Trump administration and the U.S. news media/U.S. news media and the Trump administration] is generally HEALTHY
2. Current tensions have made the relationship between the [**USE SAME ORDER FROM ADMIN1**: Trump administration and the U.S. news media/U.S. news media and the Trump administration] generally UNHEALTHY

**ASK ALL:**

ADMIN3 Would you say that these tensions between the [**USE SAME ORDER FROM ADMIN1:** Trump administration and the U.S. news media/U.S. news media and the Trump administration] are getting in the way or not getting in the way of Americans’ access to important national political news and information? **[RANDOMIZE]**

1. Getting in the way
2. Not getting in the way

**[RANDOMLY ASSIGN PARTICIPANTS TO RECEIVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR VIGNETTES; VIGNETTE=1, 2, 3 or 4]**

**ASK IF VIGNETTE=1:**

Please think about the following situation…

David and his friend are messaging privately about a sensitive political issue on which they disagree. David says something that offends his friend, who forwards the conversation to some people they know. One of those people shares the conversation publicly on a social media account, and David receives unkind messages from strangers. The original conversation is then reposted on an account with thousands of followers, and David receives messages that are vulgar. Eventually someone posts David’s phone number and home address online, and David starts to receive threatening messages.

V1Q1. In your opinion, did David experience online harassment in this situation?

1 Yes

2 No

3 Not sure

**ASK IF YES OR NOT SURE TO VIG1Q1 (VIG1Q1=1,3):**

V1Q2. Which parts, if any, of David’s experience do you consider to be online harassment? **[SHOW ITEMS IN ORDER]**

[*Check all that apply*]

a. When David offends his friend

b. When David’s friend forwards their private conversation to others

c. When someone shares the conversation publicly on social media

d. When David receives unkind messages

e. When David receives vulgar messages

f. When David’s phone number and home address are posted online

g. When David receives threatening messages

h. None of these **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**

**ASK IF VIGNETTE=2:**

Please think about the following situation…

Julie and her friend are messaging privately about a sensitive political issue on which they disagree. Julie says something that offends her friend, who forwards the conversation to some people they know. One of those people shares the conversation publicly on a social media account, and Julie receives unkind messages from strangers. The original conversation is then reposted on an account with thousands of followers, and Julie receives messages that are vulgar. Eventually someone posts Julie’s phone number and home address online, and Julie starts to receive threatening messages.

V2Q1. In your opinion, did Julie experience online harassment in this situation?

1 Yes

2 No

3 Not sure

**ASK IF YES OR NOT SURE TO V2Q1 (V2Q1=1,3):**

V2Q2. Which parts, if any, of Julie’s experience do you consider to be online harassment? **[SHOW ITEMS IN ORDER]**

[*Check all that apply*]

a. When Julie offends her friend

b. When Julie’s friend forwards their private conversation to others

c. When someone shares the conversation publicly on social media

d. When Julie receives unkind messages

e. When Julie receives vulgar messages

f. When Julie’s phone number and home address are posted online

g. When Julie receives threatening messages

h. None of these **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**

**ASK IF VIGNETTE=3:**

Please think about the following situation…

Julie posts on her social media account, defending one side of a controversial political issue. A few people reply to her, with some supporting and some opposing her. As more people see her post, Julie receives unkind messages. Eventually her post is shared by a popular blogger with thousands of followers, and Julie receives vulgar messages that insult her looks and sexual behavior. She also notices people posting pictures of her that have been edited to include sexual images. Eventually, she receives threatening messages.  
  
V3Q1. In your opinion, did Julie experience online harassment in this situation?

1 Yes

2 No

3 Not sure

**ASK IF YES OR NOT SURE TO V3Q1 (V3Q1=1,3):**

V3Q2. Which parts, if any, of Julie’s experience do you consider to be online harassment? **[SHOW ITEMS IN ORDER]**

[*Check all that apply*]

a. When some of Julie’s friends first disagree with her

b. When Julie receives unkind messages

c. When Julie’s post is shared on social media by the blogger

d. When Julie receives vulgar messages about her looks and sexual behavior

e. When Julie’s picture is edited to include sexual images

f. When Julie receives threatening messages

g. None of these **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**

**ASK IF VIGNETTE=3:**

V3Q3. Do you think the social media service should have stepped in at any point during this situation?

1 Yes

2 No

3 Not sure

**IF YES OR NOT SURE TO V3Q3 (V3Q3=1,3):**

V3Q4. At which points, if any, do you think the social media service should have stepped in? **[SHOW ITEMS IN ORDER]**

[*Check all that apply*]

a. When some of Julie’s friends first disagree with her

b. When Julie receives unkind messages

c. When Julie’s post is shared on social media by the blogger

d. When Julie receives vulgar messages about her looks and sexual behavior

e. When Julie’s picture is edited to include sexual images

f. When Julie receives threatening messages

g. None of these **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**

**ASK IF VIGNETTE=4:**

Please think about the following situation…

John posts on his social media account, defending one side of a controversial political issue. A few people reply to him, with some supporting and some opposing him. As more people see his post, John receives unkind messages. Eventually his post is shared by a popular blogger with thousands of followers, and John receives vulgar messages that make racial insults and use a common racial slur. He also notices people posting pictures of him that have been edited to include racially insensitive images. Eventually, he receives threatening messages.

V4Q1. In your opinion, did John experience online harassment in this situation?

1 Yes

2 No

3 Not sure

**ASK IF YES OR NOT SURE TO V4Q1 (V4Q1=1,3)**

V4Q2. Which parts, if any, of John’s experience do you consider to be online harassment? **[SHOW ITEMS IN ORDER]**

[*Check all that apply*]

a. When some of John’s followers first disagree with him

b. When John receives unkind messages

c. When John’s post is shared on social media by the blogger

d. When John receives vulgar messages with racially insulting language

e. When John’s picture is edited to include racially insensitive images

f. When John receives personal threats

g. None of these **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**

**ASK IF VIGNETTE=4:**

V4Q3. Do you think the social media service should have stepped in at any point during this situation?

1 Yes

2 No

3 Not sure

**ASK IF YES OR NOT SURE TO V4Q3 (V4Q3=1,3):**

V4Q4. At which points, if any, do you think the social media service should have stepped in? **[SHOW ITEMS IN ORDER]**

[*Check all that apply*]

a. When some of John’s followers first disagree with him

b. When John receives unkind messages

c. When John’s post is shared on social media by the blogger

d. When John receives vulgar messages with racially insulting language

e. When John’s picture is edited to include racially insensitive images

f. When John receives threatening messages

g. None of these **[EXCLUSIVE PUNCH]**

Turning to a different topic…

**ASK ALL:**

GUNSTRICT Which of the following statements comes closest to your overall view of gun laws in this country? **[REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE]**

1 Gun laws should be MORE strict than they are today

2 Gun laws are about right

3 Gun laws should be LESS strict than they are today

**ASK IF WANT MORE/LESS STRICT GUN LAWS (GUNSTRICT=1,3):**

GUNSTRICT2 Do you think gun laws should be…

1 A LOT **[RESPONSE TO GUNSTRICT:** more/less**]** strict than they are today

2 SOMEWHAT **[RESPONSE TO GUNSTRICT:** more/less**]** strict than they are today

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR GUNWHO, GUNWHERE, AND GUNTYPE TOGETHER; I.E. RESPONDENTS SHOULD SEE ALL THREE WITH THE RESPONSE ORDERS SHOWN BELOW OR SEE ALL THREE WITH THE REVERSE.]**

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNWHO, GUNWHERE, AND GUNTYPE**

**ASK ALL:**

GUNWHO Which comes closest to your view about WHO should be able to legally own guns in the United States? **[REVERSE ORDER OF RESPONSES FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE]**

1 Almost everyone should

2 Most people should, but some people should NOT

3 Some people should, but most people should NOT

4 Almost no one should

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNWHO, GUNWHERE, AND GUNTYPE**

**ASK ALL:**

GUNWHERE Which comes closest to your view about THE PLACES where people should be able to legally carry guns in the United States? **[REVERSE ORDER OF RESPONSES FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE]**

1 Almost everywhere

2 Most places, but some places should be off-limits

3 Some places, but most places should be off-limits

4 Almost nowhere

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNWHO, GUNWHERE, AND GUNTYPE**

**ASK ALL:**

GUNTYPE Which comes closest to your view about the TYPES OF GUNS that should be legally available to buy in the United States? **[REVERSE ORDER OF RESPONSES FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE]**

1 Almost all types should

2 Most types should, but some types should NOT

3 Some types should, but most types should NOT

4 Almost no types should

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: FOR THE LAST QUESTION FROM GUNWHO, GUNWHERE, AND GUNTYPE THAT RESPONDENTS SEE, ASK ALL OF THOSE WHO SELECT PUNCH 2:]**

**ASK IF GUNWHO IS LAST AND GUNWHO=2:**

GUNWHO\_OE In your own words, what should disqualify someone from being able to legally own guns in the United States? **[MAKE BOX A COUPLE OF LINES]**

**RECORD OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE**

**ASK IF GUNWHERE IS LAST AND GUNWHERE=2:**

GUNWHERE\_OE In your own words, what are some of the places you think people should NOT be able to legally carry guns in the United States? **[MAKE BOX A COUPLE OF LINES]**

**RECORD OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE**

**ASK IF GUNTYPE IS LAST AND GUNTYPE=2:**

GUNTYPE\_OE In your own words, what are some of the types of guns you think should NOT be legally available to buy in the United States? **[MAKE BOX A COUPLE OF LINES]**

**RECORD OPEN-ENDED RESPONSE**

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNPRIORITY1 AND GUNPRIORITY2**

**ASK ALL:**

GUNPRIORITY1 Please indicate whether you would **[MATCH ORDER WITH PUNCHES:** strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose**]** the following proposals about gun policy. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF-SAMPLE, USE SAME ORDER AS GUNPRIORITY2]**

a. Barring gun purchases by people on the federal no-fly or watch lists

b. Preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns

c. Banning assault-style weapons

d. Creating a federal government database to track all gun sales

e. Banning high-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds

f. Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks

**RESPONSE CATEGORIES:**

1 Strongly favor

2 Somewhat favor

3 Somewhat oppose

4 Strongly oppose

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF GUNPRIORITY1 AND GUNPRIORITY2**

**ASK ALL:**

GUNPRIORITY2 Please indicate whether you would **[MATCH ORDER WITH PUNCHES:** strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose**]** the following proposals about gun policy. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF-SAMPLE, USE SAME ORDER AS GUNPRIORITY1]**

g. Allowing people to carry concealed guns in more places

h. Allowing people to carry concealed guns without a permit

i. Allowing teachers and school officials to carry guns in K-12 schools

j. Shortening waiting periods for people who want to buy guns legally

**RESPONSE CATEGORIES:**

1 Strongly favor

2 Somewhat favor

3 Somewhat oppose

4 Strongly oppose

**ASK ALL:**

GUNACTIVISM Have you ever done any of the following, or not? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. Contacted a public official to express your opinion on gun policy

b. Contributed money to an organization that takes a position on gun policy

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:**

1 Yes, in the last 12 months

2 Yes, but not in the last 12 months

3 No

**ASK ALL:**

NRAINFLNC When it comes to gun laws in this country, do you think the National Rifle Association (NRA) has… **[RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1 & 2; ALWAYS ASK PUNCH 3 LAST]**

1 Too much influence

2 Too little influence

3 The right amount of influence

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the internet…

BB1 How important do you think it is for Americans today to have access to high-speed home internet service?

1 Essential

2 Important, but not essential

3 Not too important

4 Not important at all

BB2 What percentage of Americans would you guess have some type of high-speed home internet service?

[*Enter a percentage between 0 and 100*]

**SOFT PROMPT TEXT IF LEFT BLANK: “***We’d like your best guess.”*

**HARD PROMPT TEXT IF INVALID CHARACTER**: “Please enter just a number with no characters like a decimal or % sign.”

**HARD PROMPT TEXT IF INVALID RANGE**: “Please enter a number between 0 and 100.”

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF BB3 AND BB4**

**ASK ALL:**

BB3 Which statement best describes your view, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**

1 The government should provide subsidies to help low-income Americans purchase high-speed home internet service

2 High-speed home internet service is affordable enough that nearly every household should be able to buy service on their own

BB4 Which statement best describes your view, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**

1 Local governments should be able to build their own high-speed networks if the service in their area is too expensive or not good enough

2 Local governments should not be allowed to build their own high-speed networks, regardless of the cost or quality of service in their area

**ASK IF HOME BROADBAND USER (F\_BBINT\_RF1=1):**

BB5. What is the download speed for your own high-speed home internet service? **[SHOW ITEMS IN ORDER]**

1 10 megabits per second (Mbps) or less

2 11-24 Mbps

3 25-49 Mbps

4 50-99 Mbps

5 100 Mbps or more

6 Not sure

7 I do not have high-speed home internet service

**ASK ALL:**

Turning back to gun policy for a moment.

GUNVIOLENCE How much of a problem do you think gun violence is in…

a. The United States

b. Your local community

**RESPONSE CATEGORIES:**

1 A very big problem

2 A moderately big problem

3 A small problem

4 Not a problem at all

**ASK ALL:**

MOREGUNIMPACT If more Americans owned guns, do you think there would be… **[RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1 AND 2 FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE; ALWAYS DISPLAY THIRD OPTION LAST]**

1 More crime

2 Less crime

3 Not make a difference

**ASK ALL:**

MASSSTRICT If it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the United States, do you think there would be … **[RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1 AND 2 FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE; ALWAYS DISPLAY THIRD OPTION LAST]**

1 Fewer mass shootings

2 More mass shootings

3 Not make a difference

Now for one last different set of questions…

**ASK ALL:**

**[RANDOMLY ASSIGN A VALUE OF 1-100, READ IN TEXT FROM ACCOMPANYING CSV FILE FOR CORRESPONDING VALUE AT VARIABLE T\_MOE\_V\_PWIN]**

Please read the following statement about a hypothetical election for the U.S. Senate. There are two candidates.

Candidate A supports the majority of the policies you support and is well qualified for the job. Candidate B does not share your views and is less qualified than Candidate A.

A prominent group of statisticians analyzed the 10 most recent polls that include questions about who voters prefer. Their analysis a few days before the election shows that Candidate A [**T\_MOE\_V\_PWIN**].

CERTWIN Based on this information, how certain or uncertain are you that Candidate A will win or lose the election?

1 Very certain

2 Somewhat certain

3 Neither certain nor uncertain

4 Somewhat uncertain

5 Very uncertain

LIKELYWIN If you had to guess, on a scale from 0 to 100, how likely is Candidate A to win the election?

[*Enter a percentage between 0 and 100*]

**SOFT PROMPT TEXT IF LEFT BLANK: “***We’d like your best guess.”*

**HARD PROMPT TEXT IF INVALID CHARACTER**: “Please enter just a number with no characters like a decimal or % sign.”

**HARD PROMPT TEXT IF INVALID RANGE**: “Please enter a number between 0 and 100.”

PRCNTVT If you had to guess, on a scale from 0 to 100, what percent of the vote do you expect Candidate A to get?

[*Enter a percentage between 0 and 100*]

**SOFT PROMPT TEXT IF LEFT BLANK: “***We’d like your best guess.”*

**HARD PROMPT TEXT IF INVALID CHARACTER**: “Please enter just a number with no characters like a decimal or % sign.”

**HARD PROMPT TEXT IF INVALID RANGE**: “Please enter a number between 0 and 100.”

VOTEHYPO How likely would you be to vote in this election?

1 Very likely

2 Somewhat likely

3 Somewhat unlikely

4 Very unlikely

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

1. Republican
2. Democrat
3. Independent
4. Something else

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to…

1 The Republican Party

2 The Democratic Party

1. Open-end responses are excluded from public datasets to protect the confidentiality of ATP panelists. Lines across page designate a page break. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)