

**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL**  
**Wave 85 March survey**  
**TOPLINE**  
**March 8-14, 2021**  
**N=12,045**

**ASK ALL:**

TOPICFOL      How closely, if at all, have you been following news about... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The actions and initiatives of the Biden administration since the inauguration March 8-14, 2021	22	44	25	9	*
b. The distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S. March 8-14, 2021	27	44	23	7	*
c. The aftermath and discussion of the January 6th attack on the Capitol March 8-14, 2021	22	36	31	11	*

**ASK ALL:**

BIDENMEDIA      Do you think that the relationship between **[RANDOMIZE: the Biden administration and the U.S. news media / the U.S. news media and the Biden administration]** is generally...

March 8-14

2021

66	Healthy
32	Unhealthy
2	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

MAINSOURCE\_OE      What news source do you turn to most often for political news? Please list the name of the specific news organization or source.

**[OPEN-END RESPONSES RECODED]**

**ASK IF PROVIDED A RESPONSE TO MAINSOPOL\_OE [N=11,223]:**

MAINSOURCE2 Thinking about your main news source you entered in the previous question, do you think that news source is part of the mainstream media?

March 8-14

2021

74	Yes, it is part of the mainstream media
25	No, it is not part of the mainstream media
1	No answer

**ASK IF PROVIDED A RESPONSE TO MAINSOPOL\_ OE [N=11,223]:**

MAINSOURCE3 Do you think your main news source presents the news in a different way from most media outlets?

March 8-14

2021

53	Yes
46	No
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

SOURCEUSE2 Please click on all of the sources that you got political news from in the past week. This includes any way that you can get the source. If you are unsure, please DO NOT click it.

***For second screen of images, should say:*** "Again, please click on all that you got political news from in the past week."

**DO NOT SHOW THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO RESPONDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS (XTABLET=1): HuffPost; Breitbart; BuzzFeed; Business Insider; Vox**

**BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,045]:**

March 8-14

2021

43	Fox News
27	MSNBC
45	CNN
16	PBS
15	The Wall Street Journal
15	USA Today
12	Politico
9	BuzzFeed
7	Newsweek
7	Business Insider (now a part of Insider)
7	Vox
8	The Hill
2	Washington Examiner
10	Newsmax

March 8-14

2021

36	ABC News
41	NBC News
37	CBS News
22	NPR
4	Mark Levin Show (radio)
7	Sean Hannity Show (radio)
23	Washington Post
26	The New York Times
9	HuffPost
4	Breitbart
9	New York Post
7	One America News Network

**ASK INTERNET USERS (XTABLET=2): [N=11,850]**

NEWSFORUM How often, if ever, do you get political news from each of the following sources?  
**[DO NOT RANDOMIZE; SHOW ITEMS ON SAME SCREEN]**

**BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,045]:**

	<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram March 8-14, 2021	18	26	22	29	*
b. Online forums, such as Reddit or 4chan March 8-14, 2021	4	10	15	66	*

**ASK ALL:**SEEKPOL Which statement best describes how you get political news? **[RANDOMIZE]**March 8-14  
2021

46	I mostly get political news because I'm looking for it
54	I mostly get political news because I happen to come across it
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**SOURCESKEP2 How much do you trust the accuracy of the political news and information that you get from...  
**[RANDOMIZE ITEM B-E; KEEP ITEM A FIRST; SPLIT OVER TWO SCREENS]**

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Your main news source March 8-14, 2021	38	45	12	5	*
b. Political leaders and public officials March 8-14, 2021	6	48	33	12	1
c. Friends and family March 8-14, 2021	10	57	27	5	1
d. Social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat) March 8-14, 2021	4	25	38	32	1
e. National news organizations March 8-14, 2021	18	46	23	12	1

**ASK ALL:****NEWSPAIRS**

For each pair of opposite phrases, which one do you feel better describes news organizations generally? If you think neither phrase applies, please indicate so.

**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE ITEMS C,D,G, SHOW RESPONSES 1-3 IN ORDER; DISPLAY C,D,G ON THE SAME SCREEN WITH A LINE SEPARATING EACH SET OF RESPONSES]**

c.	<u>Stand up for America</u>	<u>Too critical of America</u>	<u>Neither applies</u>	<u>No answer</u>
March 8-14, 2021	24	34	41	1
Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	28	35	37	1

**PHONE TREND  
FOR COMPARISON:**

July 2011	41	39	14	6
July 2009	41	44	10	5
July 2007	41	43	12	4
June 2005	42	40	14	4
Early July 2003	51	33	12	4
July 2002	49	35	12	4
Mid Nov 2001	69	17	10	4
Early Sep 2001	43	36	16	5
Feb 1999	41	42	13	4
Jan 1987	53	35	8	4
July 1986	53	28	15	4
July 1985	52	30	10	8

d.	<u>Growing in influence</u>	<u>Declining in influence</u>	<u>Neither applies</u>	<u>No answer</u>
March 8-14, 2021	41	33	25	1
Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	32	48	19	1

**PHONE TREND  
FOR COMPARISON:**

July 2011	52	34	7	7
July 2009	52	34	7	7
July 2007	52	36	6	6
June 2005	49	36	7	8
Early July 2003	55	29	8	8
July 2002	57	29	7	7
Early Sep 2001	55	29	9	7
Feb 1999	59	32	6	3
July 1985	63	17	7	13

g.	<u>Working for the benefit of the public</u>	<u>Working to benefit themselves</u>	<u>Neither applies</u>	<u>No answer</u>
March 8-14, 2021	27	33	25	1

**ASK ALL:**

SOURCEMEDIA Would you say that each of the following news sources is part of the mainstream news media?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT OVER 4 SCREENS]**

		Yes, this is part of the mainstream <u>news media</u>	No, this is not part of the mainstream <u>news media</u>	Do not know enough about this news source to <u>decide</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Fox News March 8-14, 2021	73	18	8	1
b.	CNN March 8-14, 2021	87	5	7	1
c.	MSNBC March 8-14, 2021	78	7	14	1
d.	New York Times March 8-14, 2021	79	5	15	1
e.	Wall Street Journal March 8-14, 2021	71	9	19	1
f.	Huffpost March 8-14, 2021	37	20	41	1
g.	Breitbart March 8-14, 2021	9	34	56	1
h.	Sean Hannity Show (radio) March 8-14, 2021	20	37	43	1
i.	Newsmax March 8-14, 2021	12	30	57	1
j.	ABC News March 8-14, 2021	87	5	7	1
k.	BuzzFeed March 8-14, 2021	22	31	46	1
l.	Vox March 8-14, 2021	12	21	65	1
m.	New York Post March 8-14, 2021	61	14	24	1

**ASK ALL:**

**STORYSOURCE** As you may know, journalists often quote or get information from various sources for a news story, such as experts, politicians, or people involved in the event.

How closely do you pay attention to the sources cited in a news story?

March 8-14

2021

22	Very closely
45	Somewhat closely
24	Not too closely
9	Not at all closely
*	No answer

**ASK IF PAYS ATTENTION TO SOURCES VERY/SOMEWHAT CLOSELY**

**(STORYSOURCE=1,2):STORYSOURCE\_OE** Can you think of a source that was quoted in a recent news story you read, watched or listened to? If so, please write their name or title here.

**[OPEN-END RESPONSES RECODED]****ASK ALL:**

**STORYWHY**

When you read, watch or listen to a news story, how important is each of the following in deciding whether it is trustworthy? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not very important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The news organization that publishes the story					
March 8-14, 2021	50	38	8	4	1
b. The person, if any, who shares the story with me					
March 8-14, 2021	23	45	22	10	1
c. The story has a lot of shares, comments or likes on social media					
March 8-14, 2021	6	18	33	42	1
d. The sources that are cited in the story					
March 8-14, 2021	47	39	9	4	1
e. The specific journalist who reported the story					
March 8-14, 2021	24	42	23	9	1
f. My gut instinct about the story					
March 8-14, 2021	30	48	16	6	1

**ASK ALL:**

ASSESSMENT Thinking now about what you see and hear in the news about the Biden administration, would you say you see... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2; KEEP OPTION 3 LAST]**

March 8-14  
2021

46	Mostly positive assessments of the administration
14	Mostly negative assessments of the administration
39	About an even mix of positive and negative assessments of the administration
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

ASSESS\_FAIR And would you say that the news coverage you've seen of the Biden administration has been... **[RANDOMIZE]**

March 8-14  
2021

76	Mostly fair
21	Mostly unfair
3	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

ADMINTOPIC In the news you are getting about the Biden administration, are you seeing more about... **[RANDOMIZE]**

March 8-14  
2021

27	Biden's character and leadership skills
69	Biden's policy positions and agenda
4	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

ASSESS\_ACC And would you say that the news coverage you've seen of the Biden administration has been ... **[RANDOMIZE]**

March 8-14  
2021

69	Mostly accurate
26	Mostly inaccurate
5	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

BIDENATTN Thinking of some of the early issues that the Biden administration has focused on how much attention do you think news organizations are giving to each of the following?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2 IN THE SAME ORDER FOR EACH RESPONDENT; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 3 LAST]**

	Too much <u>attention</u>	Too little <u>attention</u>	Right amount <u>of attention</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. The coronavirus outbreak March 8-14, 2021	28	13	58	1
b. The U.S. economy March 8-14, 2021	8	44	47	1
c. Immigration March 8-14, 2021	18	43	37	1
d. Climate policy March 8-14, 2021	24	39	35	2
e. Racial inequality March 8-14, 2021	36	28	35	1

**ASK ALL:**

BIDENATTN2 And, in their coverage of the Biden administration, which of these issues are your main news sources giving the most attention to? **[RANDOMIZE]**

March 8-14  
2021

55	The coronavirus outbreak
21	The U.S. economy
11	Immigration
2	Climate policy
9	Racial inequality
2	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

BIDENHEARD Thinking about some stories covered by news organizations in the past several weeks...

Regardless of your own views and opinions, how much, if anything, have you heard or read about each of the following efforts of the Biden administration? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	Nothing <u>at all</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Passage of a new economic stimulus bill March 8-14, 2021	77	19	3	1
b. Distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to Americans March 8-14, 2021	74	23	3	*



**BIDENHEARD CONTINUED...**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
c. Reforming immigration policy March 8-14, 2021	30	51	19	1
d. Using executive actions to reverse many of the Trump administration's policies March 8-14, 2021	52	36	12	1
e. Rejoining international organizations and agreements March 8-14, 2021	31	50	19	1
f. Pursuing talks with Iran March 8-14, 2021	10	50	39	1
g. The reopening of schools March 8-14, 2021	35	51	13	1

**ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST 'A LITTLE' ABOUT EACH ITEM IN BIDENHEARD (BIDENHEARD\_A-G=1,2)**

BIDENHEARD2 How would you describe the news you have heard or read about the Biden administration's efforts on each of the following?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER FOR EACH RESPONDENT; KEEP OPTION 3 LAST]**

	<u>Mostly positive</u>	<u>Mostly negative</u>	<u>About an even mix of positive and negative</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Passage of a new economic stimulus bill March 8-14, 2021 [N=11,787]	56	14	29	1
b. Distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to Americans March 8-14, 2021 [N=11,789]	65	9	25	1
c. Reforming immigration policy March 8-14, 2021 [N=10,272]	34	26	39	1
d. Using executive actions to reverse many of the Trump administration's policies March 8-14, 2021 [N=11,109]	42	26	30	2
e. Rejoining international organizations and agreements March 8-14, 2021 [N=8,196]	52	17	30	1
f. Pursuing talks with Iran March 8-14, 2021 [N=8,196]	26	25	47	2
g. The reopening of schools March 8-14, 2021 [N=10,849]	38	18	43	1

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWVACC1 As you may know, the Biden administration had previously set a goal of vaccinating 1 million Americans a day.

As far as you know, is the administration meeting this initial goal?

March 8-14  
2021

33	Yes, they are meeting or exceeding this goal {correct}
27	No, they are not meeting this goal [space]
40	Not sure
*	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWVACC2 As far as you know, which is true about the number of doses required for the COVID-19 vaccines currently approved for use in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-3; KEEP OPTION 4 LAST]**

March 8-14  
2021

2	All vaccines require only 1 dose
18	All vaccines require 2 doses
69	The number of doses required varies {correct}
9	[space]
1	Not sure
	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWMIN As you may know, Joe Biden included an increase in the national minimum wage in his January stimulus proposal. As far as you know, what was the new minimum wage he proposed?

March 8-14  
2021

1	\$7.25
2	\$10.00
2	\$13.25
81	\$15.00 {correct}
1	\$17.25
	[space]
13	Not sure
*	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWBORDER As far as you know, which of the following has the Biden administration done regarding immigration policy? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2, 3 AND 4 ALWAYS LAST]**

March 8-14  
2021

	Stopped federal funding for the construction of the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico {correct}
43	Ordered that parts of the existing border wall between the U.S. and Mexico be taken down
3	Both of these things
20	<b>[space]</b>
33	Not sure
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

KNOWCLIMATE As far as you know, which of the following has the Biden administration done regarding climate policy? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 and 2, 3 AND 4 ALWAYS LAST]**

March 8-14  
2021

14	Reentered the Paris agreement
	Rescinded construction permits for the Keystone pipeline
8	Both of these things {most correct}
49	<b>[space]</b>
28	Not sure
1	No answer

On a different topic...

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDFOL How closely have you been following news about the outbreak of the coronavirus strain known as COVID-19?

		Nov 18-29 2020	Oct 6- 12 2020	Aug 31- Sep 7 2020	Jun 4- 10 2020	Apr 20-26 2020	Mar 19- 24 2020	Mar 10-16 2020
March 8-14 2021								
31	Very closely	37	37	35	39	46	57	51
43	Fairly closely	42	42	46	46	42	35	38
19	Not too closely	15	16	14	11	10	7	9
5	Not at all closely	5	4	4	3	2	1	2
1	No answer	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDDEAL All in all, do you think that the coronavirus outbreak has been... **[RANDOMIZE ANSWER CHOICES 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK ANSWER CHOICE 3 LAST]**

		Nov 18-29 2020	Oct 6-12 2020	Aug 31- Sep 7 2020	Jun 4- 10 2020	Apr 20- 26 2020
March 8-14 2021						
34	Made a BIGGER deal than it really is	34	36	39	38	29
23	Made a SMALLER deal than it really is	30	30	26	21	27

43	Approached about right	36	33	33	40	42
1	No answer	*	1	2	1	1

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDCONTROL Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

March 8-14 <u>2021</u>		Nov 18-29 <u>2020</u>	Oct 6-12 <u>2020</u>	Aug 31-Sep 7 <u>2020</u>
42	The U.S. has controlled the outbreak as much as it could have	36	38	37
56	The U.S. has not controlled the outbreak as much as it could have	62	61	61
2	No answer	1	1	2

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

24	Republican
32	Democrat
28	Independent
14	Something else
2	No answer

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING [N=4,757]:**PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>1</sup>**BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,045]:**

19	The Republican Party
20	The Democratic Party
5	No answer

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<sup>1</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.