

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
APRIL 2007 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
April 18-22, 2007
N=1508

QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 19 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.20 Would you favor or oppose a law that banned the sale of handguns?

		March <u>2000</u>	Sept <u>1999</u>	May <u>1999</u>	Dec <u>1993</u>
37	Favor	47	46	44	45
55	Oppose	47	50	50	51
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.21 What do you think is more important – to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

		Feb <u>2004</u>	June <u>2003</u>	May <u>2000</u>	April <u>2000</u>	March <u>2000</u>	June <u>1999</u>	May <u>1999</u>	Dec <u>1993</u>
32	Protect right of Americans to own guns	37	42	38	37	29	33	30	34
60	Control gun ownership	58	54	57	55	66	62	65	57
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.22 How much, if anything, did you read or hear about a shooting at Virginia Tech University that resulted in the death of 33 people? A lot, a little, or nothing at all?

87	A lot
11	A little
1	Nothing at all
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.23 Do you think this shooting and others like it reflect broader problems in American society, or are things like this just the isolated acts of troubled individuals?

46	Broader problems
47	Isolated acts
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF 1 IN Q.23 "BROADER PROBLEMS," ASK [N=687]:

Q.23a Just in your own view, what broader problems does this shooting reflect?" [OPEN END; ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES; DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]

37	MORALITY/SOCIAL VALUES (NET)
11	Moral breakdown / People don't know right from wrong
9	Violence in society/Movies/TV/Music/Video games
9	Family breakdown / Children neglected
5	Lack of community / No one cares or pays attention
5	Youth out of control / Selfish / No discipline

	3	Lack of religion
23		SOCIAL/GOVERNMENT SYSTEM FAILURES (NET)
	13	Mental health system not helping those in need
	5	Legal system / Laws don't allow these people to be locked up
	3	Not enough security
	3	School system failing
14		Gun laws/Too easy to get guns
12		SOCIAL/PERSONAL PRESSURES (NET)
	4	Social alienation / Isolation / Despair
	3	Young people can't cope / High-pressure/fast-paced society breeds insecurity
	2	Rich-poor divide breeds anger
	2	Racial divisions / Minorities face pressures
	1	Bullying
5		Copycat violence / Media coverage glorifies/sensationalizes
4		Crazy people in the world / He was crazy
2		Immigration
7		Other
11		Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

PARENT Are you the parent or guardian of any children under 18 now living in your household?

37	Yes
63	No
*	Don't know/Refused
<u> </u>	
100	

IF 'YES' (1 IN PARENT) ASK [N=444]:

SCHOOL And how many children do you have living in your household that are attending school, including kindergarten through 12th grade?

22	None
31	One
47	More than one
<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF CHILD IN SCHOOL (2,3 IN SCHOOL) ASK [N=359]:

PUBLIC And (does your child/do your children) attend public or private school(s)?

83	Public
11	Private
0	Catholic school/Parochial school/Religious school (VOL.)
*	Charter school (VOL.)
4	Both/Multiple (VOL.)
2	Neither/Home school (VOL.)
<u>0</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

KID1 Thinking about your school-age (child/children), (has/have) your (child/children) been following news about the shootings at Virginia Tech, or not?

56 Yes
40 No
4 Don't know/Refused
100

KID2 Have you been trying to restrict how much coverage of the shootings your (child watches/children watch) or not?

40 Yes
58 No
2 Don't know/Refused
100

KID3 How much have you talked about the shootings with your (child/children)? **(READ)**

19 A lot
39 Some
17 Not much
24 Not at all
1 **(VOL. DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:

COLLEGE And are you the parent of a full-time or part-time college student? **(IF 'YES' ASK: do you have one or more than one child in college?)**

10 Yes, one
3 Yes, more than one
87 No
* Don't know/Refused
100

IF CHILD IN COLLEGE (1,2 IN COLLEGE) ASK [N=215]:

COLL1 How much have you discussed the shootings with your (child/children) in college? **(READ)**

27 A lot
28 Some
15 Not much
28 Not at all
2 Don't know/Refused **(VOL. DO NOT READ)**
100

COLL2 (Has/Have) your college age (child/children) expressed any fears about safety at their school since the Virginia Tech shootings? **(READ)**

10 A lot
13 Some
14 Not much
57 Not at all
6 Don't know/Refused **(VOL. DO NOT READ)**
100

ASK ALL:

Q.71 Do you happen to have any guns, rifles or pistols in your home?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
April, 2007	37	61	2=100
January, 2007	33	64	3=100
December, 2004	37	60	3=100
Mid-October, 2004	39	59	2=100
Mid-July, 2003 ¹	34	63	3=100
August, 2002	35	62	3=100
April, 2000	35	62	3=100
June, 1997	40	57	3=100
December, 1993	45	53	2=100

1 From 1997 to 2003, the question asked about “guns or revolvers in your home.” In 1993, the question asked about “guns in this household.”

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No Preference	(VOL.) Other Party	DK/ Ref	<i>Lean</i> <i>Rep</i>	<i>Lean</i> <i>Dem</i>
April, 2007	25	28	40	5	*	2=100	13	17
March, 2007	25	36	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
February, 2007	25	34	34	4	*	3=100	10	18
Mid-January, 2007	24	35	34	3	*	4=100	12	18
Early-January, 2007	23	31	39	4	*	3=100	12	18
December, 2006	25	35	32	5	*	3=100	11	17
Mid-November, 2006	25	36	32	4	*	3=100	9	18
Late October, 2006	26	32	33	5	1	3=100	10	16
Early October, 2006	27	34	33	3	*	3=100	12	15
Early September, 2006	30	34	30	3	*	3=100	10	14
August, 2006	30	33	30	4	*	3=100	12	14
July, 2006	29	33	31	4	1	2=100	11	14
June, 2006	29	34	31	4	*	2=100	11	16
April, 2006	29	32	30	5	*	4=100	10	14
Early April, 2006	29	32	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
March, 2006	28	34	30	4	*	4=100	11	15
February, 2006	30	33	31	3	*	3=100	11	16
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100	10	15
Yearly Totals								
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.5	33.1	30.0	4.0	.4	3.0=100	11.8	13.6
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					

IF ANSWERED 1 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYSTR Do you consider yourself a STRONG Republican or NOT a strong Republican?

	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Not Strong/ Don't Know</u>
April, 2007	14	11=25%
January, 2007	12	11=23%
Mid-November, 2006	14	11=25%
Late-October, 2006	14	12=26%
Early-October, 2006	15	12=27%
September, 2006	17	13=30%
December, 2005	16	13=29%
December, 2004	18	13=31%
July, 2004	17	12=29%
August, 2003	14	13=27%
September, 2000	14	13=27%
Late-September, 1999	10	14=24%
August, 1999	11	14=25%
November, 1997	11	14=25%
October, 1995	11	19=30%
April, 1995	15	15=30%
October, 1994	16	15=31%
July, 1994	13	16=29%
June, 1992	11	17=28%
May, 1990	13	15=28%
February, 1989	15	16=31%
May, 1988	13	15=28%
January, 1988	12	15=27%
May, 1987	11	14=25%

IF ANSWERED 2 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYSTR Do you consider yourself a STRONG Democrat or NOT a strong Democrat?

	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Not Strong/ Don't Know</u>
April, 2007	15	13=28%
January, 2007	17	14=31%
Mid-November, 2006	22	14=36%
Late-October, 2006	18	14=32%
Early-October, 2006	19	15=34%
September, 2006	18	16=34%
December, 2005	20	14=34%
December, 2004	19	15=34%
July, 2004	20	13=33%
August, 2003	15	16=31%
September, 2000	19	15=34%
Late-September, 1999	15	16=31%
August, 1999	15	18=33%
November, 1997	14	18=32%
October, 1995	14	16=30%
April, 1995	14	15=29%
October, 1994	18	14=32%
July, 1994	15	18=33%
June, 1992	14	18=32%

PARTYSTR CONTINUED...

	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Not Strong/ Don't Know</u>
May, 1990	16	17=33%
February, 1989	17	21=38%
May, 1988	19	19=38%
January, 1988	19	20=39%
May, 1987	18	19=37%