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## Personal Privacy vs. Public Safety

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# Personal Privacy vs. Public Safety

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## Summary

- “Americans like their privacy, but sometimes the reflex to defend privacy at all costs undermines the common good of society (Clewett, 1).”
- When it comes to matters of national security, the controversial battle of Personal Privacy vs. Public Safety is waged.
- Finding the balance between the two has long vexed those in power to set the rules to protect this nation individually as well as nationally.

## Key Points

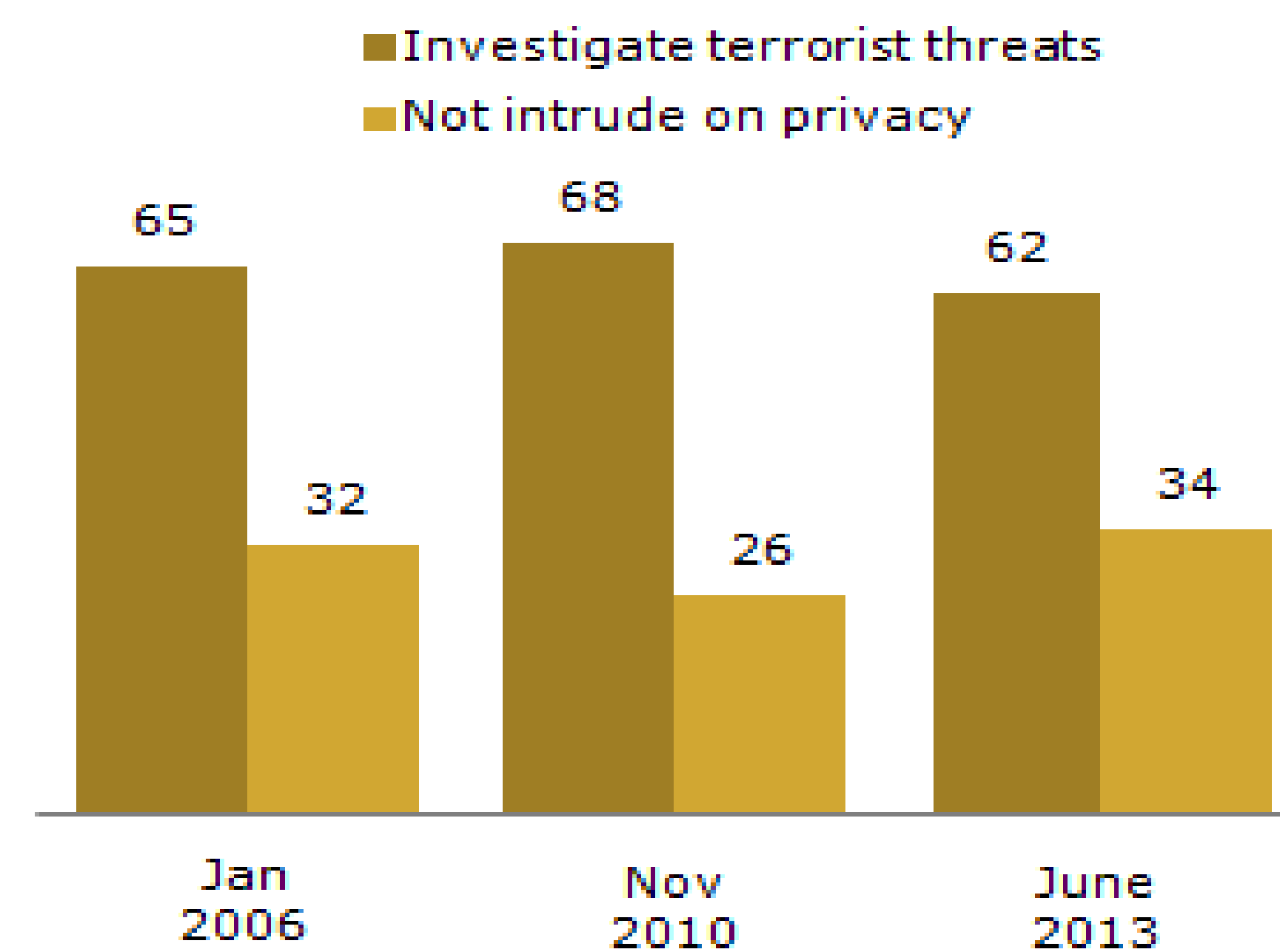
- “The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon disrupted our normal routines and sense of security as well as the nation’s political agenda (EDITORIAL, 2).”
- Escalated events of terrorism have caused a monumental shift in the perspective of Americans for the greater good of society.
- “The need to detect terrorist conspiracies, and threats such as these, is overshadowing previous concerns about high tech intrusive technologies eroding personal privacy (EDITORIAL, 1).”

## Conclusion

- The nation as a whole must value the safety of our society rather than the needs of the individual for the greater good.
- We must also continue maintaining a balance for the lengths we will be allowed to go when invading one’s privacy.
- “We have to be careful not to erode the protections afforded by personal privacy so much that we create a greater damage to public safety (Privacy vs. Common Good, 2).”
- There are many different aspects of this controversial topic such as the importance of the values pertaining to public safety and personal privacy, when it comes to the healthcare system, our homes, our workplace, etc.
- With many different suspects but no easily defined enemy and no foreseeable end to the conflict one must ask what will we do, what sacrifices will we make, and how temporary will these sacrifices for war on terrorism really be?

### Public Says Investigate Terrorism, Even if it Intrudes on Privacy

Which is more important?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST June 6-9, 2013. Jan 2006 and Nov 2010 data from ABC/WP. Don't know responses not shown.



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