

navigating.* coronavirus

Daily Update:
Thursday, April 16th, 2020

MESSAGE UPDATE (Non-tracking)

Communicating in
Crisis: Coronavirus



Key takeaways:

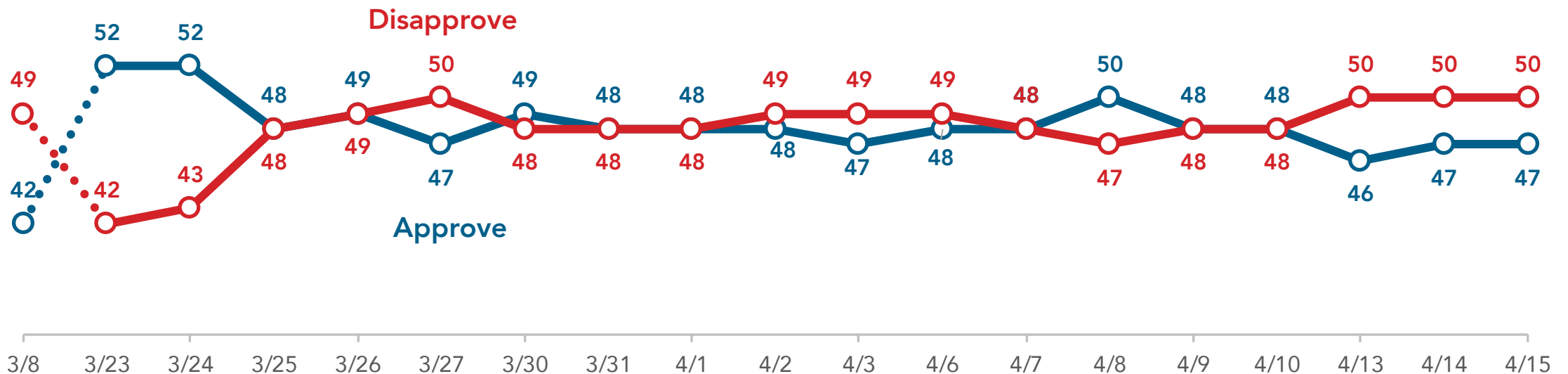
- For the third day in a row, Trump's approval rating on handling the coronavirus pandemic is underwater.
- The Centers for Disease Control, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and the World Health Organization are most trusted to tell the truth about the coronavirus pandemic.
- Trump's downplaying of the threat, early inaction, and his temperament during the crisis continue to raise concerns.

Trump Coronavirus Rating Remains Underwater

For the third day in a row, Trump's approval rating on handling the coronavirus pandemic is net negative.

- While 47% of Americans approve of his handling, 12% say they approve because it is important to be supportive of the president during a time of crisis.
- Among independents, Trump is at -12 (37% approve/49% disapprove).

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling the coronavirus pandemic?



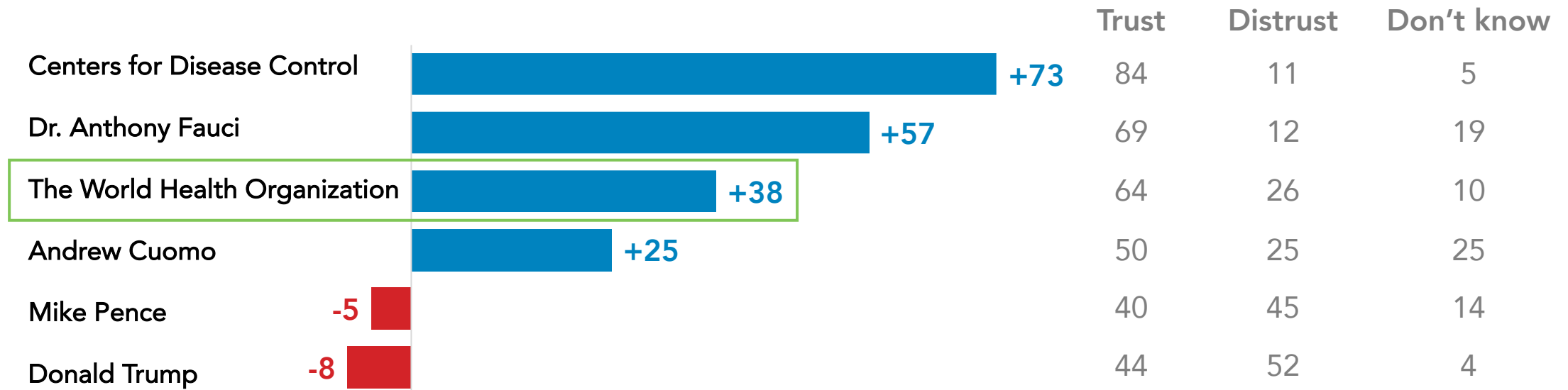
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted April 10-15, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

World Health Organization More Trusted Than Trump

This week, President Trump announced he is halting World Health Organization funding. However, Americans trust the World Health Organization by 38 points (64% trust/26% distrust), while they distrust Trump by 8 points (44% trust/52% distrust).

- Dr. Anthony Fauci retains high levels of trust at 69%, including 65% among Republicans and 70% among 2016 Trump voters.

Please indicate how much you trust _____ to tell the truth when it comes to the coronavirus pandemic.

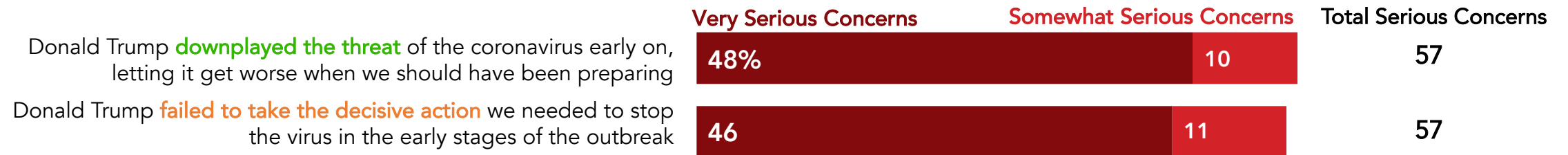


"2016 Trump Voters" self-report having voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 election. Nationwide survey of 1,015 registered voters; April 10-15, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Trump Downplaying the Threat is Dominant Concern

Trump’s downplaying of the crisis and his early inaction have consistently raised the most concerns in our tracking. To hone in on this, we added a new forced-choice question asking respondents to pick which concerned them most about Trump’s early handling.

Please indicate whether the following raises concerns...



Which of the following concerns you more about how President Trump handled the early stages of the outbreak?

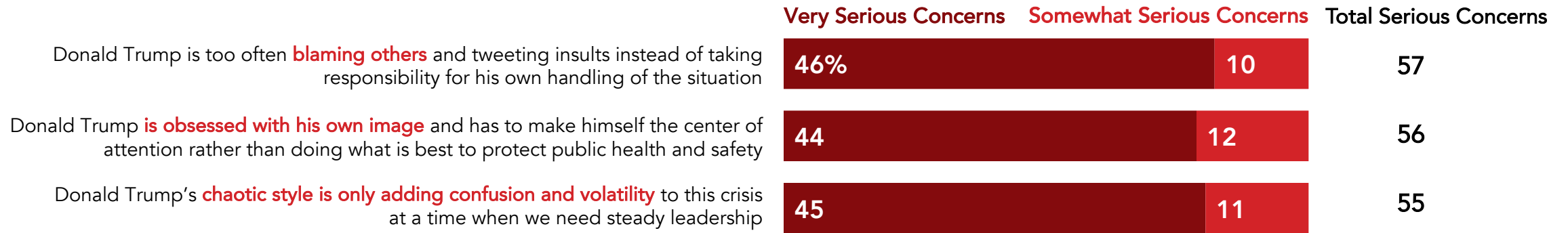


“Mixed on Trump” refers to Americans who don’t always approve or don’t always disapprove of Trump’s overall job performance, his handling of the economy, his handling the coronavirus pandemic, and his handling of health care. Nationwide survey of 1,015 registered voters; April 10-15, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

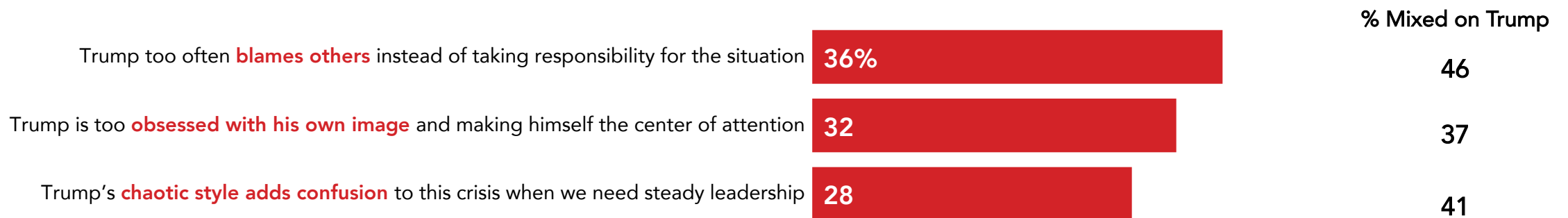
“Blaming Others” Tops Trump Temperament Concerns

Concerns about Trump’s temperament have also consistently tracked close to each other, so we added a new follow-up question digging into Trump’s behavior, finding that passing off blame is a slightly higher concern than others tested.

Please indicate whether the following raises concerns...



Which TWO of the following concern you most about President Trump’s behavior during the crisis?



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Trump's China Travel Ban: Too Little, Too Late

The majority of Americans found the ineffectiveness of Trump's China travel ban to be the most effective response to Trump when he redirects blame for the crisis to China.

Please indicate how convincing you find each one as a response to Trump.

President Trump's China travel ban policy didn't work and did not prevent coronavirus from spreading rapidly in the United States. It came too late, 40,000 people were still allowed to enter the U.S. from China after he put it in place, and now we have more cases than anywhere in the world.

In February, when President Trump should have been stockpiling medical gear in the United States, the Trump administration sent 18 tons of personal protective equipment to China, including masks, gowns, and respirators, that our nurses, doctors, and hospitals now desperately need.

President Trump likes to talk tough on China, but he has praised China for months, saying that China was "working very hard to contain the coronavirus" and that he "greatly appreciates their efforts." He's only blaming China now because the situation got worse under his watch.

President Trump is just blaming China as a distraction from his own failure to prepare the country for coronavirus. The truth is that Trump downplayed the seriousness of the virus from the beginning, letting the situation get worse when we should have been preparing.

President Trump's continued blaming of China, including calling the coronavirus the "Chinese virus," is just another example of Trump spreading racism and hatred to distract from his own failures. Worse, it is causing increased incidents of racial slurs and physical abuse against Asian Americans.

% Very/Somewhat Convincing

Overall Mixed on Trump

54

58

50

52

50

49

50

48

48

48

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Downplaying Threat & Lack of PPE Most Concerning

Trump downplaying the threat when he should have been preparing and his announcement that national stockpiles of medical equipment are empty raise serious concerns for Americans.

- Among those “mixed on Trump,” his firing of the inspector general (76%) also raises serious concerns.

Please indicate whether the following raises concerns about the Trump administration’s ability to respond to the pandemic.

Top 5 of 10 tested

	% Very/Somewhat Serious Concerns	
	Overall	Mixed on Trump
President Trump spent weeks downplaying coronavirus when he should have been preparing the response. On February 26th, he said: “When you have 15 people [with coronavirus], and the 15 within a couple of days is going to be down to close to zero, that’s a pretty good job we’ve done.” Now, more than 18,000 Americans have died and half a million have been infected.	62	82
President Trump failed to prepare for the crisis, and now the administration has announced national stockpiles of medical equipment are empty. In fact, earlier this year, the White House cut three quarters of the budget needed to replenish our stockpile and even sent critical medical supplies to foreign countries, including China, instead of U.S. states.	63	76
President Trump has said “I can do whatever I want as president,” and after the coronavirus stimulus package passed he said he would ignore transparency requirements that protect tax dollars. Then, he fired a watchdog, known as an inspector general, responsible for ensuring the \$2 trillion in new spending was not wasted on abuse, political favors or incompetence.	61	76
President Trump failed to deliver critically-needed testing he promised to respond to the pandemic – testing that other countries are using to fight back against the virus. The administration said 27 million tests would be available by the end of March, but just two million tests have been conducted while the administration has announced they’re ending funding for community testing this week.	63	73
President Trump has ignored the advice of medical experts, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, and promoted a drug called hydroxychloroquine. This drug has not yet been approved for coronavirus treatment or even been shown to be effective, and it may have side effects that pose serious health risks.	61	72

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About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Andrea Purse, progressive strategist; Arkadi Gerney, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; Delvone Michael, Working Families; Felicia Wong, Roosevelt Institute; Mike Podhorzer, AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 1,015 registered voters conducted April 10-15, 2020. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from multiple opt-in online panel vendors. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables.

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To learn more about
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<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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