

navigating.* CORONAVIRUS

Daily Update:
Thursday, April 30, 2020

MESSAGE UPDATE

Communicating in
Crisis: Coronavirus



Key takeaways:

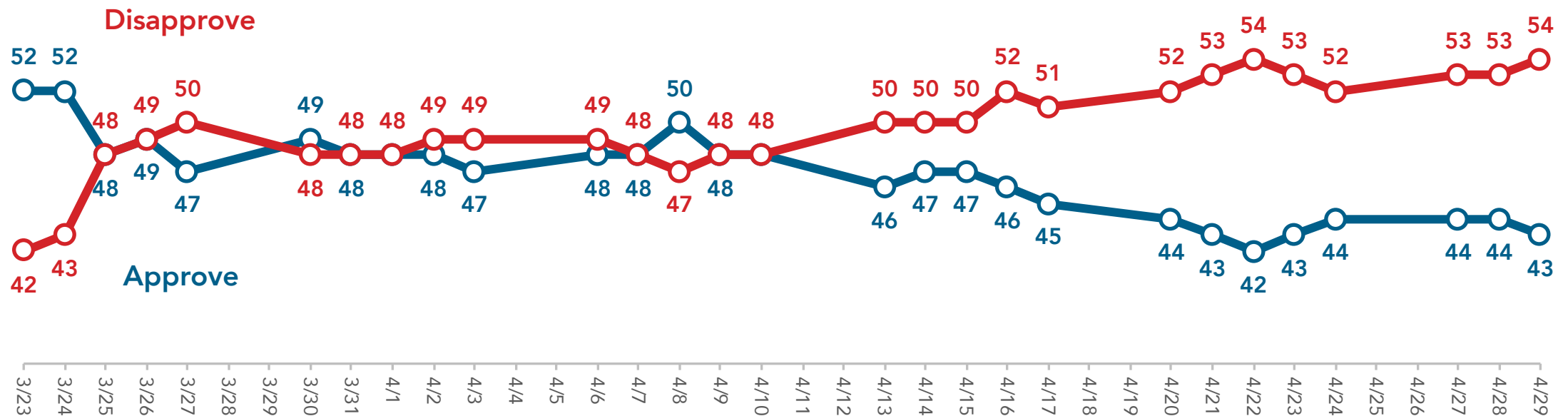
- Following Trump's remarks on disinfectants, impressions of Trump's press conferences have worsened.
- The public is concerned Trump is putting people's health at risk by promoting dangerous advice and ignoring experts.
- The public blames both Trump and China, but also sees Trump's blame game as a deflection of his own failures.

Trump's Approval on Pandemic Continues to Erode

Trump's handling of the pandemic continues to be negative by double digits.

- In the highly-impacted Northeast, Trump's approval is even worse (38% approve/61% disapprove).

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



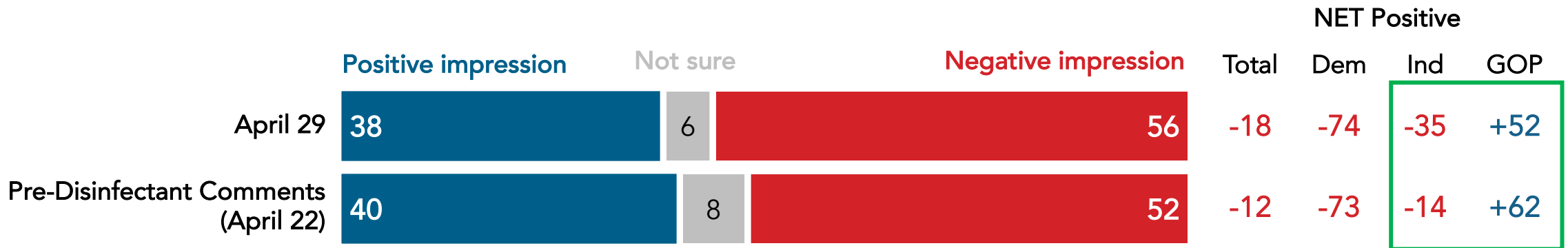
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted April 24-29, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Impressions of Trump's Press Conferences Worsen

Following Trump's recent comments about ingesting disinfectants, impressions of his press conferences have become more negative.

- Net positive impressions have decreased the most among independents (-35, down from -14 on April 22) and Republicans (+52, down from +62 on April 22).
- On a separate question, a majority overall (59%) and of independents (63%) say that Trump should "stop doing daily press conferences personally and leave briefings to other officials."

Does the way Trump is behaving at these press conferences give you a positive or negative impression of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic?



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Concern About Endangering Public Tops Lack of Plan

Nearly half are most concerned Trump puts people's health and lives at risk, more so than his failure to show leadership and lack of a concrete plan for testing.

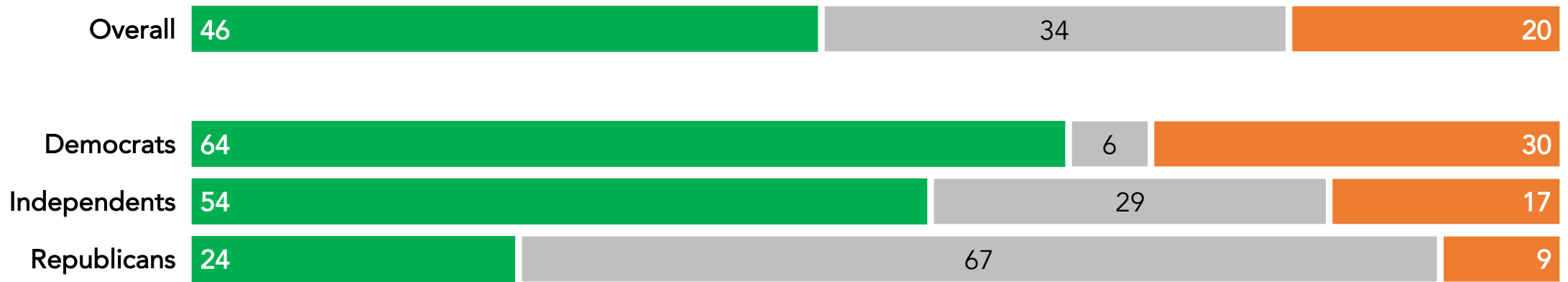
- Among those "mixed on Trump"* , more than half (56%) are more concerned about him putting people's health at risk than lacking a plan to get us out of the crisis (20%).

Which of the following concerns you most about how Trump has handled the coronavirus crisis?

Trump's words and actions are putting people's health and lives at risk – that Trump is ignoring health experts by too aggressively pushing to reopen the country which puts people's health at risk, is encouraging people to protest stay-at-home orders which will only spread the virus further, and is promoting dangerous medical advice like taking drugs that do more harm than good and injecting themselves with bleach

Trump is not leading the country and has no plan to get us out of the crisis – that Trump has no national plan for testing or solving the country's health problems so we can safely reopen the country and that Trump has not shown the leadership we should expect from a president, instead blaming and passing the buck to others instead of taking responsibility for the situation

Neither



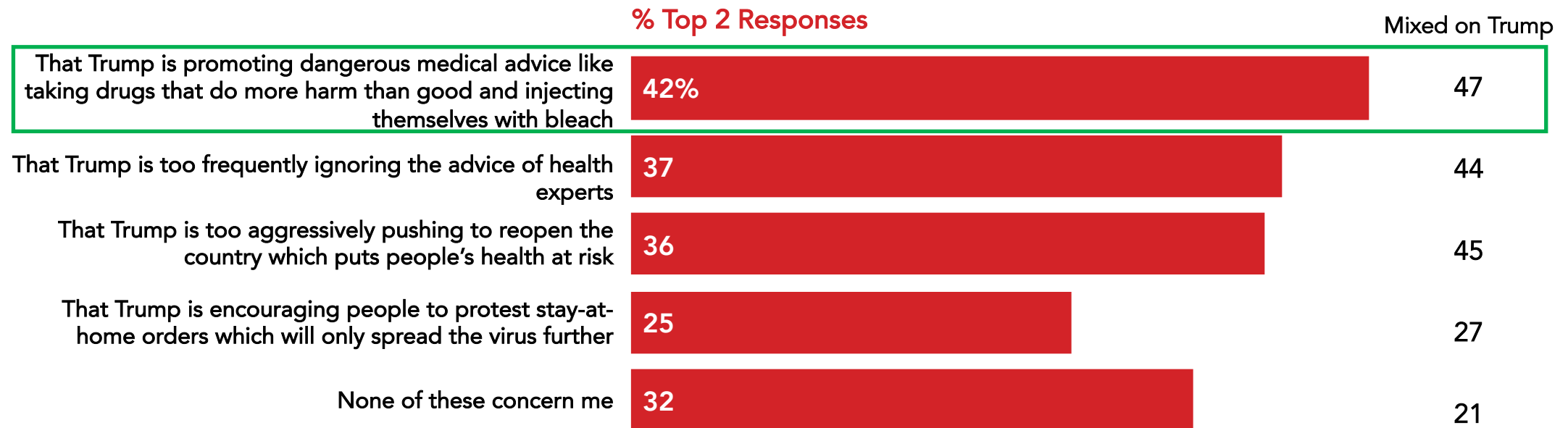
*"Mixed on Trump" refers to Americans that don't always approve or don't always disapprove of Trump's overall job performance, his handling of the economy, his handling the coronavirus pandemic, and his handling of health care. Nationwide survey of 1,004 registered voters; April 24-29, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Dangerous Medical Advice a Top Concern

Americans, including those with mixed views on Trump, are most concerned by Trump’s promotion of dangerous medical advice and ignoring health experts.

- In a separate question, 58% (and 64% of those “mixed on Trump”) say that Trump’s decisions that “have ignored and overruled the advice of health and medical experts” raise “very” or “somewhat” serious concerns.

Which of the following concerns you more about how Trump has handled the coronavirus crisis recently?



“Mixed on Trump” refers to Americans that 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 1,004 registered voters; April 24-29, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Lack of Medical Support & Dangerous Advice Worry Public

While the public remains concerned by Trump’s early downplaying, there is now also concern about the treatment of frontline medical workers as a result of his decision-making and dangerous medical advice.

- For “mixed on Trump,” top responses include Trump’s failure to adequately support medical professionals (53% very concerning) and dangerous medical advice (49%).

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

		% Serious Concerns			
		Overall		Mixed on Trump	
		Very	Total	Very	Total
Top 3 Most Concerning	President Trump is leaving nurses and doctors, who are fighting on the front lines of this crisis, dangerously at risk as they continue to operate without the personal protective equipment they need to do their jobs. And instead of helping them, he has pointed fingers at them, accusing hospitals and nurses of hoarding equipment.	50	63	53	73
	Trump continues to go against the advice of health experts by promoting ridiculous and downright dangerous medical advice, ranging from bleach injections to “clean” the lungs of coronavirus patients to using an unproven medicine called hydroxychloroquine that scientists say increases the risk of death.	50	63	49	72
	President Trump made a big mistake when he downplayed the threat of coronavirus in the early days, letting it spread. Now he is making the same mistake again, downplaying the health risks of the virus as he recklessly pushes the country to reopen even though we aren't ready, putting more American lives at risk.	49	64	48	72
Bottom 2 Least Concerning	Instead of leading, President Trump is letting states fend for themselves and even compete with each other for testing and medical equipment. That has led governors across the country to buy their own supplies from other countries, often bidding against each other just to help save the lives of people in their state.	44	60	36	66
	As other countries across the world are reopening with comprehensive plans for testing, monitoring, or producing enough masks for nurses, doctors, and the public, President Trump has no national plan to safely reopen the country, instead leaving it to states and hospitals to fend for themselves.	42	59	36	63

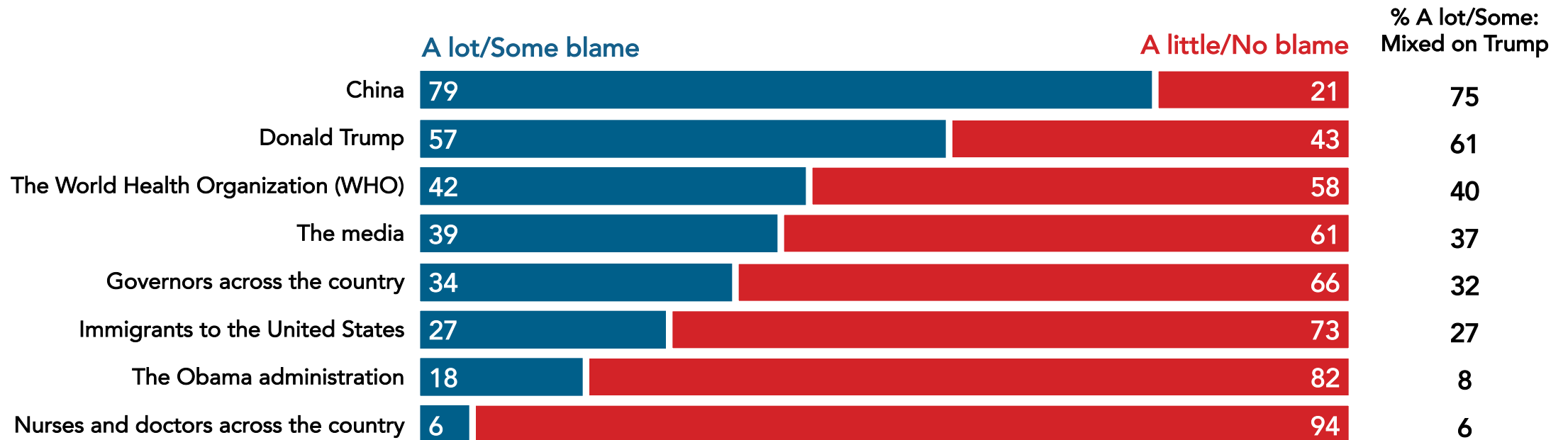
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Public Blames Both China and Trump, But...

President Trump and China are most deserving of blame for making the coronavirus pandemic worse.

- Large shares of Americans saying China deserves “a lot” or “some blame” is a result of cross-partisan sentiment, with 72% of Democrats, 76% of independents, and 88% of Republicans agreeing. On the other hand, Trump deserving blame is highly partisan, with 87% of Democrats, 56% of independents, and only 22% of Republicans saying he deserves “a lot” or “some.”

Please indicate how much blame you think each deserves for making the coronavirus pandemic worse.



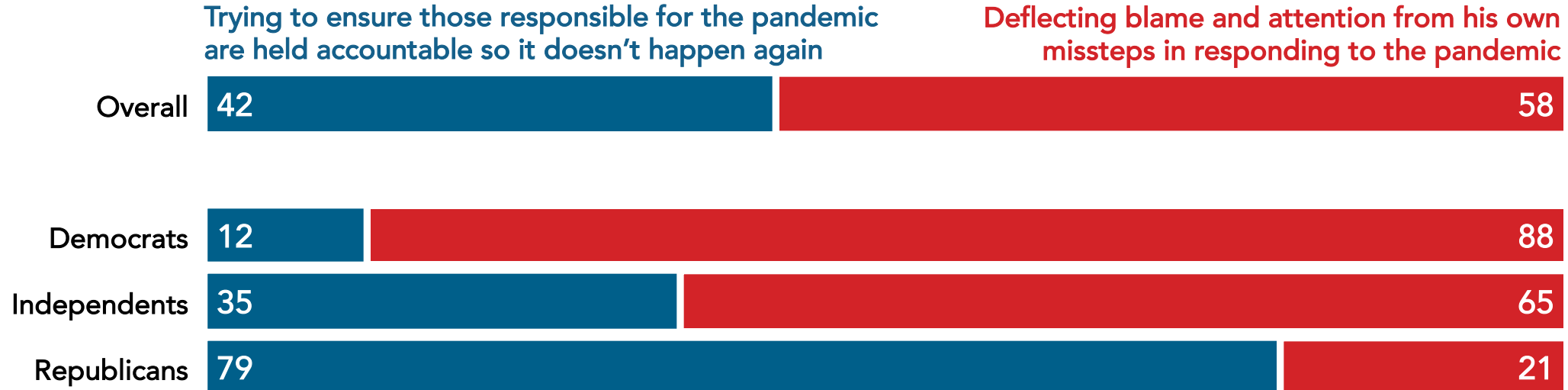
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...Americans See Trump's Blame Game As Deflection

A majority of Americans, including two-thirds of independents, believe that when Trump discusses who should be blamed for making coronavirus worse, he is deflecting blame and attention from his own missteps.

- Since we began our daily tracking, the majority of Americans say that Trump "too often blaming others and tweeting insults instead of taking responsibility" raises "very" or "somewhat" serious concerns and has consistently been a top concern.

When President Trump talks about other groups who should be blamed for making the coronavirus pandemic worse in America, for Trump, do you think this is more about...

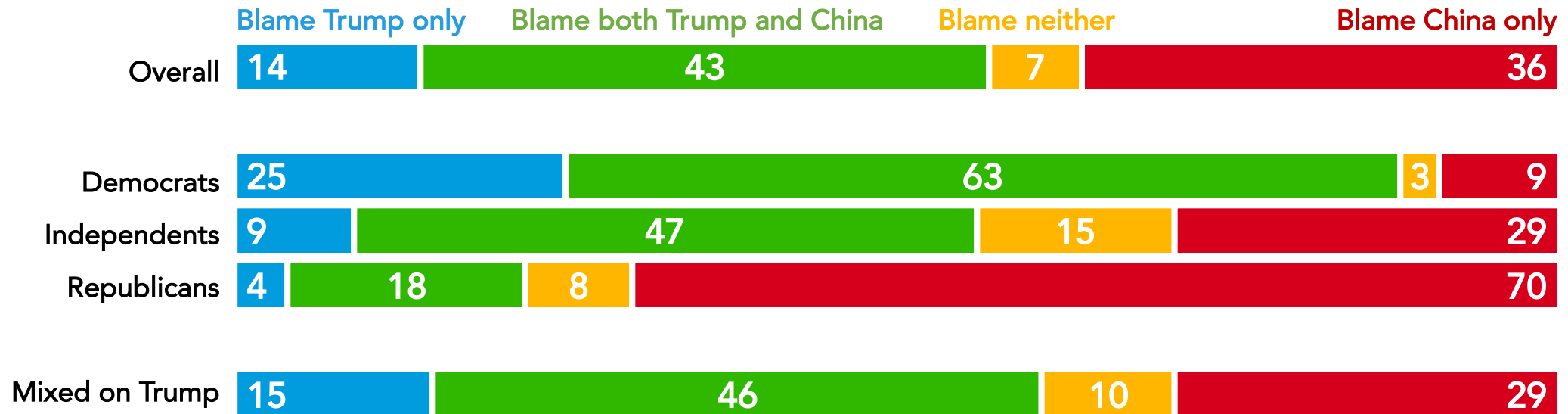


Plurality of Americans Blame Trump And China

There are plenty who blame both the president AND the Chinese government, including a majority of Democrats and nearly half of independents and those “mixed on Trump.”

- Moderates (51%) and Americans ages 18-44 (47%) are also especially likely to blame both Trump and China.

Please indicate how much blame you think each deserves for making the coronavirus pandemic worse.



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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 1,004 registered voters conducted April 24-29, 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

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