

# navigating.\* coronavirus

Update:  
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Communicating in  
Crisis: Coronavirus



## Key takeaways:

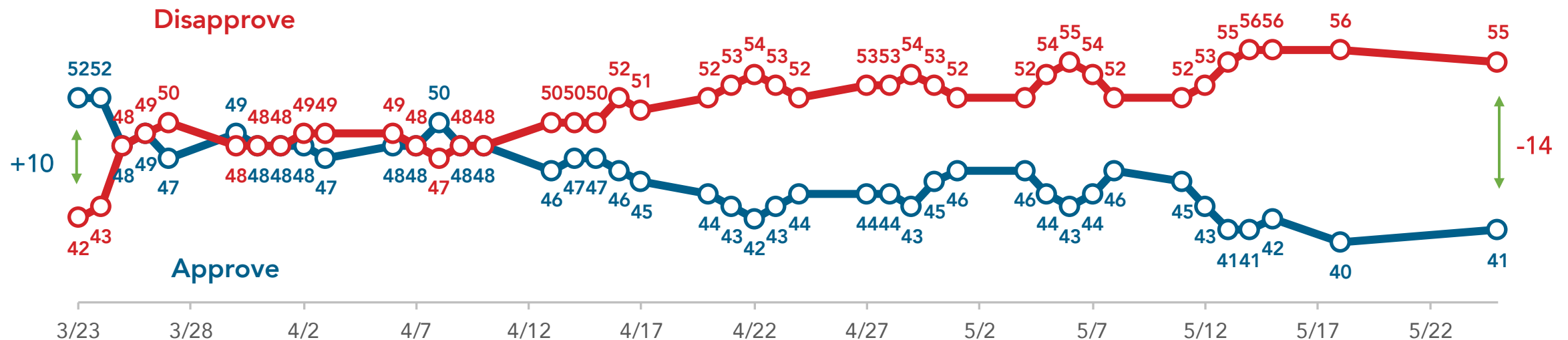
- Trump's pandemic approval rating remains low as more people hear about him not wearing a mask and claiming to take hydroxychloroquine.
- The vast majority of Americans say elected officials should be required to wear masks in government buildings, and two thirds disapprove of Trump not wearing one.
- Despite many states reopening, a majority remain concerned social distancing will end too soon and prolong the pandemic, and few want to speed up reopening in their own state.

# Trump's Pandemic Approval Remains Deeply Underwater

Only 41% of Americans approve of the way that Trump is handling the coronavirus pandemic.

- Only 36% of independents approve of his handling of the pandemic.
- Among whites without a college degree, just over half (51%) approve of his handling, while only 42% of college educated whites and 23% of people of color approve.

**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 May 21-May 25, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org)

# Americans Hearing About Trump Taking Unproven Drugs and Not Wearing a Mask

Since May 18, negative conversation around Trump's handling continues to include concern about reopening the country too soon, as well as his refusal to wear a mask and taking drugs that have not been proven to work.

In a few words, what **negative** things have you seen, read, or heard recently about Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic?



"He **won't wear a mask**, he thinks he's smarter than the experts, and he wants to **open the country too soon**."

"Him **deciding to take a drug not intended for the purpose he is using it**. Denying that Covid-19 is not getting worse in this country, Not wearing a mask. Numerous other things."

"Reopening the country **possibly leading to a second wave**."

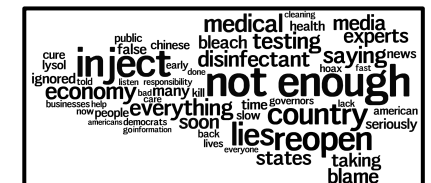
May 18



May 12



May 5



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# Fellow Americans Ignoring Precautions Now a Top Worry

Worries about other Americans not wearing masks or social distancing and causing the virus to spread is a top worry, comparable to nursing home vulnerability and the possibility of a second wave after reopening.

- Among independents, 78% are "very" or "somewhat" worried about other people not following precautions, as are 65% of Republicans.

**Below are some things some people might be worried about in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Please indicate how worried you are about each one.**

		% Net Worried May 25	% Net Worried May 18
People in nursing homes being especially at risk and in danger from the spread of this virus	53% Very Worried 37 Smwt. Worried	90	87
That we will experience a "second wave" of the coronavirus outbreak once the country starts to reopen	49 34	83	84
That other people are not following precautions, like wearing masks and social distancing, which will spread the virus	49 31	80	n/a
The economy falling into a recession	47 40	87	89
Someone close to you getting infected with coronavirus	44 35	79	77
Others who are infected with coronavirus getting you sick	39 36	75	71

# Vast Majority of Public Identify as “Pro-Mask”

Nearly three in four Americans overall are pro-mask: even among Republicans, more than half say they are.

- Among Republican women, 64% say they are “pro-mask.” However, less than half of Republican men (48%) say the same.

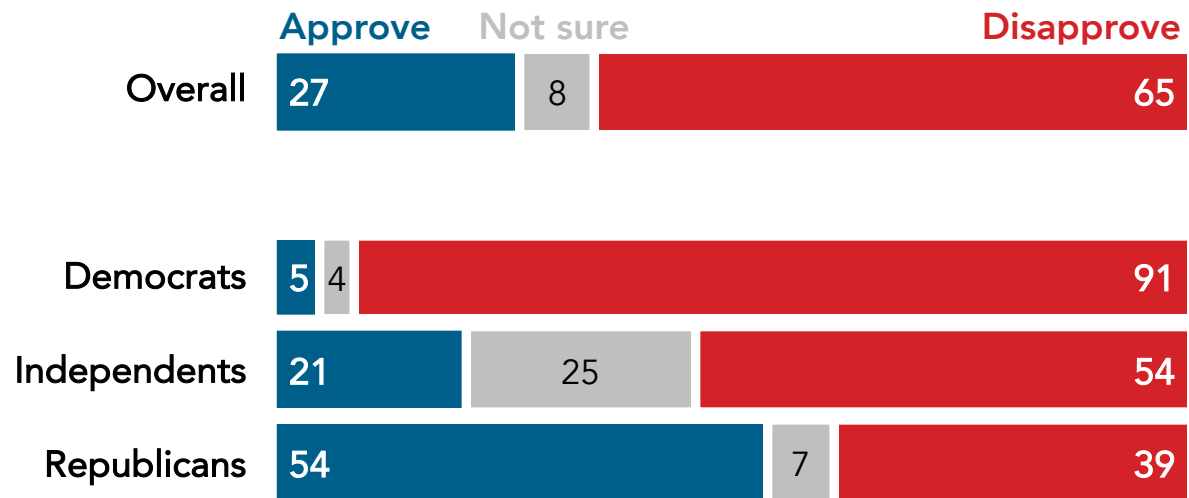
**There are differing opinions on whether or not people should be wearing masks right now when they are in public, but if you had to choose, would you say that you are generally pro-mask or anti-mask?**



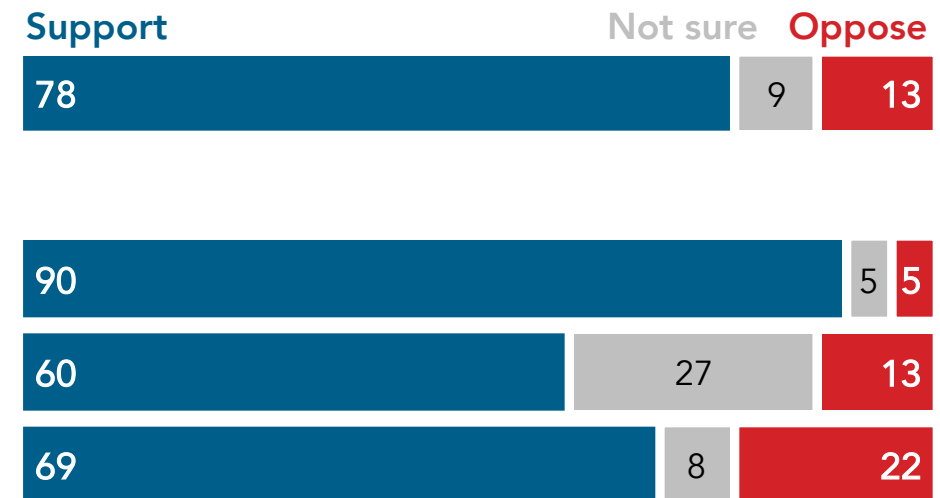
# Majorities Disapprove of Trump Not Wearing Mask and Say Elected Officials Should be Required To Wear Them

Two thirds of Americans disapprove of Donald Trump not wearing a face mask in public, and the vast majority – regardless of party – support elected officials being required to wear masks in government buildings.

**Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump's decision NOT to wear a face mask while in public?**



**Do you support or oppose requiring elected officials to wear masks when in government buildings including in Congress and in state capitols around the country?**



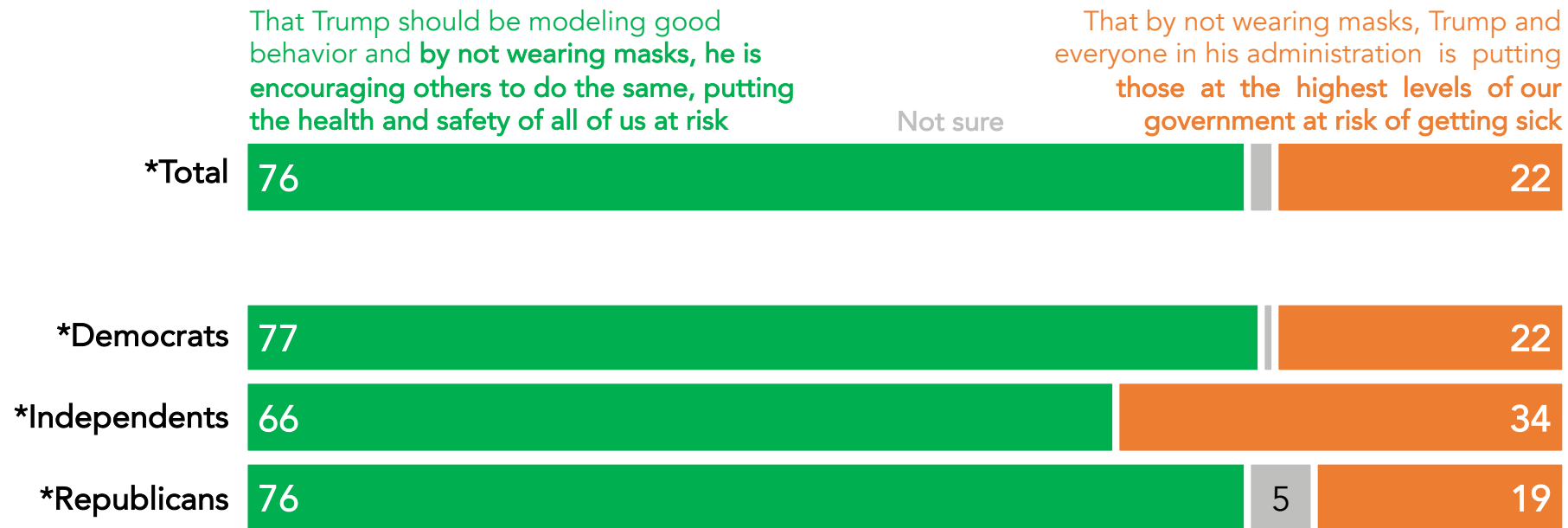
Nationwide survey of 1,012 registered voters; May 21-May 25, 2020.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org)

# Among Disapprovers, Far More Are Worried Trump is Encouraging Others Not To Wear Masks

Among those who disapprove of Trump not wearing a mask, three in four are more concerned that him not wearing a mask in public encourages others to do the same than him putting other government officials at risk.

- Among Americans who have most recently been employed in the service industry, 90% say they are most bothered by Trump not wearing masks and encouraging others to also not wear them.

**Which bothers you more about Donald Trump's decision not to wear a mask in public?**



\*Only asked of those who disapprove of Trump not wearing a mask (65% of sample).  
Nationwide survey of 1,012 registered voters; May 21-May 25, 2020.  
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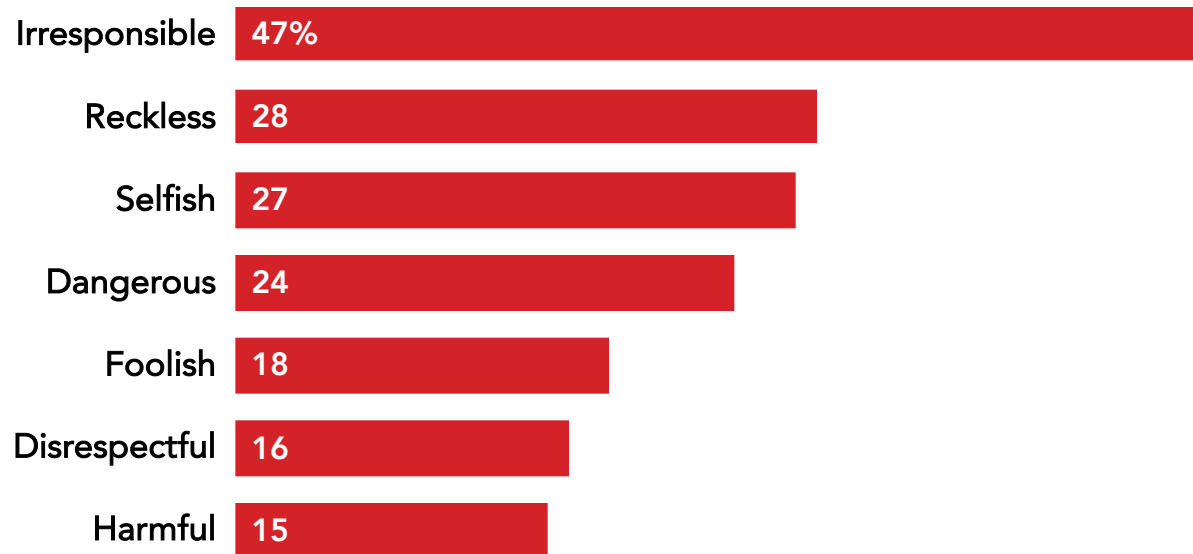


# Non-Mask Wearers: “Irresponsible”

When shown a list of possible descriptors, top choices Americans select to describe those they see not wearing masks at public gatherings include “irresponsible,” “reckless,” “selfish,” and “dangerous.”

- Among Democrats, 58% choose “irresponsible” as do 55% of independents.

**When you see people not wearing masks at public gatherings, what words come to mind to describe what they’re doing?**

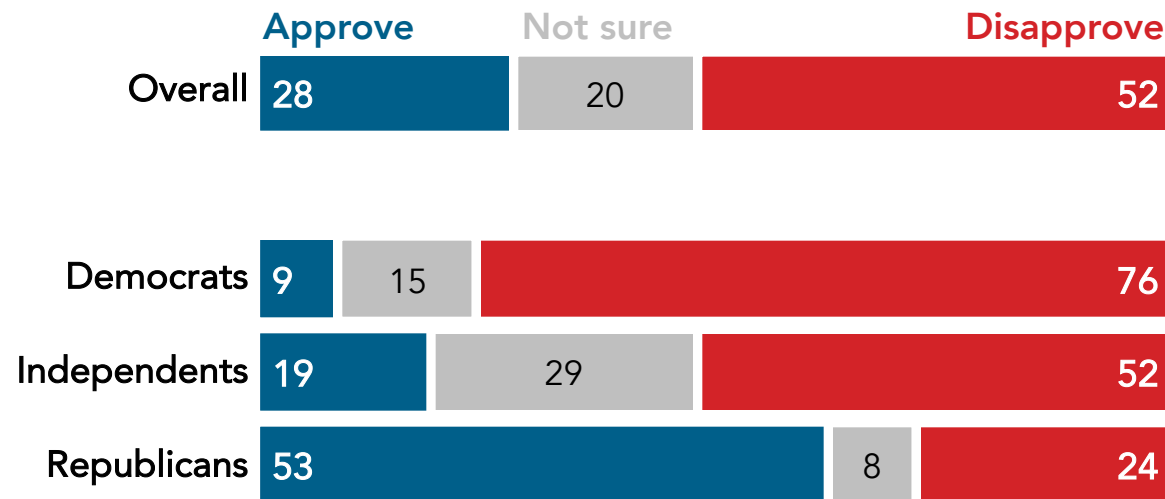


# Majority Disapprove of Trump Taking Hydroxychloroquine, But Split On Whether He Actually Is

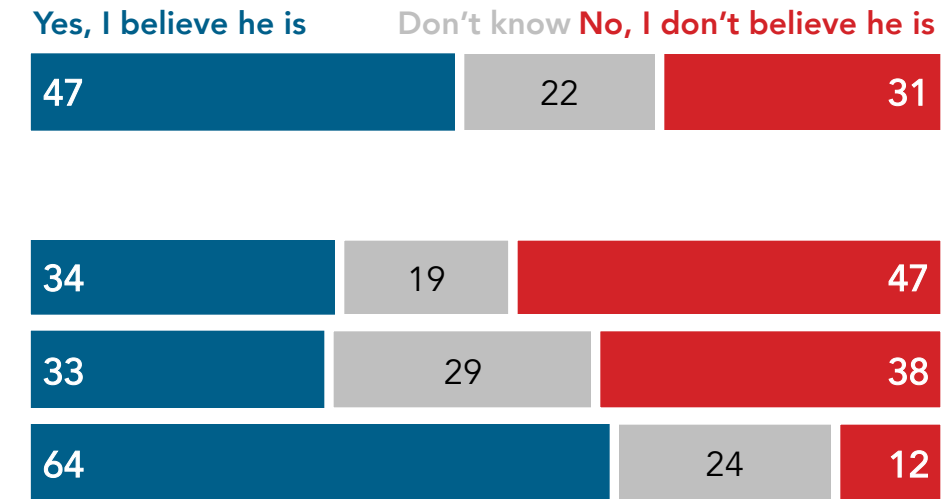
A majority disapprove of Trump's decision to announce he is taking hydroxychloroquine, while less than half actually believe he is taking the drug.

- On a separate question, 78% of Americans say they have heard "a lot" or "some" about Trump telling reporters he was taking hydroxychloroquine to prevent coronavirus.

**Do you approve or disapprove of Trump's decision to announce that he is taking hydroxychloroquine?**



**Do you believe Donald Trump is taking hydroxychloroquine, or do you not believe him?**



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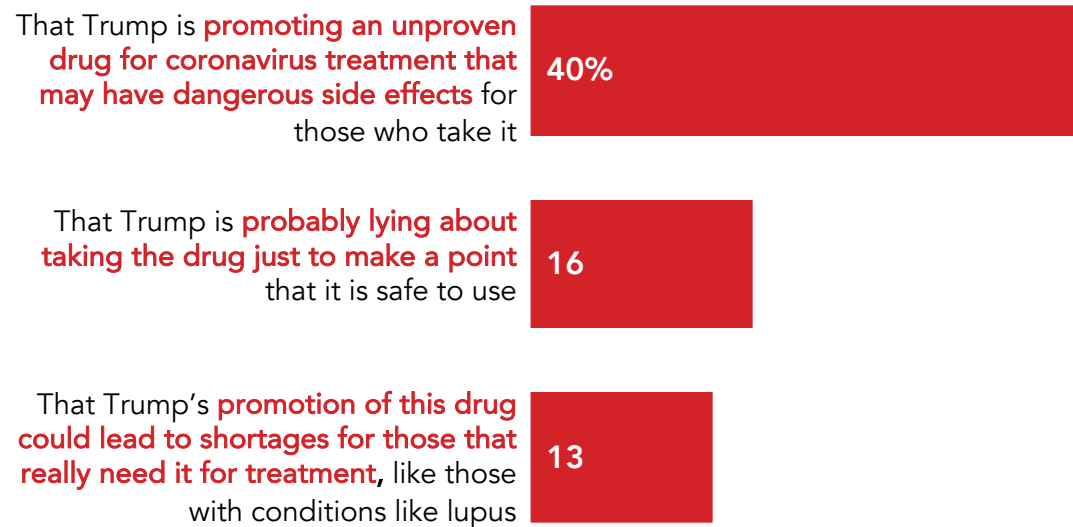
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## Public Most Concerned Trump Promoting Unproven Drug, Describe it as "Stupid" and "Lies"

Americans are most concerned that Trump is promoting an unproven drug rather than his lying about it or leading to shortages of the drug for those that really need it.

- When asked to describe Trump taking hydroxychloroquine, both Democrats and Republicans call the decision "stupid" – but Republicans say it is his choice to do so, while Democrats say it is "irresponsible" and "reckless."

**Which of the following concerns you most about Trump's choice to take hydroxychloroquine?**



**Using just one or two words, what was your reaction to hearing that Trump is taking hydroxychloroquine?**

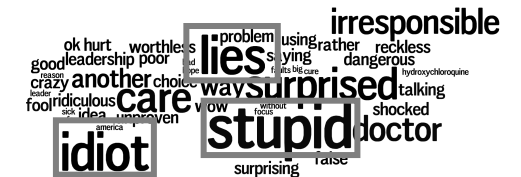
## Democrats



## Republicans



## Independents



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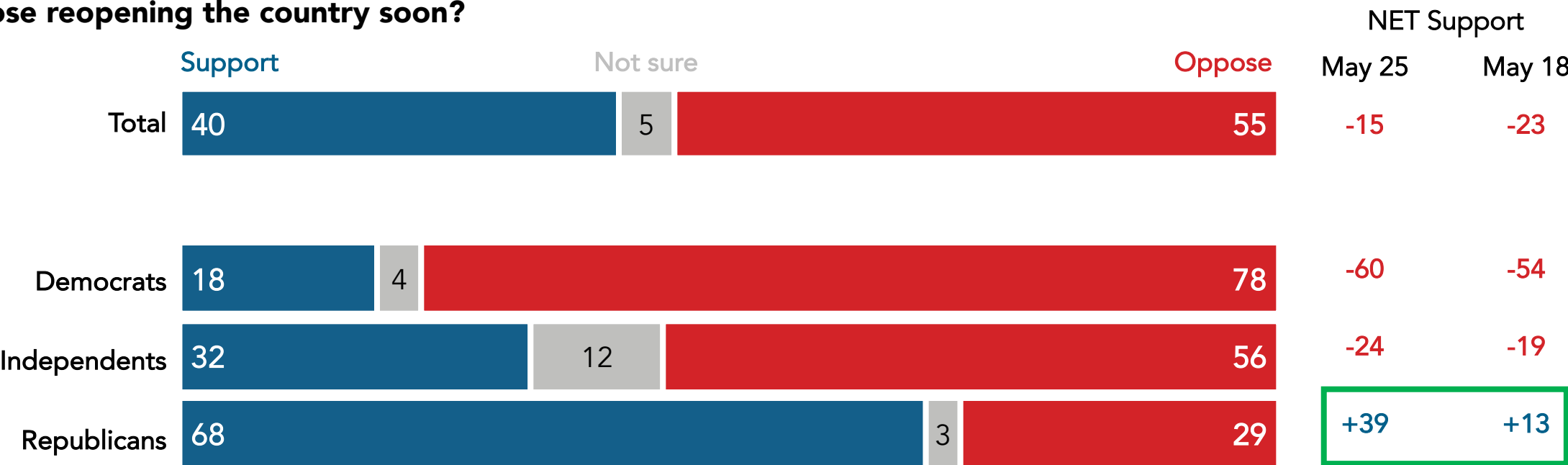
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# Majority Oppose National Reopening, But GOP Shifting

The decline in opposition to reopening is driven by Republicans.

- Both Democrats and independents have grown more opposed to reopening soon, with a net increase of 6 points among Democrats and 5 points among independents since May 18.
- Among Republicans who watch Fox News, 74% support the country reopening in the next few weeks. Among Republicans who do not watch Fox News, only 57% support reopening soon.

Some people are saying that we should declare the country open in the next few weeks. Do you support or oppose reopening the country soon?



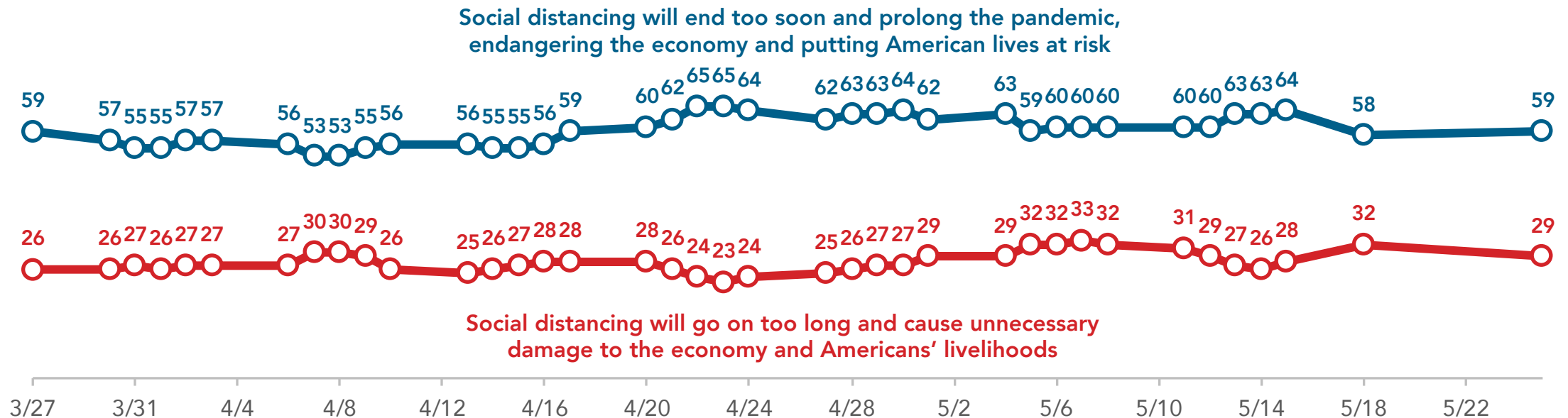
"Republicans who watch Fox News" are Republicans who report watching Fox News at least a few times a month. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted May 21-May 25, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Most Remain Concerned Social Distancing Will End Too Soon

Nearly three in five Americans continue to say they are more concerned that social distancing will end too soon and prolong the pandemic than that it will go on too long and hurt the economy.

- Among independents, 58% remain more concerned that social distancing will end too soon and prolong the pandemic, while only 29% are more concerned it will go on too long.

**When it comes to social distancing and the coronavirus pandemic, which of the following concerns you more right now?**



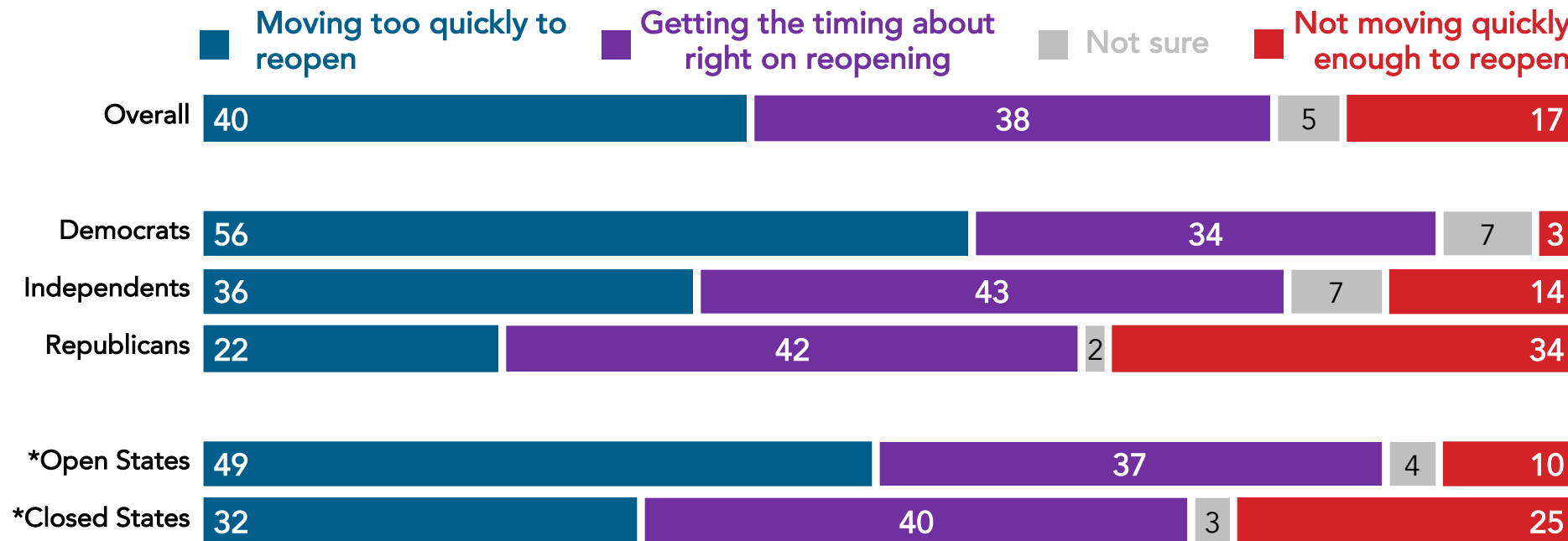
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# Few Want to Speed Up Reopening in Their Own State

Two in five say their state is moving too quickly to reopen; just 17% think their state is not moving quickly enough.

- 48% of Americans now say that their state is more open than closed, compared to 36% last week.
- In states that respondents report as more open than closed, nearly half (49%) think their state is moving too quickly to reopen.

When it comes to relaxing social distancing measures and reopening, would you say that [STATE] is...



\*These are defined by respondent's self-reporting of what is happening in their state. "Open states" include those who say their state is "more open than closed" and "closed states" are "more closed than open." Nationwide survey of 1,012 registered voters; May 21-May 25, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatortresearch.org](https://navigatortresearch.org)

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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 1,012 registered voters conducted May 21-May 25, 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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