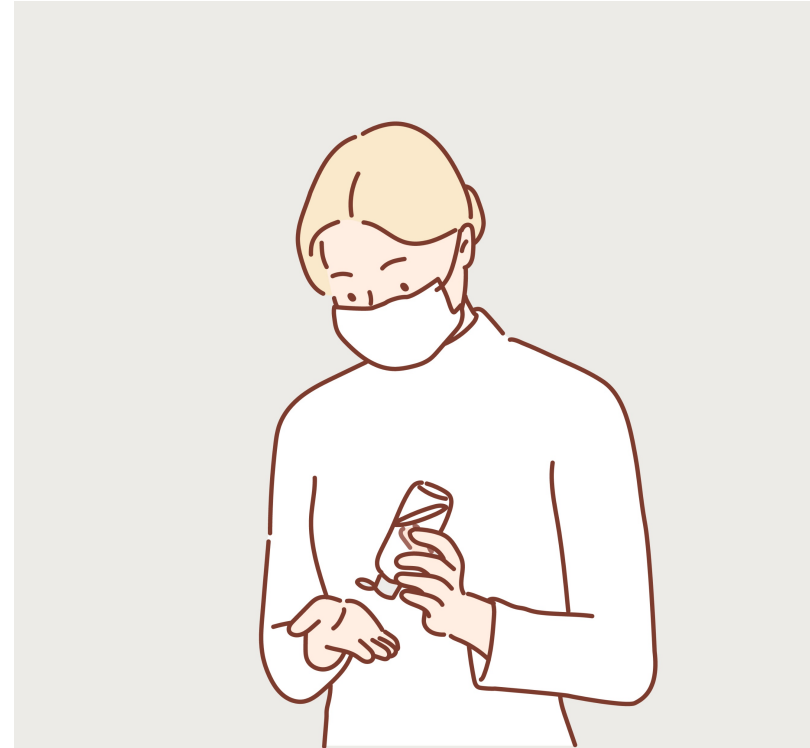


# navigating.\* coronavirus

Update:

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Communicating in  
Crisis: Coronavirus



## Key takeaways:

- Barack Obama is significantly more popular than Donald Trump, and the public places far more blame on the Trump administration for America's failure to prepare for coronavirus than on the Obama administration.
- Democrats in Congress maintain an advantage over Trump on trust to handle a number of issues related to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The public remains concerned that Trump is blaming others, downplaying the threat, and ignoring experts amidst the crisis.

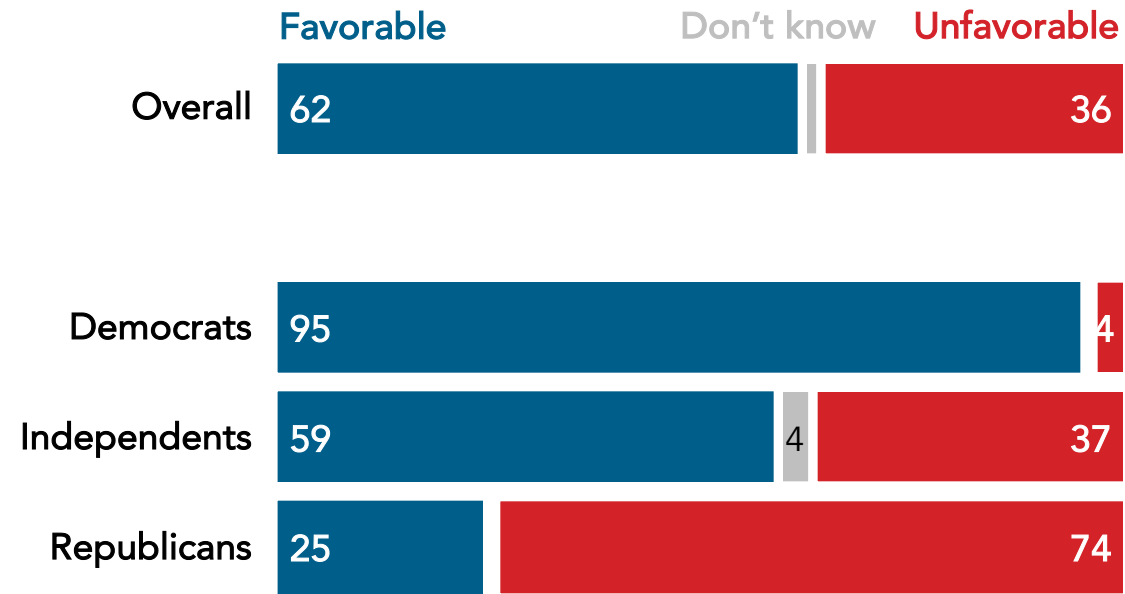
# Obama Far More Popular Than Trump

Despite Trump's recent attacks on Obama, including peddling false accusations about pandemic preparedness and other conspiracies, nearly two-thirds of Americans are favorable toward Obama.

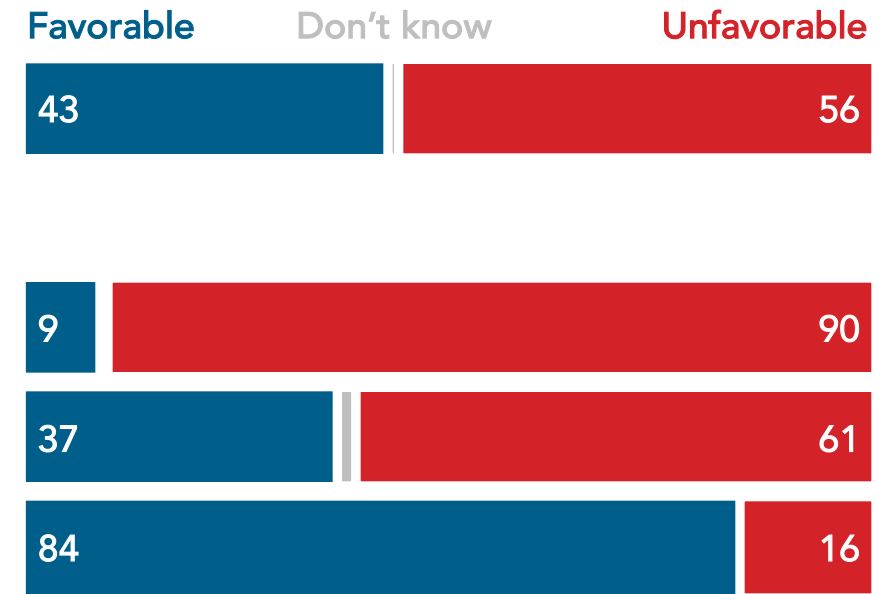
- A quarter of Republicans (25%) are favorable to Obama, while only 9% of Democrats are favorable towards Trump. Far more independents have a favorable rating of Obama (59%) than Trump (37%).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to each one.

## Barack Obama



## Donald Trump

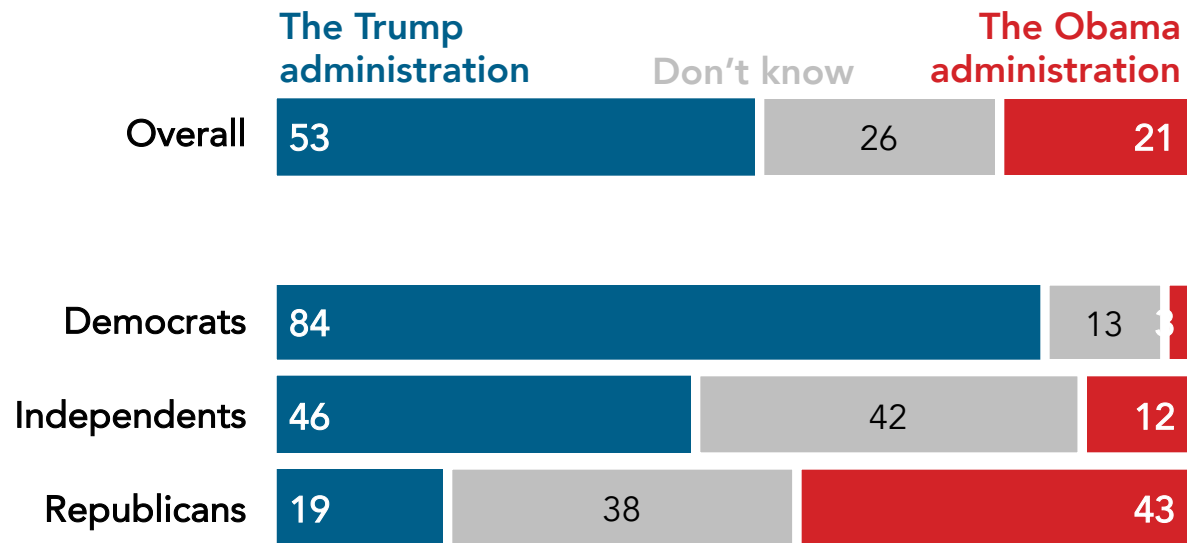


Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; May 15-May 18, 2020.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

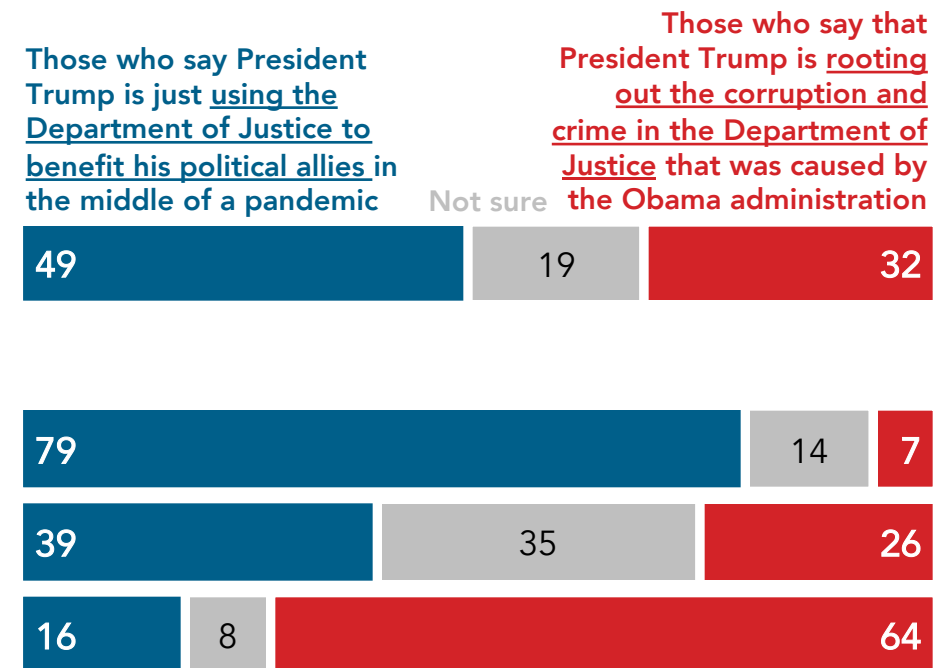
# Trump's Obama Attacks Aren't Working

Very few Americans blame the Obama administration for pandemic unpreparedness, while a majority blames Trump, and by a 17-point margin, Americans agree that Trump is politicizing the Department of Justice to benefit his allies.

## Who deserves more of the blame for America's failure to prepare for the coronavirus pandemic?



## Who do you agree with more?



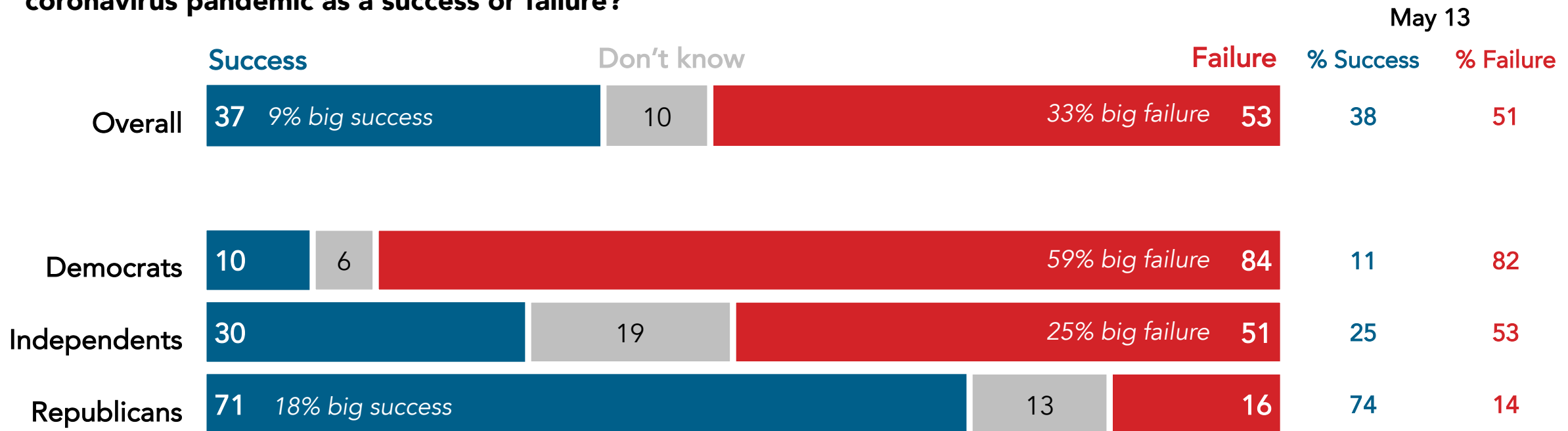
Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; May 15-May 18, 2020.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Majority Continue to Call Trump's Response a Failure

A majority of Americans say that Trump's response to the pandemic has been a failure.

- A third say Trump's response has been a "big failure," while just 9% say of the public overall, including only 18% of Republicans, say it has been a "big success."

**Taken as a whole, from the early days until now, would you describe President Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic as a success or failure?**

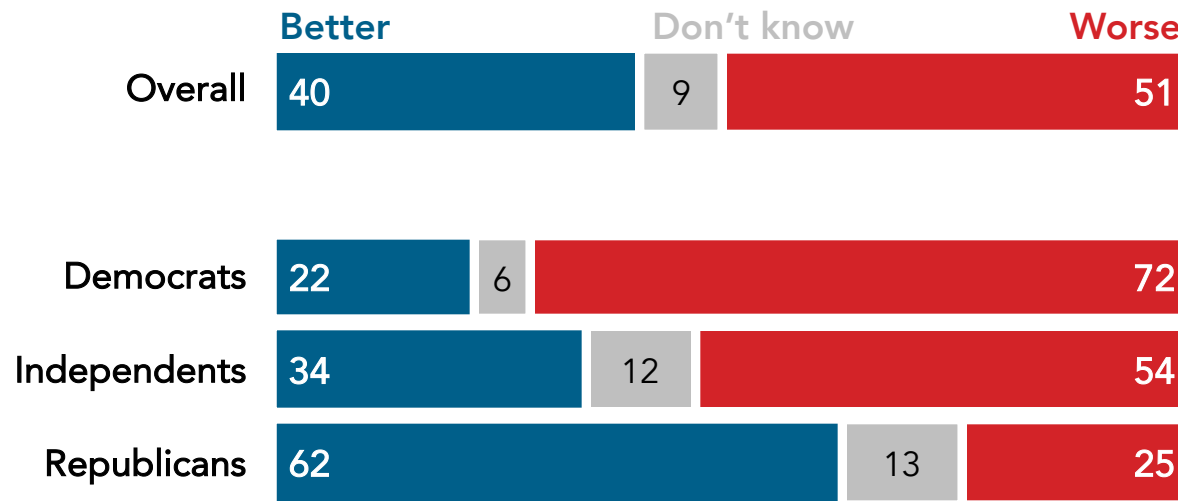


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted May 15-May 18, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Public Feels American Response Worse Than Other Countries; Trump Making Things Worse

More than half of Americans feel the U.S. response to coronavirus is worse than in other countries and that Trump made mistakes in his handling of the outbreak that made things worse than they should have been.

Do you think America is doing better or worse than most other countries in the world with our response to the coronavirus pandemic?



Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Any president, Trump or otherwise, would have dealt with the coronavirus outbreak in the same way and would have had the same outcome

President Trump made mistakes in his handling of the coronavirus outbreak that made things worse than they should have been



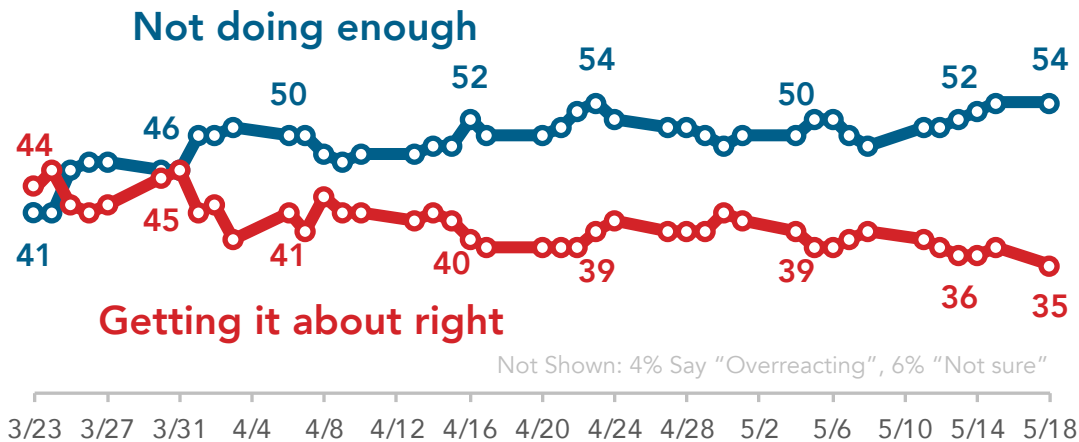
Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; May 15-May 18, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Majority Continue to Say Trump Not Doing Enough

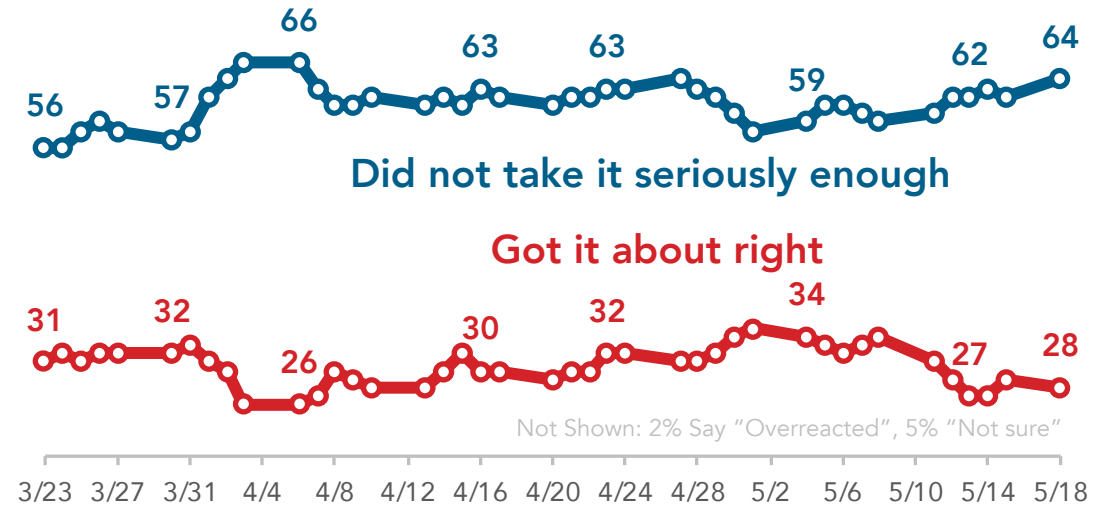
Majorities believe Trump did not take it seriously at first and that he is not doing enough now.

- More than a third of Republicans (35%) say that he did not take it seriously enough at the beginning.
- Among independents, more than half (53%) believe that Trump is currently not doing enough, and two in three (66%) say that he did not take it seriously enough early on.

**When it comes to Donald Trump and his administration's current response to the coronavirus pandemic, do you think they are...**



**Thinking back to when the coronavirus first began spreading, do you think Donald Trump and his administration...**



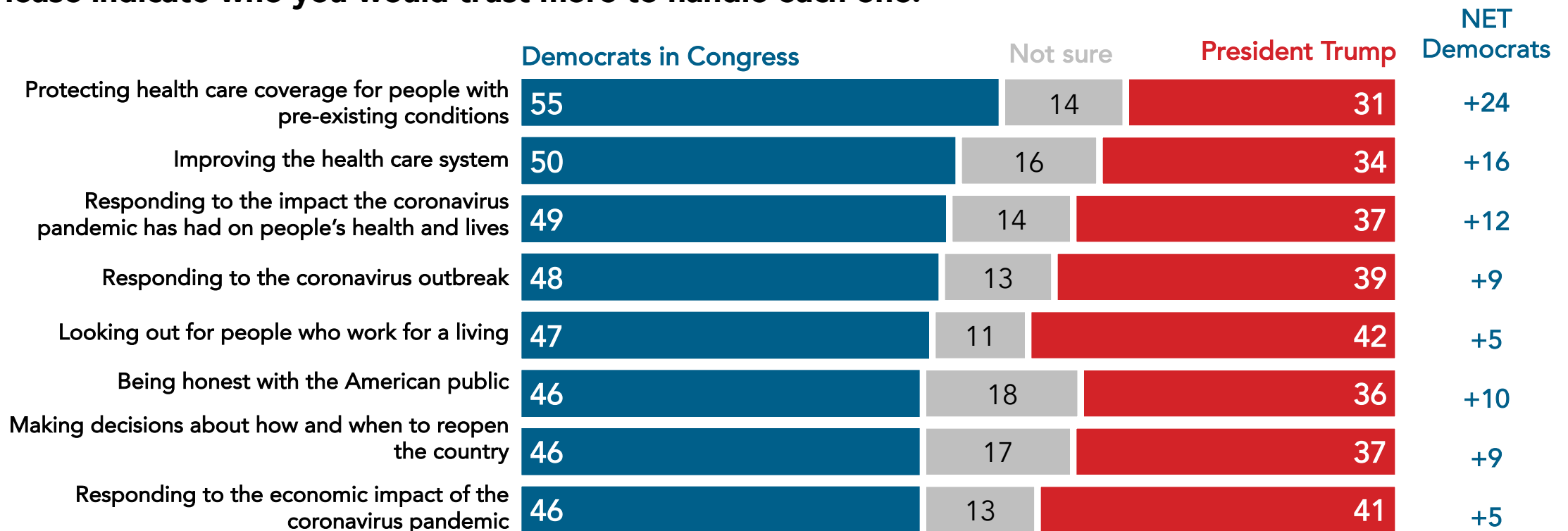
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted May 15-May 18, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Democrats Hold Advantage on All Aspects of Pandemic

Democrats hold a lead over Trump in trust to handle a range of metrics related to the pandemic, varying from health care coverage, to responding to the economic impact, to making decisions about reopening the country.

- Since March 23, the Democratic advantage on response to the pandemic has grown 15 points (-6 to +9).

**Please indicate who you would trust more to handle each one.**



Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; May 15-May 18, 2020.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)



# Top Concerns: Blaming Others, Downplaying, Ignoring Experts

When presented with a series of criticisms about Trump’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic, respondents rate blaming others, early downplaying, and ignoring experts as actions that raise the most serious concerns.

- “Very” serious concern about Trump blaming others grew 8 points from March 23 (40% to 48%).

Please indicate whether each raises concerns about Trump’s handling of the issue.

## Top 5 Tested:

Donald Trump is **too often blaming others** and tweeting insults instead of taking responsibility for his own handling of the situation

Donald Trump **downplayed the threat of the coronavirus early on**, letting it get worse when we should have been preparing

Donald Trump **has too often made decisions that have ignored or overruled the advice** of health and medical experts

Donald Trump is **ignoring the risk of a "second wave"** of the virus by hiding reports and silencing experts

Trump's words and actions are **putting people's lives at risk** as he pushes policies that would only spread the virus further and promotes dangerous medical advice

	% Serious Concerns			
	Overall		Mixed on Trump	
	Very	Total	Very	Total
Donald Trump is <b>too often blaming others</b> and tweeting insults instead of taking responsibility for his own handling of the situation	48	63	39	67
Donald Trump <b>downplayed the threat of the coronavirus early on</b> , letting it get worse when we should have been preparing	50	62	36	64
Donald Trump <b>has too often made decisions that have ignored or overruled the advice</b> of health and medical experts	48	64	32	68
Donald Trump is <b>ignoring the risk of a "second wave"</b> of the virus by hiding reports and silencing experts	46	61	30	61
Trump's words and actions are <b>putting people's lives at risk</b> as he pushes policies that would only spread the virus further and promotes dangerous medical advice	46	59	29	52

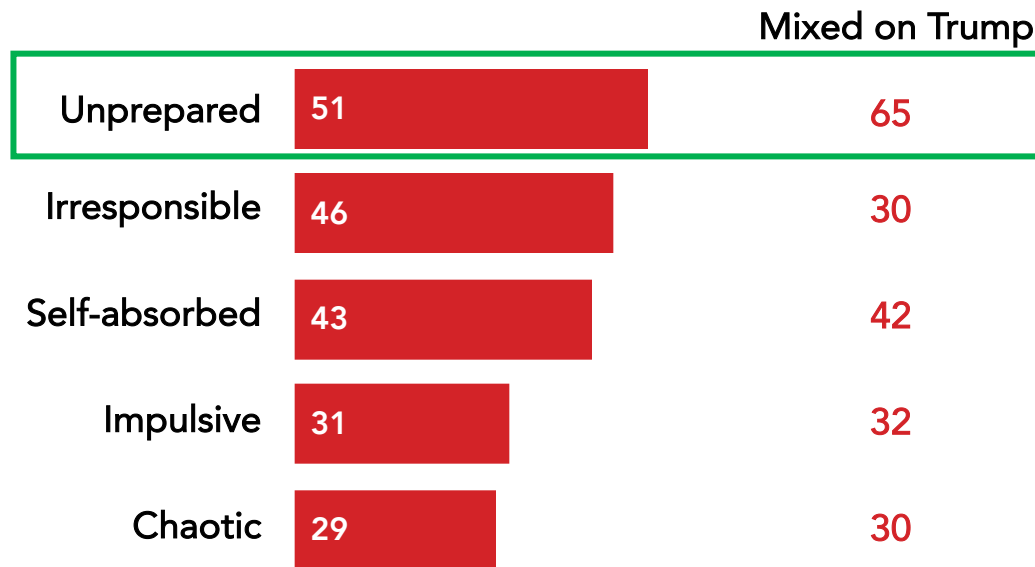
“Mixed on Trump” refers to Americans that don’t always approve or don’t always disapprove of Trump’s overall job performance, his handling of the economy, his handling the coronavirus pandemic, and his handling of health care. Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; May 15-May 18, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Americans Most Concerned Trump is Unprepared

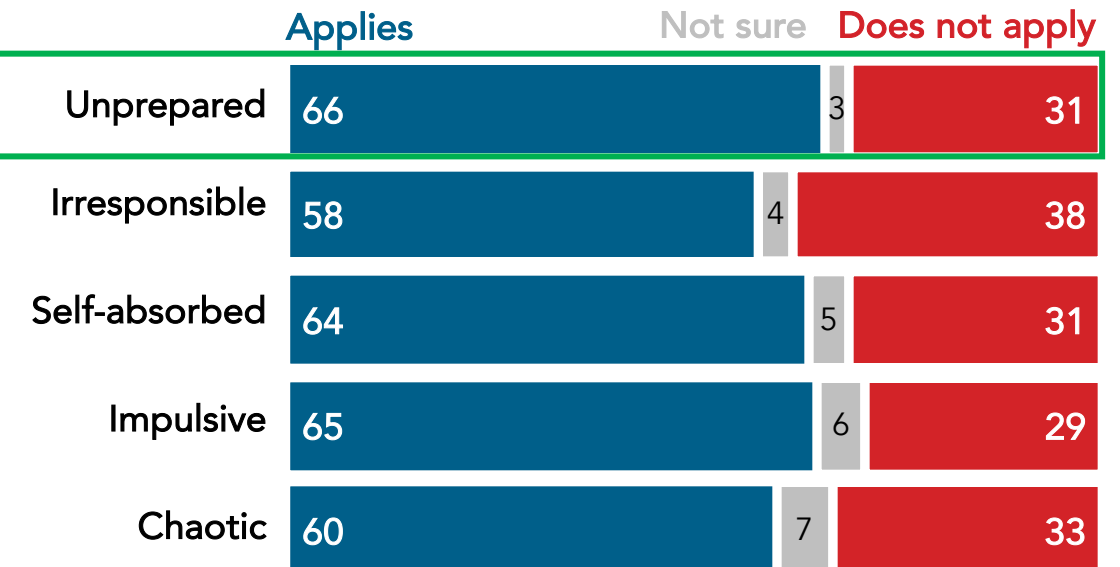
Two-thirds of Americans categorize Trump’s response to coronavirus as “unprepared,” and over half find it to be the most concerning aspect of his response to the pandemic.

- Among those mixed on Trump\*, 72% say “unprepared” applies to him, while 65% say it’s most concerning.

**[Among those who said a negative description applies to Trump’s response] Which concerns you most about Trump’s response to the pandemic?**



**Please indicate how well the following words or phrases apply to Donald Trump’s response to coronavirus.**



\*“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 of the coronavirus pandemic, and his handling of health care. Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; May 15-May 18, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Public Holds Trump Increasingly Responsible for Lack of Testing, Unemployment, Lives Lost

Nearly two in three Americans find Trump responsible for limitations on testing, high unemployment, and loss of life.

After each item, please indicate how responsible you think President Trump is for each.

	Mostly/ Somewhat responsible	Not that responsible	Not at all responsible	Responsible April 22
The United States is lagging behind other hard-hit countries in its share of the population being tested, <b>having conducted just over 10 million tests</b> for its population of 329 million*	64	13	23	57
The U.S. and South Korea both had their first confirmed case on the same day. Now, the <b>U.S. has more than 80,000 killed by the virus and nearly a 15% unemployment rate</b> , while South Korea has less than 500 killed and a 4% unemployment rate*	63	13	24	n/a
The coronavirus pandemic has so far <b>claimed the lives of nearly 85,000 Americans</b> , more than any other country in the world*	61	14	25	50
The number of Americans <b>infected by the coronavirus is more than 1.4 million</b> and counting, more than any other country in the world*	60	15	25	50
<b>Doctors and nurses are running dangerously low on their supplies of protective masks and equipment</b> , leading many to get sick as hospitals struggle to maintain a healthy staff	59	17	24	55
A whistleblower has recently exposed <b>cronyism in the U.S. Health Department for mismanaging billions of dollars that were allocated to develop vaccines</b> , drugs, and testing for the coronavirus	58	16	26	n/a
Unemployment has risen for the last 8 weeks in a row with <b>more than 36 million Americans filing for unemployment since mid-March</b> – the highest ever on record*	53	19	27	44
Safety precautions weren't taken seriously in nursing homes across the country, leading to <b>more than 1 in 3 of all U.S. coronavirus-related deaths coming from nursing home residents or workers</b>	52	18	29	n/a

\*Numbers have been updated to reflect current figures, all other question content is unchanged. Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; May 15-May 18, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Larger Share Say Trump Responsible for Death Toll

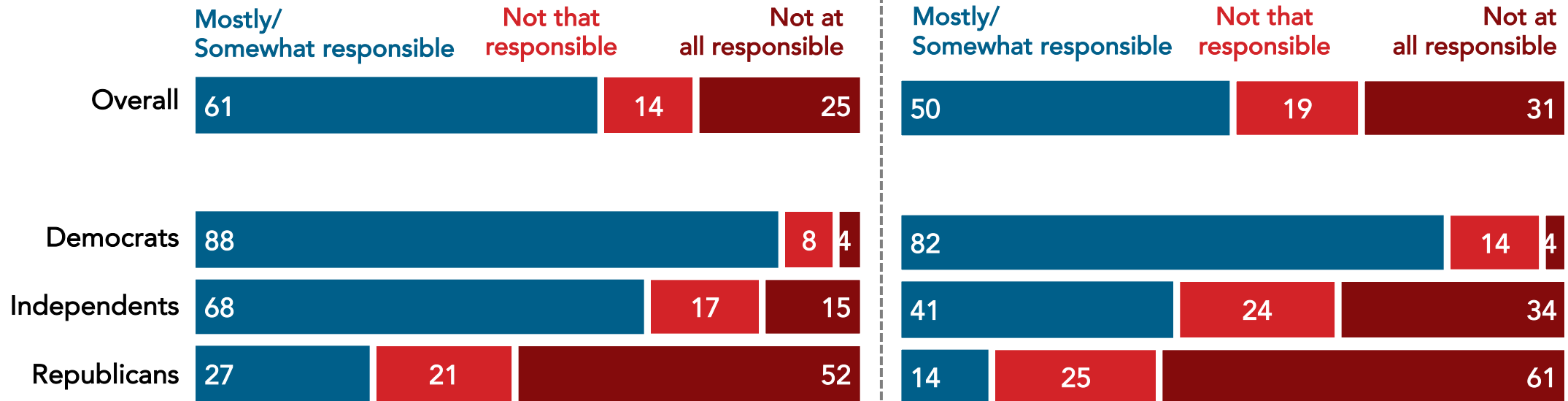
The share of Americans who find Trump mostly or somewhat responsible for America having the highest number of casualties from coronavirus has grown by 11 points since April 22.

- Among Republicans, the percentage who say this has grown by 13 points since April 22 (from 14% to 27%).

**After each item, please indicate whether you think President Trump is mostly responsible for this, somewhat responsible for this, not that responsible for this, or not at all responsible for this.** The coronavirus pandemic has so far claimed the lives of nearly 85,000 Americans, more than any other country in the world\*

May 18

Apr 22



\*Numbers have been updated to reflect current figures, all other question content is unchanged. Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; May 15-May 18, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.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 1,011 registered voters conducted May 15-May 18, 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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