

navigating.* coronavirus

Daily Update:
Saturday, May 9, 2020



Communicating in
Crisis: Coronavirus

Key takeaways:

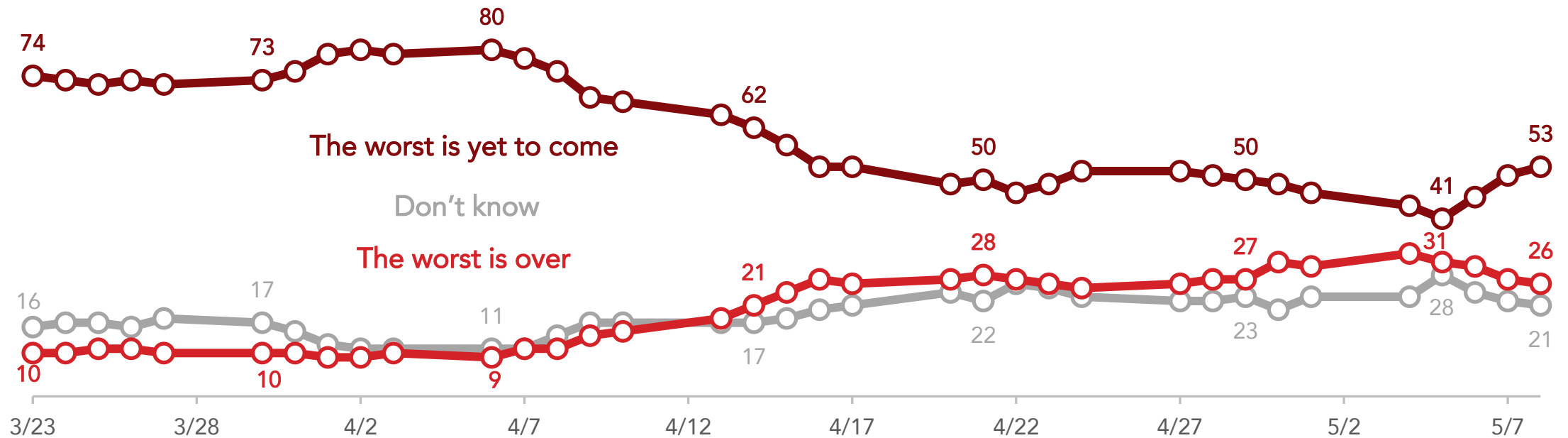
- After weeks of decline, there has been an uptick recently in the share of Americans who say the worst is yet to come.
- Republicans are divided about wearing masks, and those who are wearing them hold decidedly different attitudes about the nature of the crisis than those who aren't.
- The public is concerned that stimulus money is going to big corporations and funds are being withheld from those in need.

“Worst is Yet to Come” Ticking Back Up After Days of Decline

More than half of Americans still believe the worst is yet to come in the coronavirus pandemic and this number has increased 12 points since May 5.

- 60% of independents say the worst is yet to come, up 26 points since May 5 (from 34%).
- This decline comes as we find that 86% of Americans say they are “very” or “somewhat” worried that the country will experience a “second wave” of the outbreak once the country starts to reopen.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, do you personally think that...



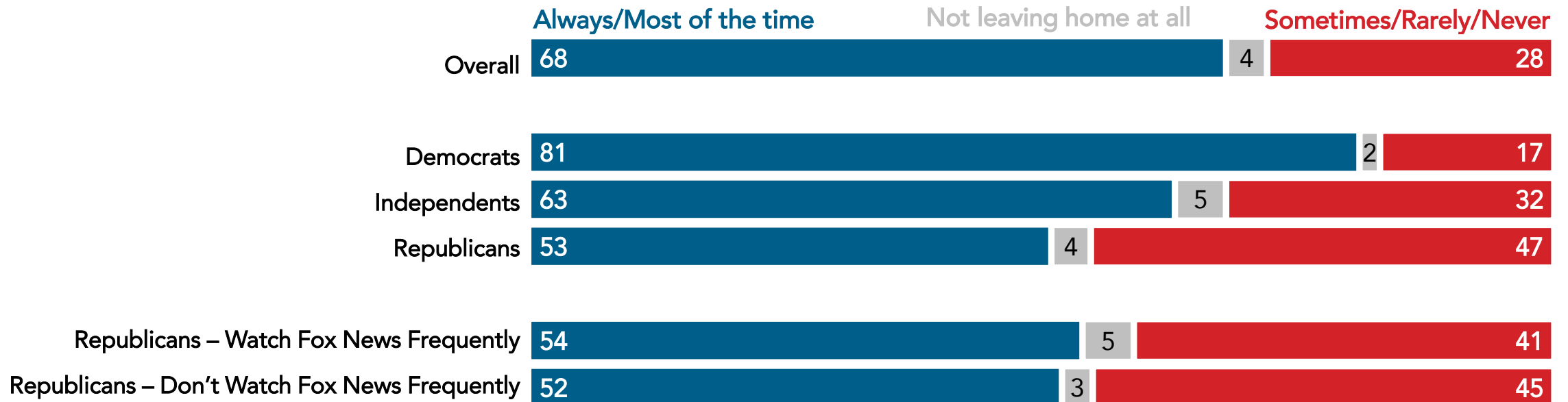
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted May 5-May 8, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Republicans Split Over Wearing Masks

More than two in three Americans report wearing a face mask “always” or “most of the time” when they leave home.

- Democrats (81%) are most likely to wear a mask, while Republicans (53%) are least likely.
- Despite rhetoric on Fox News regarding masks, there’s no difference in the share of Republicans that watch Fox News frequently versus those who don’t when it comes to wearing masks.

How often are you wearing a mask when you leave your home?



Nationwide survey of 1,022 registered voters; May 5-May 8, 2020.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

GOP Rift: Mask-Wearing Republicans Far More Worried About the Crisis Than Non-Mask Wearing Counterparts

Republicans who wear a mask "always" or "most of the time" hold attitudes closer to Democrats and independents on the nature of the crisis and worries over sickness than non-mask wearing GOP counterparts.

- Mask-wearing Republicans are also much more likely to oppose reopening the country soon (54% oppose) than non-mask wearing Republicans (22% oppose).

Would you say the coronavirus pandemic is best described as...



How worried are you about someone close to you getting infected with coronavirus?



Nationwide survey of 1,014 registered voters; May 1-May 6, 2020.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Most Americans Referring to the Virus as "Coronavirus"

When presented with a list of terms used to describe the virus, the vast majority say they refer to it as "coronavirus."

- Democrats are the most likely to use the term "COVID-19," while only 7% of Republicans say they most commonly describe the virus as the "Chinese virus," despite Trump's usage of the term.

When talking with your friends and family, what word do you most commonly use to describe the virus causing the ongoing pandemic?



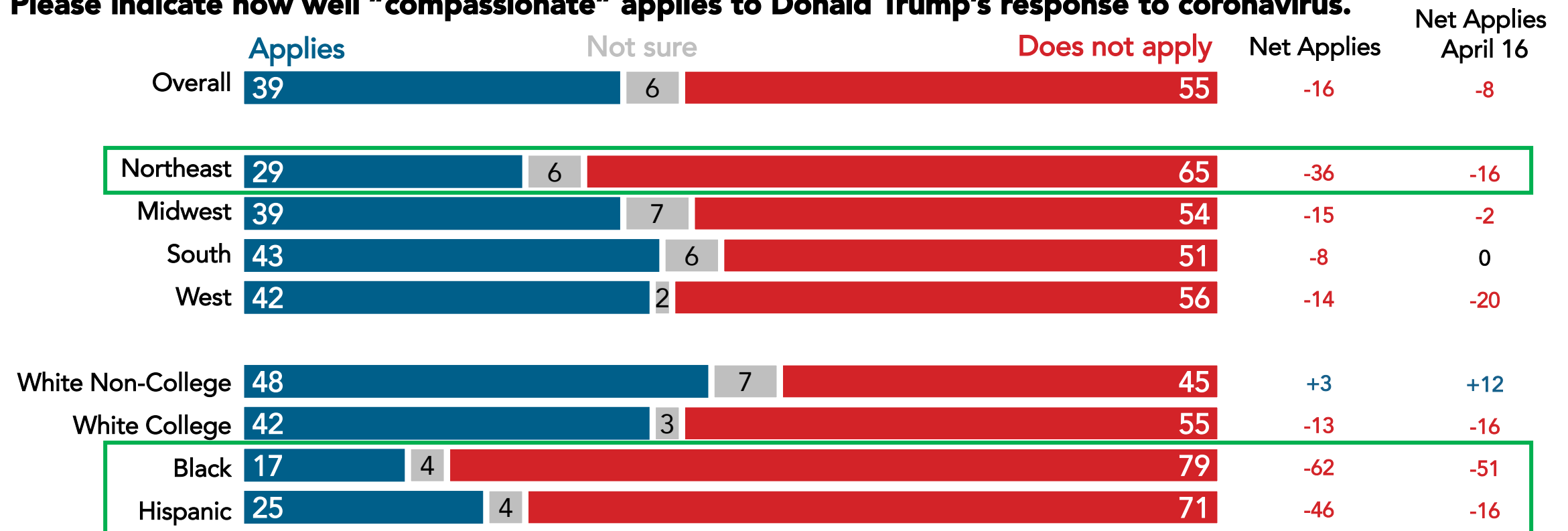
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Fewer Americans Say Trump's Response is "Compassionate"

There's been a net decrease of 8 points in the share of Americans describing Trump's response as "compassionate."

- Groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic are even less likely to say the term applies, including Northeasterners (-36, down from -16), African Americans (-62, down from -51), and Hispanics (-46, down from -16).

Please indicate how well "compassionate" applies to Donald Trump's response to coronavirus.



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Concern Relief Going to Large Corporations & Wealthy

Americans say top concerns about Trump's economic response to coronavirus are that big corporations are getting stimulus money who don't need it and that money is being withheld from those who need it the most.

% Serious Concerns

Please indicate whether each raises concerns about Trump's handling of the economic response to coronavirus.

The coronavirus small business stimulus money is actually going to big corporations that don't need it. Large companies like Ruth's Chris Steak House, a luxury Texas hotel chain, Wall Street hedge funds, and the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team have received millions of dollars through the loan program. While big corporations that don't need the money are getting these small business loans, mom-and-pop shops and local restaurants have been unable to get the funds needed to avoid going out of business

The small business stimulus money is being withheld from the people that need it the most. The government's small business stimulus program was only made available through banks and their lenders, which shut out many small businesses or those who use small, local banks. Meanwhile, President Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell are proposing a bailout of oil companies and big corporations while saying states should go bankrupt.

The Trump administration has used the coronavirus relief bill to hand out special perks to Trump campaign donors, who spent millions of dollars lobbying the Trump administration on the bill. So, it's no surprise that the small business stimulus program is handing out hundreds of millions of dollars to Trump's friends. To make matters worse, the administration isn't keeping track of companies who receive taxpayer dollars.

The Trump administration is using the coronavirus pandemic as an excuse to hand out money to rich CEOs and corporate executives. Republicans used the coronavirus relief bill to give millionaires a \$90 billion tax cut and they included a \$500 billion slush fund intended to bail out large corporations. Meanwhile, 30 million Americans have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic while the richest 1% of the population have added more than \$308 billion to their wealth.

The Trump administration's rollout of the small business stimulus program has been incompetent and mismanaged. Thousands of small businesses have been unable to get access to emergency financial support because the Trump administration's loan website doesn't work, despite them having weeks to fix it. And if that isn't bad enough, the website allowed a massive data breach that exposed the personal information of thousands of loan applicants, including Social Security numbers. After all of that, Trump claims his administration has done a "spectacular" job.

	% Serious Concerns			
	Overall	Ind	GOP	
	Very	Total	Total	Total
The coronavirus small business stimulus money is actually going to big corporations that don't need it.	53	73	64	51
The small business stimulus money is being withheld from the people that need it the most.	48	68	66	40
The Trump administration has used the coronavirus relief bill to hand out special perks to Trump campaign donors,	48	62	56	30
The Trump administration is using the coronavirus pandemic as an excuse to hand out money to rich CEOs and corporate executives.	48	64	56	33
The Trump administration's rollout of the small business stimulus program has been incompetent and mismanaged.	46	66	62	38

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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 1,022 registered voters conducted May 5-May 8, 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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<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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