

navigating.* coronavirus

Daily Update:
Wednesday, May 6, 2020



Communicating in
Crisis: Coronavirus

Key takeaways:

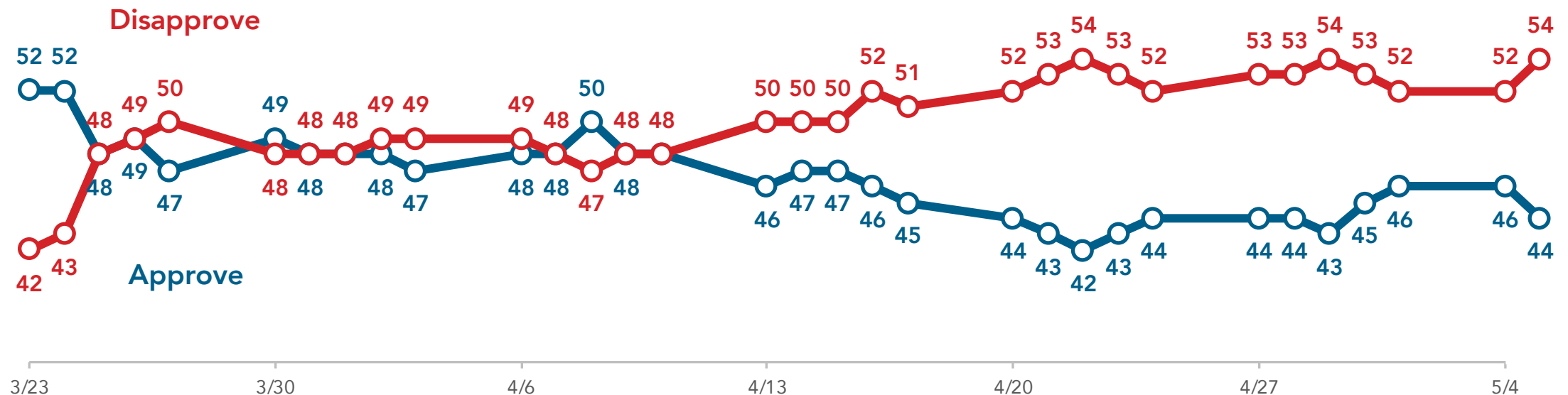
- Americans are hearing less from Trump on the pandemic, and those who report hearing negative things mention reopening, dangerous medical advice, and dishonesty.
- While the majority of Americans are more concerned social distancing will end too soon, Republicans are split.
- Congressional Democrats' response to the crisis is seen as favoring the working class, while Trump's favors the wealthy.

Majority Disapprove of Trump's Handling

For more than three weeks, Trump's approval rating on his handling of the coronavirus pandemic has been underwater: today, he's in the negative by double digits.

- The share of Americans who "strongly disapprove" continues to rise and has reached a new high of 42% today on his handling of the pandemic.

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



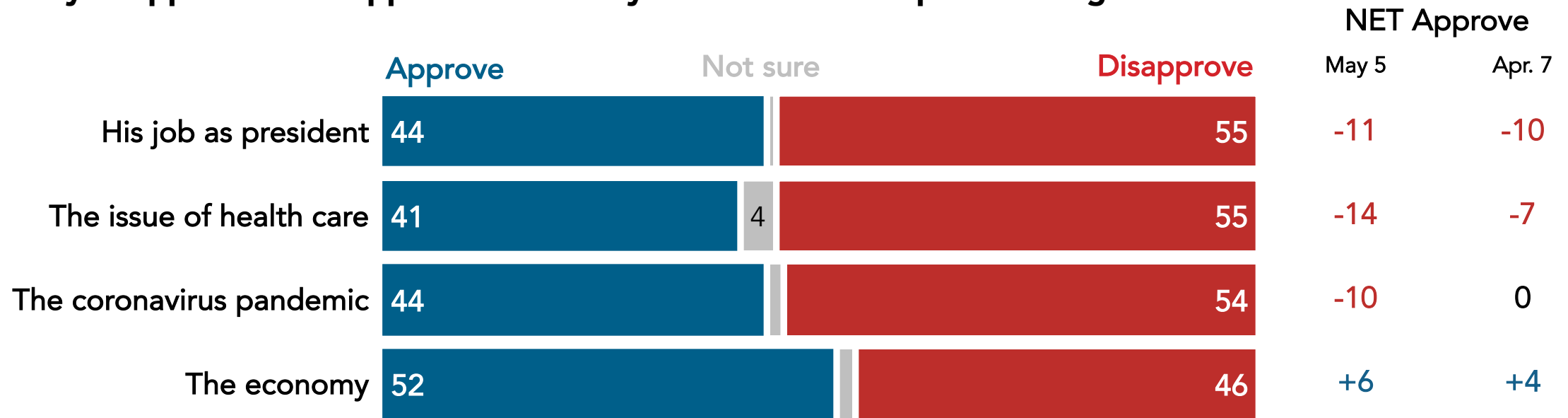
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted April 30-May 5, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Trump Ratings Down Across Most Issues

Trump's approval ratings continue to be underwater on his handling of his job as president, the issue of health care, and the coronavirus pandemic.

- Among independents, approval of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic is at -28 (34% approve/62% disapprove) and on the issue of health care is at -32 (24% approve/66% disapprove).
- On a separate question, Democrats in Congress sustain an advantage over Trump on trust to improve the health care system by 14 points (49% trust Democrats/35% Trump).

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling...



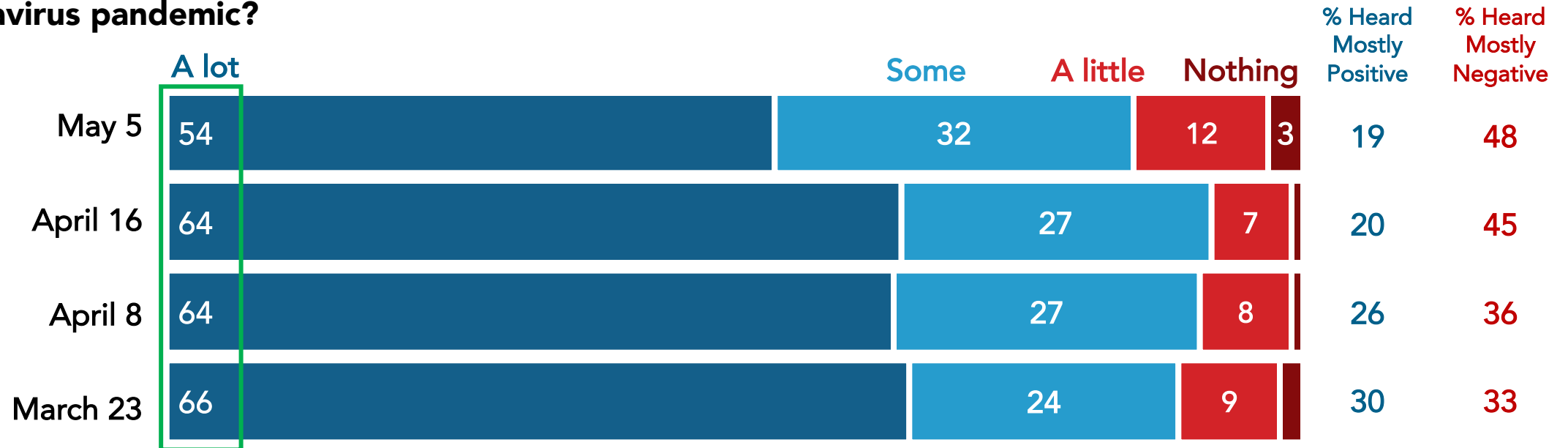
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Americans Hearing Slightly Less from Trump

Since April 16, there's been a 10-point decrease in Americans hearing "a lot" about Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, following his decision to end his daily press conferences.

- Younger Americans between the ages of 18-44 (20% hearing "a little" or "nothing"), African Americans (21%), and independents (21%) are particularly unlikely to hear "a lot" from Trump.

Over the past few days, how much have you seen, read, or heard about Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic?



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Americans Still Hearing About Injecting Bleach – But Also Lack of Testing, Trump’s Lies, and Reopening Too Soon

When compared to our word cloud from our April 28 update, while Americans are still hearing negative things about Trump’s comments on injecting disinfectants, other issues on his handling have become more frequently cited.

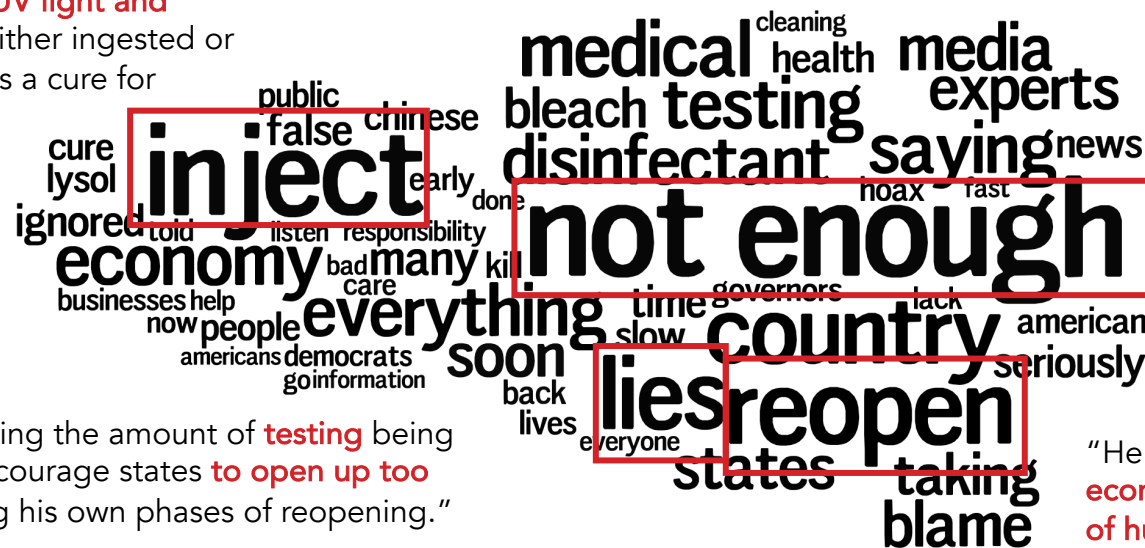
- For those who report hearing mostly negative things, his pushing of states to open up too soon in contradiction of his own guidance, his general failure to do “not enough,” and his “lies” also rise to the top.

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

May 5

April 28

“His suggestion to use **UV light and chemical disinfectants** either ingested or **injected** into the body as a cure for coronavirus.”



“He keeps misrepresenting the amount of **testing** being done. He is trying to encourage states **to open up too soon**, even contradicting his own phases of reopening.”

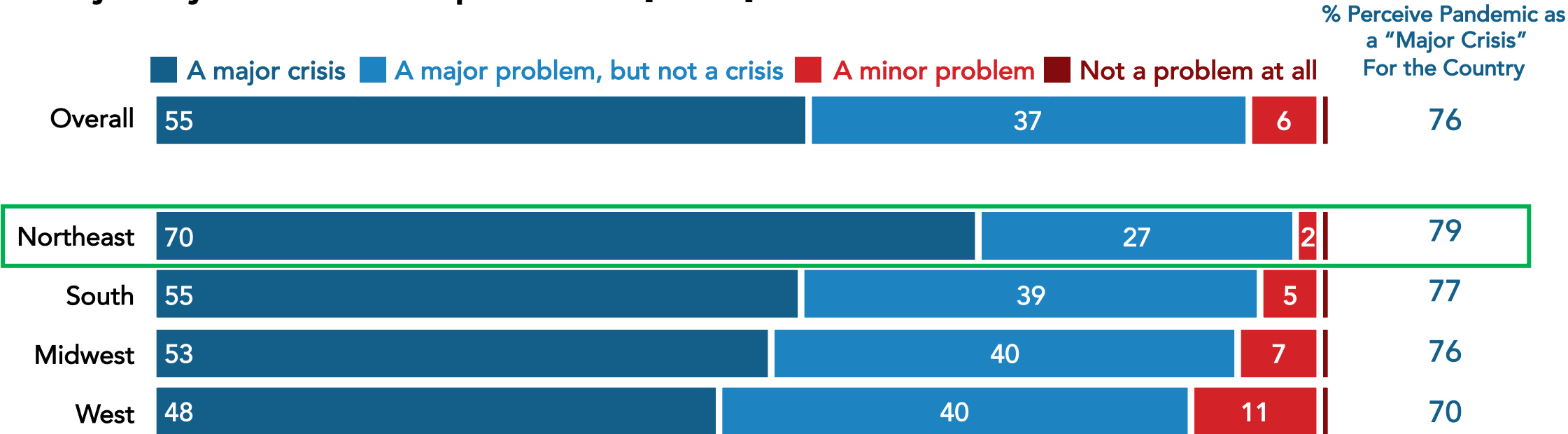
“He’s putting **the economy ahead of human life.**”

Northeasters Most Likely to Say Their State and the Country in Crisis

Northeasters are the most likely to say that the pandemic in their state and in the country as a whole is a "major crisis."

- Despite the regional differentiation, around three quarters of Americans in each region describe the pandemic as a "major crisis" for the country.

Would you say the coronavirus pandemic in [STATE] is best described as...



Nationwide survey of 1,687 registered voters; April 27-May 4, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

A Third of Americans Know Someone Infected

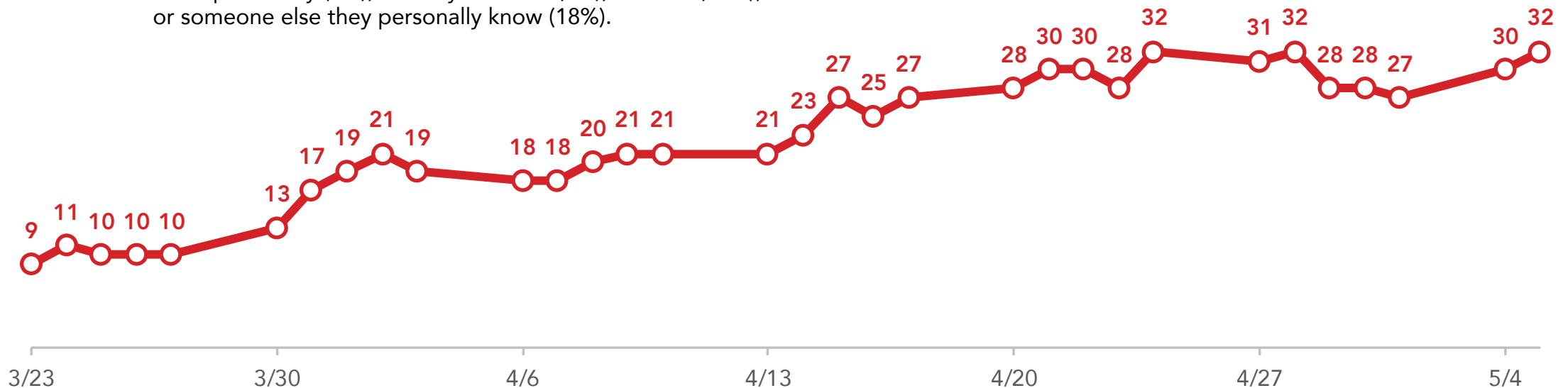
32% of Americans know someone who has been infected with coronavirus, more than triple the percentage who knew someone infected on our first day of tracking on March 23.

- 37% of Democrats and independents know someone who has been infected, along with 25% of Republicans.
- 46% of Northeasterners report knowing someone who has been infected, much higher than 31% of Midwesterners, 27% of Southerners, and 29% of Westerners.

Do you know anyone who has been infected with coronavirus?

Percentage who know someone who has been infected

Includes themselves personally (2%), a family member (8%), a friend (12%), or someone else they personally know (18%).



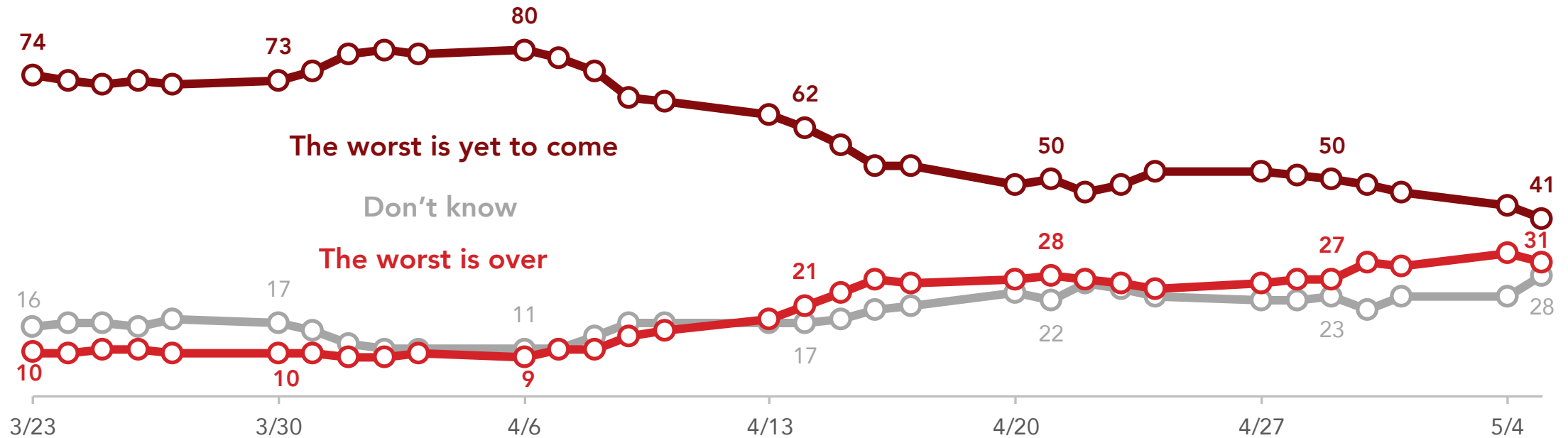
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Both Uncertainty and Optimism Surrounding Pandemic

More than a quarter of Americans are not sure about the state of the coronavirus pandemic.

- While the share of Americans who believe the “worst is yet to come,” is declining, there’s been a rise in both the share who believe the “worst is over,” as well as the share who are unsure. The share of those who are unsure about the state of coronavirus is up 12 points since our first update on March 23.

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



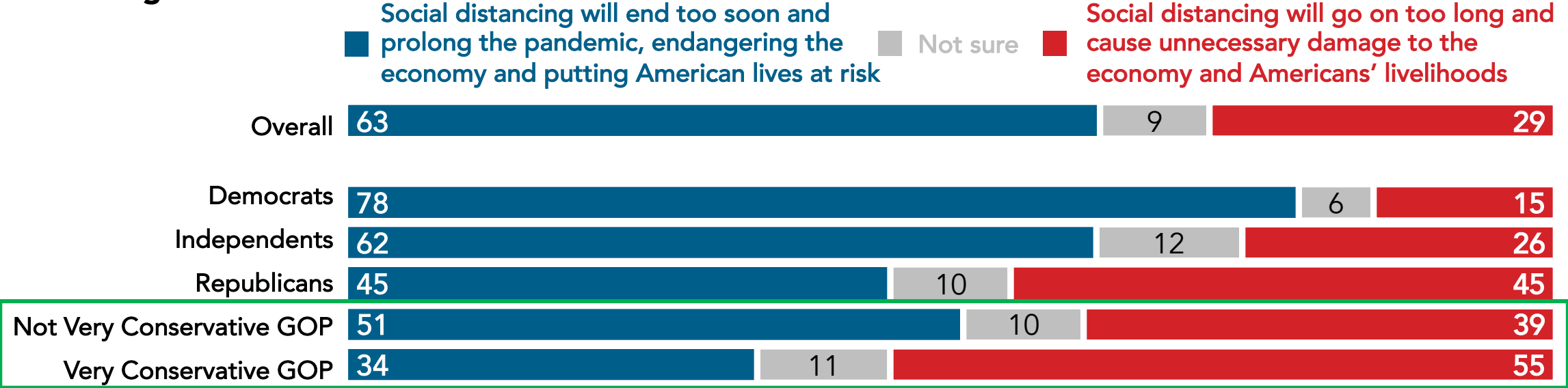
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Republicans Divided on Ending Social Distancing

The vast majority of Americans are more concerned that social distancing will end too soon.

- This holds among Democrats (78% will end too soon) and independents (62%).
- Republicans are split by ideology: half of Republicans who are not very conservative (51%) are more concerned social distancing will end too soon. However, a majority of very conservative Republicans (55%) are more concerned that social distancing will go on too long.

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



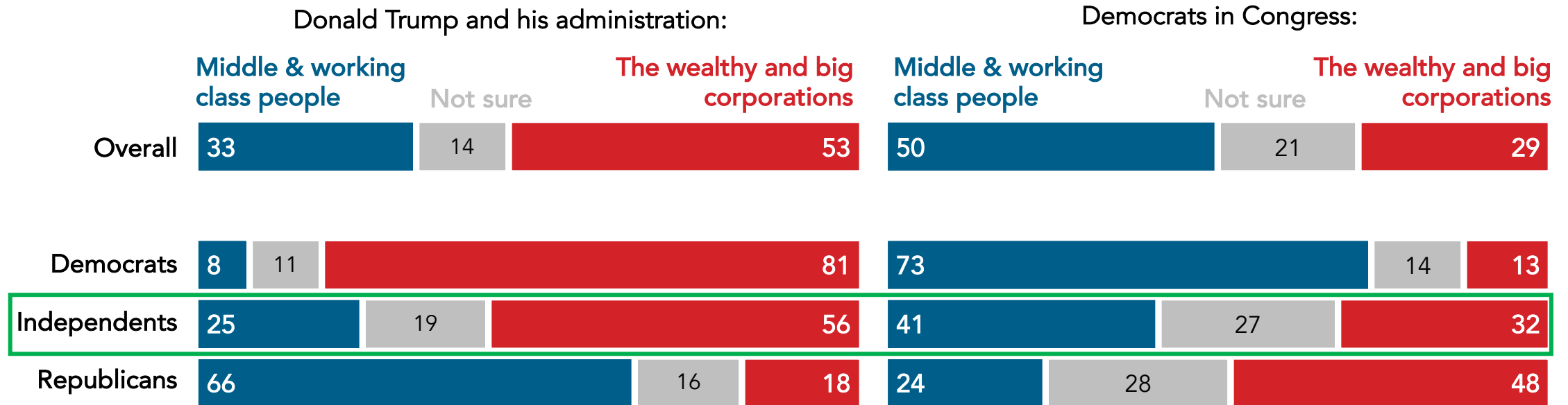
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Democrats Seen as Looking Out for Working Class

A majority of Americans feel Donald Trump's economic response favors the wealthy and big corporations, while a majority feel congressional Democrats' policies favor middle and working class people.

- Independents are 16 points more likely to say that Democrats' policies favor the middle class than Donald Trump's.

Thinking more about how _____ are responding to the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, who do you think _____'s policies favor most?



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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 1,005 registered voters conducted April 30-May 5, 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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