

navigating.* coronavirus

Update:
Thursday, July 16



Communicating in
Crisis

Key takeaways:

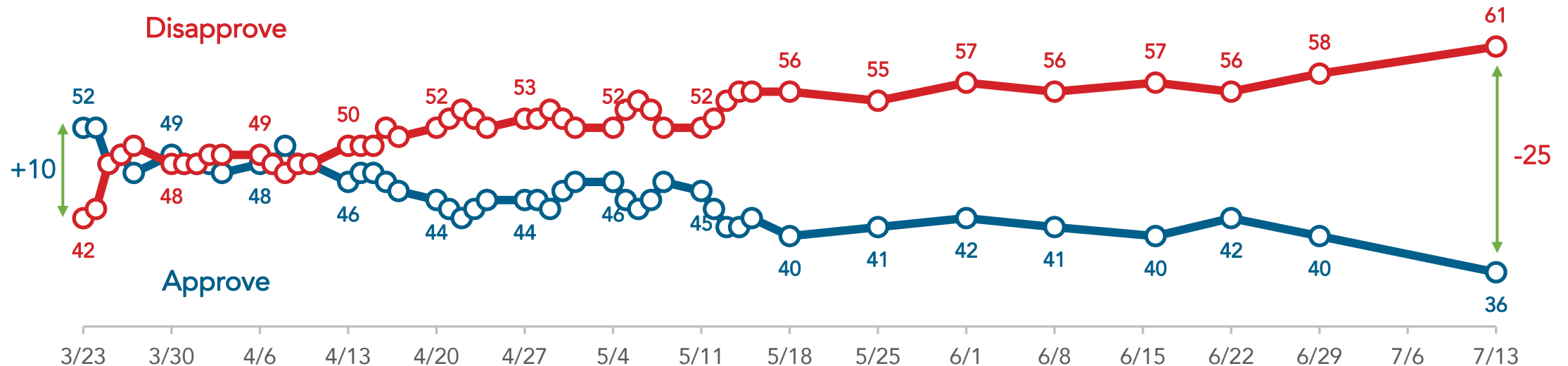
- Three in five disapprove of Trump's handling of the pandemic: 42% now know someone who has been infected.
- As new cases surge, a growing majority says the worst is yet to come and that we need more aggressive social distancing.
- The public feels Trump is not doing enough to respond to the pandemic and holds him responsible for the recent surge in cases.

Trump's Pandemic Approval Sinks to New Low

More than three in five disapprove of Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, with net approval down 35 points since the beginning of our tracking on March 23.

- Half (51%) of Americans "strongly disapprove" of his handling.
- One in five (21%) Republicans disapprove of the job Trump is doing handling the coronavirus pandemic.

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



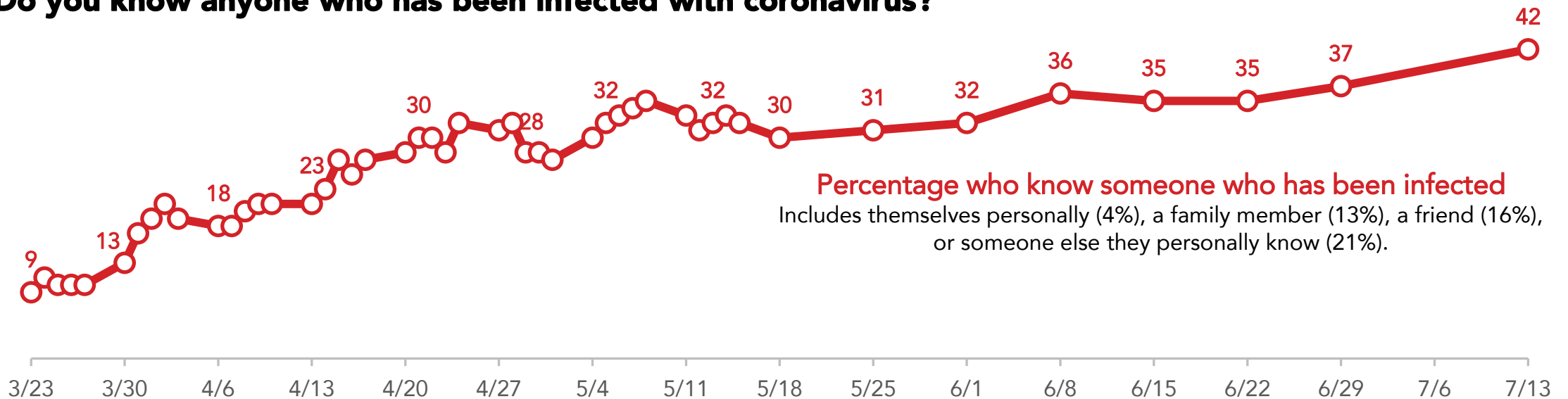
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted July 9-July 13, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

More Than Two in Five Know Someone Who Has Been Infected with Coronavirus

42% of Americans now know someone who has been infected with coronavirus, almost five times the percentage who knew someone infected on our first day of tracking on March 23.

- Two months ago on May 15, while 44% of Northeasterners knew someone infected, only 32% of Midwesterners, 34% of Southerners, and 19% of Westerners did. Now, there is less regional differentiation: 46% of Northeasterners, 45% of Midwesterners, 43% of Southerners, and 34% of Westerners know someone.

Do you know anyone who has been infected with coronavirus?



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Share Who Think Worst is Yet to Come in Pandemic Hits Highest Level in Three Months

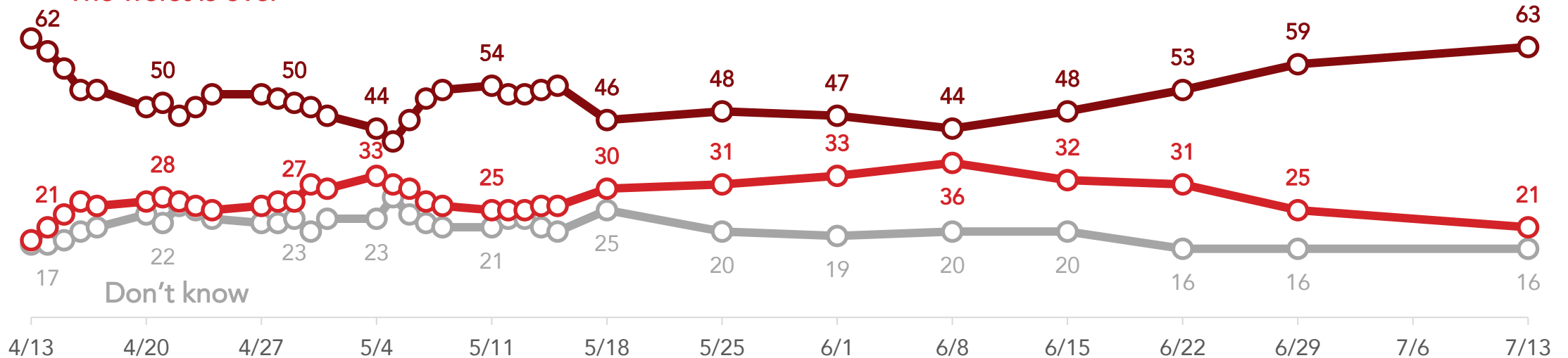
The highest number of Americans in our tracking since April 13 now think that the “worst is yet to come” in the pandemic. Only one in five now believe that the “worst is over.”

- Even among Republicans, a plurality (43%) think the “worst is yet to come” (39% think the “worst is over”).

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

The worst is yet to come

The worst is over



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Support Significantly Shifts Back in Favor of More Aggressive Social Distancing

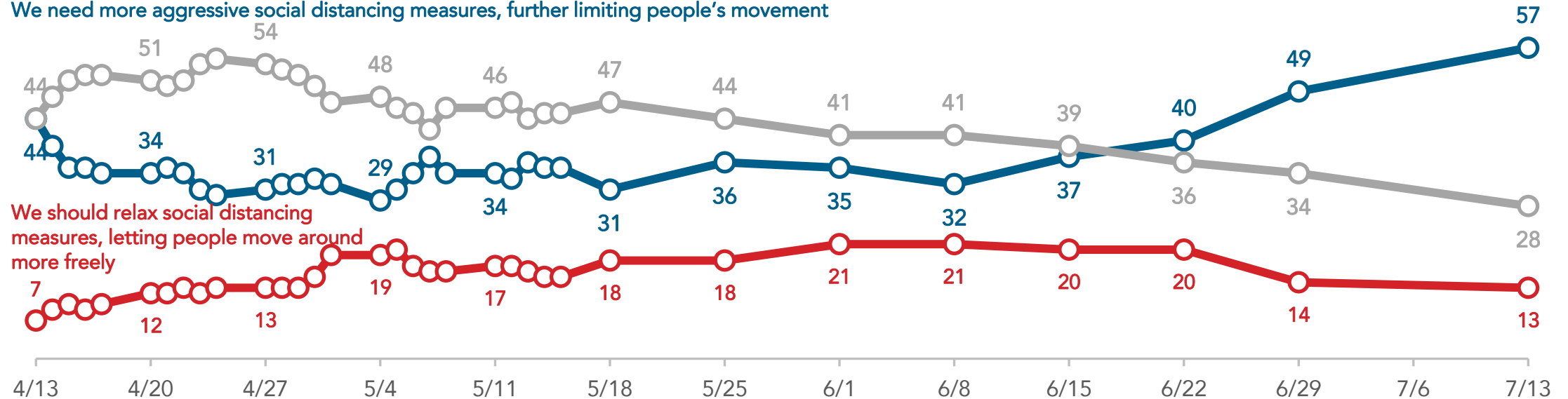
Just a month ago on June 15, a plurality said America was doing the right thing on social distancing – now, almost three in five say that we need more aggressive social distancing measures.

- Among 2016 Trump voters, 36% say we need more aggressive social distancing measures.

When it comes to social distancing, what do you think we, as a country, need to be doing right now?

We are currently doing the right thing when it comes to social distancing

We need more aggressive social distancing measures, further limiting people's movement



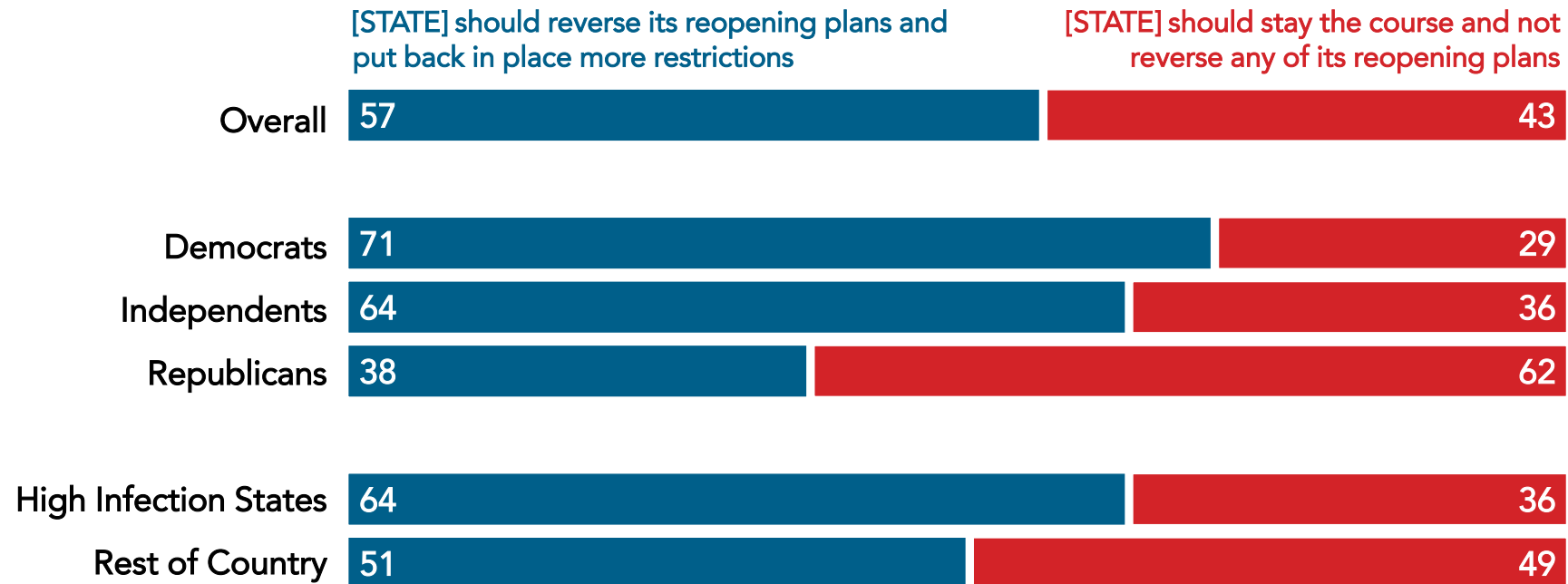
"2016 Trump Voters" self-report having voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 election. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted July 9-July 13, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Majority Support Reversing Reopening, Especially in High Infection States

While nearly three in five Americans overall think their state should reverse its reopening plans and put back in place more restrictions, this number is even higher in high infection states.

- Among Midwesterners (55% should reverse reopening), Southerners (61%), and Westerners (64%), there is a push to reverse reopening in their state, while only 42% of Northeasterners say the same.

Given the coronavirus situation in [STATE], what do you think should happen?



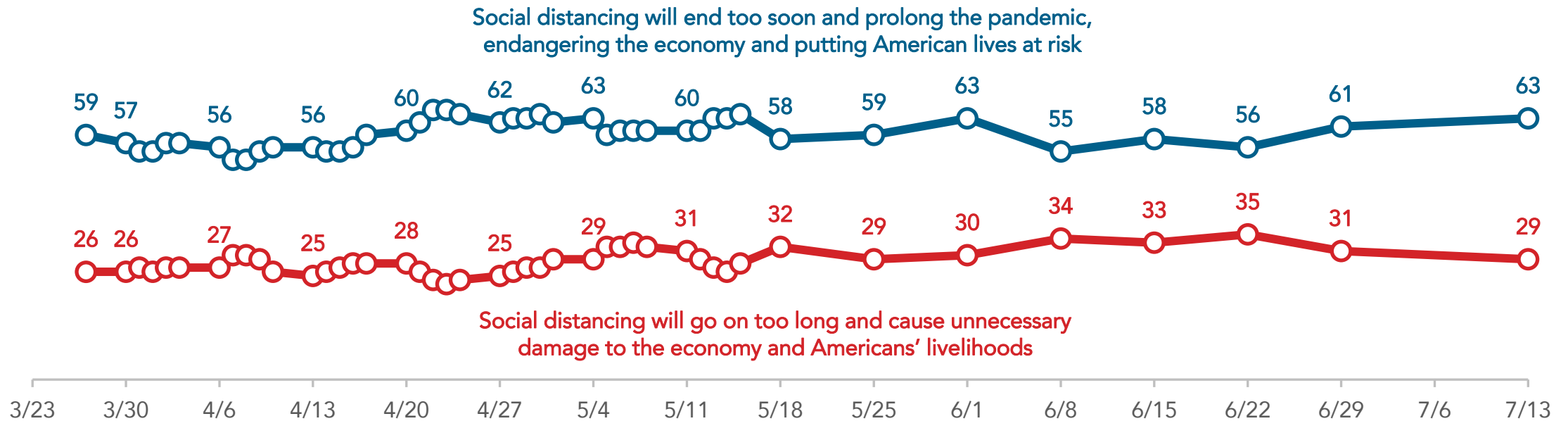
"High infection states" are those that fall under the NY travel restriction list, based on a "seven day rolling average of positive tests in excess of 10%, or number of positive cases exceeding 10 per 10,000 residents." "Rest of country" are those that do not fall on this list. Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; July 9-13, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Majority Remain Concerned Social Distancing Will End Too Soon

Since June 8, there has been an 8-point increase in the share who are concerned social distancing will end too soon and prolong the pandemic, while there has been a 5-point decline in the share who say it will go on too long.

- Among independents, 65% remain more concerned that social distancing will end too soon and prolong the pandemic, while only 25% 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?



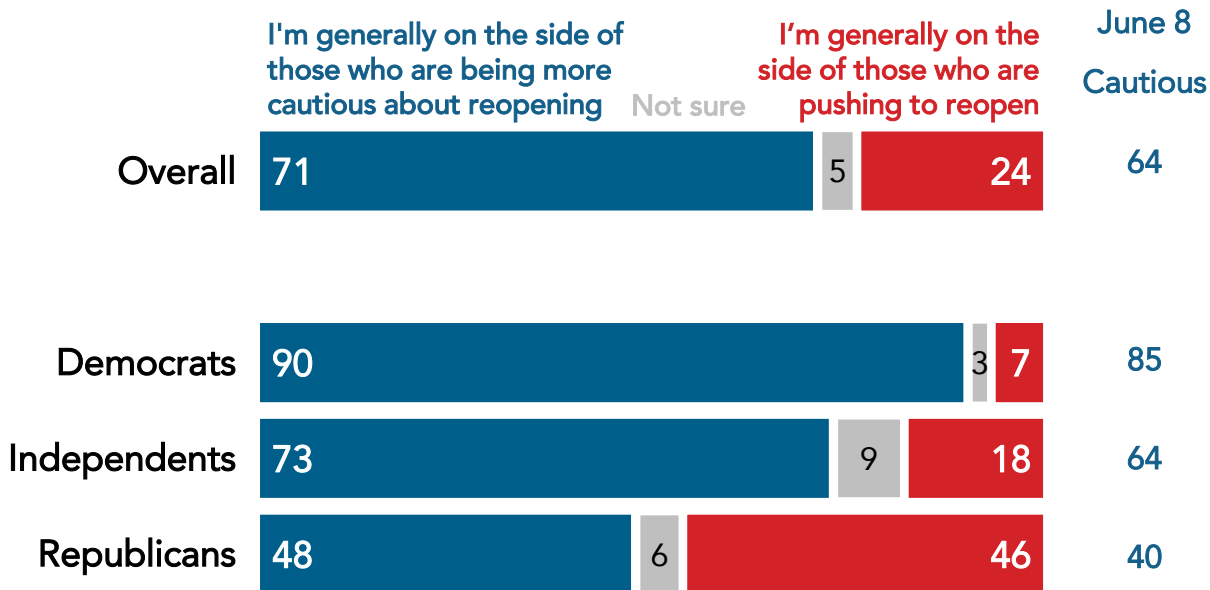
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Public Increasingly Cautious & Pro-Mask Over Last Month

Since June 8, the shares who say they are on the cautious side of reopening and are pro-mask have each increased – including nearly a majority of Republicans on each measure.

As you may know, decisions around how and when to reopen are complicated. But generally speaking, which side are you on?

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?



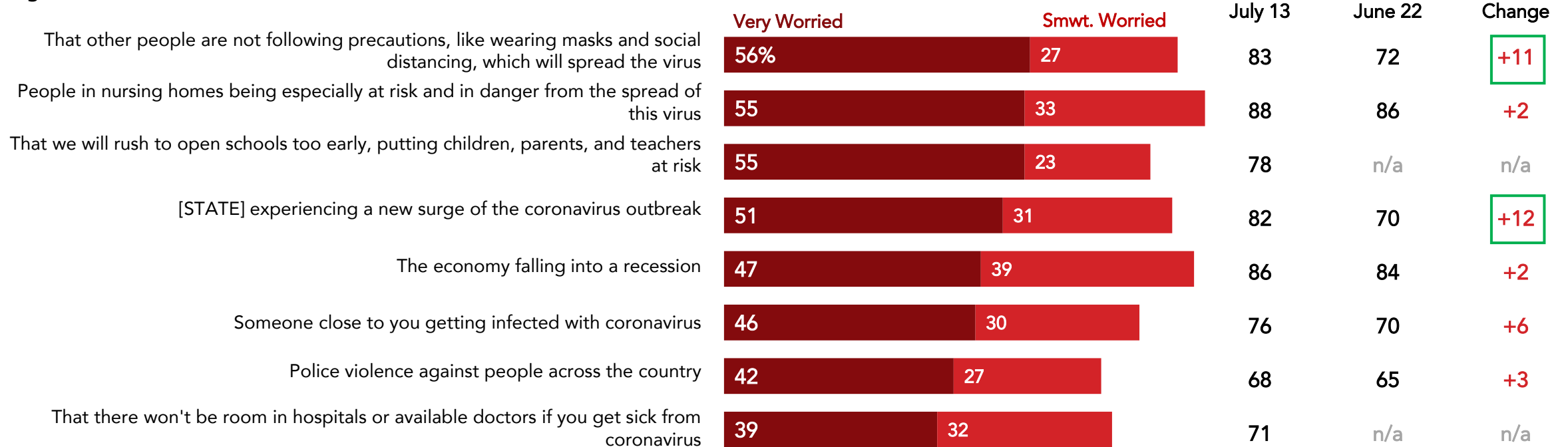
Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; July 9-13, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Top Worries: Others Ignoring Safety Precautions, Nursing Homes

More than half of Americans are “very worried” about others not following safety precautions, the vulnerability of nursing homes, and schools reopening too quickly and putting people at risk.

- Worries about others not following safety precautions like wearing masks are split by party: while 69% of Republicans are worried, 83% of independents and 95% of Democrats are worried.

Below are some things some people might be worried about right now. Please indicate how worried you are about each one.



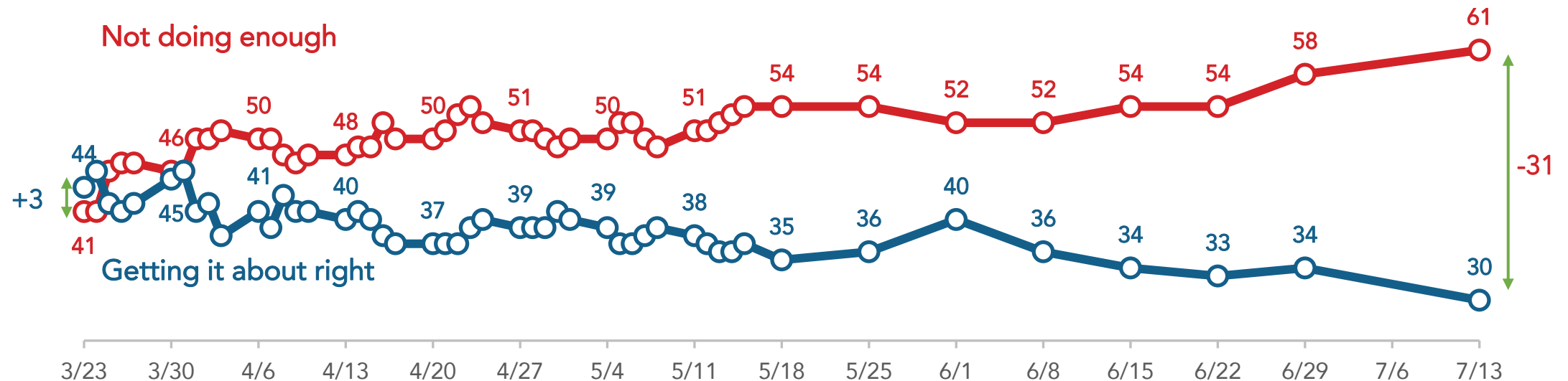
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New High in Share Saying Trump's Pandemic Response is "Not Doing Enough"

The number of Americans who say Trump is "not doing enough" on the pandemic has hit a record high in our tracking at 61%.

- Since June 8 among 2016 Trump voters, there has been a 13-point increase in the share who think that Trump and his administration are not doing enough (from 14% to 27%).

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



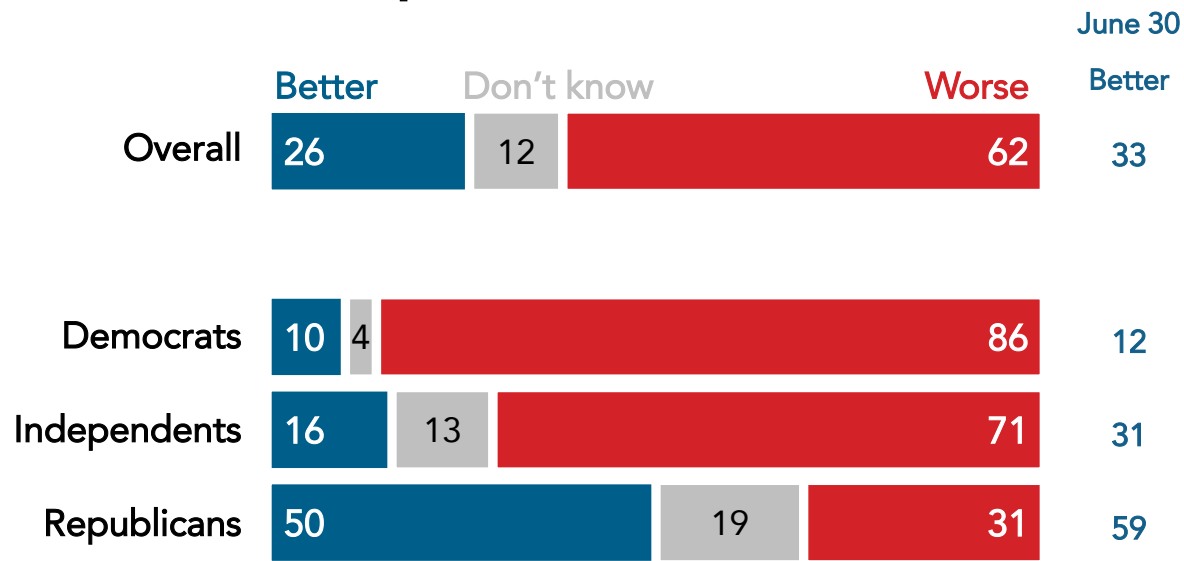
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Majority Believe American Response Worse Than Other Countries, Hold Trump Responsible for New Surge

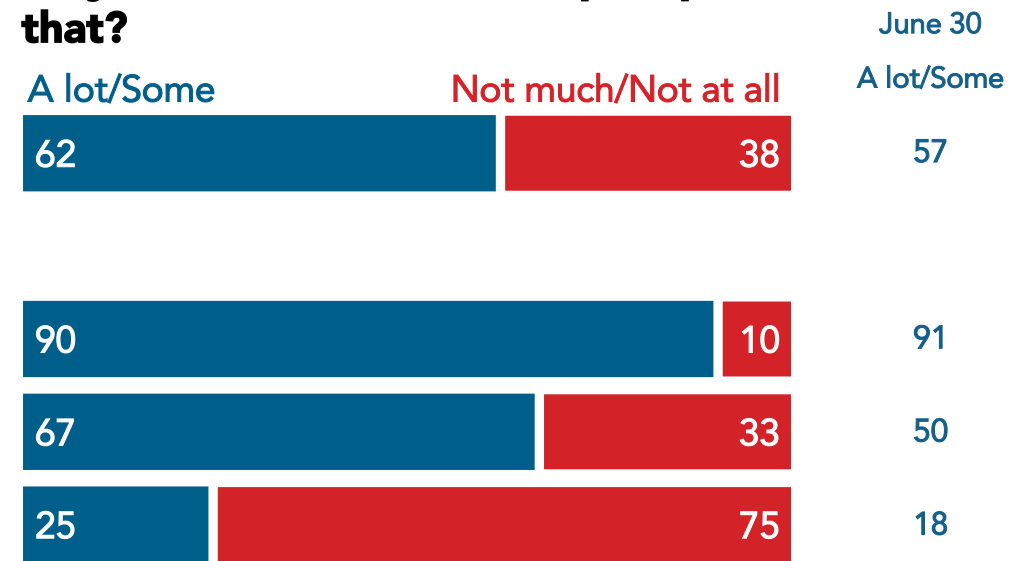
Nearly two-thirds of Americans feel the U.S. response to coronavirus is worse than in other countries and that Trump has at least some responsibility for the cases going up in a number of states.

- Among Republicans, the share who say America's response has been better than in other countries has dropped 9 points since June 30, and the share who say Trump bears a lot/some responsibility grown 7 points.

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



As you may know, cases are going up in a number of states around the country. How much do you hold President Trump responsible for that?



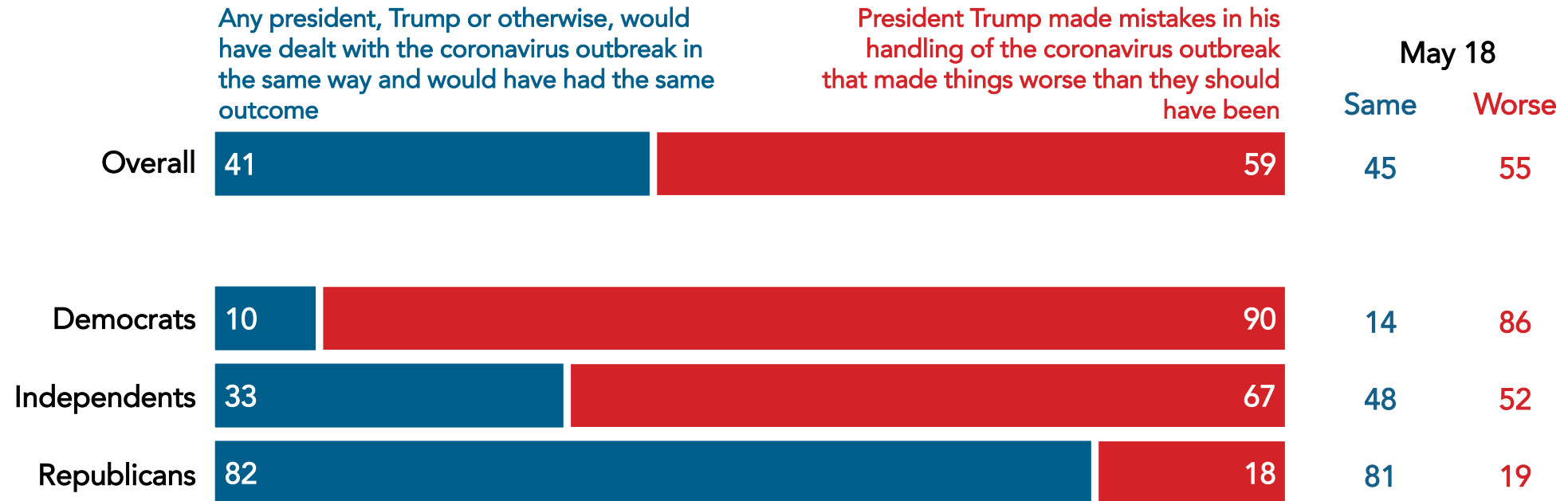
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Three in Five Say Trump's Mistakes Worsened Crisis

More than half of Americans think Trump made mistakes in his handling of the outbreak that made things worse than they should have been.

- Among people of color, 77% say that Trump has made mistakes in his handling of the outbreak that made it worse than it needed to be.

And which of the following statements do you agree with more?



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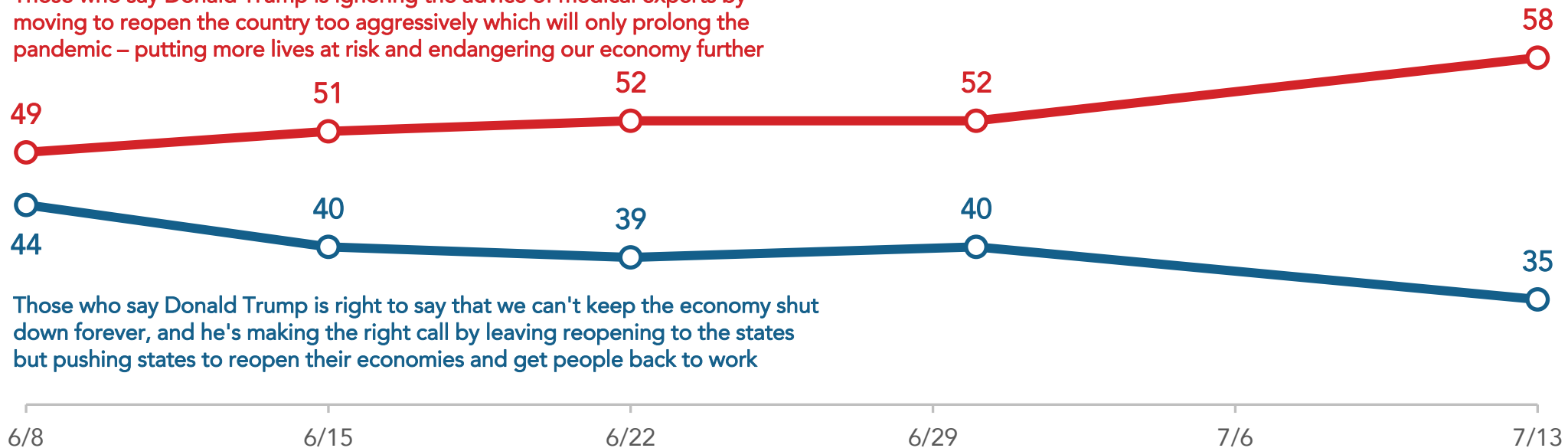
Growing Number Say Trump Ignoring Advice, Pushing Too Aggressively to Reopen

Just a third say Trump is making the right call by leaving reopening to the states but pushing states to reopen their economies and get people back to work.

- Among independents, 67% say Trump is ignoring the advice of medical experts by moving to reopen the country too aggressively.

Which side do you agree with more?

Those who say Donald Trump is ignoring the advice of medical experts by moving to reopen the country too aggressively which will only prolong the pandemic – putting more lives at risk and endangering our economy further



Those who say Donald Trump is right to say that we can't keep the economy shut down forever, and he's making the right call by leaving reopening to the states but pushing states to reopen their economies and get people back to work

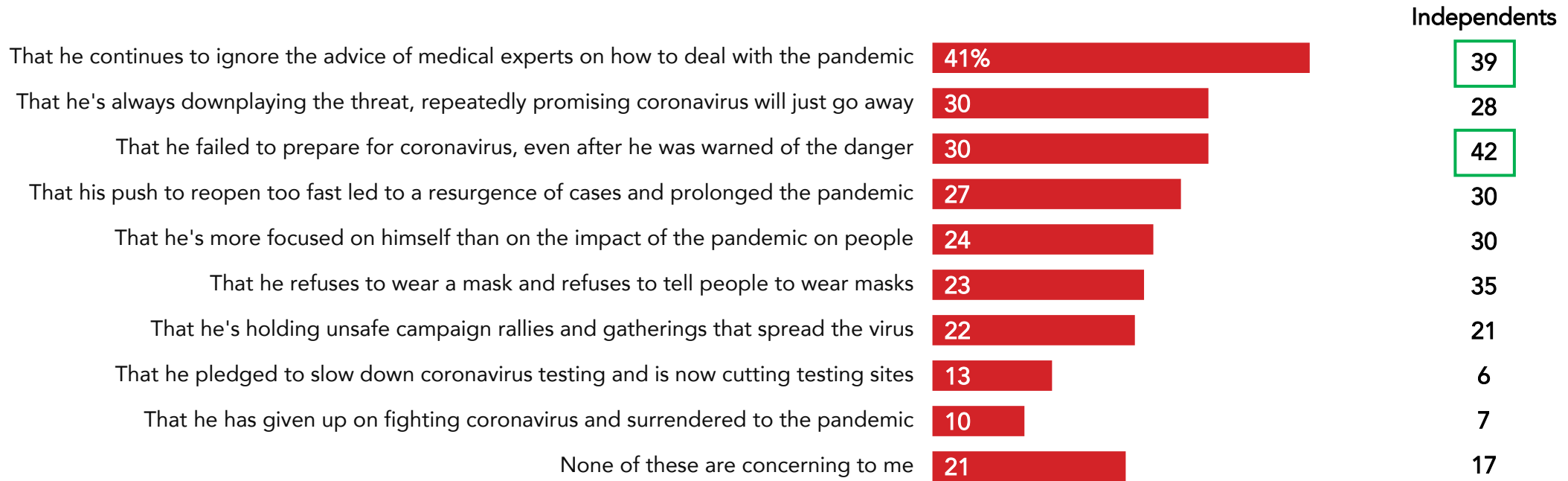
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Top Trump Concerns: Ignoring Experts, Downplaying Threat, Failure to Prepare

The top concerns about Trump's handling of the pandemic include his ignoring of medical experts, downplaying the threat and promising the virus will go away, and ignoring warnings and failing to prepare for the pandemic.

- Among independents, top concerns are his failure to prepare and his ignoring of experts.

Which of the following THREE things concern you the most about the way Donald Trump has handled the coronavirus pandemic?



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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; Joel Payne, 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 public opinion surveys among a sample of 1,002 registered voters conducted July 9-13, 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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