

navigating.* coronavirus

Update:

Wednesday, August 12

Communicating in
Crisis



Key takeaways:

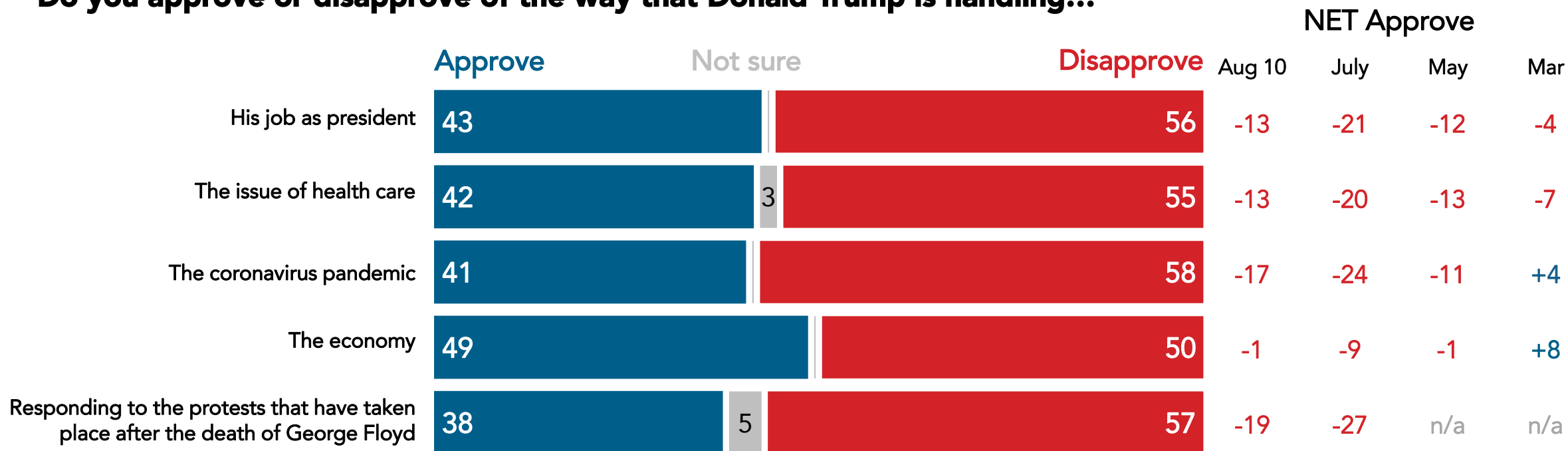
- Most Americans continue to say "the worst is yet to come" in the pandemic – though fewer than last month – while a majority still support "more aggressive" social distancing.
- A majority are more concerned about going too far in pushing for a vaccine than being too cautious and slow.
- The public says Trump should stay out of the development of the vaccine and that politics should be kept out of vaccine decision-making.

Trump Approval Ratings Remain Negative, Though With Slight Improvement From July

A majority of Americans continue to disapprove of the president's handling of a range of issues, from health care to the pandemic – though this week's ratings show a slight uptick for the president.

- Republicans are largely driving these somewhat higher approval ratings: 86% approve of Trump's handling of his job as president this week, as compared to 79% just last week.

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



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted August 6-10, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Coronavirus Dominates Negative Conversation on Trump Over the Last Week

The vast majority (79%) continue to hear some negative things about President Trump this week, with a focus on his handling of coronavirus and, to a lesser degree, the reopening of schools.

In a few words, what **negative** things have you seen, read, or heard recently about Donald Trump?

August 10



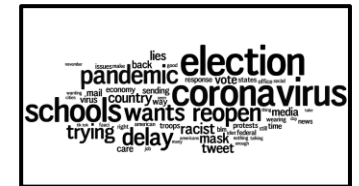
“Demanding schools to **reopen too soon.**”

“That he is trying to cause the coronavirus to spread further and faster because he is **trying to open things too soon.**”

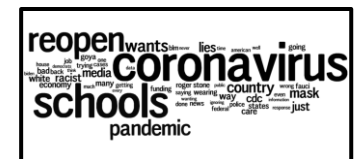
“He is only concerned about **opening up to move the economy forward**, but all decisions with regards to coronavirus and healthcare have not alleviated or helped the pandemic at all.”

“He is **not handling the pandemic very well.**”

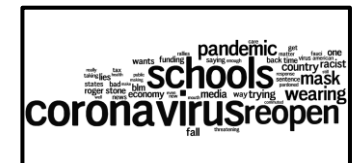
August 3



July 20



July 13



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Majority Still Believe “Worst is Yet to Come” Despite Slight Decline Since Mid-July

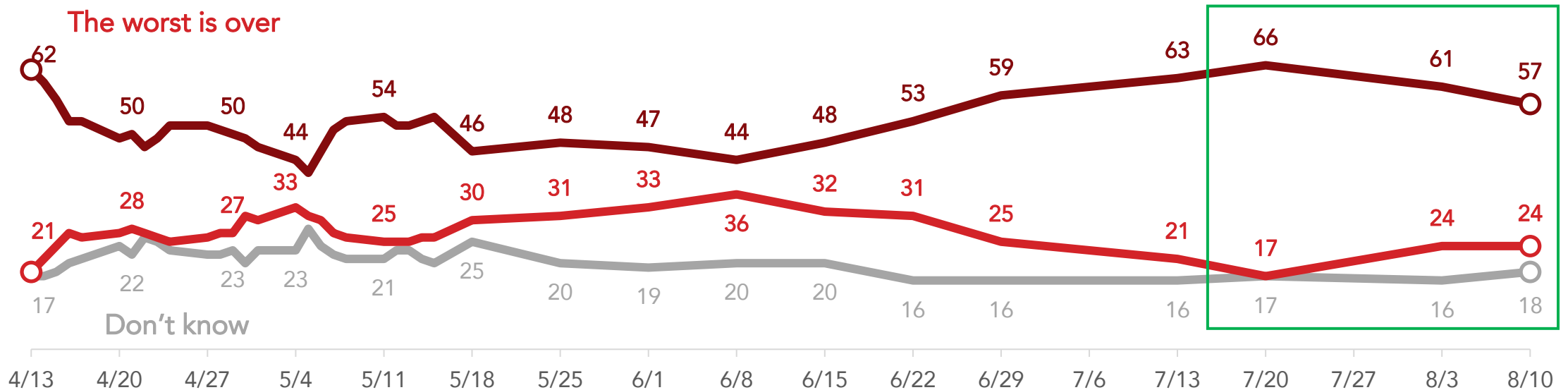
Since July 20, the share saying the “worst is yet to come” in the pandemic has decreased by 9 points, though less than a quarter still believe the “worst is over.”

- In the last three weeks, the share who think the “worst is yet to come” has declined by 11 points among Republicans, from 45% to 34%.

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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Majority Still Support “More Aggressive” Social Distancing

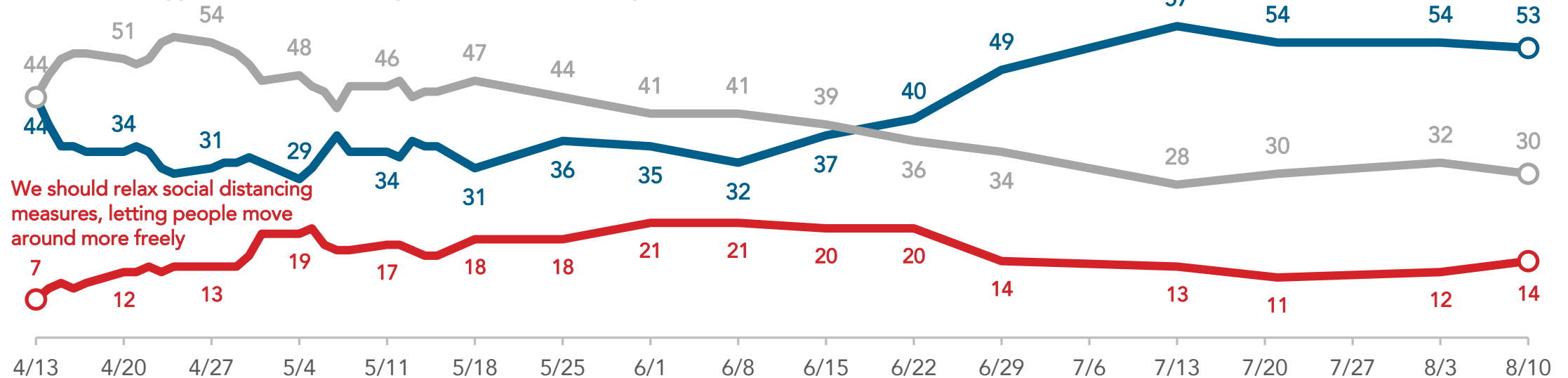
More than half continue to say the country needs more aggressive social distancing measures, while less than one in six say that the country should relax social distancing.

- On a separate question, 54% of Americans continue to say their state should reverse its reopening plans and put back in place more restrictions given the status of coronavirus in their state.

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



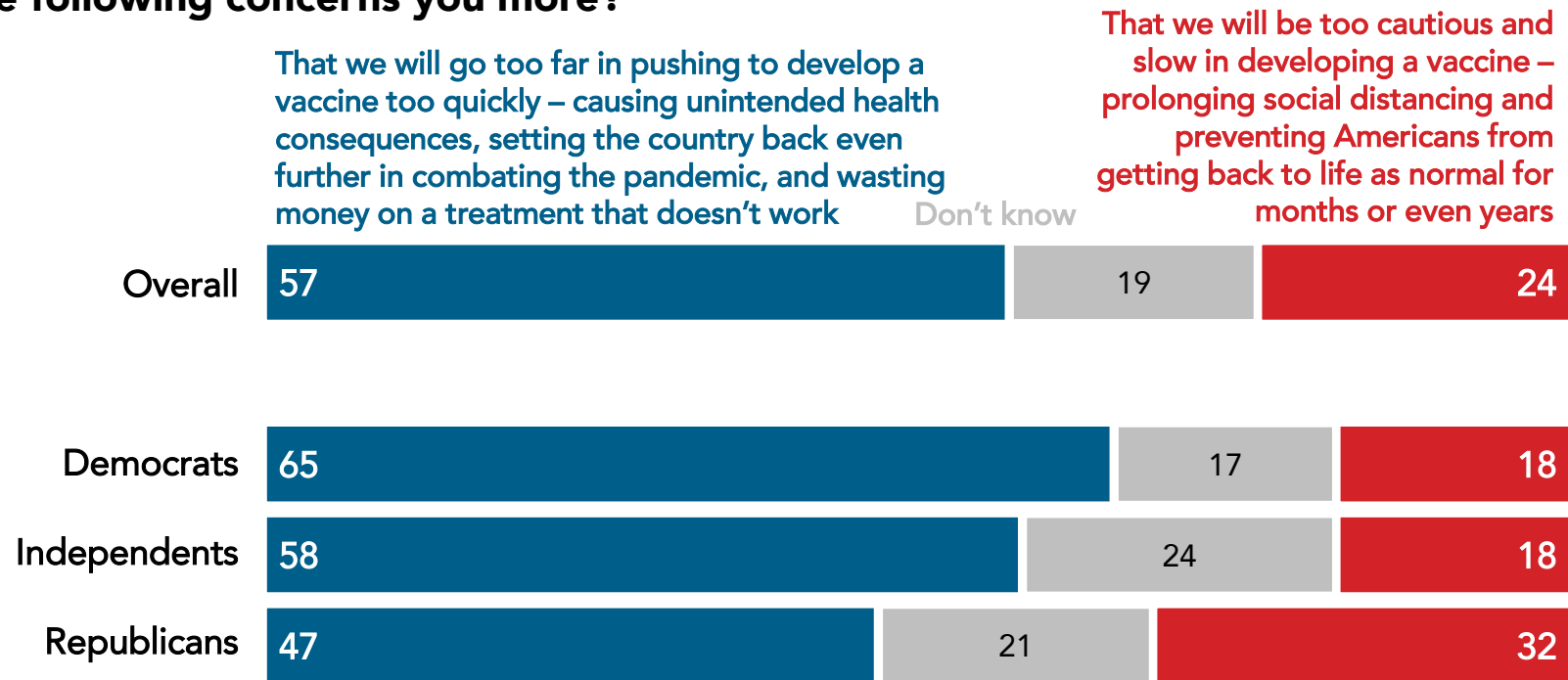
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted August 6-10, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Americans Favor Caution Over Moving Too Quickly on Vaccines

A majority are more concerned about potential negative consequences of moving too quickly on vaccinations than about being too cautious and slow.

- Even among those in high infection states*, 57% say they are more concerned about going too far in pushing to develop a vaccine quickly rather than being too cautious and slow.

Which of the following concerns you more?



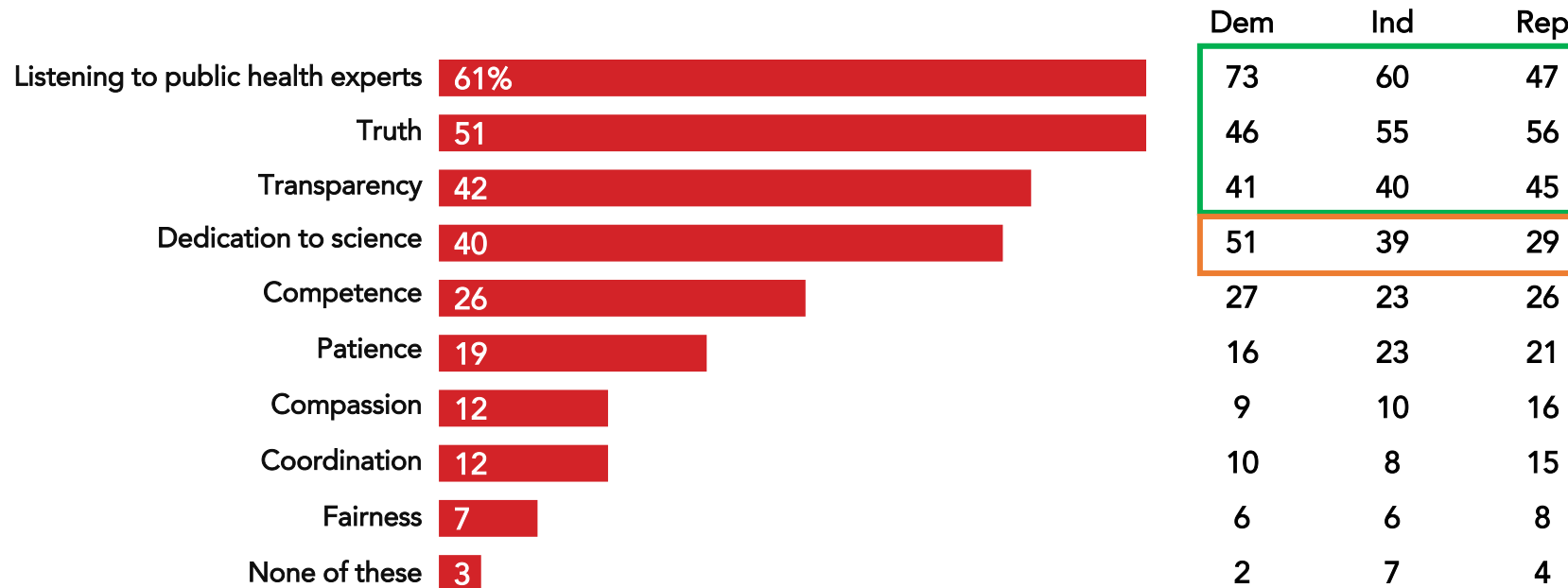
*"High infection states" are those that fall under the NY travel restriction list, based on a "seven day rolling average of positive tests in excess of 10%, or number of positive cases exceeding 10 per 10,000 residents."
 Nationwide survey of 1,019 registered voters; August 6-10, 2020.
 For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

“Listening to Public Health Experts” and “Truth” Most Important Principles in Developing Vaccine

Americans see the most important principles for a president to uphold in the development of a coronavirus vaccine to be: “listening to public health experts,” “truth,” and “transparency.”

- The perceived importance of “dedication to science” is split along partisan lines: while 51% of Democrats say it is one of the most important principles, only 39% of independents and 29% of Republicans say the same.

Which of the following are the most important principles for the president to uphold in the development of a coronavirus vaccine?



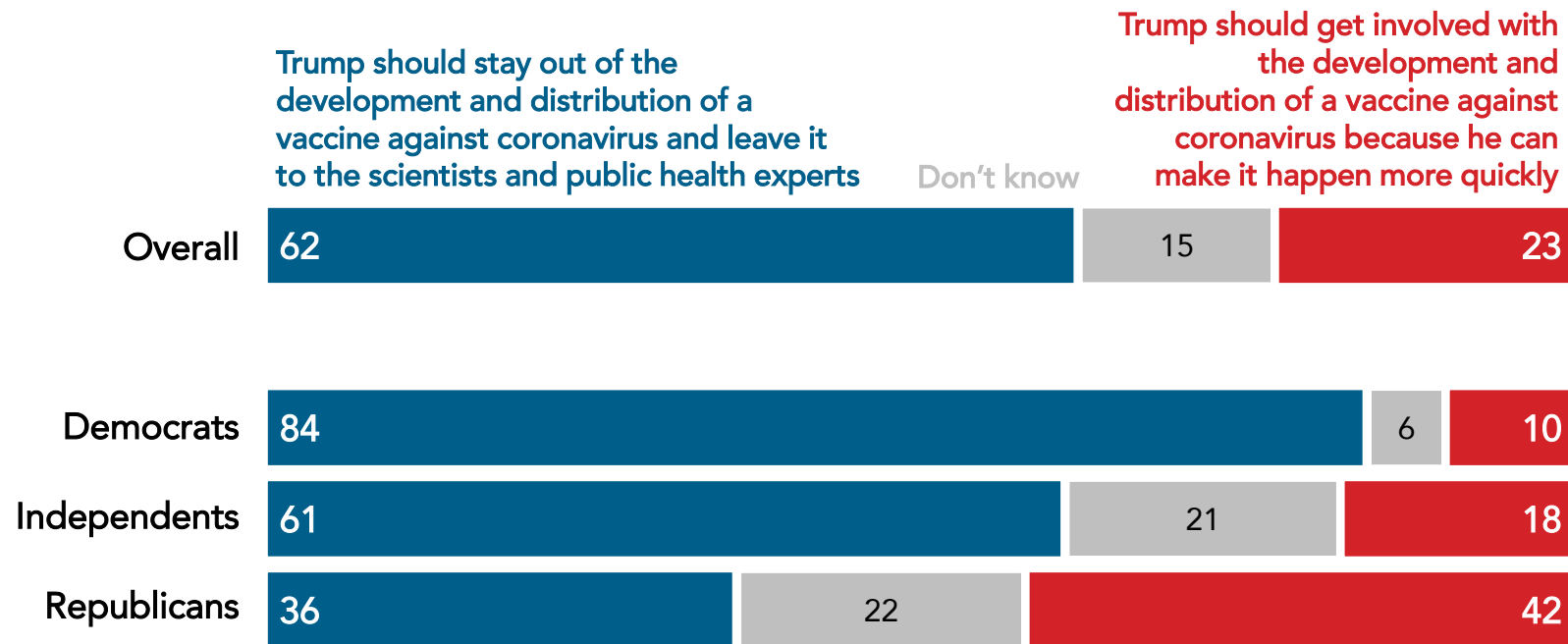
Nationwide survey of 1,019 registered voters; August 6-10, 2020.
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Majority Want Trump to Stay Out of Vaccine Development

Nearly two in three say they would prefer that Trump stay out of the development of a coronavirus vaccine and leave the issue to experts, while less than a quarter say he should get involved to expedite the process.

- Among 2016 Trump voters, only 43% say that Trump should get involved, while 35% say that he should stay out of developing a vaccine and leave it to experts instead.

Generally speaking, which would you prefer?



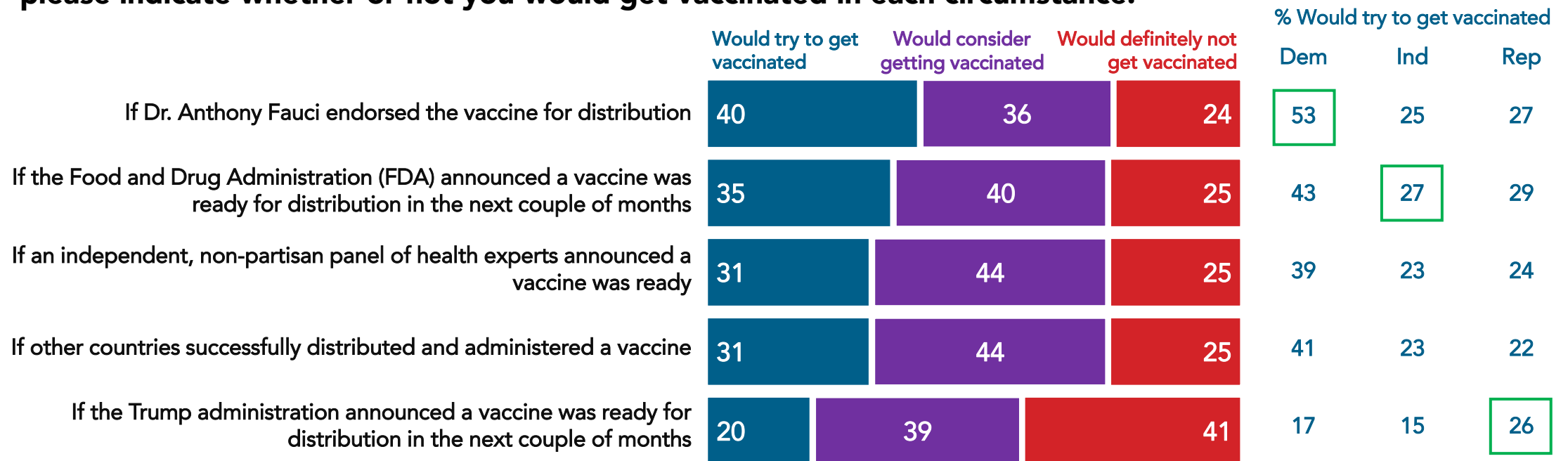
"2016 Trump voters" self-report having voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 election. Nationwide survey of 1,019 registered voters; August 6-10, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Fauci and FDA Endorsement of Vaccine Far More Important Than Trump's

Roughly two in five say that if Dr. Fauci or the Food and Drug Administration announced a vaccine was ready for distribution, they would try to get vaccinated. Only one in five say the same of a Trump announcement.

- Among Republicans, only 26% say they would try to get vaccinated if the Trump administration announced a vaccine was ready for distribution: 17% of Democrats and 15% of independents say the same.

Below are some possible scenarios that could happen regarding a vaccine in the United States. For each, please indicate whether or not you would get vaccinated in each circumstance.

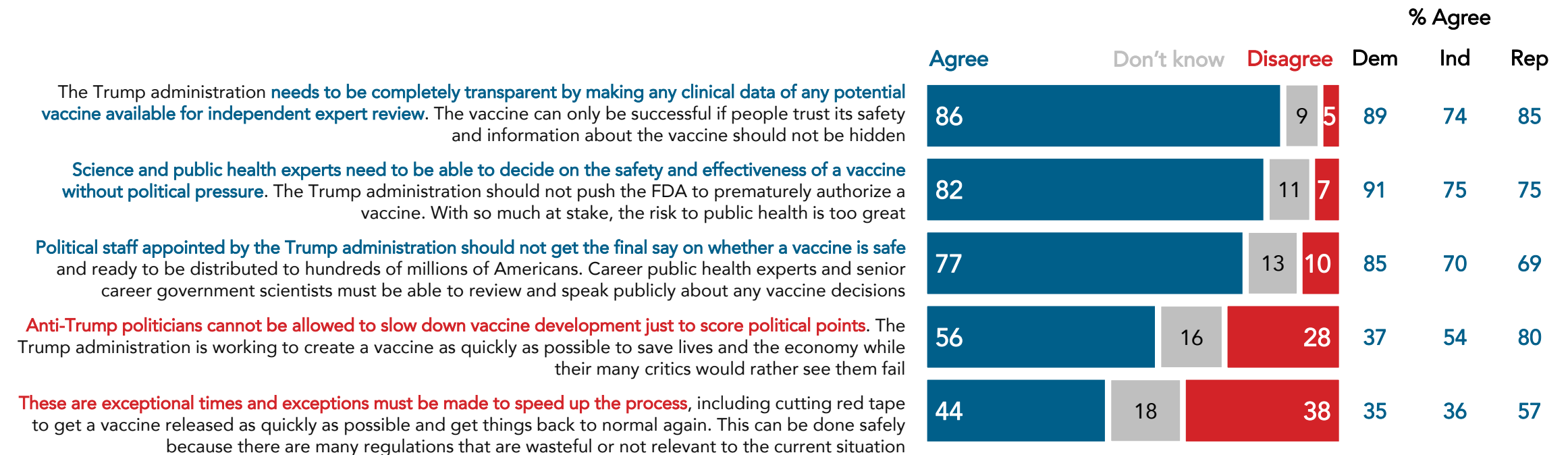


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Vast Majority Agree Trump Needs to Be Transparent About Vaccine Data, Keep Politics Out of Decision-Making

More than three in four agree the Trump administration needs to be transparent about any clinical vaccine data, experts need to be able to make decisions without political pressure, and political staff should not get the final say.

Below is a list of statements that might be made about the development of a coronavirus vaccine. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each one.



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Top Trump Vaccine Concerns: Putting Kushner in Charge, Ignoring Experts

Nearly two in three say a range of issues – from putting Kushner in charge of vaccine development, to ignoring experts, to giving Kodak \$765 million – raise concerns for them in how Trump is handling a coronavirus vaccine.

Below is a list of concerns some people may have regarding Trump’s handling of the coronavirus vaccine. For each, please indicate whether it raises serious concerns.

	Very Serious	Smwt. Serious	Total Serious Concerns			
			Overall	Dem	Ind	GOP
Instead of turning to a noted medical expert like Dr. Anthony Fauci to lead the team developing a vaccine, Trump appointed his son-in-law Jared Kushner in charge	53%	12	64	90	61	35
Since the start of this pandemic, Trump has refused to listen to scientists and repeatedly overruled the best medical experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci on matters of public health	52	12	64	92	61	30
The Trump administration is giving a \$765 million dollar loan to Kodak to produce drug ingredients for a vaccine. Kodak has no experience with vaccine production, but the CEO reportedly has close ties with Donald Trump and made millions of dollars off the deal	48	14	62	87	60	33
Trump is working against our current health care system at a time when we need it to be working well so people get a vaccine as soon as possible. Trump's health care plan lets insurance companies stop covering the costs of a vaccine, leaving millions at risk of being unable to afford a vaccine	48	14	61	90	58	28
Trump has failed repeatedly to develop an effective national strategy to combat the coronavirus , and the administration has been incompetent in handling the virus since the beginning. Even if scientists manage to create a vaccine quickly, producing and distributing it to hundreds of millions of Americans could be a disaster based on Trump’s handling of the pandemic so far	47	15	62	92	57	27
Trump has embraced fringe, unproven medical theories about treatments like hydroxychloroquine and promoted junk science and unproven claims for a cure for coronavirus. Even if he announces a vaccine, Americans will never be able to trust him that it is being developed safely	46	15	61	90	58	27

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Majorities Unfavorable to Trump "It Is What It Is" Clip, Feel He Could Have Done More to Prevent 160,000 Deaths

Almost two-thirds are unfavorable to the clip of Trump's recent HBO interview, with more than half saying that Trump could have done more and that many of the 160,000 American deaths could have been prevented.

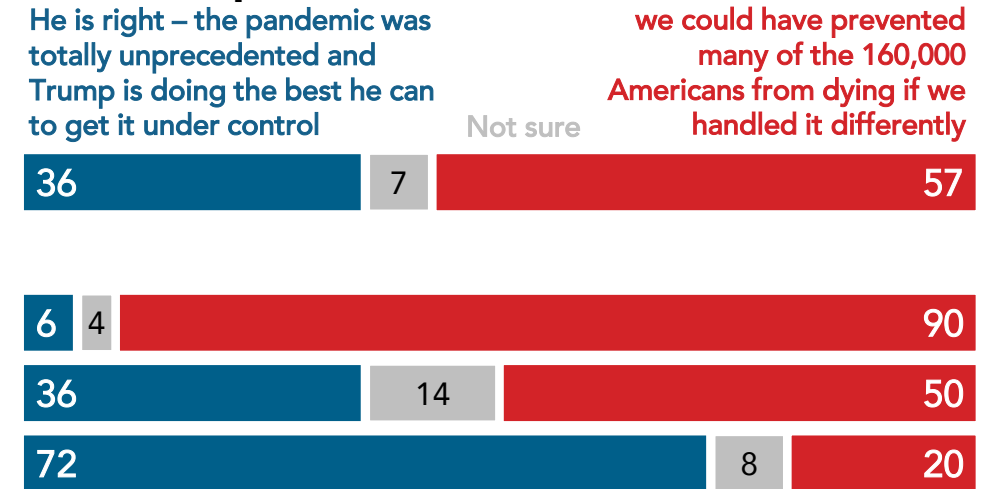


Swan: *These people, many of them are older people, Mr. President.*
 Trump: *Yeah, under the circumstances of right now, I think it's under control.*
 Swan: *How? A thousand Americans are dying a day.*
 Trump: *They're dying, it's true, it is what it is.*

Generally speaking, what is your reaction to this clip of Donald Trump?



Having watched that clip, what do you think of what Trump said?



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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 1,019 registered voters from August 6-10, 2020. 200 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 200 additional interviews were conducted among independents with no partisan lean. 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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