

# navigating.\* CORONAVIRUS

Update:  
Thursday, October 1

Communicating in  
Crisis



## Key takeaways:

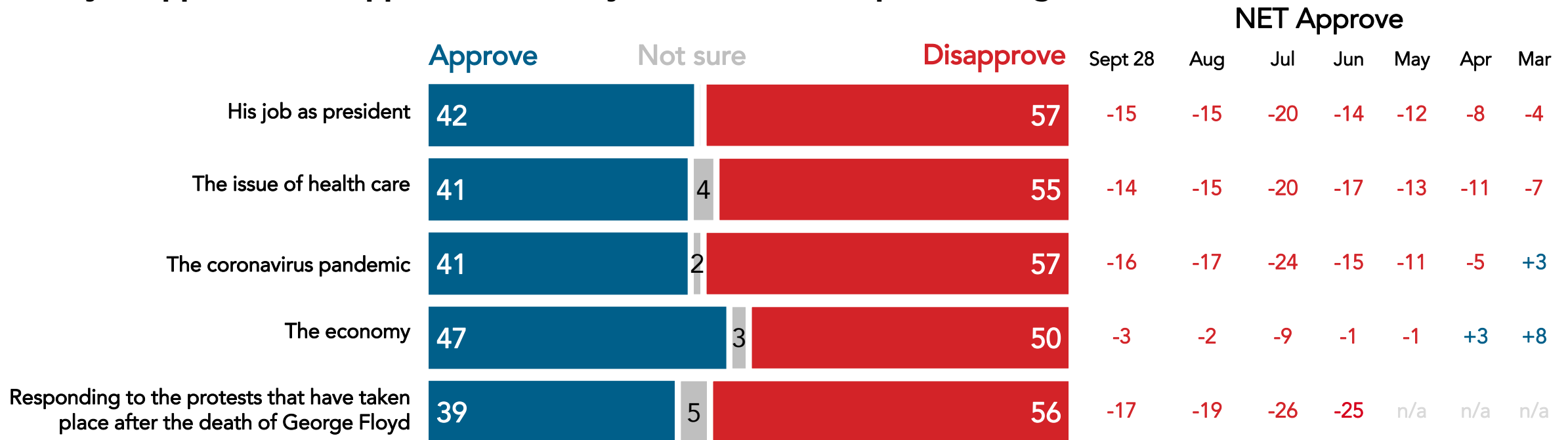
- Coronavirus, health care, and the economy remain the top concerns for Americans as Trump's approval on handling each remains deeply negative.
- There has been an uptick in the belief that "the worst is yet to come" in the pandemic as a majority of Americans believe new cases of coronavirus are on the rise.
- Nearly half of Americans disagree with the decision to forego filing homicide charges in the case involving the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor, and three in five say her shooting is part of a broader problem.

# Trump's Job Approval Ratings Are Still Underwater

Trump's ratings remain underwater on several metrics, including health care, the pandemic, and the economy.

- Trump's ratings are all net negative with independents as well: on his job as president overall, he's at -26 (33% approve/59% disapprove), -20 on the pandemic (36% approve/56% disapprove), and -7 on the economy (40% approve/47% disapprove).

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



Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; September 26-28, 2020.

Nationwide surveys of registered voters including 4,385 interviews in August, 2,017 interviews conducted in July, 5,148 in June, 6,288 in May, 7,393 in April, and 3,373 in March.

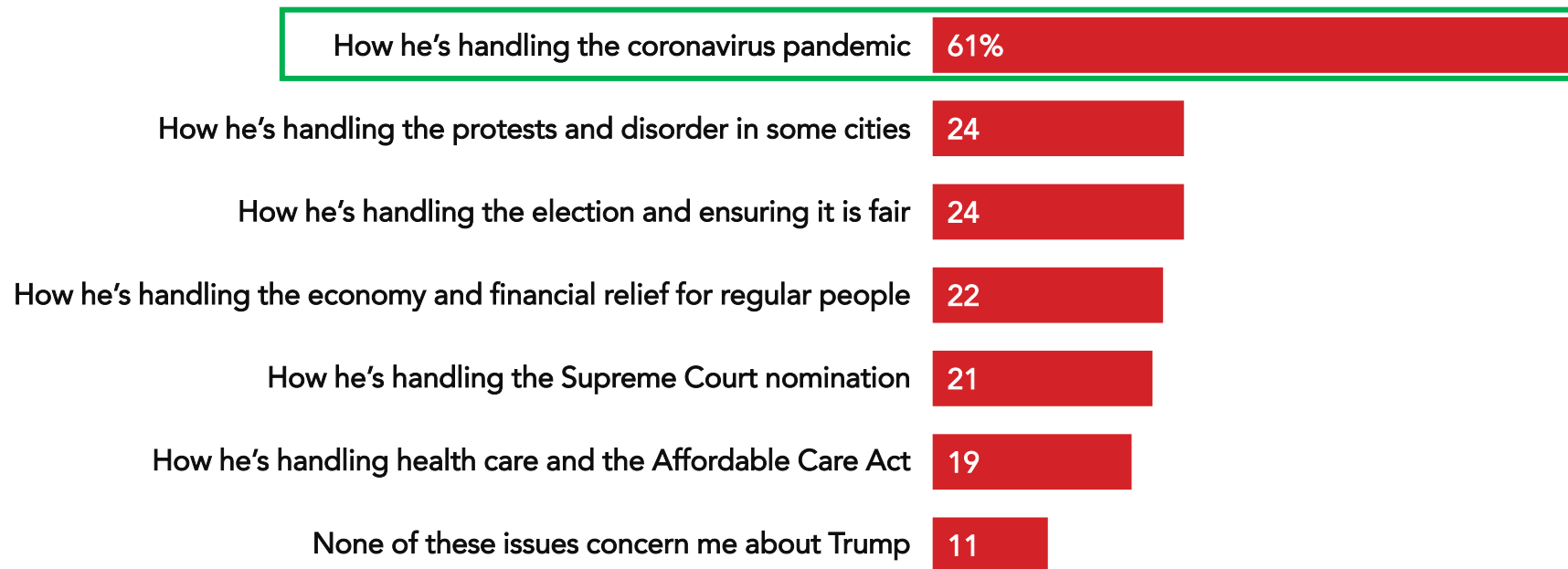
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# Trump's Handling of the Pandemic Is Americans' Top Concern

Among those who do not strongly approve of the job Trump is doing as president, three in five are most concerned by Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

- On a separate question, 94% of Americans say the pandemic is a "major crisis" or "major problem."

**[Among those who do not strongly approve of Trump's handling of the presidency] On which of the following TWO issues do you have the most concerns with how President Trump is handling his job right now? Please select up to two.**



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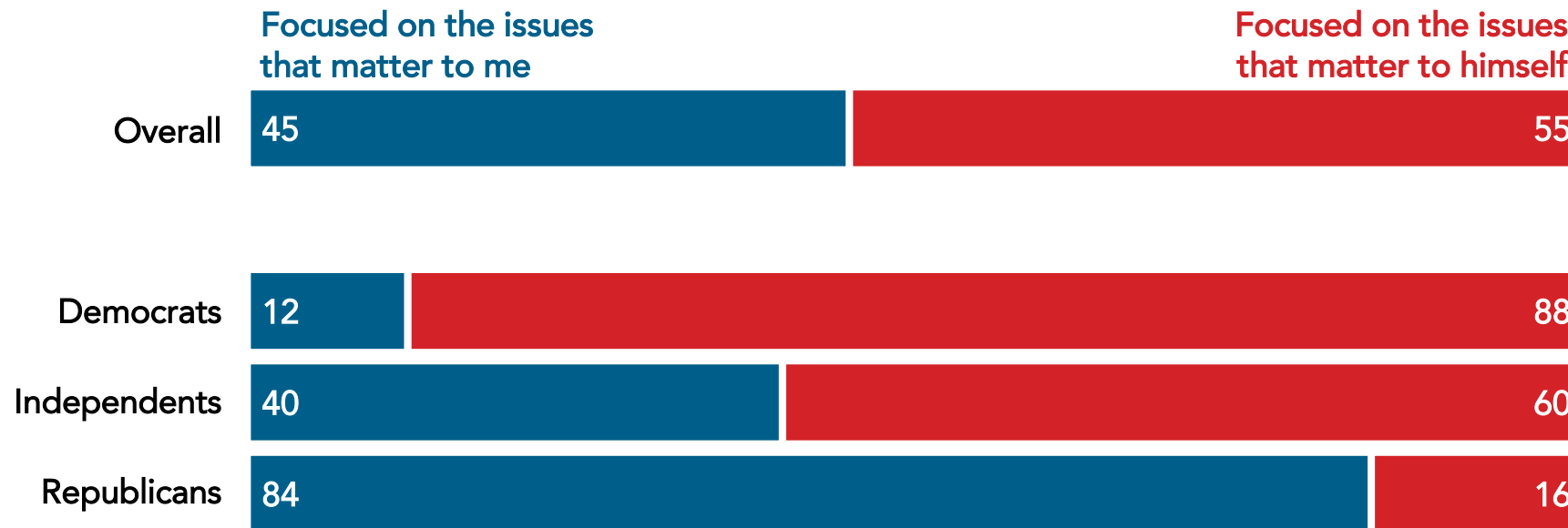
# Most Say Trump Is More Focused on Looking Out for Himself

By 10 points, Americans say that Trump is focused on the issues that matter to himself rather than focusing on the issues that matter to them.

- Among those mixed on Trump\*, only 46% say he is focused on issues that matter to them, and just 40% of independents say the same.

## Which do you agree with more:

- Donald Trump is **focused on the issues that matter to me**
- Donald Trump is **focused on the issues that matter to himself**



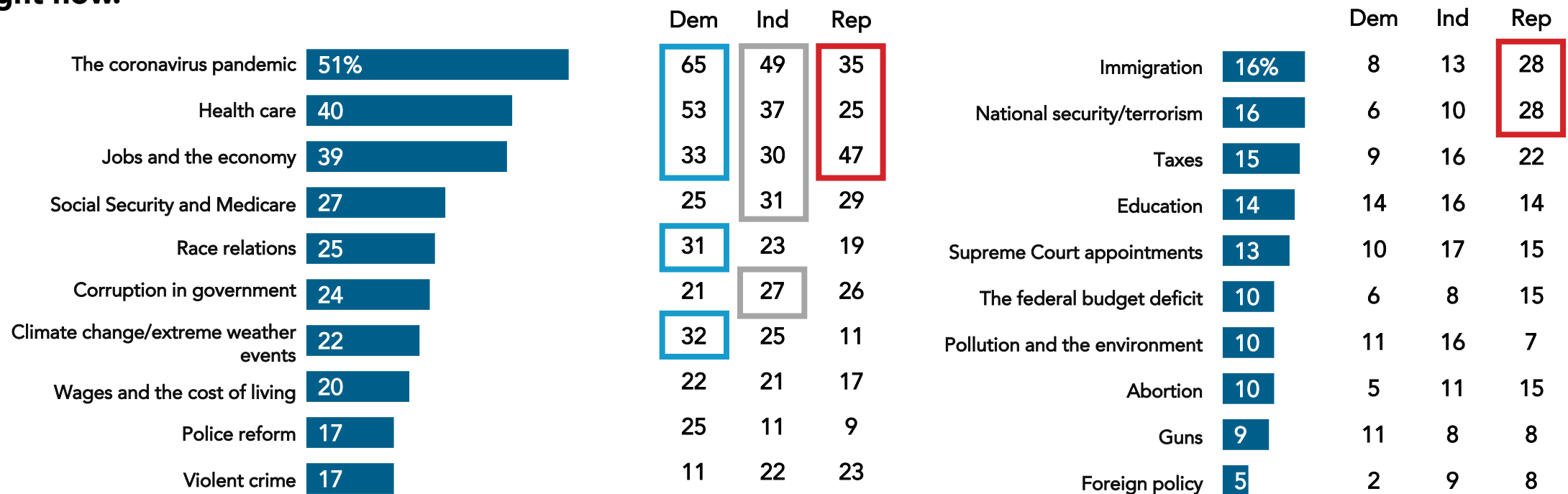
\*"Mixed on Trump" refers to Americans that don't always approve or don't always disapprove of Trump's overall job performance, his handling of the economy, his handling the coronavirus pandemic, and his handling of health care. Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; September 26-28, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Coronavirus, Health Care, and Jobs & the Economy Remain Top Concerns for Americans

Across party lines, the pandemic, health care, and the economy remain Americans' top concerns.

- Other issues fuel more partisan concern, with Democrats also highly concerned about race relations and climate change, independents Social Security and Medicare, and Republicans immigration and terrorism.

Select the top four issues that you feel are most important for the President and Congress to be focusing on right now.



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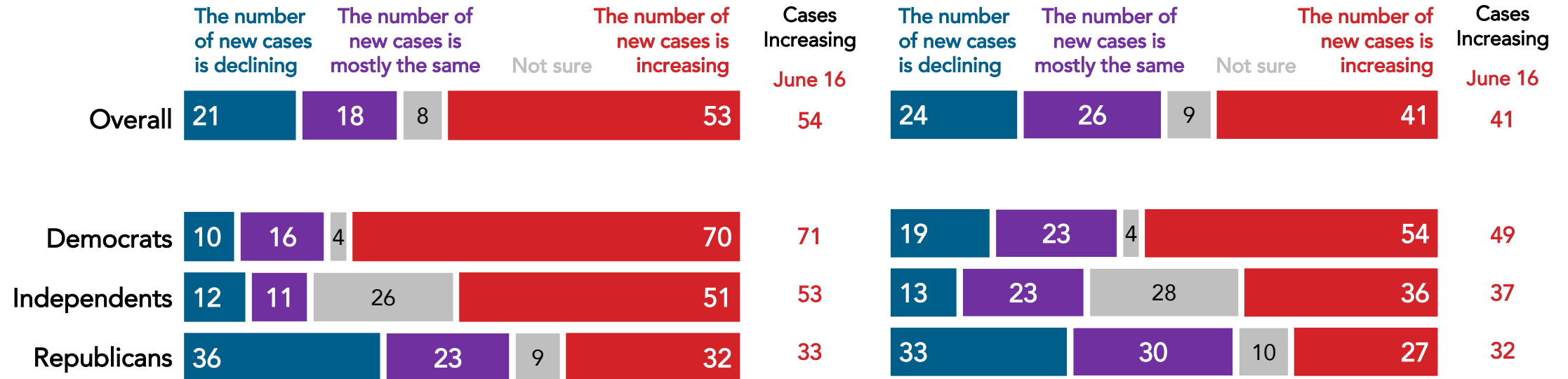
# Americans Noticing Recent Uptick as Majority Say Nationwide Cases Are Increasing

The shares who say the number of new cases is increasing in their state and in the country as a whole are both nearly at mid-June levels when the last major surge in cases happened in the United States.

- Perceptions of cases differ by party: among Republicans, only a quarter (27%) say state cases are increasing and 32% say the same about the country, while 54% and 70% of Democrats say the same, respectively.

How would you describe what is going on in the country in regard to the coronavirus?

How would you describe what is going on in [STATE] in regard to the coronavirus?



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 26-28, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# As New Cases Are on the Rise, Most Americans Say the “Worst is Yet to Come”

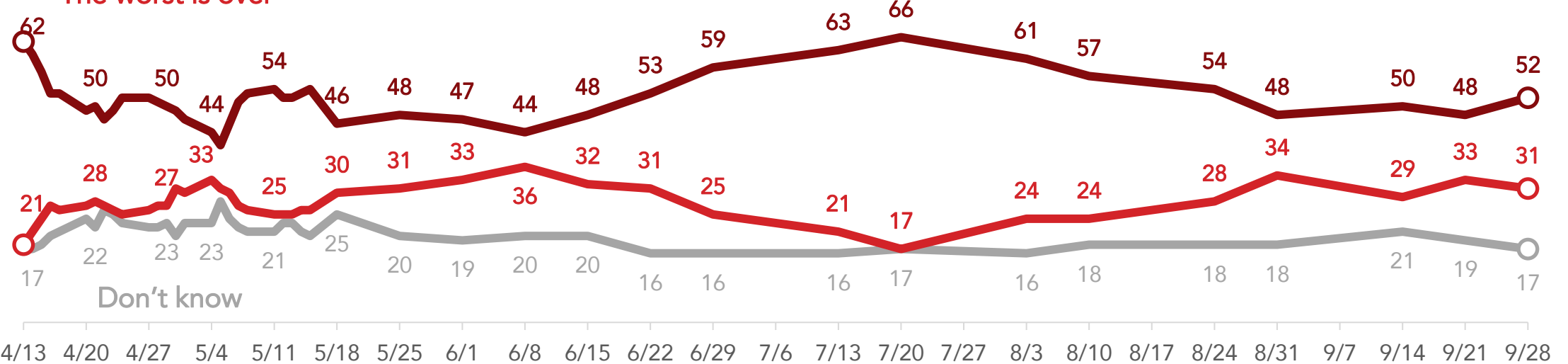
More than half of Americans say the “worst is yet to come” in the pandemic, while still only three in ten say the “worst is over.”

- On a separate question, 46% also say we still “need more aggressive social distancing measures,” 31% say we are “currently doing the right thing,” and only 19% say “we should relax social distancing.”

**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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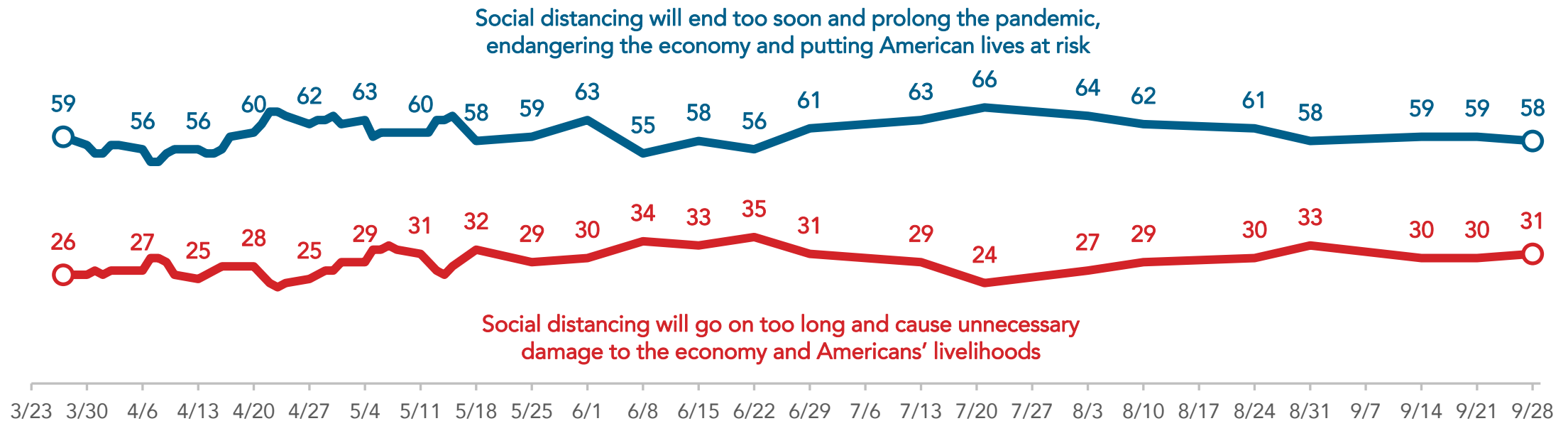


# Three in Five Are Still More Concerned Social Distancing Will End Too Soon

The majority of Americans remain more concerned that social distancing will end too soon, while less than a third say they are more concerned social distancing will go on too long.

- Among independents, 50% are more concerned social distancing will end too soon, while only 22% are more concerned 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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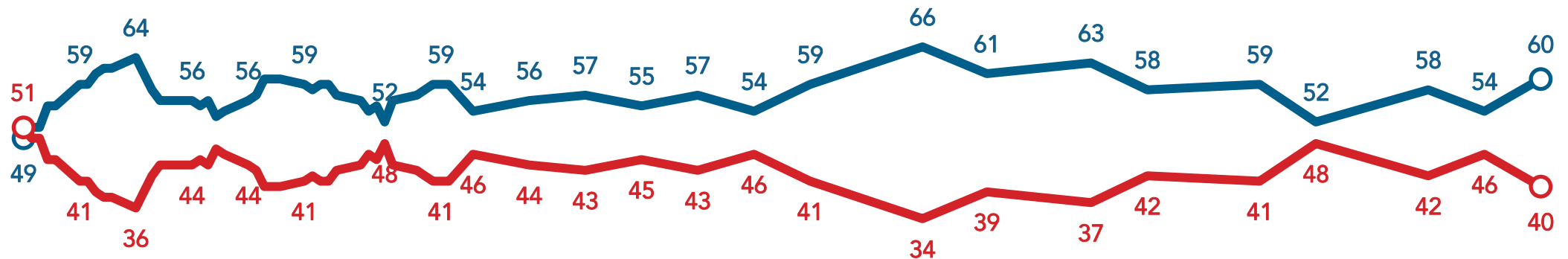
# Three in Five More Worried About National Health than the National Economy

The share who say they are more worried about the impact of coronavirus on people's health has shifted back to early August levels, with the share who are more concerned about the national economy down to two in five.

- While 57% of Republicans are more concerned about the economy as a whole, 75% of Democrats and 58% of independents are more concerned about the impact of the coronavirus on people's health.

In thinking about the impact of coronavirus on the country, which are you more worried about...

The impact of coronavirus on people's health



The impact of coronavirus on the economy as a whole

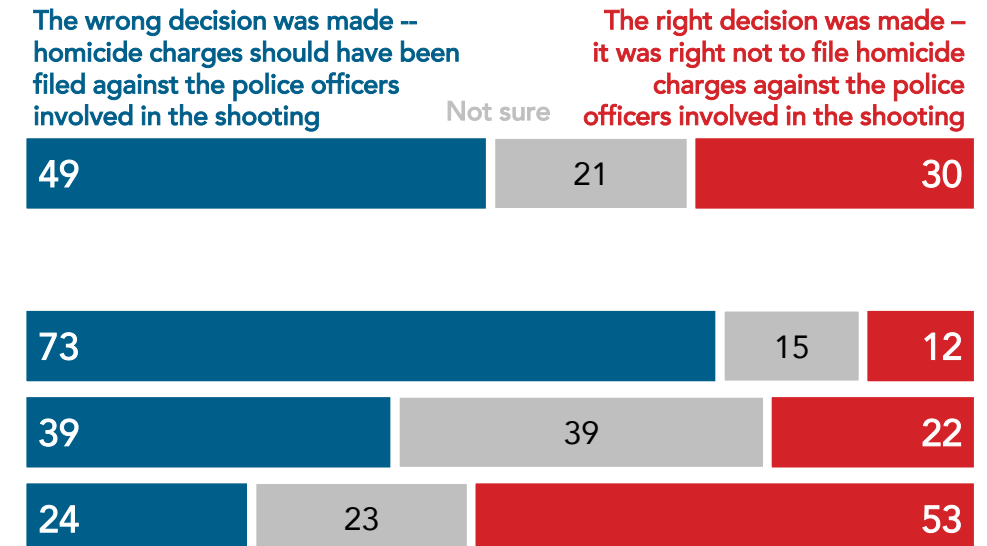
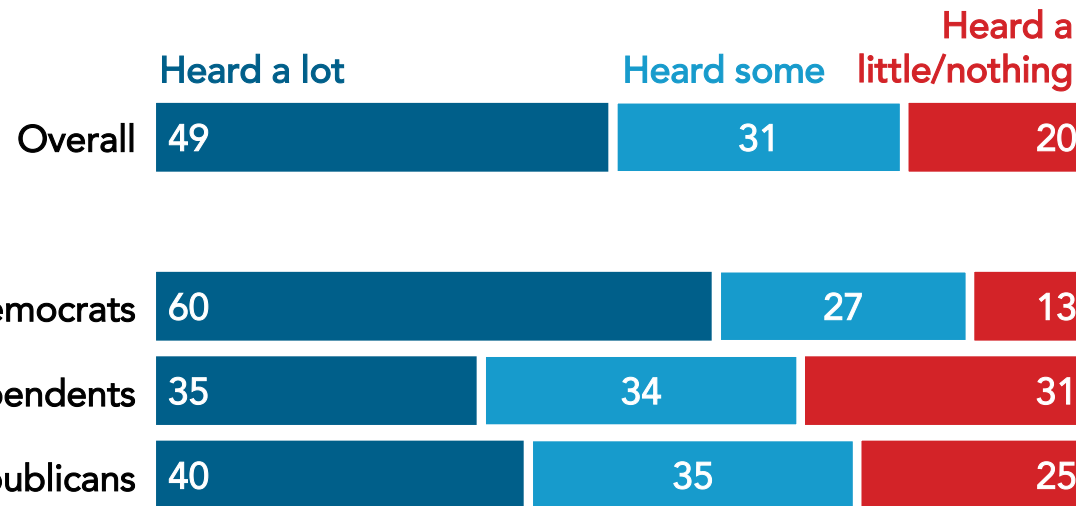
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# Americans Disagree With Breonna Taylor Decision By a Wide Margin

Americans across party lines are hearing about the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor – but while the vast majority of Democrats and a plurality of independents say the wrong decision was made and that homicide charges should have been filed against the involved police officers, a majority of Republicans say the right decision was made.

As you may know, officials in Louisville, Kentucky recently announced that no homicide charges will be filed in relation to the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor. How much have you heard recently about the case involving the shooting of Breonna Taylor?

Do you think that Kentucky made the right or the wrong decision in not filing homicide charges against police officers in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor?



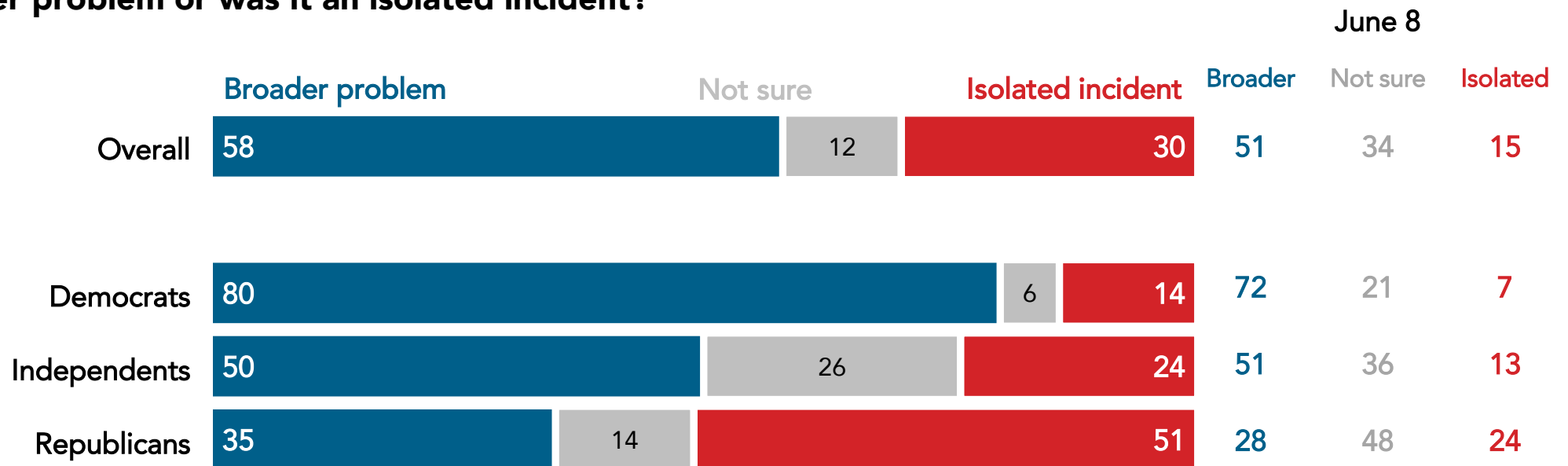
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# Americans See Fatal Shooting of Breonna Taylor as Part of a “Broader Problem” With Policing

As awareness grows around the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor, since last asked June 8, there has been a 7-point increase in the share who say that the shooting of Breonna Taylor is a part of a “broader problem.”

- Republicans continue to drive the share who consider the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor to be an “isolated incident”: the share who consider it isolated has grown 27 points since June 8 (from 24% to 51%).

**Over the past few months, there have been several incidents that some say are a sign of broader problems concerning racism and police brutality in America. Do you think that the shooting of Breonna Taylor is a part of a broader problem or was it an isolated incident?**



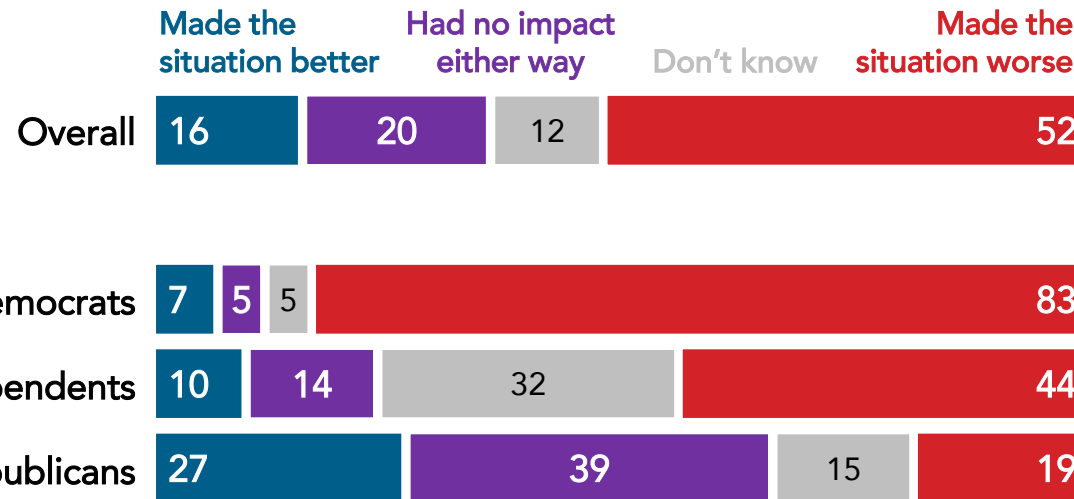
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# Majority Say Trump Is Making Protests & Disorder Worse, Blame Him Over Democrats Since It's Happening on His Watch

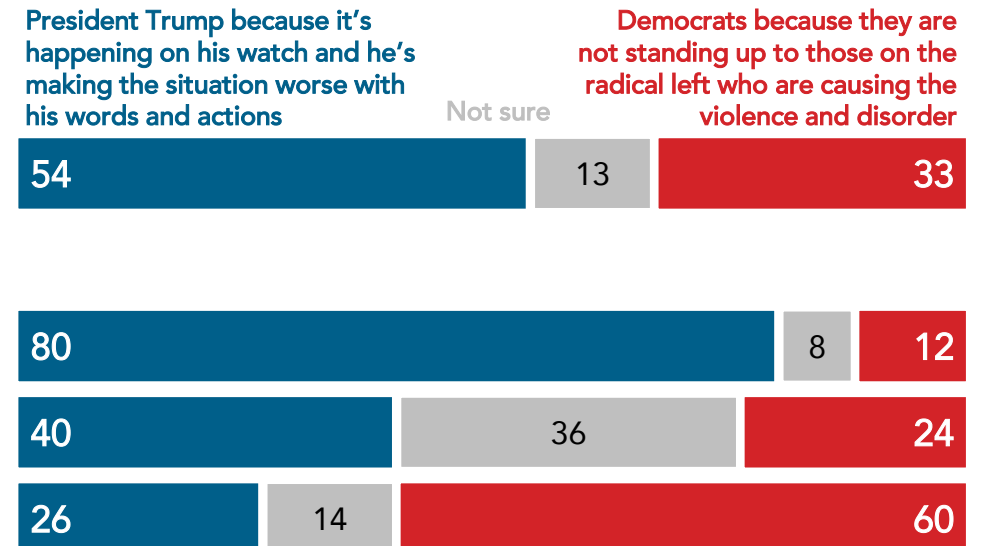
More than half of Americans say that Trump has made the situation with protests and disorder in the country worse and blame him because it's happening on his watch rather than Democrats.

- Even among Republicans, a quarter (26%) blame Trump over Democrats for the disorder in the country.

**Do you think what Donald Trump has said and done about the protests and disorder happening in some parts of the country right now has generally made the situation better, made the situation worse, or had no impact either way?**



**Thinking more specifically about the disorder that has been taking place in some places across the country, who do you blame more? Please choose even if it's hard to decide.**



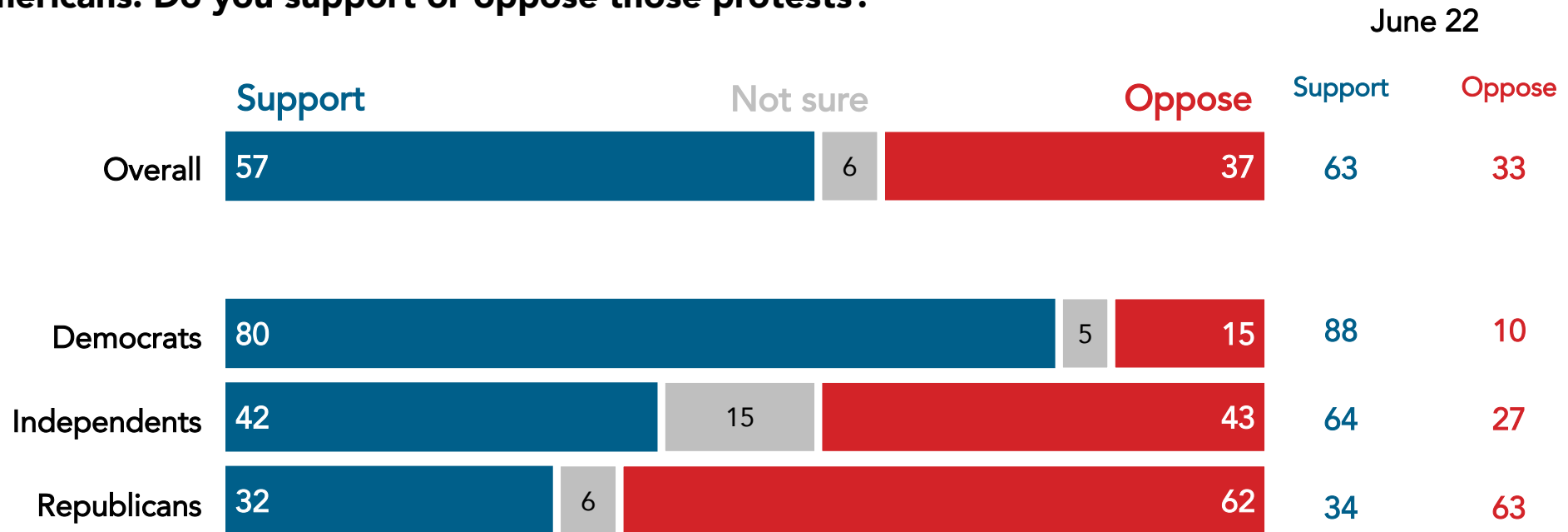
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# Across Last Three Months, Three in Five Consistently Support the Protests Focused on Police Treatment of Black Americans

Consistent with the last three months of tracking on the question, a majority support protests focused on police treatment of Black Americans.

- On a separate question, 53% of Americans continue to have a favorable view of the Black Lives Matter movement, while 42% view the movement unfavorably.

**As you may know, the death of George Floyd led to protests across the country focused on police treatment of Black Americans. Do you support or oppose those protests?**



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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 from September 26-28, 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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