

# navigator\*

navigating\*  
coronavirus

navigating  
the vote\*



Update:  
Wednesday, October 21

## Communicating in Crisis

## Key takeaways:

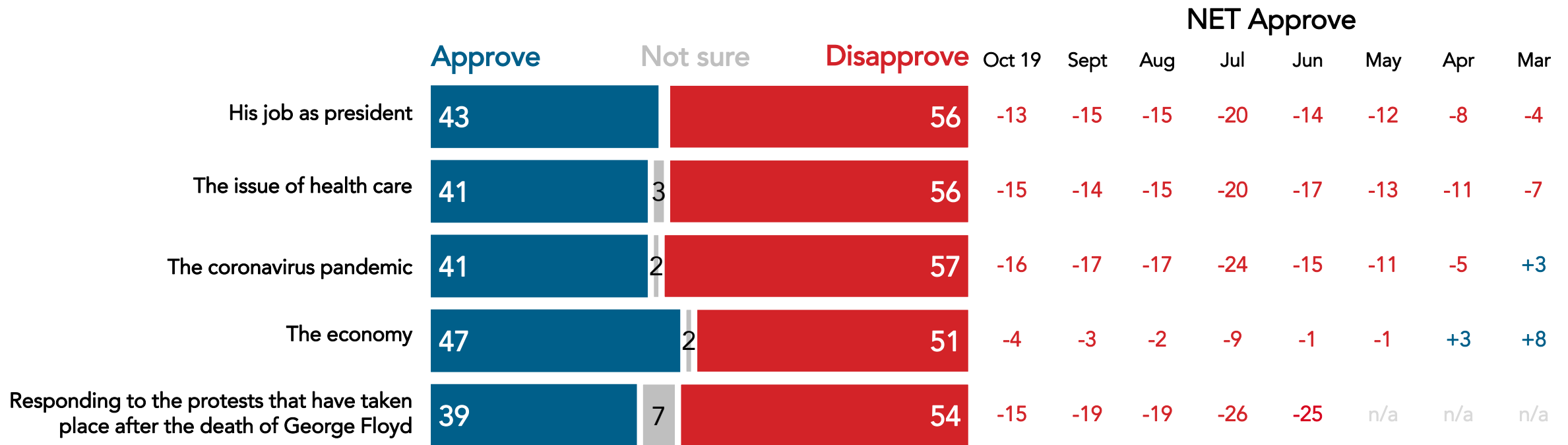
- The pandemic continues to dominate negative conversation around Trump and remains the top issue for Americans.
- Growing shares say the number of new cases is increasing at both the state and national level, and a majority say the pandemic is “out of control.”
- Americans worry most about Trump’s ignoring of experts, failure to prepare, and downplaying the pandemic, and most trust Fauci to make decisions over the president.

# Trump Underwater on Range of Metrics

Trump's approval ratings are in the negative on everything from the economy to handling the pandemic.

- Among independents, Trump is at -4 on the economy (43% approve/47% disapprove), and on the pandemic, is underwater by 32 points (31% approve/63% disapprove).

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



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters; October 15-19, 2020.  
 Nationwide surveys of registered voters including 3,450 interviews in September, 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.  
 For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Coronavirus Dominates Last Four Months of Negatives on Trump

Among those hearing mostly negative or a mix of positive and negative things on Trump this week (77%), coronavirus continues to dominate the conversation, consistent across the news cycles of the last four months on the president.

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

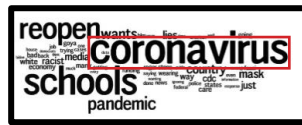
June 16



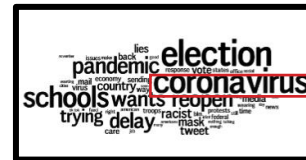
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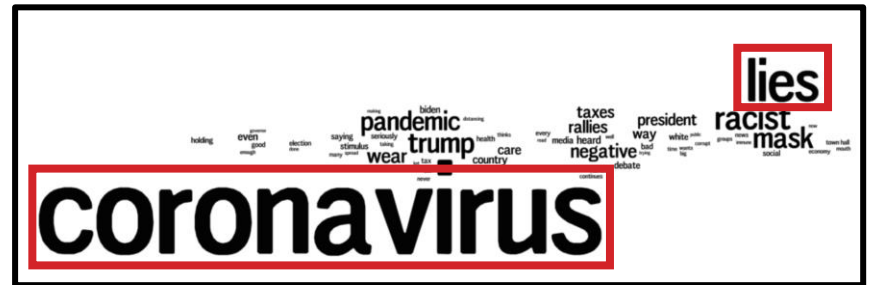
July 21



August 4



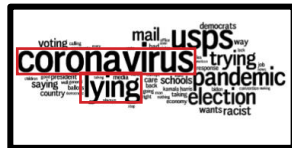
October 19



August 11



August 25



September 1



September 15



September 21



September 28



October 5



October 12



"He **downplayed the coronavirus pandemic** by not taking it seriously. He and his family **tested positive** for the coronavirus.

"How **he's handling the coronavirus epidemic** and getting rid of healthcare."

"Donald Trump **has not treated the pandemic the way he should have.**"

"How he **isn't taking coronavirus seriously.**"

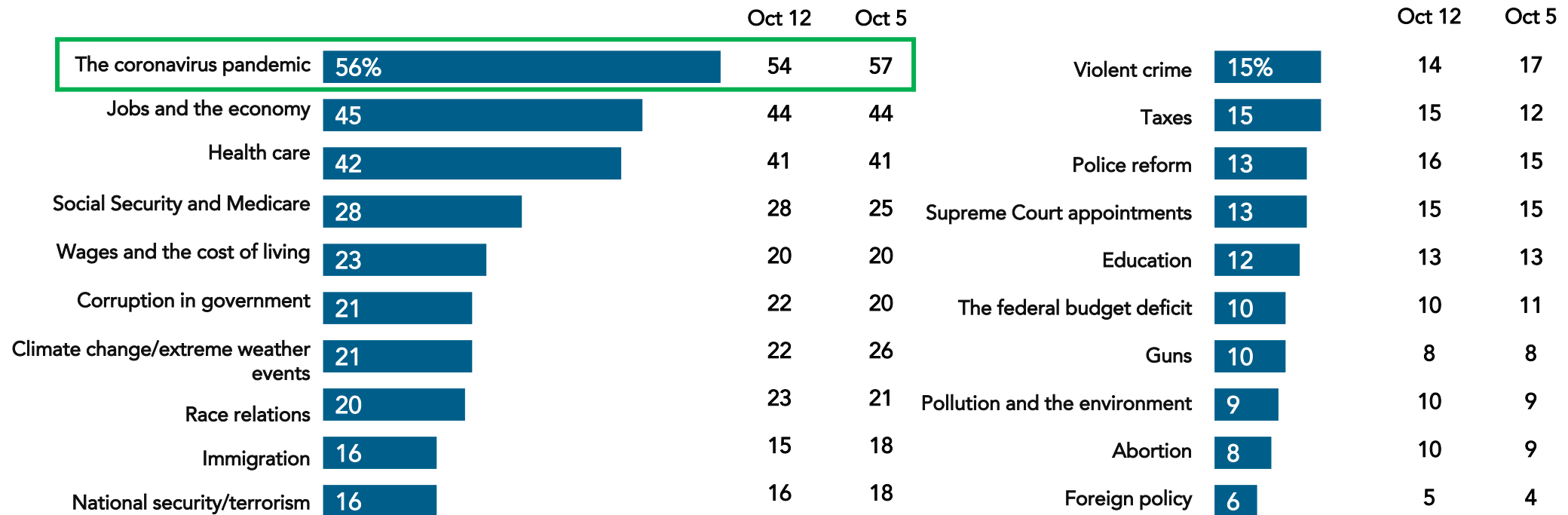
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 15-19, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Pandemic Remains Top Concern for Most Americans

Nearly three in five say the pandemic is one of the top issues the President and Congress should be focused on.

- Jobs and the economy (45%) and health care (42%) also remain top issues on which Americans feel the President and Congress should be focusing.

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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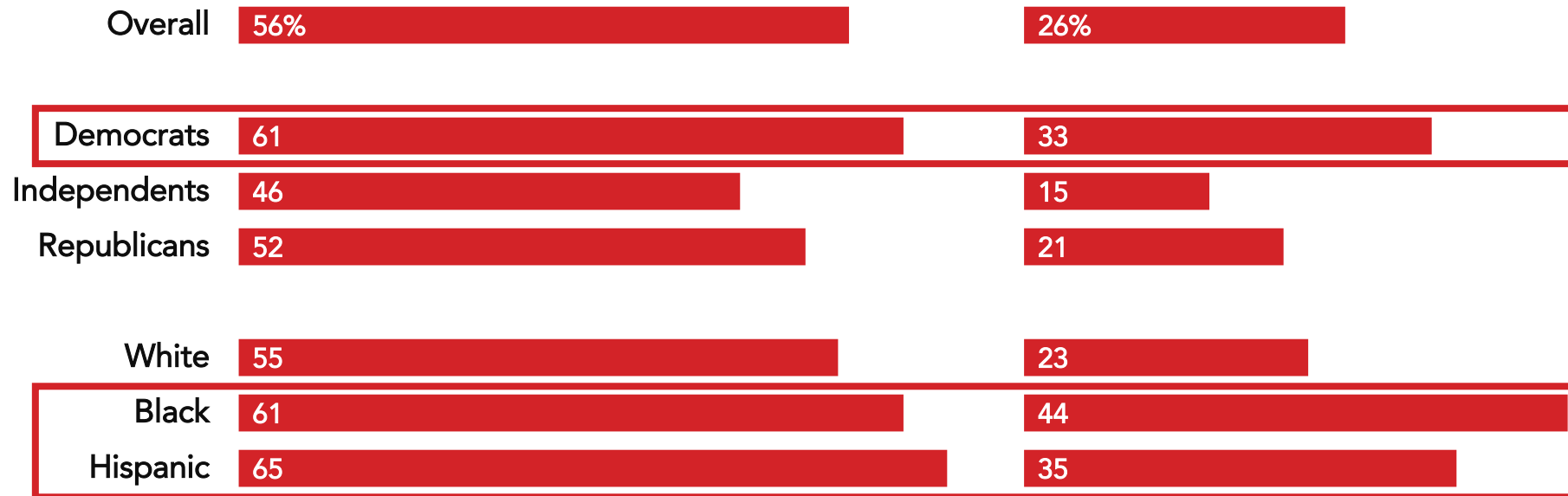
# Nearly Three in Ten Know Someone Who Has Died from Coronavirus and Three in Five Someone Who Has Been Sick

With total U.S. coronavirus cases exceeding eight million and a death toll greater than 222,000, a majority know someone who has been infected and a quarter know someone who has died from it.

- Democrats, Hispanic Americans, and Black Americans are the groups most likely to know someone who has been infected and who has died from complications related to coronavirus.

**Do you know anyone who has been infected with coronavirus?**

**Understanding it may be difficult to talk about, do you personally know anyone who has died from complications related to coronavirus?**



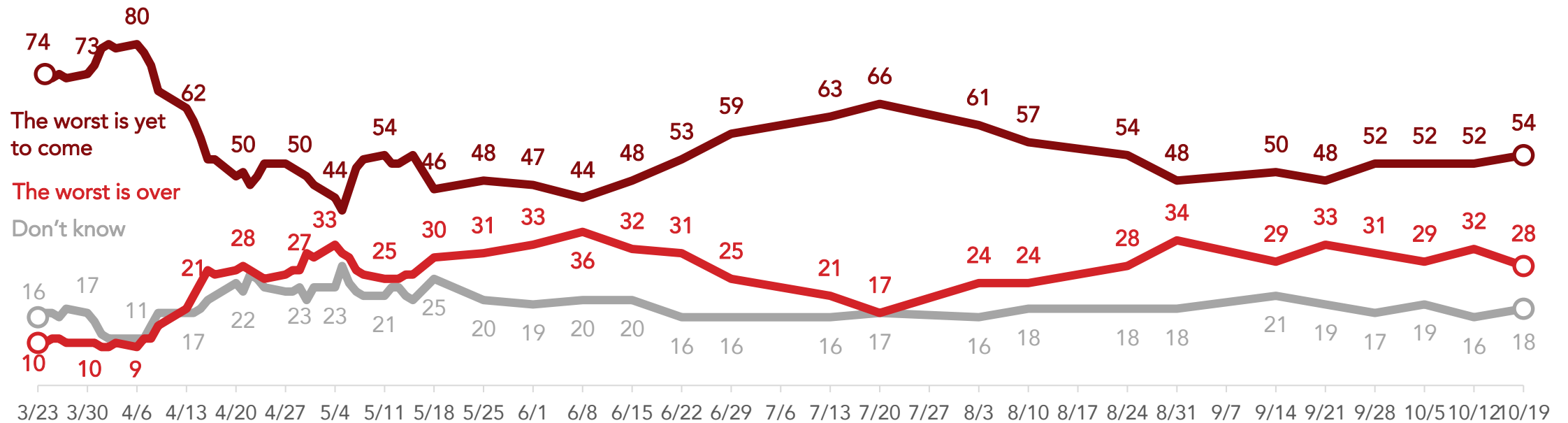
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters; October 15-19, 2020.  
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# More Than Half Still Say “Worst is Yet to Come” in Pandemic

As cases continue to rise in states across the country, a majority of Americans say the “worst is yet to come,” while less than three in ten say the “worst is over.”

- Among independents, 56% say the “worst is yet to come” in the pandemic and 21% say the “worst is over.”

**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-five days. Latest wave conducted October 15-19, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

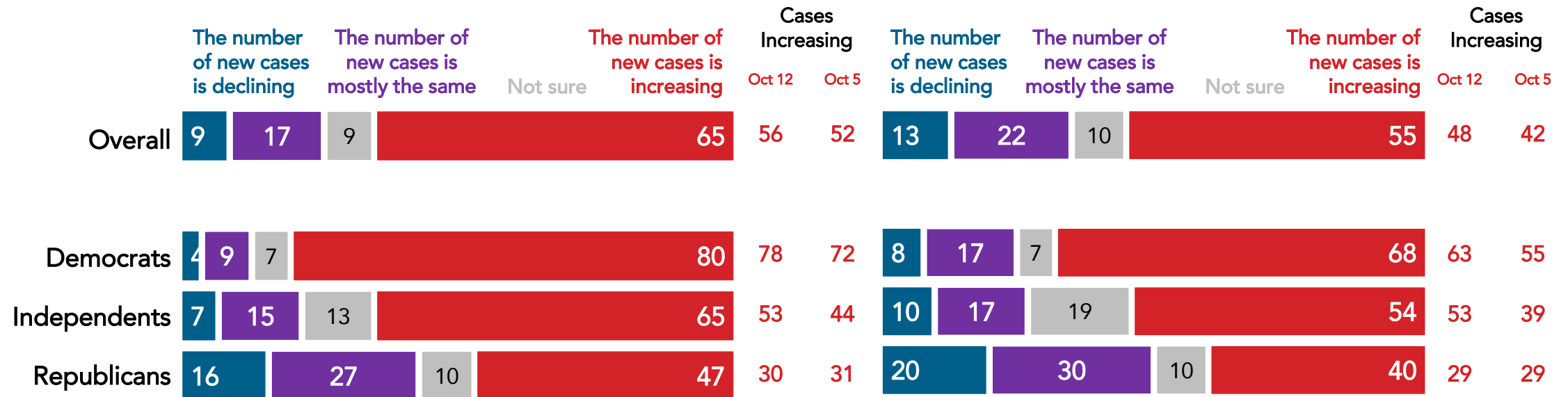
# In Last Week, Near Double-Digit Increase in Those Saying Cases are Rising

Now, nearly two in three say new cases in the country are increasing, up 9 points in a week, while a majority say the same about the number of new cases in their state, up 7 points.

- There are notable geographical differences: while 48% of those in Western states and 52% in Northeastern and Southern states respectively say cases are rising in their state, 70% of those in Midwestern states say the same.

**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?**



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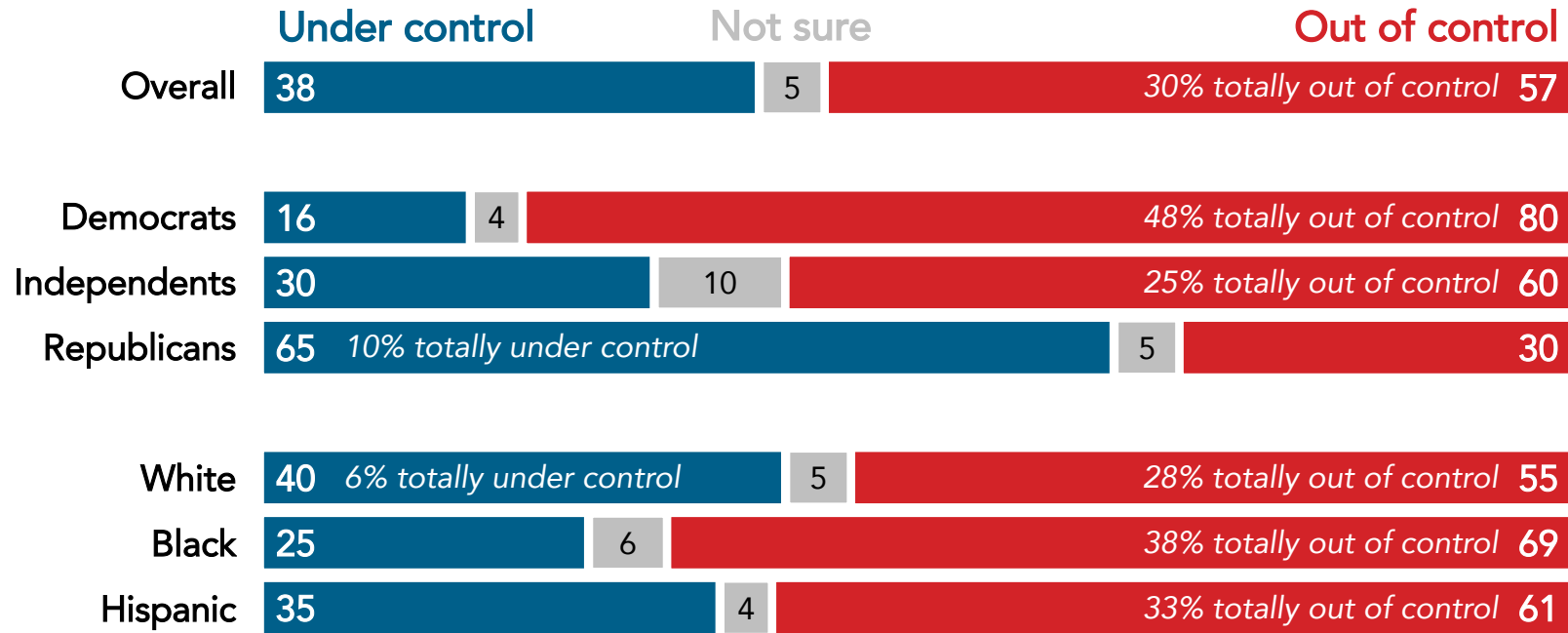


# Majority Say Coronavirus is “Out of Control”

Nearly three in five say the pandemic is “out of control,” with three in ten saying it is “totally out of control.”

- Republicans (65%) and white Americans (40%) are the most likely to say the pandemic is “under control.”
- At least three in five independents, Hispanic Americans, Black Americans, and Democrats believe that the pandemic is “out of control.”

**Overall, do you feel that the coronavirus is under control in the United States?**



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# Top Indicators Pandemic is Out of Control: Single Day Records Across Country, 8 Million Cases, 222,000 Fatalities

Among those who say the pandemic is not under control, majorities say a range of items are “clearly a sign” the pandemic is out of control.

**[If feel pandemic is out of control] Please indicate whether you think each item is a sign that things are getting more out of control, or if the information doesn’t really say much about the state of the pandemic today.**

	Clearly a sign	Probably a sign	Doesn't say much/Don't believe statement	% Clearly a sign		
				Dem	Ind	Rep
In the last week, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and West Virginia have reported record single-day increases in new coronavirus cases	70	21	9	79	60	46
The United States is projected to reach its 8 millionth case of coronavirus this week	68	21	11	78	58	40
The United States continues to have the world's highest death toll with over 222,000 fatalities	67	20	13	77	56	42
Areas like New York that previously got the virus under control have now seen new surges, with hospitalizations in New York jumping 77% over the last month	65	26	9	74	57	42
Recent White House events have acted as superspreader events, causing many in the Trump administration and in Congress to get sick with coronavirus	65	20	15	75	51	38
The number of cases at schools and universities across the country continue to rise and force both K-12 schools and colleges to close temporarily to get the outbreaks under control	61	29	10	70	54	36
Both college football [NCAA] and professional football [NFL] have had to cancel games due to outbreaks among players and coaches that made holding games unsafe	56	32	12	64	43	38

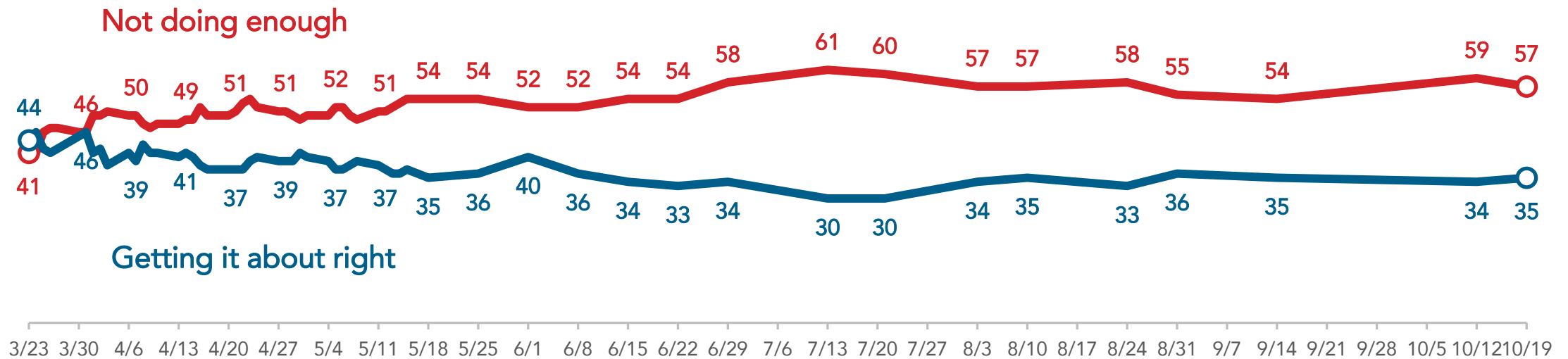
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# Majority See Trump as “Not Doing Enough” on Pandemic

Nearly three in five say Trump is “not doing enough” on handling the pandemic, consistent with the level who said the same mid-July during the surge in new cases that took place in the U.S. this summer.

- On a separate question, 54% say they trust their state and local government more to handle the government’s response to the coronavirus pandemic, while just 32% say they trust Trump and the federal government more.

**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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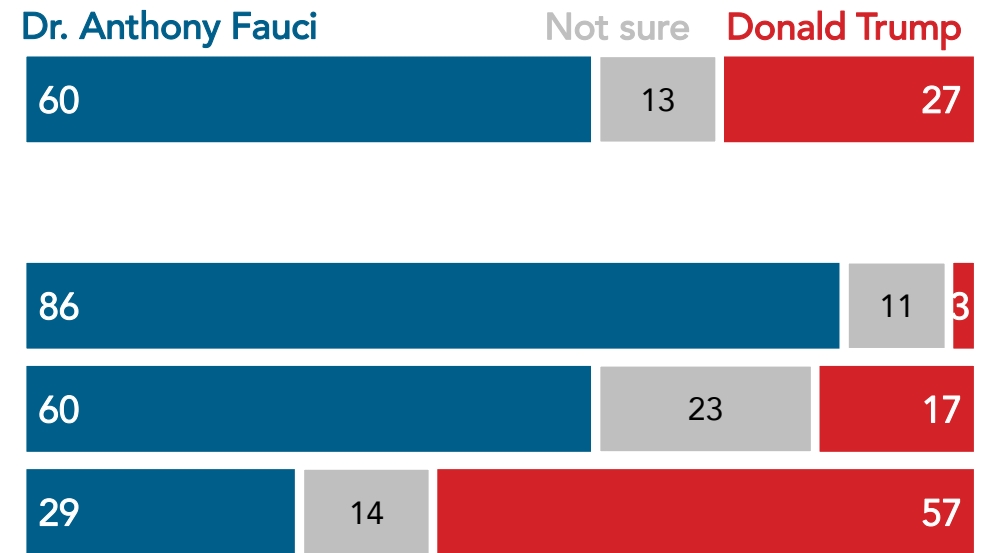
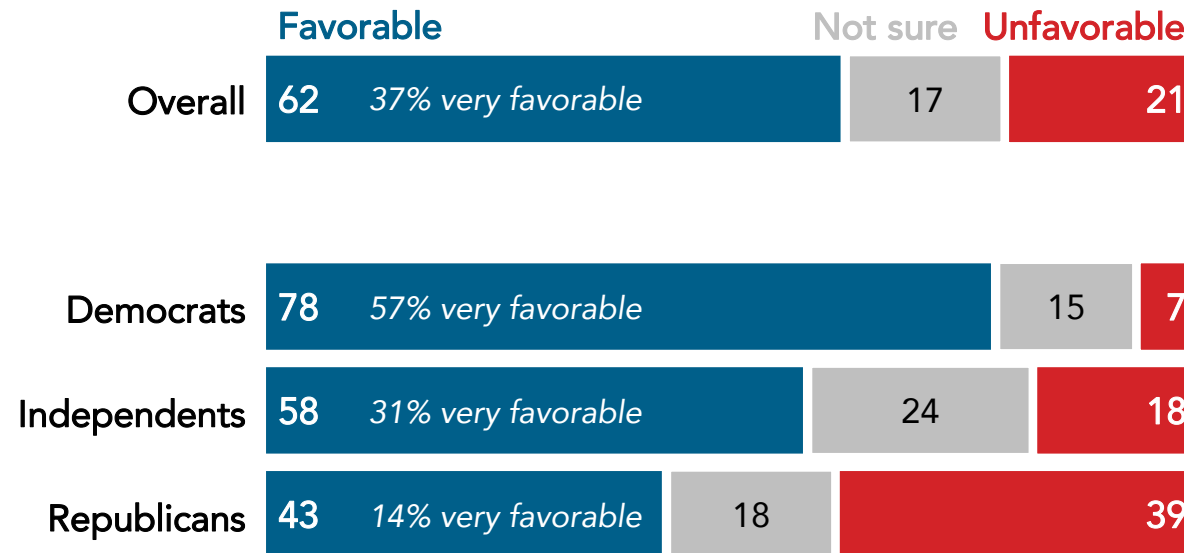
# Americans Have a Favorable View of Dr. Fauci Across Parties, Trust Him More Than Trump on Coronavirus

Three in five have a favorable opinion of Dr. Fauci, including nearly two in five who have a “very favorable” opinion.

- Even among Republicans, 43% have a favorable view of Dr. Fauci and 29% trust him more than Trump to make decisions and share information about the state of coronavirus.
- Donald Trump is at net -14 on favorability this week (42% favorable/56% unfavorable).

**Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to:**  
Dr. Anthony Fauci.

**Who do you trust more to make decisions and share information regarding the state of coronavirus in the country?**



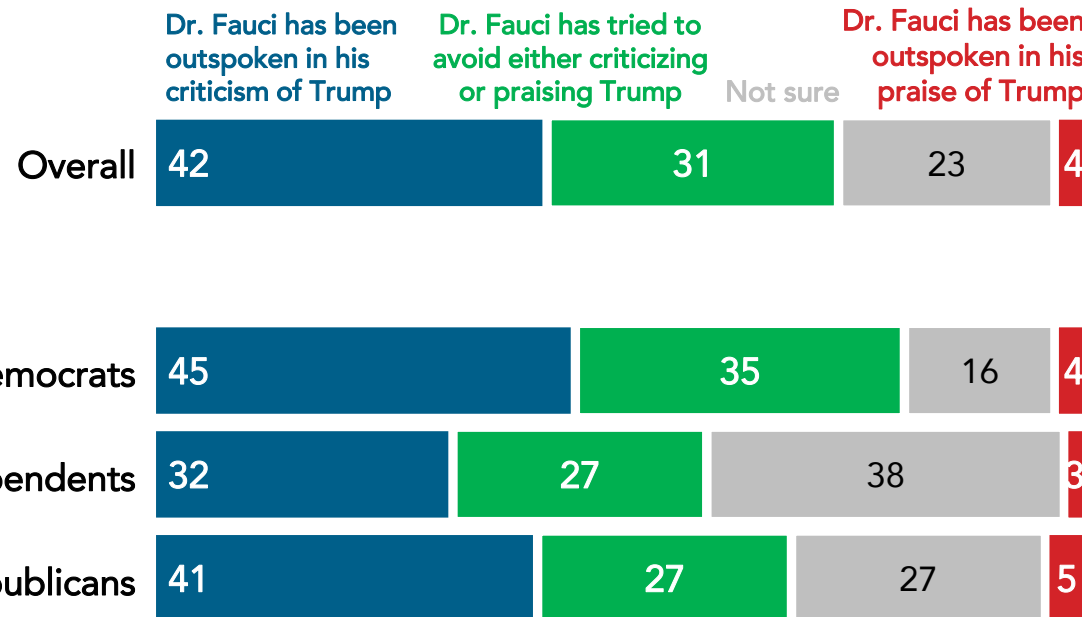
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# Few Voters Think Fauci Has Praised Trump, and Majority Say Fauci Thinks Trump Has Done a Bad Job on Pandemic

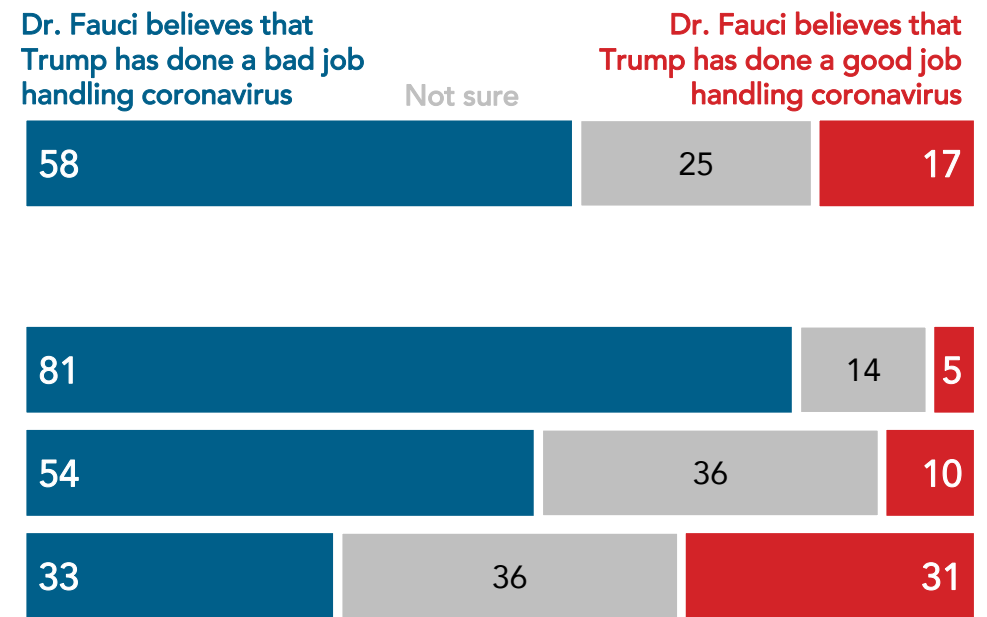
Two in five say Fauci has been outspoken in his criticism of Trump's handling of the pandemic and another three in five think Dr. Fauci believes Trump has done a bad job on coronavirus.

- Nearly equal shares of Democrats (45%) and Republicans (41%) feel Fauci has been outspoken in his criticism.

**When it comes to Dr. Fauci's commentary on Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus, which comes closer to your view?**



**And regardless of what Dr. Fauci has said publicly, what do you think Dr. Fauci actually believes?**

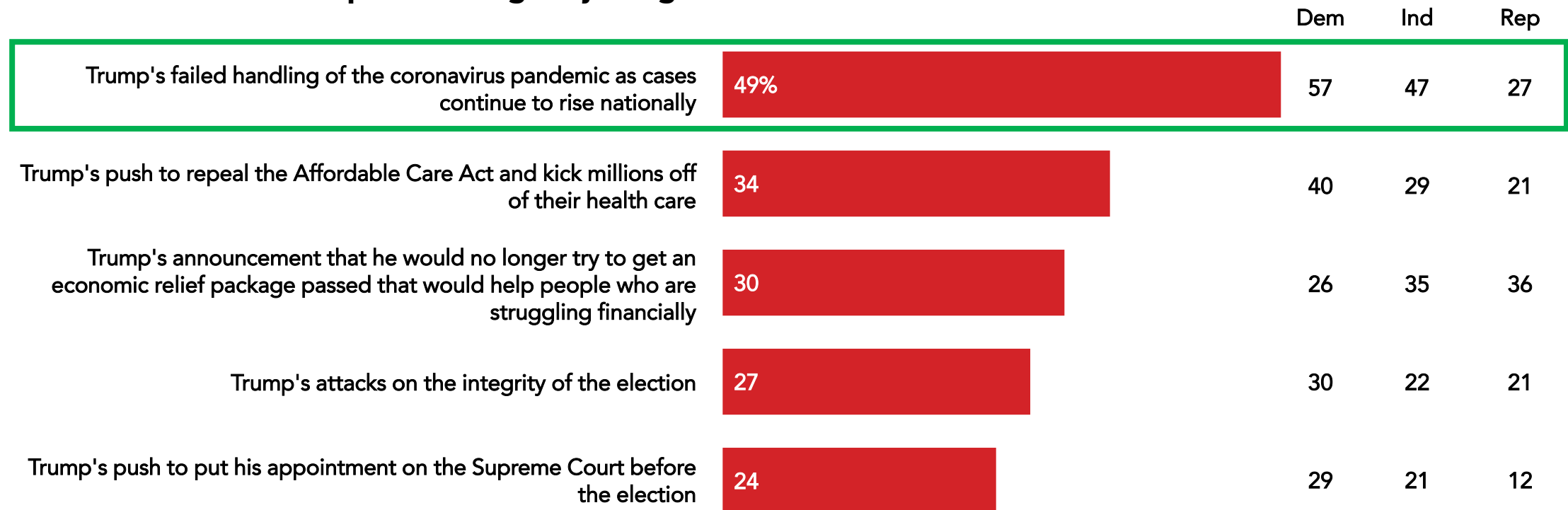


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# Pandemic Tops List of Americans' Greatest Concerns About Trump's Performance as President

Among those who do not strongly approve of Trump's handling of his job as president, nearly half say they are most concerned about Trump's handling of the pandemic as cases continue to rise nationally.

**[If not strongly approve of Trump] On which of the THREE following issues do you have the most concerns with how President Trump is handling his job right now?**

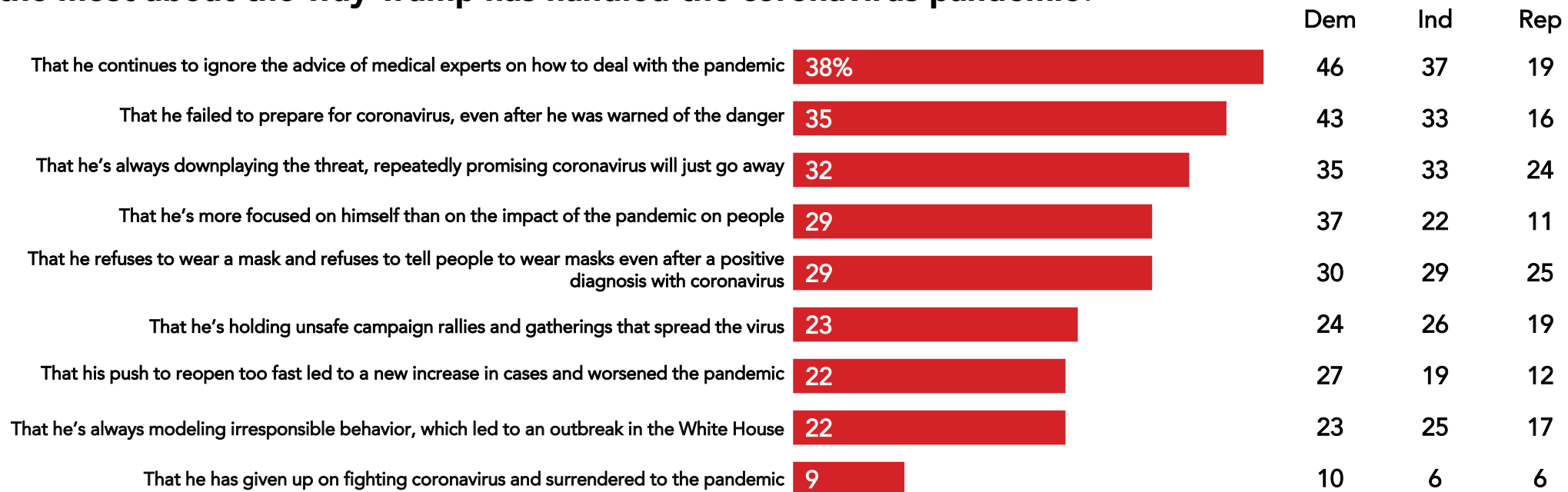


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# Top Concerns on Trump's Handling of Pandemic: Ignoring Experts, Failing to Prepare, Downplaying Threat

Consistent across Navigator's tracking since March, the top concerns on Trump's handling of the pandemic focus on three items: his ignoring of experts, failing to prepare for the pandemic, and downplaying the threat of the virus.

**[If not strongly approve of Trump's handling of pandemic] As you may know, the United States recently passed 222,000 deaths from coronavirus. Below are some statements about why Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic may have let it get out of control. Which THREE of the following things concern you the most about the way 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 1,000 registered voters from October 15-19, 2020. 210 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 202 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 203 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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