

navigator*

Update:
Thursday, December 17

Communicating in
Crisis



Key Takeaways:

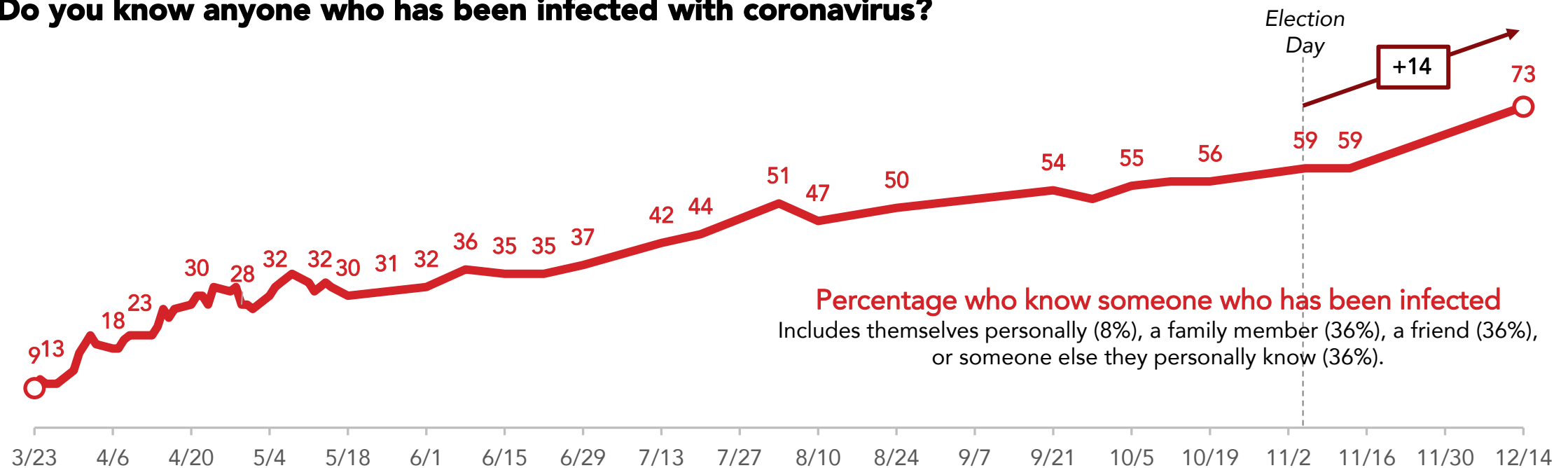
- Almost three in four Americans now know someone who has been infected with coronavirus.
- Three in five Americans say they are likely to get the coronavirus vaccine.
- The biggest concerns about Trump's handling of the vaccine are letting partisan politics get in the way of a smooth rollout and Trump and Republicans' encouraging of the spread of dangerous misinformation.

Nearly Three in Four Know Someone Who Has Been Infected With Coronavirus, a Significant Increase Since the Election

In the last two months, the share who know someone who has been infected with coronavirus has jumped nearly 20 points, with an overwhelming majority knowing someone who has gotten infected.

- Groups especially likely to know someone who has been infected include college-educated Americans (79%), midwestern Americans (79%), and Hispanic Americans (77%).

Do you know anyone who has been infected with coronavirus?



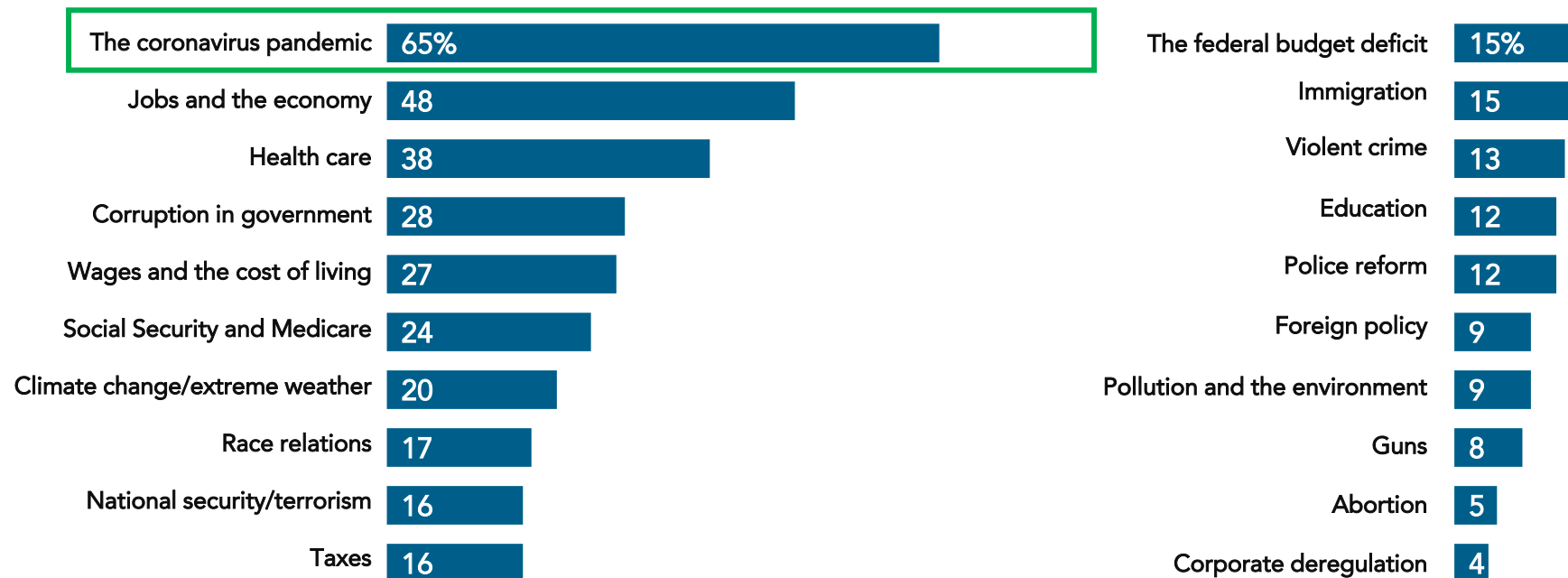
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted December 10-14, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

The Pandemic is Seen as the Most Important Issue for President-Elect Biden and the New Congress to Focus On

The issues Americans rate as most important for Biden and the new Congress to focus on include the pandemic, jobs and the economy, and health care.

- When asked what Trump and the current Congress should be focused on, Americans pick the same top six items.

Select the top four issues that you feel are most important for Biden and the new Congress to focus on in January.

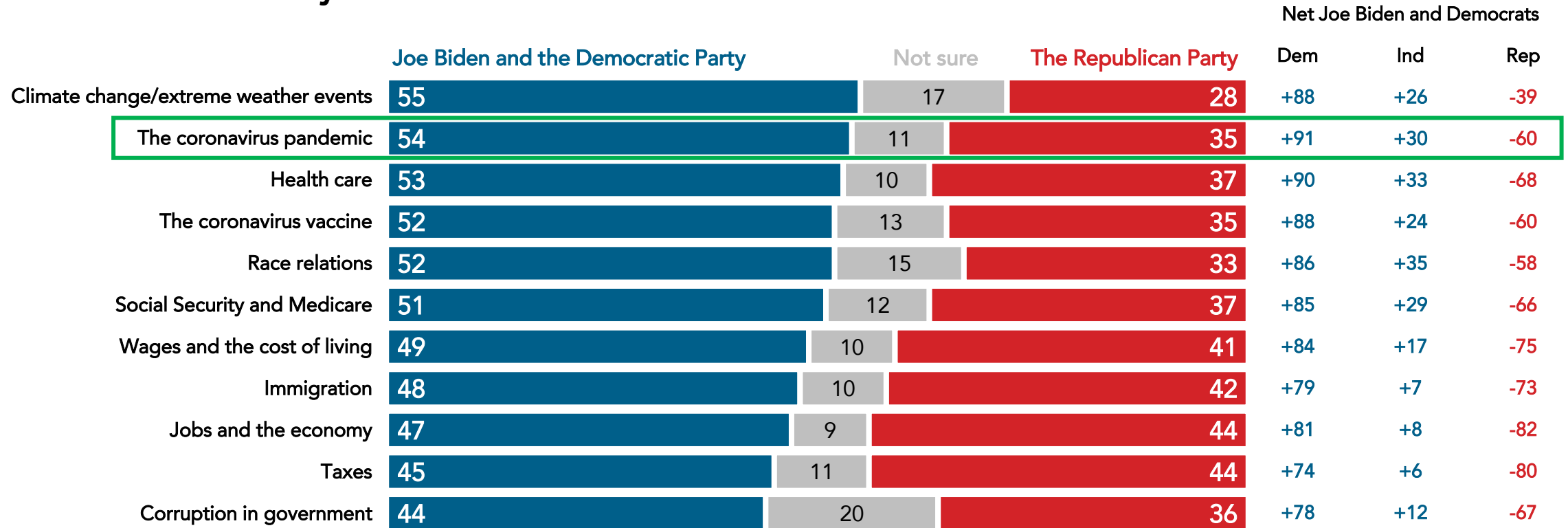


Nationwide survey of registered voters conducted Dec. 10-14, 2020.
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As Cases Surge, Biden and Democrats More Trusted to Handle the Pandemic than the Republican Party

Joe Biden and the Democratic Party are trusted more on a range of issues than the Republican Party, overall and among independents.

Please indicate who you trust more to handle each one.



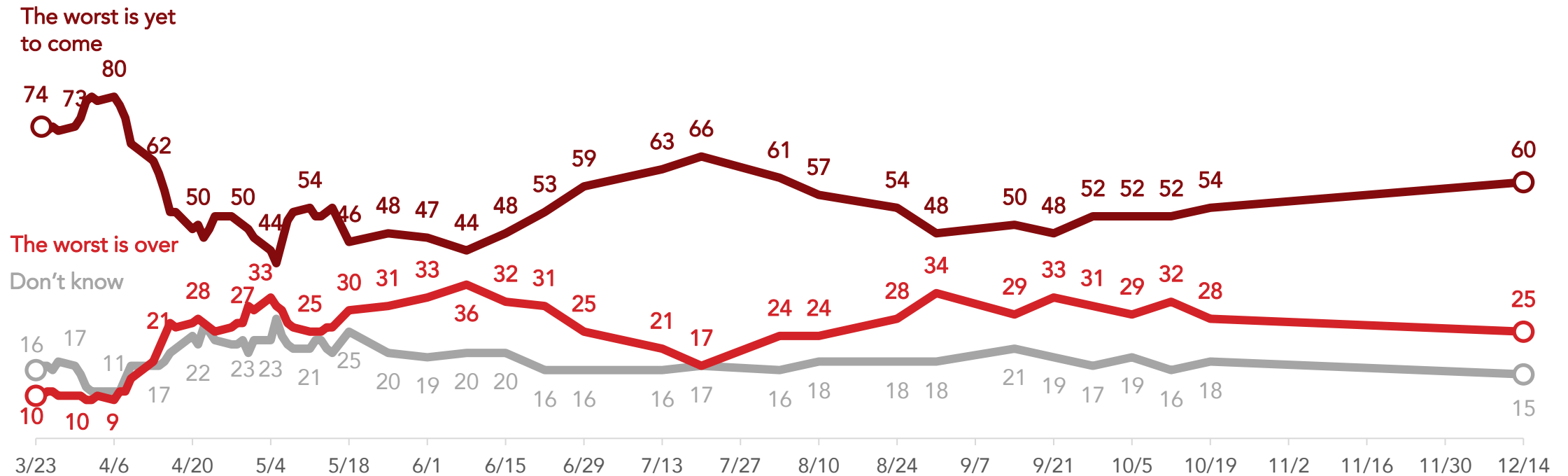
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Pessimism About the Pandemic is Back Near Levels Not Seen Since Mid-Summer Wave

Since last asked in mid-October, the share who say the “worst is yet to come” in the pandemic has grown 6 points, while the share who say the “worst is over” has declined by 3 as cases in America continue to rise.

- Among independents, 65% say the “worst is yet to come,” as do 75% of Democrats.

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



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Half Continue to Support More Aggressive Social Distancing

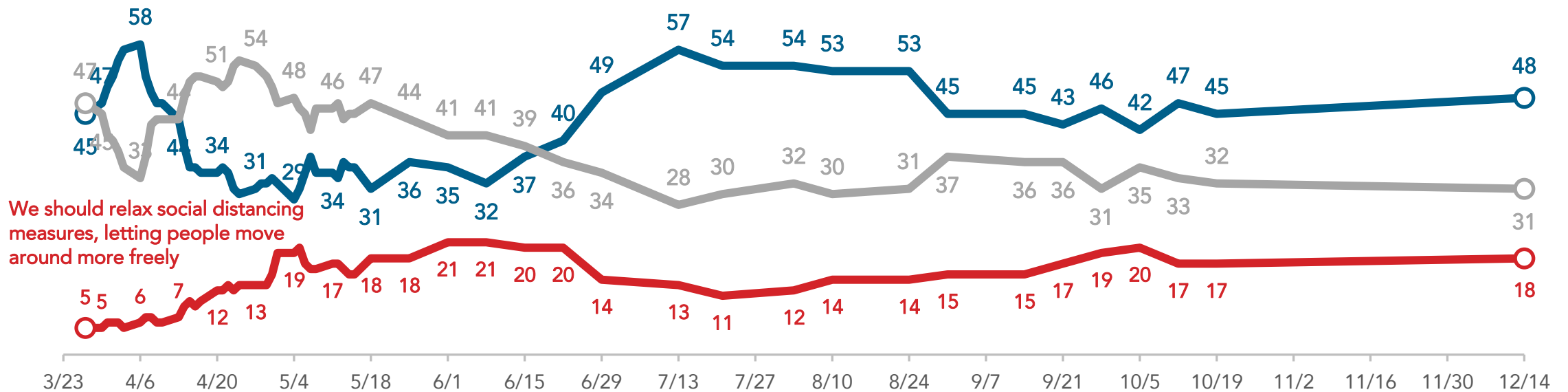
A near-majority of Americans continue to say we “need more aggressive social distancing” while only 18% of Americans say we “should relax social distancing.”

- One in three (34%) Republicans say we should relax distancing, while 38% say we are doing the right thing.

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



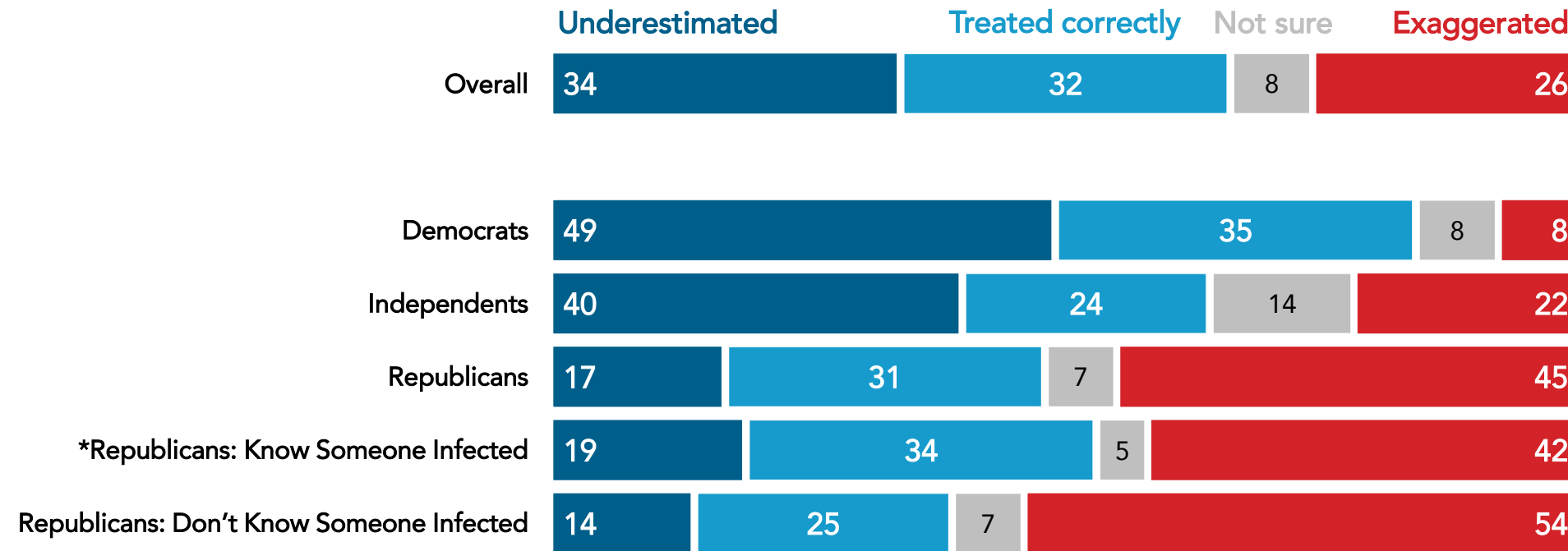
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Few Americans Say Pandemic Threat Has Been Exaggerated, But the Question Divides Republicans

A plurality of Americans say the threat of coronavirus is generally underestimated in the news.

- Republicans who do not know someone who has been infected by coronavirus are more likely to say it has been exaggerated (54%) than those who do know someone who has been infected (42%).

Thinking about what is generally said in the news, in your view is the threat of coronavirus generally...



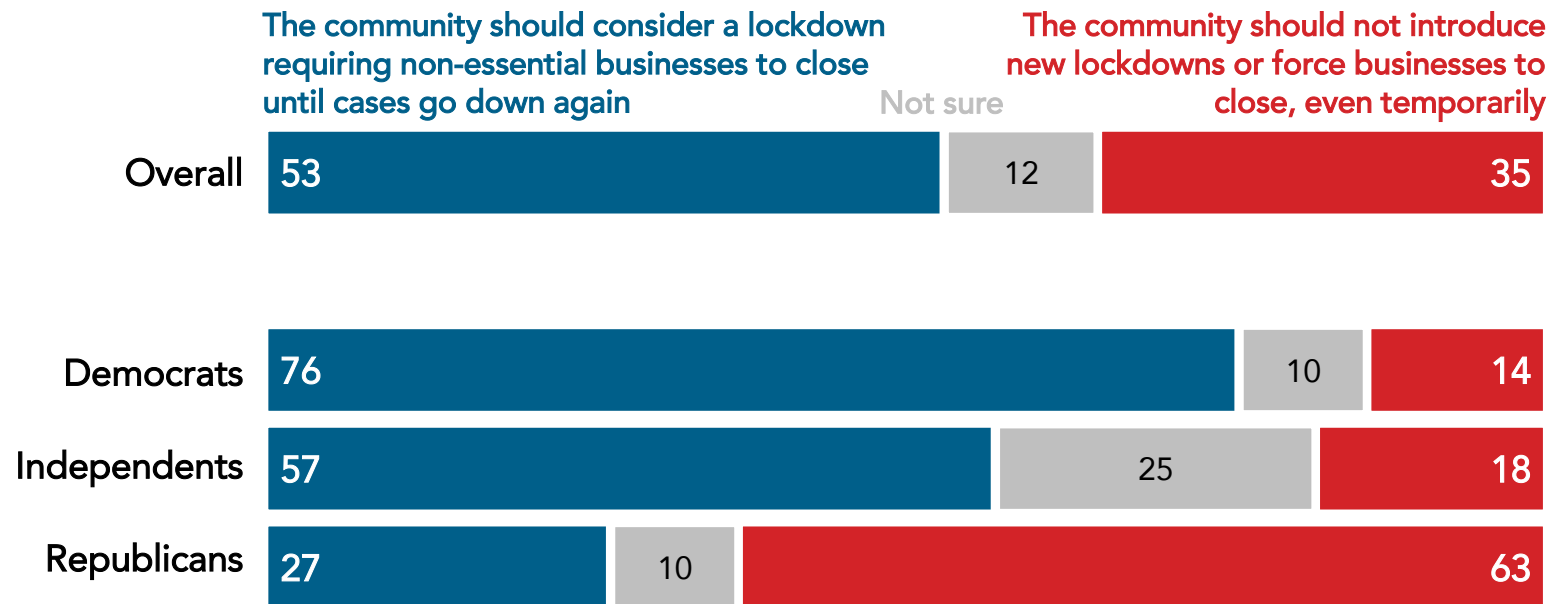
**"Republicans: know someone infected" are defined as Republicans who say they know someone who has been infected with coronavirus (n=304). "Republicans: don't know someone infected" are defined as Republicans who say they do not know someone who has been infected with coronavirus (n=115). Nationwide survey of registered voters conducted Dec. 10-14, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Majorities of Democrats and Independents Support New Lockdowns Amid Community Coronavirus Outbreaks

Half of Americans support lockdowns for non-essential businesses if there are new outbreaks in their community.

- Compared to other Democrats, Democrats who oppose lockdowns are especially likely to be from blue collar or service industry jobs (31%), to lack a college degree (75%), and to come from communities of color (50%).
- Republicans who support lockdowns are especially likely to identify as moderate or liberal (44%).

When there are new coronavirus outbreaks in your community, what do you think should happen?



N=86 for Democrats who oppose lockdowns. N=129 for Republicans who support lockdowns.
Nationwide survey of registered voters conducted Dec. 10-14, 2020.
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Most Americans See Risk in Traveling for Holidays

Majorities of Democrats and independents say it is risky to travel to see others for the holidays and people should just stay home, while a majority of Republicans acknowledge the risk in traveling, but understand why people would do it after the last year apart from family.

- On a separate question, while 71% of Democrats say they have traveled much less than they normally would in the holiday season, only 49% of Republicans say the same with 32% who say they have traveled as usual.

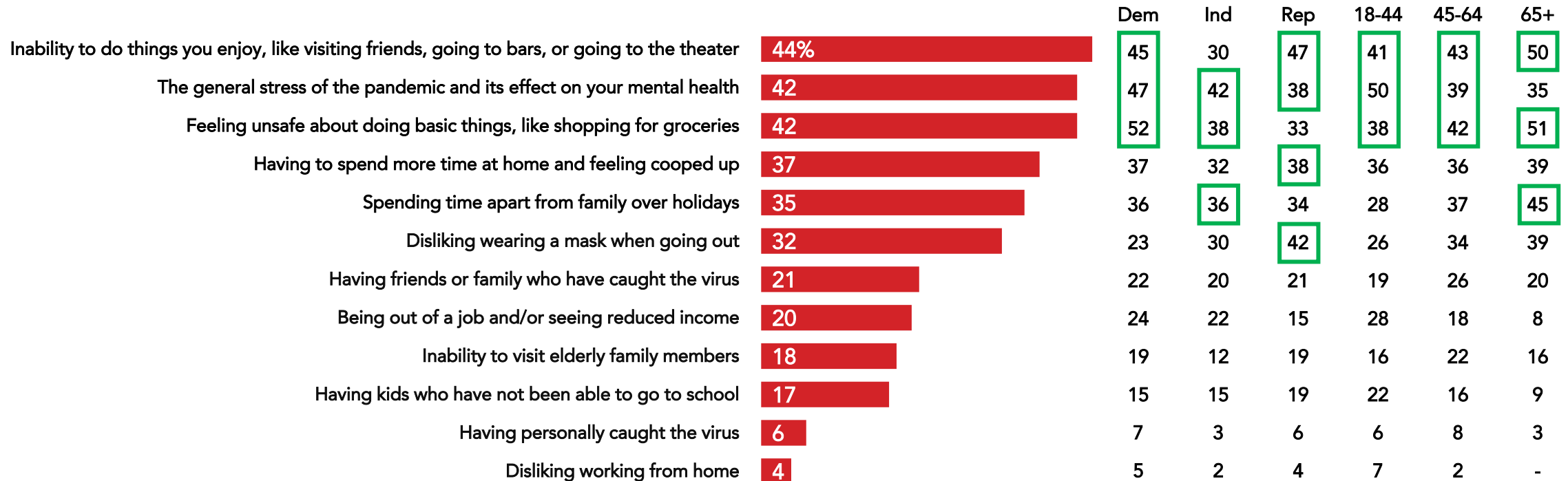
Generally speaking, how do you feel about the issue of travel to see friends and family for the holidays?



Pandemic Pain Comes Most from Day-to-Day Activities

Items that Americans rate as less difficult across party lines include catching the coronavirus, having children who have not been able to go to school, or not being able to visit elderly family members.

Below are some ways the coronavirus pandemic has made life more difficult for some Americans. Thinking recently, which four of these would you say have been the most difficult for you?



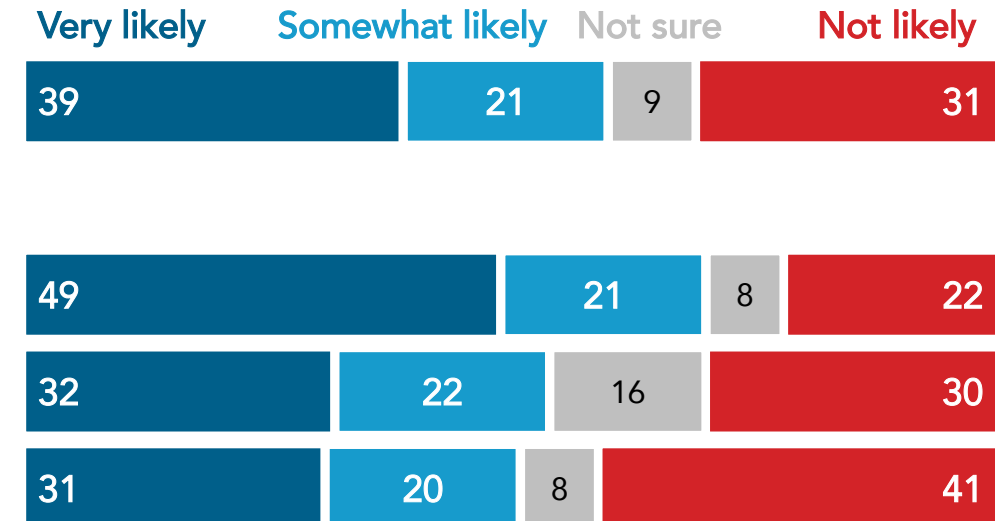
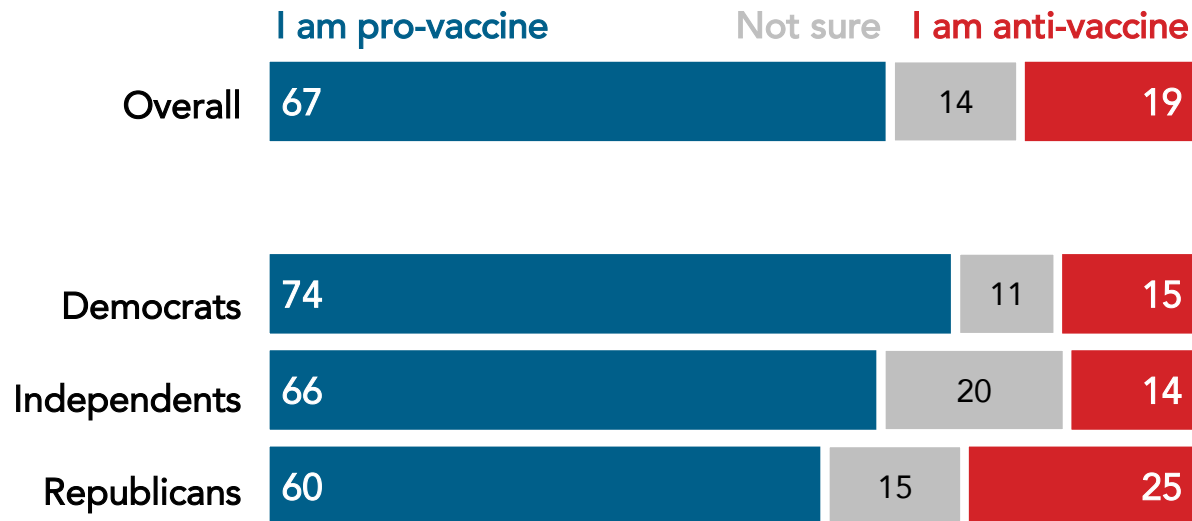
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Three in Five Likely to Get the Coronavirus Vaccine

While a majority of Americans say they are likely to get the vaccine, nearly a third say it's unlikely.

Thinking about vaccines in general for illnesses like the common flu or childhood vaccines for illnesses like chicken pox or measles...would you say that you are generally pro-vaccine or anti-vaccine?

As you may know, several pharmaceutical companies are currently seeking approval of a vaccine for coronavirus for distribution in the United States. When a vaccine becomes available, how likely are you to try to get vaccinated?

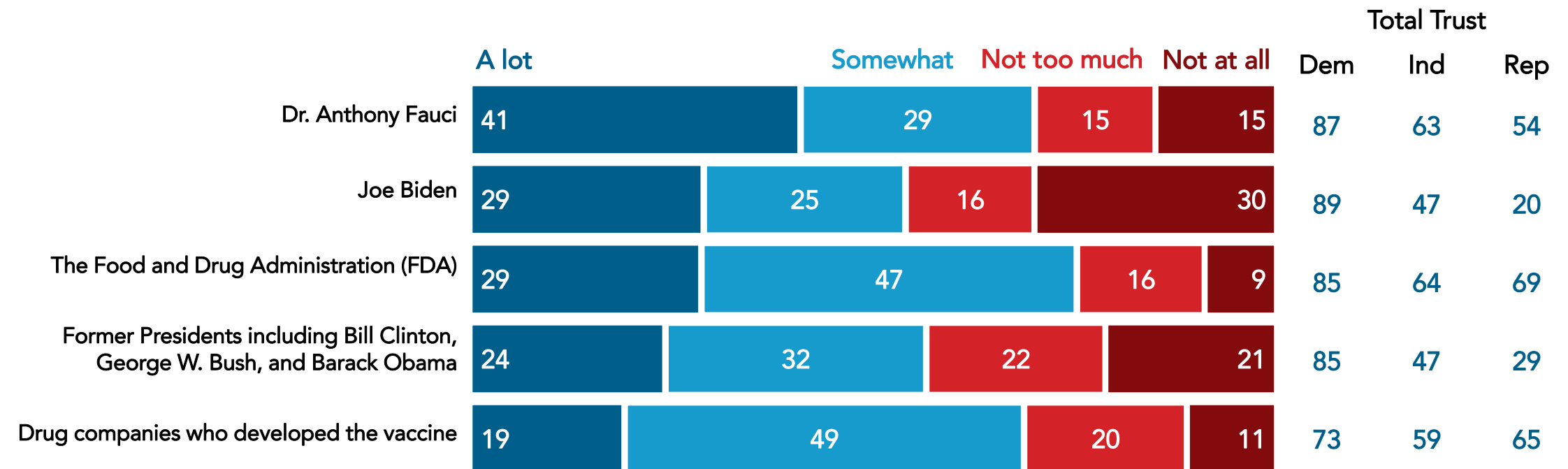


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Experts and Regulators Widely Trusted to Tell the Truth About the Vaccine

While Biden and a group of former presidents are trusted by a majority of Americans overall to tell the truth about the safety of a coronavirus vaccine, people like Dr. Fauci and groups like the FDA are more trusted by independents and Republicans than political leaders.

How much do you trust each of the following people and groups to tell the truth about the safety and effectiveness of a coronavirus vaccine?



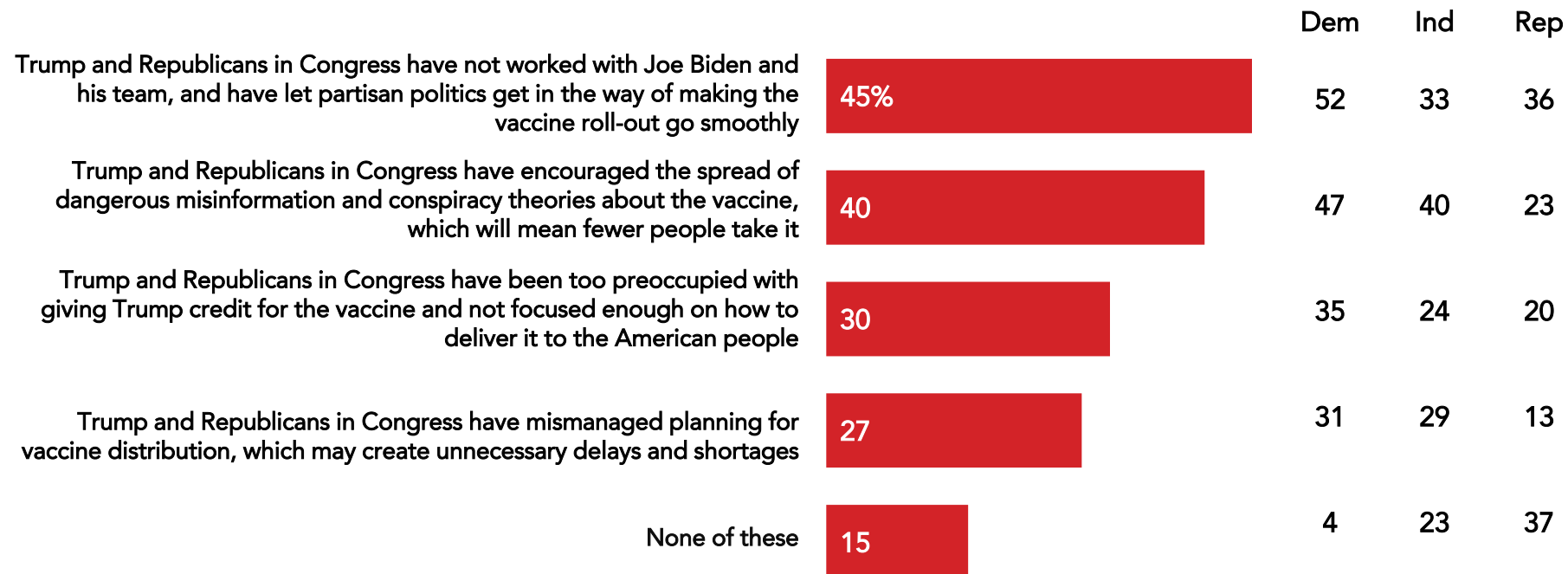
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Top Concerns on Trump's Vaccine Handling: Partisan Politics Interrupting a Smooth Roll-Out and Dangerous Misinformation

The two issues that concern Americans who have either major or minor concerns with Trump's handling of the coronavirus vaccine are Republicans' allowing of partisan politics to get in the way and the spread of misinformation.

- Among independents, the top concern is the spread of dangerous misinformation and conspiracies (40%).

[If concerns about Trump's handling of coronavirus vaccine] Which two of the following concern you 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; 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 1,003 registered voters from December 10-14, 2020. 102 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 105 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from an opt-in online panel vendor. 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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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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