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FOCUS GROUP REPORT

Update:
Thursday, April 29

Navigating The First 100 Days:
COVID & Vaccines



Methodology

On April 22, 2021, GBAO conducted three online focus groups online with the following three audiences. Respondents varied across demographics—age, gender, and race/ethnicity.



Democrats who think the Dem party should stay in the same direction or move in a more moderate direction in Florida



Republicans <\$75K HH income who aren't very unfavorable toward Biden or very favorable toward Trump in Texas

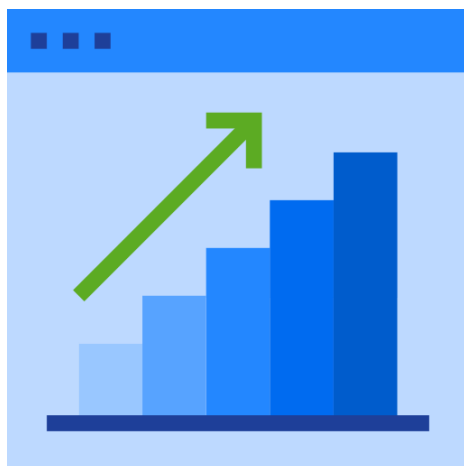


Democrats who think the Dem party should go in a more progressive direction in Nevada

Key Takeaways

- Across our groups, many say their own situation is on the mend.
- COVID may be in the rear-view mirror, but uncertainty and vaccine hesitancy abound.
- Few could guess current COVID vaccination rates.
- The real number elicits both shock and elation.
- Many cite vaccines and stimulus checks as Biden's top accomplishments.

Across Our Groups, Respondents Say Their Own Personal Situation Is On The Mend



"I'm starting to see more and more business calls. Everything about me starting my business two years ago, it's starting to pick back up." (FL man)

"It's gone fairly well just because we haven't had to experience a lot of things that I think are going on around a lot of the country." (TX man)

"I'm feeling pretty good about the way things are going in our own household. In our own little world, little community here." (TX woman)

"As a businessperson I had been... Because of the pandemic and the past administration had just been on a very slow slate of progress for myself. And so I feel uplifted and motivated with the direction the new administration is undergoing." (NV man)

COVID Seems Likely To Be In The Rear-View Mirror, But Uncertainty And Vaccine Hesitancy Abound

None Of Our Republican Participants Had Received A Shot

"Last year, April, May, whenever I was going to work, I will be praying that God will bring me back home safely without sickness, but I think things are getting better now." (FL woman)

[How did you feel when you got the vaccine?] "I cried. I cried. I was so happy, and then I finally felt discouraged when I saw the news, and I saw how many people weren't getting it, and that's going to limit my circle." (FL woman)

"Well, I mean, I think we'd probably all agree that the worst of it was when hundreds of thousands of people were dying. That was the worst. And the panic and the fear and the uncertainty." (TX woman)

"We have had friends that have passed away and that have had compromised immunities that were in the hospital for a while. But I don't think that this is something that me getting a vaccine would really do anything to help other people, to help me in my close vicinity. So we're not planning on getting it at this time." (TX woman)

"I guess it's a pretty common problem that you have hearing loss... there have been people that have permanently lost hearing as a side effect, which is a little concerning." (TX man)



Texas Republicans

Few Across Party Lines Could Guess Current Vaccination Rates; The Real Figure Elicits Shock And Elation

What % of adults do you think have had at least one shot?

"He promised 100 million vaccines in people's arms in the first 100 days, and he did 200 million." (FL woman)

"10%. Maybe?" (TX man)
"If not less, maybe 7%." (TX woman)

"30%." (NV man)
"I heard 40%." (NV woman)

Currently over 50% of adults have had at least one shot...

"That makes me really happy. It makes me feel like our society is like educated and trusts science." (FL woman)

"That's staggering." (TX woman)

"I think it's way too high. I think they're exaggerating it, trying to give us a feeling that they have really accomplished this great number." (TX woman)

"I just think that's an excellent track record for, again, putting in a system with a great distribution execution. I just would like to have them elevate the message for that population that is resisting the vaccination." (NV man)

"I cry just thinking about it. I was just excited. I got to see my parents. I can't even talk about it now. Just relieved. I feel like I got to start living life again with my kids and myself. We actually can go places. My anxiety left. Not left completely, but I just felt so relieved again." (NV woman)

Many Cite Vaccines And The Stimulus As Biden's Top Accomplishments



"People are not dying as much as last year. And he's taking the virus very seriously." (FL woman)

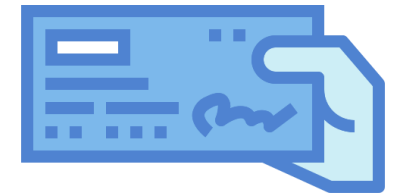
*"He passed a stimulus plan...and he did 100 million doses in the first 90 days, which goes hand in hand with recovery. **We've got to get past COVID to recover the economy.** So I think those two things combined." (FL man)*

"Well, he promised 100 million vaccines in people's arms in the first 100 days, and he did 200. He got his stimulus package out that he wanted to 1400 to make it the 2000." (FL woman)

*"Pretty much everyone that wants a vaccine can get it now. And then, the economic stimulus payments. Those are **the two things that I was thinking.**" (FL woman)*

*"Accomplishment, the only thing I would say is **the stimulus check.**" (TX man)*

"Well, his main promise was to effectively and efficiently and rapidly roll out a coronavirus vaccine program that would get Americans vaccinated and safe. And that to me was the key to the beginning of our nation starting to have a sense of easing some of our anxieties." (NV man)



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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

GBAO conducted online focus groups on April 22, 2021, with voters in three states: Florida (Democrats who think the party should move in a more moderate direction or stay in the same direction), Texas (Republicans with a household income of <\$75K and are neither very unfavorable toward Biden nor very favorable toward Trump), and Nevada (Democrats who think the party should move in a more progressive direction). Some quotes have been lightly edited for brevity. Qualitative results are not statistically projectable.

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