

navigator*

Friday, July 23rd

Race and Education: A Guide for Advocates



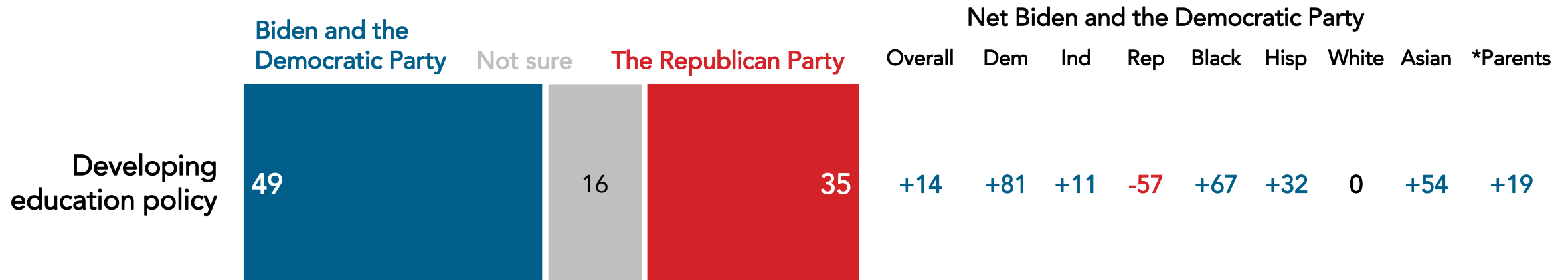
Key Takeaways:

- A wide, bipartisan majority support teaching a range of historical topics related to slavery and racism in schools, from the Civil War to Jim Crow laws.
- Almost two in five are unfamiliar with critical race theory, with Fox News-viewing Republicans driving the share who are familiar and who have unfavorable views of the theory.
- The strongest progressive rebuttal to conservative attacks on critical race theory centers on stopping censorship of teachers and keeping politicians out of the classroom.

Biden and Democrats More Trusted to Develop Education Policy

Among parents*, Biden and the Democratic Party hold a 19-point lead in trust over the Republican Party to develop education policy.

Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you trust more to handle:

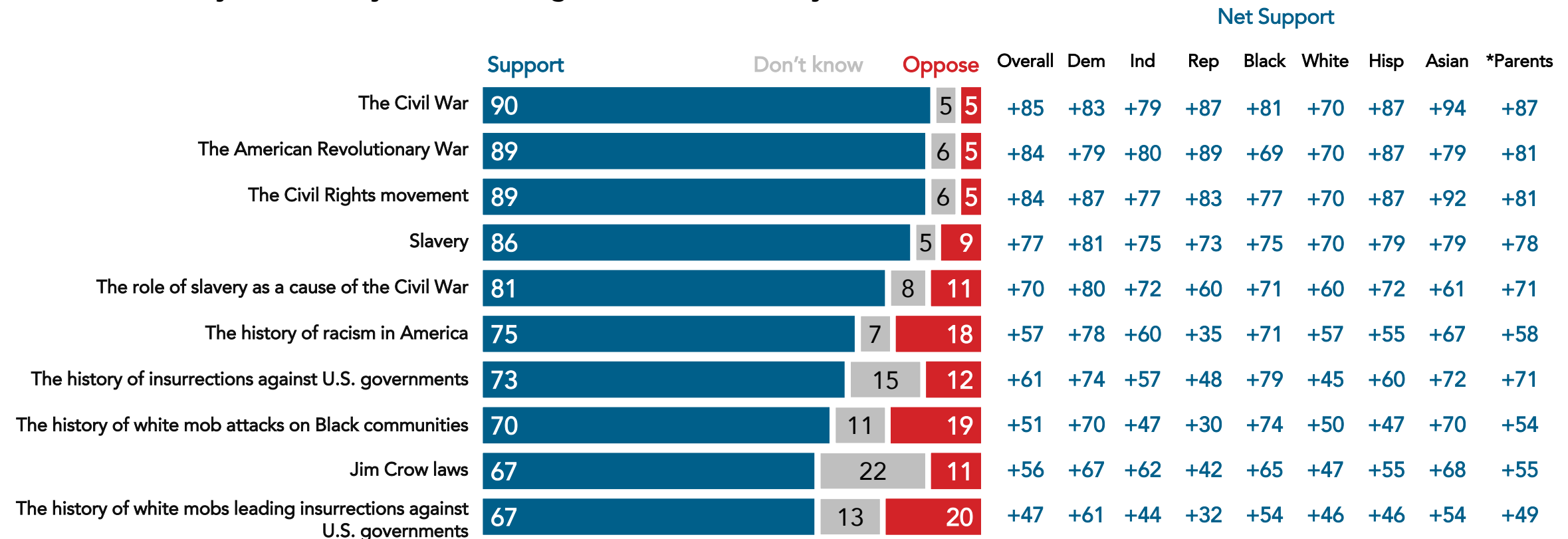


*"Parents" are defined as those with a child under the age of 18 living at home with them. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted July 15-July 19, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Widespread and Bipartisan Support Exists for Range of Topics Related to Racism and Slavery Being Taught in Schools

Across racial and party lines, the Civil War is seen as a priority in American history classes.

Below is a list of events, time periods, and ideas that are relevant to American history in one way or another. For each, please indicate whether you think they should be taught in American history classes or not.

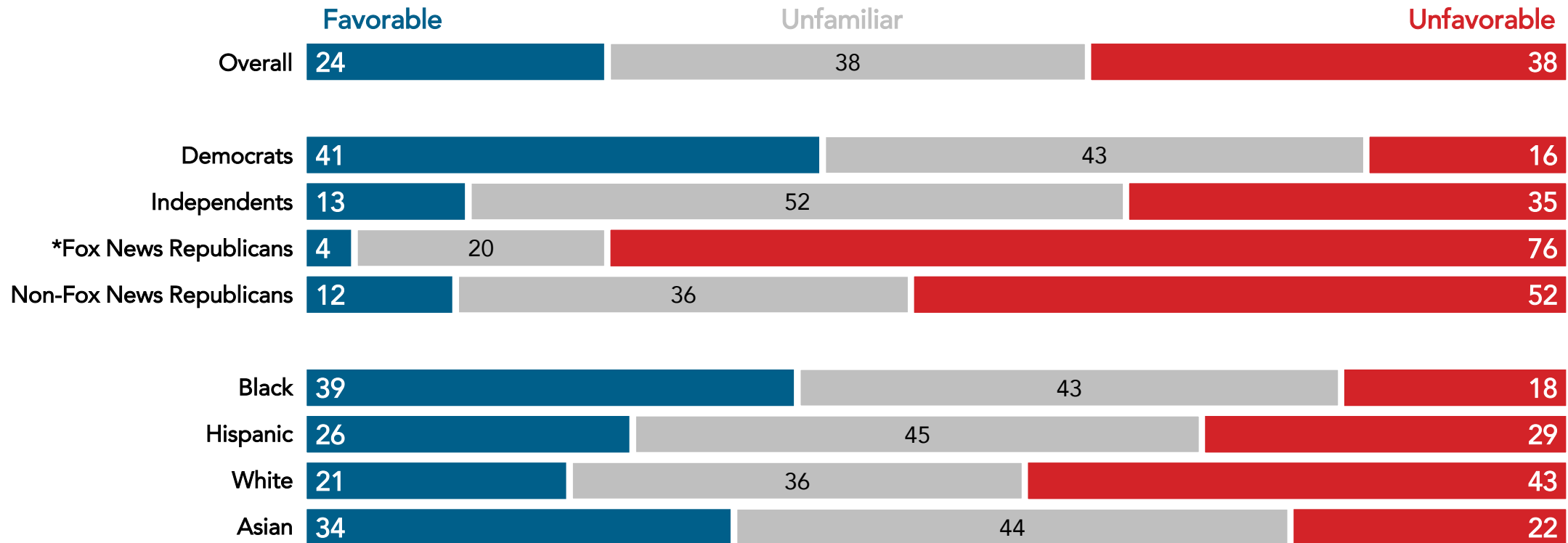


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More Than a Third Are Unfamiliar with Critical Race Theory

Fox News Republicans* are the most familiar with the theory (80% familiar), with 76% unfavorable towards it.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Critical race theory.



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Understandings of Critical Race Theory Vary By Partisanship

For Democrats, the theory focuses on “history” and teaching about “racism”; while some independents mention this too, they also focus on whiteness and the idea that some Americans and institutions are criticized as “racist” in critical race theory. For Republicans, the conversation is mostly about making Americans feel guilty for being white, deeming it an ideology they say is “garbage,” intended to “divide,” and “Marxist.”

*What comes to mind when you hear the term “critical race theory”?

Democrats



- “It is an academic theory that posits that *race is not biological but is socially constructed.*”
- “Racism being a *subconscious component of American history.*”
- “That fact that *racism is ingrained in the American culture.*”
- “Just looking at the *history of racism* in order to *combat it.*”

Independents



- “Something having to do with racism.”
- “It is a way to make sure we are recognizing the *past history of this country, nothing more.*”
- “A mixture of *insight* and *liberal agenda.*”
- “Marxist ideology to make *white Americans* feel guilty.”

Republicans



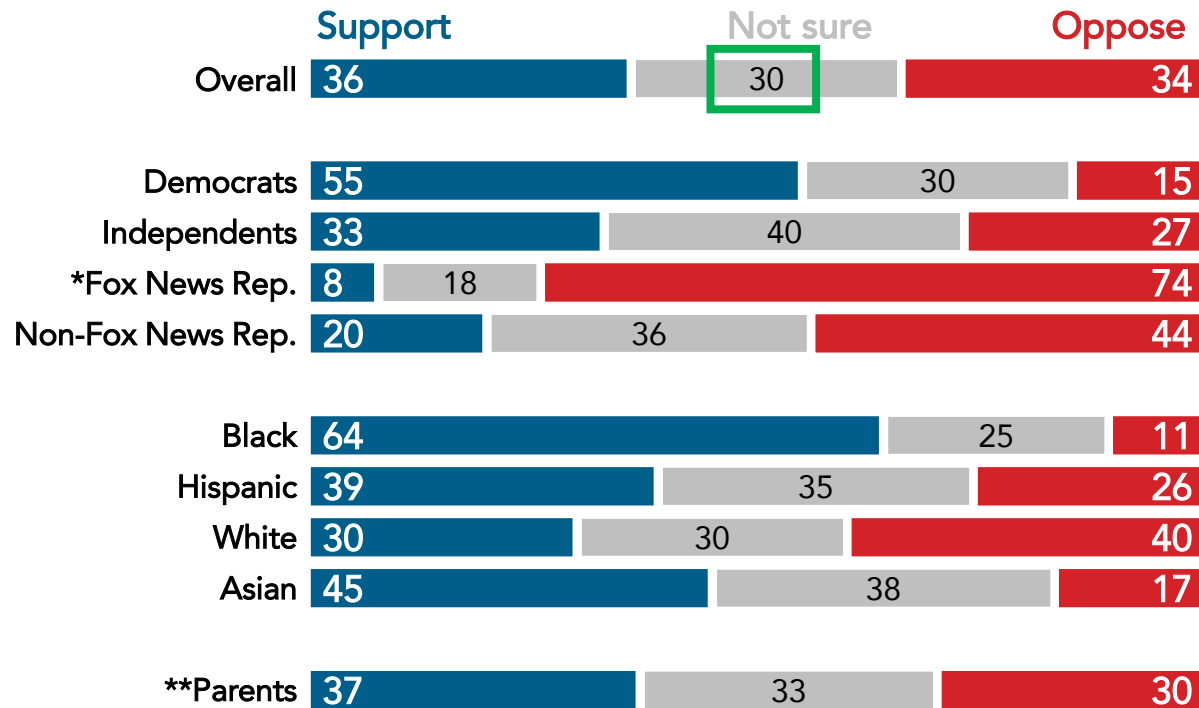
- “*Discrimination against white people.*”
- “Another issue that will *cause racial division.*”
- “*Everyone is racist* is what this term means.”
- “All *whites people are racist.* Which isn’t true.”
- “The claim that *America is inherently racist.*”

*Asked of respondents who said they had heard a lot, some, or not much about critical race theory. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted July 15-July 19, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

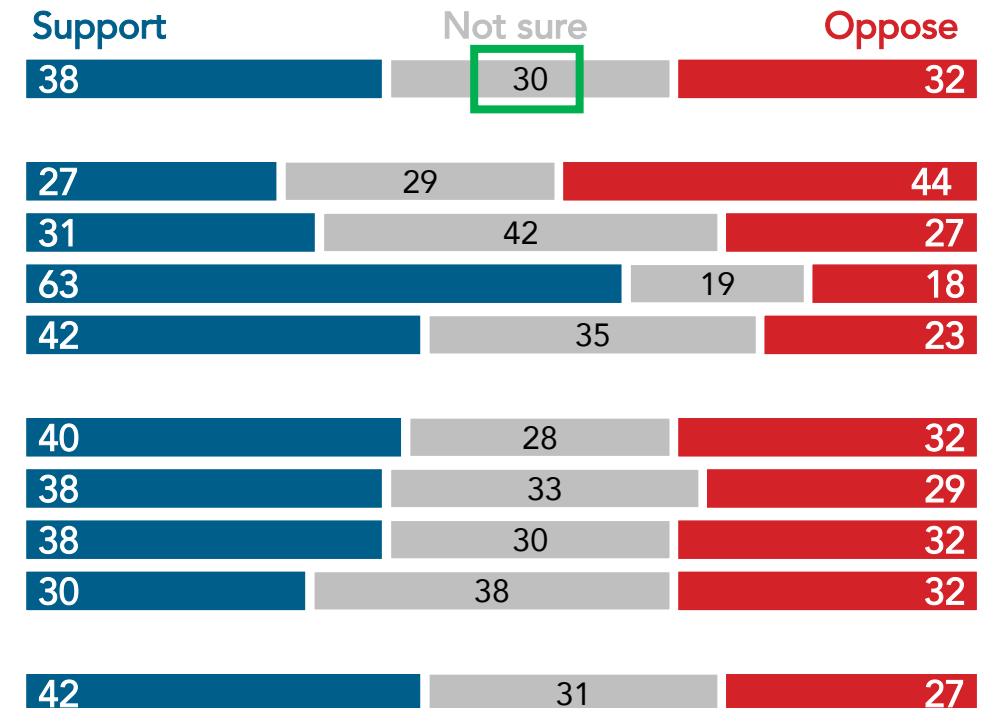
Americans Are Mixed on Teaching of Critical Race Theory in Schools, With Many Not Sure

Three in ten Democrats (30%), 40% of independents, 36% of non-Fox News Republicans, and 33% of parents are not sure whether to support or oppose the teaching of critical race theory.

Do you support or oppose the teaching of critical race theory in American schools?



Do you support or oppose a ban on the teaching of critical race theory in American schools?



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The Strongest Argument Against CRT Critiques Focuses on Teacher Censorship and Keeping Politicians Out of the Classroom

While an argument that critical race theory is not about making people feel guilty for being white is more compelling than a conservative critique, language of teacher freedom from political censorship is 26 points more compelling than a conservative criticism about division and guilt.

Which of the following do you agree with more?

Statement 1: Those who want to teach critical race theory in our schools are trying to further divide us and teach our kids to be ashamed of our country or for being white

Statement 2: Teachers should have the freedom to teach the honest, complete facts about historical topics like slavery and civil rights without being censored by politicians

Statement 1:	31%
Statement 2:	57%
Net Statement 2:	+26

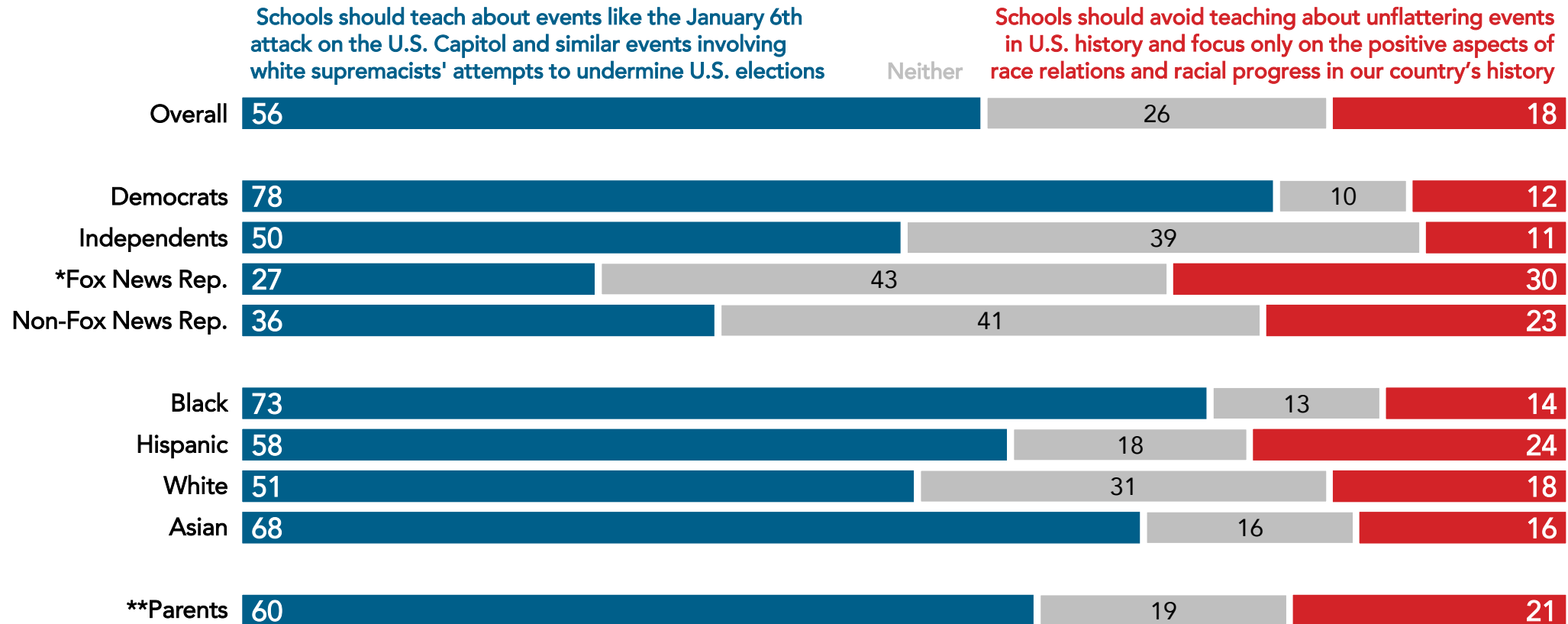
Statement 3: Critical race theory is studied in academic settings to understand the history and impact of racist policies on things like housing, school segregation or policing. It's not about making people feel guilty for being white

Statement 1:	39%
Statement 3:	42%
Net Statement 3:	+3

Most Agree Schools Should Teach Events Like the Capitol Riot Rather Than Focus Only on Positive Progress

Among parents, 60% support teaching about events like the Capitol riot over just focusing on positive progress.

Which of the following do you agree with more?



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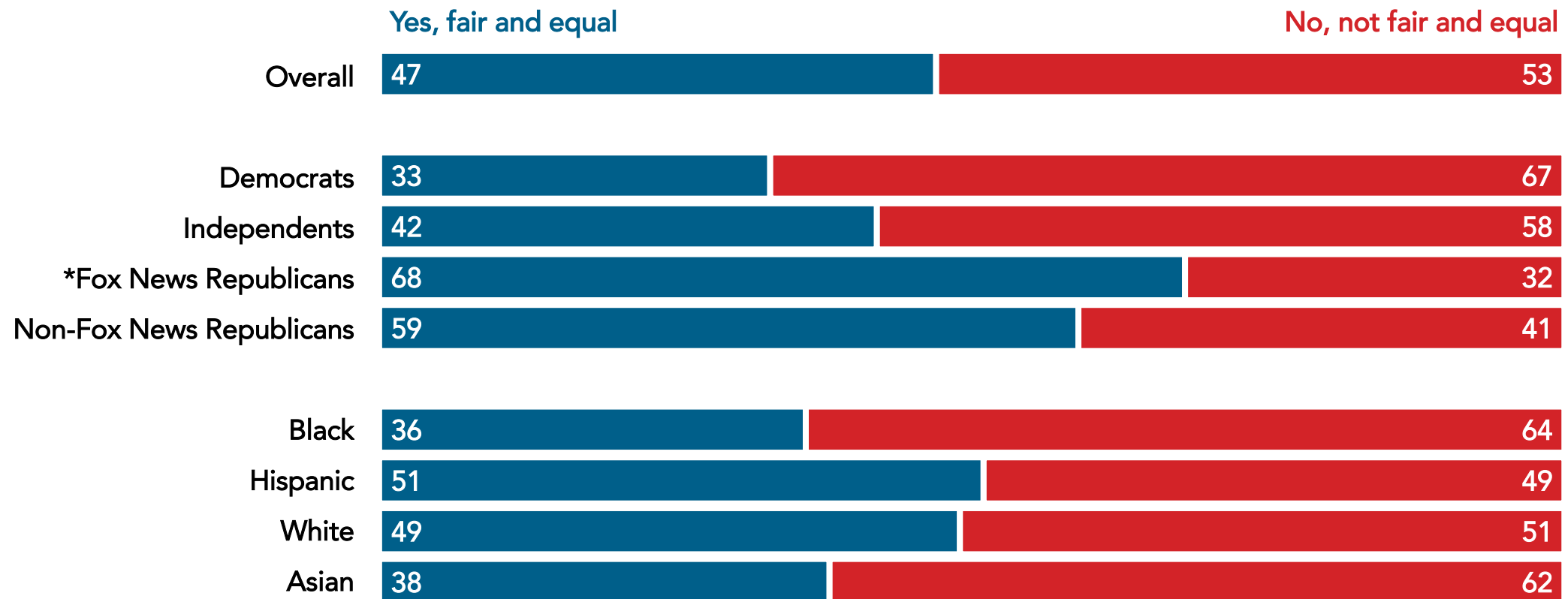
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More Than Half of Americans Say Society Is Not Fair and Equal

Across party lines and racial groups, Democrats (33% fair and equal), Black Americans (36%), and Asian Americans (38%) are least likely to say American society is fair and equal.

- At the same time, Fox News Republicans (68%) are the most likely to say American society is fair and equal.

Do you think American society is fair and equal?



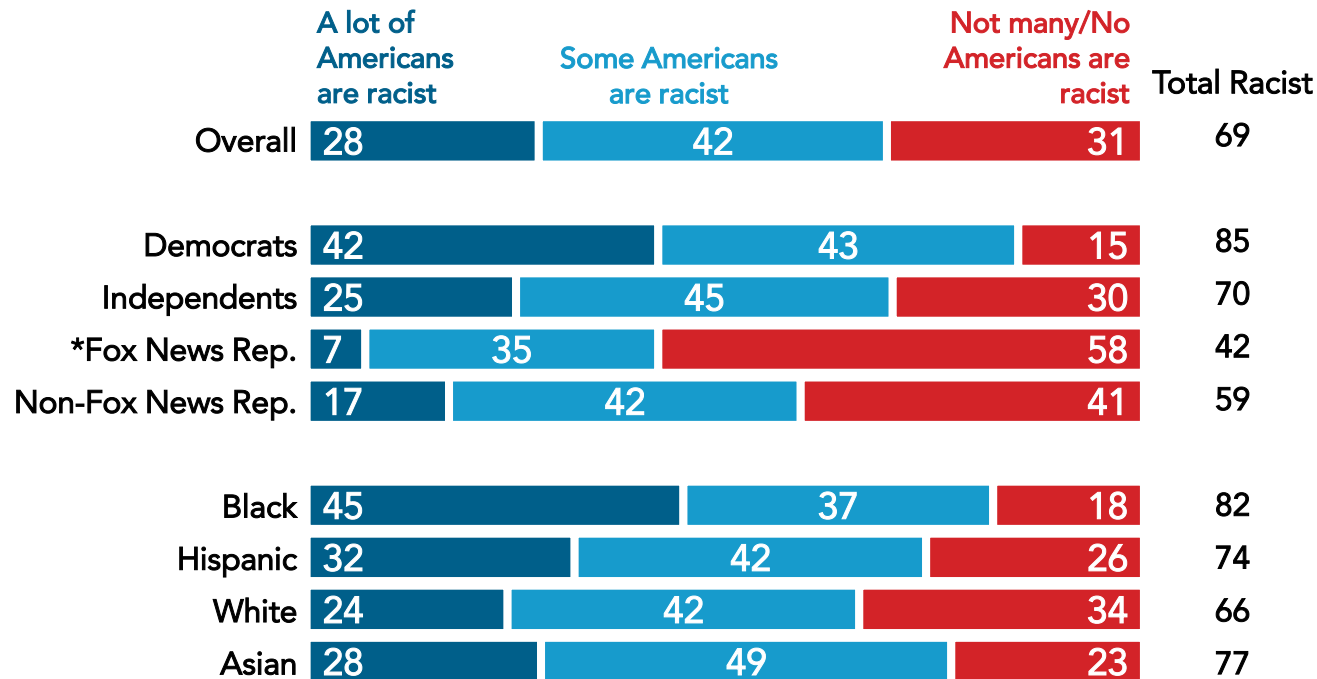
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Majority Say Some American People and Institutions Are Racist

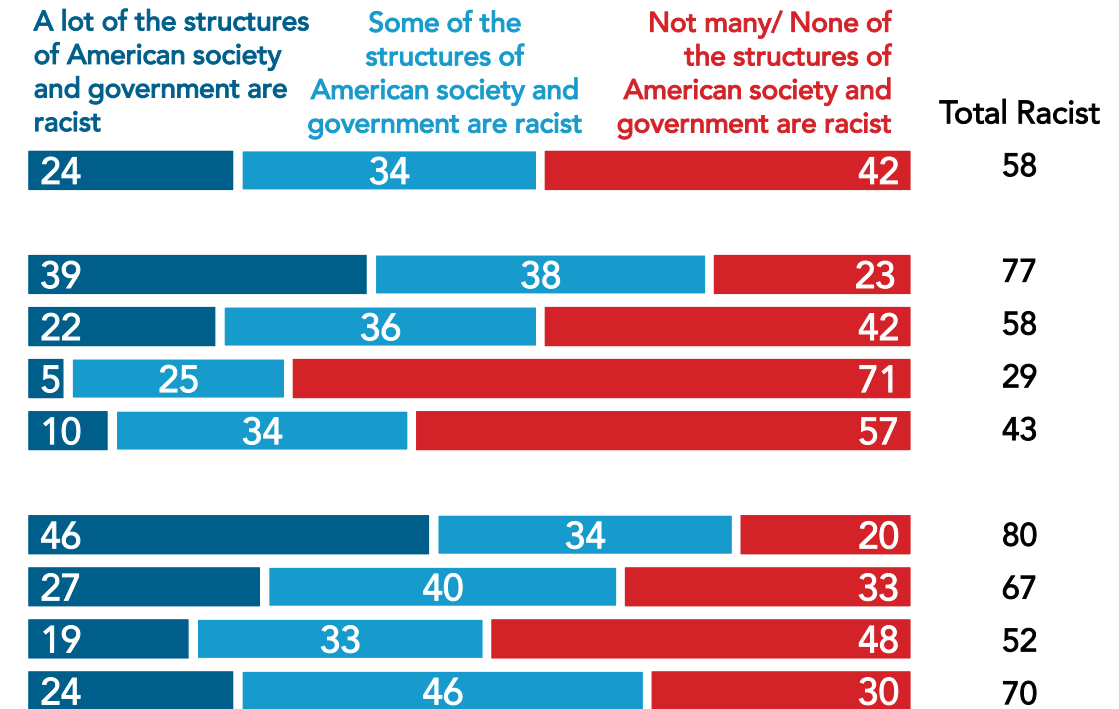
Nearly seven in ten say at least some American people are racist, and almost three in five say that at least some of the structures of American society and government are racist.

- Majorities of independents say at least some American people (70%) and institutions (58%) are racist.

Which of the following do you think best describes the American people in terms of racism?



Which of the following do you think best describes the structures in American society and government in terms of racism?



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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 July 15-July 19, 2021. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 71 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 101 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among independent 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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