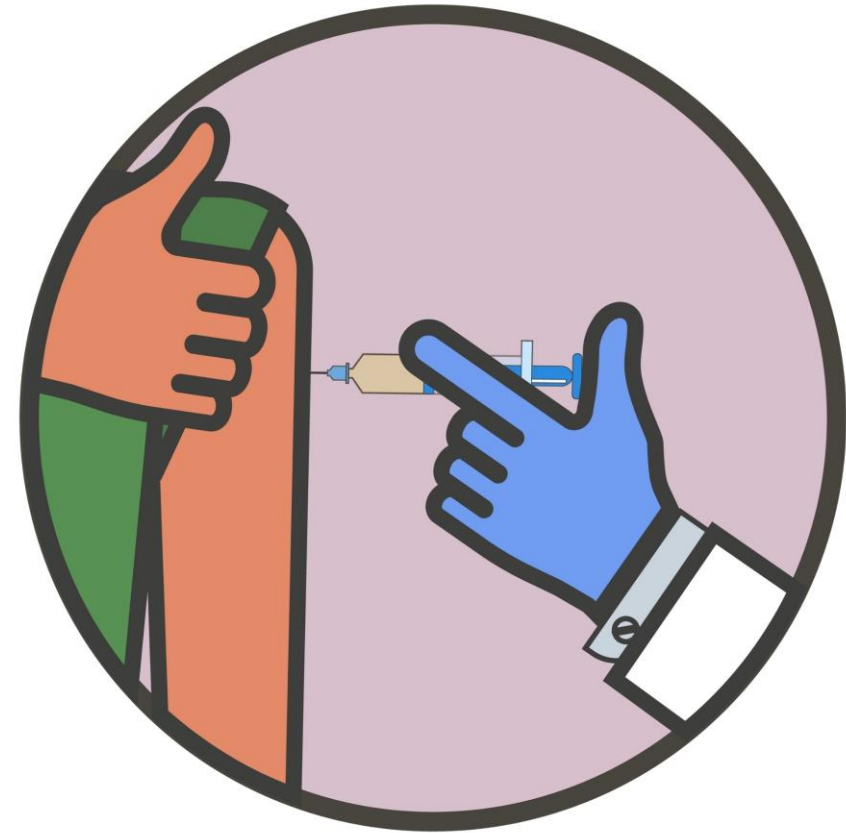


navigator*

Wednesday, December 9th

The Ongoing
Pandemic: A Guide
for Advocates



Key Takeaways:

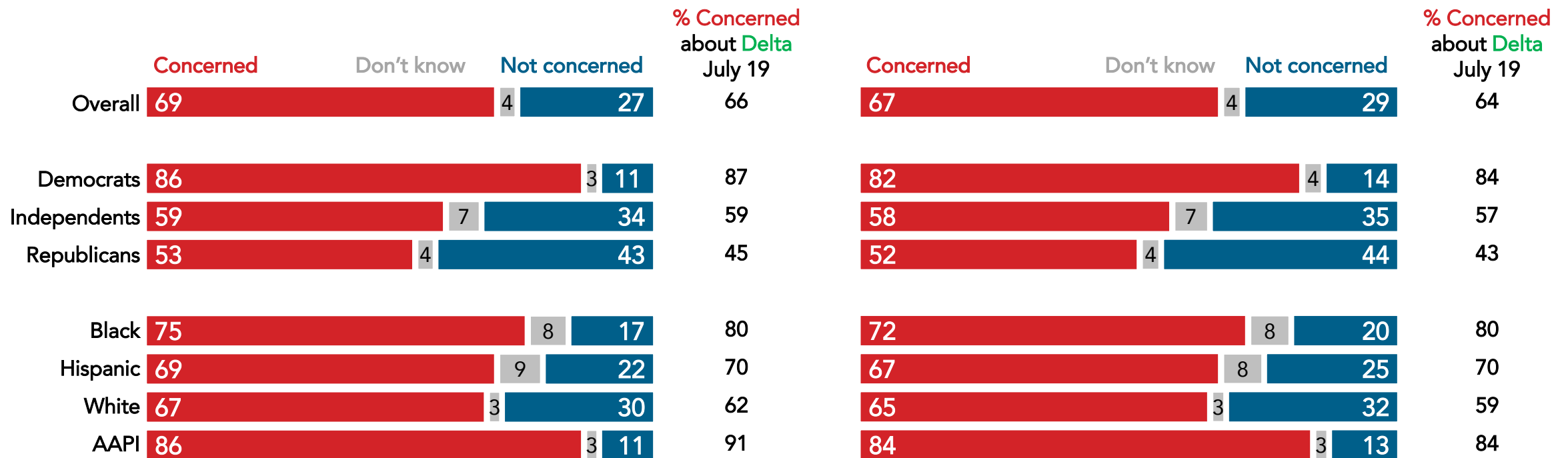
- A majority continue to approve of President Biden's handling of the pandemic despite concerns about Omicron and signs of renewed pessimism on the pandemic.
- As a significant majority of the country remains "pro-mask," mask mandates enjoy broad support, while a narrower majority supports vaccine mandates.
- On policies to fight the pandemic, covering the cost of at-home tests, requiring healthcare workers to be vaccinated, and mask requirements when case counts are high are popular; banning mask mandates in schools is widely opposed.

Americans Are Concerned About Omicron at Both the National and Local Levels

Levels of concern about Omicron are similar to when the Delta variant emerged among Democrats and independents, while concerns among Republicans are nearly ten points higher.

How concerned are you about the spread of the **Omicron** variant of coronavirus in the United States?

How concerned are you about the spread of the **Omicron** variant of coronavirus in your community and state?

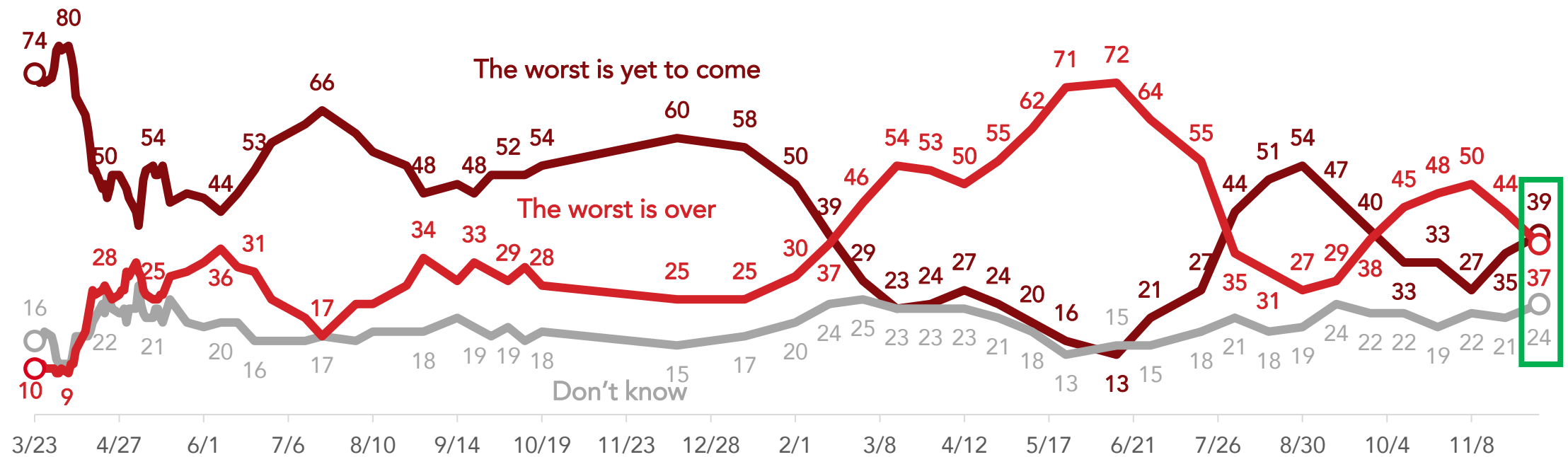


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted December 3-December 6, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Amid Omicron News, More Americans Worry the "Worst Is Yet to Come" in the Pandemic Than Say the "Worst Is Over"

Pluralities of Democrats (41%) and independents (43%) say the "worst is yet to come" on the pandemic, while a plurality of Republicans are optimistic "the worst is over" (45%).

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

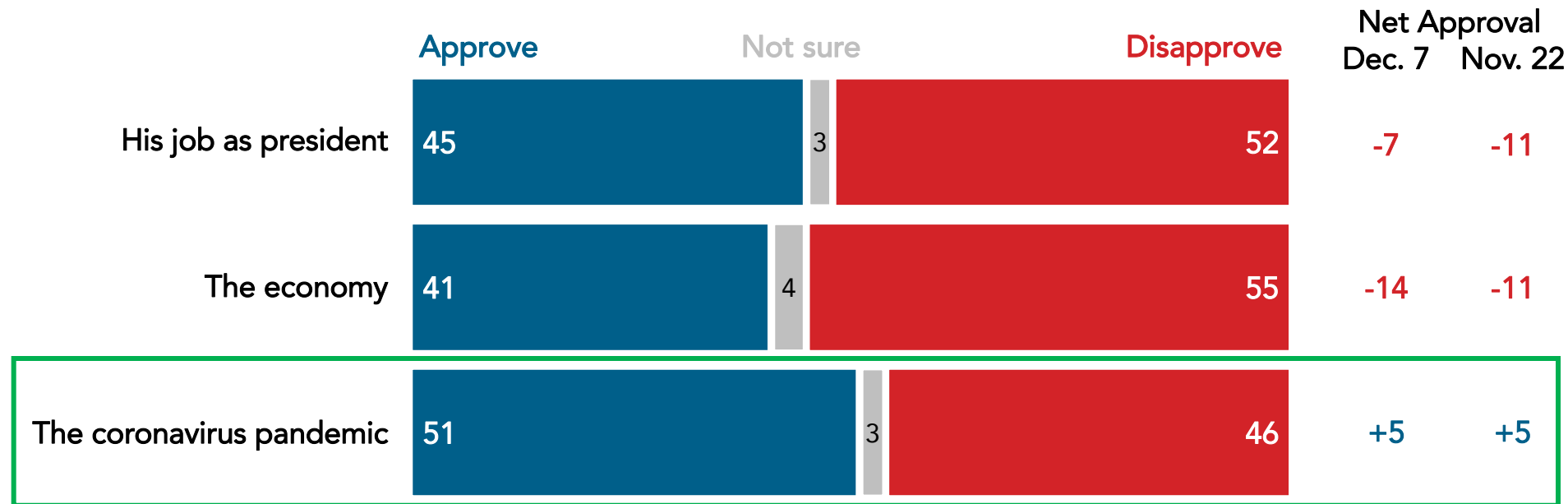


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Though Biden's Ratings Remain Underwater Overall and on the Economy, He Is Still in the Positive on the Pandemic

Biden's approval ratings on his handling of his job overall as president and on the economy specifically are still in the negative, but on the pandemic, a majority continue to approve of the job he's doing (51% approve/46% disapprove).

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling...

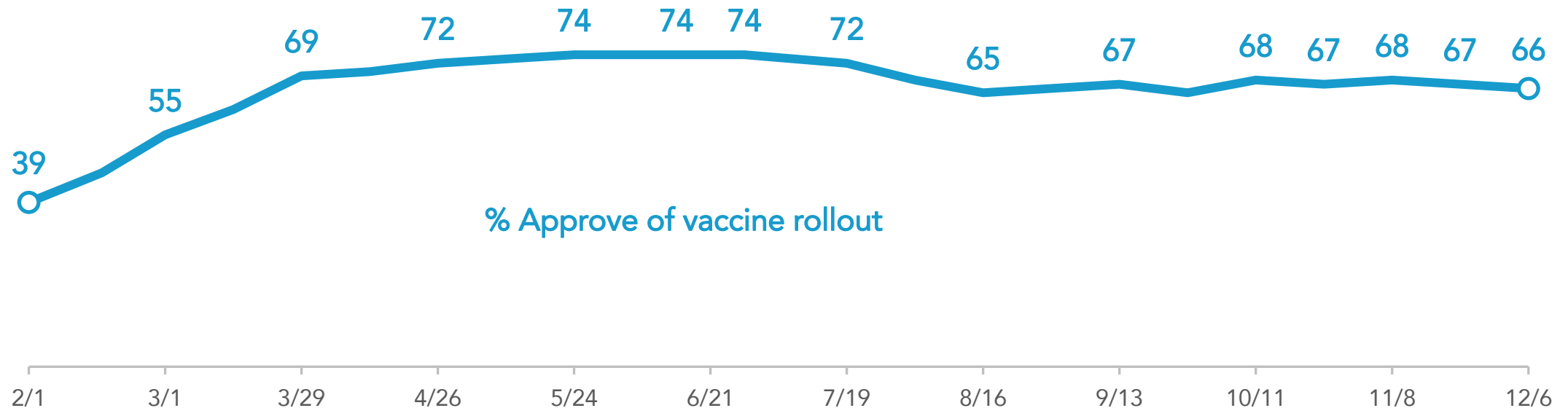


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Approval Ratings of the Vaccine Rollout Still Remain High and Steady

Approval of the rollout of the vaccine is bipartisan: 83% of Democrats, 47% of independents, and 51% of Republicans approve of the rollout.

Do you approve or disapprove of how the vaccine rollout in the United States has gone so far?



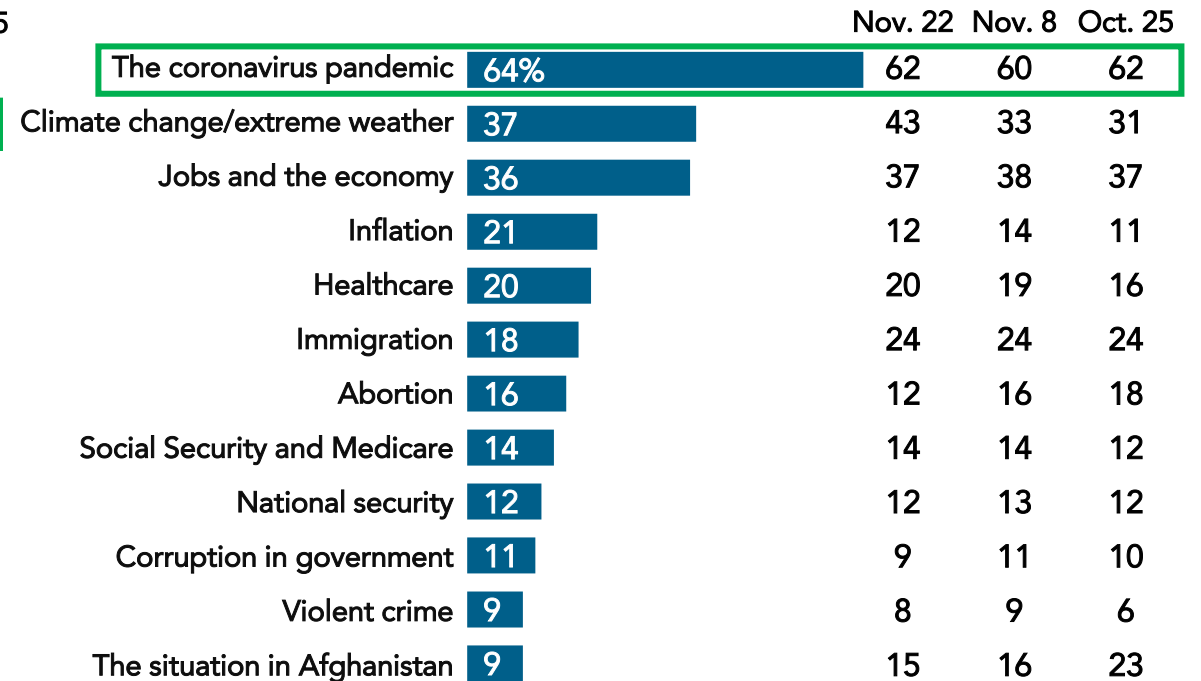
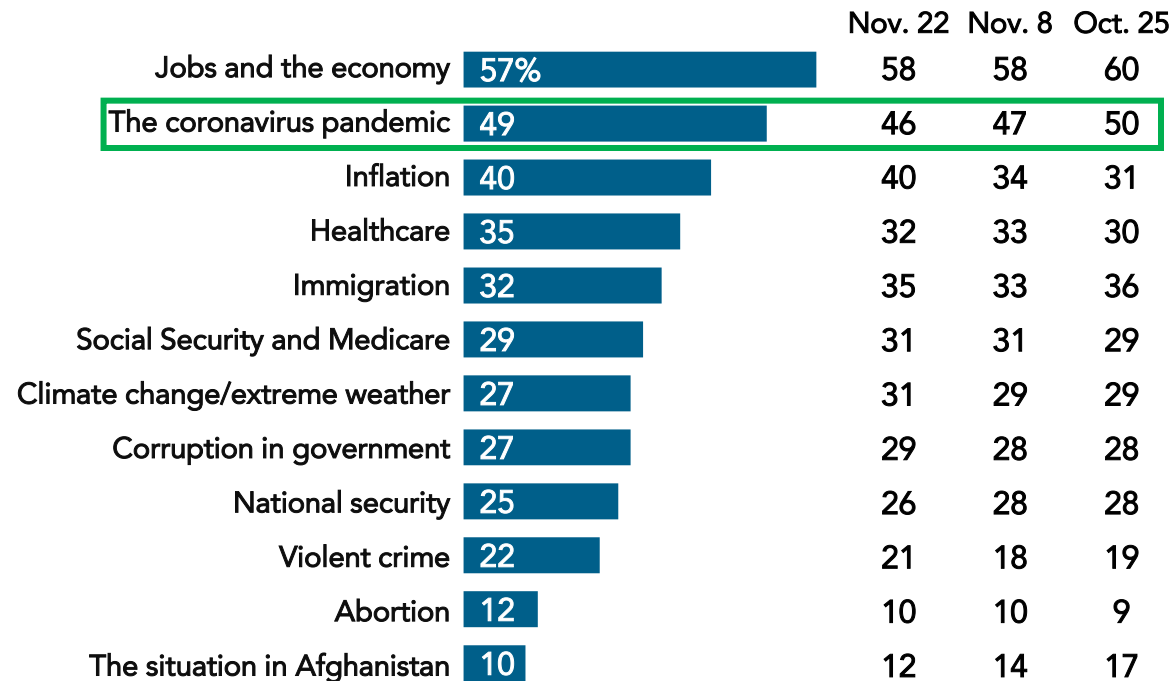
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Americans Want to See the Government Focused on the Pandemic and See Biden and Congress Doing So

Nearly seven in ten Democrats (68%) and 47% of independents say the pandemic is a top issue, with 72% and 62% respectively saying Biden and Congress are focusing on it. Just 29% of Republicans say it is a top priority.

Select the top four issues that you feel are most important for President Joe Biden and Congress to focus on.

Which of these issues do you feel President Joe Biden and Congress are actually most focused on?

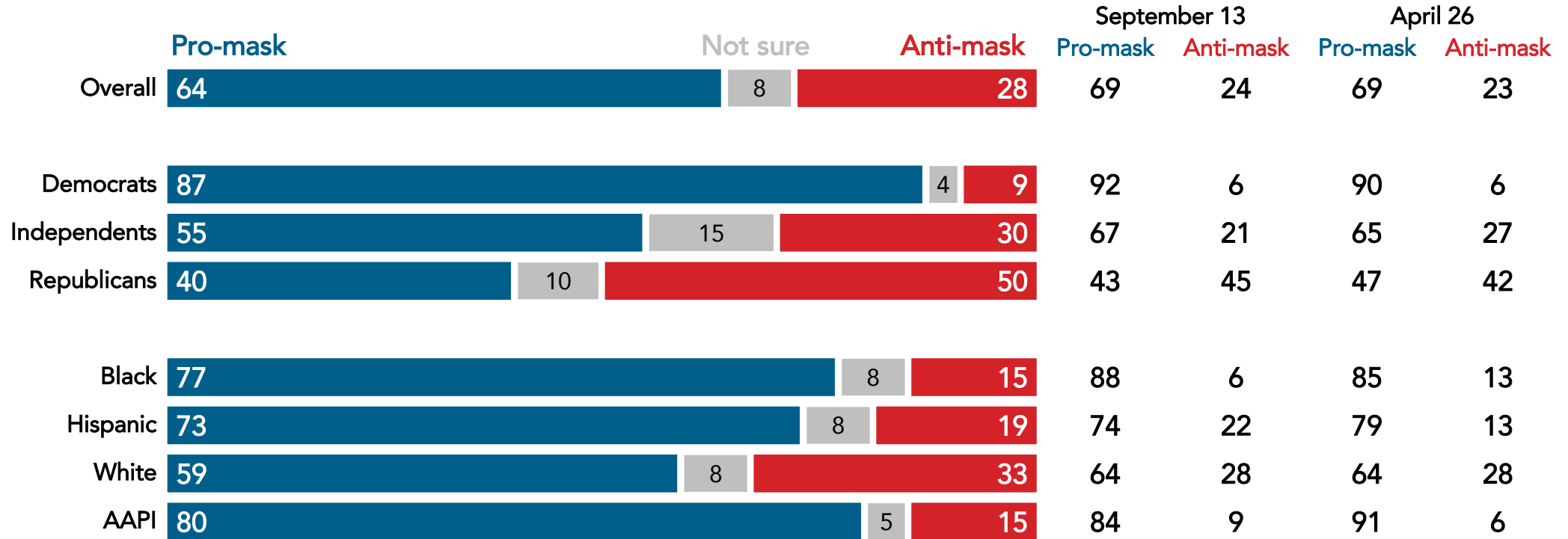


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Americans Remain Overwhelmingly “Pro-Mask”

Nearly nine in ten Democrats continue to identify as “pro-mask,” as do a majority of independents (55%) though there has been a slight downtick in the share of independents who say they are “pro-mask” since mid-September.

There are differing opinions on whether or not people should be wearing masks right now when they are in public, but if you had to choose, would you say that you are generally pro-mask or anti-mask?



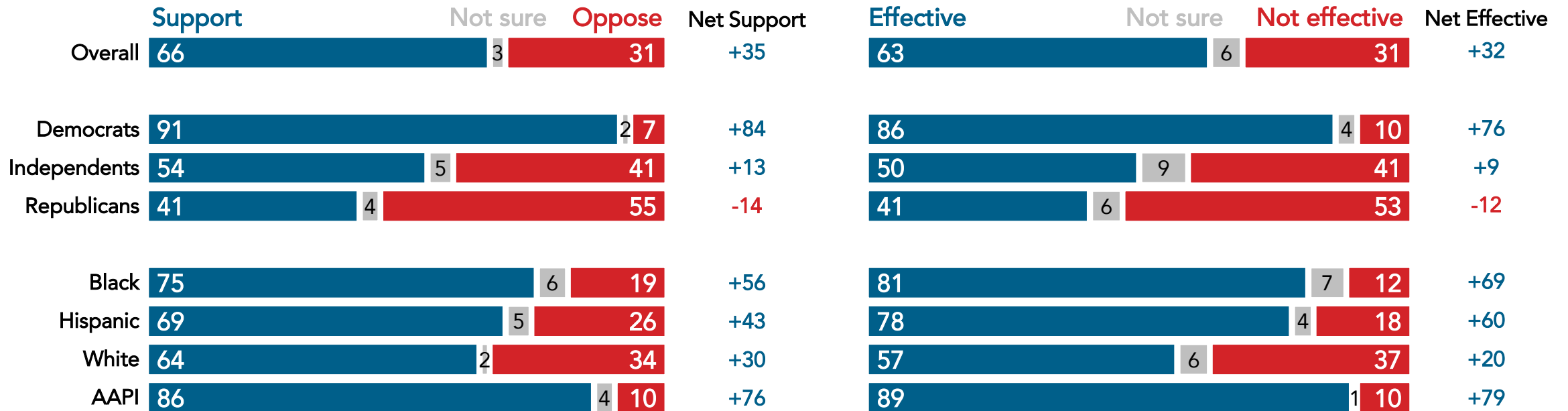
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Mask Mandates Receive Broad Support and Are Largely Seen as “Effective” in Slowing the Spread of Coronavirus

Majorities of independents (54%) and two in five Republicans (41%) support mask mandates, and 50% of independents and 41% of Republicans say they are effective in slowing the spread of coronavirus.

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the use of mask mandates to slow the spread of coronavirus?

Do you think that mask mandates are effective or ineffective in slowing the spread of coronavirus?



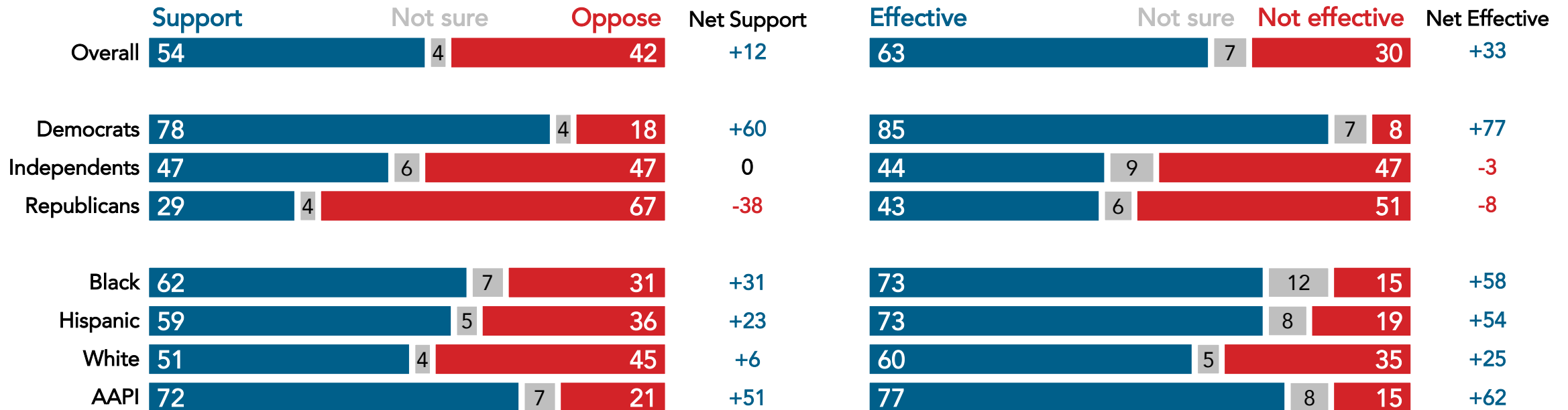
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted December 3-December 6, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

A Narrower Majority Supports Vaccine Mandates than Mask Mandates, But Two in Three Say They Are Effective

The disparity between perceived effectiveness of vaccine mandates (+33 net effective) and support for them (+12 net support) is driven largely by Republicans, who are at net -38 support, but only at net -8 on effectiveness.

Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the use of vaccine mandates to slow the spread of coronavirus?

Do you think that vaccine mandates are effective or ineffective in slowing the spread of coronavirus?

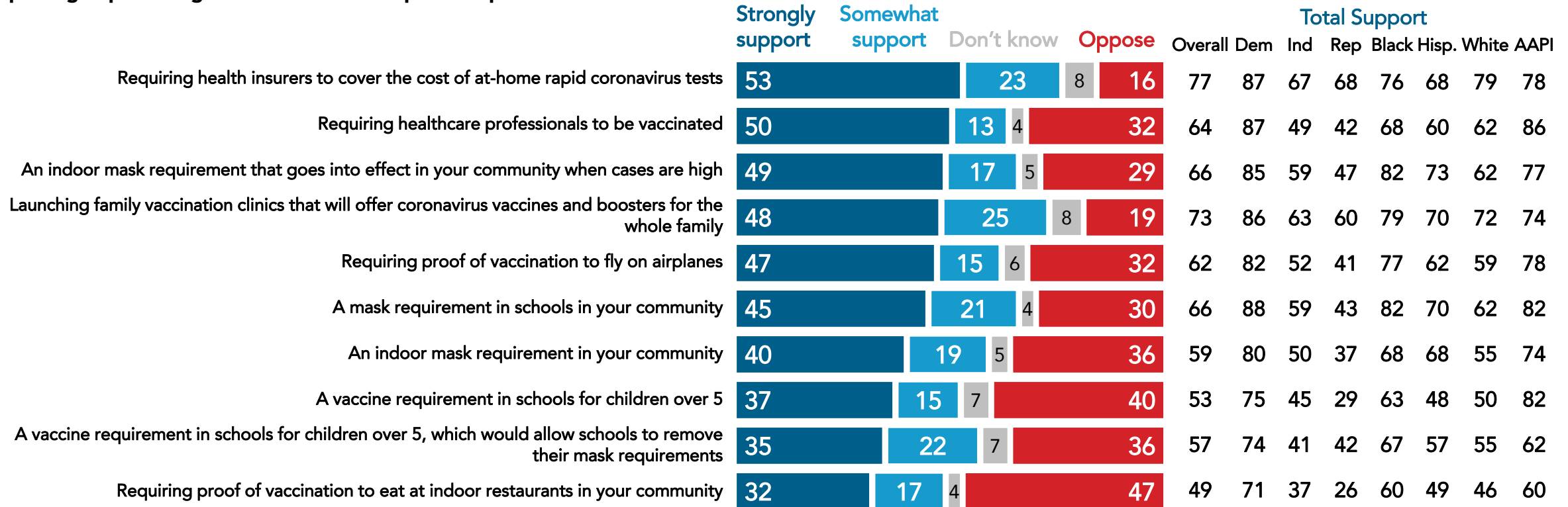


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Covering Test Costs, Requiring Healthcare Workers to Be Vaccinated, and Mask Requirements Have Significant Support

Among independents, top mitigation policies include insurers covering the costs of at-home tests, the launching of family vaccination clinics, indoor mask requirements when cases are high, and mask requirements in schools.

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each action that federal government or state and local governments have put in place or are considering putting in place to get the United States past the pandemic.

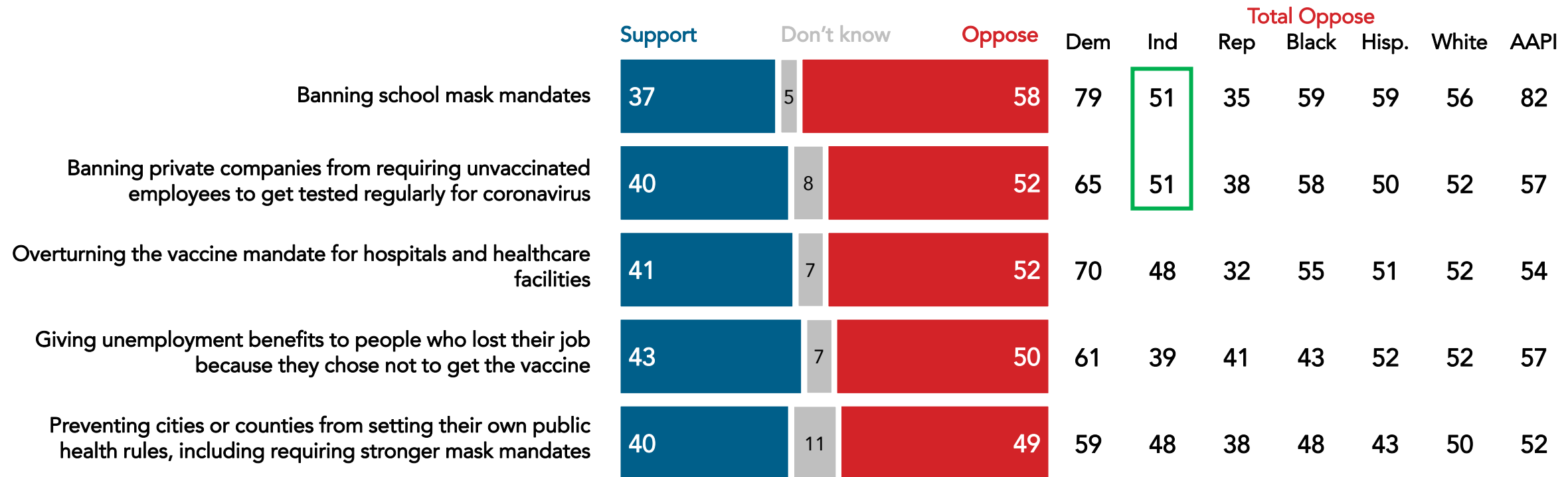


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Out of a Range of Conservative Pandemic Policies, Bans on Mask Mandates Generate the Most Opposition

Banning school mask mandates and banning private companies from having testing requirements for unvaccinated employees inspire the most opposition among independents.

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of the actions taken below to prevent mask, testing, and vaccine mandates from being enacted.



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Republicans' Handling of the Pandemic Raises Concerns, Especially Their Desire to Rely on "Natural Immunity"

Majorities of independents find a range of criticisms of Republicans' handling of the pandemic concerning, especially their encouragement of natural immunity over vaccination to fight the pandemic (66% concerning).

Please indicate how concerning you find these statements about how Republicans are handling the coronavirus pandemic.

	Very concerning	Somewhat concerning	Not concerning	Total Concerning							
				Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Black	Hisp.	White	AAPI
Republicans have said they want more people to get coronavirus to achieve natural immunity instead of getting vaccinated, regardless of consequences, even though getting vaccinated makes people 14 times less likely to die of coronavirus compared to the unvaccinated. The Republicans' plan puts lives at risk for no reason when we have a vaccine	48	21	31	69	92	66	43	83	74	65	82
Republicans refuse to listen to scientists and public health experts. Instead, they continue to spread misinformation about mask wearing and the vaccine, making it harder for us to fight the virus and prolonging the pandemic	47	19	34	66	92	63	36	79	73	61	84
Republicans are prolonging the pandemic and hurting the economy by fighting against common sense solutions like masks and vaccines. The longer the pandemic lasts, the longer our small businesses and communities will suffer	45	21	34	66	91	62	39	83	75	61	74
Unvaccinated Americans put everyone at risk of getting coronavirus, and Republicans are supporting those who choose to not get vaccinated through financial incentives and the spread of misinformation, endangering all Americans in doing so	45	19	36	64	88	54	38	76	69	60	81
Republicans are wasting time trying to block vaccine and mask requirements rather than focusing on fighting the pandemic. Now, Republicans are threatening to shut down the federal government to block vaccine requirements, all of which wastes taxpayer dollars just to score political points while hurting our ability to fight the virus	44	22	34	66	91	64	38	81	75	62	75
Republicans are wasting time obsessing over blocking mask and vaccine requirements rather than focusing on fighting the pandemic: as people get sick and variants spread, they are focused on filing frivolous lawsuits to stop vaccine and mask requirements from going into effect, all just to score political points	43	20	37	63	89	64	34	74	66	60	86

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In Rebuttal to Calls for “Natural Immunity,” Pointing to the Vaccine and Unnecessary Risks Is Most Effective

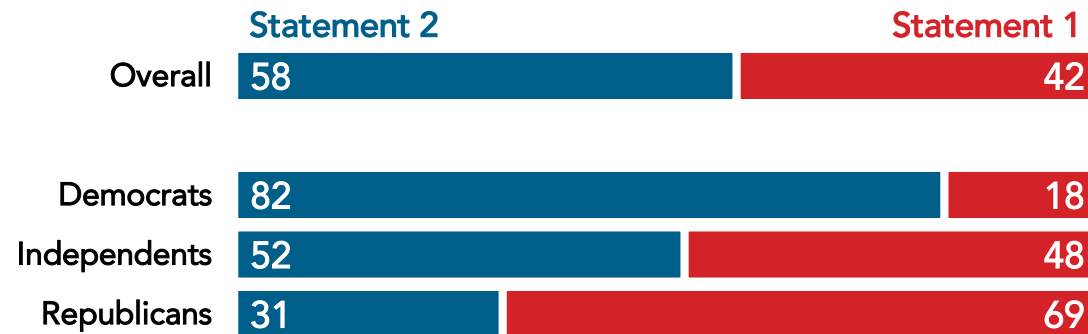
In response to an argument that Americans should rely on “natural immunity” instead of enacting new mandates when cases go back up, messaging about relying on the vaccine or about mask and vaccine use both are effective.

Which side do you agree with more?

Statement 1: Those who say coronavirus is not going anywhere and many Americans have natural immunity after nearly two years of dealing with it. We need to learn to live with coronavirus rather than relying on restrictive mandates every time cases go up that prevent life from returning to normal.

Statement 2: Those who say that **as the pandemic continues to evolve and new variants emerge, our response needs to as well. We need to continue to vaccinate and boost as many people as possible. And when cases rise, we should respond in a way that will slow the spread and keep our communities safe.**

Statement 3: Those who say **after nearly two years of this pandemic, masks and vaccines are effective in slowing the spread of coronavirus, and those who talk about "natural immunity" are putting millions of people at risk who could potentially die when common sense solutions like masks and vaccines could prevent many unnecessary tragedies.**



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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 December 3-December 6, 2021. 99 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 70 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 99 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 99 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>

@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter