

navigator*

Thursday, January 13th

Omicron: A Guide for Advocates



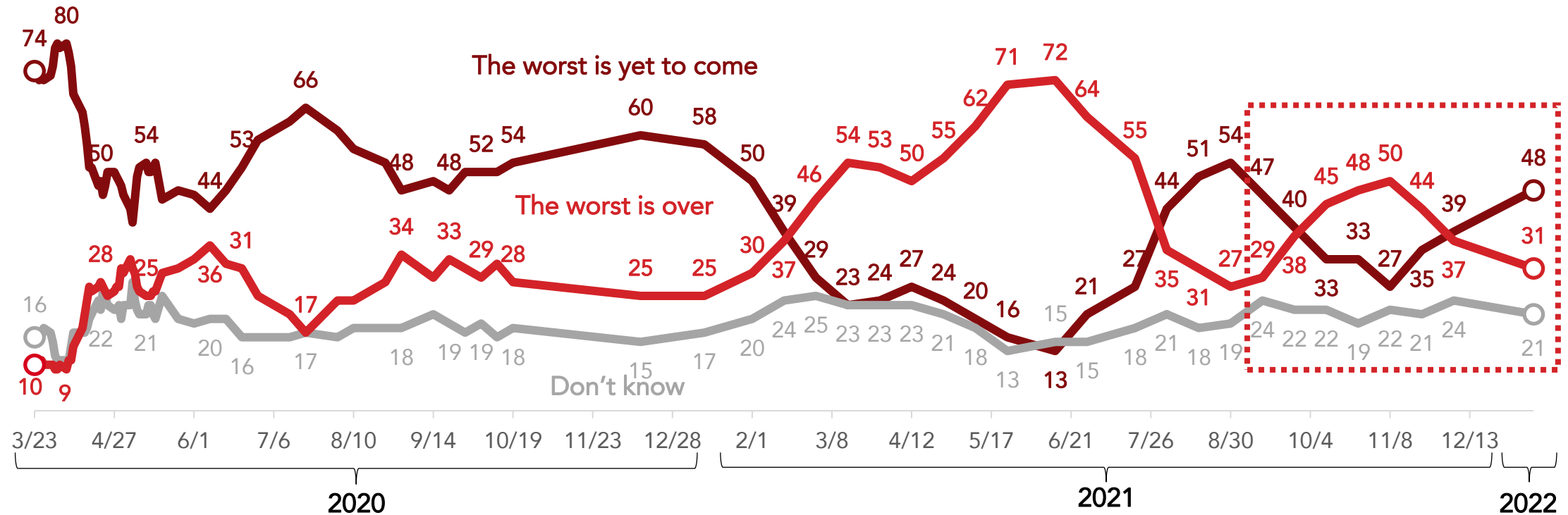
Key Takeaways:

- Americans are increasingly concerned about the pandemic as Omicron cases rise: nearly half say “the worst is yet to come” in the pandemic, and most at least call it a “major problem.”
- Top worries for Americans, however, are less about getting sick or going to the hospital, and more so about how the latest strain is impacting the economy and causing staffing shortages in businesses and schools.
- Mitigation policies like vaccine and mask mandates continue to enjoy broad support; messaging on using these mitigation policies to keep the economy going is convincing to most, though comparing Omicron to March 2020 in severity is a weaker lane.
- Though Biden has seen a small dip in approval on his handling of the pandemic, he and Democrats are still more trusted to handle the pandemic than the Republican Party and are seen as trying to keep things open, not shutting them down.

As Omicron Cases Continue to Rise, Share Who Say "Worst Is Yet to Come" Hits Highest Level Since Delta Peak

Nearly half of Democrats (49%), a majority of independents (52%), and 46% of Republicans say the "worst is yet to come" in the pandemic.

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

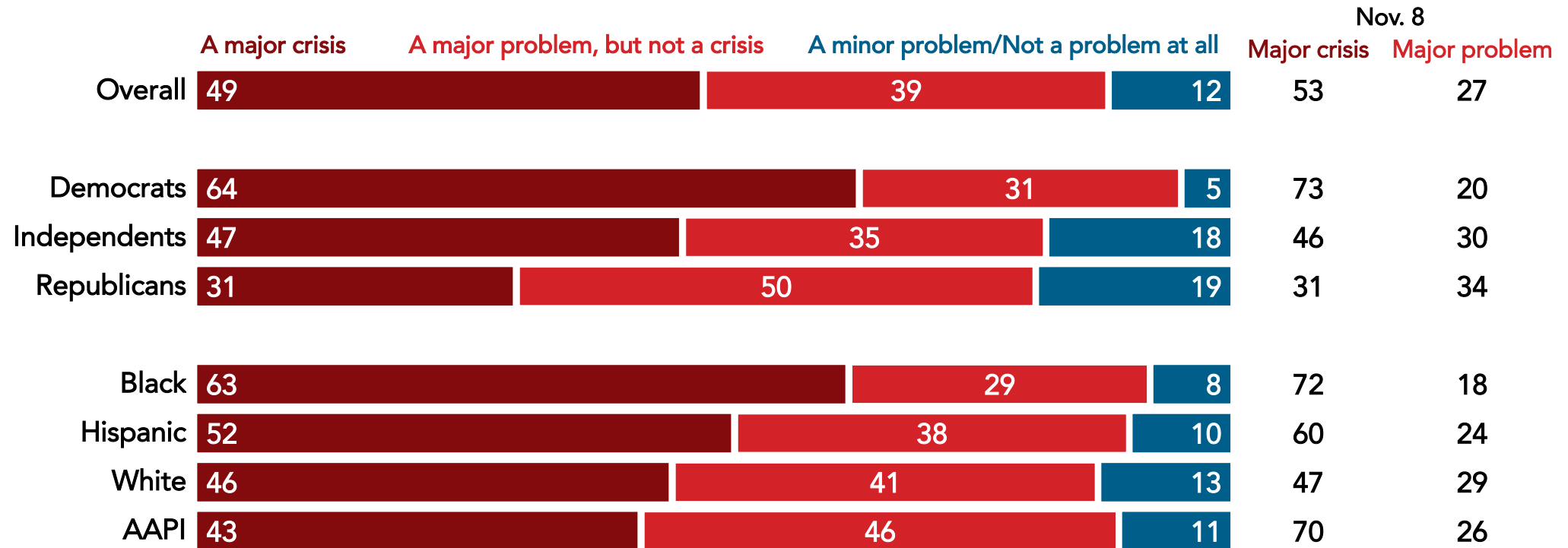


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

While More Say the “Worst Is Yet To Come” in the Pandemic, There’s Been a Small Dip in the Share Calling It a “Major Crisis”

Among Democrats since November, there has been a 9-point decline in the share who say it is a “major crisis,” while there has been an 11-point increase in the share who call it a “major problem, but not a crisis.”

Please indicate whether you think the coronavirus pandemic is best described right now as a major crisis, a major problem but not a crisis, a minor problem, or not a problem at all.



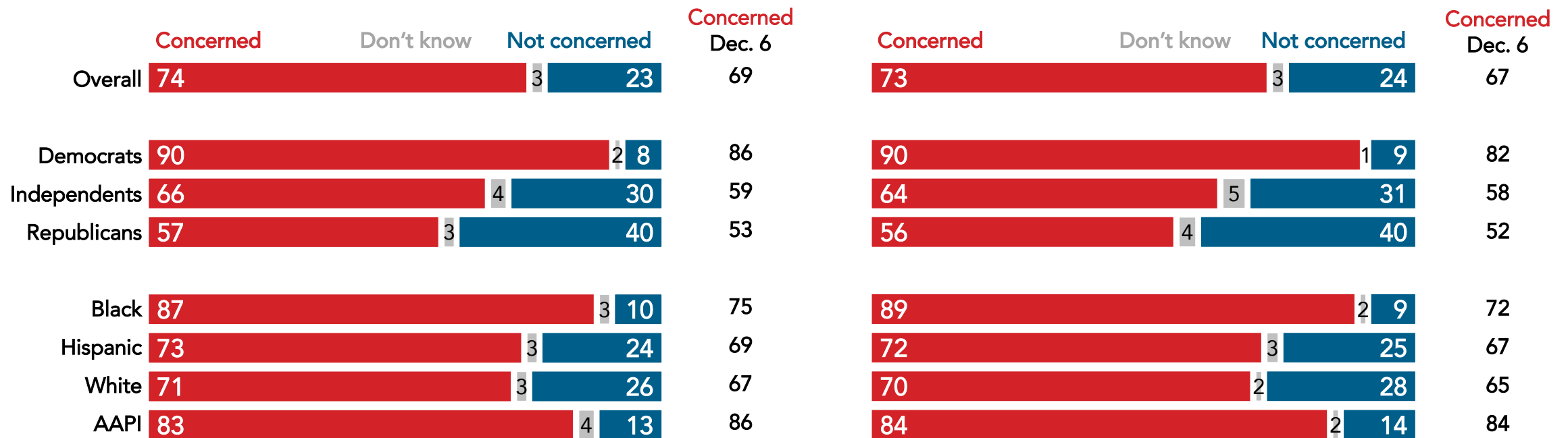
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Americans Are Increasingly Concerned About the Spread of Omicron Compared to Early December

There has been a 5-point increase in concerns about the national spread of Omicron (69% to 74%) and a 6-point increase in concerns about local spread (67% to 73%) since December.

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?

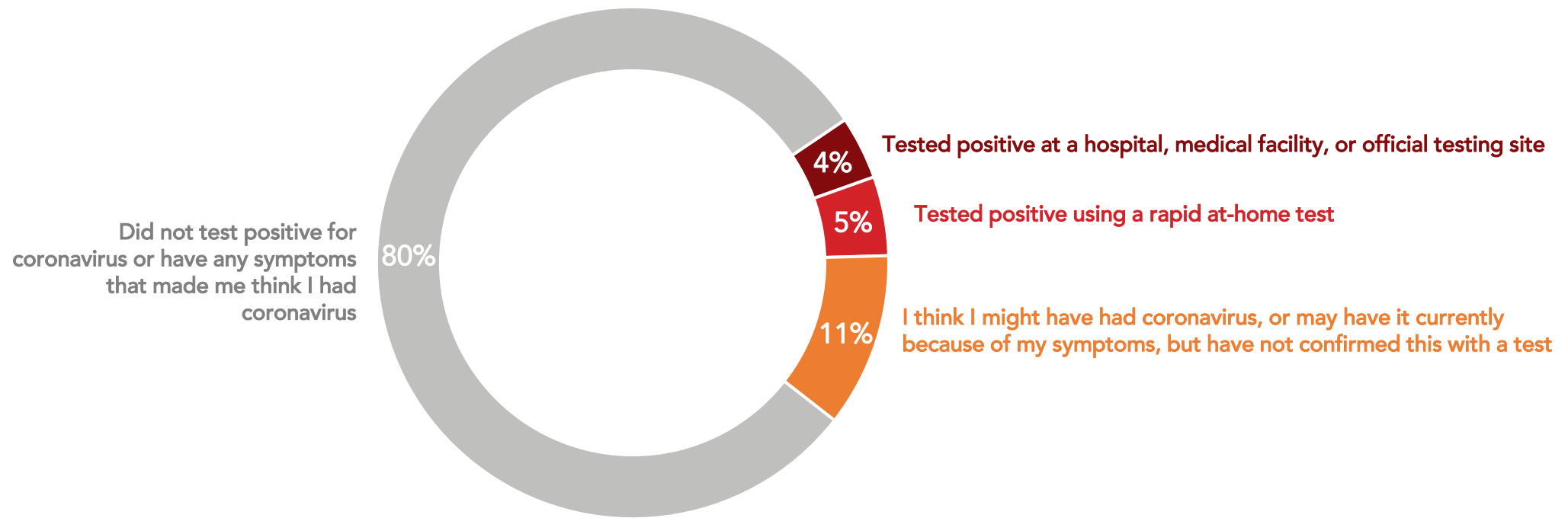


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Since Mid-December, Many More Have Gotten Coronavirus Beyond Those Who Have Tested Positive at Official Sites

Almost one in ten (9%) report currently having coronavirus or recently testing positive, but only half (47%) of those respondents report testing at a hospital or official testing site.

Since mid-December, when the spread of the Omicron variant first began in the United States, which best describes you? [If have/recently had] How did you get your positive test?

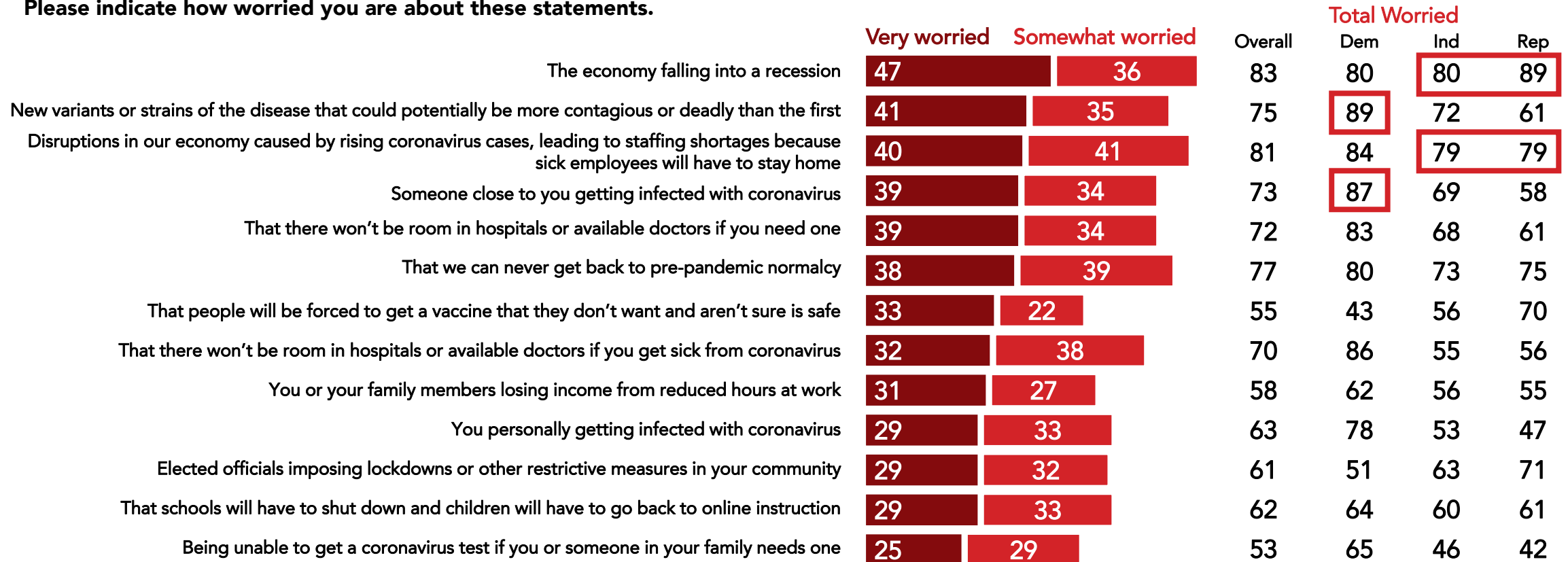


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Top Pandemic Worries Are a Possible Recession, Staffing Shortages Disrupting the Economy, and New Variants

For independents and Republicans, top worries are a possible recession and staffing shortages disrupting the economy; for Democrats, new variants and someone close getting coronavirus are the top two worries.

Please indicate how worried you are about these statements.



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Americans Are More Concerned About People Getting Sick and Staffing Shortages Than Imposing Government Mandates

A majority of independents (56%) find school staffing shortages and potential shutdowns more concerning than government mandates.

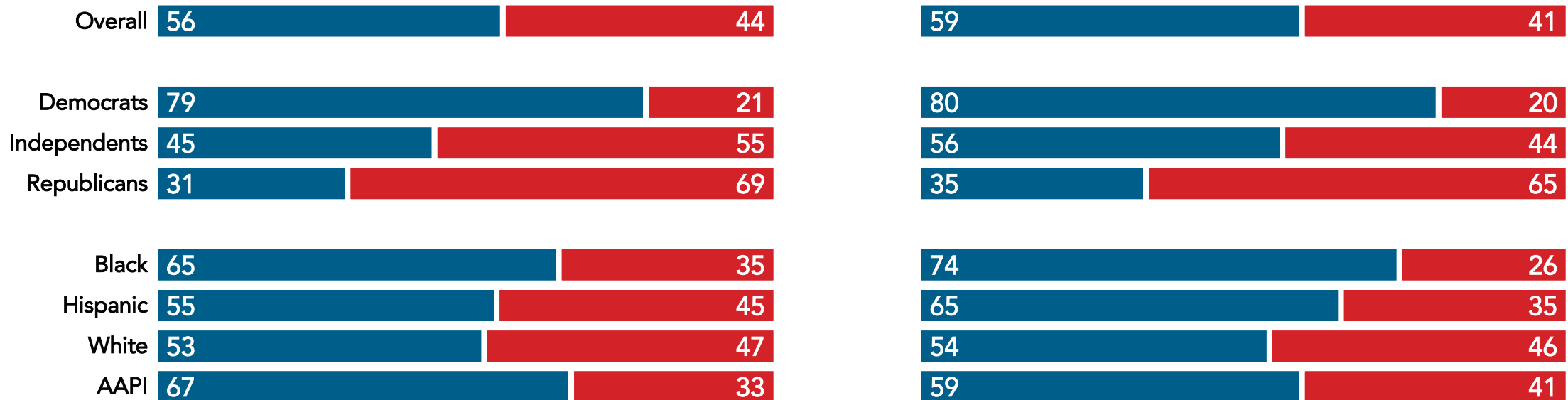
Which concerns you more?

That too many people will get sick at once from the Omicron variant, which will lead to things like canceled flights and small business closures due to lack of staff, and other issues that will hurt our economy

That the government will put in place too many restrictive mandates and will shut our country down again, which will hurt the economy

That too many people will get sick at once from the Omicron variant, which will lead to children getting sick and staffing and teacher shortages at schools that could force some schools to close down

That the government will put in place too many restrictive mandates and will shut our country down again, which will hurt the economy

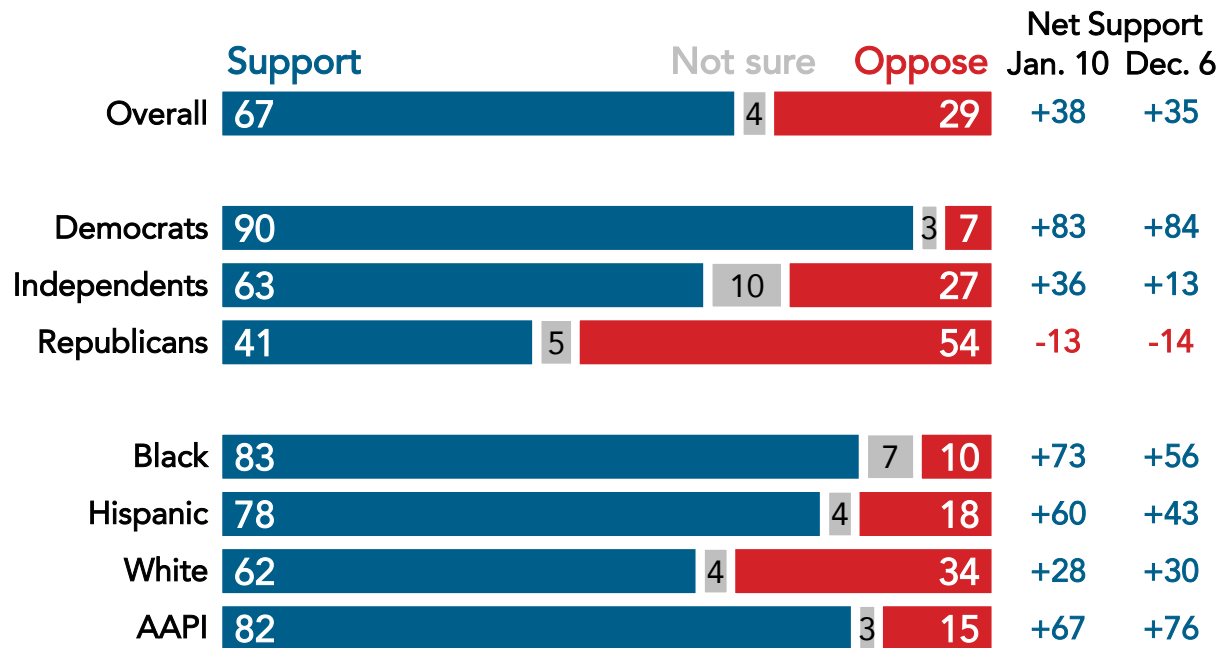


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

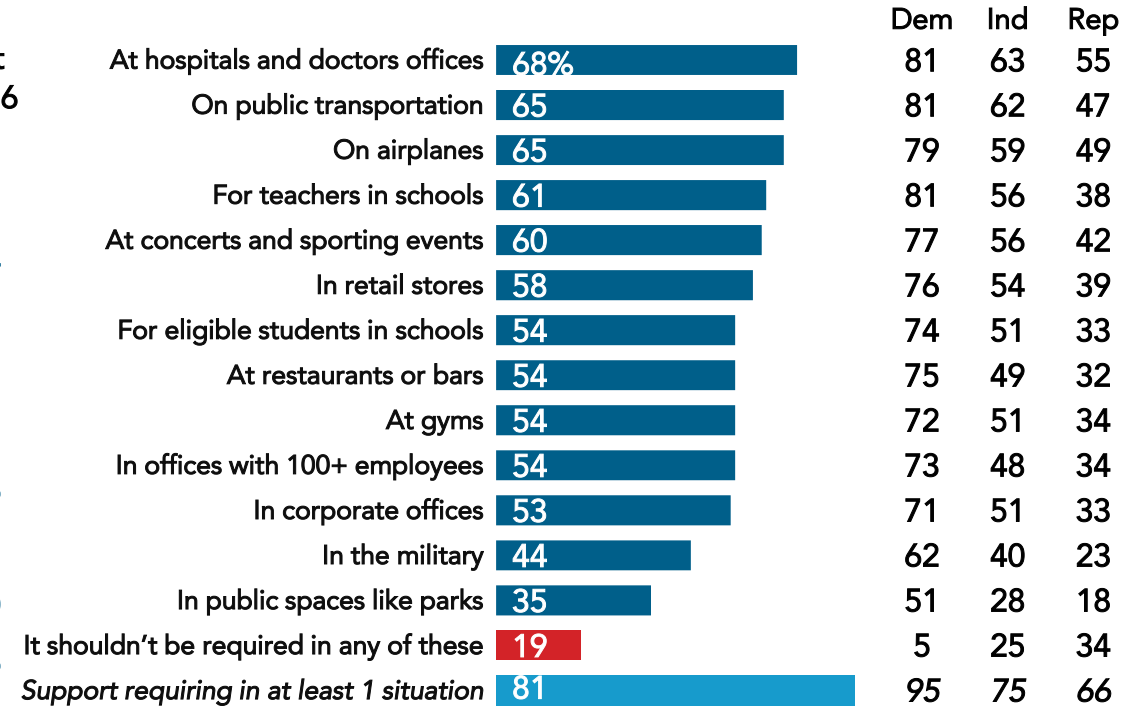
Nearly Seven in Ten Support Mask Mandates Overall, and Four in Five Support Mask Mandates in at Least Some Settings

Among independents, almost two in three support mask mandates broadly (63%) and 75% support mask mandates in at least one situation. Two in three (66%) Republicans also support mask mandates in at least one situation.

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



In what types of settings and events should it be required to wear a mask? Select all that apply.



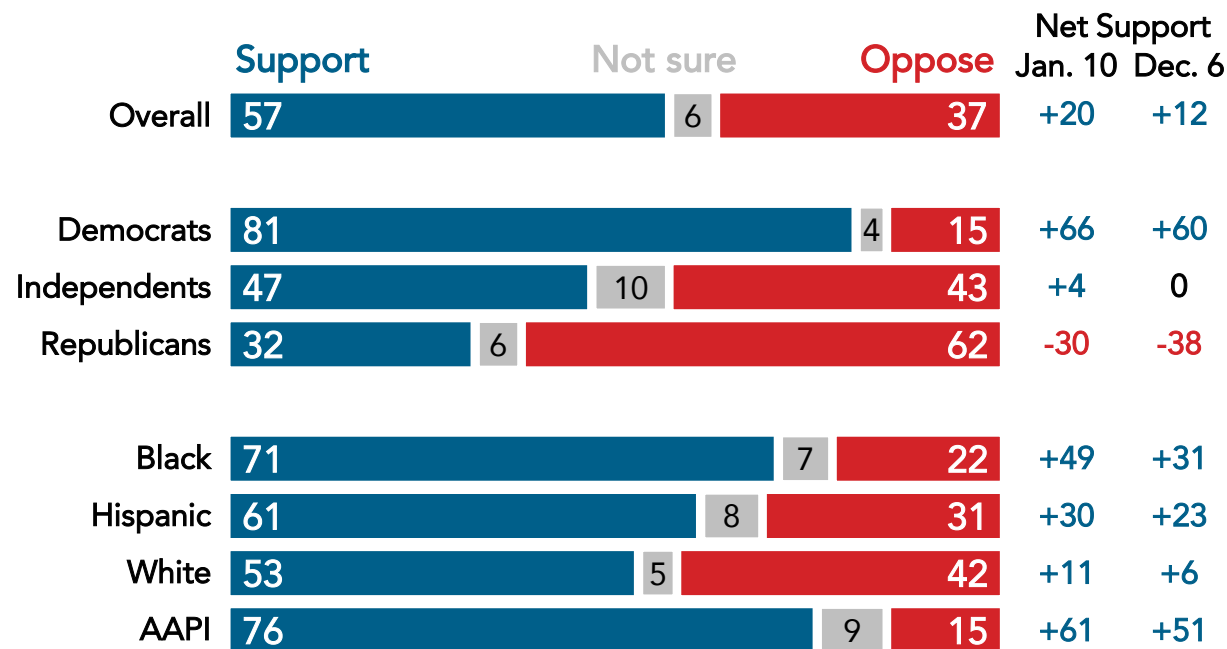
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

On Vaccine Mandates, Two in Three Support in at Least One Situation and a Majority Support Them Broadly

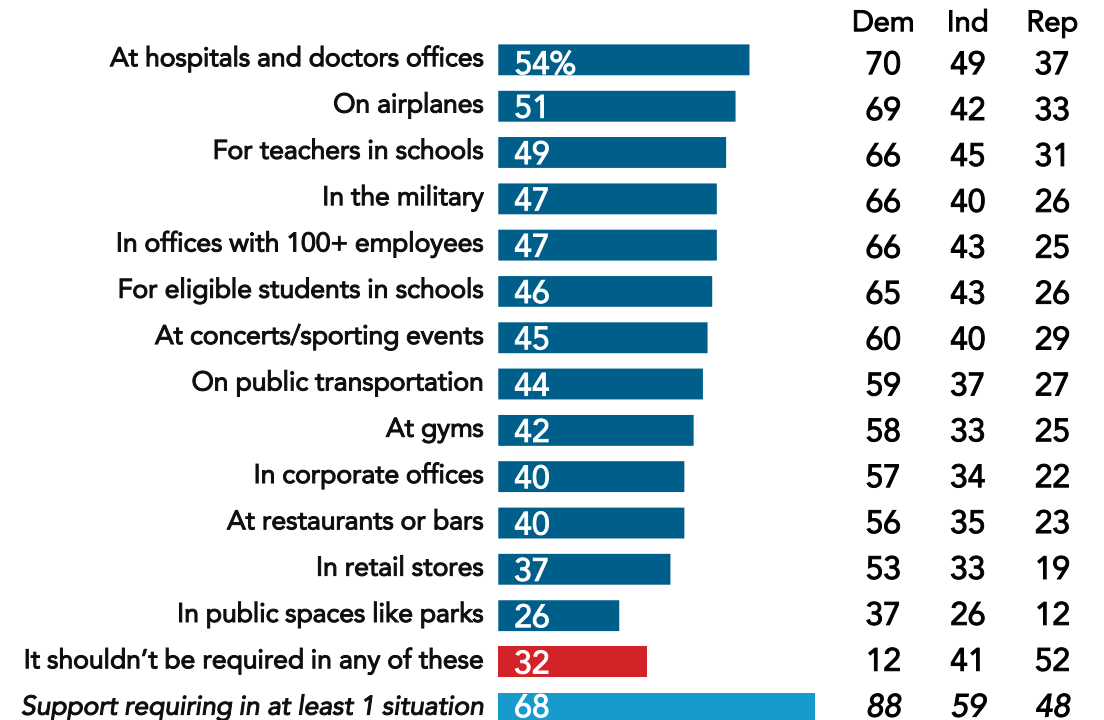
There has been an 8-point increase in net support for vaccine mandates since December (net +12 to net +20).

- Overall, 68% support vaccine mandates in at least one situation, with hospitals (54%) and planes (51%) at the top.

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



In what types of settings and events should adults 18 and over be required to be vaccinated? Select all that apply.

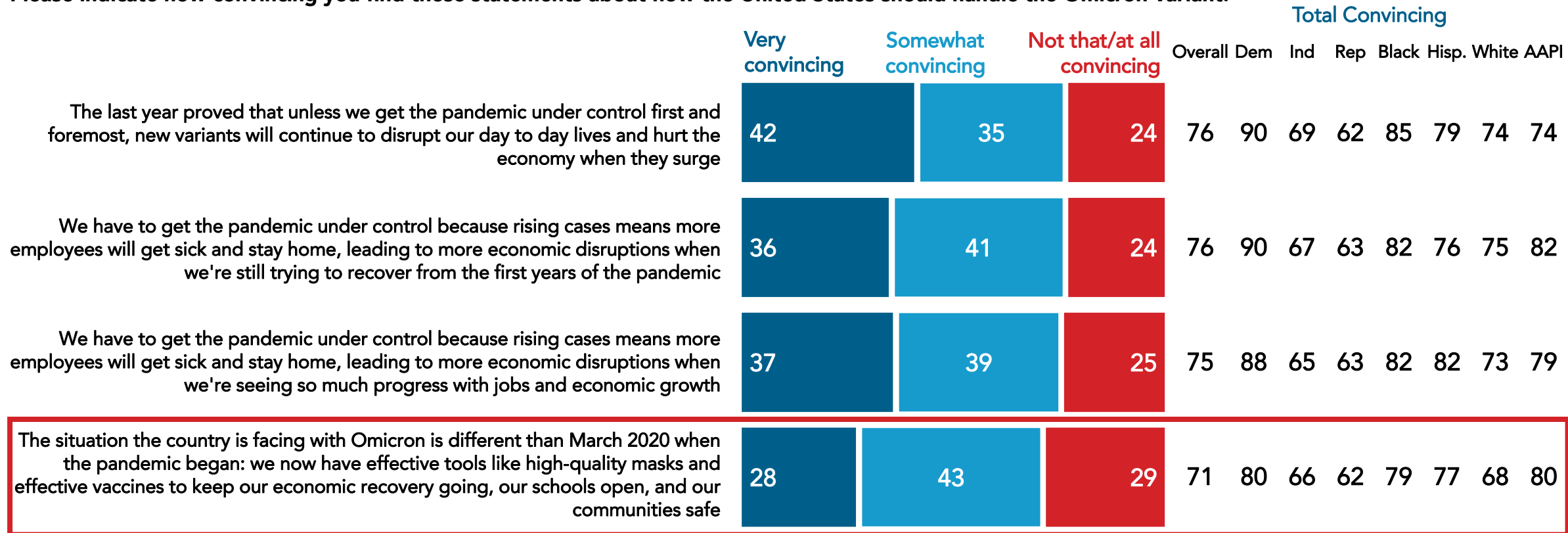


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Various Lanes on Tackling Economy and Omicron Benefit Progressives, But March 2020 Comparison Is Less Effective

While roughly two in five find messages focused on getting the pandemic under control first to avoid disrupting the economy “very convincing,” a message comparing Omicron to March 2020 is “very convincing” to only 28%.

Please indicate how convincing you find these statements about how the United States should handle the Omicron variant.

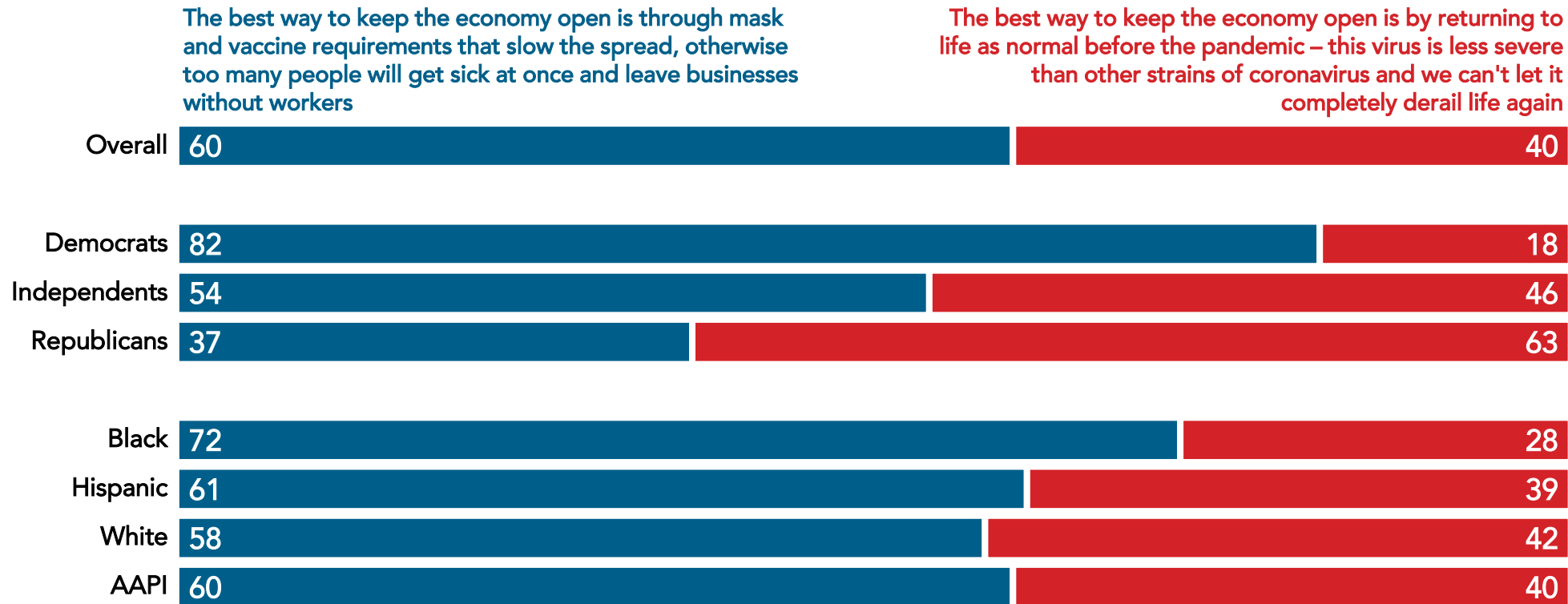


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Majorities Say the Best Way to Keep the Economy Open Is to Use Mask and Vaccine Mandates to Slow The Spread

A majority of independents (54%) and nearly two in five Republicans (37%) agree more that mask and vaccine requirements are the best way to keep the economy open rather than returning to life as normal pre-pandemic.

Which side do you agree with more?

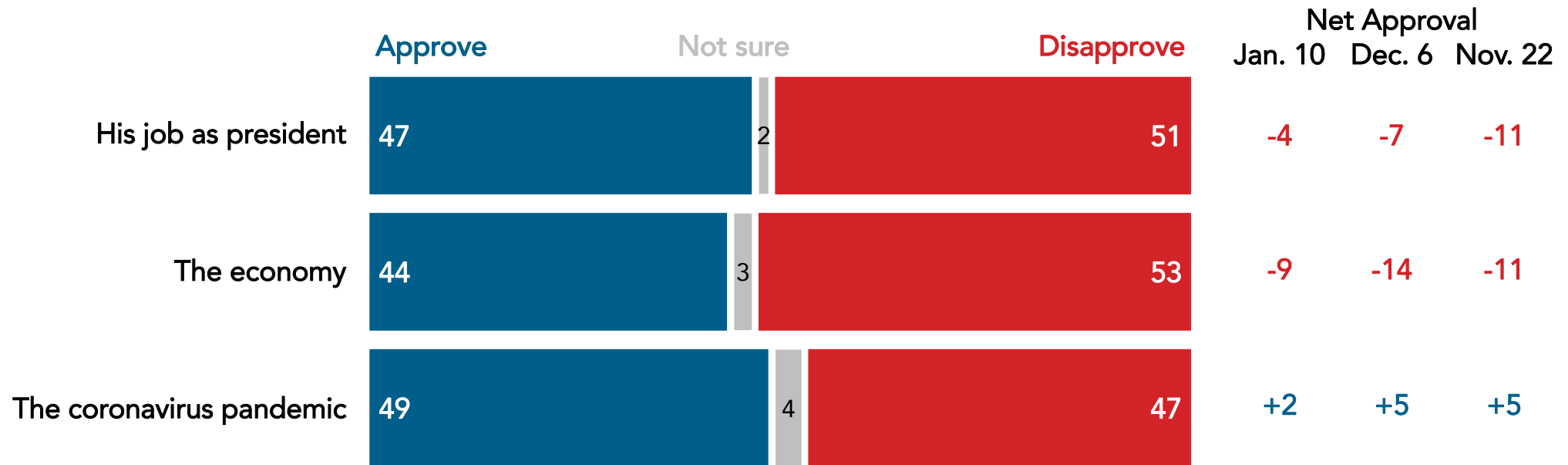


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Biden's Pandemic Ratings Have Dropped While He Sees Minor Improvement Since December Overall and on Economy

Biden's approval rating on the pandemic has dropped a net 3 points since early December (from net +5 to net +2), while he has seen modest improvements on his approval overall (from net -7 to net -4) and on the economy (from net -14 to net -9).

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

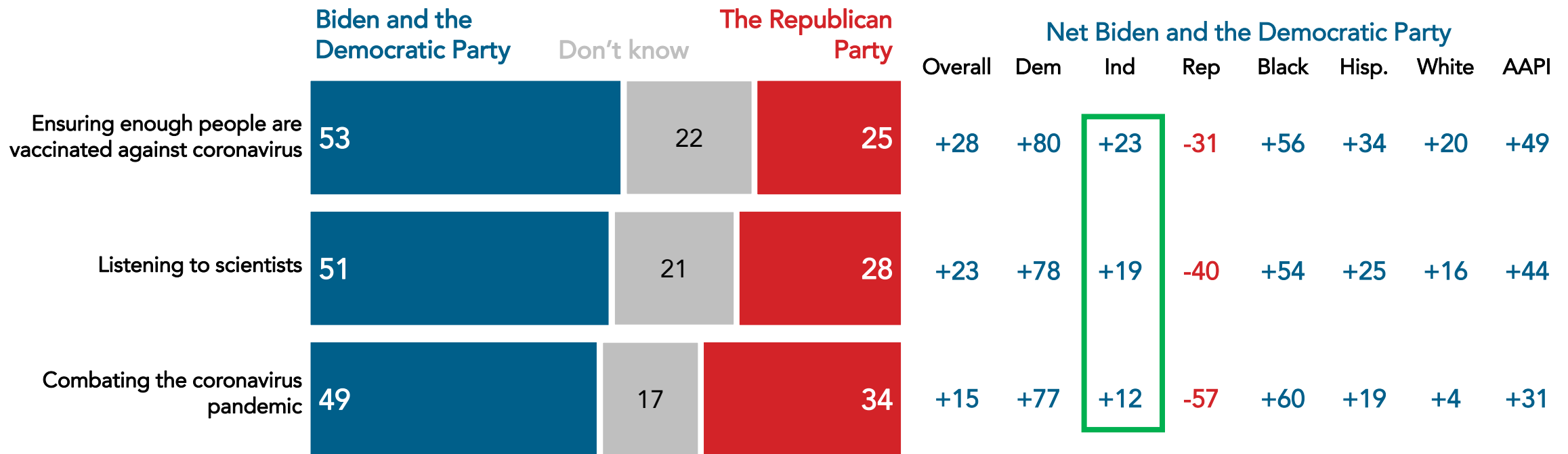


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Americans Trust Biden and Democrats Over Republicans to Handle Pandemic-Related Issues

Independents trust Biden and Democrats more to “ensure enough people are vaccinated against coronavirus” by 23 points, to “listen to scientists” by 19 points, and to “combat the coronavirus pandemic” by 12 points.

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



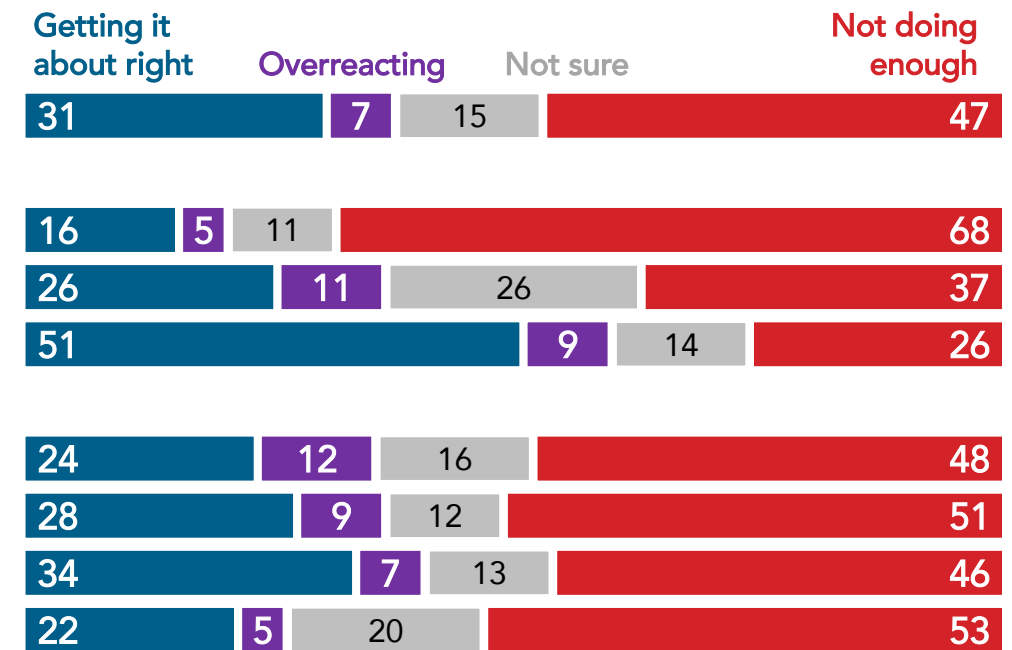
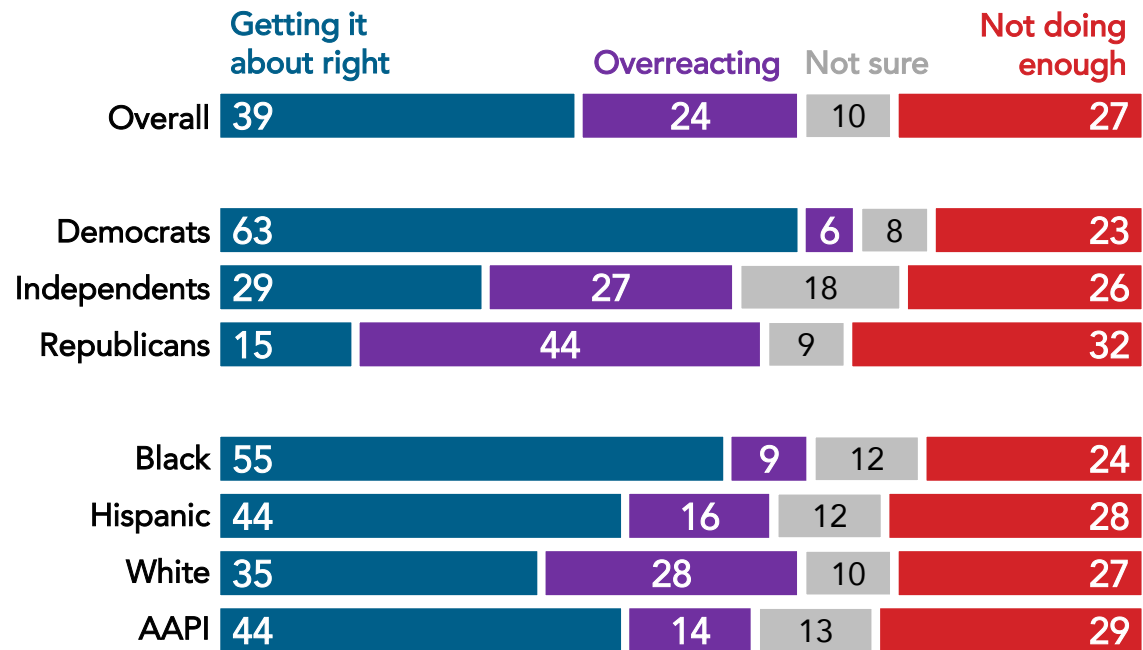
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Many Republicans Say Biden Is "Overreacting"; Plurality of Americans Say Republicans Are "Not Doing Enough"

Among independents, while 37% say Republicans in Congress are not doing enough, just 26% say the same of Biden and his administration.

When it comes to **Joe Biden and his administration's** current response to the coronavirus pandemic, do you think they are...

When it comes to **Republicans in Congress'** current response to the coronavirus pandemic, do you think they are...

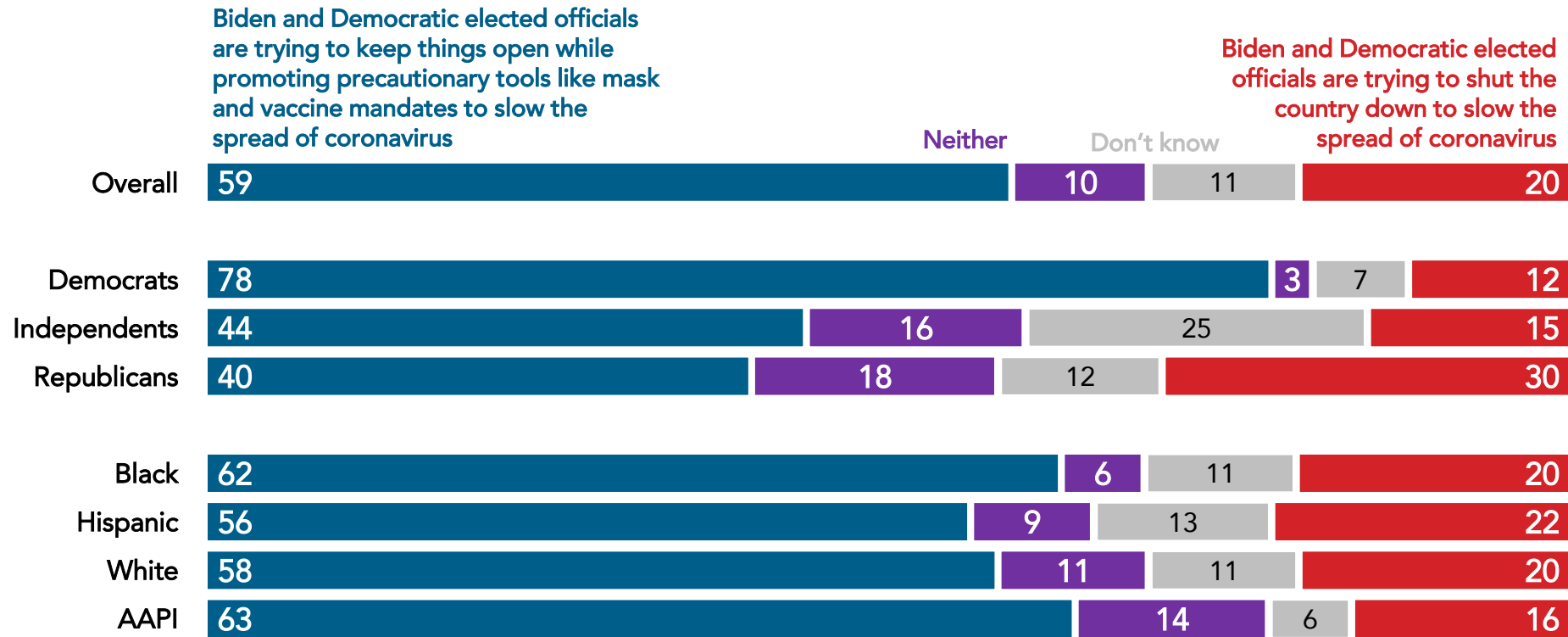


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Majorities See Biden and Democratic Elected Officials Trying to Keep Things Open, Not Shut Them Down

Pluralities of both independents (44%) and Republicans (40%) say Biden and Democrats are trying to keep things open while promoting things like mask and vaccine mandates.

Which best describes the current approach being taken by President Biden and Democratic elected officials to slow the spread of coronavirus?

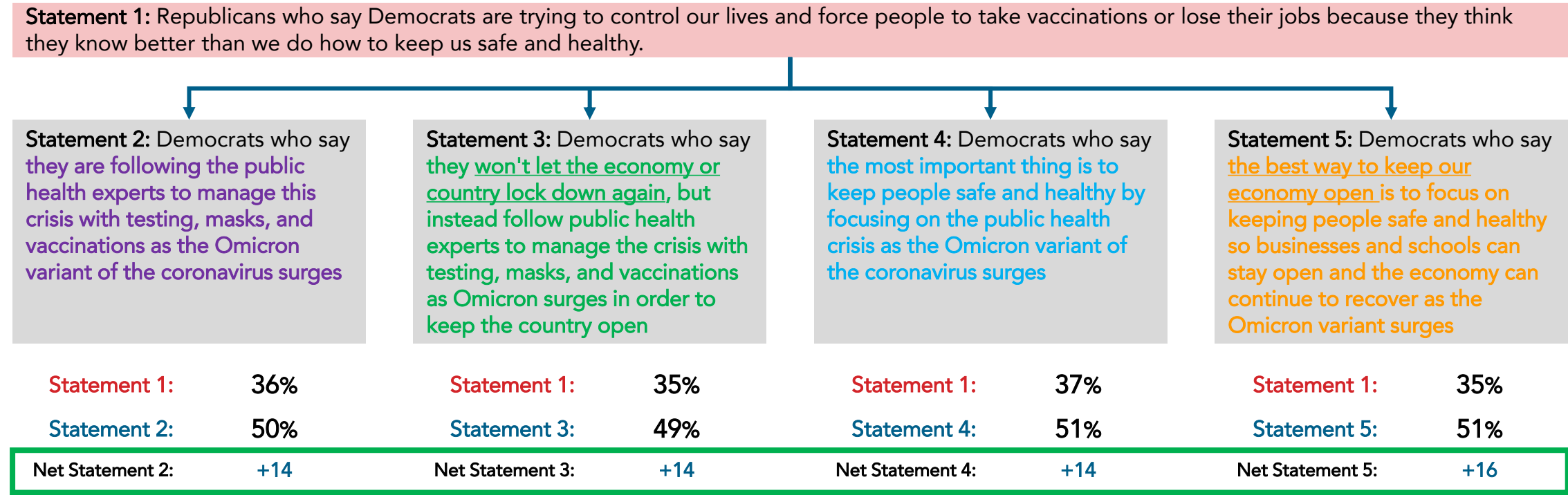


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

A Range of Messages Work To Rebut Republican Criticisms Democrats Only Want to Control American Lives on Pandemic

Whether the progressive response focuses on following public health experts, not letting the country shut down again, or keeping people safe and healthy, each is more effective by double digits than a Republican critique.

Which do you find more convincing?



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

navigator*

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: Arkadi Gerney, The Hub Project; Joel Payne, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; 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 January 6-January 10, 2021. 101 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 79 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 101 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

press@navigatorresearch.org

To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter