



Thursday, January 13th

Omicron: A Guide for Advocates



Key Takeaways:

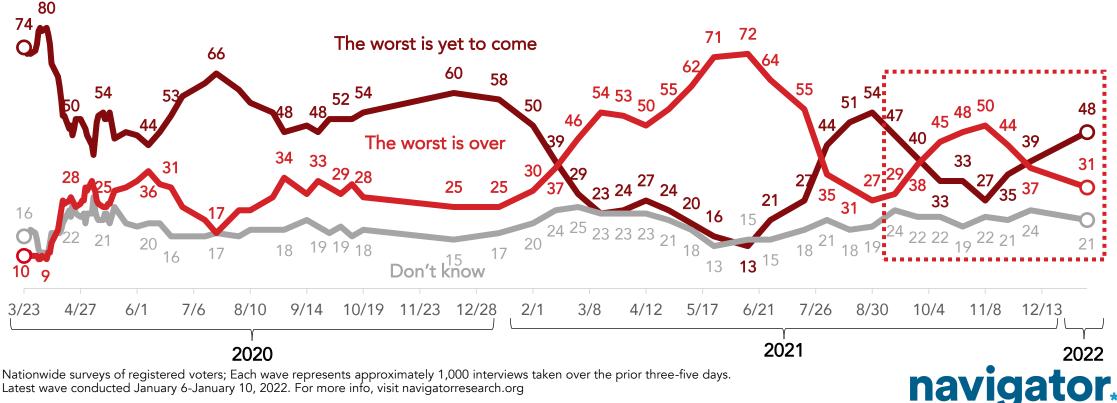
- Americans are increasingly concerned about the pandemic as Omicron cases rise: nearly half say "the worst is yet to come" in the pandemic, and most at least call it a "major problem."
- Top worries for Americans, however, are less about getting sick or going to the hospital, and more so about how the 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...

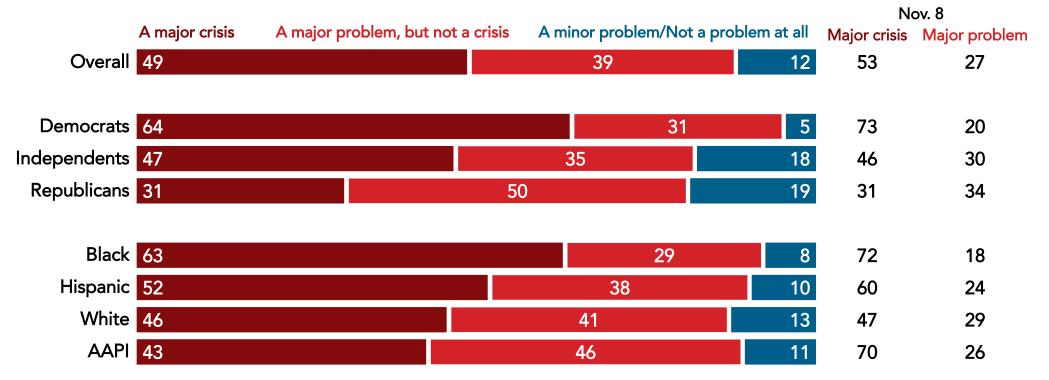


Latest wave conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

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.





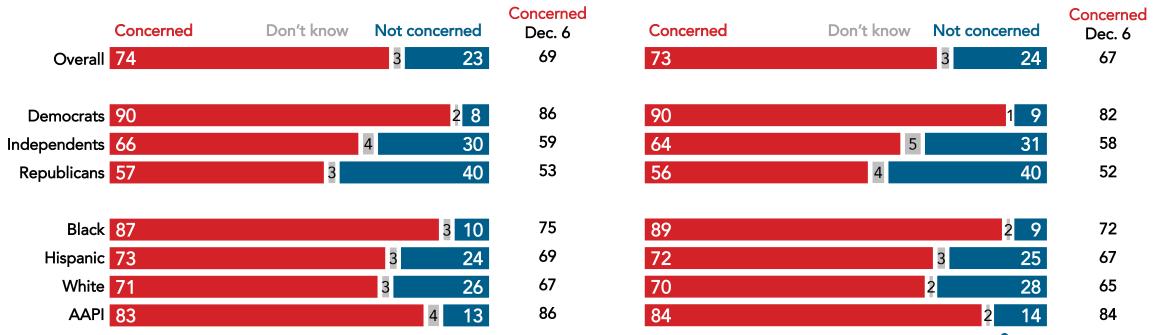
Americans Are Increasingly Concerned About the Spread of Omicron Compared to Early December

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 <u>in your community and state</u>?

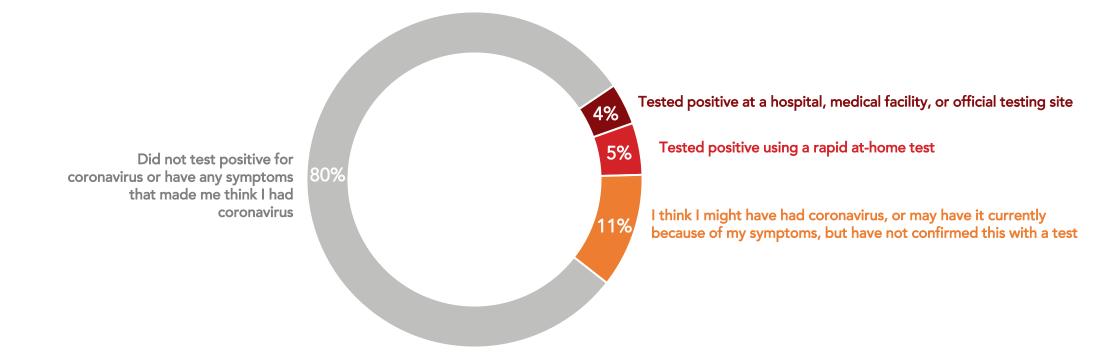
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Since Mid-December, Many More Have Gotten Coronavirus Beyond Those Who Have Tested Positive at Official Sites

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?





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.

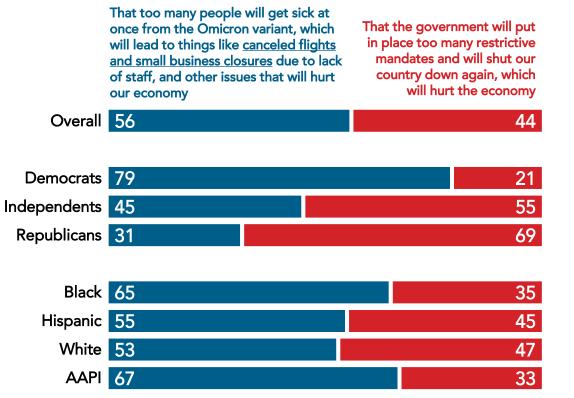
				Iotal vv	orried	
	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep
The economy falling into a recession	47	36	83	80	80	89
New variants or strains of the disease that could potentially be more contagious or deadly than the first	41	35	75	89	72	61
Disruptions in our economy caused by rising coronavirus cases, leading to staffing shortages because sick employees will have to stay home	40	41	81	84	79	79
Someone close to you getting infected with coronavirus	39	34	73	87	69	58
That there won't be room in hospitals or available doctors if you need one	39	34	72	83	68	61
That we can never get back to pre-pandemic normalcy	38	39	77	80	73	75
That people will be forced to get a vaccine that they don't want and aren't sure is safe	33	22	55	43	56	70
That there won't be room in hospitals or available doctors if you get sick from coronavirus	32	38	70	86	55	56
You or your family members losing income from reduced hours at work	31	27	58	62	56	55
You personally getting infected with coronavirus	29	33	63	78	53	47
Elected officials imposing lockdowns or other restrictive measures in your community	29	32	61	51	63	71
That schools will have to shut down and children will have to go back to online instruction	29	33	62	64	60	61
Being unable to get a coronavirus test if you or someone in your family needs one	25	29	53	65	46	42
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the Latest wave conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org	prior three-five day	/5.	na	vic	atc	ðr.

Total Worried

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?



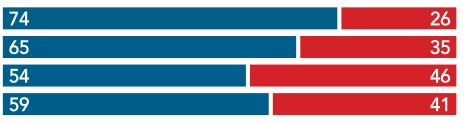
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 6-January 10, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresarch.org.

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







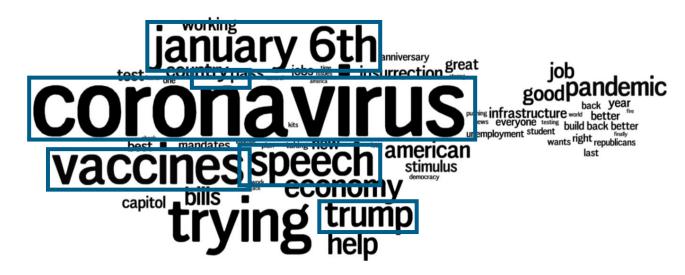
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Americans Report Hearing Positives About Biden's Handling of the Pandemic, Vaccines, and His January 6th Speech

Since last asked in early December, there has been a 6-point drop in the share who report hearing either "mostly negative" or an "equal mix of positive and negative" on Biden (from 67% to 61%).

In a few words, what positive things have you seen, read, or heard recently about Joe Biden?

Hearing Positives on Biden: 54%





December 6th

"He's been criticizing how Trump inspired the insurrectionists on January 6th."

"His speech about January 6th was forceful, his messaging about coronavirus has been on target."

"Working to combat coronavirus epidemic nationwide."

"Joe Biden is **trying hard to clean up the coronavirus** crisis by encouraging all Americans to take **safe and efficient vaccines and boosters**."

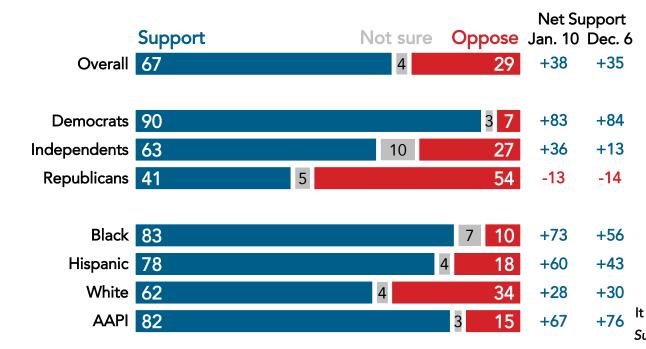
"He is getting coronavirus test kits sent to homes."



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 <u>mask</u> <u>mandates</u> to slow the spread of coronavirus?



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

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

		Dem	ina	кер	
At hospitals and doctors offices	68%	81	63	55	
On public transportation	65	81	62	47	
On airplanes	65	79	59	49	
For teachers in schools	61	81	56	38	
At concerts and sporting events	60	77	56	42	
In retail stores	58	76	54	39	
For eligible students in schools	54	74	51	33	
At restaurants or bars	54	75	49	32	
At gyms	54	72	51	34	
In offices with 100+ employees	54	73	48	34	
In corporate offices	53	71	51	33	
In the military	44	62	40	23	
In public spaces like parks	35	51	28	18	
It shouldn't be required in any of these	19	5	25	34	
Support requiring in at least 1 situation	81	95	75	66	



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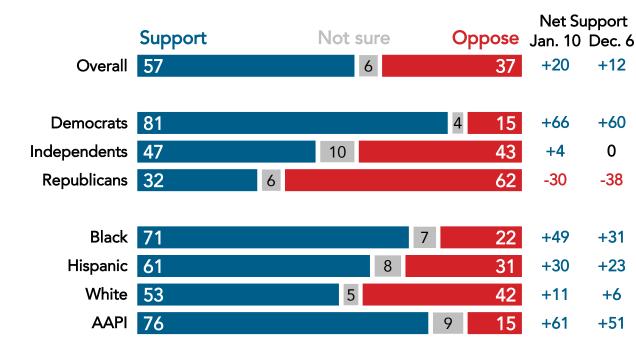
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On Vaccine Mandates, Two in Three Support in at Least One Situation and a Majority Support Them Broadly

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 <u>vaccine</u> <u>mandates</u> to slow the spread of coronavirus?



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

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

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		L	Jem	ina	кер
At hospitals and doctors offices	54%		70	49	37
On airplanes	51		69	42	33
For teachers in schools	49		66	45	31
In the military	47		66	40	26
In offices with 100+ employees	47		66	43	25
For eligible students in schools	46		65	43	26
At concerts/sporting events	45		60	40	29
On public transportation	44		59	37	27
At gyms	42		58	33	25
In corporate offices	40		57	34	22
At restaurants or bars	40		56	35	23
In retail stores	37		53	33	19
In public spaces like parks	26		37	26	12
It shouldn't be required in any of these	32		12	41	52
Support requiring in at least 1 situation	68		88	59	48

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.

				iotal Convincing						
	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Not that/at all convincing	Overall De	m Ind	Rep	Black	Hisp. '	White	AAPI
The last year proved that unless we get the pandemic under control first and foremost, new variants will continue to disrupt our day to day lives and hurt the economy when they surge	42	35	24	76 90) 69	62	85	79	74	74
We have to get the pandemic under control because rising cases means more employees will get sick and stay home, leading to more economic disruptions when we're still trying to recover from the first years of the pandemic	36	41	24	76 90	0 67	63	82	76	75	82
We have to get the pandemic under control because rising cases means more employees will get sick and stay home, leading to more economic disruptions when we're seeing so much progress with jobs and economic growth	37	39	25	75 8	8 65	63	82	82	73	79
The situation the country is facing with Omicron is different than March 2020 when the pandemic began: we now have effective tools like high-quality masks and effective vaccines to keep our economic recovery going, our schools open, and our communities safe	28	43	29	71 80) 66	62	79	77	68	80

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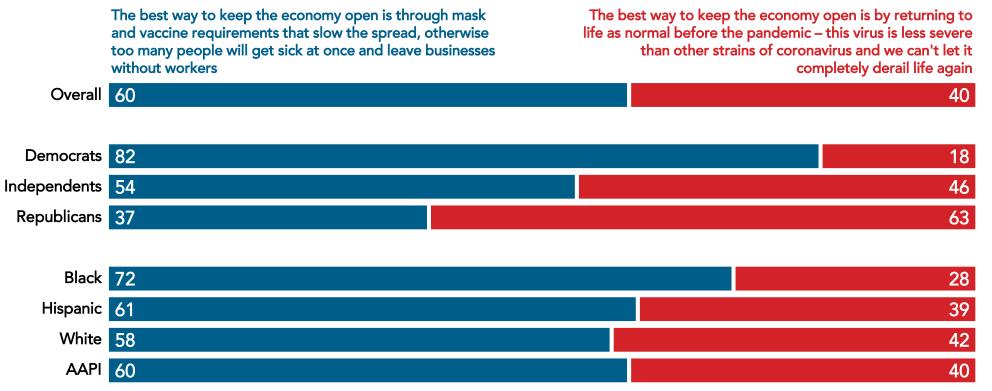


Total Convincing

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?

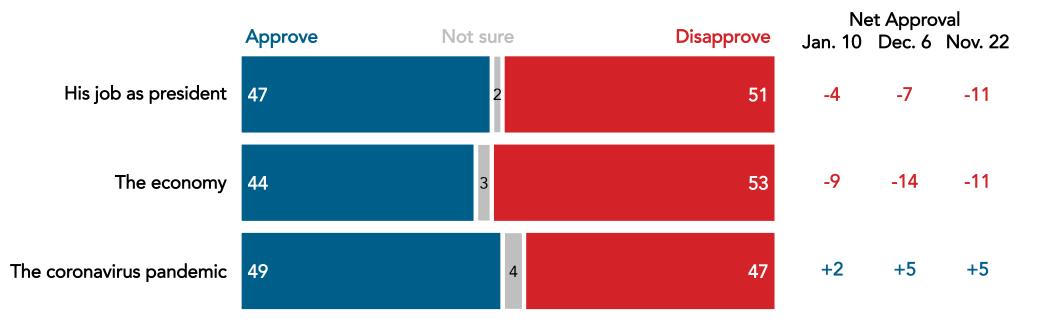




Biden's Pandemic Ratings Have Dropped While He Sees Minor Improvement Since December Overall and on Economy

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...

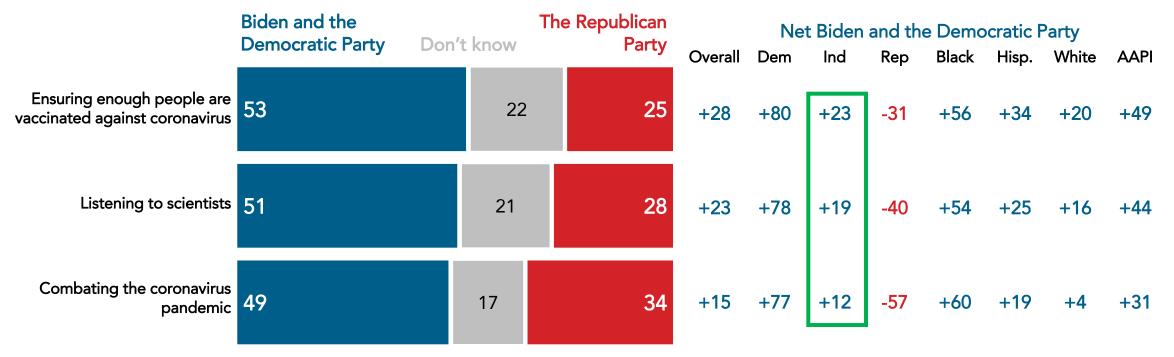




Americans Trust Biden and Democrats Over Republicans to Handle Pandemic-Related Issues

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.

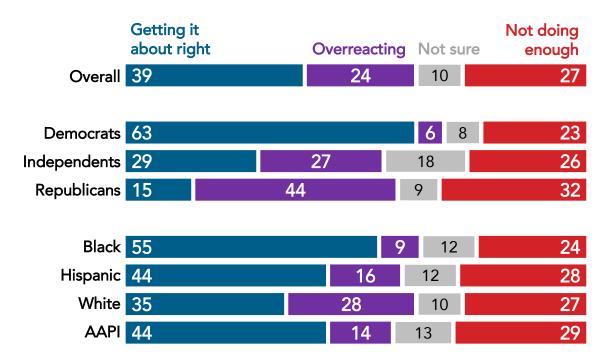




Many Republicans Say Biden Is "Overreacting"; Plurality of Americans Say Republicans Are "Not Doing Enough"

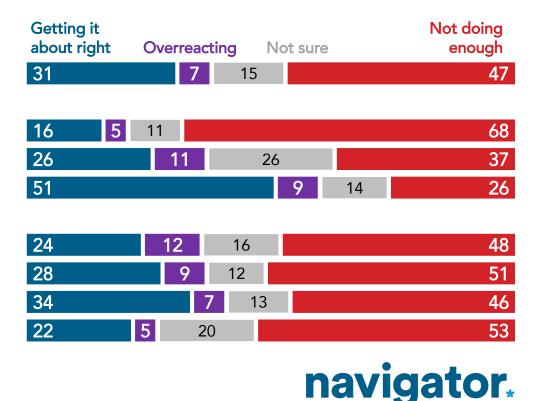
Among independents, while 37% say Republicans in Congress are not doing enough, just 26% say the same of Biden and his administration.

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



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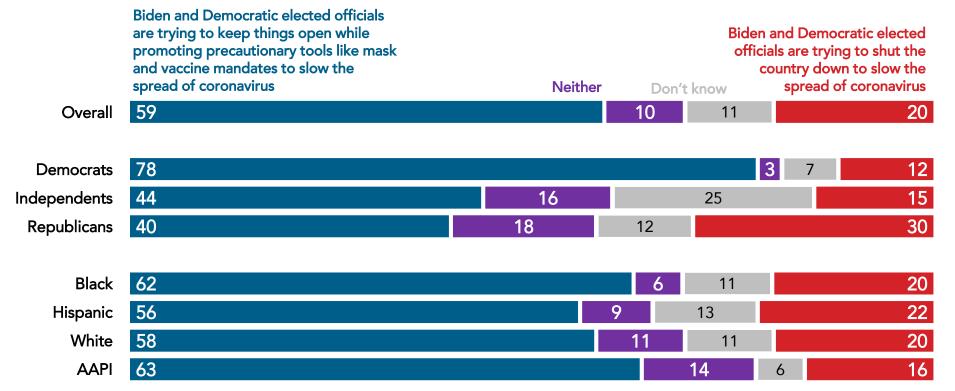
When it comes to **Republicans in Congress'** current response to the coronavirus pandemic, do you think they are...



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?





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?

Statement 1: Republicans who say Democrats are trying to control our lives and force people to take vaccinations or lose their jobs because they think they know better than we do how to keep us safe and healthy.

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Statement 2: Demo they are following t health experts to m crisis with testing, n vaccinations as the variant of the coron	he public anage this nasks, and Omicron	Statement 3: Demo they won't let the e country lock down instead follow puble experts to manage testing, masks, and as Omicron surges keep the country o	again, but lic health the crisis with vaccinations in order to	Statement 4: Democrats who say the most important thing is to keep people safe and healthy by focusing on the public health crisis as the Omicron variant of the coronavirus surges		Statement 5: Demo the best way to kee economy open is to keeping people saf so businesses and s stay open and the e continue to recover Omicron variant sur	ep our o focus on e and healthy schools can economy can as the
Statement 1:	36%	Statement 1:	35%	Statement 1:	37%	Statement 1:	35%
Statement 2:	50%	Statement 3:	49%	Statement 4:	51%	Statement 5:	51%
Net Statement 2:	+14	Net Statement 3:	+14	Net Statement 4:	+14	Net Statement 5:	+16



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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: 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