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Thursday, August 10th

The COVID Pandemic: A Guide for Advocates

After more than 3 years, nearly 100 surveys, and more than 120,000 interviews on the COVID pandemic, this report is a look at where the public's attitudes have landed now that a growing share of the public believes the pandemic is over.



Key Takeaways:

- Three in four Americans say the worst of the pandemic is over as the pandemic falls to the bottom of a list of issue priorities Americans want Congress to focus on.
- A plurality of Americans feel their lives are worse than they were before the pandemic, with the greatest sore spots existing on ability to trust the government, personal finances, personal anxiety, and ability to trust fellow Americans.
- Views of the CDC and Dr. Fauci have grown more polarized over the last three years since the beginning of the pandemic, particularly among Republicans, while President Biden and Democrats remain more trusted on handling the pandemic than Republicans.
- Americans feel the pandemic was handled appropriately overall (and on shutdowns and mask mandates specifically), though there are signs of deteriorating views on the coronavirus vaccine itself as well as the vaccine mandates employed during the pandemic. Americans are also reticent to spend more money on future pandemic preparedness as inflation woes continue.

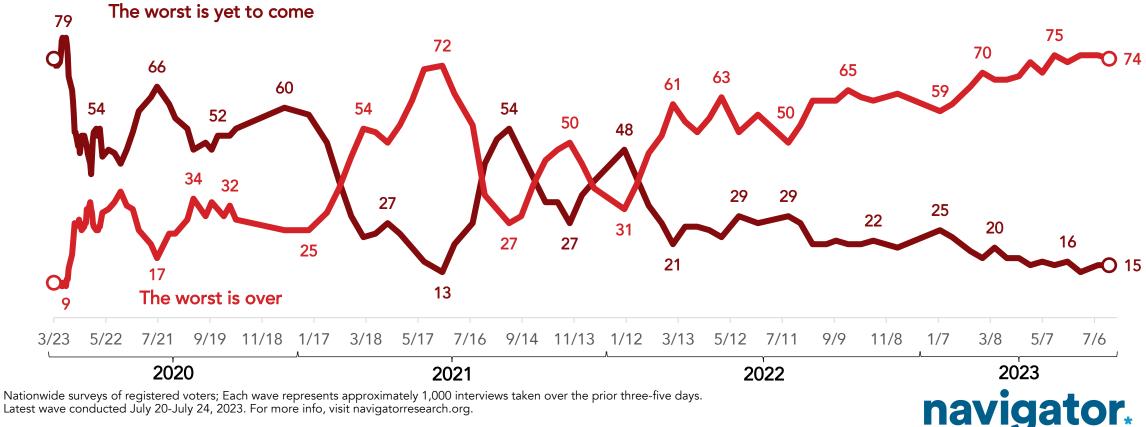


Nearly Three in Four Say the Worst of the Pandemic Is Over

As of late July 2023, the share who say "the worst is yet to come" is close to the lowest point it has reached over the entire course of the pandemic (nearly matching a record low of 13% in June 2021).

Majorities of Democrats (71%), independents (61%), and Republicans (80%) say the worst is over.

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

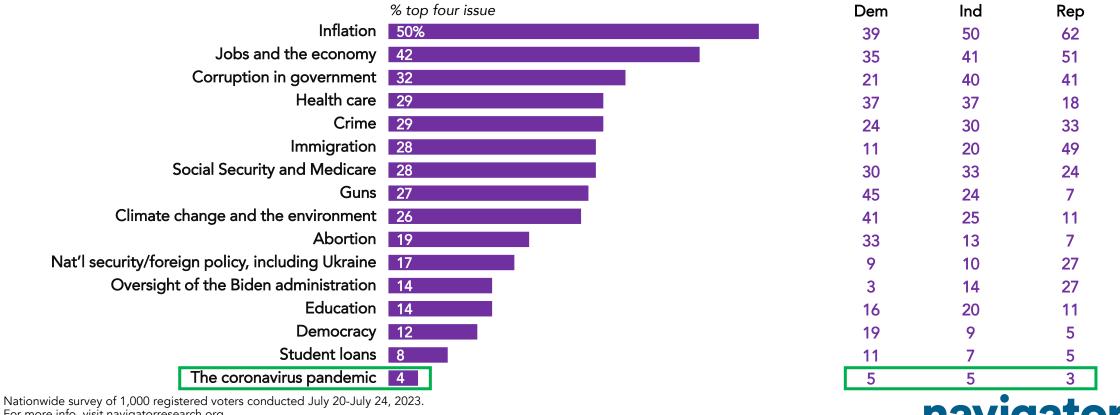


Latest wave conducted July 20-July 24, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

The Pandemic Is the Lowest of a Range of Priorities for Congress

When presented with a list of 16 issues, only 4% of Americans rate "the coronavirus pandemic" as one of their top four priorities for Congress to focus on; it is the single lowest priority for independents and Republicans, and the second-lowest for Democrats.

Below is a list of issues. Which do you feel are most important for Congress to focus on?



For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

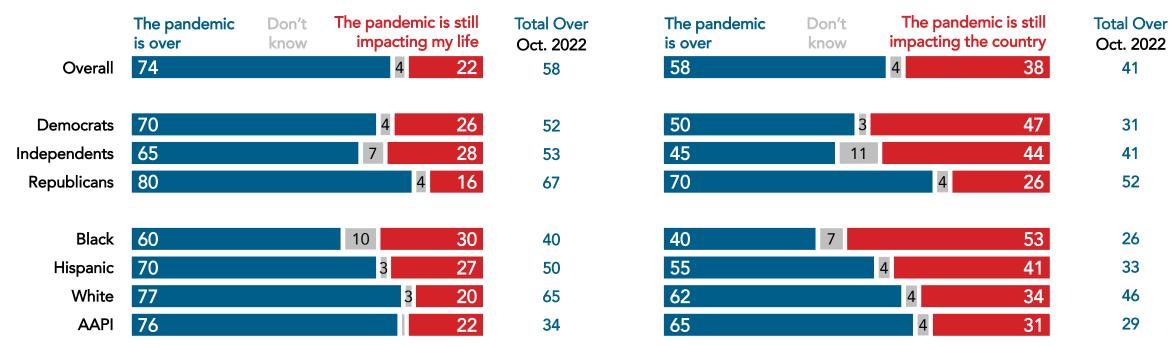
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Three in Four Say the Pandemic Is Over for Them, and a Majority Say the Same of the Country, Including Half of Democrats

ways?

While roughly three in four Americans (74%) say the pandemic is over for themselves personally, a smaller majority (58%) say the pandemic is over for the country as a whole.

Thinking about <u>yourself personally</u> and the way you go about your life...would you say the pandemic is over for you, or is it still impacting your life in significant ways?



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted July 20-July 24, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

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Thinking about the entire country...would you say the pandemic is

over for the country, or is it still impacting the country in significant

A Plurality Say Life Has Returned To Normal in the United States, Though One in Four Say It Never Will

When asked in August of 2022, just 26% said life had returned to normal, including 14% of Democrats, 26% of independents, and 39% of Republicans. At the same time, 35% said life never would – including 38% of Democrats, 36% of independents, and 30% of Republicans.

When do you expect life in the United States to "return to normal," with [IF LIFE WILL NEVER RETURN TO NORMAL] You indicated you think people able to go about their lives and interact as they did before the life will never fully return to normal from the coronavirus pandemic, coronavirus pandemic? with people able to go about their lives and interact as they did before the coronavirus pandemic. What makes you say that? Rep Dem Ind It has already returned Republicans Democrats 42% 40 36 47 suffering inflation to normal especially broadcasted technology can't pandemics lost threat ones illness control impacted democrats orever ^{neal} dependant together far bad changed biden life inflation Within the next month 2 country 2 2 1 affecte recover awav strains fear vaccine WORK world hom selfish Within the next few ecome 2 3 4 months economy society used Journer ymajor nobody Ves long new loved healthparanoid pushing united society showed happened ^{times} involved prices By the end of 2023 we're government 10 12 10 8 working become compromised "The government will never let the power "Because of this, the whole world has they gained during the pandemic go." changed." By the spring of 2024 19 16 14 "Because society has changed to a new "With the pandemic, the lockdowns, the normal." government...TRUST has been left behind." "Until the entire population has been "People don't want to work." Never 26 25 24 34 vaccinated and boostered..."

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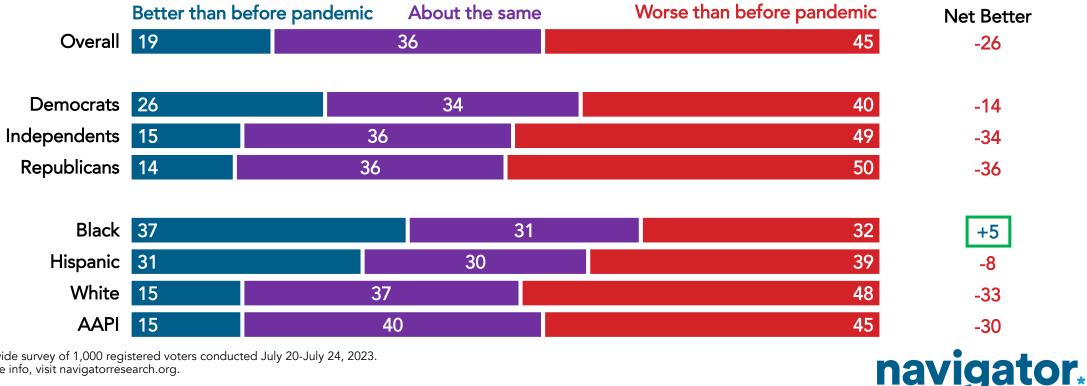
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted July 20-July 24, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

A Plurality of Americans Say Their Lives Are Worse Than They Were Before The Pandemic

Nearly half of Americans (45%) believe their lives are worse now than they were before the pandemic, while only about one in five (19%) say their lives are better than before the pandemic.

Black Americans are the only group among whom a plurality say their lives are better than before the pandemic (net +5 better).

Compared to before the coronavirus pandemic, do you think your life in general today is better, worse, or about the same as it was?



Trust in Government, Personal Finances, Personal Anxiety, Trust in Fellow Americans All Worse Than Pre-Pandemic

A majority (54%) say their "ability to trust the government" has gotten worse compared to before the pandemic, while pluralities say the same about their personal finances (47%) and their anxiety about the future (45%).

• Democrats who have received a coronavirus vaccine say their "ability to trust [their] fellow Americans" has gotten worse (net -36 better), while the numbers are similar among unvaccinated Republicans (net -41).

Below is a list of some items that may have been impacted by the pandemic for you and your family. For each, please indicate whether it has gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same for you and your family compared to before the pandemic.

	-	-	-			etter		
	Better	The same	Worse	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
My ability to trust the government	11	35	54	-43	-20	-48	-67	
My personal financial situation	17	36	47	-30	-22	-37	-37	
My personal anxiety about the future	12	43	45	-33	-29	-39	-36	
My ability to trust my fellow Americans	10	46	44	-34	-35	-38	-33	
My ability to trust public health experts and scientists	20	39	41	-21	+14	-35	-56	
My mental health	16	49	34	-18	-17	-24	-17	
My physical health	17	56	27	-10	-11	-17	-6	
Flexibility in my day-to-day life	21	57	23	-2	+5	-9	-7	
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Nearly Half Report Having Had Coronavirus, With The Vast Majority Having Mild or Moderate Cases

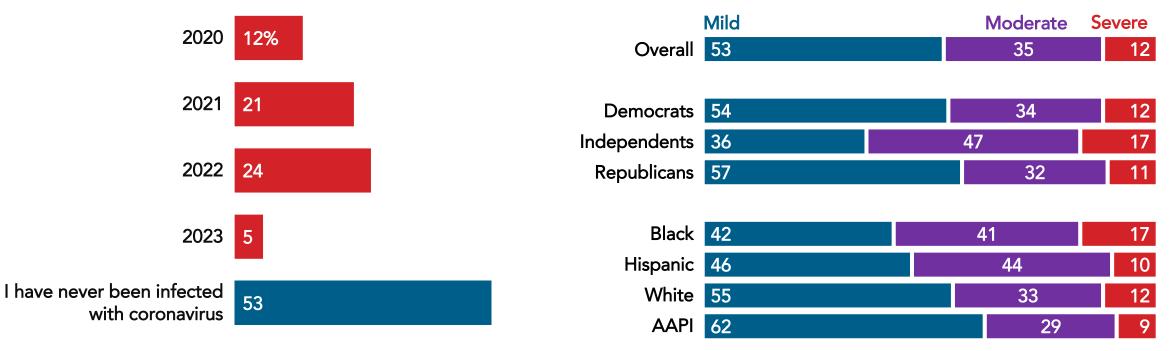
Just under half of Americans (47%) report having had coronavirus, and of those who have had it, 53% report their infection(s) were mild. Americans most report having had coronavirus in 2022 (24%).

• Just over one in three report their symptoms were moderate (35%).

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, in which year(s) have you been infected with coronavirus?

[IF HAVE HAD CORONAVIRUS] Would you consider your coronavirus infection(s) to be/have been mild, moderate, or severe?

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Two in Five Americans Have Lost Someone They Know Due to Coronavirus Complications

Almost one in four Americans (23%) say someone they personally know died from complications related to coronavirus, 16% report having a friend who passed, and 13% say the same of a family member. Black (48%) and Hispanic Americans (47%) are most likely to say they know someone who died from coronavirus complications, with 20% and 18% respectively having lost a family member.

Understanding it may be difficult to talk about, do you personally know anyone who has died from complications related to coronavirus?

		Dem	Ind	Rep	Black	Hispanic	White	AAPI
A family member has	13%	15	14	12	20	18	12	14
A friend has	16	16	15	16	18	16	16	9
Someone else I personally know has	23	24	19	22	23	24	22	21
Nobody I know has died from complications	57	56	62	58	52	53	58	65



The CDC Remains More Popular Than Not While Views of Fauci Are Divided; Republicans Have Soured on Both Over Time

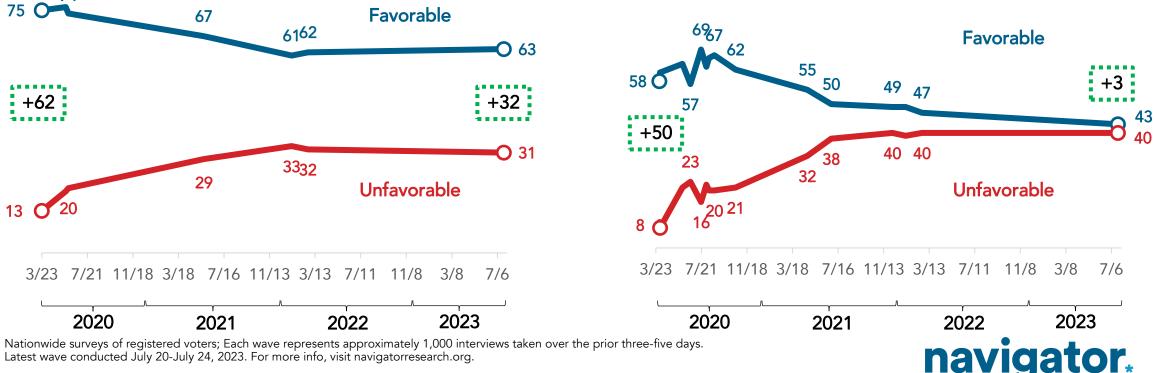
Since March 2020, views of the CDC and Dr. Anthony Fauci have declined (from net +62 and net +50, respectively, to net +32 and net +3).

The greatest declines for both have been among Republicans: views of Dr. Fauci among Republicans have fallen from net +47 in April 2020 to net -59 now, and on the CDC, from net +37 in May 2020 to net -15 now.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Dr. Anthony Fauci.

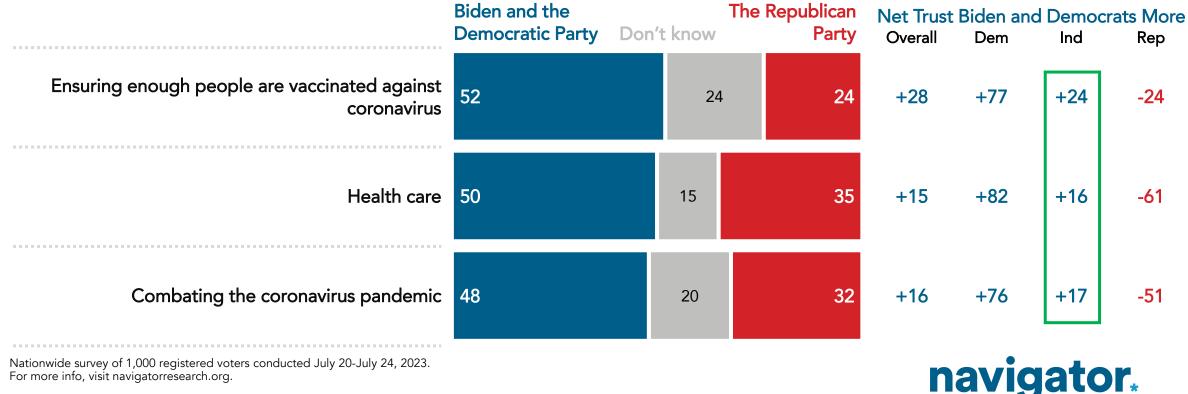


Latest wave conducted July 20-July 24, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Biden and Democrats Remain More Trusted on Issues Related to Coronavirus and Health Care

Americans trust Biden and the Democratic Party more than the Republican Party on "ensuring enough people are vaccinated against coronavirus" (net +28 Biden and Democrats overall), "health care" (net +15), and "combating the coronavirus pandemic" (+16).

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



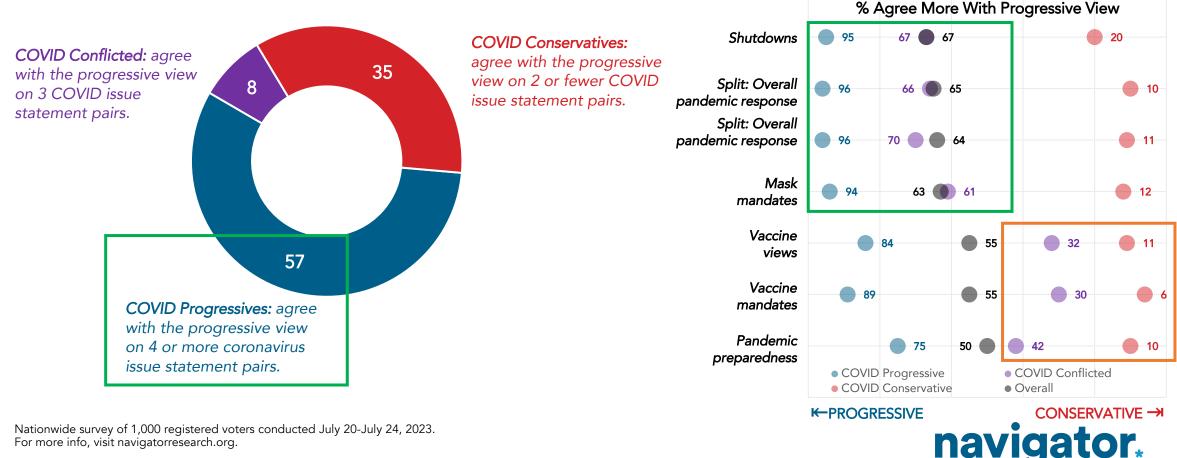
The Progressive Vantage Point on a Range of Pandemic Issues Wins Out

Views on shutdowns, the pandemic overall, and mask mandates are most progressive overall; Americans have more mixed views on the coronavirus vaccine (including mandates) as well as investing in future pandemic preparedness.

	K─PROGRESSIVE		CONSERVATIVE →
Shutdowns	School and business shutdowns were necessary at the time they were used in the pandemic, based on the best knowledge we had at the time: they helped us slow the virus' spread and save lives	67	School and business shutdowns were totally unnecessary and set our economy and small businesses back, set our children back in their learning and development, and were a result of paranoia more than science
Split: Overall pandemic response	The response to the pandemic was appropriate, guided by the advice of medical experts including the world's best doctors and scientists, and was the best we could do with the knowledge we had at the time	65	35 The response to the pandemic was overly alarmist, irrational, and went too far
Split: Overall pandemic response	The response to the pandemic was appropriate, guided by the advice of medical experts including the world's best doctors and scientists. Still, over 1 million Americans died, even though it was the best we could do with the knowledge we had at the time	64	36 The response to the pandemic was overly alarmist, irrational, and went too far
Mask mandates	Requiring people to wear masks was a tool we needed to control the spread of the virus and make sure hospitals had available doctors and beds for those who did get sick from coronavirus	63	Mask mandates were a major government overreach that may or may not have been effective in slowing the spread, restricted our freedom, and set our children back developmentally
Vaccine views	The coronavirus vaccine was a critical advancement in science that helped us to save lives, reopen businesses and schools, and return life to normal	55	45 The coronavirus vaccine was too rushed, and it has had side effects that we still do not fully understand
Vaccine mandates	Requiring people to get vaccinated was an important tool we needed to reduce serious illness and death and protect medically vulnerable people, and it allowed us to return to normal sooner	55	45 Coronavirus vaccine mandates were major government overreaches that cost many hard-working Americans their jobs because they did not want to get vaccinated
Pandemic preparedness	We should continue investing in future pandemic preparedness so that we are not caught off guard should another virus spread in the same way	50	50 We should now focus on getting government spending under control because we spent over \$5 trillion on getting through the coronavirus pandemic
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted July 20-July 24, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.			navigator.

Nearly Three in Five Americans Hold More Progressive Views on the Pandemic Across Issues

Majorities of COVID-conflicted Americans side with progressive views on shutdowns, the overall pandemic response, and mask mandates, while fewer agree with progressive statements on investing in future pandemic preparedness and vaccines.

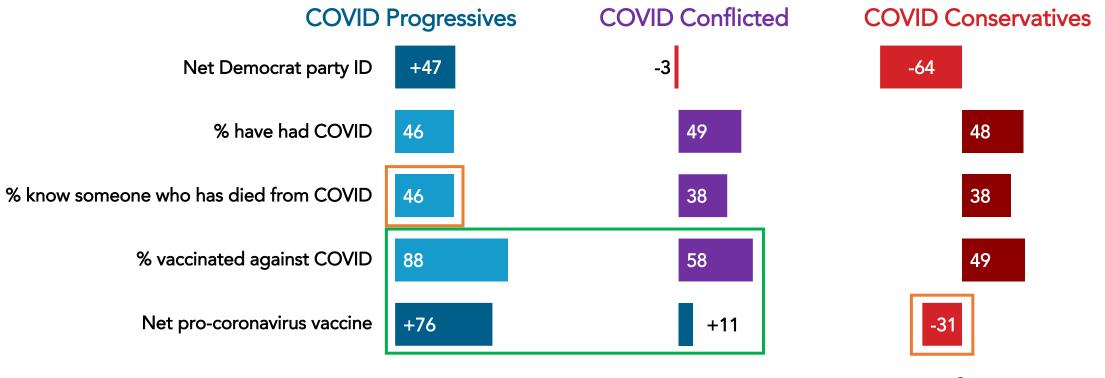


For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Contrasts in Experience, Perspective Emerge Across COVID Segmentation

While roughly equal shares of each group have had coronavirus, those progressive on the pandemic are most likely to know someone who has died from coronavirus complications (46%, versus 38% each among COVID conflicted and COVID conservatives) and are more likely to be vaccinated against coronavirus (88%, versus 58% of COVID conflicted and 49% of COVID conservatives).

• COVID progressives are net +76 pro-coronavirus vaccine, compared to net +11 COVID conflicted and net -31 COVID conservatives.

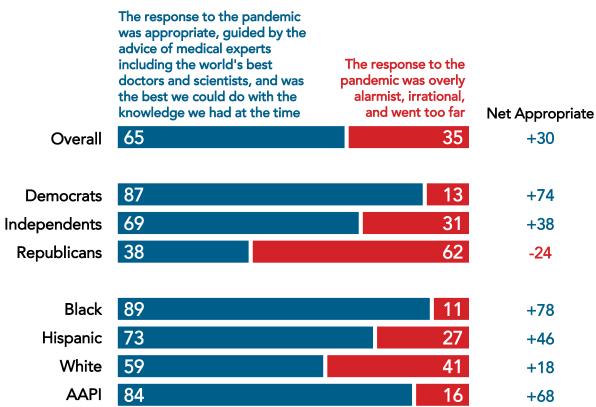


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Americans Feel the Response to the Pandemic Overall Was Appropriate

At least two in three independents agree more that the response to the pandemic was appropriate in both tests.

(Split sample) Which side do you agree with more?



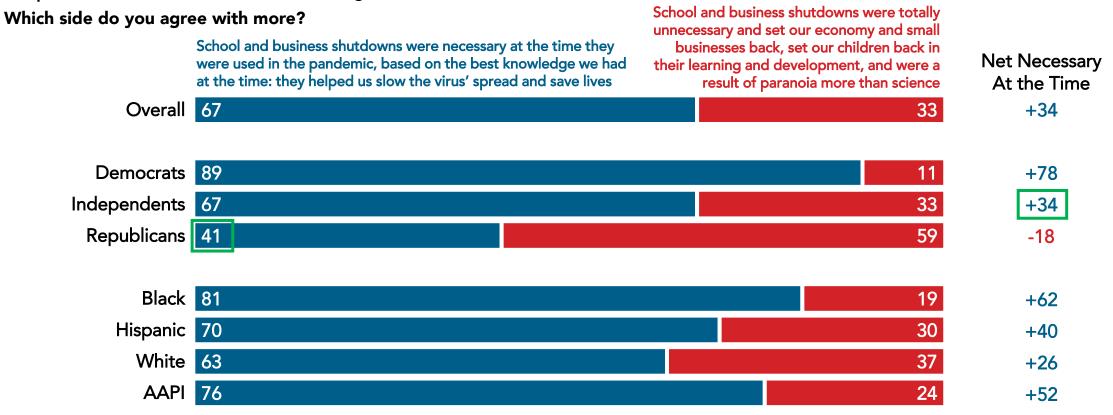
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(Split sample) Which side do you agree with more?

The response to the pandemic was appropriate, guided by the advice of medical experts including the world's best doctors and scientists. Still, over 1 million Americans died, even though it was the best we could do with the knowledge we had at the time	The response to the pandemic was overly alarmist, irrational, and went too far	Net Appropriate
64	36	+28
90	10	+80
67	33	+34
35	65	-30
70	30	+40
66	34	+32
61	39	+22
74	26	+48
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School and Business Shutdowns Are Seen As Having Been Necessary By Two in Three Americans

Two in three independents (67%) and four in ten Republicans (41%) agree that shutdowns "were necessary at the time they were used in the pandemic, based on the best knowledge we had at the time."



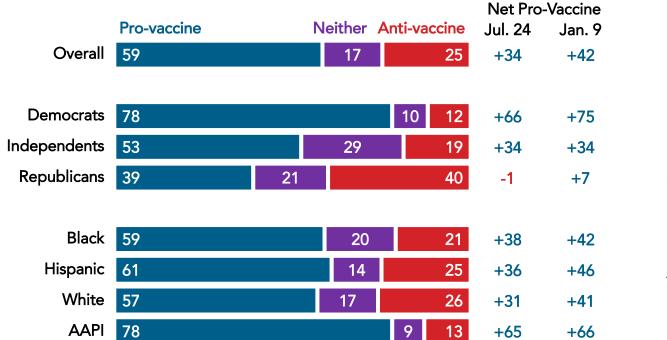


A Declining Share of Americans Are Pro-Vaccine

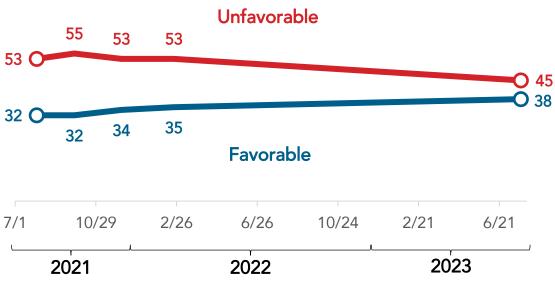
Though majorities still say they are pro-coronavirus vaccine (59%, net +34 pro-vaccine), the figure is down somewhat from early January (net +42).

• In August of 2021, unvaccinated adults were at net -21 favorable among Americans overall; now, they are at just net -7.

And generally speaking, when it comes to the coronavirus vaccine, would you say you are...



Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Adults who have not received a coronavirus vaccine.



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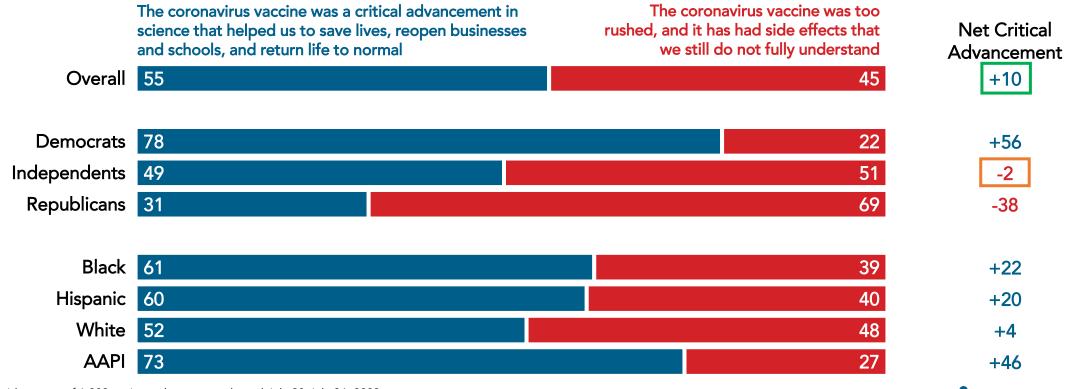


Just Over Half Say the Vaccine Was a Critical Advancement, While Two in Five Say It Was Rushed

A slim majority agree that the vaccine was a critical advancement that helped us save lives and return life to normal (net +10).

• However, about half of independents feel that it was rushed (net -2 critical advancement).

Which side do you agree with more?





Vaccine Mandates More Divisive Than Mask Mandates

Arguing that "requiring people to wear masks was a tool we needed" to fight coronavirus (net +26 agree) is more effective than a similar argument about vaccine requirements (net +10 agree); this is especially true among independents (net +36 agree with mask mandates, while only net +2 agree with vaccine mandates).

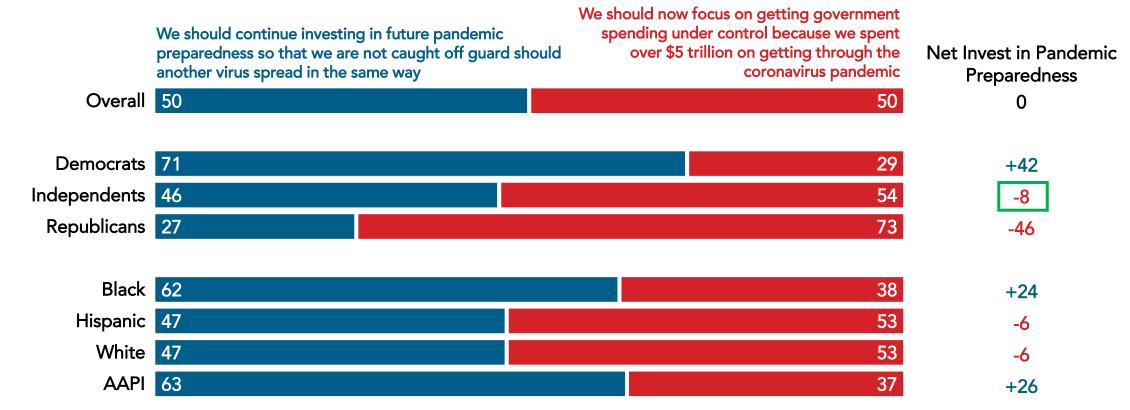
Which side do you agree with more? Which side do you agree with more? Requiring people to get vaccinated Requiring people to wear masks Mask mandates were a major Coronavirus vaccine mandates was an important tool we needed was a tool we needed to control were major government government overreach that may to reduce serious illness and death overreaches that cost many the spread of the virus and make or may not have been effective and protect medically vulnerable hard-working Americans their sure hospitals had available in slowing the spread, restricted Net Tool We doctors and beds for those who our freedom, and set our Net Tool We people, and it allowed us to return jobs because they did not to normal sooner want to get vaccinated did get sick from coronavirus children back developmentally Needed Needed Overall 55 63 45 +10 37 +26 Democrats 81 86 19 +6214 +72 49 +2 68 Independents 51 32 +36 71 35 65 Republicans 29 -42 -30 74 Black 64 36 +2826 +4842 72 Hispanic 58 +16 28 +44White 52 48 59 41 +18+4AAPI 83 17 79 21 +58+66



Americans Are Divided on Spending for Future Pandemics

A slight majority of independents say that "we should now focus on getting government spending under control" (54%) rather than "continue investing in future pandemic preparedness" (46%).

Which side do you agree with more?





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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: Jessica Floyd, 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 July 20-July 24, 2023. 99 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 67 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 104 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 107 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