

# navigator\*

Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

Government Shutdown and  
the Economy: A Guide for  
Advocates



## Key Takeaways:

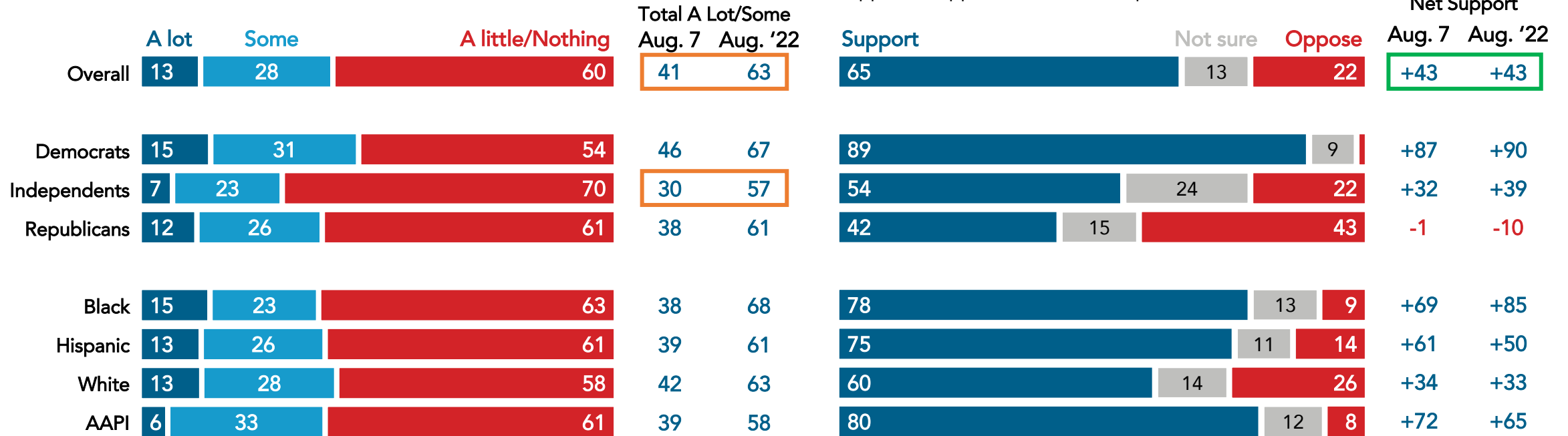
- The Inflation Reduction Act remains broadly supported a year after its passage, though fewer Americans are hearing about the legislation.
- Majorities of employed Americans feel they are paid fairly and enough to keep up with their expenses, though they do not feel they are paid enough to save up money or what they are worth. Answers vary substantially by reported household income.
- Americans are divided on who they would blame most for a fall government shutdown, though a range of messages criticizing Republicans for their behavior in the lead-up to a potential shutdown are effective.

# Roughly Two in Three Americans Continue to Support the Inflation Reduction Act One Year After Its Passage

One year after the Inflation Reduction Act's passage, only two in five (41%) report hearing "a lot" or "some" about it, down from nearly two in three last August (63%). However, support for the bill is stable, high, and bipartisan (net +43 support both now and one year ago).

How much have you seen, read, or heard about the legislation called the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Democrats in Congress and signed by President Biden?

As you may know, Biden and Democrats' legislation that was passed by Congress is called the Inflation Reduction Act, which will give Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices, bring down health insurance premiums, and invest in clean energy like wind and solar power. Knowing this, do you support or oppose this economic plan?

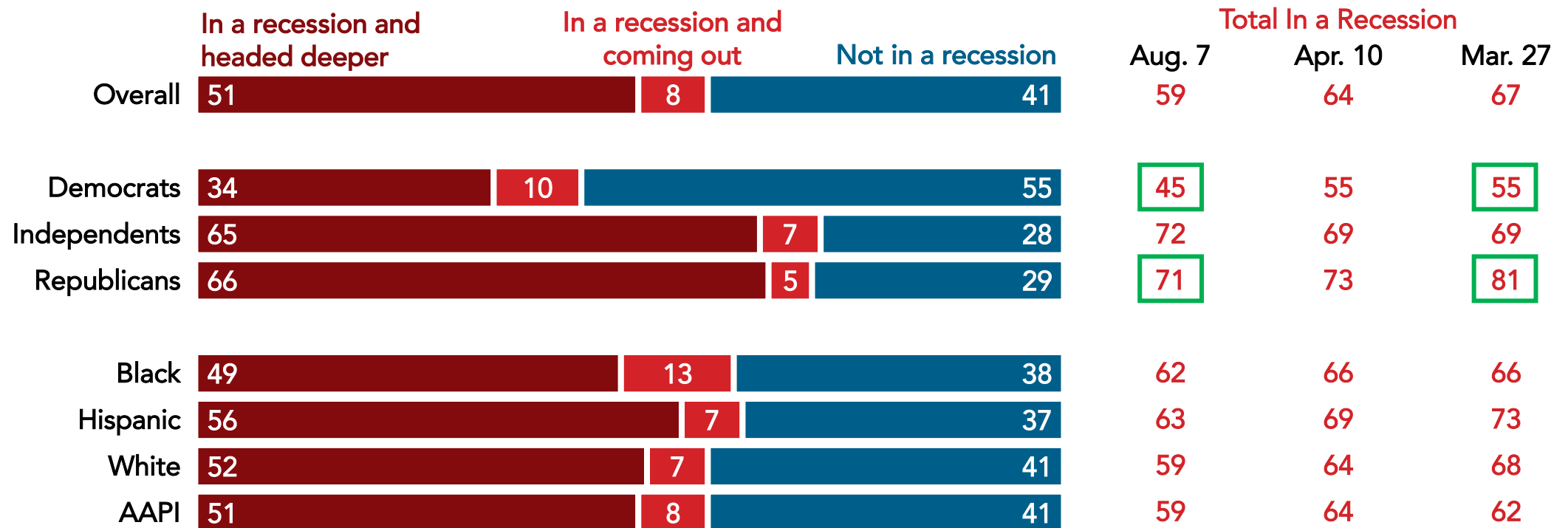


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted August 3-August 7, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# A Declining Share Say the Country Is in a Recession, Though Still a Majority

Since late March, the shares of both Democrats and Republicans who say the country is currently in a recession have declined by 10 points (45% of Democrats and 71% of Republicans now, compared to 55% and 81% in March, respectively.)

As best you are aware, do you think the U.S. economy is in a recession or not?



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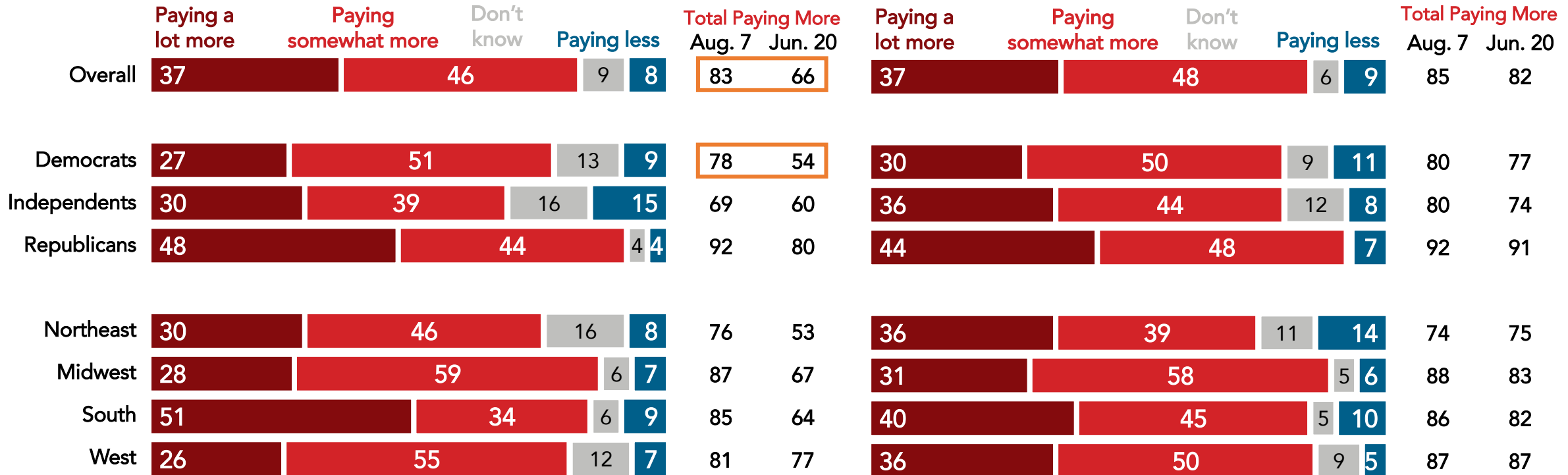
# Americans See Grocery Costs As Consistently Increasing, With an Increase in Perceptions of Rising Gas Prices

The share of Americans who say they are paying more at the pump has increased by 17 points since mid-June (83% now, up from 66%).

- Those in the South are most likely to say they're "paying a lot more" for gas (51%), 20 points higher than other regions.

**(Split sample) Thinking more about gas prices in your community...compared to a few weeks ago, would you say you're...**

**(Split sample) Thinking more about grocery costs in your community...compared to a few weeks ago, would you say you're...**



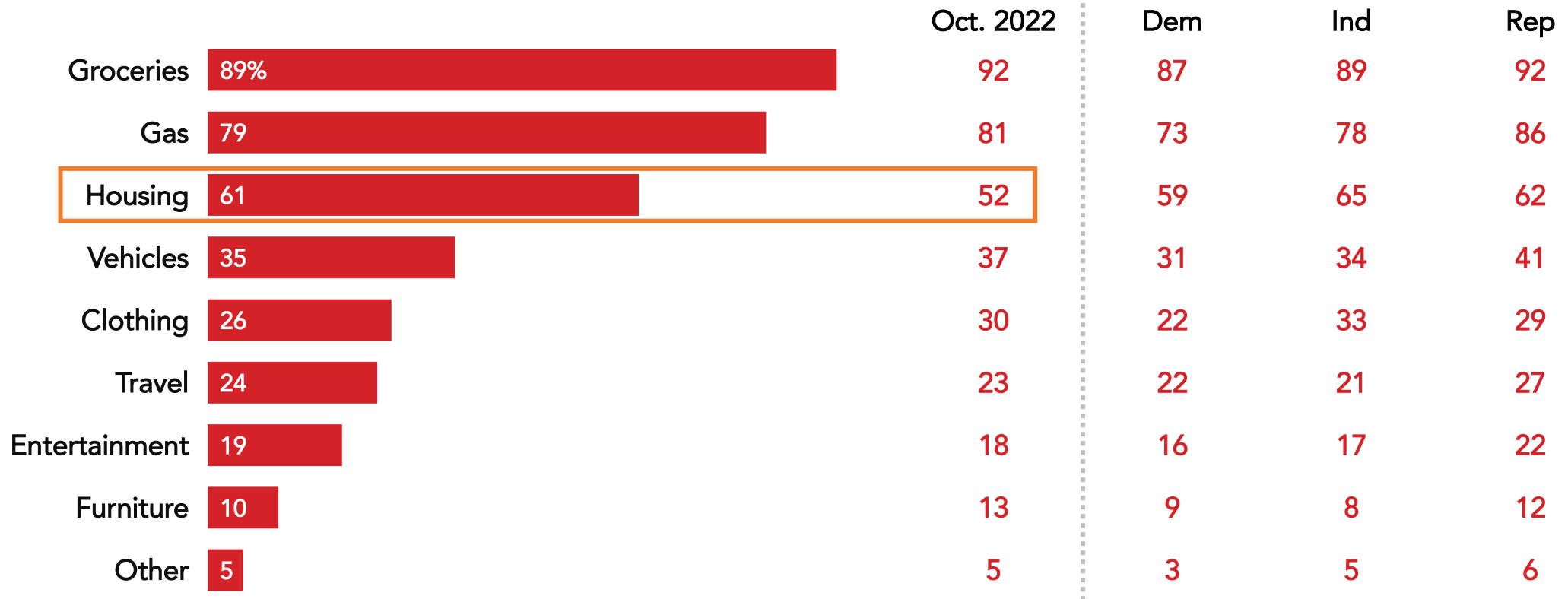
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# Groceries and Gas Dominate Cost Concerns

Americans are most concerned about rising prices of groceries (89%), gas (79%), and housing (61%), consistent with price concerns as of October of last year.

- Concern about housing costs has risen by 9 points since October of last year (from 52% to 61%).

Which of the following items are you most concerned about with regard to prices rising?

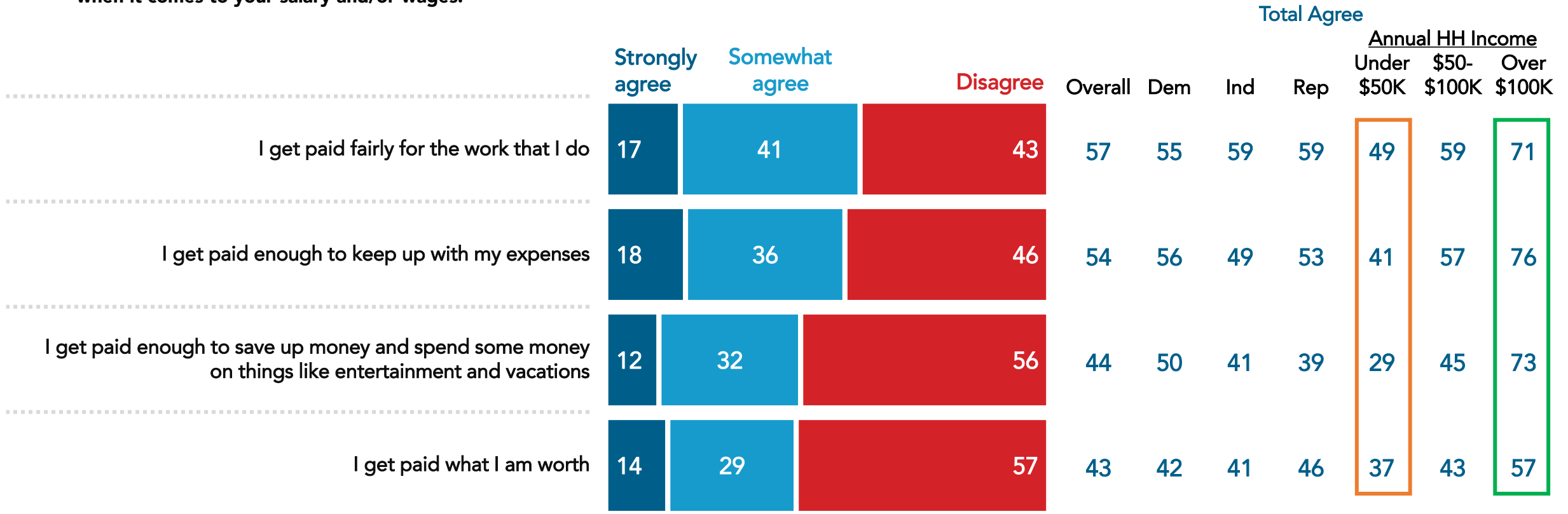


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# Employed Americans Feel They Get Paid Fairly and Enough for Expenses, But Not to Save or What They Are Worth

Employed Americans earning less than \$50,000 in annual household income are most pessimistic about their salary and wages.

[IF EMPLOYED] Below is a list of statements as it relates to your salary and/or wages personally. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each one when it comes to your salary and/or wages.



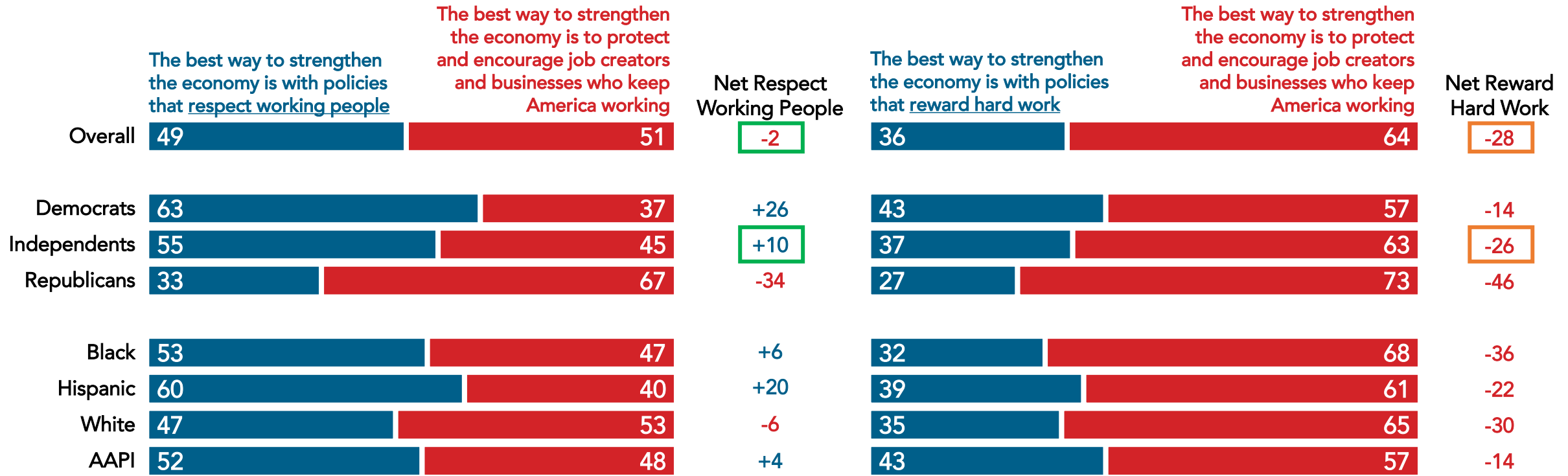
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted August 3-August 7, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Respecting Working People Is a Stronger Rebuttal to a Conservative Economic View Than Rewarding Hard Work

Against a conservative statement about strengthening the economy through protecting and encouraging job creators and businesses, more Americans agree with a progressive rebuttal on strengthening the economy through policies that “respect working people” (49% agree) than one about policies that “reward hard work” (36%).

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

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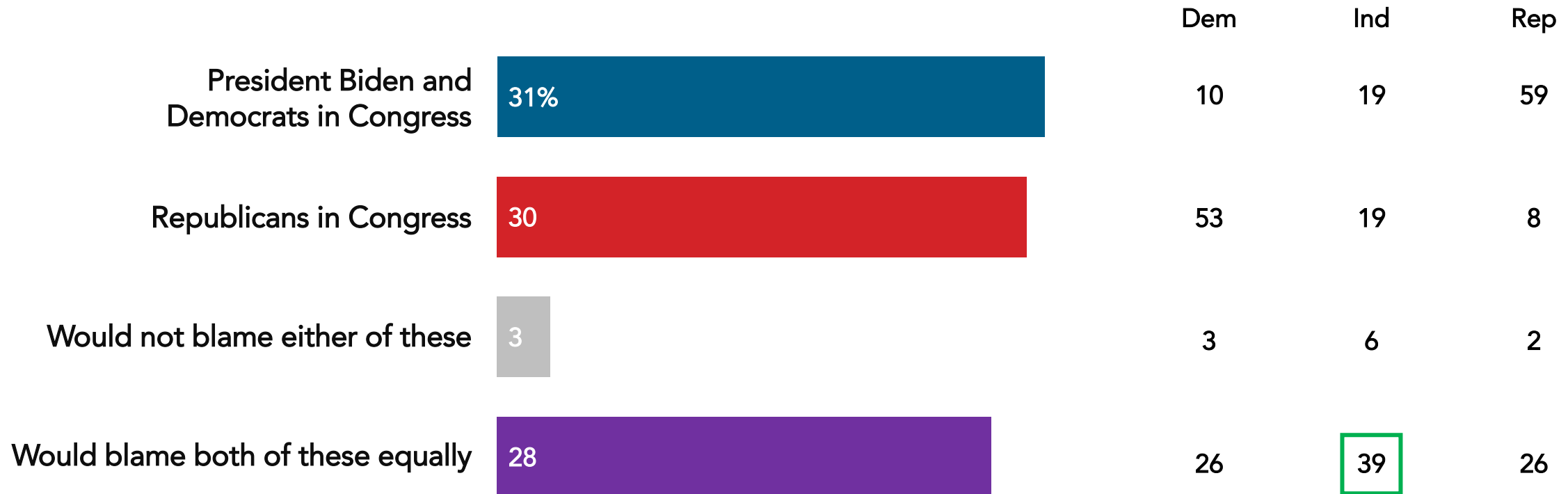
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# Americans Start Off Divided on Who They Would Blame Most for a Fall Government Shutdown

A plurality (39%) of independents say they would blame both Biden and Democrats in Congress as well as Republicans in Congress equally for a government shutdown.

If the government were to shut down this fall, who do you think would be most responsible?



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted August 3-August 7, 2023.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# A Range of Messages Against the GOP for Potential Shutdown – Including MAGA Extremism, Risks, Distraction – Are Effective

Below is a list of statements about how Republicans in Congress are acting with regard to a potential fall government shutdown. Please indicate how concerning you find each statement.

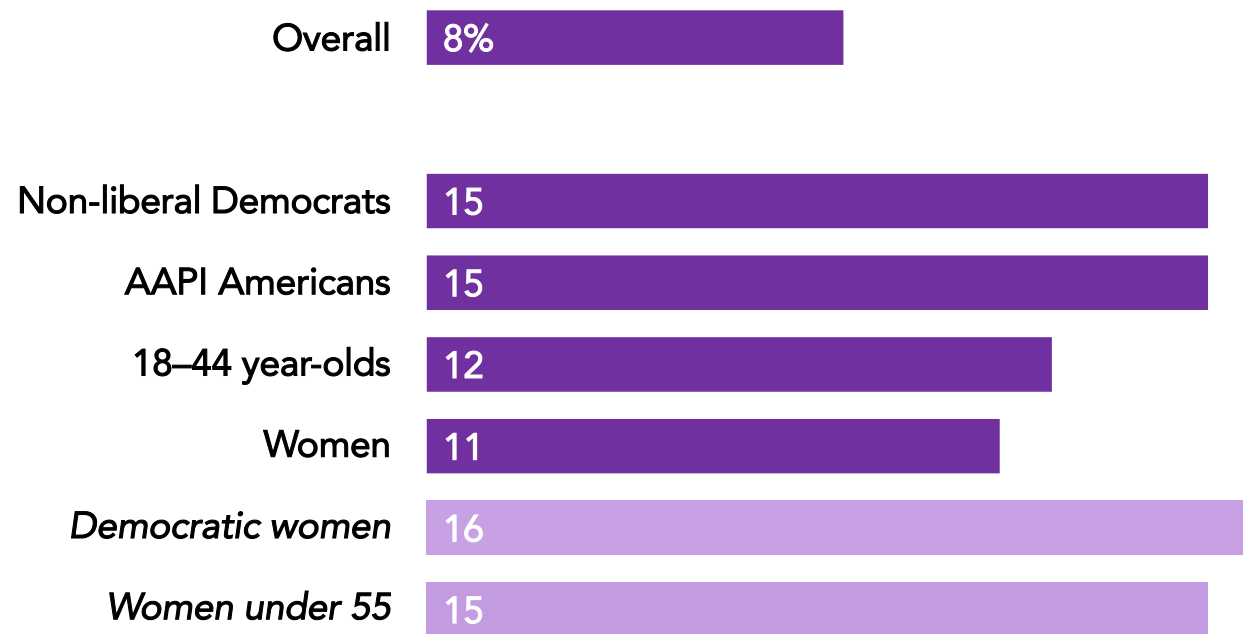
	Very concerning	Somewhat concerning	Don't believe	Not concerning	Total Concerning				Shutdown Movers*
					Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
The Republican Party has lost its way: MAGA extremists have pulled the whole party to the far-right, and their latest threat is to shut down the government	46	14	25	15	61	87	67	31	83
Republicans in Congress are playing dangerous games and taking unnecessary, political risks with our government by pushing for this government shutdown. It's reckless, irresponsible, and undermines our country and economy	46	17	21	16	63	88	69	34	81
Republicans in Congress are more focused on playing political games for attention than on getting things done that Americans actually support, like working to lower the cost of living and bringing down inflation	46	18	24	12	64	89	68	35	90
Republicans in Congress are too focused on protecting massive tax breaks for the rich and big corporations, which is preventing the government from passing budgets to get things done and avoid a government shutdown	45	20	22	13	64	90	69	35	89
Republicans in Congress are using the threat of a government shutdown to hold Democrats hostage so they can cut government programs that they don't agree with	44	18	19	19	62	89	66	31	86
Republicans in Congress are too focused on trying to cut government spending and starve the government, no matter who is hurt in those efforts, including hard-working American families	43	18	25	14	61	87	66	32	88
Republicans in Congress are trying to cause a government shutdown to score political points against Biden	43	17	24	16	60	86	66	30	84

\*"Shutdown movers" do not initially blame Republicans in Congress most for a potential government shutdown but do blame them most after messaging. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted August 3-August 7, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Younger Americans, AAPI Americans, and Non-Liberal Democrats Shift Most to Blame GOP for a Potential Shutdown

Nearly one in ten Americans (8%) move from initially not blaming Republicans in Congress most for a potential government shutdown to blaming Republicans most after messaging, with non-liberal Democrats, AAPI Americans, Americans under 45, and women (especially Democratic and younger women) among the most likely to shift.

**Government Shutdown Movers:** respondents who do not initially blame Republicans in Congress most for a potential government shutdown but do blame them most after messaging.



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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 August 3-August 7, 2023. 101 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 73 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 105 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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