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Republicans, Democrats Move Even Further Apart in Coronavirus Concerns

Growing share of Republicans say ‘the worst is behind us’

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans are continuing to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. For this analysis, we surveyed 4,708 U.S. adults in June 2020. Everyone who took part is a member of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and its methodology.

Republicans, Democrats Move Even Further Apart in Coronavirus Concerns

Growing share of Republicans say ‘the worst is behind us’

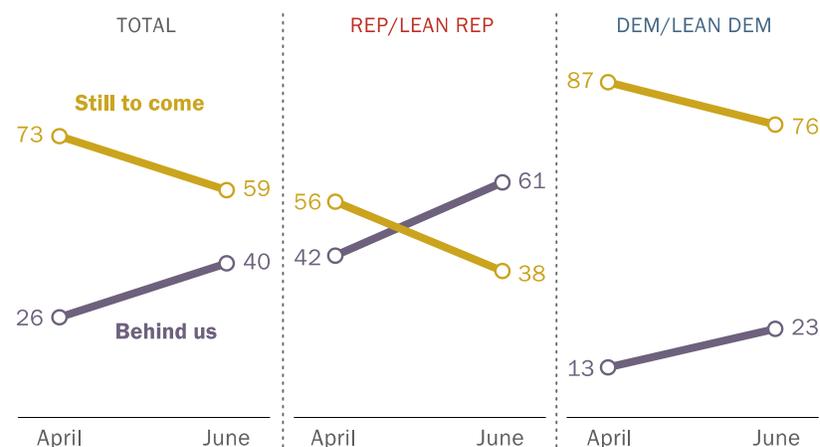
As the number of coronavirus cases surges in many states across the United States, Republicans and Democrats increasingly view the disease in starkly different ways, from the personal health risks arising from [the coronavirus outbreak](#) to their comfort in engaging in everyday activities.

These differences extend to opinions about whether a new stimulus package will be needed to address the economic fallout from the coronavirus. Republicans are now much less likely to say an additional stimulus package is necessary than they were in early April, while Democrats continue to overwhelmingly say more economic assistance is needed.

A growing share of Republicans believe that the nation has turned a corner in its struggle with the coronavirus. A majority of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (61%) now say that when thinking about the problems facing the country from the coronavirus, “the worst is behind us,” while 38% say the “worst is still to come.” This marks a reversal of opinion since early April, when a majority of Republicans (56%) said the worst was still to come.

Majority of Republicans now say ‘the worst is behind us’ in coronavirus outbreak

% who say, in thinking about the problems the country is facing from the coronavirus outbreak, the worst is ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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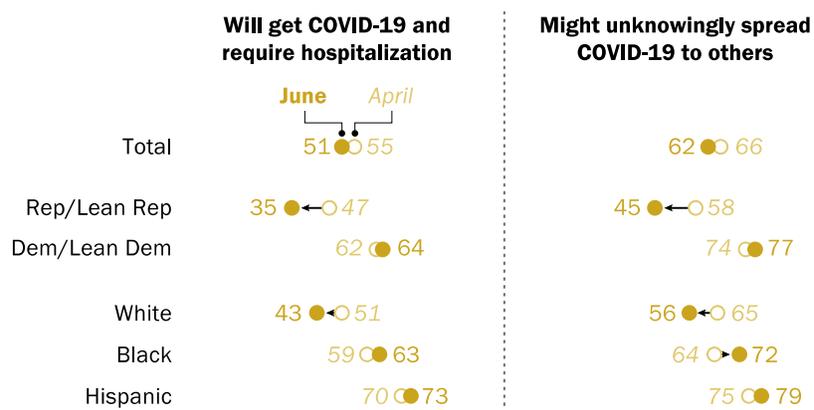
By contrast, just 23% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say that the worst is behind us when it comes to problems from the coronavirus; more than three times as many Democrats (76%) say the worst is still to come. This is a more modest change from April, when an even larger majority of Democrats (87%) said the worst was still to come.

Among the public overall, health concerns from the coronavirus have changed little over the past two months: 62% are very or somewhat concerned they might unknowingly spread the coronavirus to others, including 30% who are very concerned about this, while 51% are concerned that they will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization (24% are very concerned).

Yet the partisan divide – as well as the racial and ethnic differences – in concerns about unknowingly spreading COVID-19 or contracting a serious case of the disease have widened. Today, fewer than half of Republicans (45%) are very or somewhat concerned about unknowingly spreading the coronavirus, and only about a third (35%) worry they will contract COVID-19 and need to be hospitalized. In early April, a 58% majority of Republicans said they were concerned they may spread the disease without knowing it, and nearly half (47%) were concerned they would get a serious case of COVID-19.

Republicans' concerns over health impacts from COVID-19 decline; little change among Democrats

% who say they are *very or somewhat* concerned that they ...



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Over this period, health concerns among Democrats have changed very little: Currently, 77% of Democrats are very or somewhat concerned they might spread the coronavirus, while 64% are concerned they will get the disease and need to be hospitalized.

Notably, concerns over unknowingly spreading the coronavirus have *increased* 8 percentage points among black Americans (from 64% to 72%) since early April, while *decreasing* by about the same amount (from 65% to 56%) among white Americans.

The new national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted June 16-22 among 4,708 adults using the Center's American Trends Panel, finds that a sizable majority (87%) thinks that the actions of ordinary Americans have a great deal or fair amount of impact on how the coronavirus spreads in the U.S.

Nearly six-in-ten U.S. adults (59%) say ordinary Americans have a great deal of impact on the spread of the coronavirus, but while 73% of Democrats think the actions of ordinary people matter a great deal in affecting its spread, only 44% of Republicans say the same. Public opinion about the coronavirus outbreak can be explored further by using the [Center's Pathways data tool](#).

As more states and localities open their economies, Americans generally express much greater comfort undertaking routine daily activities than they did in mid-March, when the death toll from COVID-19 was surging. Twice as many people say they would be comfortable eating out in a restaurant (44%) than did so then (22%); 79% say they are comfortable going to a grocery store, up from 57% in March.

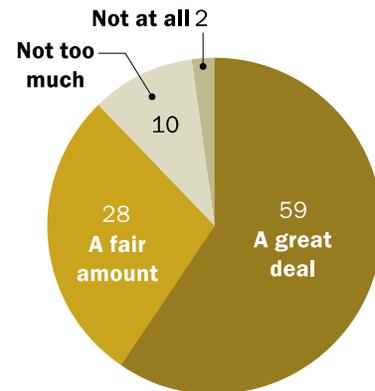
Yet the partisan differences in willingness to engage in such activities remain large – and in some cases have increased sharply. For example, Republicans are now nearly 40 percentage points more likely than Democrats to say they would be comfortable eating out in a restaurant (65% of Republicans vs. 28% of Democrats). In March, the gap was a more modest 13 points (29% of Republicans, 16% of Democrats).

The survey finds that the public's assessments of the nation's economy remain bleak. Just 25% rate economic conditions as excellent or good, little changed from April and far less positive than in January (57% excellent or good). Republicans are about five times as likely as Democrats to say the economy is doing well (46% vs. 9%).

While the public continues to say a new economic stimulus package is needed to address the impact of the coronavirus, Republicans have turned more skeptical about the need for additional economic stimulus.

Most say people's actions affect spread of COVID-19

% who say the actions of ordinary Americans affect how the coronavirus spreads in the U.S. ...

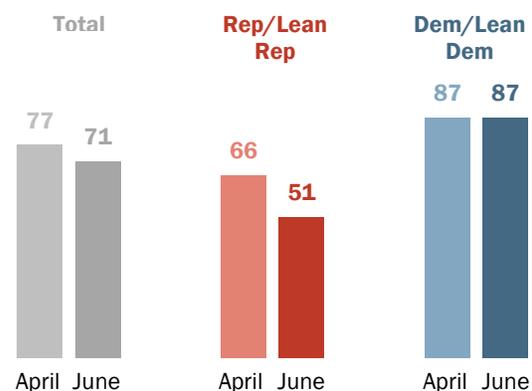


Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Most Democrats say additional aid is needed; Republicans are divided

% who say it will be necessary for the president and Congress to pass an additional economic package



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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About seven-in-ten Americans (71%) say a new package is needed, beyond the \$2 trillion package passed by President Donald Trump and Congress in March. That is down from 77% who said this in April.

Notably, the decrease has come entirely among Republicans, who are now divided over the need for more economic stimulus (51% say it will be necessary, 47% say it will not be needed). In April, two-thirds of Republicans (66%) said an additional stimulus would be needed. Democrats continue to be overwhelmingly supportive of additional economic stimulus (87% say it will be needed, unchanged from April).

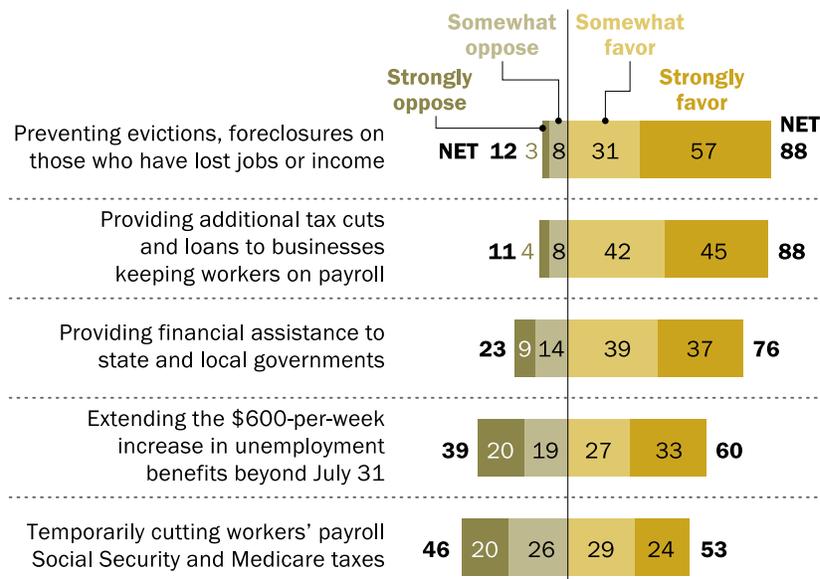
The public broadly supports proposals to help homeowners and renters and businesses address economic problems resulting from the coronavirus outbreak. Nearly nine-in-ten (88% each) – including large majorities in both parties – support aid for these groups.

About three-quarters (76%) favor providing financial aid for state and local governments; however, while this proposal draws overwhelming support from Democrats (91% favor), a much smaller majority of Republicans (58%) favors it.

And while a majority of the public (60%) favors extending the \$600 per week federal unemployment benefits beyond July 31, partisans are deeply divided. Nearly twice as many Democrats (77%) as Republicans (39%) support extending this unemployment aid.

Broad support for government help for homeowners and renters, businesses, state and local governments

% who say they ___ each of the following proposals to address the economic problems resulting from the coronavirus outbreak



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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A narrow majority of the public overall (53%), including comparable shares in both parties, supports a temporary cut in workers' Social Security and Medicare taxes to address economic problems arising from the coronavirus outbreak.

Americans are generally comfortable grocery shopping and visiting family, more anxious about attending indoor events, crowded parties

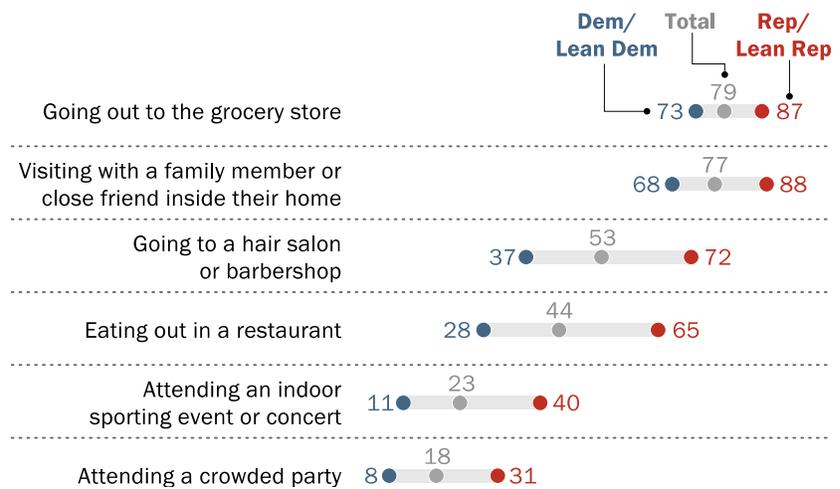
As states have taken steps toward reopening, many Americans still express reservations about engaging in a variety of what had been seen as routine activities before the coronavirus outbreak. Only about one-in-five (18%) say that given the current situation with the coronavirus they would be comfortable attending a crowded party. A similar share (23%) say they would feel comfortable attending an indoor sporting event or concert.

A larger share, though fewer than half, say they would feel comfortable eating out in a restaurant (44%), while about half (53%) would feel comfortable going to a hair salon or barber shop. Sizable majorities of the public say they would be comfortable visiting with family or close friends in their homes (77%) and going to the grocery store (79%).

Across every item included in the survey, Republicans and Republican leaners express more comfort with engaging in these activities than do Democrats and Democratic leaners. The widest differences are on eating out in a restaurant, going to a hair salon or barbershop and attending an indoor sporting event or concert.

Republicans far more comfortable than Democrats going to salons, restaurants, indoor events, parties

% who say, given the current situation, they would feel comfortable ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

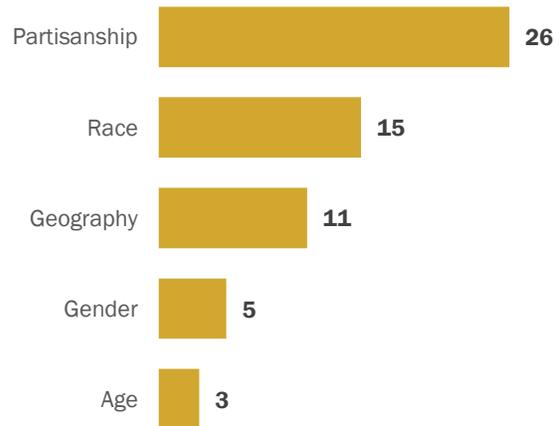
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And while relatively few Americans say they would feel comfortable attending a crowded party, nearly four times as many Republicans (31%) as Democrats (8%) say they would feel comfortable doing this.

In every case, the differences between Republicans' and Democrats' levels of comfort far exceeds other demographic and even geographic differences. Across all six items, the average partisan gap in levels of comfort is nearly twice as big as the gap between whites and non-whites and is far larger than the gap between men and women, those living in urban and rural communities, and the gap between younger and older Americans.

Partisanship biggest factor in comfort with activities during coronavirus

Average percentage point gap in comfort across six different activities by ...



Notes: Indicates the average gap between the share of two groups expressing confidence in six different activities. Party=difference between Rep/Lean Rep and Dem/Lean Dem. Race=difference between non-Hispanic white and non white. Geography=difference between urban and rural. Gender=difference between men and women. Age=difference between 18-49 and 50+.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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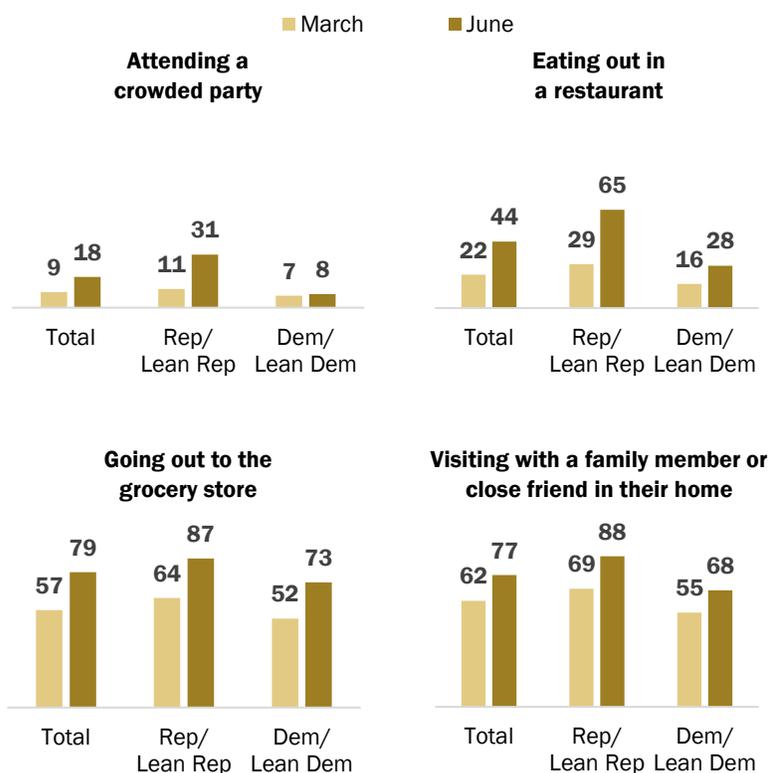
Americans' level of comfort with each of these activities has risen across the board since the middle of March, when many states began to implement stay-at-home orders and other measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

However, the increases have been far more pronounced among Republicans than Democrats. For example, the shares of Republicans who express comfort with eating out in a restaurant and attending a crowded party have risen by 36 points and 20 points, respectively. Among Democrats, the share saying they would be comfortable eating in a restaurant has increased 12 points, and there has been no change in Democrats' comfort with going to a crowded party.

Among both Democrats and Republicans, there have been significant increases since March in the shares saying they would be comfortable going to the grocery store and visiting with family and friends at their homes. Still, Republicans remain more likely than Democrats to say they would be comfortable engaging in these activities.

Since March, larger increases in comfort with routine activities among Republicans than Democrats

% who say, given the current situation, they would feel comfortable ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Most Americans say masks should be worn always or most of the time

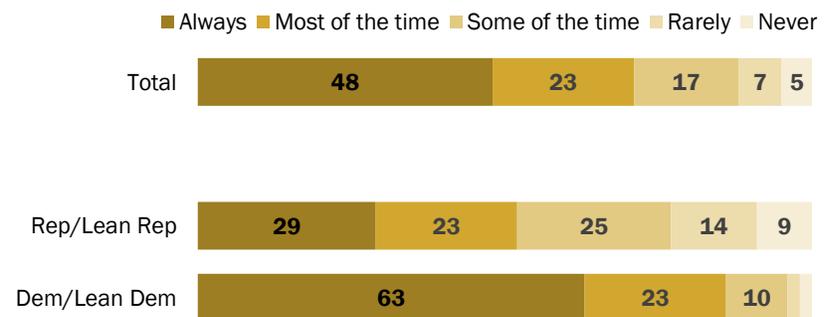
About seven-in-ten Americans (71%) say that people who go to public places in their communities where they may be near others should wear masks most of the time or always. An additional 17% say that masks should be worn “some of the time” in these situations and 12% say they should rarely or never be worn.

Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents are about twice as likely as Republicans and Republican leaners to say that masks should be worn always (63% vs. 29%). Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to say that masks should rarely or never be worn (23% vs. 4%).

Republicans also are less likely than Democrats to say they have worn masks in stores or other businesses always or most of the time in the past month. For more, see [“Most Americans say they regularly wore a mask in the past month; fewer see others doing it.”](#)

About seven-in-ten Americans say masks should be worn in public places at least most of the time

Thinking about the coronavirus and your own local area, when people in your community go to public places where they may be near others, how often do you think they should wear a mask? (%)



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Beyond partisan differences in attitudes about mask wearing, there are substantial gender, racial, age and geographic differences.

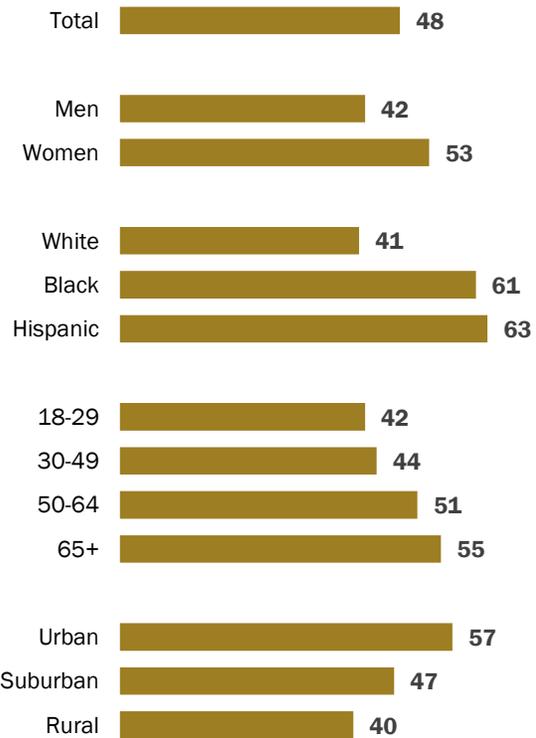
Women are more likely than men to say that masks should always be worn in public places (53% vs. 42%). White people are substantially less likely than black and Hispanic adults to say that masks should always be worn.

Age is also strongly related to views about mask wearing. About four-in-ten (42%) of those ages 18 to 29 say that masks should always be worn, compared with 55% of those 65 and older.

A majority of people living in urban areas (57%) say people who go out in public places should always wear masks, compared with 47% of suburban residents and 40% of those who live in rural areas.

Race, age, gender, geographic differences in views of mask wearing

% who say when people in your community go out in public places where they may be near others, they should always wear a mask



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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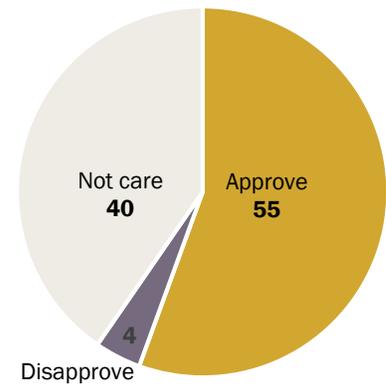
Few think they would face criticism for wearing a mask in public

A majority of Americans (55%) say that, if they were to wear a mask in their local area, people around them would generally approve; only 4% think that people in their communities would disapprove, while 40% say that people would not care one way or the other.

Compared with views about when masks *should* be worn, there are much smaller gaps in perceptions of others' views about the practice. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to believe that others in their communities would approve of mask-wearing (62% of Democrats say this compared with 48% of Republicans), but Republicans are *not* substantially more likely than Democrats to say that other people in their communities would *disapprove* of mask-wearing (48% of Republicans and 33% of Democrats say that most people in their area would not care one way or the other).

How do you think people in your area would react to you wearing a mask?

If you were to wear a mask in public places in your local area, generally, do you think most of the people around you would ... (%)



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Democrats much more likely than Republicans to say actions of ordinary Americans affect the spread of coronavirus a great deal

Nearly six-in-ten adults (59%) say that the actions of ordinary Americans have a great deal of impact on how the coronavirus spreads through the country, while 28% say that individual actions affect the spread of the virus a fair amount; about one-in-ten (12%) say that the actions of ordinary Americans affect the spread of the virus either not too much (10%) or not at all (2%).

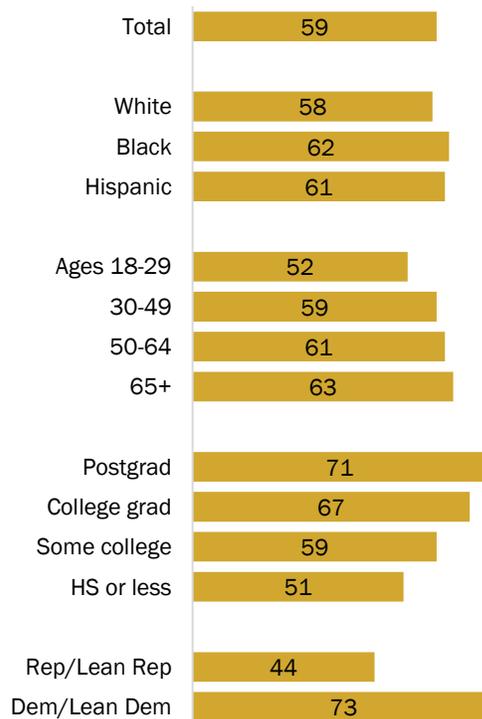
Nearly three-quarters of Democrats (73%) say that the actions of ordinary Americans affect how the coronavirus spreads in the U.S. a great deal and 22% say the actions of ordinary Americans have a fair amount of effect. Just 5% of Democrats say that individual actions affect how the virus spreads either not too much or not at all.

While most Republicans say that individual actions affect the spread of the coronavirus, fewer than half (44%) say that this affects the spread of the virus a great deal. About one-third (35%) say that individual actions affect how the virus spreads a fair amount, and roughly two-in-ten Republicans (21%) say that individual actions affect how the coronavirus spreads either not too much or not at all.

There are also notable age and educational differences in beliefs about the impact of individual actions. About half (52%) of adults ages 18 to 29 say that the actions of ordinary people affect the spread of the virus a great deal, compared with more than six-in-ten (63%) of those 65 and older. And those with a postgraduate degree are 20 percentage points more likely to say this than adults without any college experience.

Most U.S. adults say individual actions affect spread of the virus a great deal

% who say the actions of ordinary Americans affect how the coronavirus spreads in the U.S. a great deal



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Republicans' concerns about catching and spreading the virus have decreased while Democrats' have held steady

Since April, the proportion of adults saying they are very or somewhat concerned that they will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization has fallen slightly, from 55% to 51%. The proportion saying they are very or somewhat concerned that they might unknowingly spread COVID-19 to others has similarly dropped modestly, from 66% to 62%.

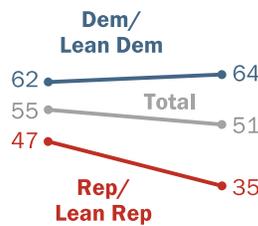
Partisans' concerns about the coronavirus have diverged over the past two months. Among Republicans, concerns about catching and spreading the virus have both decreased substantially: 35% of Republicans now say they are very or somewhat concerned they will be hospitalized due to COVID-19, down from 47% in April. And while a 58% majority of Republicans said they were very or somewhat concerned about unknowingly spreading the virus in April, fewer than half (45%) now say they are very or somewhat concerned about this.

Among Democrats, concerns about catching and spreading the virus are relatively unchanged since April. About six-in-ten Democrats (64%) continue to say they are very or somewhat concerned that they will require hospitalization due to the virus, while about three-quarters (77%) are very or somewhat concerned about unknowingly spreading it.

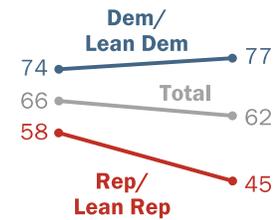
Partisan, racial gaps in concerns about the pandemic have grown since April

% who say they are *very* or *somewhat* concerned that they ...

Will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization

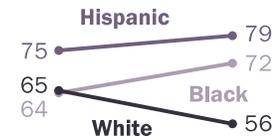
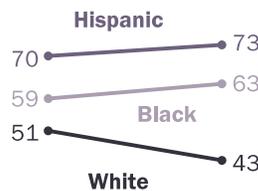


Might unknowingly spread COVID-19 to others



April June

April June



April June

April June

Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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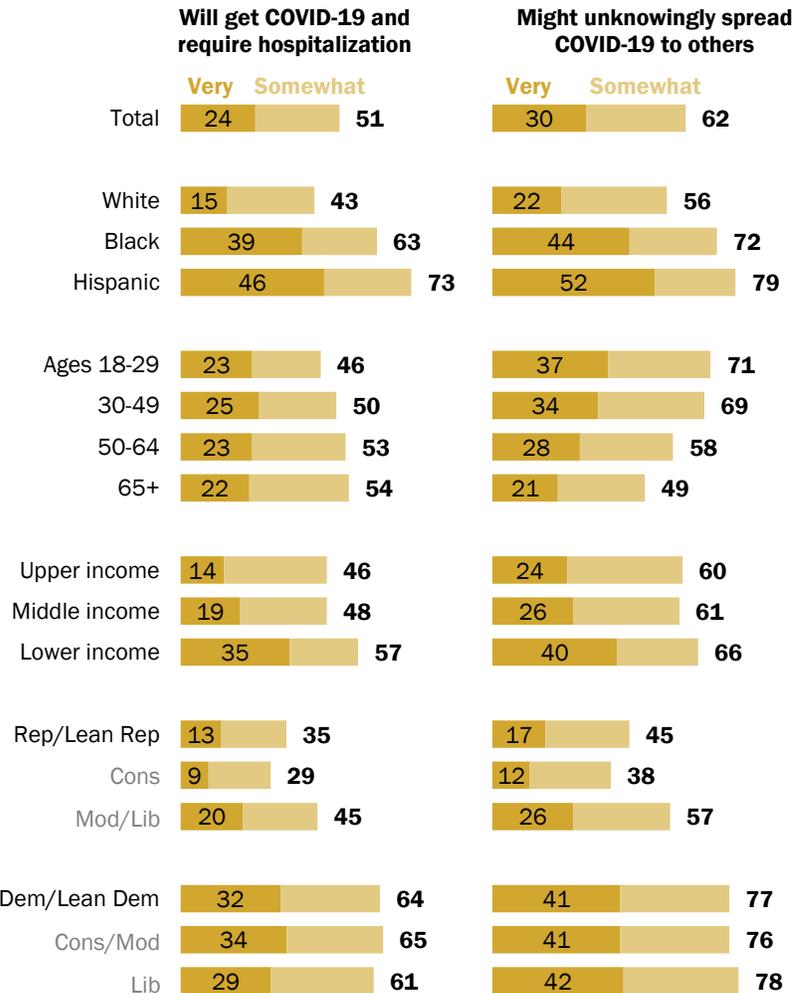
The gaps between white adults' concerns about getting or spreading the coronavirus and Hispanic and black adults' concerns also have grown since April, as the concerns of white adults have declined while those of black and Hispanic adults have not.

Today, clear majorities of black (63%) and Hispanic (73%) adults say they are very or somewhat concerned about getting COVID-19 and requiring hospitalization, which is little different than the shares saying this in April. By comparison, 43% of white adults now say this (down from 51% in April).

There is a similar pattern in levels of concern about unknowingly spreading the coronavirus. Today, 79% of Hispanic adults and 72% of black adults say they are at least somewhat concerned they might unknowingly spread the coronavirus, while 56% of white adults say this. The share of white adults saying this has dropped since April, while concerns among blacks and Hispanics are as high or higher than they were two months ago.

Degree of concern about coronavirus continues to vary across age, income, racial and ethnic groups

% who say they are **very** or **somewhat** concerned that they ...



Notes: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Family incomes are based on 2018 earnings and adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Among Democrats, whites (75%) and blacks (76%) express similar levels of concern they could unknowingly spread the coronavirus. Hispanic Democrats are slightly more likely to say they are very or somewhat concerned about this (85%). By comparison, 42% of white Republicans say they are at least somewhat concerned they could unknowingly spread the coronavirus.

However, black Democrats (67%) and Hispanic Democrats (76%) are more likely than white Democrats (58%) to say they are very or somewhat concerned they might require hospitalization due to COVID-19. Still, the partisan differences on this question are greater than the racial and ethnic differences (31% of white Republicans vs. 67% of white Democrats are concerned they may need to be hospitalized from getting COVID-19).

Older adults have become less concerned about both catching and spreading COVID-19 since April: 54% of adults ages 65 and older are very or somewhat concerned about requiring hospitalization due to COVID-19, down from 62% two months ago. The proportion expressing concern about unknowingly spreading the virus fell by a similar amount, to 49% from 57%. Meanwhile, adults ages 18 to 29 have become slightly *more* concerned about getting COVID-19 and requiring hospitalization (39% very or somewhat concerned in April vs. 46% in June).

Concerns about unknowingly spreading the virus among this group have not changed during this period.

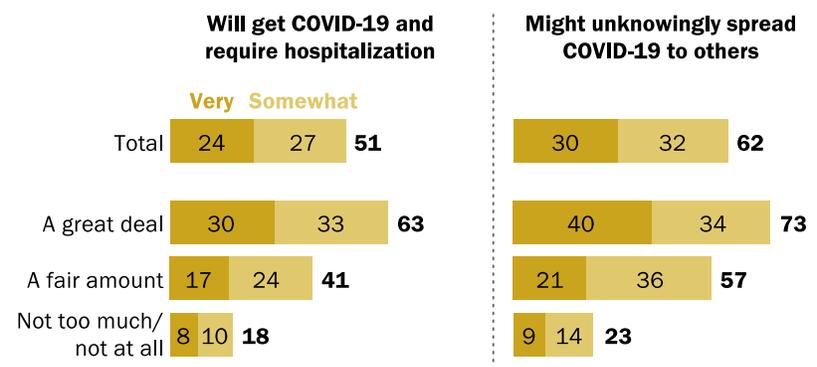
Those who say the actions of ordinary Americans affect how the coronavirus spreads a great deal are the most likely to express concerns about getting COVID-19 and requiring hospitalization or about unknowingly spreading the virus to others.

Among the nearly six-in-ten adults who say that individual actions have “a great deal” of impact, 63% are at least somewhat concerned they will

require hospitalization due to COVID-19. By comparison, among the 28% who say that individual

Those who believe that individual actions have a great effect on how COVID-19 spreads are most concerned about getting and spreading the virus

*Among those who say the actions of ordinary Americans affect how the coronavirus spreads ____, % who say they are **very** or **somewhat** concerned that they ...*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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actions have “a fair amount” of impact on the spread of the virus, 41% are very or somewhat concerned that they will require hospitalization. Just 18% of the small share of adults who say that the actions of ordinary Americans have little or no effect on how the coronavirus spreads in the U.S. express concern about hospitalization resulting from COVID-19. There is a nearly identical pattern when it comes to concerns about unknowingly spreading the virus to others.

Members of both parties are more likely to say the worst has passed, but racial and ethnic divides have grown

Roughly six-in-ten Americans (59%) now say that the worst of the problems the country faces from the coronavirus outbreak are still to come, while 40% say the worst is behind us. Over the past two months, the share of adults saying the worst is still to come has fallen from 73% to 59%.

A majority of Republicans and independents who lean toward the Republican Party (61%) now say that the worst has passed, while 38% say the worst is still to come. The share of Republicans saying the worst is still to come has decreased by nearly 20 percentage points since April.

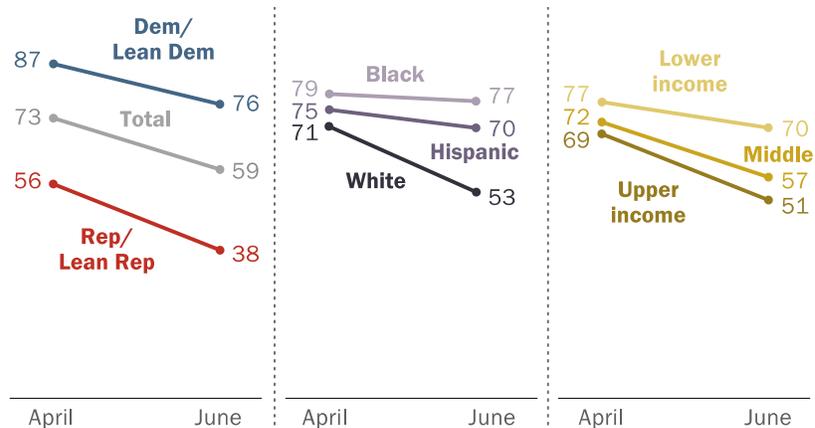
Democrats and Democratic leaners have also become somewhat less likely to say that the worst of the pandemic lies ahead, though about three-quarters (76%) continue to say this. In April, nearly nine-in-ten Democrats (87%) said the worst was still to come.

Despite members of both parties becoming less likely to say the worst is still to come, the steeper decline among Republicans means that the partisan gap on this question has increased, from about 30 points in April to nearly 40 points in June.

Views of the trajectory of the pandemic among members of different racial and ethnic groups have also diverged over the same period. In April, there were only modest racial and ethnic differences in expectations: 79% of black adults, 75% of Hispanic adults and 71% of white adults said that the worst of the crisis was still to come. Views among black Americans are essentially unchanged two months later, while the proportion of Hispanic Americans saying the worst is still to come has decreased slightly to 70%. Meanwhile, the share of whites Americans saying the worst is still to

Growing gap between white and black adults in views of whether the worst of the pandemic is still to come

% who say, in thinking about the problems the country is facing from the coronavirus outbreak, the worst is still to come



Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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come has decreased from 71% to 53%. The gap between white and black adults on this question has grown from 8 points to 24 points.

Additionally, individuals living in upper-income and middle-income households are now much more likely than those in lower-income households to say the worst of the pandemic is behind the country. About half of upper-income earners (51%) currently say that the worst is still to come, down from 69% in April. Similarly, the share of those in middle-income households who say the worst is still to come has decreased from 72% in April to 57%. Among those in lower-income households, the share saying the worst is still to come has declined much more modestly, from 77% to 70%.

Most Americans say additional COVID-19 financial aid will be needed

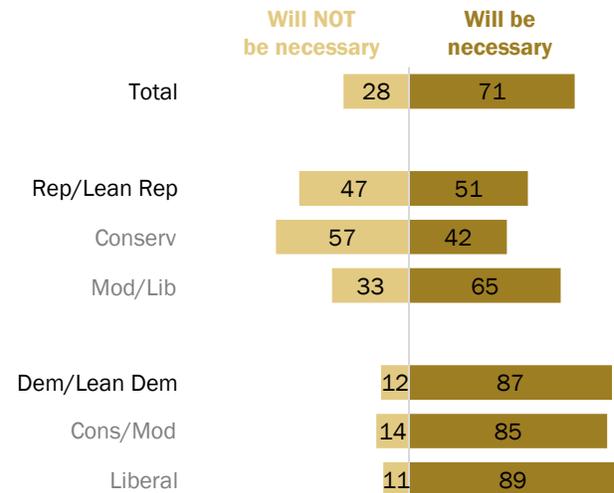
In April, there was [broad bipartisan support](#) for the \$2 trillion federal coronavirus aid package. Today, a sizable majority of the public (71%) thinks it will be necessary for the president and Congress to pass an additional economic assistance package for the country, with support for a second package much higher among Democrats than Republicans.

About nine-in-ten Democrats (87%) say it will be necessary to pass another economic assistance package. However, views among Republicans are divided: 51% say a new economic package will be necessary, while 47% say it will not be necessary.

There are ideological differences within the GOP about the need for additional aid: While a majority of conservative Republicans (57%) say that another economic assistance package will not be necessary, about two-thirds of moderate and liberal Republicans (65%) say there is a need for another financial aid bill.

Democrats overwhelmingly see need for more economic aid, GOP is split

% who say it ___ for the president and Congress to pass an additional economic assistance package



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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In April, the view that another financial aid package would be necessary was somewhat more widespread than it is today (77% said this then, 71% today).

Since April, views about the need for an additional financial package have declined among upper- and middle-income households. Today, 62% of upper-income Americans (down from 76% in April) and 68% of middle-income Americans (down from 77%) say there is a need for a second economic assistance package. By contrast, views among lower-income Americans are basically unchanged, with about eight-in-ten continuing to say that political leaders will need to pass another financial aid package.

The partisan gap in views of an additional economic package has also increased in the last two months. While the views of Democrats have are unchanged since April (87% say more aid is necessary), the share of Republicans who say an additional financial aid package is necessary has sharply declined from 66% who said this April to 51% who say this today.

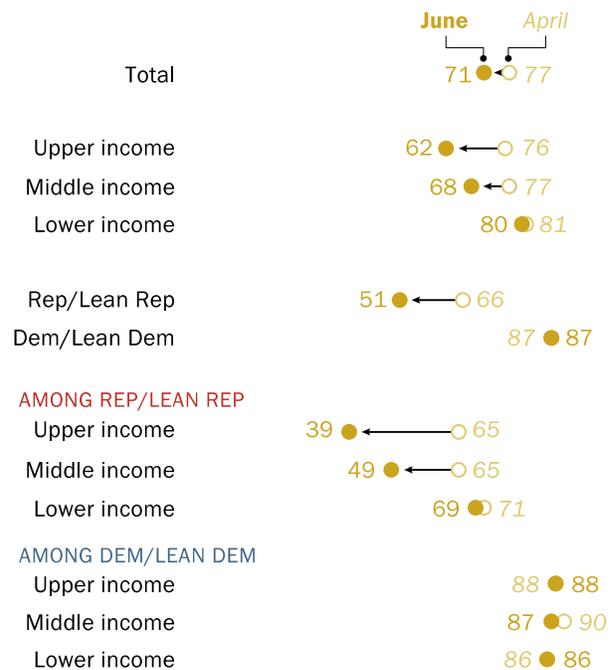
Among Republicans, this decline has come almost entirely among those in the upper and middle income categories.

Among upper-income Republicans, the share saying an additional financial aid package is needed has declined from 65% in April to 39% today. In comparison, 69% of Republicans in lower-income households currently say an additional economic package will be necessary, nearly identical to the 71% who said this in April.

There are no differences by income among Democrats in assessments of the need for another economic aid package.

Income gap emerges within GOP over need for another COVID-19 aid package

% who say **it will be necessary** for the president and Congress to pass an additional economic assistance package



Note: Family incomes are based on 2018 earnings and adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Widespread support for several proposals to address the economic problems resulting from the coronavirus outbreak

When it comes to proposals to address the economic problems resulting from the coronavirus outbreak, there are a few areas of broad bipartisan agreement, while other proposals draw more support from Democrats than Republicans.

Majorities of both Republicans (82%) and Democrats (93%) favor preventing evictions and foreclosure on renters and homeowners who have lost jobs or income, while roughly nine-in-ten in both parties (87% of

Republicans, 89% of Democrats) favor providing additional tax cuts and loans to businesses that keep their workers on the payroll.

However, a much larger share of Democrats (69%) than Republicans (42%) *strongly* favor preventing evictions and foreclosures.

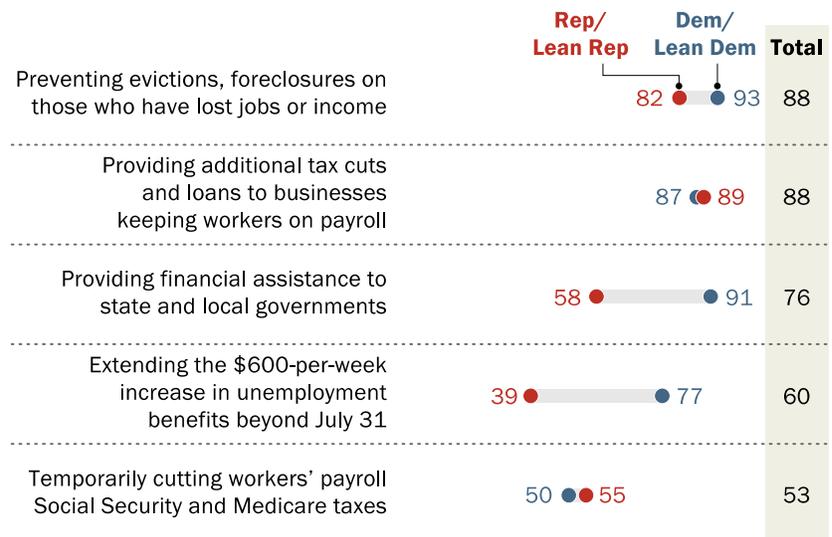
There are wide partisan gaps on financial assistance to state and local governments affected by the coronavirus outbreak:

While 91% of Democrats favor this proposal, a smaller majority (58%) of Republicans say the same. And although about three-quarters of Democrats (77%) favor

extending the weekly \$600 increase in unemployment benefits beyond the current July 31 expiration date, this is supported by just 39% of Republicans.

Bipartisan support for aid to businesses to keep workers, wide partisan divides over state and local aid

% who say they *favor* each of the following proposals to address the economic problems resulting from the coronavirus outbreak



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Within partisan groups, there are differences in views of these proposals by household income.

Among Republicans, those with lower household incomes are more likely to favor several proposals than Republicans in higher income tiers. For example, Republicans with lower household incomes (72%) are more likely than middle-income (57%) and upper-income Republicans (48%) to favor providing financial assistance to state and local governments. In addition, Republicans with lower family incomes (53%) are also more likely than middle-income (37%) and upper-income (29%) Republicans to favor extending the weekly \$600 increase in unemployment benefits beyond the end of the July.

Within GOP, those in lower-income households more likely to favor financial assistance to local governments, extending increase in unemployment benefits

*% who say they **favor** each of the following proposals to address the economic problems resulting from the coronavirus outbreak*

	Among Rep/Lean Rep				Among Dem/Lean Dem			
	Lower income	Middle income	Upper income	Upper-Lower income diff	Lower income	Middle income	Upper income	Upper-Lower income diff
Preventing evictions and foreclosures on renters and homeowners who have lost jobs or income	90	82	76	-14	92	95	95	+3
Providing additional tax cuts and loans to businesses that keep workers on payroll	92	89	89	-3	86	88	87	-1
Providing financial assistance to state and local governments	72	57	48	-24	91	90	94	+3
Extending the \$600-per-week increase in unemployment benefits beyond July 31	53	37	29	-24	78	77	77	-1
Temporarily cutting workers' payroll taxes that go toward Social Security and Medicare	50	57	58	+8	55	49	42	-13

Note: Bold indicates significant differences. Incomes are based on 2018 earnings and adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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And although Democrats across income tiers are largely in agreement on many of the proposals asked in this survey, Democrats with lower household incomes (55%) are more likely than middle-income Democrats (49%) and upper-income Democrats (42%) to favor temporarily cutting workers' payroll taxes that go toward Social Security and Medicare.

Most Americans say businesses should be protected from lawsuits if employees contract COVID-19 on the job

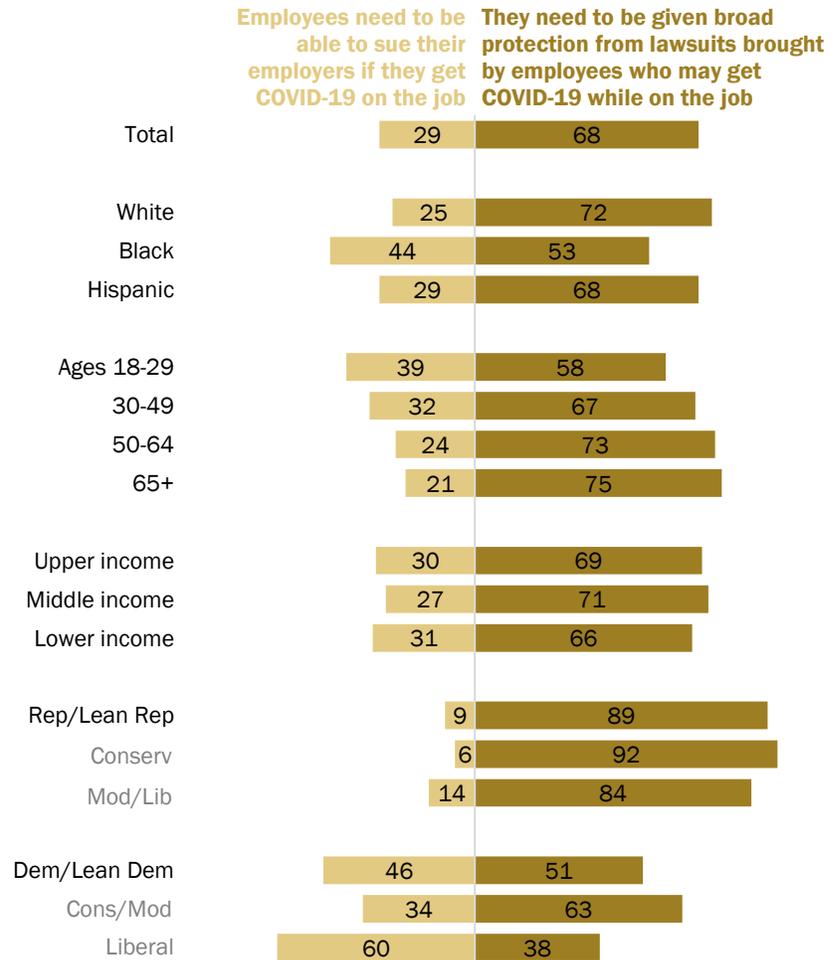
As states across the country are lifting stay-at-home orders and more businesses are increasingly reopening, there [has been discussion](#) about the extent to which employers should be held responsible if their employees get COVID-19 at work.

About seven-in-ten Americans (68%) say in order for businesses to open and operate, “businesses need to be given broad protection from lawsuits brought by employees who may get COVID-19 while working,” while 29% say “employees need to be able to sue their employers if they catch the coronavirus while on the job, even if it makes it harder for businesses to reopen.”

While majorities of Americans – across demographic groups – say that in order for business to open and operate, they need to be protected from being held liable if their employees get COVID-19, there are differences in views by race and ethnicity, age, and partisan affiliation.

Large share of public says business should be protected from lawsuits if employees get COVID-19

% who say in order for businesses to open and operate ...



Notes: No answer responses not shown. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Family incomes are based on 2018 earnings and adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Black adults (53%) are less likely than white (72%) and Hispanic (68%) adults to say that business should be given broad protections from lawsuits. About four-in-ten black adults (44%) say employees should be able to sue their employers if they contract COVID-19.

Older adults are more likely than younger adults to say businesses need broad protections from lawsuits: 75% of adults ages 65 and older say this, compared with 58% of adults ages 18 to 29.

There is near universal agreement among Republicans and Republican leaners that businesses should be protected against lawsuits from employees who contract the coronavirus at work: About nine-in-ten Republicans (89%) say business should be protected, while only 9% of Republicans say employees should have the right to sue if this happens.

Democrats are divided over who should have more legal protection if an employee contracts coronavirus while working: 51% say businesses should receive protection from lawsuits, while 46% say that employees should have the right to sue their employers if they get the coronavirus. And while a majority of conservative and moderate Democrats say business should have protections (63% say this), a 60% majority of liberal Democrats say employees should have the ability to sue.

Views of the national economy

The public continues to hold negative views of the national economy. Currently, just a quarter of Americans rate national economic conditions as excellent or good, while 44% rate conditions as only fair and 30% say they are poor.

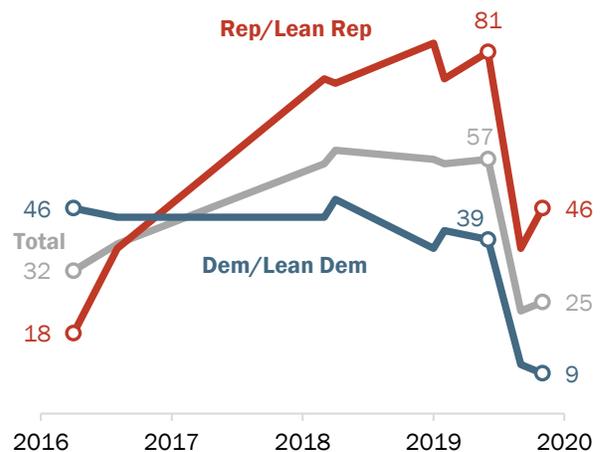
The share of the public holding positive views is similar to April, when 23% of Americans rated the economy as excellent or good, but remain significantly more negative than they were in January, prior to the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., when 57% of Americans rated the economy as excellent or good.

While overall views of the economy are little changed over the last two months, assessments of the economy have grown more positive among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents: 46% now rate the economy as excellent or good, up from 37% in April.

As was the case in April, only about one-in-ten (9%) Democrats and Democratic leaners currently rate the economy as excellent or good.

Overall economic ratings remain low, GOP views improve

% who rate national economic conditions as excellent or good



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Despite the public's continued negative assessment of the national economy, half of Americans expect that economic conditions in the country will be better a year from now (down modestly from the 55% who said this in April). Just 22% of the public thinks that economic conditions will be worse, and 27% think economic conditions will be about the same as they are today.

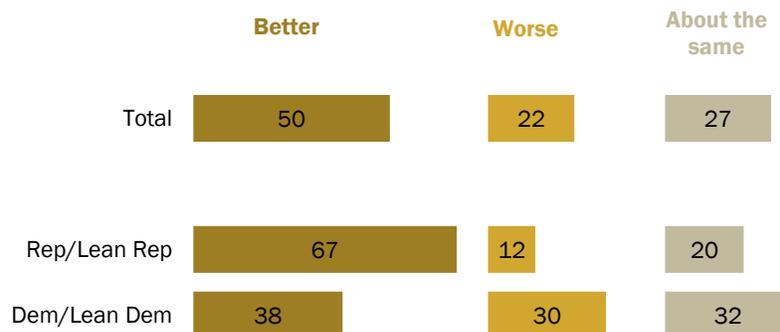
Most Republicans are optimistic about future economic conditions in the country: Two-thirds of Republicans say economic conditions in the country will be better a year from now, while 12% say they will be worse and 20% expect conditions to be about the same as they are today.

Democrats are more divided:

While 38% think the economy will be better a year from now, 30% say it will be worse and 32% expect conditions will be about the same.

Republicans optimistic economic conditions will be better in a year; Democrats' expectations are mixed

% who say they expect that economic conditions in the country will be ___ a year from now



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Growing share of the public says the government should do more to help those in need

Americans' views about aid to those in need have shifted since September, with more Americans now saying the government should do more to help the needy, even if it means going deeper into debt. Today, 58% of Americans say this, up from 49% last fall. Currently, four-in-ten Americans say the government today can't afford to do much more to help the needy, down from 48% in September.

While there continue to be wide partisan differences in these views, the share saying more needs to be done to help the needy has increased in both parties.

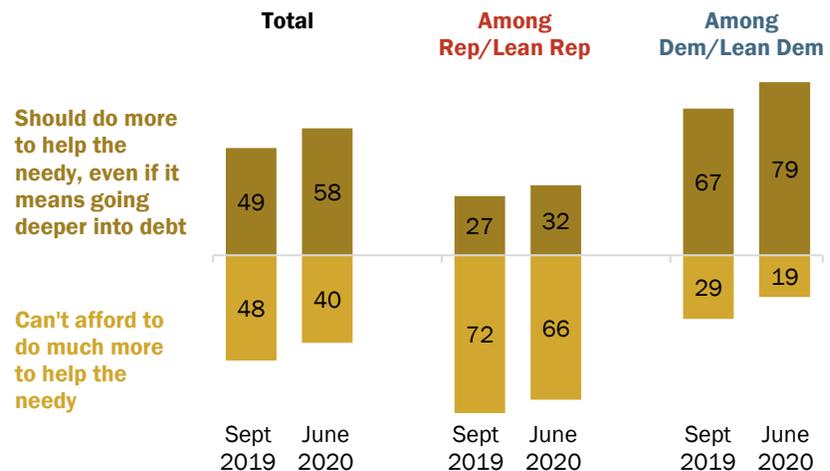
Today, about two-thirds of Republicans (66%) say the government cannot afford to do more to help those in need, while 32% say the government should do more – up from 27% in September.

The shift in these views is more pronounced among Democrats; nearly eight-in-ten Democrats (79%) now say more needs to be done to help the needy, up from 67% last fall (just 19% now say the government can't afford to do more to help the needy).

Among Republicans, there are large divisions in views of whether the government should do more to help those in need by household income. While majorities of Republicans in upper-income (76%) and middle-income (68%) households say the government cannot afford to do more to help those in need, lower-income Republicans are divided: 50% say the government can't afford to do more to help the needy, while 47% say the government should do more. There are minimal differences in these views by household income among Democrats.

Since last fall, more Americans say the government should do more to help those in need

% who say the government ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020.

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted June 16 to June 22, 2020. A total of 4,708 panelists responded out of 6,080 who were sampled, for a response rate of 77%.

This does not include one panelist who was removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4.3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1.4%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 4,708 respondents is plus or minus 1.8 percentage points.

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	2,307
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,335
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	684
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	6,407
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	4,682
	Total	35,014	23,440	15,415

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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This study featured a stratified random sample from the ATP. The sample was allocated according to the following strata, in order: tablet households, Mexican-born Hispanics, U.S. born Hispanics, other foreign-born Hispanics, Cuban-born Hispanics, non-internet, high school education or less, not registered to vote, nonvolunteers, people aged 18-34, non-Hispanic Blacks, and all other categories not already falling into any of the above.

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015

and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of which 9,942 agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample (ABS) of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. For a random half-sample of invitations, households without internet access were instructed to return a postcard. These households were contacted by telephone and sent a tablet if they agreed to participate. A total of 9,396 were invited to join the panel, and 8,778 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. The same recruitment procedure was carried out on August 19, 2019, from which a total of 5,900 were invited to join the panel and 4,720 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. Of the 23,440 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 15,415 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.¹ The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.](#)"

Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that begins with a base weight incorporating the respondents' original selection probability. The next step in the weighting uses an iterative technique that aligns the sample to population benchmarks on the dimensions listed in the accompanying table.

Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Gender	2018 American Community Survey
Age	
Education	
Race/Hispanic origin	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Asians	
Country of birth among Hispanics	
Years lived in the United States	
Home internet access	
Region x Metropolitan status	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys.

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 16-22, 2020

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	4,708		1.8 percentage points
Half sample	At least 2,353		2.5 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	1,994	44	2.7 percentage points
<i>Half sample</i>	At least 983		3.8 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	2,545	52	2.5 percentage points
<i>Half sample</i>	At least 1,258		3.6 percentage points
Upper income	1,142		3.4 percentage points
Middle income	2,109		2.6 percentage points
Lower income	1,221		3.6 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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Appendix

Defining income tiers

To create upper-, middle- and lower-income tiers, respondents' 2018 family incomes were adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size. "Middle-income" adults live in families with annual incomes that are two-thirds to double the median family income in the American Trends Panel (after incomes have been adjusted for the local cost of living and for household size). The middle-income range for the panel is about \$37,500 to \$112,600 annually for a three-person household. Lower-income families have incomes less than roughly \$37,500, and upper-income families have incomes greater than roughly \$112,600.

Based on these adjustments, among respondents who provided their income and household size, 33% are lower income, 45% are middle income and 21% fall into the upper-income tier.

For more information about how the income tiers were determined, please see [here](#).

**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 69 June 2020
June 16-22, 2020
N=4,708**

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

ECON1 Thinking about the nation's economy...
How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
June 16-22, 2020	4	22	44	30	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	4	19	38	38	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	16	42	33	9	*
Sep 16-29, 2019	10	46	35	8	*
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	14	43	32	11	*
Nov 7-16, 2018	13	46	31	9	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	12	45	32	11	*
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017	2	37	43	17	0
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	2	30	47	21	*
Apr 29-May 27, 2014	1	18	50	30	1

ASK ALL:

ECON1B A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>About the same as now</u>	<u>No answer</u>
June 16-22, 2020	50	22	27	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	55	22	22	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	29	26	45	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	20	32	48	*
July 22-Aug 4, 2019 ²	28	28	44	*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

COVID_FUT Thinking about the problems the country is facing from the coronavirus outbreak, do you think...? **[RANDOMIZE]**

June 16-22, <u>2020</u>		Apr 7-12 <u>2020</u>
40	The worst is behind us	26
59	The worst is still to come	73
1	No answer	1

² In the survey conducted from July 22- August 4, 2019, response options for this question were not randomized.

ASK ALL

C_SHOULDMASK Thinking about the coronavirus and your own local area, when people in your community go to public places where they may be near others, how often do you think they should wear a mask?

June 16-22,
2020

48	Always
23	Most of the time
17	Some of the time
7	Rarely
5	Never
*	No answer

ASK ALL

C_MASKREACT If you were to wear a mask in public places in your local area, generally, do you think most of the people around you would...

June 16-22,
2020

55	Approve of you wearing a mask
4	Disapprove of you wearing a mask
40	Not care much either way
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

COVID_COMFORT Given the current situation with the coronavirus outbreak, would you feel comfortable or uncomfortable doing each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Comfortable <u>doing this</u>	Uncomfortable <u>doing this</u>	No <u>answer</u>
ASK ALL:				
a.	Going out to the grocery store			
	June 16-22, 2020	79	20	*
	Mar 19-24, 2020	57	42	*
b.	Visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home ³			
	June 16-22, 2020	77	22	*
	Mar 19-24, 2020	62	38	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY (N=2,353):				
c.	Eating out in a restaurant			
	June 16-22, 2020	44	56	*
	Mar 19-24, 2020	22	77	*
d.	Attending an indoor sporting event or concert			
	June 16-22, 2020	23	76	*

³ In past surveys, this item has been asked as "Visiting with a close friend or family member at their house." In W69 (June 16-22, 2020), we split form this item with "Visiting with a close friend or family member inside their home." There were no significant differences between the items and the data from both questions were combined.

	Comfortable <u>doing this</u>	Uncomfortable <u>doing this</u>	No <u>answer</u>
COVID_COMFORT CONTINUED...			
ASK FORM 2 ONLY (N=2,355):			
No item e			
f. Attending a crowded party			
June 16-22, 2020	18	81	*
Mar 19-24, 2020	9	91	*
g. Going to a hair salon or barbershop			
June 16-22, 2020	53	46	1

ASK ALL:

COVID_INDIMPCT Do you think the actions of ordinary Americans affect how the coronavirus spreads in the US...

June 16-22,
2020

59	A great deal
28	A fair amount
10	Not too much
2	Not at all
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

COVID_2ASSIST As you may know, Congress and President Trump passed a \$2 trillion economic assistance package in March in response to the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak

Do you think it will be necessary for the president and Congress to pass an additional economic package?

June 16-22,
2020

71	Yes, another economic assistance package will be necessary
28	No, another economic assistance package will NOT be necessary
2	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Do you think it will be necessary for the president and Congress to pass another bill to provide more economic assistance?

Apr 7-12, 2020

77	Yes, another bill will be necessary
22	No, another bill will NOT be necessary
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

COVID_ECONPRIO Please indicate whether you would favor or oppose the following proposals to address the economic problems resulting from the coronavirus outbreak. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Somewhat favor</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Providing financial assistance to state and local government June 16-22, 2020	37	39	14	9	1
b. Extending the \$600-per-week increase in unemployment benefits beyond July 31 June 16-22, 2020	33	27	19	20	1
c. Providing additional tax cuts and loans to businesses that keep workers on payroll June 16-22, 2020	45	42	8	4	1
d. Preventing evictions and foreclosures on renters and homeowners who have lost jobs or income June 16-22, 2020	57	31	8	3	*
e. Temporarily cutting workers' payroll taxes that go toward Social Security and Medicare June 16-22, 2020	24	29	26	20	1

ASK ALL:

COVID_LIABILITY Which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right

June 16-22, 2020

68	In order for businesses to be able to open and operate, they need to be given broad protection from lawsuits brought by employees who may get COVID-19 while on the job
29	Employees need to be able to sue their employers if they get COVID-19 on the job, even if that makes it harder for businesses to open and operate
3	No answer

ASK ALL:

COVID_INFECT How concerned, if at all, are you that... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat concerned</u>	<u>Not too concerned</u>	<u>Not at all concerned</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. You might spread the coronavirus to other people without knowing that you have it June 16-22, 2020	30	32	23	14	*
Apr 7-12, 2020	33	34	22	11	1
b. You will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization June 16-22, 2020	24	27	32	17	*
Apr 7-12, 2020	24	31	32	13	*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

GOVNEEDY

Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view – even if neither is exactly right? [**RANDOMIZE**]

	The government should do more to help needy Americans, even if it means <u>going deeper into debt</u>	The government today can't afford to do much <u>more to help the needy</u>	No <u>answer</u>
June 16-22, 2020	58	40	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	49	48	3
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 ⁴	54	45	2

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:

PARTYLN

As of today do you lean more to...⁵

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
28	29	29	12	1	16	23

⁴ The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

⁵ Party and Partyln asked in a prior survey.