

Social Justice Watch 1205

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[Democrats more optimistic than Republicans that partisan relations in Washington will improve in 2021](#)

[So far, Trump has granted clemency less frequently than any president in modern history](#)

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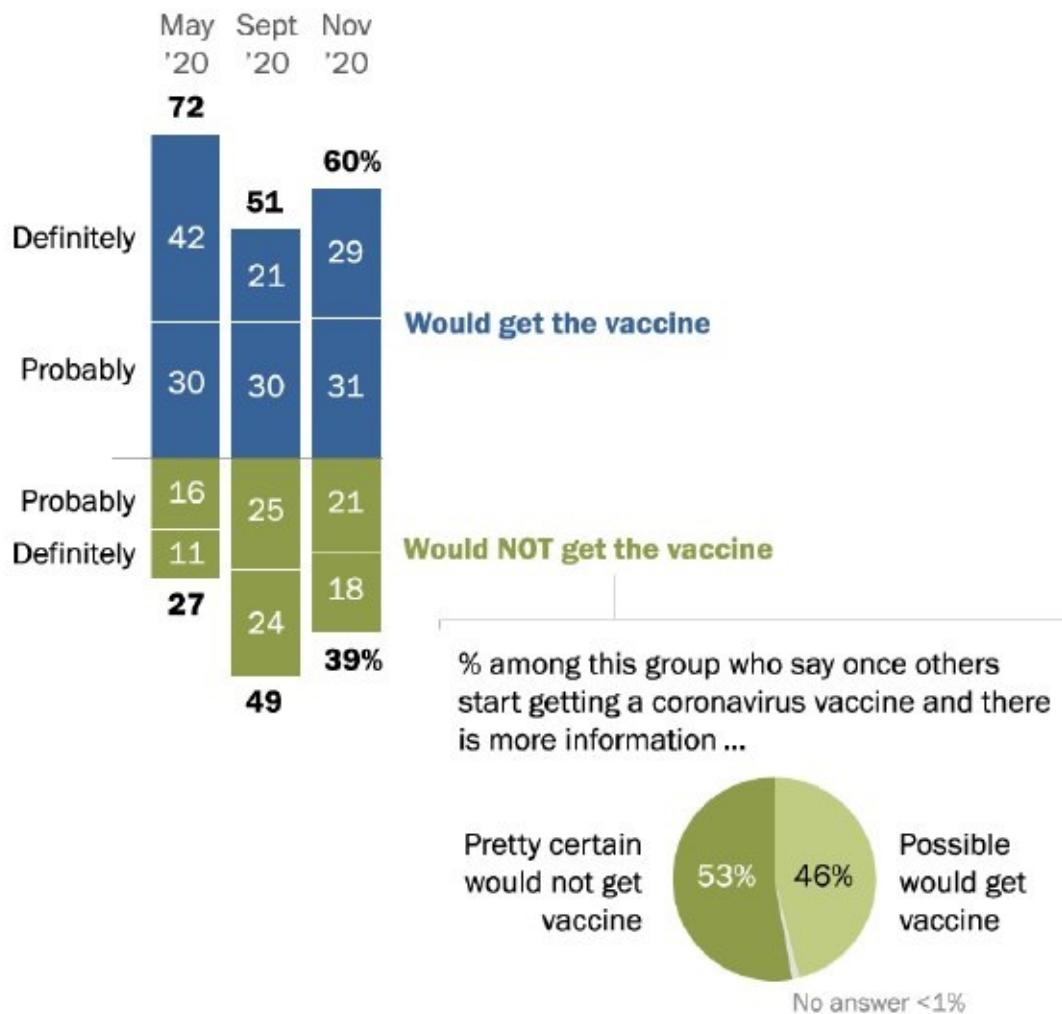
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Majority of Americans now say they would get a vaccine for the coronavirus

% of U.S. adults who say if a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, they ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

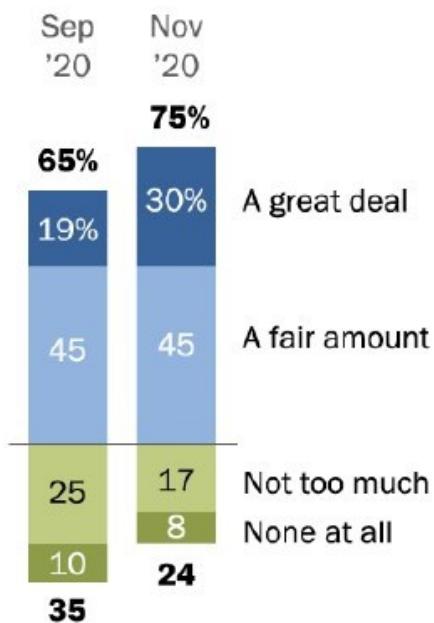
"Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"

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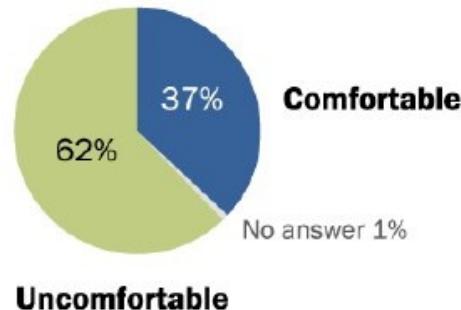
Rising confidence in the vaccine R&D process but only 37% comfortable being among first to get it

% of U.S. adults who say that ...

They have ___ of confidence that the research and development process in the U.S. will produce a safe and effective vaccine for COVID-19



They would be ___ being one of the first groups of people to get the vaccine



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

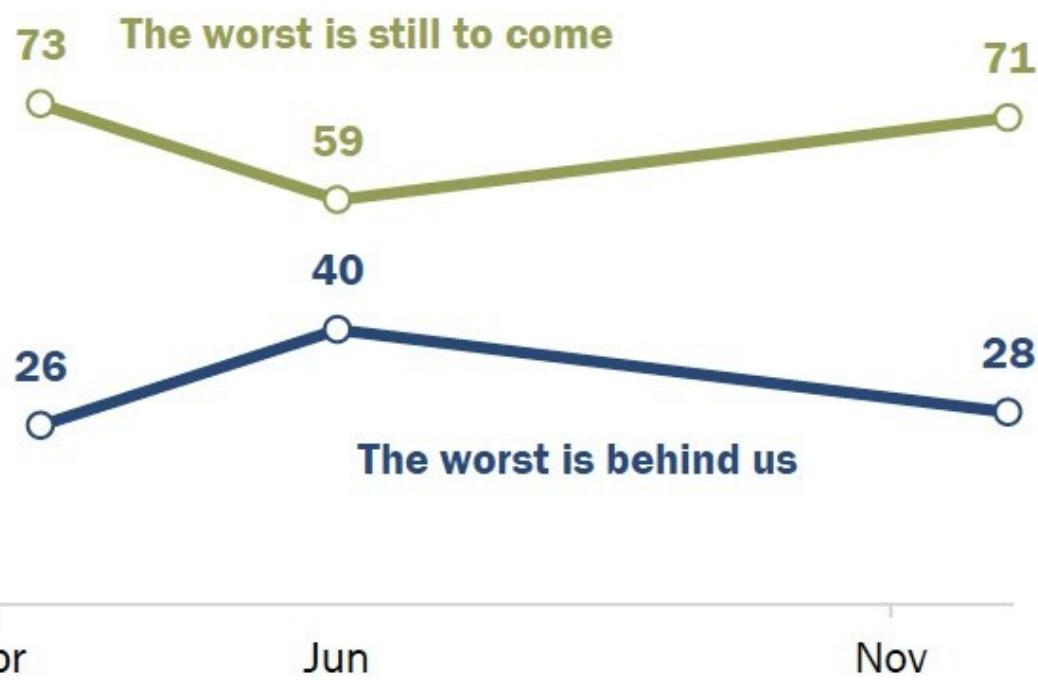
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

"Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"

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71% of Americans say the worst of the coronavirus outbreak is ‘still to come’

% of U.S. adults who say, in thinking about the problems the country is facing from the coronavirus outbreak ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

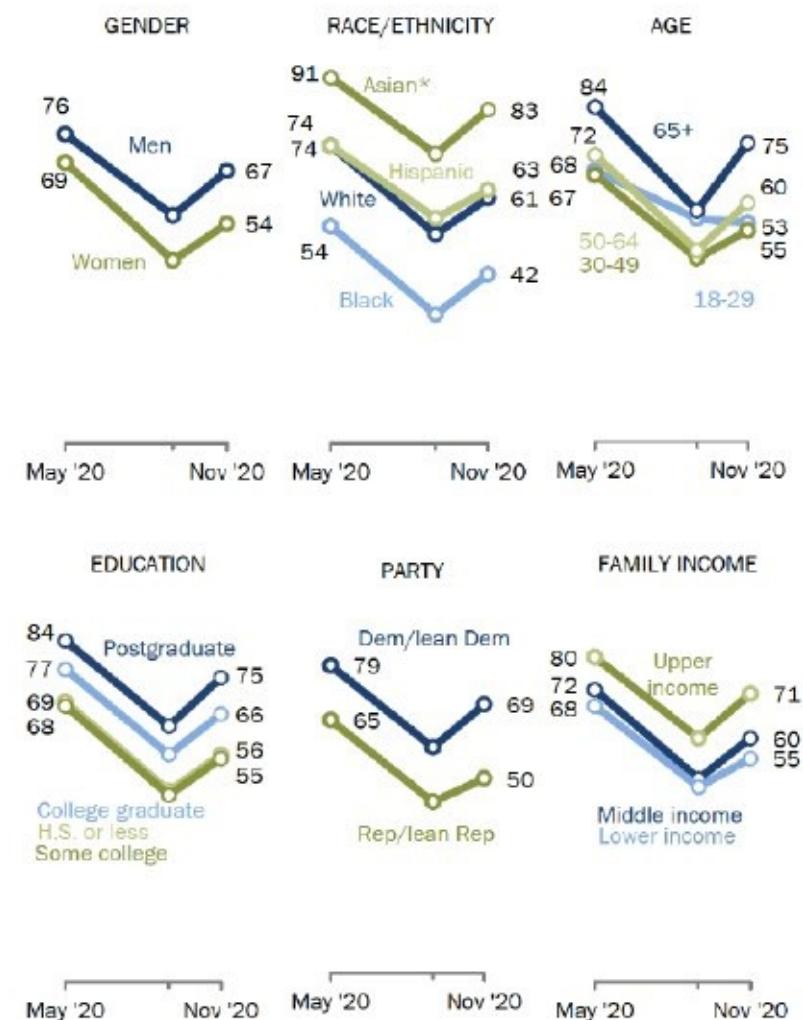
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

“Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases”

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Growing share intend to get a COVID-19 vaccine, though fewer than half of Black adults say they would

% of U.S. adults who say they would definitely/probably get a vaccine for COVID-19 if one were available today



* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2019 earnings.

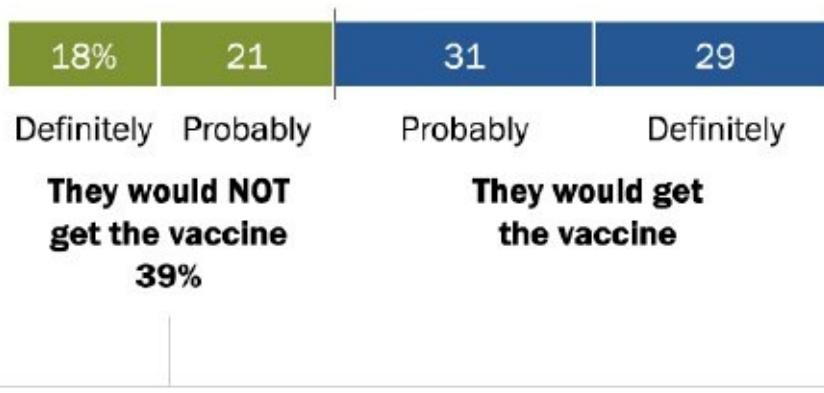
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

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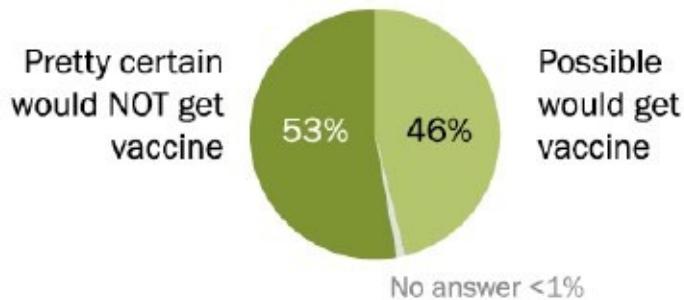
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Many of those who would not get a COVID-19 vaccine say they could change their mind

*If a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today,
% of U.S. adults who say ...*



% among this group who say once others start getting a coronavirus vaccine and there is more information ...



Notes: Based on those who would probably or definitely NOT get a coronavirus vaccine if one were available today.

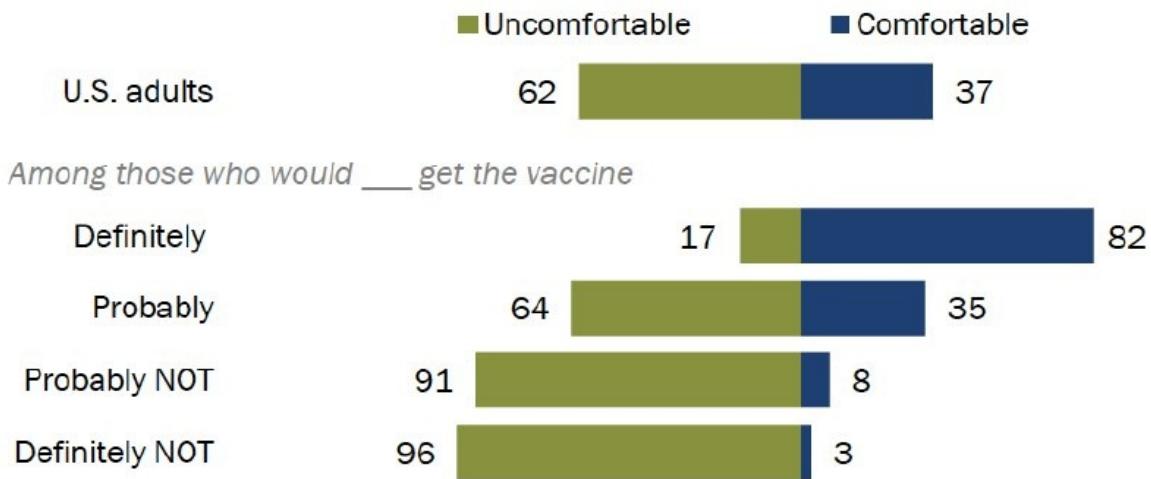
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

"Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"

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Majority of Americans say they would be uncomfortable being among the first to get vaccine

% of U.S. adults who say they would be ___ being one of the first groups of people to get a coronavirus vaccine



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

“Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases”

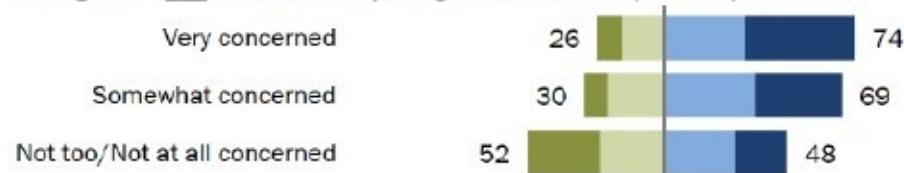
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Intent to get COVID-19 vaccine higher for those concerned about getting serious case of the disease

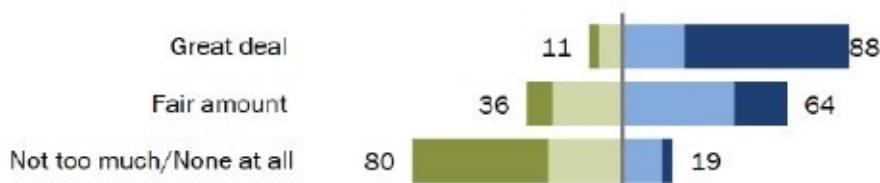
% of U.S. adults who say if a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, they would ___ get the vaccine

■ Definitely NOT ■ Probably NOT ■ Probably ■ Definitely

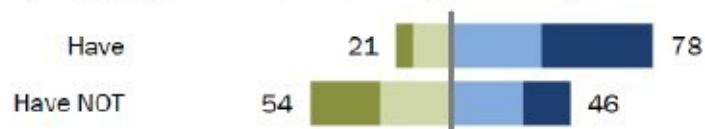
Among those ___ concerned they will get COVID and require hospitalization



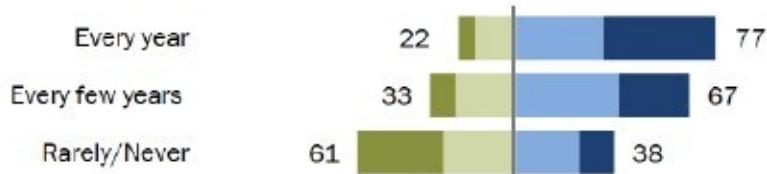
Among those with ___ confidence in vaccine R&D process



Among those who say they ___ gotten a flu shot since August of this year



Among those who typically get a flu shot ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

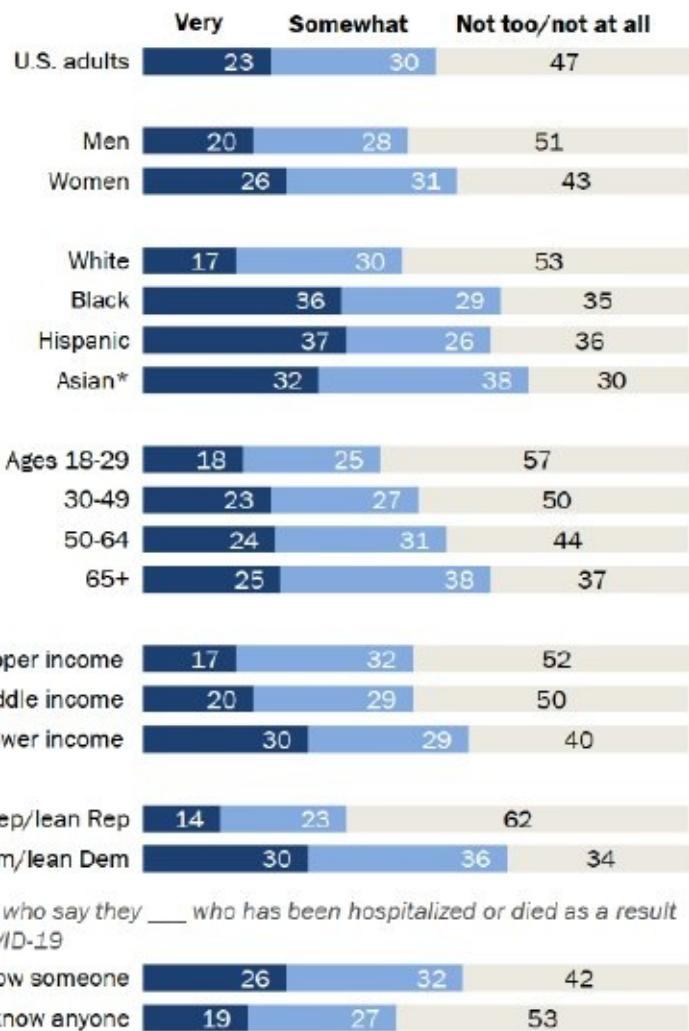
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

"Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"

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About a quarter of U.S. adults are very concerned about getting a serious case of COVID-19

% of U.S. adults who are ___ concerned that they will get COVID-19 and require hospitalization



* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

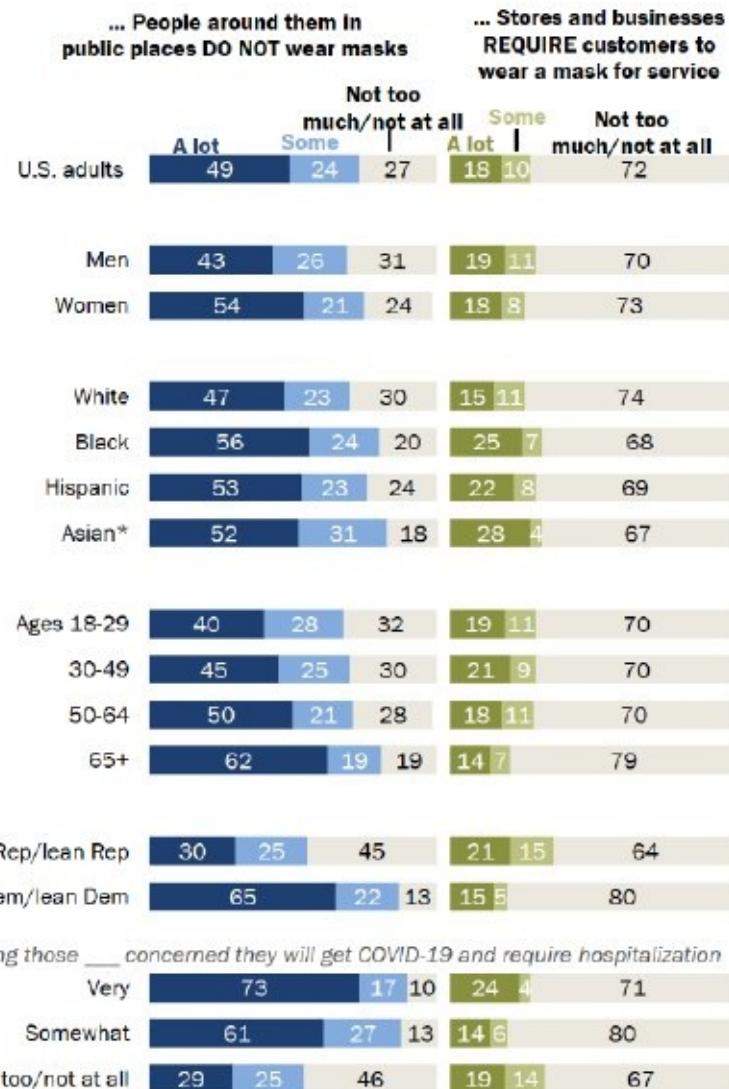
Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2019 earnings.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

"Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"**

Far larger shares of Americans bothered by people not wearing masks in public than by store requirements

% of U.S. adults who say it bothers them ___ when ...



* Asian adults were interviewed in English only

Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 18-29, 2020.

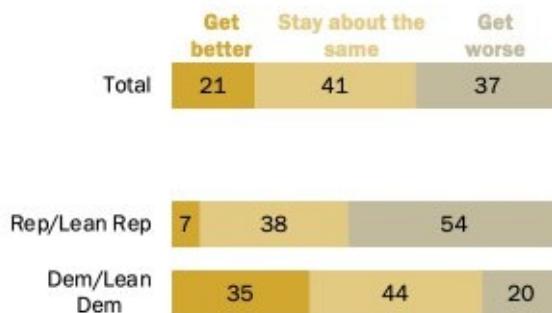
"Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases"

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Intent to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Rises to 60% as Confidence in Research and Development Process Increases [source](#)

Far more Democrats than Republicans expect partisan relations to get better

% who say relations between Republicans and Democrats in Washington will ...



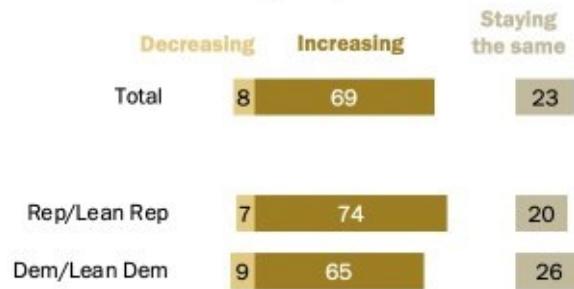
Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Majorities in both parties say nation's partisan divisions are increasing

% who say divisions between Republicans and Democrats in this country today are ...



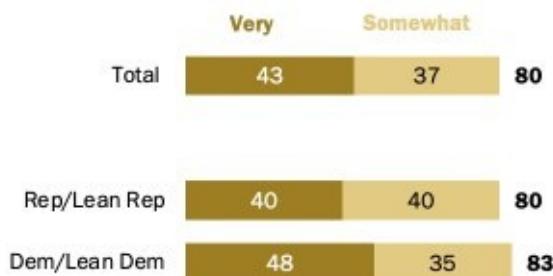
Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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80% of Americans are very or somewhat concerned by partisan divisions in U.S.

% who say they are _____ concerned about divisions between Republicans and Democrats ...

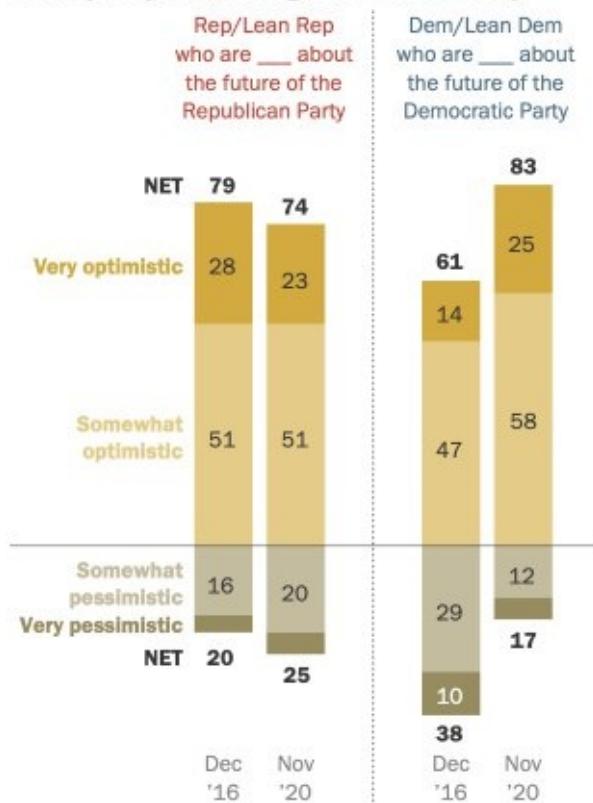


Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Democrats grow more optimistic about their party following Biden's victory



Note: Republicans and Republican leaners were asked about the Republican Party. Democrats and Democratic leaners were asked about the Democratic Party. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Democrats more optimistic than Republicans that partisan relations in Washington will improve in 2021 [source](#)



Trump has used clemency power less often than any modern president

Clemency statistics, by president

President	Term	Pardons	Commutations	Other	Total clemency	Total requests	Requests granted
Trump	2017-present	28	16	0	44	10,051	<0.5%
Obama	2009-17	212	1,715	0	1,927	36,544	5
G.W. Bush	2001-09	189	11	0	200	11,074	2
Clinton	1993-01	396	61	2	459	7,489	6
Bush	1989-93	74	3	0	77	1,466	5
Reagan	1981-89	393	13	0	406	3,404	12
Carter	1977-81	534	29	3	566	2,627	22
Ford	1974-77	382	22	5	409	1,527	27
Nixon	1969-74	863	60	3	926	2,591	36
Johnson	1963-69	960	226	1	1,187	4,537	26
Kennedy	1961-63	472	100	3	575	1,749	33
Eisenhower	1953-61	1,110	47	0	1,157	4,100	28
Truman	1945-53	1,913	118	13	2,044	5,030	41
FDR	1933-45	2,819	488	489	3,796	13,541	28
Hoover	1929-33	672	405	121	1,198	4,774	25
Coolidge	1923-29	773	773	145	1,691	8,046	21
Harding	1921-23	300	386	87	773	2,461	31
Wilson	1913-21	1,087	1,366	374	2,827	7,454	38
Taft	1909-13	383	361	87	831	2,111	39
Roosevelt	1901-09	668	363	68	1,099	4,513	24
McKinley	1897-01	291	123	32	446	1,473	30

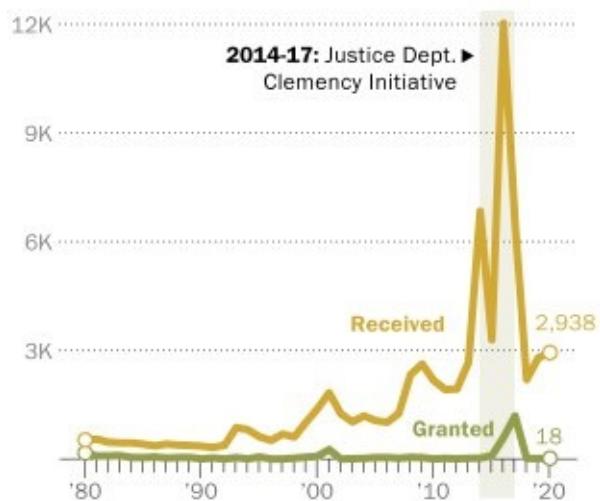
Note: "Other" refers to remissions, which reduce financial penalties, and respitees, which are temporary reprieves often granted for medical reasons. Requests under Trump include only those received through the end of fiscal 2020; pardons and commutations under Trump are through Nov. 23, 2020. Totals for McKinley include fiscal 1900 and 1901 only.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice.

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Clemency petitions soared under Obama's Clemency Initiative but have fallen since

Clemency petitions and grants, by fiscal year



Note: The Clemency Initiative encouraged qualified federal inmates to petition to have their sentences commuted. Fiscal years 1981, 1989, 1993, 2001, 2009 and 2017 span two administrations.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice.

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So far, Trump has granted clemency less frequently than any president in modern history [source](#)



yurumein

@Bequian

"Teach girls it's okay to not want kids.
That they can be functional people
without being a mother.
That waiting until they're 30 isn't
too old. Teach girls that they don't
have to sell their youth because
motherhood isn't for everyone and we
need to stop acting like it is."

<https://www.facebook.com/thatgirlinsideme/photos/a.1127922237314055/285370553033333/>

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telegra.ph/Democrats-more-optimistic-than-Republicans-that-partisan-relations-in-Washington-will-improve-in-2021-12-03

Telegraph

Democrats more optimistic than Republicans that partisan relations in Washington will improve in 2021

With the delayed transition to a Biden administration now underway, Americans have only modest expectations that the partisanship that has dominated Washington in recent years will ease in 2021. However, Democrats are much more optimistic than Republicans...

telegra.ph/So-far-Trump-has-granted-clemency-less-frequently-than-any-president-in-modern-history-12-03

Telegraph

So far, Trump has granted clemency less frequently than any president in modern history

As he enters the home stretch of his White House tenure, Donald Trump has used his clemency power less often than any president in modern history, according to data from the U.S. Department of Justice. Trump's sparse use of pardons, commutations and other...

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Democrats more optimistic than Republicans that partisan relations in Washington will improve in 2021

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With the delayed transition to a Biden administration now underway, Americans have only modest expectations that the partisanship that has dominated Washington in recent years will ease in 2021. However, Democrats are much more optimistic than Republicans that relations between the two parties will improve.

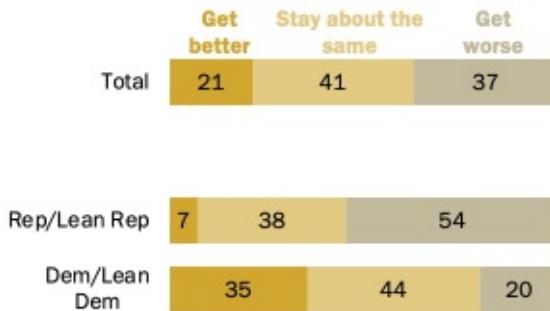
Just 21% of Americans say relations between Republicans and Democrats will get better in the coming year. Far more (37%) expect relations to worsen, while 41% say they will stay about the same.

To understand Americans' views about partisanship and the political parties after the presidential election, we surveyed 11,818 U.S. adults, including 10,399 registered voters who say they voted in the presidential election, between Nov. 12 to 17. 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 this report, along with responses, and its methodology.

Far more Democrats than Republicans expect partisan relations to get better

% who say relations between Republicans and Democrats in Washington will ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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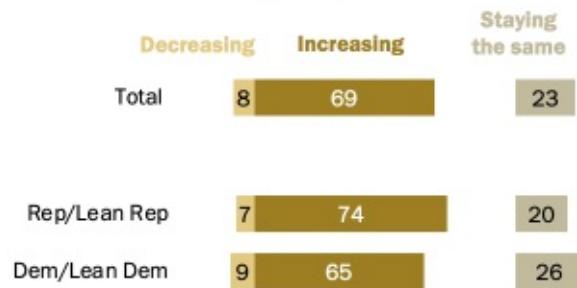
Following Joe Biden’s victory and his post-election call for partisan unity, significantly more Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (35%) than Republicans and Republican leaners (7%) say relations between the two parties in Washington will improve.

To be sure, more Democrats say partisan relations will stay the same (44%) or get worse (20%) than predict they will improve. But Democrats are far more optimistic than Republicans, a majority of whom (54%) say relations will get worse in the coming year, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted Nov. 12 to 17.

The share of Americans who expect relations between Republicans and Democrats in Washington to improve, while low, has more than doubled – from 9% to 21% – since shortly after the 2018 midterm election, when Democrats gained a majority in the House of Representatives. Since then, the share of Democrats who anticipate improved partisan relations has increased 22 percentage points, from 13% to 35%, while remaining virtually unchanged among Republicans at 6%.

Majorities in both parties say nation's partisan divisions are increasing

% who say divisions between Republicans and Democrats in this country today are ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

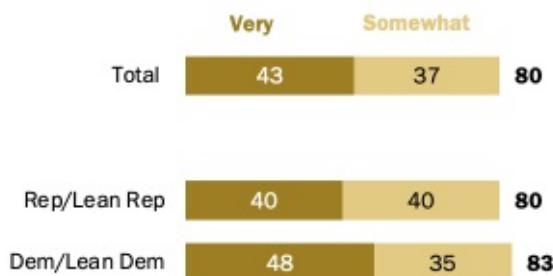
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Meanwhile, the public continues to have largely negative views about the state of partisan divisions in the country. A majority of Americans (69%) say that divisions between Republicans and Democrats today are increasing, while just 8% say they are decreasing and 23% say they are staying the same.

Majorities of both Republicans (74%) and Democrats (65%) say partisan divisions are increasing. Only about one-in-ten in both parties say they are decreasing, while 26% of Democrats and 20% of Republicans say they are staying about the same.

80% of Americans are very or somewhat concerned by partisan divisions in U.S.

% who say they are _____ concerned about divisions between Republicans and Democrats ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

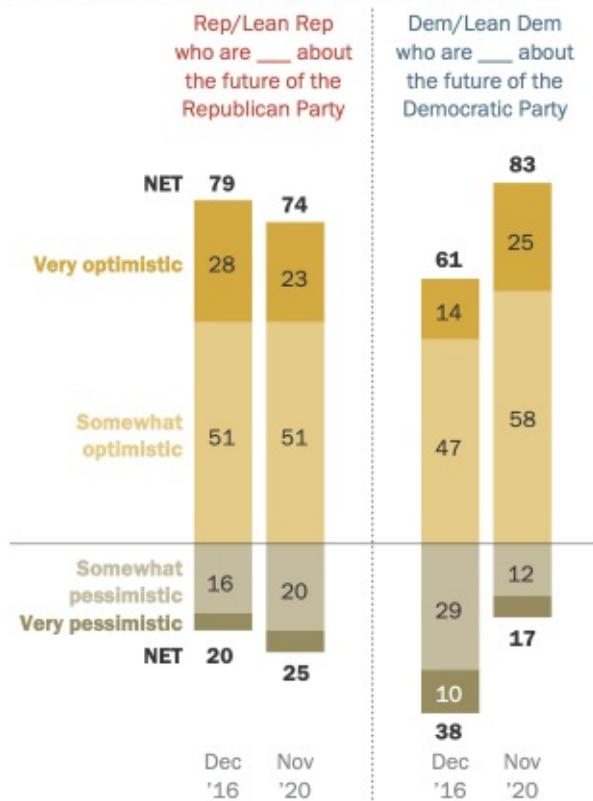
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While Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say partisan divisions are increasing, Democrats are more likely to be very concerned about partisan divides in the country.

Sizable majorities in both parties (80% of Republicans, 83% of Democrats) say they are very or somewhat concerned about divisions between Republicans and Democrats. While 40% of Republicans are very concerned by this, a somewhat larger share of Democrats (48%) say the same.

Following the 2020 elections, members of both parties are generally optimistic about the future of their parties. More than eight-in-ten Democrats (83%) today say that they are either very or somewhat optimistic about the future of the Democratic Party, and nearly three-quarters of Republicans (74%) say the same about their party.

Democrats grow more optimistic about their party following Biden's victory



Note: Republicans and Republican leaners were asked about the Republican Party. Democrats and Democratic leaners were asked about the Democratic Party. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Partisans typically express optimism about the futures of their parties. But more Democrats are optimistic today, after Biden's win, than after Hillary Clinton's loss in 2016 (83% now, 61% in November 2016). Republicans are nearly as optimistic about the GOP as they were in 2016 (74% now, 79% then).

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

Share this link: Vianney Gomez

is a research assistant focusing on U.S. politics and policy at Pew Research Center. POSTS BIO EMAIL

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So far, Trump has granted clemency less frequently than any president in modern history

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President Donald Trump signs a pardon for Alice Johnson, who was serving a life sentence on drug-related charges, on Aug. 28, 2020, in Washington. (Evan Vucci/AP)

As he enters the home stretch of his White House tenure, Donald Trump has used his clemency power less often than any president in modern history, according to data from the U.S. Department of Justice. Trump's sparse use of pardons, commutations and other forms of official leniency stands in sharp contrast to his predecessor, Barack Obama, who used the clemency power more frequently than any chief executive since Harry Truman.

As of Nov. 23, Trump had granted clemency 44 times, including 28 pardons and 16 commutations. That's the lowest total of any president since at least William McKinley, who served at the turn of the 20th century. Obama, by comparison,

granted clemency 1,927 times during his eight-year tenure, including 212 pardons and 1,715 commutations. The only modern president who granted clemency almost as infrequently as Trump is George H.W. Bush, who granted 77 pardons and commutations in his single term.

Trump has used clemency power less often than any modern president

Clemency statistics, by president

President	Term	Pardons	Commutations	Other	Total clemency	Total requests	Requests granted
Trump	2017-present	28	16	0	44	10,051	<0.5%
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Note: "Other" refers to remissions, which reduce financial penalties, and respite, which are temporary reprieves often granted for medical reasons. Requests under Trump include only those received through the end of fiscal 2020; pardons and commutations under Trump are through Nov. 23, 2020. Totals for McKinley include fiscal 1900 and 1901 only.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice.

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President Donald Trump's use of the clemency power is in the news, so we conducted this analysis to see how he compares to his predecessors in the number of pardons and commutations he has granted to date. The analysis is based on a U.S. Justice Department database that tracks clemency petitions and grants for every president since William McKinley.

Pardon and commutation statistics for Trump are current as Nov. 23, 2020, while statistics about the number of petitions he has received are current through the end of the 2020 fiscal year (Sept. 30). The number of grants and the number of petitions Trump has received may change before the end of his tenure.

Looking at the same data another way, Trump has granted clemency to less than half of 1% of the more than 10,000 people who petitioned him for it through the end of the 2020 fiscal year (which ended Sept. 30), according to the Justice Department. That, too, is the lowest percentage of any president on record, though George W. Bush came close, granting clemency to just 2% of the more than 11,000 people who asked him for it during his eight years in office.

Clemency refers to multiple forms of presidential mercy. The two most common forms are pardons, which forgive past crimes and restore civil rights, and commutations, which completely or partially reduce sentences for those in prison or on community supervision. Two less-common forms are remissions, which reduce financial penalties associated with convictions, and respites, which are temporary reprieves that are usually granted to inmates for medical reasons.

The Justice Department's statistics, it's important to note, do not count clemency granted through proclamation or executive order, such as the actions taken by Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter to forgive thousands of Vietnam-era draft dodgers. The DOJ numbers also count some clemency recipients twice – for example, in cases where someone received both a pardon *and* a commutation.

While rare so far, Trump's use of presidential clemency has caused controversy because of the nature of his pardons and commutations. Many of Trump's clemency recipients have had a "personal or political connection to the president," according to a July analysis by the Lawfare blog, and he has often circumvented the formal process through which clemency requests are typically considered.

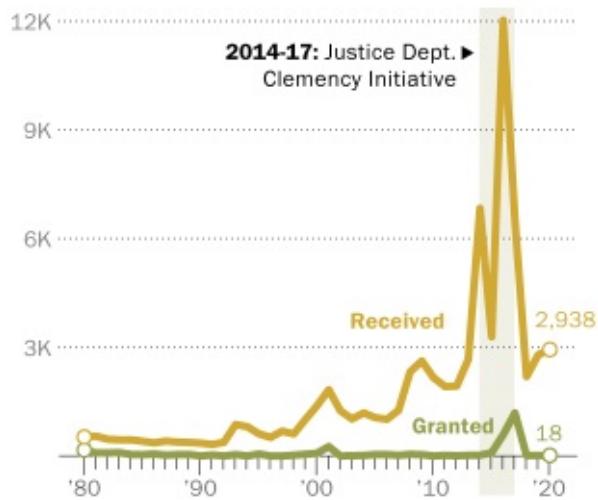
But Trump is far from the only president who has faced scrutiny over his use of clemency. Obama's frequent use of commutations, particularly for prisoners convicted of drug-related crimes, prompted criticism from Republicans, who said it benefited "an entire class of offenders" and infringed on the "lawmaking authority" of the legislative branch. And President Bill Clinton drew bipartisan condemnation for pardoning a fugitive commodities trader, Marc Rich, on his last day in office in 2001.

Presidents have generally become less forgiving over time, at least when looking at the proportion of clemency requests they have granted. Every president from McKinley to Carter granted clemency to at least 20% of those who asked for it,

according to the Justice Department data. But the percentages have fallen to the single digits for every president since George H.W. Bush, including Obama, who granted clemency to just 5% of those who petitioned him for it.

**Clemency petitions soared under
Obama's Clemency Initiative but have
fallen since**

Clemency petitions and grants, by fiscal year



Note: The Clemency Initiative encouraged qualified federal inmates to petition to have their sentences commuted. Fiscal years 1981, 1989, 1993, 2001, 2009 and 2017 span two administrations.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice.

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Obama's relatively low percentage, however, is largely due to the fact that his administration *encouraged* federal prisoners to apply for leniency under a program known as the Clemency Initiative. The program, which launched in April 2014 and ended in 2017 when Obama left office, allowed "qualified federal inmates" – those who met certain Justice Department criteria – to apply to have their prison sentences commuted. The initiative led to a surge in petitions and helps explain why Obama's use of clemency tilted so heavily toward sentence commutations, rather than pardons.

Overall, Obama received more than 36,000 clemency petitions during his time in office, by far the largest total of any president on record. Petitions have declined considerably during Trump's tenure.

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