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AMERICANS URGENTLY NEED MORE AID TO ALLEVIATE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS

19 percent of voters have already
missed payment on a regular bill

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As Congress debates another round of aid to Americans and businesses, many people are already struggling. The \$1,200 checks provided in the CARES act are a positive step, but have failed to meaningfully change the financial situation of Americans who are struggling with an unprecedented financial pinch due to the coronavirus. A new poll from Data for Progress, conducted on May 4th 2020, finds that the financial situation of many Americans is extremely precarious, and that without additional aid we risk severe personal and economic harm.

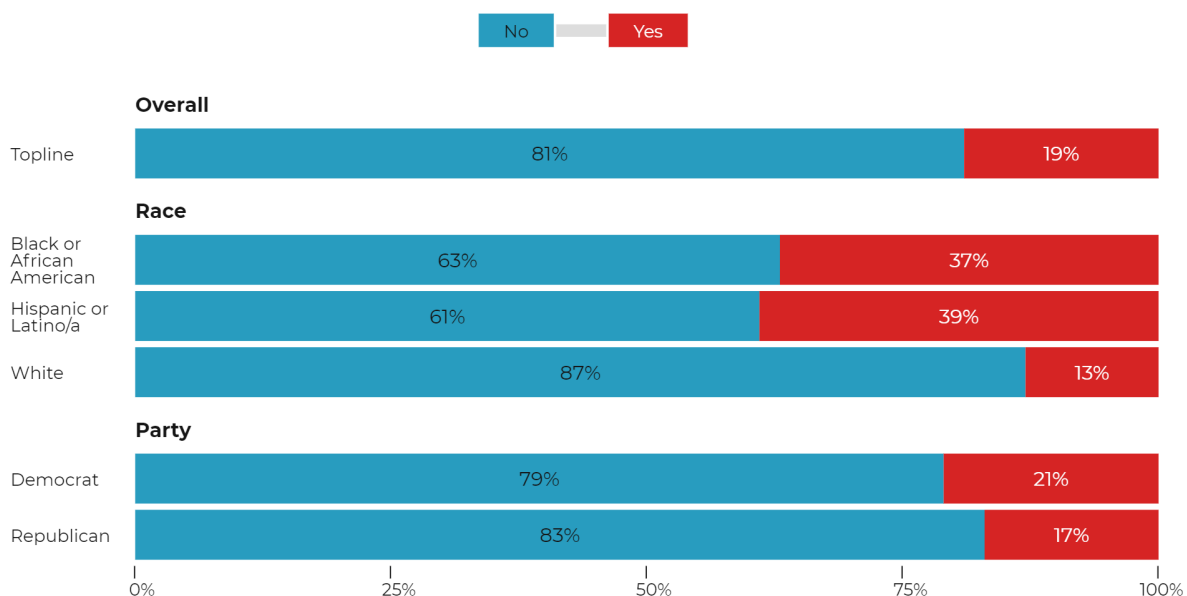
Americans are already having to make hard tradeoffs due to the economic situation, and they lack the cushion of savings or aid needed to survive the crisis. Nearly 20 percent of Americans report already skipping a bill, and a majority of voters anticipate having trouble covering basic

costs within the next 3 months, 35 percent within one month.

Among those who have already struggled to meet all obligations, the most commonly skipped is a utility bill (power, water, gas), followed by a rent or mortgage payment. This poll was conducted just after May 1st, when most people will have had to pay (or withhold) rent, and captures the first wave of monthly required payments after the distribution of stimulus checks. We find there still exists significant need, especially among people of color. 37 percent of Black/African-American respondents report having already skipped a bill, as do 39 percent of Hispanic/Latinx respondents, compared to 13 percent of white respondents. This is a dramatic racial disparity in inability to cover essential costs.

A Fifth of Voters Have Already Skipped Their Bills

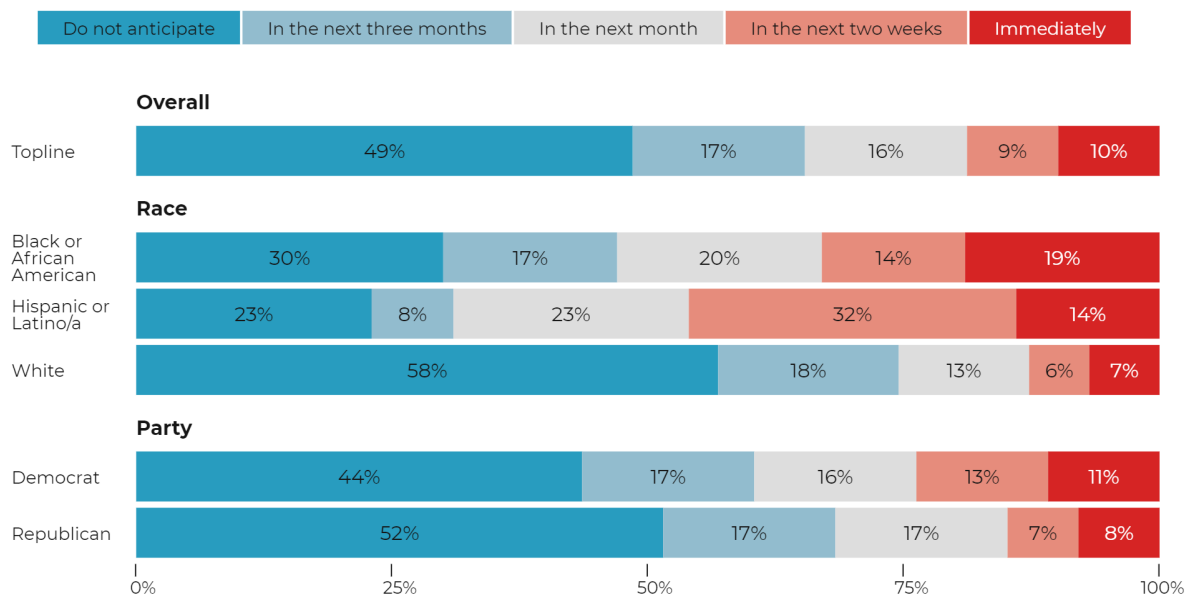
In the last two months, have you skipped payments of any regular monthly bills such as rent, utilities or insurance?



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People Will Soon Struggle to Pay Their Bills

At what point do you anticipate having trouble covering basic costs for things like housing, food, and utilities?



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The number of people reporting losing a job or hours stayed roughly constant from our last poll on the subject, rising very slightly to 29 percent. People under 45 are still overrepresented in this statistic, with 49 percent reporting the loss of a job or hours, as are Black/African-American, and Hispanic/Latinx populations, with 34 percent and 56 percent reporting these losses, respectively. While we wait for updated unemployment numbers for a more precise estimate, our poll gives an indication that the employment impacts are not evenly distributed across the population.

Congress needs to act quickly to provide more relief. There is an impending crisis as a large portion of the population struggles to cover basic costs and pay their bills. As mentioned above, a majority of voters anticipate having

trouble covering basic costs within the next 3 months. Despite the distribution of initial aid funds provided in CARES, voters are still looking forward and seeing serious financial issues. This difficulty is much more pronounced among non-white respondents, which is consistent with our other polling.

METHODOLOGY

From 5/4/2020 to 5/4/2020 Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1143 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, urbanicity, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 2.9 percent.

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