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CONCERN OVER THE CORONAVIRUS

Most voters are worried about lack of paid leave, health care, and limited federal response

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Voters are overwhelmingly concerned about the worsening coronavirus outbreak and deteriorating economic situation. Overall, we found:

- ▶ Sixty-eight percent of voters were either extremely or very concerned about the lack of providing *all* workers paid sick or medical leave. Including fifty-five percent of those who identify as Republicans.
- ▶ Sixty-six percent of voters were either extremely or very concerned about the United States's lack of a robust regime for testing coronavirus.
- ▶ Sixty-three percent of voters were either extremely or very concerned about the courts eliminating protections for pre-existing conditions the Affordable Care Act enshrined.
- ▶ Sixty-two percent of voters were either extremely or very concerned about bailouts that don't also protect payroll and take care of workers.
- ▶ Sixty-two percent of voters were either extremely or very concerned about President Trump's laggard response to the outbreak, failing to mobilize the full weight of the federal government.

The United States is now facing two interconnected crises. The first is the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The outbreak is spreading rapidly. The second crisis is economic. As businesses shutter, the ranks of the unemployed are swelling. The stock market has tumbled precipitously, and GDP is projected to contract sharply.

President Trump and the Republicans in Congress have done little to combat either crisis. Available tests in the US remain meager, especially when compared to South Korea. The original bill for coronavirus relief was also woefully inadequate, leaving millions in the labor force without the protections they need. President Trump has also been reluctant to mobilize the full muscle of the federal government to try to stem the outbreak. For example, the government could use the authority granted to it by the Defense Production Act to begin to manufacture ventilators, masks, and gowns. And yet he does not.

The federal government is also now considering a series of bills to bail out firms affected by the worsening economic crisis. While some Senators, such as Senator Elizabeth Warren, have proposed worker-protection conditions within these bailout packages, Senate Republicans and the Trump administration are in the process of advancing legislation that would leave most workers out in the cold. In addition, laid-off workers are losing their employer-provided health insurance—a situation that could be exacerbated if the Supreme Court opts to strike down the Affordable Care Act, gutting legislation that protects those with pre-existing conditions.

In a March 2020 survey, Data for Progress sought to test levels of concern among registered voters. Specifically, we asked voters the five following questions:

1. The Coronavirus relief law passed only provides paid leave for a small percentage of Americans, as Senate Republicans blocked a measure that would have provided expansive paid sick and family and medical leave for most people who may be unable to work during the Coronavirus pandemic due to sickness or to take care of loved ones. How concerned are you about this?

2. The first Coronavirus case in the US & South Korea was detected on the same day. South Korea has tested hundreds of thousands of people and the Coronavirus outbreak is under control. Due to the failed response of the Trump Administration, the US has tested fewer than one hundred thousand and cases are exploding. How concerned are you about this?
3. Donald Trump's administration is suing to repeal the health care protections for people with pre-existing conditions in the Affordable Care Act at the same time they're claiming they'll look out for Americans' care during the current pandemic. How concerned are you about this?
4. The Trump administration may bail out massive corporations who have spent their profits on stock buy-backs and executive bonuses without requiring they use any taxpayer funds to keep people employed and take care of their workers. How concerned are you about this?
5. Donald Trump hasn't activated the full force of the US government to produce ventilators, masks and other essential health care equipment while hospitals face shortages; or deployed the military to build emergency hospital facilities despite pleas from governors, mayors and health care professionals. How concerned are you about this?

For all these questions, those surveyed were given the following answers:

<1> *Extremely concerned*

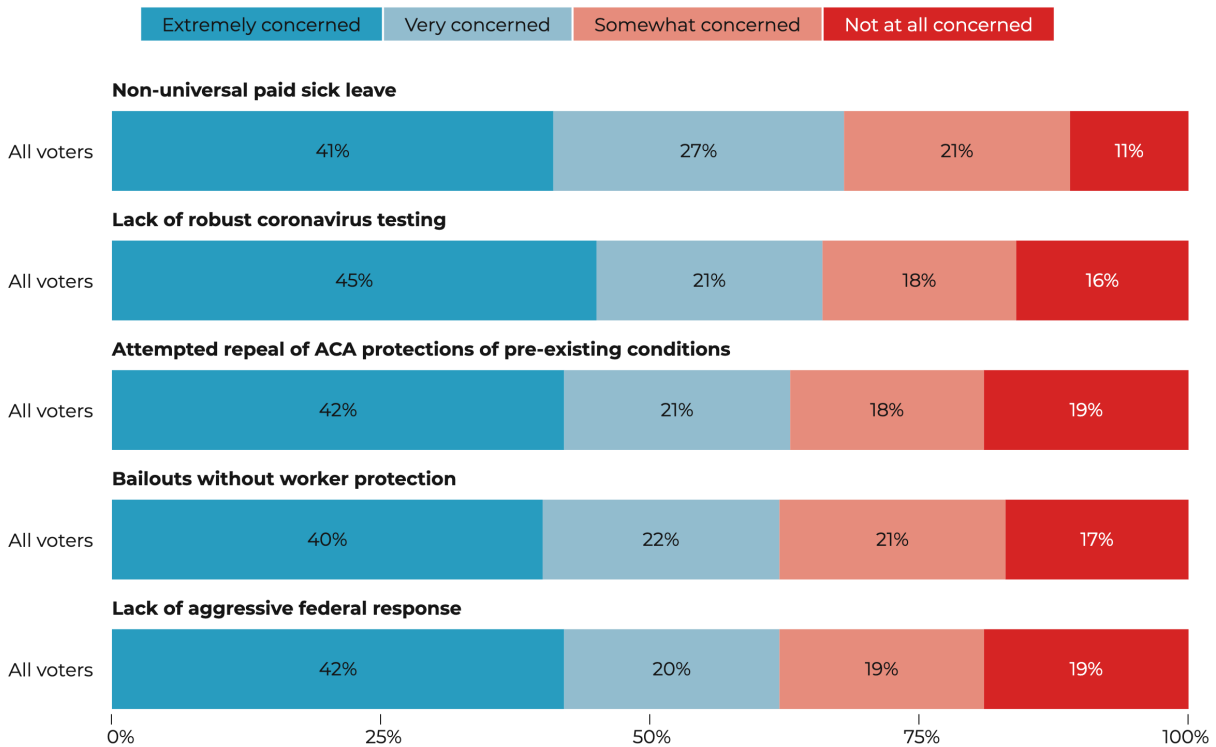
<2> *Very concerned*

<3> *Somewhat concerned*

<4> *Not at all concerned*

About the lack of universal paid sick and medical leave, 68 percent of voters are extremely or very concerned, while 21 percent of voters are somewhat concerned, with the remaining 11 percent not at all concerned. This result more or less holds across the other four questions. About the lack of coronavirus testing, 45 percent of voters are extremely concerned, 21 percent are very concerned, 18 percent are somewhat concerned, with the remaining 16 percent not at all concerned. About stripping healthcare protections from those with pre-existing conditions, 42 percent of voters are extremely concerned, 21 percent are very concerned, and 18 percent are extremely somewhat concerned, with the remaining 19 percent not at all concerned. Lastly, when it came to the slow and limited federal response, 42 percent of voters are extremely concerned, 20 percent are very concerned, and 19 percent are somewhat concerned, with 19 percent not at all concerned.

Voters Are Concerned About How President Trump And Republicans In Congress Are Handling The Coronavirus Crises



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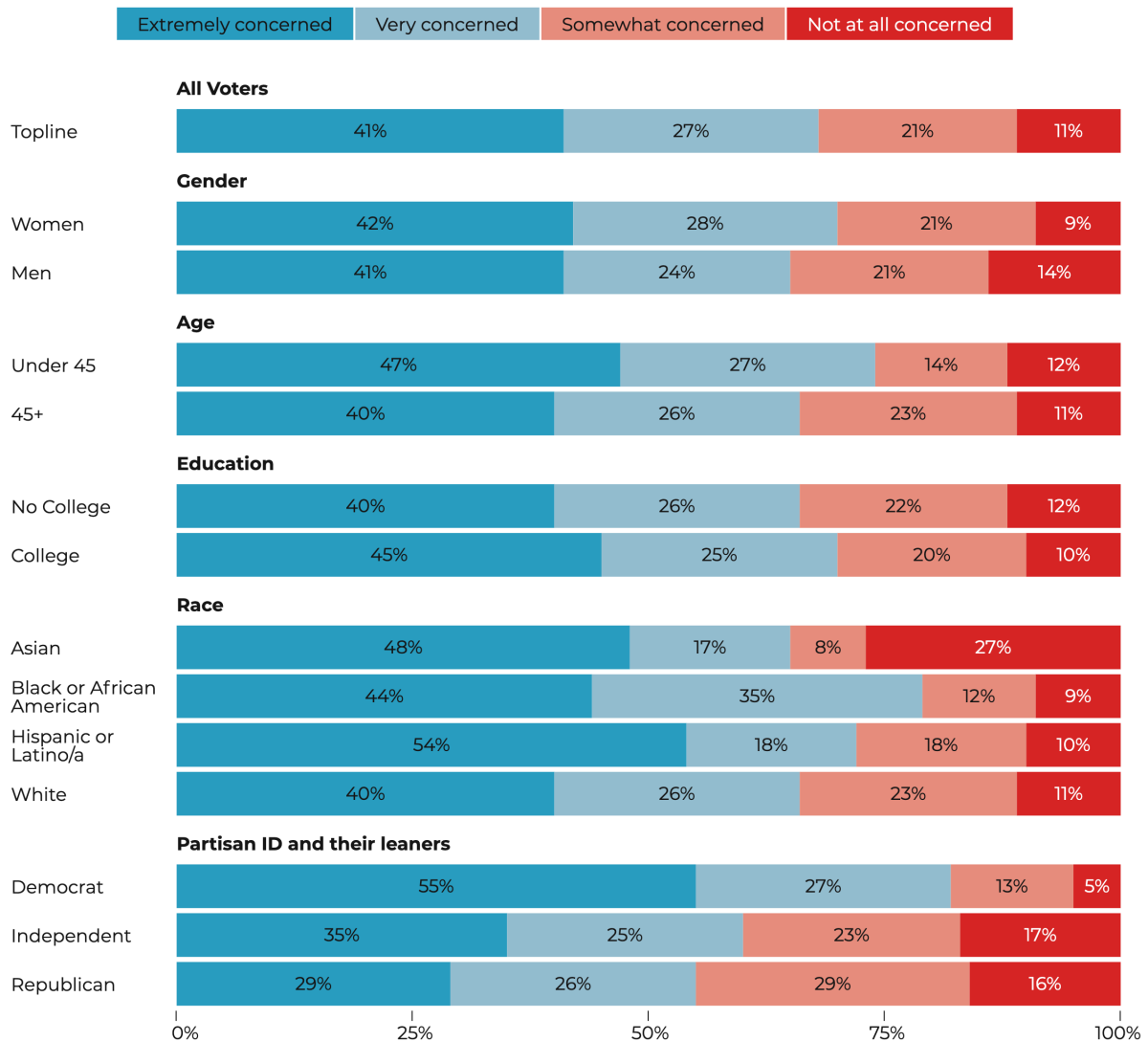
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Next, we take a closer look at the issue of limited paid and medical leave protection, breaking out the results by voters' demographic groupings and partisanship (If a person "leaned" toward one

party, we grouped them with the party that leaned towards.) Across the board, we found most voters are either extremely or very concerned: 82 percent of Democrats and 55 percent of Republicans were either extremely or very concerned.

Voters Are Concerned About The Lack Of Universal Paid Sick And Medical Leave

The Coronavirus relief law passed only provides paid leave for a small percentage of Americans, as Senate Republicans blocked a measure that would have provided expansive paid sick and family and medical leave for most people who may be unable to work during the Coronavirus pandemic due to sickness or to take care of loved ones. How concerned are you about this?



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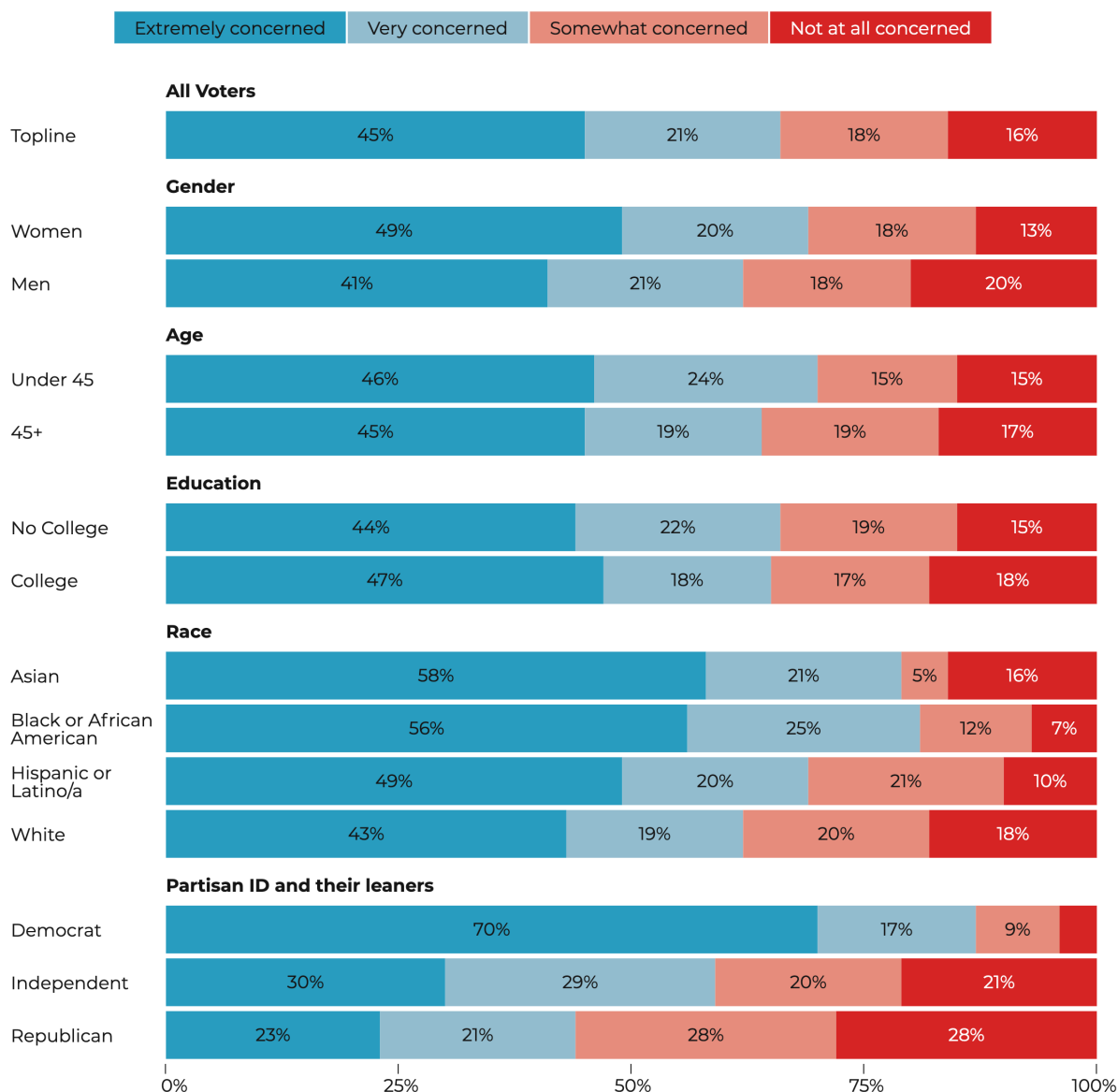
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In this next chart, we take a closer look at voters' level of concern about the United States's lack of testing for the coronavirus, again breaking out the results by demographics and partisanship. Most voters are either extremely or very concerned about the absence of testing for the coronavirus

in the US. Here, we see a higher degree of partisan sorting of attitudes. Eighty-seven percent of those who self-identify as Democrats are either extremely or very concerned while only 44 percent of those who self-identify as Republicans are either very or extremely concerned.

Voters Are Concerned About The United States's Lack Of Testing

The first Coronavirus case in the US & South Korea was detected on the same day. South Korea has tested hundreds of thousands of people and the Coronavirus outbreak is under control. Due to the failed response of the Trump Administration, the US has tested fewer than one hundred thousand and cases are exploding. How concerned are you about this?



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CONCLUSION

Most voters are concerned about how President Trump and Republicans in Congress are currently handling the coronavirus pandemic and its resultant economic crisis. These results may also represent leading indicators to a more general decline in Trump's approval rating as concern crystallizes into opposition. Regardless of what the future holds, it's clear from these findings that voters are worried and would likely support bold action.

METHODS

This survey was fielded from March 22 to March 23, 2020. It was a survey of 2349 likely voters and weighted to represent the likely electorate.