MAJORITY IN NH DISAPPROVE OF TRUMP'S HANDLING OF COVID-19; CONFIDENCE IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WANES

By: Sean P. McKinley, M.A.
     Zachary S. Azem, M.A.
     Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D.

andrew.smith@unh.edu
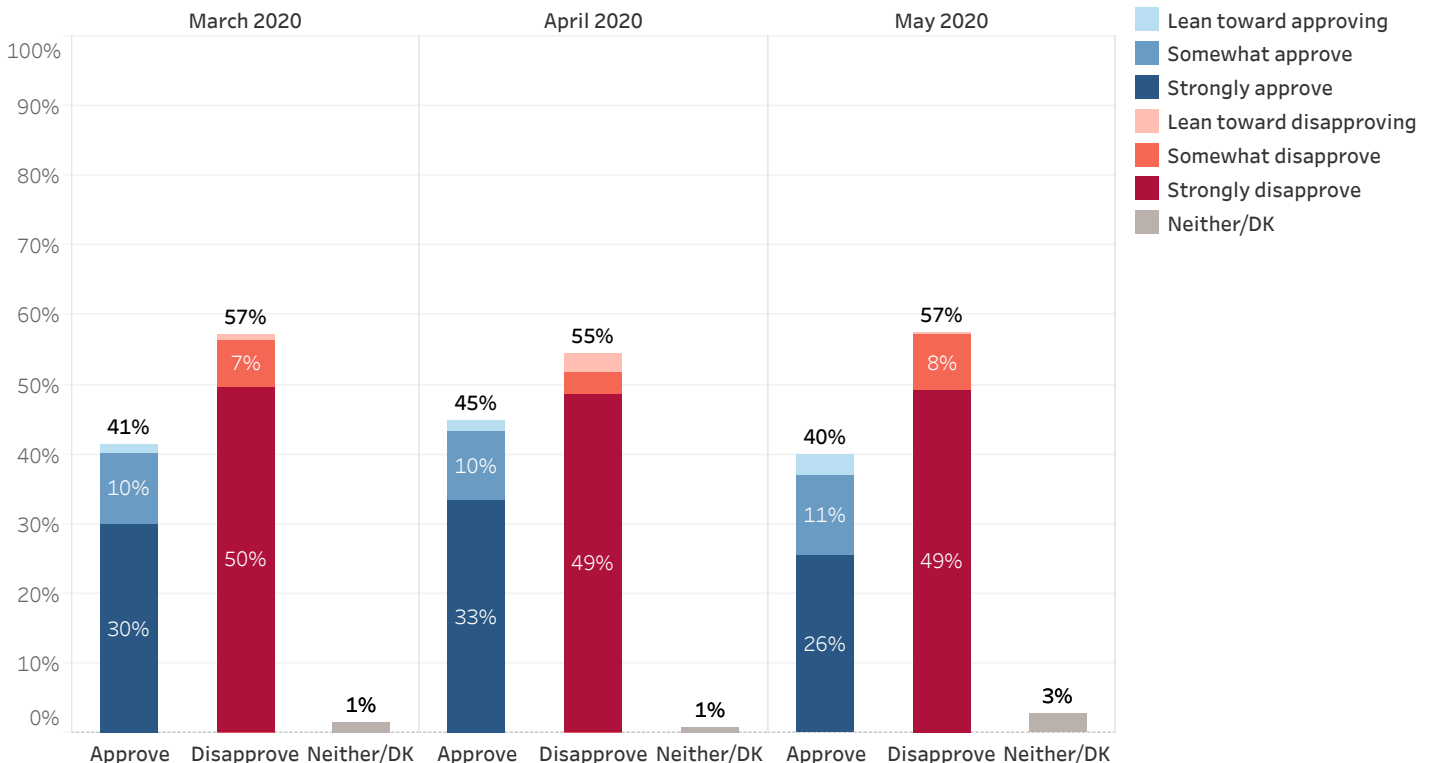603-862-2226
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DURHAM, NH - Confidence among New Hampshire residents in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has declined since April. Trust in science agencies, such as the CDC, as a source of information on the outbreak has also declined since April. A majority continue to disapprove of President Trump's handling of the coronavirus situation and nearly half of the state strongly disapproves.

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Panel*** survey, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Eight hundred forty (840) Granite State Panel members completed the survey online between May 14 and May 18, 2020. Data were weighted by respondent sex, age, education, and region of the state to targets from the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as party registration levels provided by the New Hampshire Secretary of State. The Granite State Panel is part of an effort by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center to investigate new ways of gathering and understanding the opinion of New Hampshire residents. Granite State Panel members are recruited from randomly-selected landline and cell phone numbers across New Hampshire and surveys are sent periodically to panel members.

Handling of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation by President Trump

A majority of New Hampshire residents (57%) disapprove of President Trump's handling of the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, and half (49%) strongly disapprove. Forty percent approve of Trump's handling of the situation while 3% neither approve or disapprove or don't know. Approval of Trump's handling of the coronavirus situation is largely unchanged since April.
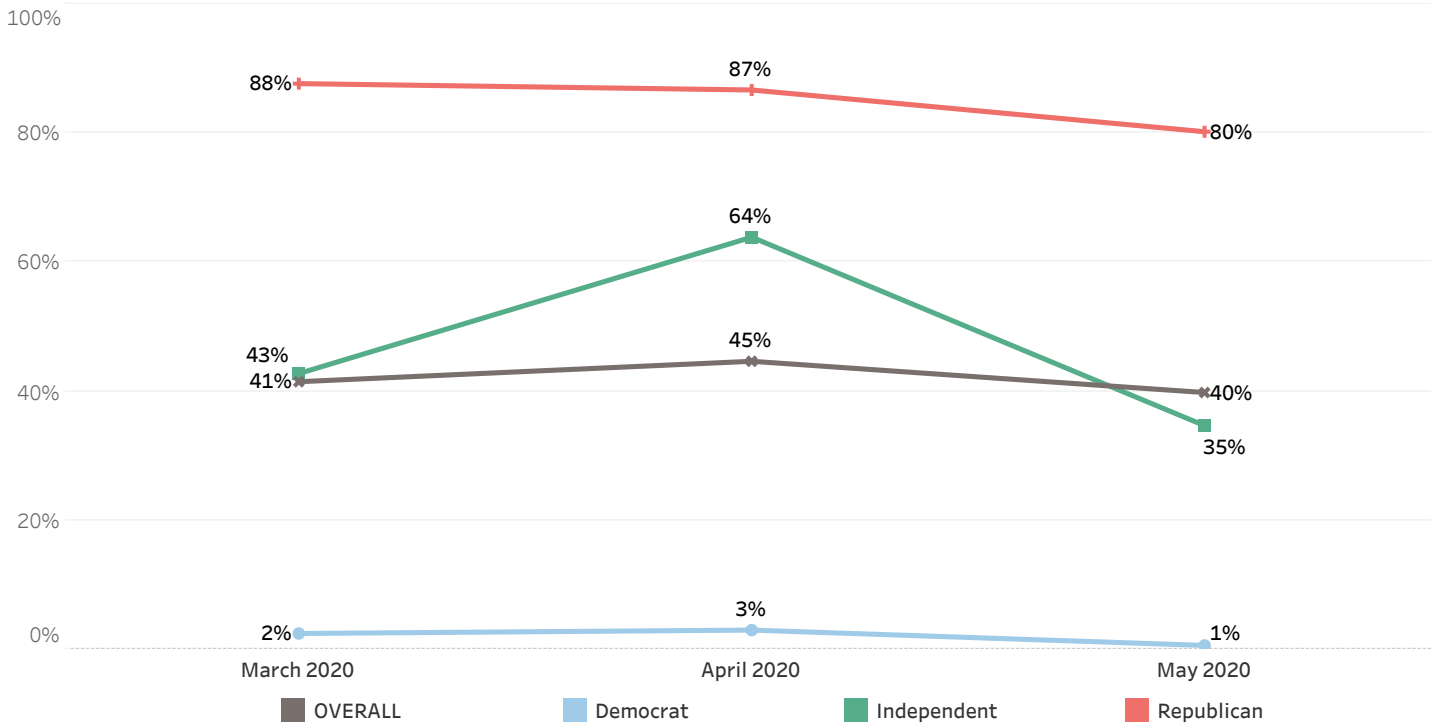
Approval of President Trump's Handling of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation

* We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Panel,* conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

Approval of Trump's handling of COVID-19 is tied to partisanship as 80% of New Hampshire Republicans approve of how Trump is handling the situation but only 35% of Independents and virtually no Democrats (1%) agree. Approval among Independents has declined by 29 percentage points since April.
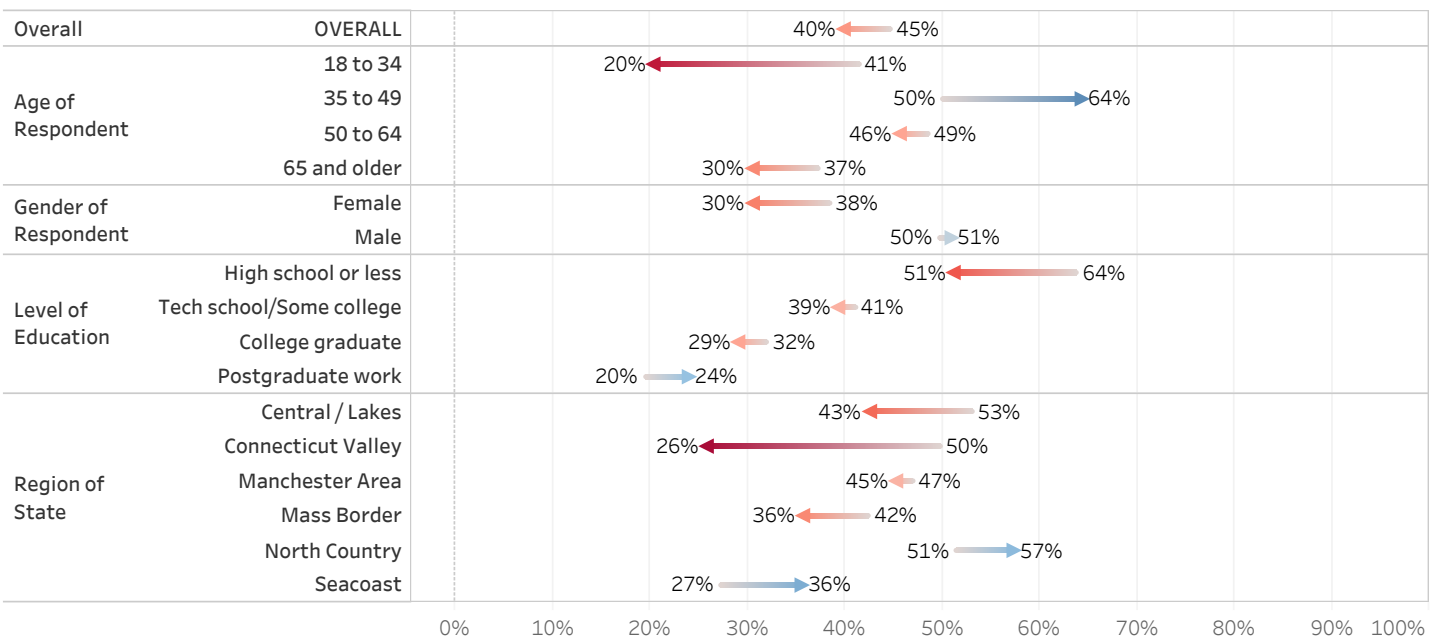
Approval of President Trump's Handling of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation - By Party ID

Approval of Trump's handling of the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation has:

- declined since April among those aged 18 to 34 but has increased among those aged 35 to 49;
- fallen somewhat among women;
- declined among those with a high school education or less; and
- fallen among Central/Lakes Region and Connecticut Valley residents but slightly increased among Seacoast residents.
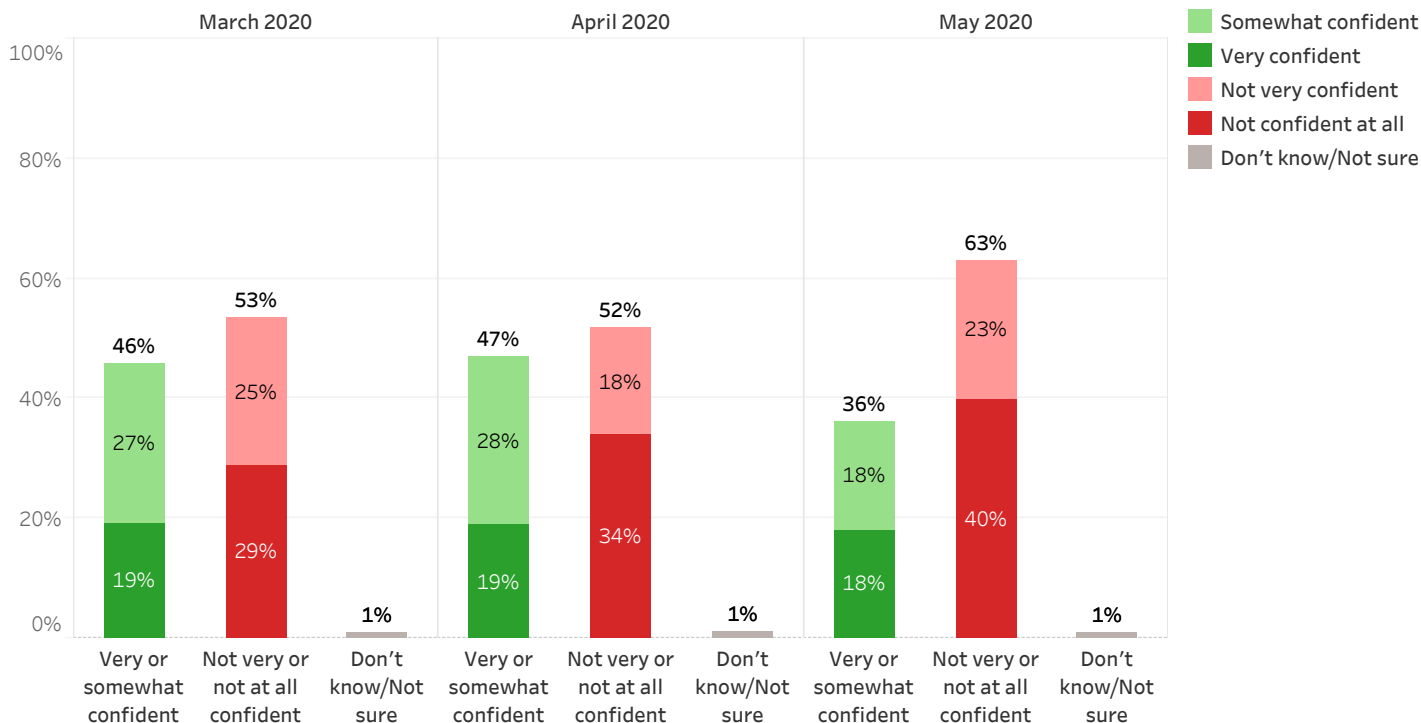
Approval of President Trump's Handling of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation
Change from April to May 2020 - By Demographics

Category	Subgroup	Change
Overall	OVERALL	40% ← 45%
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	20% ← 41%
	35 to 49	50% → 64%
	50 to 64	46% ← 49%
	65 and older	30% ← 37%
Gender of Respondent	Female	30% ← 38%
	Male	50% → 51%
Level of Education	High school or less	51% ← 64%
	Tech school/Some college	39% ← 41%
	College graduate	29% ← 32%
	Postgraduate work	20% → 24%
Region of State	Central / Lakes	43% ← 53%
	Connecticut Valley	26% ← 50%
	Manchester Area	45% ← 47%
	Mass Border	36% ← 42%
	North Country	51% → 57%
	Seacoast	27% → 36%

Federal Government's Response to Coronavirus

Confidence in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to the coronavirus outbreak has declined among New Hampshire residents since April: only 36% are very (18%) or somewhat (18%) confident while 63% are not very (23%) or not at all confident (40%) and 1% don't know or are unsure. In April, nearly half (47%) of Granite Staters were very or somewhat confident in the federal government's ability to respond effectively.
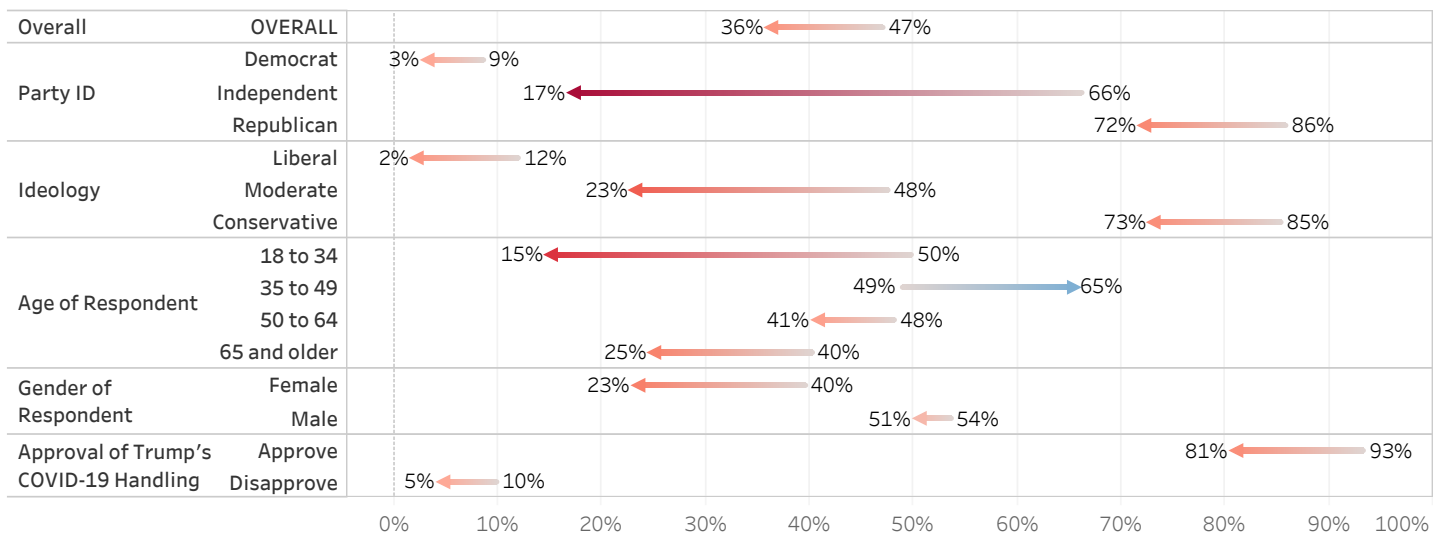
Confidence in Federal Government's Ability to Respond Effectively to Coronavirus Outbreak

The percentage of respondents who are very or somewhat confident in the federal government's ability to respond effectively has:

- declined by 49 percentage points since April among Independents and declined somewhat among Republicans;
- fallen among self-described liberals, moderates, and conservatives;
- declined by 35 percentage points among those aged 18 to 34 but increased among those aged 35 to 49;
- fallen among women but stayed about the same among men; and
- declined among both those who approve of Trump's handling of the coronavirus situation and those who disapprove.
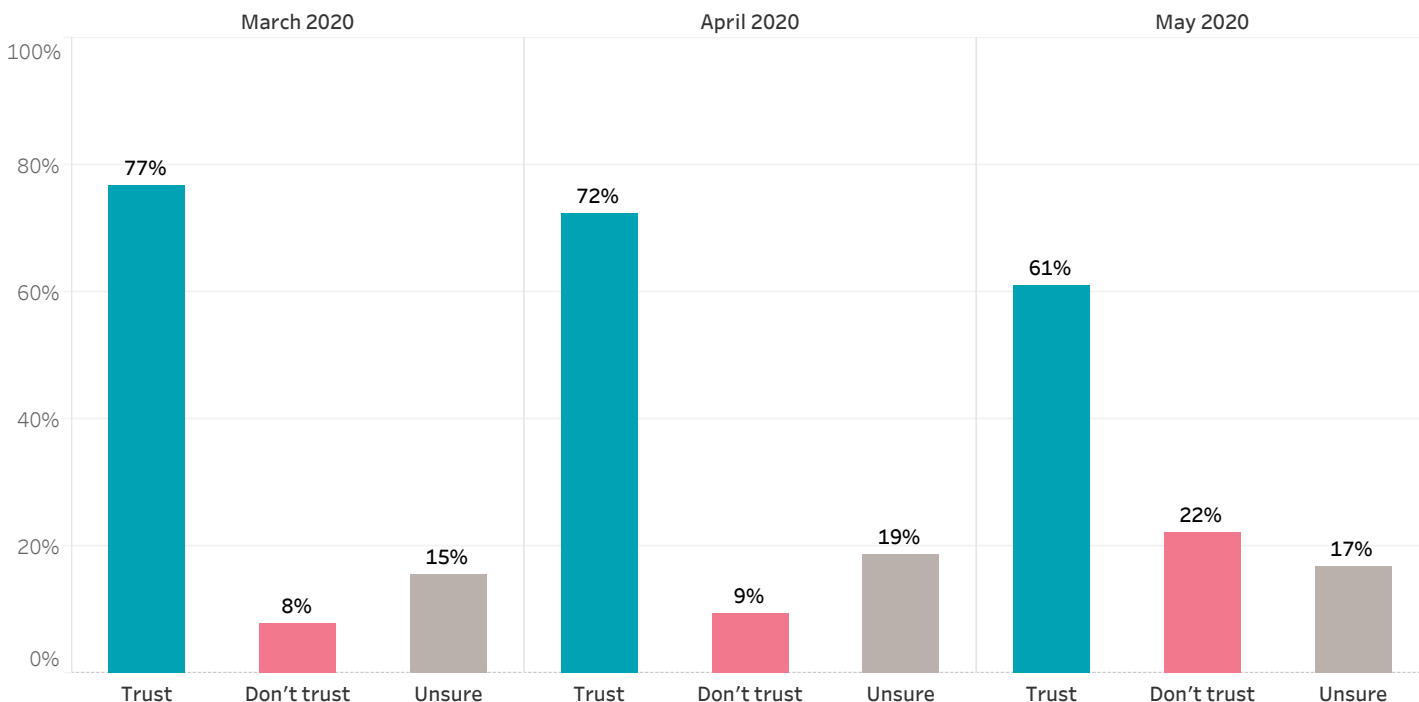
Very or Somewhat Confident in Federal Government's Ability to Respond Effectively to Coronavirus Outbreak
Change from April to May 2020 - By Demographics

Trust in Science Agencies

Trust in science agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as sources of information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to erode among Granite Staters. In May, only 61% trust such agencies as an information source, 22% don't trust them, and 17% are unsure. In April, 72% said they trusted such agencies as a source of information and only 9% said they did not trust them.
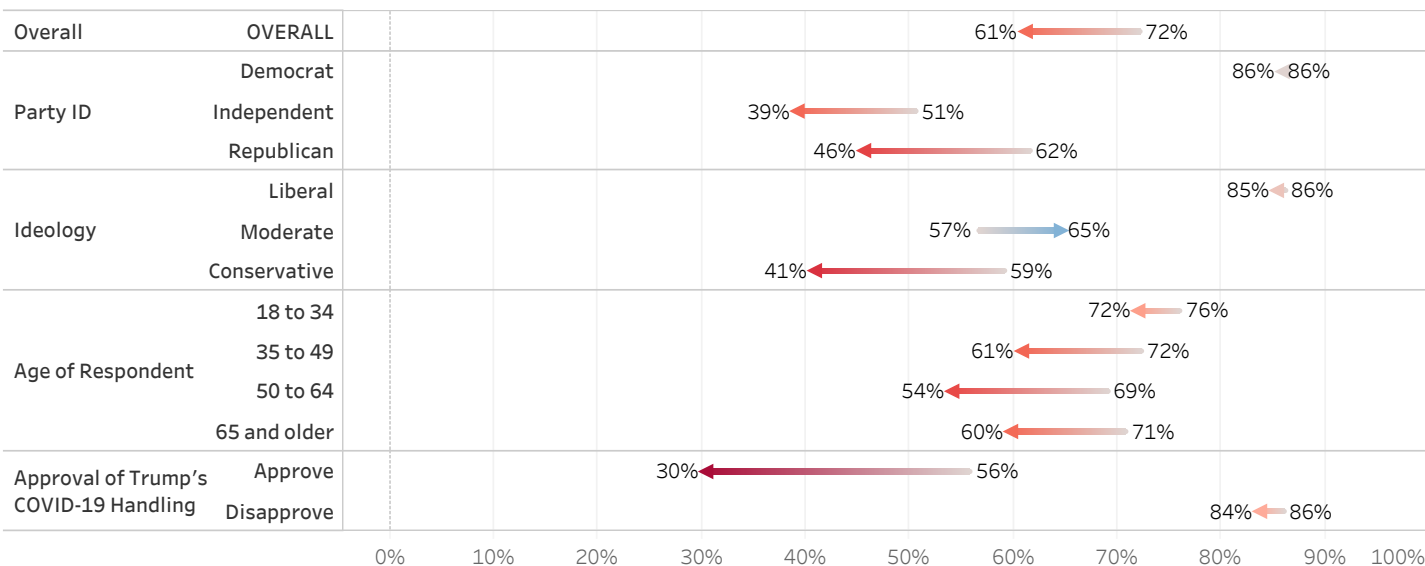
Trust Science Agencies Such as CDC as Source of Information About the Coronavirus

The percentage of respondents who trust science agencies such as the CDC as a source of information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) has:

- fallen since April among Independents and Republicans but has remained unchanged among Democrats;
- declined among self-described conservatives but remained the same among liberals and slightly increased among moderates;
- declined among all age groups, most strongly among those aged 50 to 64; and
- fallen by 26 percentage points among those who approve of Trump's handling of the coronavirus situation but has remained unchanged among those who disapprove of his handling of the situation.

Trust Science Agencies Such as CDC as Source of Information About the Coronavirus
Change from April to May 2020 - By Demographics

Granite State Panel Methodology

These findings are based on the latest Granite State Panel survey, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. Eight hundred forty (840) Granite State Panel members completed the survey online between May 14 and May 18, 2020. Data were weighted by respondent sex, age, education, and region of the state to targets from the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as party registration levels provided by the New Hampshire Secretary of State.

The Granite State Panel is part of an effort by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center to investigate new ways of gathering and understanding the opinion of New Hampshire residents. Granite State Panel members are recruited from randomly-selected landline and cell phone numbers across New Hampshire. Respondents to the Granite State Poll were asked if they wished to participate in further research and asked to provide an email address. Those who agreed and provided an email address were added to the panel. Panel members were also recruited by texting a random sample of cellular telephones in the state and inviting the recipient to take a short survey.

For each survey which they complete, panel members are entered into quarterly drawings to earn rewards, such as gift certificates from statewide and internet companies. Due to rounding, percentages may not sum to 100%. The number of respondents in each demographic below may not equal the number reported in cross-tabulation tables as some respondents choose not to answer some questions.

For more information about the methodology used in the Granite State Panel, contact Dr. Andrew Smith at (603) 862-2226 or by email at andrew.smith@unh.edu.

Granite State Panel, May 2020 Demographics

		N	%
Gender of Respondent	Female	416	51%
	Male	401	49%
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	221	27%
	35 to 49	180	22%
	50 to 64	252	31%
	65 and older	168	21%
Level of Education	High school or less	299	36%
	Tech school/Some college	256	31%
	College graduate	172	21%
	Postgraduate work	103	12%
Region of State	Central / Lakes	156	19%
	Connecticut Valley	110	13%
	Manchester Area	183	22%
	Mass Border	154	18%
	North Country	74	9%
	Seacoast	156	19%
Party ID	Democrat	350	42%
	Independent	103	12%
	Republican	372	45%
Voting Registration	Registered Democrat	227	28%
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	345	43%
	Registered Republican	237	29%

Approval of President Trump's Handling of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation

Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump is handling the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation?

	Approve	Disapprove	Neither/DK	N
March 2020	41%	57%	1%	645
April 2020	45%	55%	1%	1,154
May 2020	40%	57%	3%	830

Confidence in Federal Government's Ability to Respond Effectively to Coronavirus Outbreak

How confident are you in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to the current outbreak of coronavirus in the United States?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Don't know/Not sure	N
March 2020	19%	27%	25%	29%	1%	648
April 2020	19%	28%	18%	34%	1%	1,155
May 2020	18%	18%	23%	40%	1%	840

Trust Science Agencies Such as CDC as Source of Information About the Coronavirus

As a source of information about the coronavirus, would you say that you trust, don't trust, or are unsure about science agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that study infectious diseases?

	Trust	Don't trust	Unsure	N
March 2020	77%	8%	15%	649
April 2020	72%	9%	19%	1,154
May 2020	61%	22%	17%	837

Approval of President Trump's Handling of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither/DK	N
STATEWIDE	May 2020	40%	57%	3%	830
Voting Registration	Registered Democrat	3%	96%	1%	227
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	32%	63%	5%	345
	Registered Republican	85%	14%	1%	227
Party ID	Democrat	1%	99%	1%	350
	Independent	35%	52%	13%	103
	Republican	80%	19%	1%	362
Ideology	Liberal	2%	97%	1%	357
	Moderate	35%	65%	0%	98
	Conservative	82%	12%	5%	327
Media Usage	Boston Globe reader	8%	90%	3%	75
	NHPR listener	42%	55%	3%	724
	Union Leader reader	25%	65%	11%	154
	WMUR viewer	38%	59%	3%	582
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	20%	76%	3%	221
	35 to 49	64%	35%	0%	170
	50 to 64	46%	49%	5%	252
	65 and older	30%	69%	1%	168
Gender of Respondent	Female	30%	66%	4%	416
	Male	51%	48%	1%	391
Level of Education	High school or less	51%	45%	4%	289
	Tech school/Some college	39%	59%	2%	256
	College graduate	29%	68%	3%	172
	Postgraduate work	24%	76%	0%	103
Region of State	Central / Lakes	43%	55%	2%	156
	Connecticut Valley	26%	62%	12%	100
	Manchester Area	45%	54%	1%	183
	Mass Border	36%	64%		154
	North Country	57%	41%	1%	74
	Seacoast	36%	62%	3%	156

Confidence in Federal Government's Ability to Respond Effectively to Coronavirus Outbreak

		Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Don't know/Not sure	N
STATEWIDE	May 2020	18%	18%	23%	40%	1%	840
Voting Registration	Registered Democrat	1%	1%	28%	70%		226
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	17%	15%	22%	45%	2%	345
	Registered Republican	35%	39%	18%	8%	0%	237
Party ID	Democrat	1%	3%	24%	73%		350
	Independent	11%	6%	52%	31%		103
	Republican	37%	35%	15%	12%	1%	372
Ideology	Liberal	1%	1%	23%	75%		357
	Moderate	11%	12%	27%	50%		98
	Conservative	40%	33%	21%	5%	1%	337
Media Usage	Boston Globe reader	5%	2%	21%	72%		75
	NHPR listener	20%	19%	22%	38%	1%	734
	Union Leader reader	13%	12%	32%	43%	0%	154
	WMUR viewer	17%	17%	21%	44%	1%	592
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	8%	8%	32%	51%	3%	221
	35 to 49	32%	33%	10%	24%		180
	50 to 64	22%	19%	22%	37%		252
	65 and older	11%	14%	26%	49%		168
Gender of Respondent	Female	11%	12%	31%	45%	1%	416
	Male	26%	25%	16%	34%	0%	401
Level of Education	High school or less	23%	20%	21%	36%		299
	Tech school/Some college	17%	19%	25%	37%	1%	256
	College graduate	14%	15%	24%	46%	2%	171
	Postgraduate work	12%	11%	23%	53%	1%	103
Region of State	Central / Lakes	17%	21%	33%	26%	4%	156
	Connecticut Valley	11%	15%	31%	43%		110
	Manchester Area	20%	14%	25%	41%		183
	Mass Border	20%	14%	22%	43%	0%	154
	North Country	26%	21%	23%	30%		74
	Seacoast	17%	24%	7%	52%		156

Trust Science Agencies Such as CDC as Source of Information About the Coronavirus

		Trust	Don't trust	Unsure	N
STATEWIDE	May 2020	61%	22%	17%	837
Voting Registration	Registered Democrat	85%	7%	8%	227
	Registered Undeclared/Not Reg.	60%	21%	19%	342
	Registered Republican	47%	39%	14%	237
Party ID	Democrat	86%	4%	10%	347
	Independent	39%	30%	31%	103
	Republican	46%	37%	18%	372
Ideology	Liberal	85%	5%	10%	354
	Moderate	65%	9%	26%	98
	Conservative	41%	41%	18%	337
Media Usage	Boston Globe reader	83%	2%	14%	75
	NHPR listener	59%	23%	17%	732
	Union Leader reader	69%	15%	16%	154
	WMUR viewer	63%	23%	15%	589
Age of Respondent	18 to 34	72%	14%	15%	218
	35 to 49	61%	26%	13%	180
	50 to 64	54%	31%	15%	252
	65 and older	60%	15%	25%	168
Gender of Respondent	Female	61%	18%	20%	413
	Male	60%	26%	13%	401
Level of Education	High school or less	53%	33%	14%	299
	Tech school/Some college	61%	21%	19%	256
	College graduate	68%	13%	18%	169
	Postgraduate work	78%	8%	14%	103
Region of State	Central / Lakes	57%	25%	19%	156
	Connecticut Valley	67%	19%	14%	110
	Manchester Area	56%	31%	13%	183
	Mass Border	74%	10%	16%	154
	North Country	39%	47%	14%	74
	Seacoast	64%	11%	25%	153