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Large Majority of the Public Views Prosecution of Capitol Rioters as ‘Very Important’

Similar shares of Americans view violent right-wing extremism, left-wing extremism as ‘major problems’ for the country

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to examine the public's views of the Jan. 6 Capitol riots as well as violent extremism more broadly. For this analysis, we surveyed 12,055 U.S. adults in March 2021. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of the 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](#).

Large Majority of the Public Views Prosecution of Capitol Rioters as ‘Very Important’

Similar shares of Americans view violent right-wing extremism, left-wing extremism as ‘major problems’ for the country

As the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies [continue to pursue charges](#) against participants in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol, the American public generally expresses strong support for continuing these efforts. Yet there are sizable partisan differences in attitudes about the riot at the Capitol, with Democrats far more likely than Republicans to view prosecution of the rioters as very important and to say that penalties for the rioters are likely to be less severe than they should be.

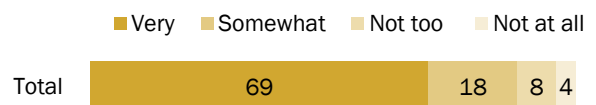
The survey by Pew Research Center, conducted March 1-7, 2021, among 12,055 U.S. adults who are members of the Center’s nationally representative [American Trends Panel](#), finds a wide majority of Americans (69%) saying it is “very important” for federal law enforcement agencies to find and prosecute the people who broke into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. Another 18% say doing this is “somewhat important.” Just 12% say this is not too or not at all important.

Nearly half of Americans (47%) say the criminal penalties that the rioters will receive are likely to be less severe than they should be given what happened, while 22% say the penalties will be more severe than they should be. Only about three-in-ten (29%) expect the punishments will be about right.

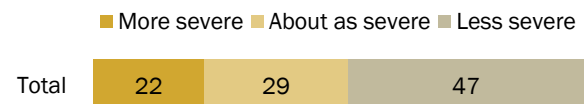
The public generally expresses confidence in federal law enforcement agencies to find and prosecute those who broke into the Capitol on Jan. 6. Still, of those who say it is important for these agencies to complete this task, only 20% have a “great deal” of confidence that law enforcement will bring the rioters to justice, while another 48% have a “fair amount” of confidence.

Most Americans say it is very important to prosecute Capitol rioters; nearly half expect their penalties will be too lax

% who say it is ___ important that federal law enforcement agencies find and prosecute those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6



% who say the criminal penalties the rioters will receive are likely to be ___ than they should be



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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Republicans and Democrats differ sharply over how important it is for law enforcement to prosecute those involved in the Jan. 6 riots and whether criminal penalties will be less severe than deserved. Partisans are less divided over whether federal law enforcement agencies are up to the task of finding and prosecuting participants who scattered across the country after the events that day.

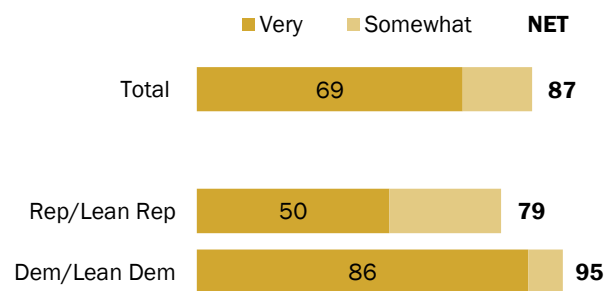
While large majorities in both parties (95% of Democrats and 79% of Republicans, including those who lean to each party) say it is at least somewhat important that federal law enforcement agencies find and prosecute those responsible for the Jan. 6 riot, Democrats are more intense in their views: Fully 86% of Democrats and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party say finding and prosecuting rioters is *very* important, compared with half of Republicans and Republican leaners.

Similarly, nearly two-thirds of Democrats (65%) say it is likely that the criminal penalties the rioters receive will be less severe than they should be. Republicans are divided: 37% say they are likely to be more severe than they should be, while 26% expect them to be less severe.

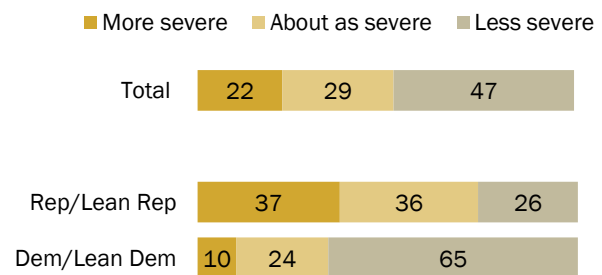
Additionally, Democrats express slightly higher confidence in federal law enforcement to find and prosecute those responsible for what happened at the U.S. Capitol in January. Among Democrats who said it was at least somewhat important to find and prosecute those responsible for the Capitol riots, about seven-in-ten Democrats (71%) say they have a great deal (23%) or fair amount (48%) of confidence in federal law enforcement to do so, compared with 66% of Republicans (18% a great deal and 49% a fair amount).

Partisan divides on whether it is 'very important' to prosecute Capitol rioters and in views of their likely penalties

% who say it is ___ important that federal law enforcement agencies find and prosecute those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6



% who say the criminal penalties the rioters will receive are likely to be ___ than they should be



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

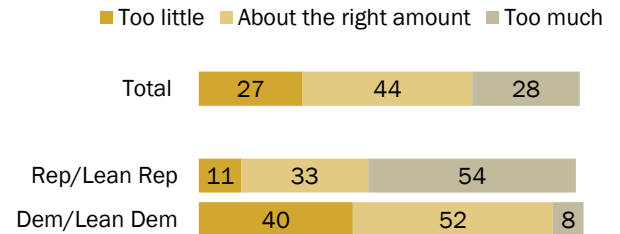
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While a plurality of Americans (44%) say the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and its impacts have been getting about the right amount of attention overall, there also are significant differences in these views among Republicans and Democrats.

Many Republicans say the Jan. 6 riots and their aftermath have been getting *too much* attention (54% say this), which is not a widely shared view among Democrats (8% say too much). By contrast, 40% of Democrats say the riot has been getting *too little* attention; just 11% of Republicans say the same. About half of Democrats (52%) and a third of Republicans say the riots have gotten about the right amount of attention.

Majority of Republicans say too much attention is being paid to the Capitol riot and its impacts

% who say there has been ___ attention paid to the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and its impacts



Note: No answer responses not shown.

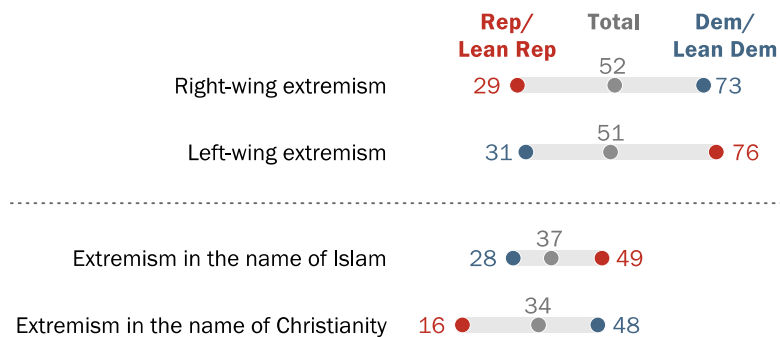
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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The survey finds that the public expresses more concern about right-wing and left-wing extremism stirring possible violence in the country than either Islamic or Christian extremism. About half of U.S. adults say right-wing extremism (52%) and left-wing extremism (51%) are major problems in the country. Fewer than four-in-ten say violent extremism in the name of Islam (37%) or in the name of Christianity (34%) is a major problem.

Sharp partisan differences on whether right-wing and left-wing extremism are major problems in the U.S.

Thinking about the possibility of violent extremism in the country, % who say ___ is **a major problem**



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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Republicans and Democrats are widely divided over which political wing represents the greater threat. About three-quarters of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (73%) say right-wing extremism is a major problem, while a similar share of Republicans and Republican leaners (76%) say the same about left-wing extremism. Only about three-in-ten Democrats (31%) say left-wing extremism is a major problem, and 29% of Republicans say this about right-wing extremism.

In addition, Republicans (49%) are more likely than Democrats (28%) to say extremism in the name of Islam is a major problem. The reverse is the case for extremism in the name of Christianity: 48% of Democrats say it is a major problem, versus 16% of Republicans.

Reactions to aftermath of the Jan. 6 Capitol riot

Amid continued investigations and congressional hearings into the riots that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, nearly three-in-ten adults (27%) say there has been too little attention paid to the riots and their impacts. A similar share (28%) says there has been too much attention paid to the events at the Capitol, while a 44% plurality says the riots have received about the right amount of attention.

There are differences in these views by race, partisanship and ideology. Among White adults, 44% say about the right amount of attention has been given to the aftermath of the Capitol riots. Roughly a third (34%) say too much focus has been given to the riots, while a smaller share (21%) says too little attention has been paid.

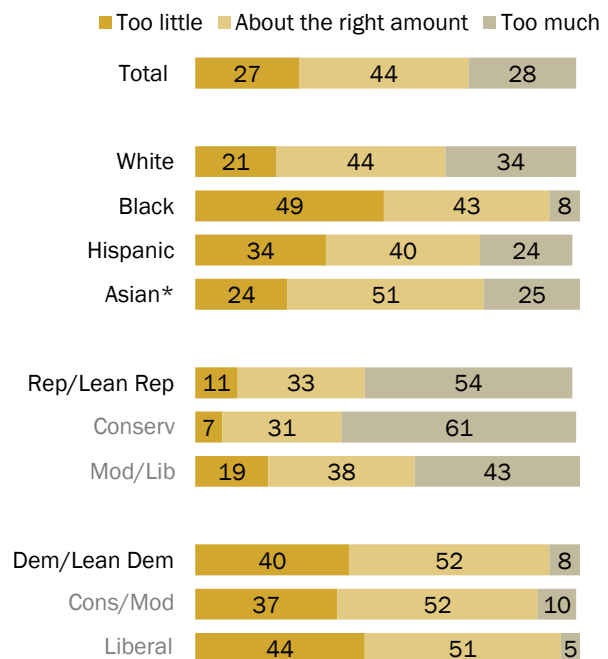
In contrast, Black adults are significantly more likely to say there has been too little attention paid to the riots and its aftermath: 49% of Black adults say there's been too little, while just 8% say there has been *too much* focus on the riot.

This racial divide in attitudes is also evident among Democrats and Democratic-leaning adults. While a majority of White Democrats say there has been the right amount of attention paid to the aftermath of the riots (58%), a smaller share of Black Democrats says the same (43%). In fact, more Black Democrats say there has been *too little* attention given to the riots (50% of Black Democrats vs. 37% of White Democrats).

A majority of Republicans and Republican leaners say there has been *too much* attention paid to the riot and its impacts (54%). Republicans, unlike Democrats, are divided along ideological lines:

Black adults more likely than Whites and Hispanics to say too little attention has been paid to the Capitol riot

% who say there has been ___ attention paid to the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and its impacts



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: No answer responses not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include only those who are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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61% of conservative Republicans say the riot and its aftermath have received too much attention, compared with 43% of moderate and liberal Republicans.

Pluralities of Democrats across the ideological spectrum say there has been about the right amount of focus on the Capitol riots and its impacts.

While there is broad consensus across demographic groups that it is at least somewhat important for federal law enforcement to find and prosecute those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, there is some variation in the degree to which these groups say it is a priority. And while majorities say they have confidence in federal law enforcement agencies to locate and prosecute those involved, relatively small shares express *a great deal* of confidence that they can do this.

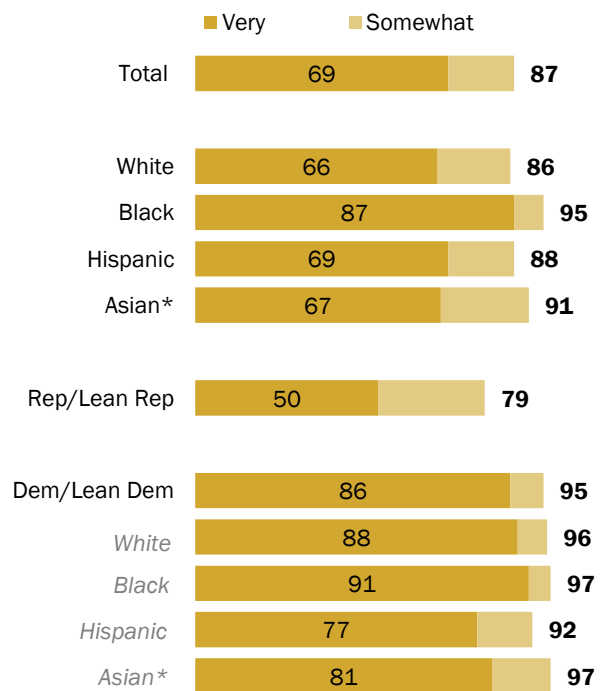
Overall, about eight-in-ten or more adults across demographic groups say it is at least *somewhat* important for federal law enforcement agencies to seek out those responsible for the Capitol breach (87% overall).

There are racial, ethnic and partisan differences in these views. Black adults are particularly likely to say it is *very* important for federal law enforcement to penalize those involved (87%); smaller shares of White (66%), Hispanic (69%) and Asian adults (67%) say the same.

There also is a large gap between Republicans and Democrats on the importance of finding and prosecuting those involved in the riots. Just 50% of Republicans say it is very important to find and prosecute those responsible. In contrast, 86% of Democrats say the same.

Most Americans say it is very or somewhat important to find and prosecute the Capitol rioters

% who say it is ___ important that federal law enforcement agencies find and prosecute those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6



*Asian adults interviewed in English only.

Notes: No answer responses not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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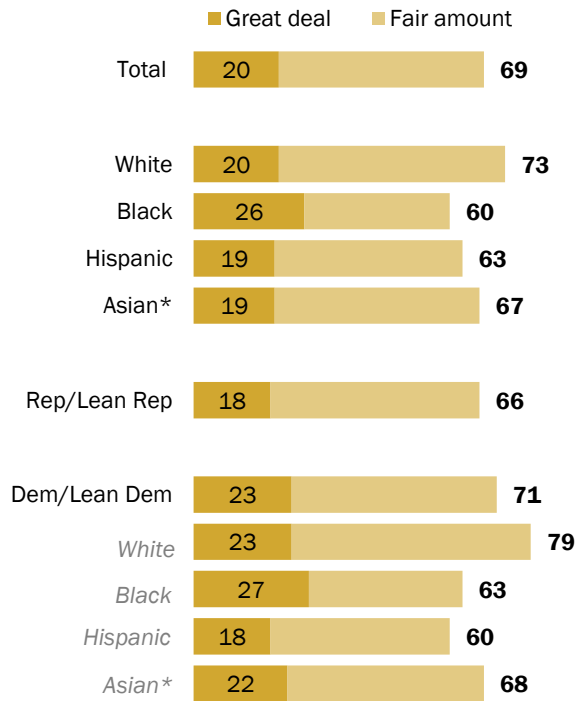
Among adults who say that finding and prosecuting those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 is at least somewhat important, 69% also express at least a fair amount of confidence in federal law enforcement to find and prosecute those responsible for the Capitol breach. Relatively small shares of these adults express a great deal of confidence (20% overall).

Among White adults who view prosecution as important, for example, about seven-in-ten express confidence in federal law enforcement agencies to identify and penalize those involved. But while Black adults are among the most likely to say this is important, they are among the least likely to express confidence in federal law enforcement to do this (60%).

This pattern also holds true among Democrats and Democratic leaners who say it is important to prosecute those who broke into the . Nearly eight-in-ten White Democrats (79%) express confidence in federal law enforcement to bring the Capitol rioters to justice, while just 63% of Black Democrats say the same.

Black adults have less confidence in law enforcement to find, prosecute Jan. 6 rioters

Among those who say it is very/somewhat important, % who say they have ___ of confidence in federal law enforcement agencies to find and prosecute those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6



*Asian adults interviewed in English only.
 Notes: No answer responses not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

Looking back at Trump's impeachment and acquittal

About a month after former President Donald Trump was acquitted in his second impeachment trial in the Senate, which focused on his conduct leading up to the U.S. Capitol riot, just over half of Americans (52%) say Trump's conduct was wrong, and he *should* have been convicted by the Senate. About three-in-ten say his conduct was *not* wrong, and he should not have been impeached, while 15% say his conduct was wrong, but he should not have been convicted by the Senate.

Just as Republicans and Democrats were at odds over whether Trump was responsible for the rioting at the Capitol in early January, partisans view the results of the impeachment trial in very different ways.

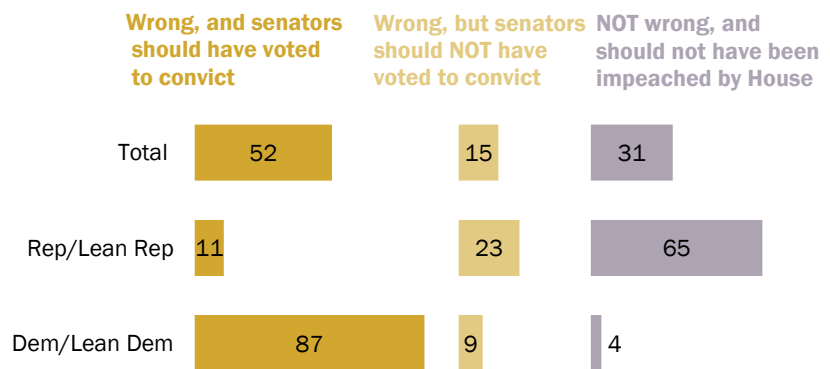
Nearly two-thirds of Republicans and GOP leaners (65%) say Trump's conduct

was *not* wrong and he should not have been impeached by the House of Representatives. Nearly a quarter (23%) say his conduct was wrong, but senators should not have voted to convict him. And only 11% of Republicans say that his conduct was wrong, and he should have been convicted by the Senate.

In stark contrast, an overwhelming majority of Democrats and Democratic leaners (87%) say Trump's conduct was wrong, and the Senate should have voted to convict him. Just 9% say his conduct was wrong but he should not have been convicted; another 4% say his conduct was not wrong.

About half of Americans say Trump should have been convicted by Senate for his role in Jan. 6 Capitol riot

% who say, thinking about the impeachment trial and acquittal of Donald Trump for his conduct surrounding the riot at the U.S. Capitol, his conduct was ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

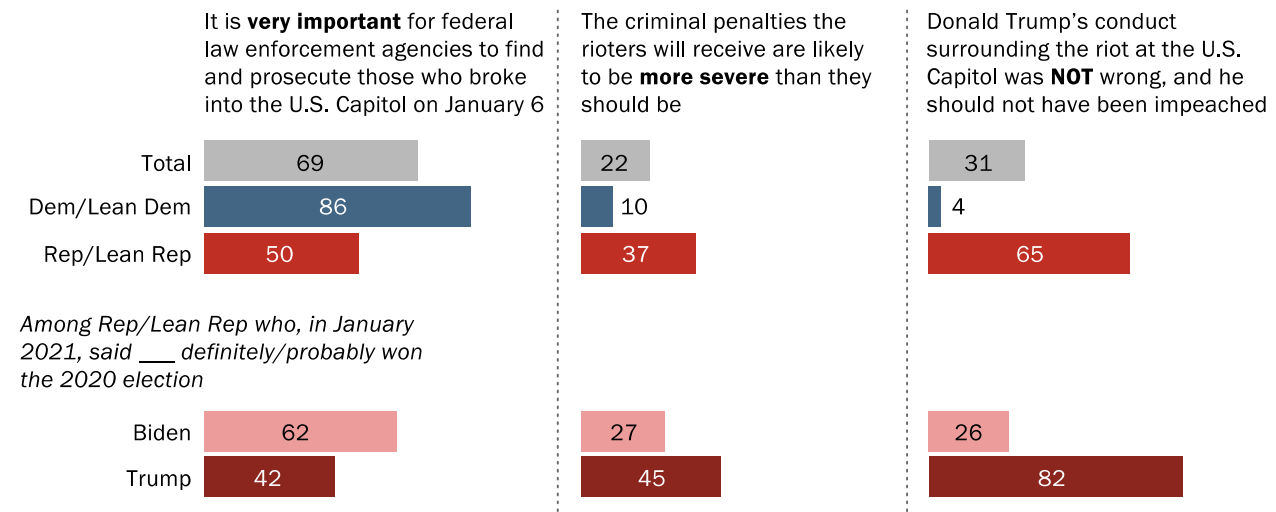
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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Though Republicans and Democrats express opposing views about several aspects of the rioting that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, there are stark divisions *among* Republicans on these issues. Republicans who in January expressed the view that Trump was the rightful winner of the 2020 presidential election are much more likely than those who say Biden won the 2020 election to view the riot as overblown and Trump's impeachment as unjustified.

Fewer than half of Republicans who said previously that Trump had won the 2020 election now say it is very important to prosecute the Capitol rioters

% who say ...



Note: See topline for full question wording.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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In January 2021, when asked which candidate won the 2020 presidential election, 64% of Republicans and Republican leaners said that Trump definitely (33%) or probably (31%) received the most votes cast by eligible voters in enough states to win the presidential election. Only about a third (34%) said correctly that Biden was the rightful winner.

Republicans who said Trump definitely or probably won the election earlier this year are nearly twice as likely as Republicans who said Biden definitely or probably won to now say the riots at the Capitol have received *too much* attention (66% of Republicans who say Trump won vs. 35% of Republicans who say Biden won). Similarly, while 62% of Republicans who said Biden won now say that it is *very* important that federal law enforcement agencies find and prosecute those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, fewer than half of Republicans who said Trump won now say prosecution is very important.

This pattern is also evident in views of the punishments that rioters are likely to receive. Republicans who said Biden won in the prior survey are now significantly less likely than Republicans who said Trump won to think the criminal penalties that rioters will receive are likely to be more severe than they should be (27% vs. 45%, respectively).

One of the largest gaps that divides Republicans who said Trump won and Republicans who said Biden won is on views of Trump's impeachment as a result of his conduct leading up to events on Jan. 6: Fully 82% of Republicans who said Trump won the election say his conduct was *not* wrong, and that the House should not have voted to impeach him. This compares with just 26% of Republicans who said Biden won the 2020 election.

Views of violent extremism

When it comes to the possibility of violent extremism in the country, Americans are more likely to say political extremism represents a greater problem than other forms of extremism inspired by religion.

About half of the public says right-wing extremism is a major problem (52%), another third say it is a minor problem and 12% say it is not a problem. The public's overall views of left-wing extremism are similar: 51% say it is a major problem, 34% say minor problem and 13% say not a problem.

The shares saying extremism inspired by Islam or Christianity are major problems are far lower. Slightly fewer than four-in-ten adults (37%) say extremism inspired by Islam is a major problem, while 44% say it is a minor problem and 16% say it is not a problem. About a third of Americans (34%) say extremism in the name of Christianity is a major problem, with 35% saying it is a minor problem and 29% say it is not a problem.

Right-wing and left-wing extremism are viewed more widely as major problems than Islamic or Christian extremism

Thinking about the possibility of violent extremism in the country, % who say ___ is a ...

	Major problem	Minor problem	Not a problem
Right-wing extremism	52	33	12
Left-wing extremism	51	34	13
Extremism in the name of Islam	37	44	16
Extremism in the name of Christianity	34	35	29

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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While far more Republicans view left-wing extremism as a major problem than right-wing extremism – and the opposite is true among Democrats – large majorities in both parties say right-wing and left-wing extremism are *major* or *minor* problems.

Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, only about three-in-ten (29%) say violent right-wing extremism is a major problem for the country, but about half (49%) say it is a minor problem. Just two-in-ten say it is not a problem.

Views among Democrats and Democratic leaners of left-wing extremism follow a

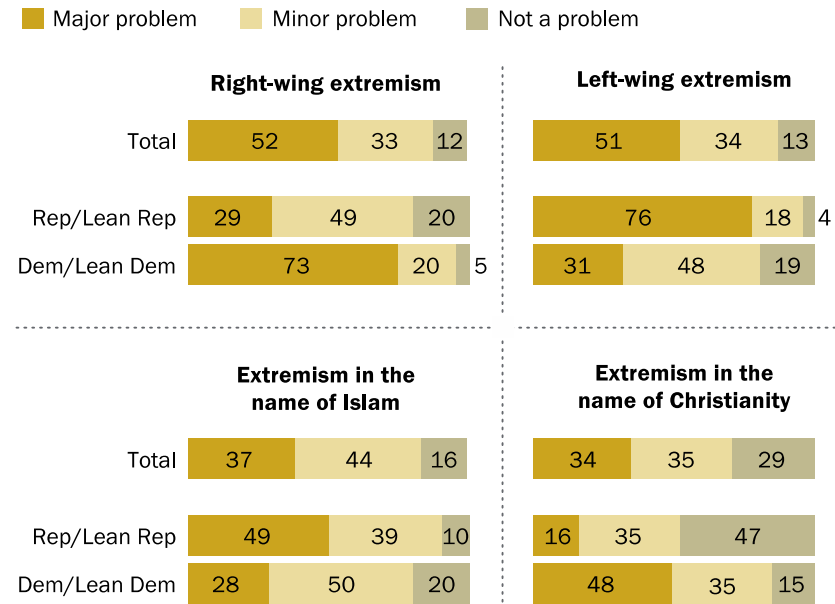
similar pattern: About three-in-ten (31%) say left-wing extremist violence is a major problem, about half say it is a minor problem (48%) and just 19% say it is not a problem.

Both Republicans and Democrats broadly acknowledge that violent extremism inspired by Islam is at least a minor problem in the country (88% of Republicans and 78% of Democrats say this). However, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to view Islamic extremism as a major problem (49% of Republicans vs. 28% of Democrats).

They also differ on whether extremism inspired by Christianity is a problem for the country: 83% of Democrats say Christian extremism is at least a minor problem (including 48% saying it is a major problem), yet only about half of Republicans (51%) say it is at least a minor problem (with just 16% saying major problem). Nearly half of Republicans (47%) say extremism in the name of Christianity is not a problem in the country today.

In both parties, most say right-wing and left-wing extremism are major or minor problems

Thinking about the possibility of violent extremism in the country, % who say ___ is a ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

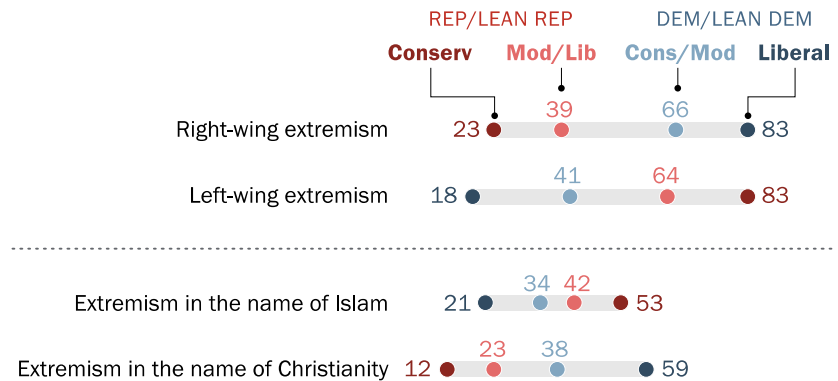
In both parties, there are ideological differences in attitudes about the threat posed by violent extremism. For example, a larger share of liberal Democrats (83%) than conservative and moderate Democrats (66%) say right-wing extremism is a major problem. By contrast, conservative Republicans are more likely than moderate and liberal Republicans to say that left-wing extremism is a major problem.

Moderates and liberals in the GOP also are more likely than conservative Republicans to see right-wing extremism (39% to 23%) as a major problem. And conservative and moderate Democrats similarly diverge from liberals in their party in views of left-wing extremism (41% of conservative and moderate Democrats say major problem vs. 18% of liberals)

There are similar patterns across ideological groups in their views of religious extremism – though the differences are generally smaller. Fewer moderate and liberal Republicans than conservative Republicans say extremism in the name of Islam is a major problem (42% vs. 53%) and more say extremism inspired by Christianity is a major problem (23% vs. 12%). The patterns are similar but reversed among Democrats: Fewer conservative and moderate Democrats than liberal Democrats say Christian extremists are a major problem (38% vs. 59%), but more moderate and liberal Democrats say Islamic extremists are a major problem (34% vs. 21%).

Republicans and Democrats are divided internally by ideology over political and religious extremism

Thinking about the possibility of violent extremism in the country, % who say ____ is a major problem



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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Knowledge of QAnon and views of its supporters

A majority of Americans (61%) report knowing at least something about [the QAnon conspiracy theories](#), while about four-in-ten (39%) say they know “nothing at all” about them. Few U.S. adults say they know “a lot” (3%), while 29% say they know “some” and the same share say they know “not much.”

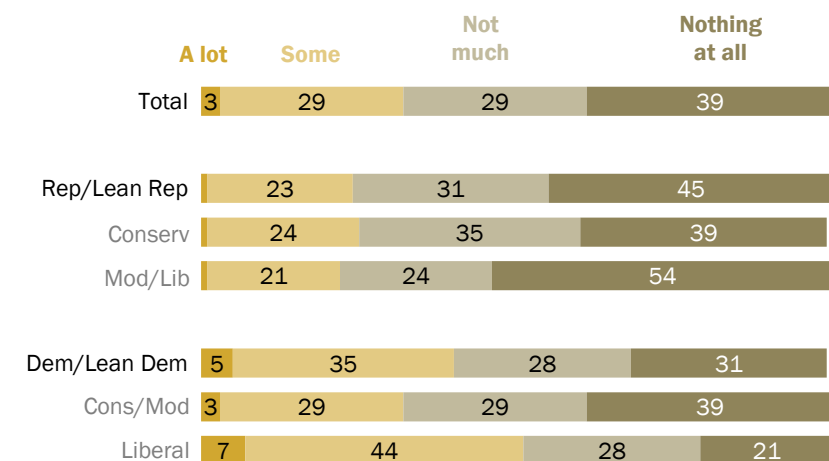
Democrats and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party (68%) are more likely than Republicans and Republican leaners (54%) to say they know something about the QAnon conspiracy theories. Nearly half of Republicans (45%) say they know nothing at all about them; about three-in-ten Democrats (31%) say the same.

Liberal Democrats report the highest levels of knowledge about QAnon. Half of liberal Democrats know a lot (7%) or some (44%) about it, and

another 28% say they know not much. The next most knowledgeable groups are conservative and moderate Democrats (61% know something, including 32% who know some or a lot) and conservative Republicans (60% know something, including 25% some or a lot). The least knowledgeable partisans are Republicans with moderate or liberal political views – among this group, a majority say they know nothing at all about these conspiracy theories (54%) and fewer than a quarter know a lot or some (22%).

Republicans more likely than Democrats to say they know ‘nothing at all’ about QAnon

% who say they know ___ about QAnon



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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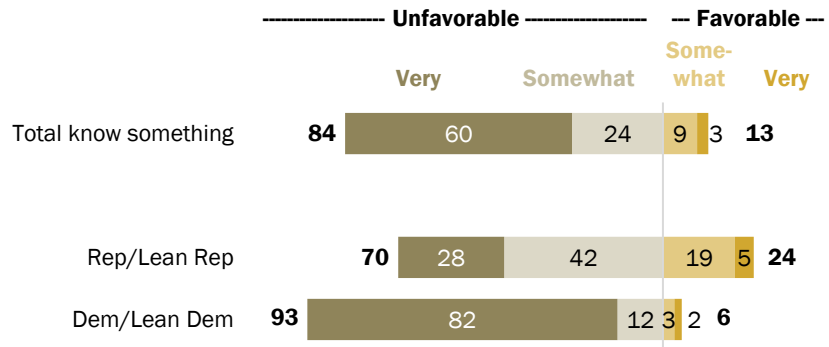
Few Americans who know at least something about QAnon have favorable views of people who support the conspiracy theories. Just 13% of those who know about QAnon have favorable views of its supporters, while 84% have unfavorable views (including 60% whose views are very unfavorable).

Those who say their views of QAnon supporters are favorable are concentrated among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. About a quarter of Republicans who know about QAnon say they view its supporters favorably (24%) – though just 5% say their views are very favorable, compared with 19% who say somewhat favorable. Fewer than one-in-ten Democrats and Democratic leaners (6%) have favorable views of QAnon supporters.

Most Republicans and Democrats say they view people who support these conspiracy theories unfavorably, though Democrats are harsher in their judgments. Fully 82% of Democrats who know about QAnon say they have very unfavorable views of supporters, versus 28% Republicans who share this view. About four-in-ten Republicans who know about QAnon (42%) have somewhat unfavorable views of QAnon supporters; 12% of Democrats say the same.

Views of QAnon supporters are overwhelmingly unfavorable, though intensity varies among partisans

Among those who know at least something about QAnon, % who say they have a ___ view of people who support QAnon



Notes: Question asked of those who say they know “a lot,” “some” or “not much” about QAnon. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

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. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted March 1 to March 7, 2021. A total of 12,055 panelists responded out of 13,545 who were sampled, for a response rate of 89%. This does not include two panelists who were 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%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 12,055 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

Panel recruitment

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 whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample of households selected

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	2,183
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,243
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	621
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	5,900
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	2,329
June 1 to July 19, 2020	ABS/web	1,865	1,636	1,269
	Total	36,879	25,076	13,545

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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from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Across these three address-based recruitments, a total of 17,161 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 15,134 (88%) agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. 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. Of the 25,076 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,545 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.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data which was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

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

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was March 1 to March 7, 2021. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on March 1, 2021.

On March 1 and March 2, invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on March 1, 2021. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on March 2, 2021.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	March 1, 2021	March 2, 2021
First reminder	March 4, 2021	March 4, 2021
Final reminder	March 6, 2021	March 6, 2021

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center’s researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, two ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey (and the probability of being invited to participate in the panel in cases where only a subsample of respondents were invited). The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort. To correct for nonresponse to the initial recruitment surveys and gradual panel attrition, the base weights for all

active panelists are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table to create a full-panel weight.

For ATP waves in which only a subsample of panelists are invited to participate, a wave-specific base weight is created by adjusting the full-panel weights for subsampled panelists to account for any differential probabilities of selection for the particular panel wave. For waves in which all active panelists are invited to participate, the wave-specific base weight is identical to the full-panel weight.

In the final weighting step, the wave-specific base weights for panelists who completed the survey are again calibrated to match the population benchmarks specified above. These weights are trimmed (typically at about the 1st and 99th percentiles) to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. The 2016 CPS was used for voter registration targets for this wave in order to obtain voter registration numbers from a presidential election year. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. The 2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey featured 1,862 online completions and 2,247 mail survey completions.

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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.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	12,055		1.5 percentage points
Half sample	At least 6,011		2.2 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	4,796	43	2.3 percentage points
Half sample	At least 2,390		3.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	6,988	52	2.1 percentage points
Half sample	At least 3,488		3.0 percentage points
Among Rep/Lean Rep who, in January 2021, said Biden/Trump won the election...			
Biden won	662		5.6 percentage points
Trump won	1,408		3.5 percentage points

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

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	12,055
Logged onto survey; broke-off	2.12	119
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	72
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	1,297
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		2
Screened out		0
Total panelists in the survey		13,545
Completed interviews	I	12,055
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,490
Non-contact	NC	0
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		13,545
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		89%

Cumulative response rate	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 84	57%
Response rate to Wave 84 survey	89%
Cumulative response rate	4%

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**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 84 MARCH 2021
FINAL TOPLINE
MARCH 1-7, 2021
N=12,055**

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

JAN6LE_IMP Thinking about the riot that took place at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 while Congress was in the process of certifying Electoral College votes...

How important, if at all, do you think it is for federal law enforcement agencies to find and prosecute those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on January 6?

Mar 1-7

2021

69	Very important
18	Somewhat important
8	Not too important
4	Not at all important
1	No answer

ASK IF NOT TOO IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT, OR VERY IMPORTANT (JAN6LE_IMP=1,2,3)**[N=11,665]:**

JAN6LE_CONF And how much confidence, if any, do you have in federal law enforcement agencies to find and prosecute those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on January 6?

Mar 1-7

2021

19	A great deal
47	A fair amount
27	Not too much
6	None at all
*	No answer

ASK FORM 1 [N=6,044]:

JAN6PEN_A Thinking about law enforcement efforts to prosecute those who broke into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, do you think the criminal penalties the rioters will receive are likely to be...

[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Mar 1-7

2021

22	More severe than they should be
47	Less severe than they should be
29	About as severe as they should be [ANCHOR]
2	No answer

ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

JAN6ATTN

Overall, how much attention would you say has been paid to the riot at the Capitol and its impacts?

Mar 1-7

2021

28	Too much attention
27	Too little attention
44	About the right amount of attention
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

IMPEACHACT2

Thinking about the recent impeachment trial and acquittal of Donald Trump for his conduct surrounding the riot at the U.S. Capitol, which comes closer to your view?
[RANDOMIZE ORDER 1-3 AND 3-1]

Mar 1-7

2021

52	Trump's conduct was wrong, and senators should have voted to convict him
15	Trump's conduct was wrong, but senators should not have voted to convict him
31	Trump's conduct was not wrong and he should not have been impeached
2	No answer

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

VLNTEXTR2

Thinking about the possibility of violent extremism in the country, how much of a problem, if at all, are each of the following for the country today? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Major <u>problem</u>	Minor <u>problem</u>	Not a <u>problem</u>	No <u>answer</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=6,044]:					
ISL	Extremism in the name of Islam				
	Mar 1-7, 2021	37	44	16	3
CHR	Extremism in the name of Christianity				
	Mar 1-7, 2021	34	35	29	3
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=6,011]:					
LEFT	Left-wing extremism				
	Mar 1-7, 2021	51	34	13	2
RGHT	Right-wing extremism				
	Mar 1-7, 2021	52	33	12	3

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

ASK FORM 1 [N=6,044]:

QANON_KNOW How much do you know about QAnon?

Mar 1-7

2021

3	A lot
29	Some
29	Not much
39	Nothing at all
*	No answer

ASK IF KNOW A LOT, SOME, OR NOT TOO MUCH (QANON_KNOW=1,2,3)[N=4,391]:

QANON_FAV All in all, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of people who support QAnon?

Mar 1-7

2021

3	Very favorable
9	Somewhat favorable
24	Somewhat unfavorable
60	Very unfavorable
4	No answer

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING [N=4,808]:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...

<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>
24	31	29	15	2	19	21