

# CAP Action

Findings and Recommendations from Survey About  
Crime and Public Safety

# Methodology



In conjunction with Hart Research and Global Strategy Group, Impact Research conducted a nationwide online poll.



The sample includes N=1218 registered voters with an oversample of N=381 Black, Hispanic and AAPI voters.



Interviews were conducted between April 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**HART**  
RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATES

**GSG** **IMPACT**  
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP RESEARCH



# POLITICAL CONTEXT

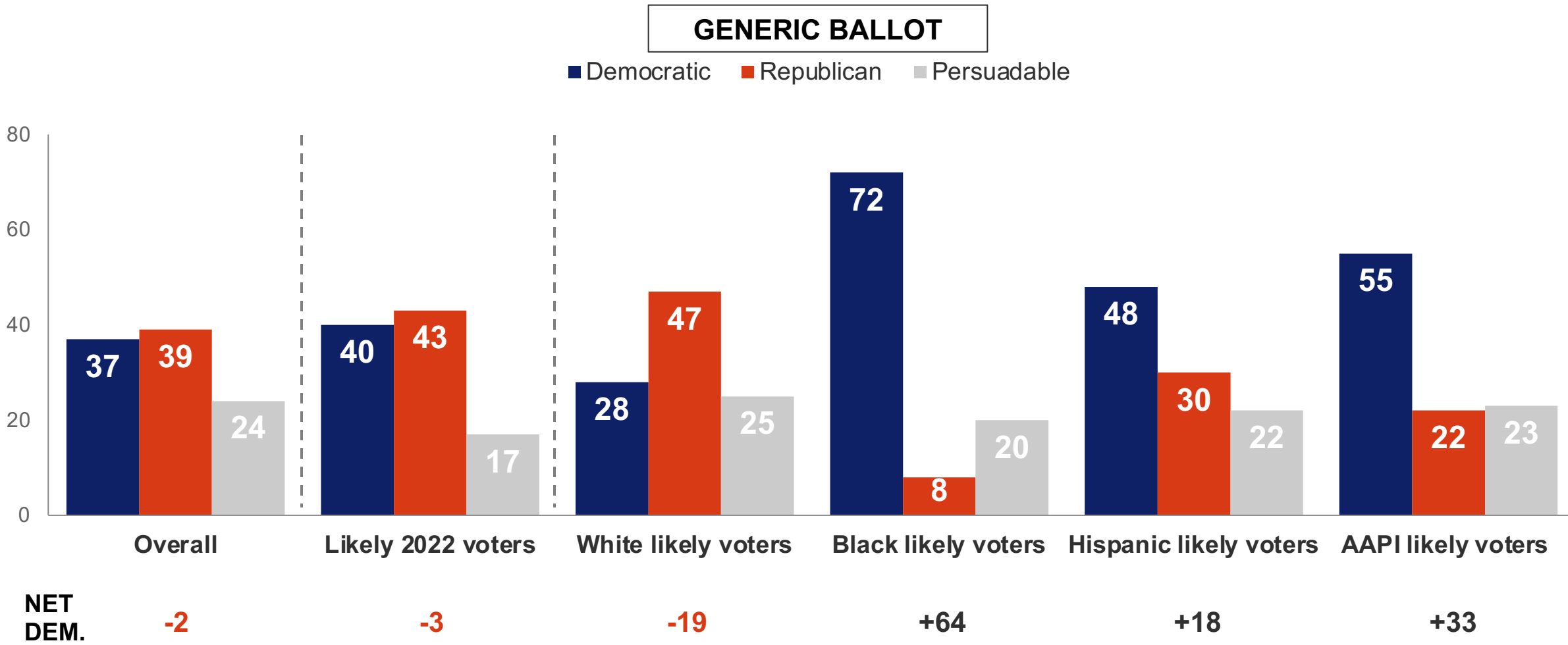


**HART**  
RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATES

**GSG** **IMPACT**  
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP RESEARCH

# Democrats are underwater on the generic ballot by a 2-point margin with registered voters and 3 points with likely voters.

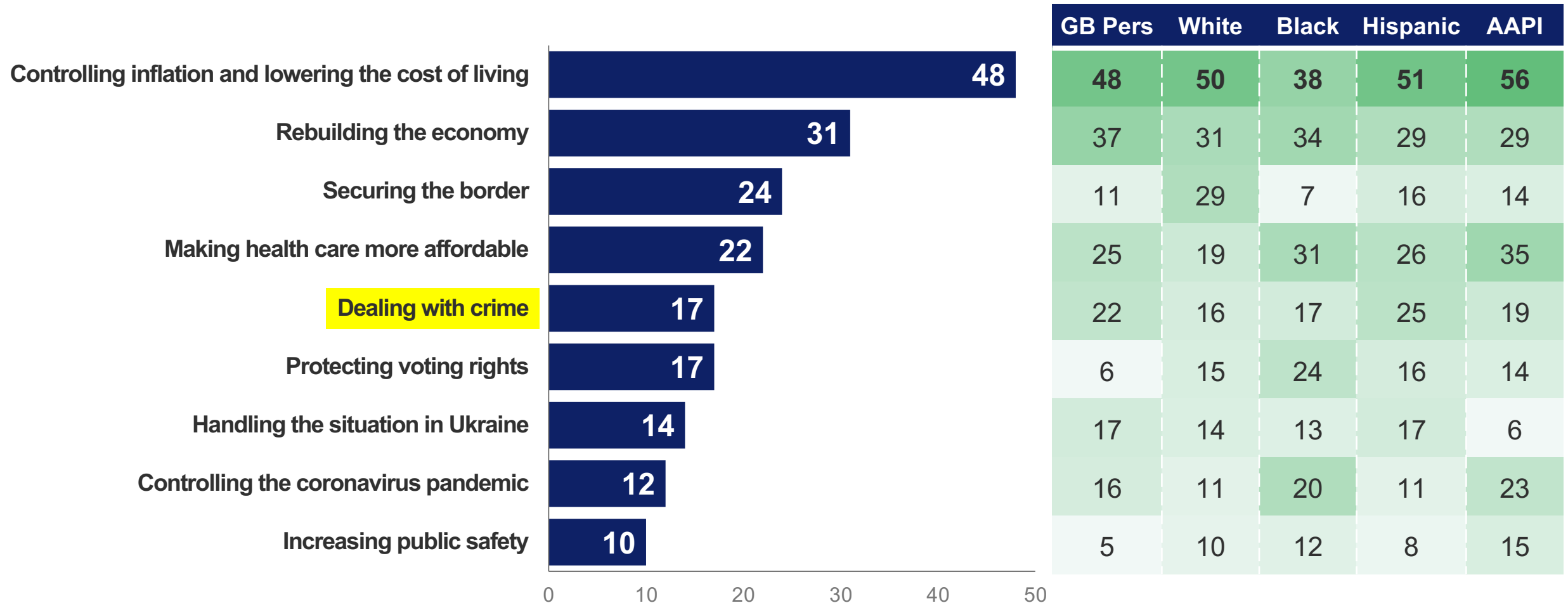
White voters give Republicans a 19-point advantage while voters of color back Democrats by double digit margins though high numbers of white and POC voters are persuadable.



# Controlling inflation is the top priority for voters

Dealing with crime is at best a mid-tier priority while improving public safety ranks last.

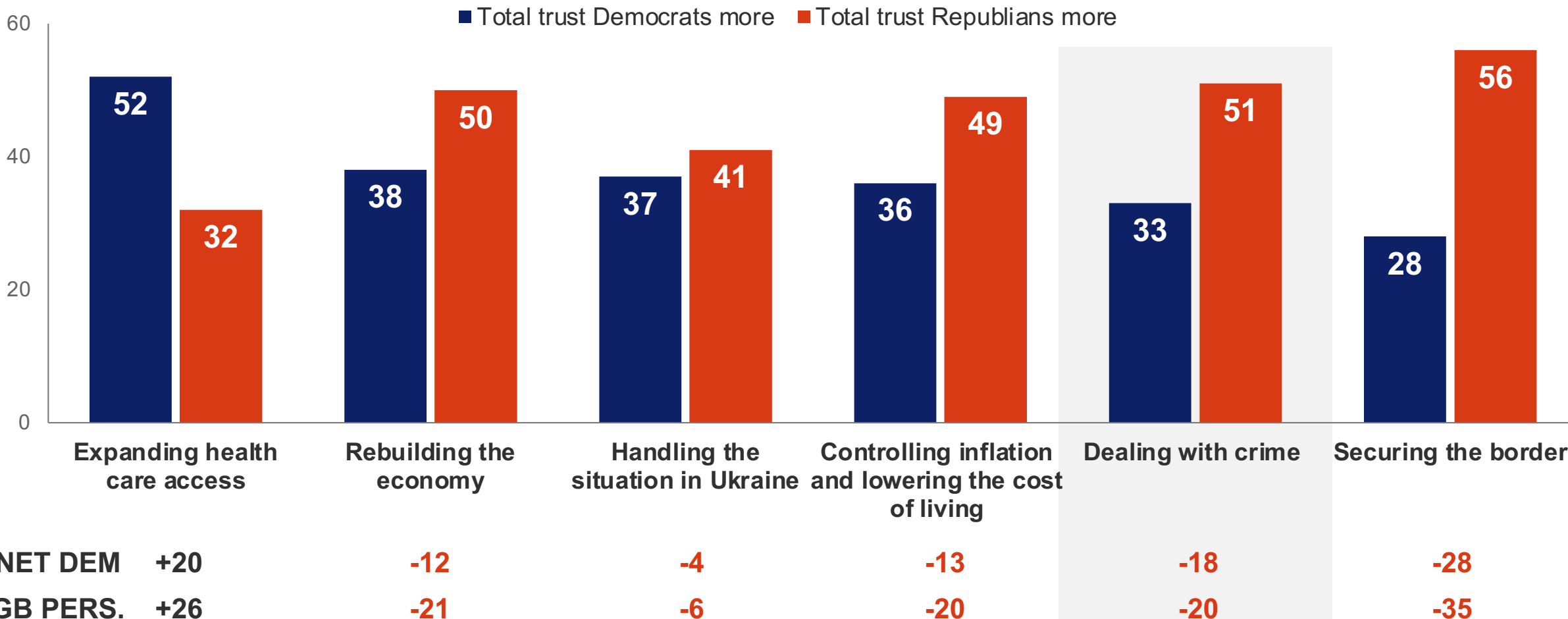
*Which one or two of the following do you feel are the most important issues that our elected officials should make a top priority?*



# Republicans are trusted more to deal with crime by an 18-point margin overall, far outpacing partisanship (-2)

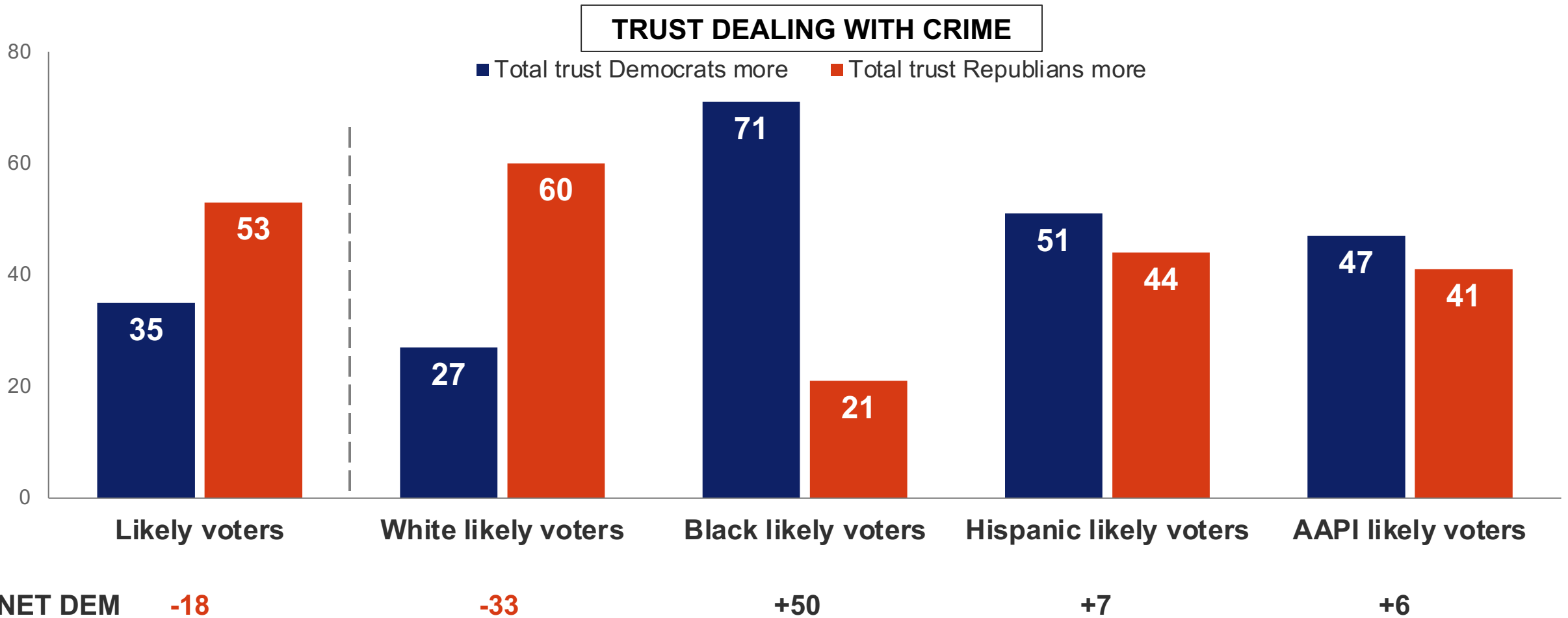
Democrats' only real advantage is on health care and Republicans are more trusted on every economic metric tested.

*For each, please indicate whether you trust Democrats ...or trust Republicans much more to handle the issue.*



# White voters are driving trust for Republicans while Black voters still overwhelmingly trust Democrats on crime.

Hispanic and AAPI voters are more of a toss-up, both giving Democrats a slim trust advantage.





# CURRENT CRIME PERCEPTIONS



**HART**  
RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATES

**GSG** **IMPACT**  
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP RESEARCH



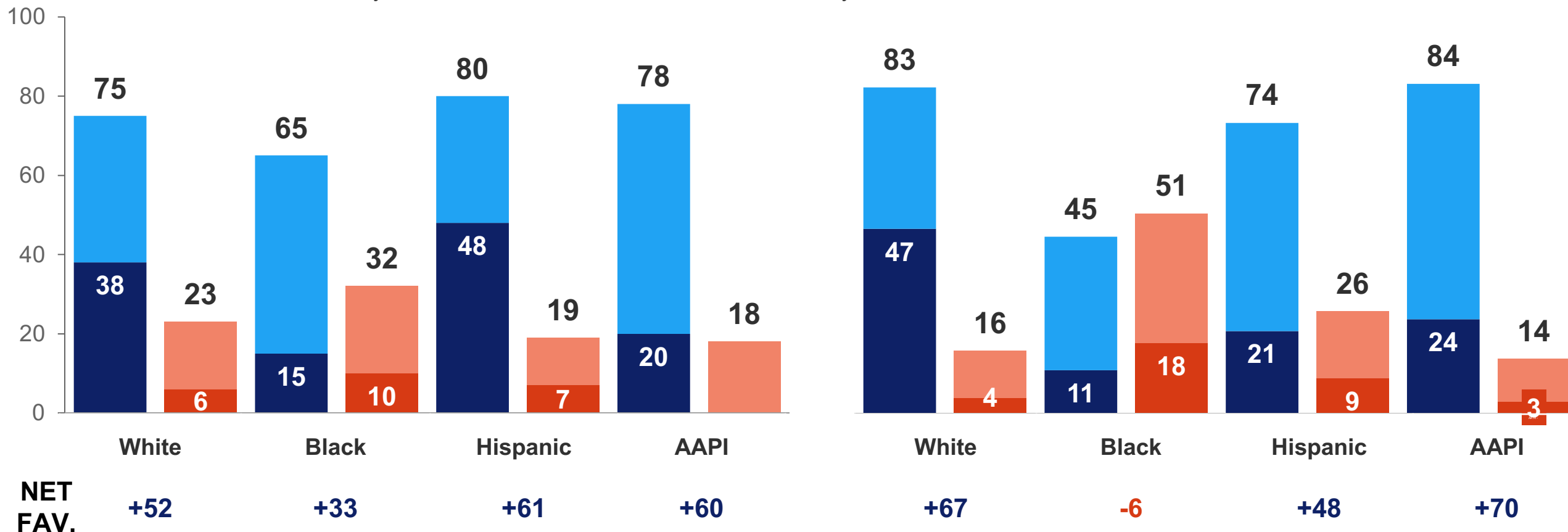
# 75% of voters overall support their local police department, and 77% of voters overall support the police generally.

Black voters are less favorable to the police in general, but at the local level 65% of them remain favorable.

## YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

## THE POLICE

Very Favorable   Somewhat Favorable   Very Unfavorable   Somewhat Unfavorable



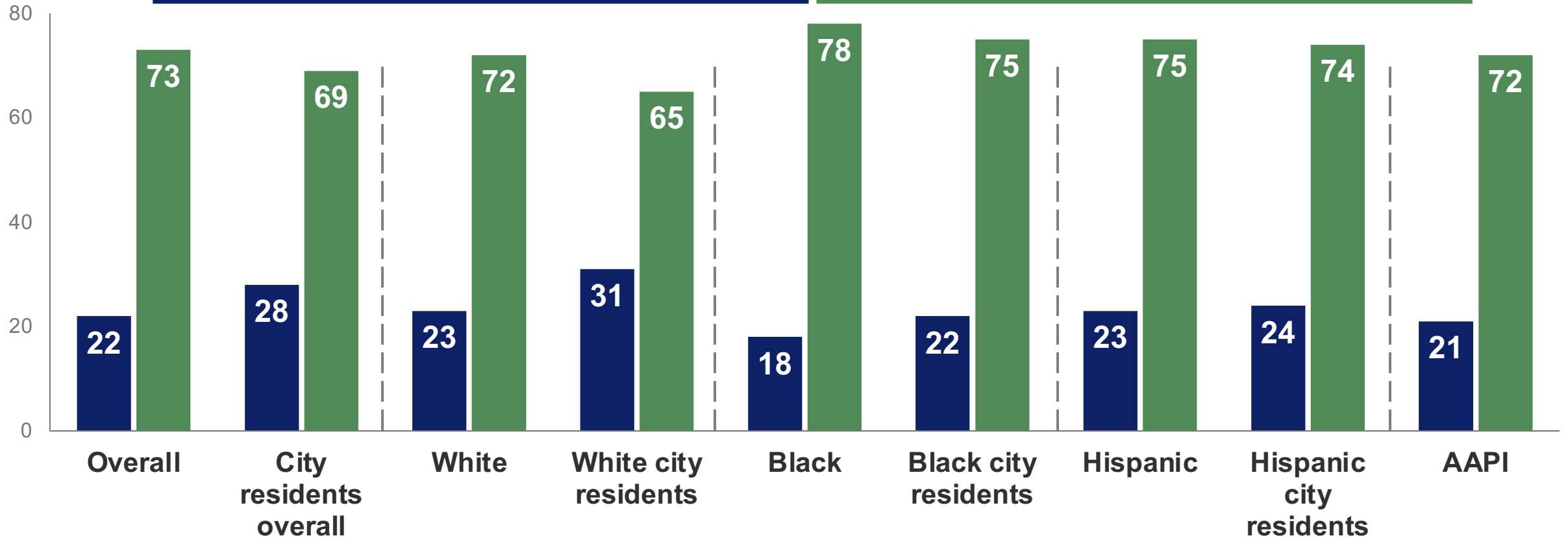
# Regardless of race or whether they actually live in an urban area, voters think violent crime is a problem everywhere.

No one views this as a “city problem.”

*Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view when it comes to crime, even if neither is exactly right?*

**Violent crime is mainly a problem in urban areas**

**Violent crime is a problem everywhere including big cities, small towns, and rural communities**





# CAUSES OF RISING CRIME



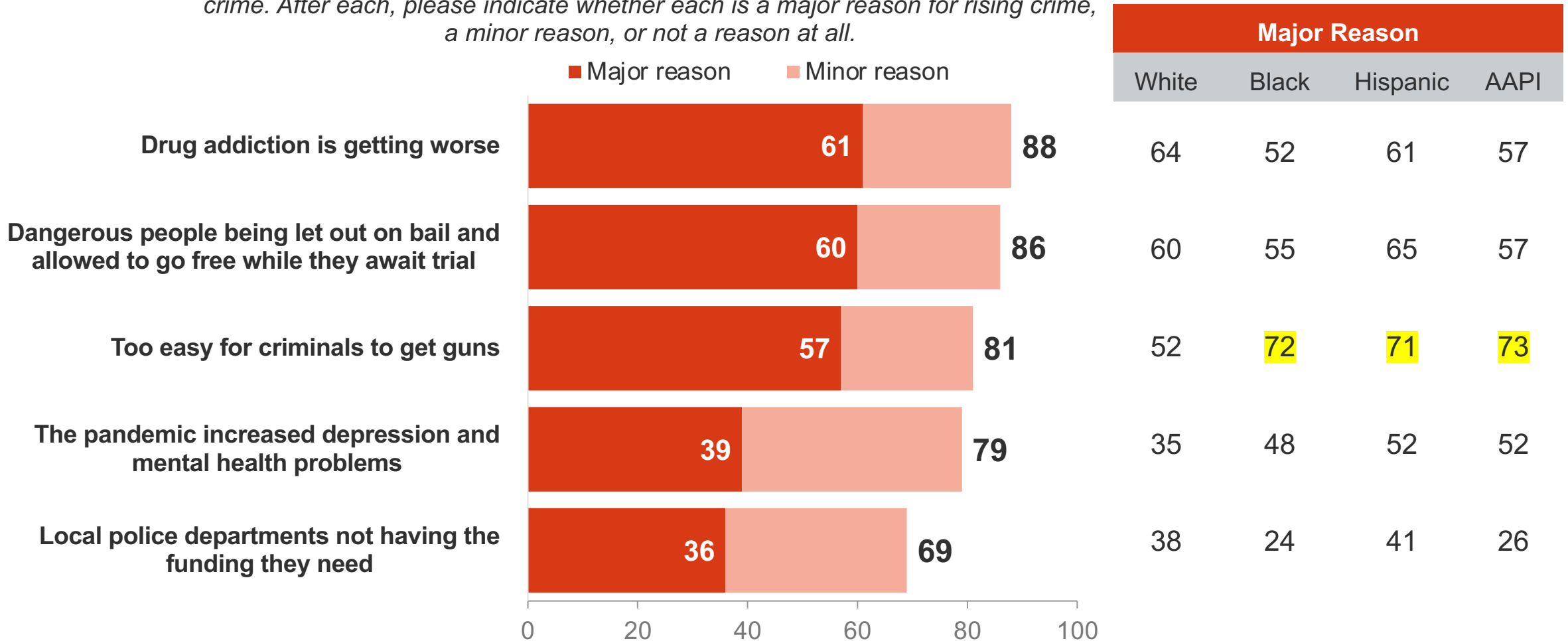
**HART**  
RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATES

**GSG** **IMPACT**  
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP RESEARCH

# Overall, voters most often point to drug addiction and lax bail standards as the biggest reasons, while funding is a lesser reason.

More than anything else, people of color point to guns being too easy to obtain as the biggest reason.

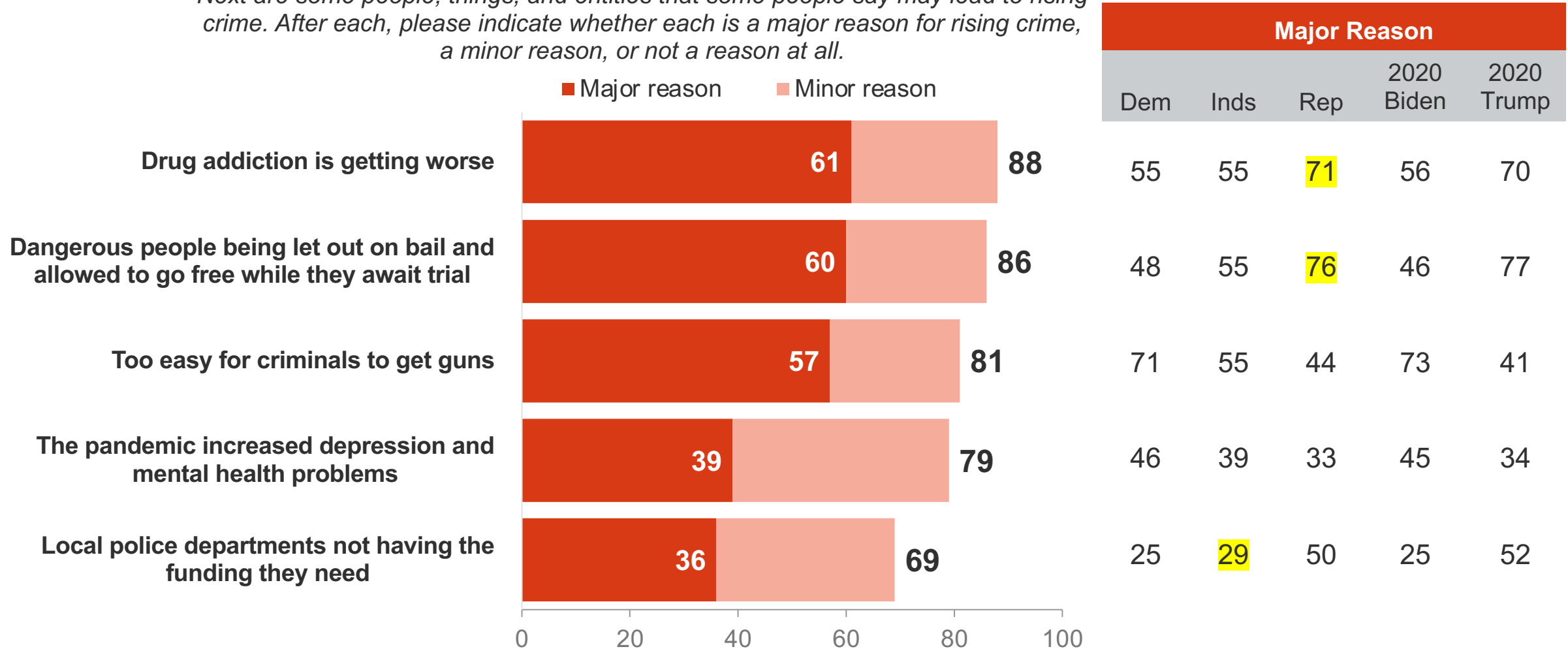
*Next are some people, things, and entities that some people say may lead to rising crime. After each, please indicate whether each is a major reason for rising crime, a minor reason, or not a reason at all.*



# Overall, voters most often point to drug addiction and lax bail standards as the biggest reasons, especially among Republicans.

Just 29% of Independents point to lack of police funding and are just as likely to point to guns.

*Next are some people, things, and entities that some people say may lead to rising crime. After each, please indicate whether each is a major reason for rising crime, a minor reason, or not a reason at all.*





# PARTISAN CHALLENGES ON CRIME



**HART**  
RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATES

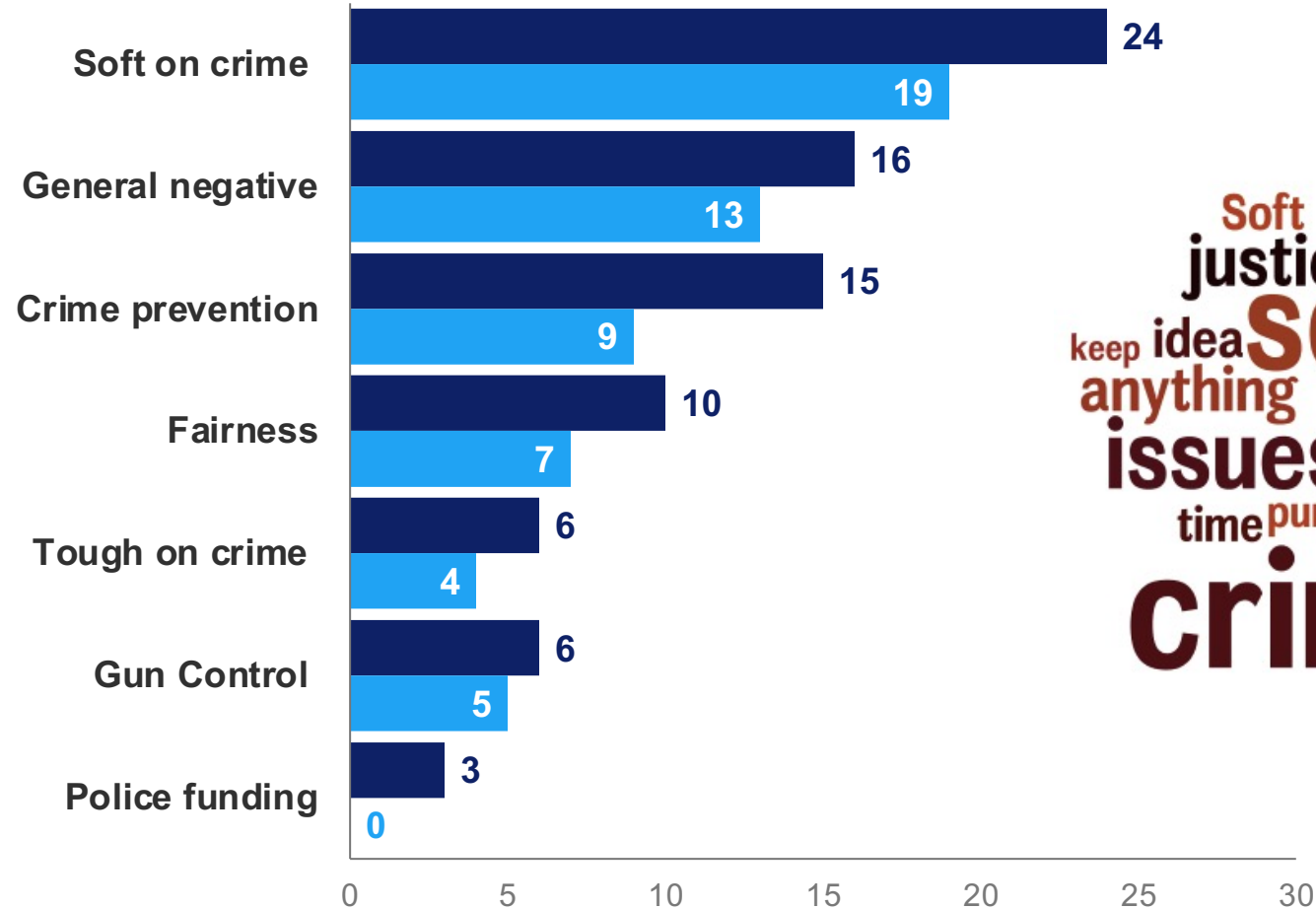
**GSG** **IMPACT**  
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP RESEARCH

# Democrats are initially perceived as soft on crime.

From a legislative standpoint, Democrats are most known for addressing root causes of crime, but this is not very well established among persuadable voters.

*In a few words, what do Democrats stand for when it comes to crime issues?*

■ Overall ■ Generic Persuadable

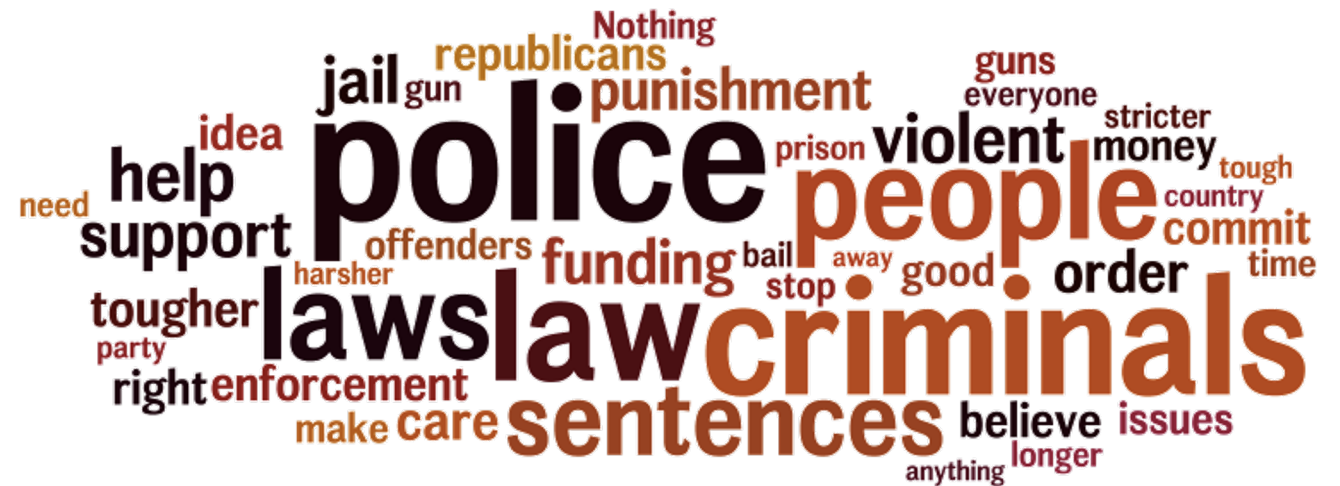
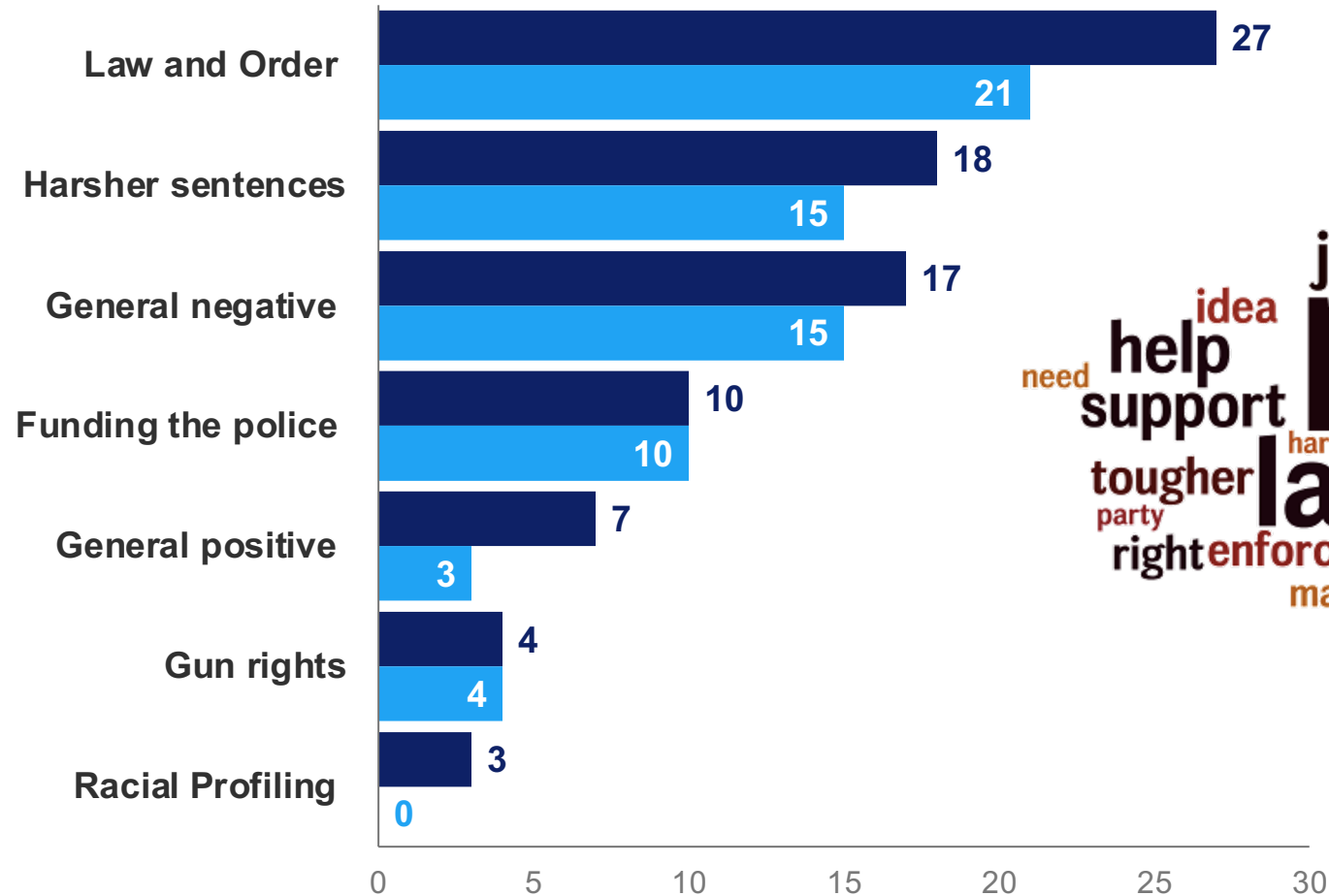


# Initial perceptions of Republicans are that they are the party of “law and order” who support the police and are tough on crime.

Voters, including persuadables, are more aware of Republicans being for harsher sentencing standards.

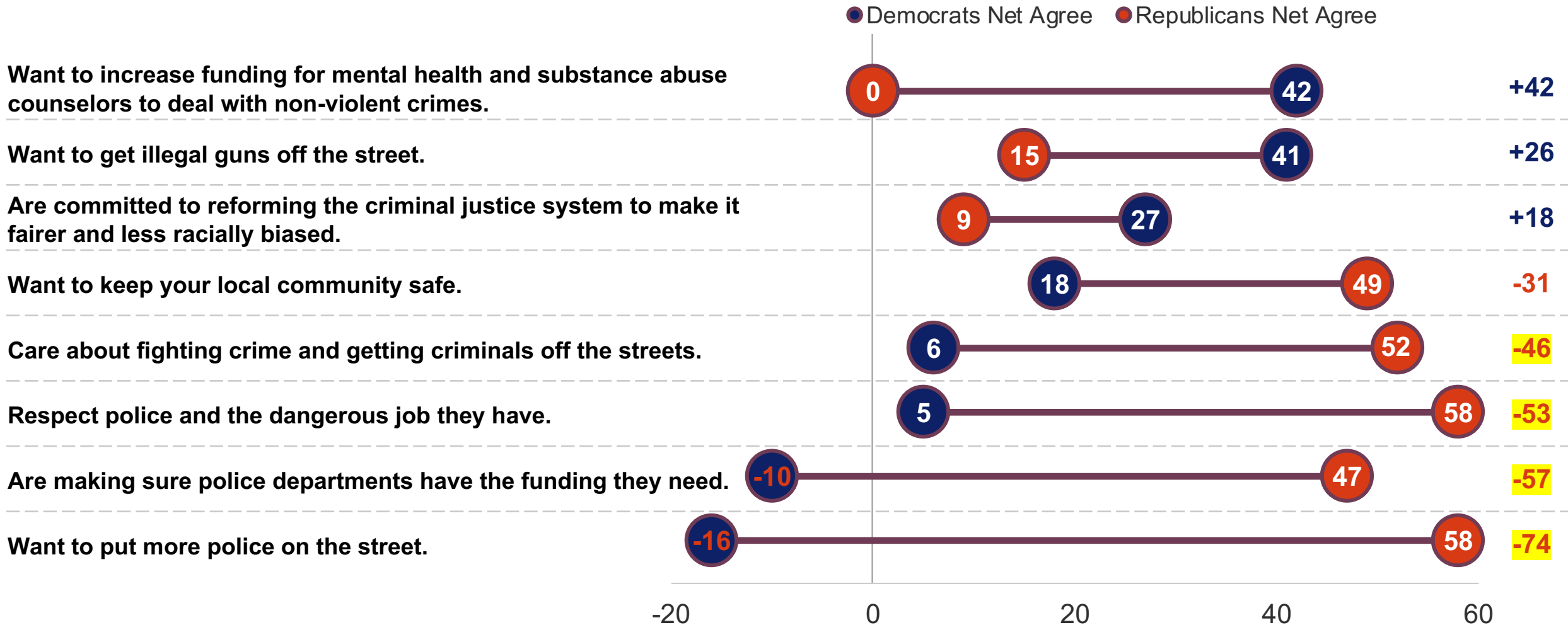
*In a few words, what do Republicans stand for when it comes to crime issues?*

■ Overall ■ Generic Persuadable





# The gaps on respecting the police, caring about fighting crime, and holding people who commit crimes accountable are alarming.





# SOLUTIONS



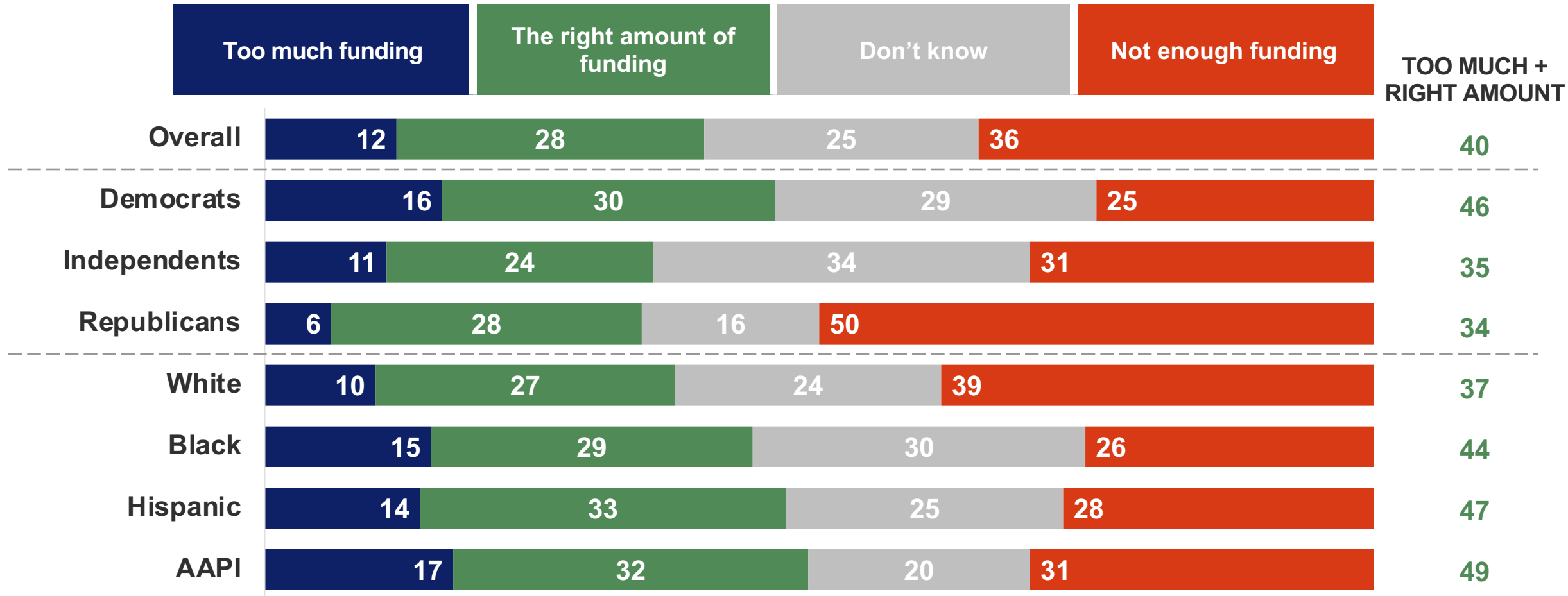
**HART** **RESEARCH**  
ASSOCIATES

**GSG** **IMPACT**  
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP RESEARCH

# Just 36% of voters think there isn't currently enough police funding but one in four aren't sure.

For every subgroup except for Republicans and white voters, more think there is already an adequate level of police funding.

*And from what you know, does the police department where you live receive too much funding, not enough funding or does it receive the right amount of funding?*

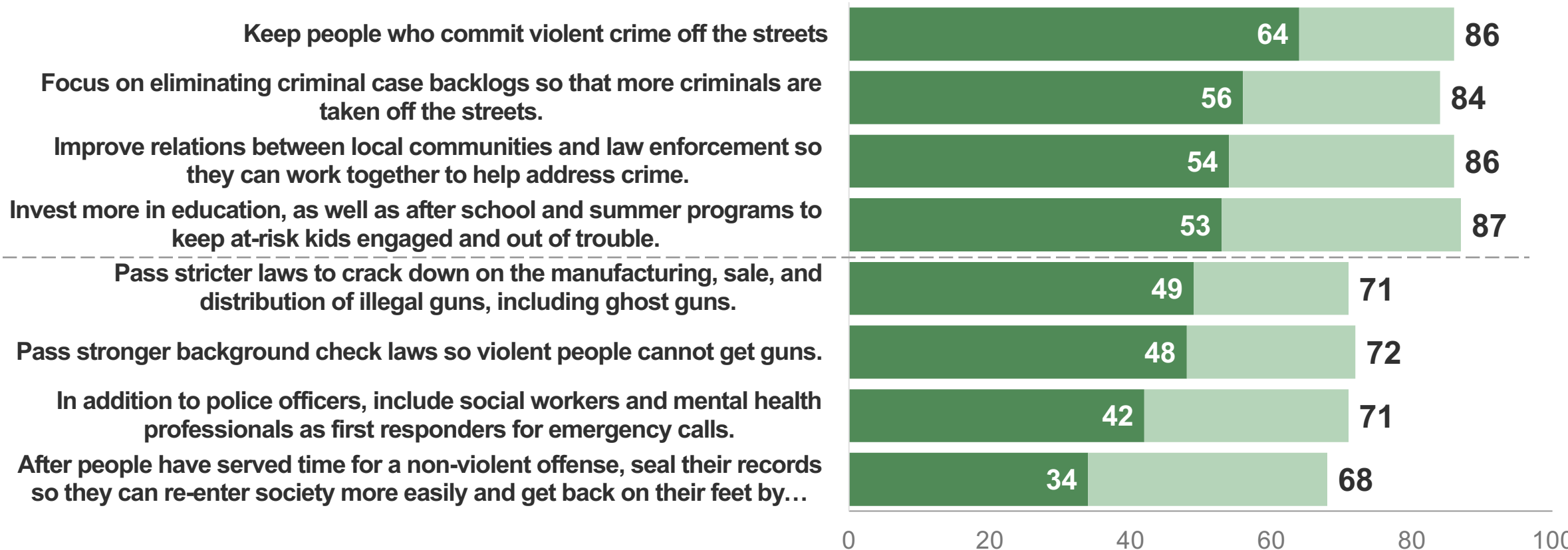


# The top 4 solutions improve public safety without sacrificing our values.

Two frequently cited liberal solutions, mental health first responders and sealing non-violent records, rank last.

*Next, here are some proposals for increasing public safety in local communities. After each one, please indicate whether you think that proposal would :*

■ Do a lot to increase public safety ■ Do a little to increase public safety





# FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS



**HART**  
RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATES

**GSG** **IMPACT**  
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP RESEARCH

# Findings

- **Crime is not a top-tier issue nor is it one that Democrats can ignore.**
- **Voters believe that crime is rising in the country and are concerned about it – particularly violent crime.**
- **Voters don't trust Democrats on crime and believe they don't respect the police/law enforcement.**
  - Their standing on crime (-18) is much worse than overall disadvantage on partisanship (generic ballot -2).
- **Voters believe there are many factors driving the increase in crime including guns, drug addiction, and poverty. There are also strong concerns about bail reform.**
- **Voters support a wide range of solutions including many long-term and systemic policies BUT they gravitate towards responses that will address the immediate threat.**

# Recommendations

- Our policy solutions are popular, and we don't need to run from our efforts to reform the criminal justice system.
- **BUT, we are missing voters if we start there. We need to lead the conversation with a simple message like STOP THE VIOLENCE.**
  - This conveys you understand what is actually concerning voters.
- **Democrats can rebuild trust on this issue in two key ways:**
  - Affirm that people who commit a violent crime should be held accountable.
  - Affirm respect for the police and ensure they have “the resources they need” to solve violent crimes and clear the backlog of unsolved violent crimes
- **AFTER establishing a willingness to respond to the increase in crime, pivot to the solutions that help prevent crime and make the system fairer.**
  - Keeping guns out of the wrong hands
  - Improve relations between local communities and police so they can work together to help address crime
  - Increasing resources for addiction and mental health treatment
  - Addressing poverty and investing in after-school programs