

CAREGIVING IN A TIME OF CRISIS

*Key findings from an online survey among 1,002 adults
conducted May 1 to 4, 2020, by Hart Research for CAG/NDWA*



CARING
ACROSS
GENERATIONS



NATIONAL DOMESTIC
WORKERS ALLIANCE

HART
RESEARCH
ASSOCIATES

Key Findings

Americans view COVID-19 and its widespread impacts as a **major crisis facing the country, and one that America should have been better prepared** to face. Most Americans believe that we need a major reform of the country's response to the pandemic as they report struggling to cope with multiple challenges and uncertainties.

The response to COVID-19 has dramatically changed some of Americans' fundamental beliefs and assumptions. On a personal level, many **Americans report that they no longer have the same expectations for their lives**. On a policy level, **Americans have become less confident** in both the **healthcare system** and **America's social safety net**.

At this transformative moment, Americans decisively say that they **want government to be doing more to solve problems and help** rather than leaving it up to individuals. Specifically, they affirm that **caregiving is both an individual and social responsibility and want the federal government to become more involved in providing support in this area**.

To get the country back to work, **America's first priority is widespread and repeated testing**. This is followed by a recognition that significant policy changes are needed to provide greater support to Americans performing critical roles, including **paid caregivers and family caregivers**.

Key Findings *(continued)*

Indeed, the essential role of caregiving comes through clearly in these findings—both paid caregiving and family caregiving. In terms of **paid caregivers**: Americans place greater value on their contributions amidst this crisis and report being **more likely to want to electorally support public officials who will support caregivers**. Other measures of support for paid caregiving include:

- Across party lines, Americans believe that **the federal government should be doing more to support paid caregivers**.
- Americans' concern about gaps in the country's social safety net extends specifically to the **safety net for paid caregivers**. Overwhelmingly, Americans affirm that paid caregivers do not receive basic support and benefits—including a living wage and paid sick leave—and believe that they should, even if it means an increase in federal funding.

Family caregivers have seen their caregiving **responsibilities increased significantly**, and most are finding that the balance between the two **is no longer sustainable**.

For now, **family caregivers** report that they are **comfortable having conversations with their employers and colleagues** about their caregiving responsibilities and that their coworkers are understanding. But majorities of family caregivers are **concerned about their ability to work at the same level as they did before their caregiving responsibilities increased**, and for those working at home, most are also **concerned about being able to continue working**.

Americans see COVID-19 as a major challenge facing the country, and one for which we should have been better prepared.

81%

say COVID-19 is a major crisis or very serious problem.

94%

agree America should be better prepared to handle something like the coronavirus.

67%

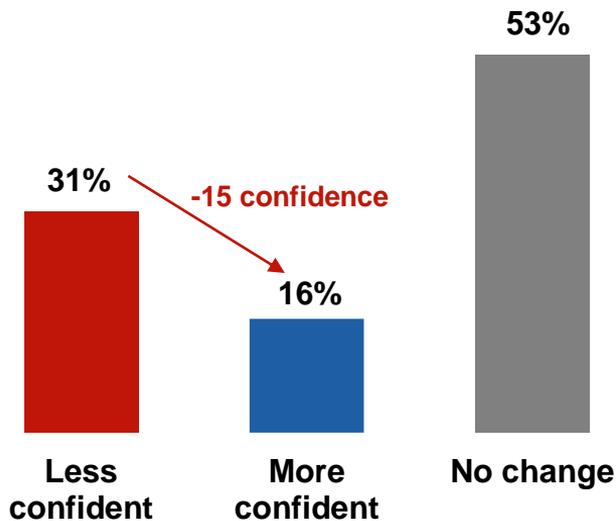
say America needs a complete overhaul or major changes in handling the coronavirus.

43% say they no longer have the same expectations for their life.

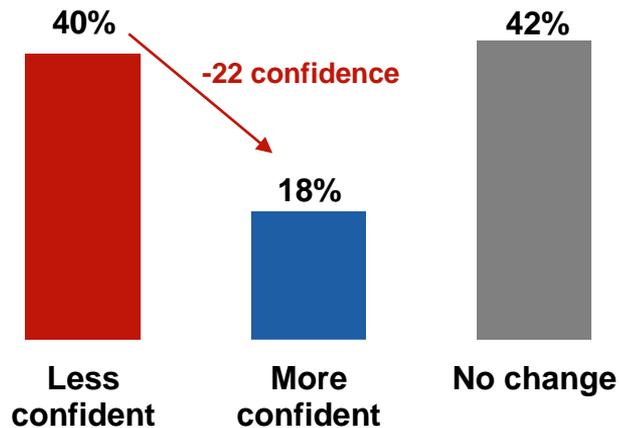
Americans are more likely to have lost rather than gained confidence in the healthcare system and social safety net in the past few weeks.

How has your confidence in this changed in the past few weeks?

U.S. Healthcare System



U.S. Social Safety Net System that Looks Out for People Most in Need of Help



Americans are much more likely to believe government should do more to solve problems and help, and see caregiving as a social responsibility where the federal government should become more involved.

Preferred Role of Government

Government should do more to solve problems and help instead of leaving it up to individuals.



Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.



Should do more

Democrats	86%
Independents	75%
Republicans	43%

Caring for Children, Older Adults, Disabled

Caregiving is both an individual and social responsibility and the federal government should become more involved in providing support.



Caregiving is an individual family responsibility and the federal government should not become more involved in providing support.



Both family and society

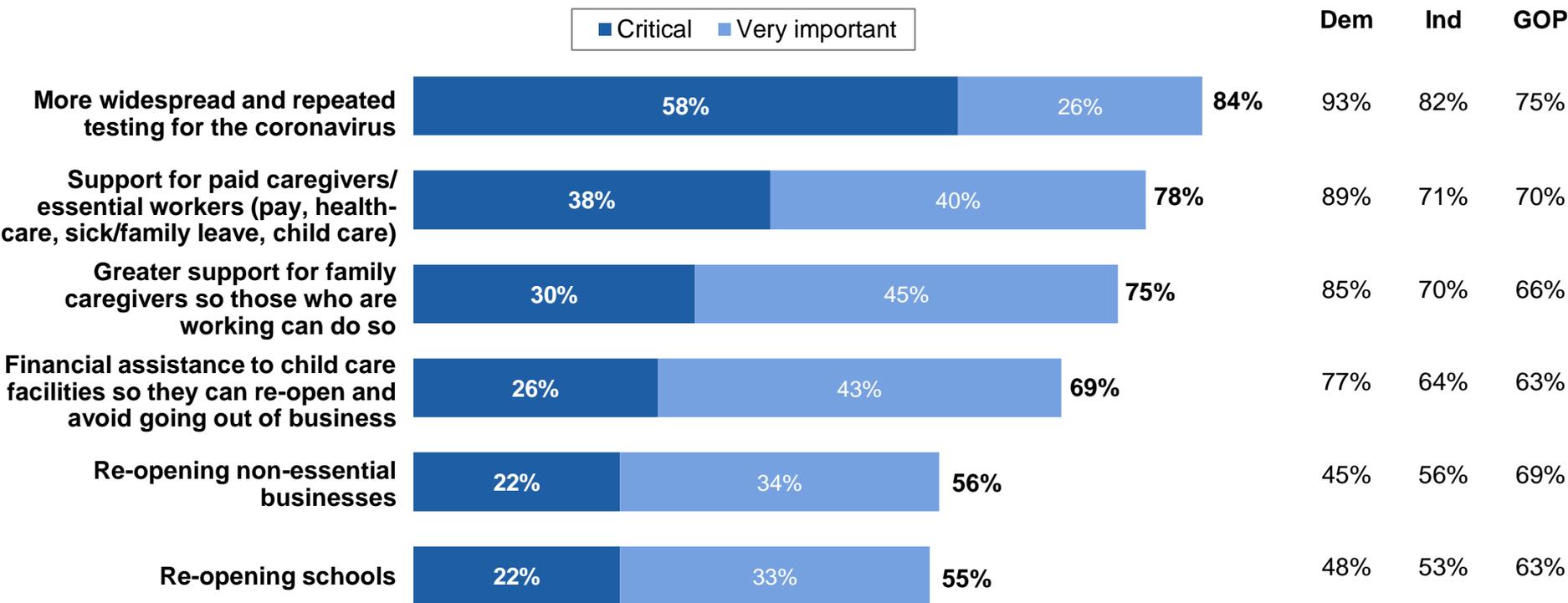
Democrats	86%
Independents	75%
Republicans	57%

59%

believe the federal government should take the lead role in coordinating with state and local governments rather than state and local government taking the lead.

In getting the country back to work, Americans' first priority is testing, followed by support for caregivers.

Importance of Steps in Response to the Coronavirus



Americans have become more aware of the need to support caregivers, and this makes them want to elect public officials who invest in support for caregivers.

Proportion Who Agree with Each Statement:

● Republicans ● Independents ● Democrats

The coronavirus has caused me to think more about *family caregivers* and how they need more support.



The coronavirus makes me want to elect more public officials who will invest in support for caregivers.

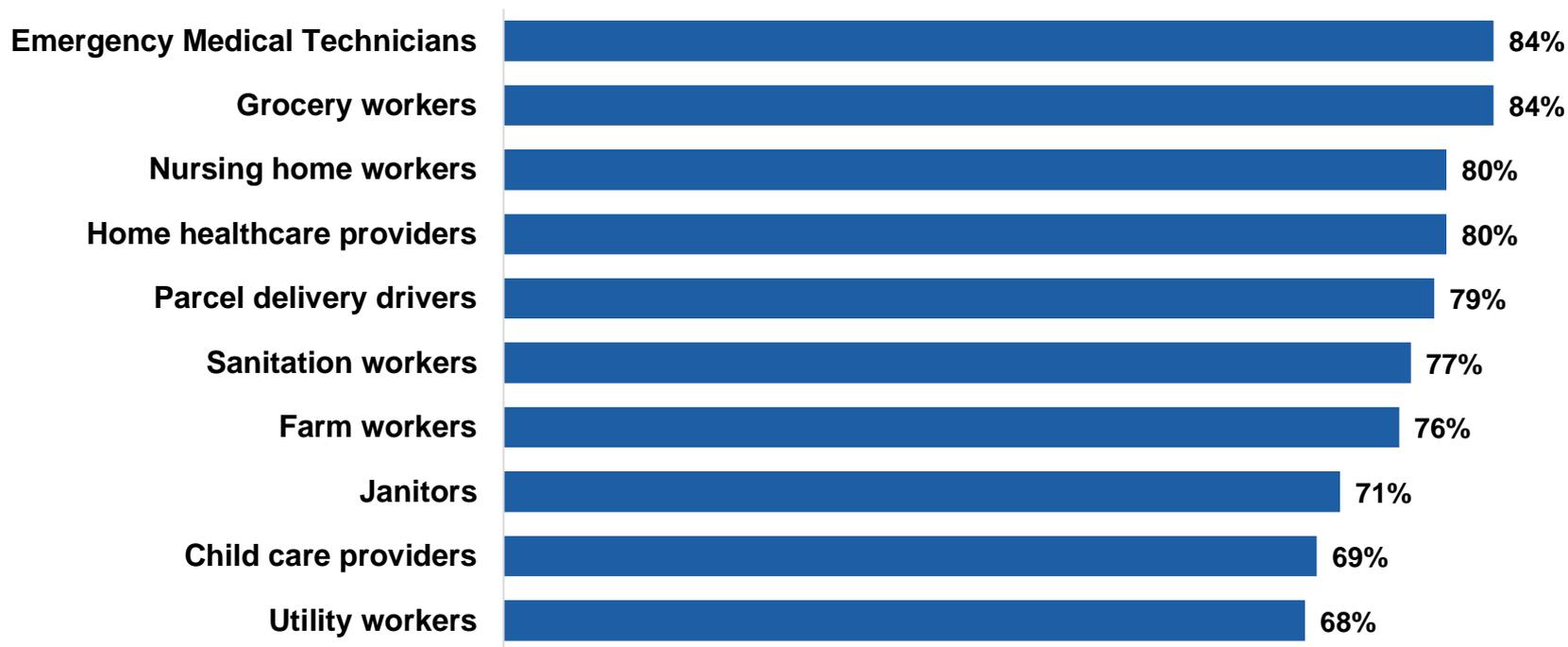


The coronavirus has caused me to think more about *paid care providers* and how they need more support.



Due to COVID-19, Americans are placing more value on many workers who are frequently overlooked in society for the critical work they provide.

Value Each Group More Now Because of the Coronavirus

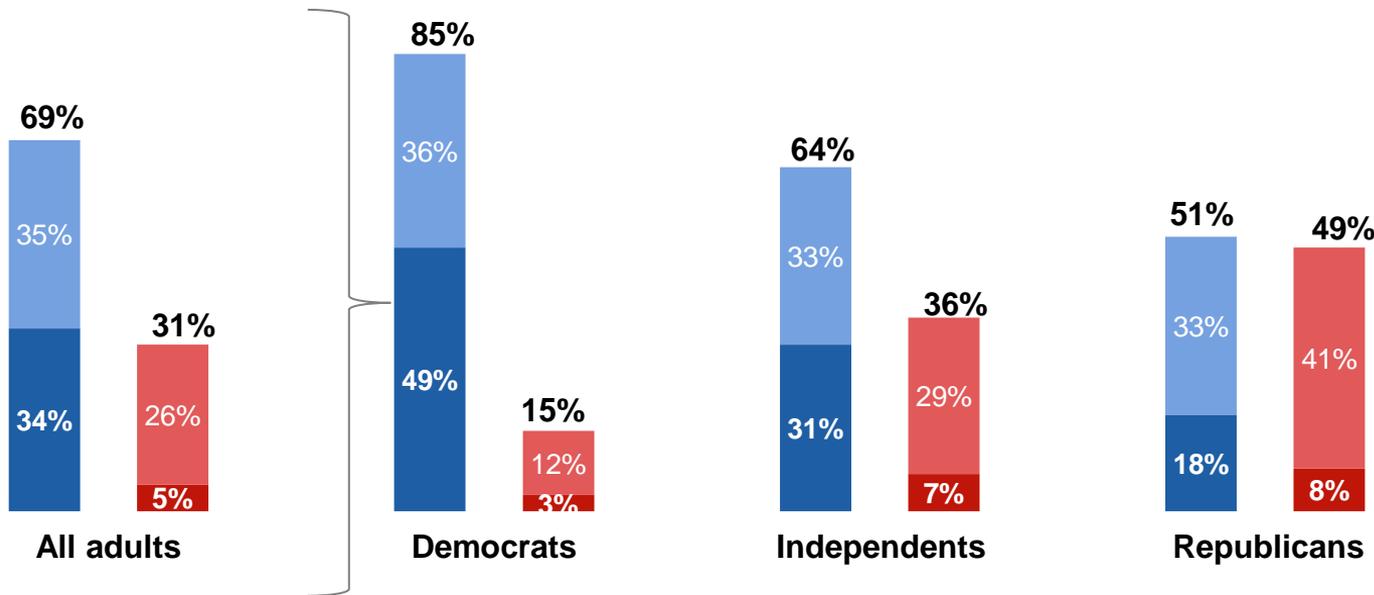


Americans across party lines believe that the federal government should be doing more to support paid caregivers.

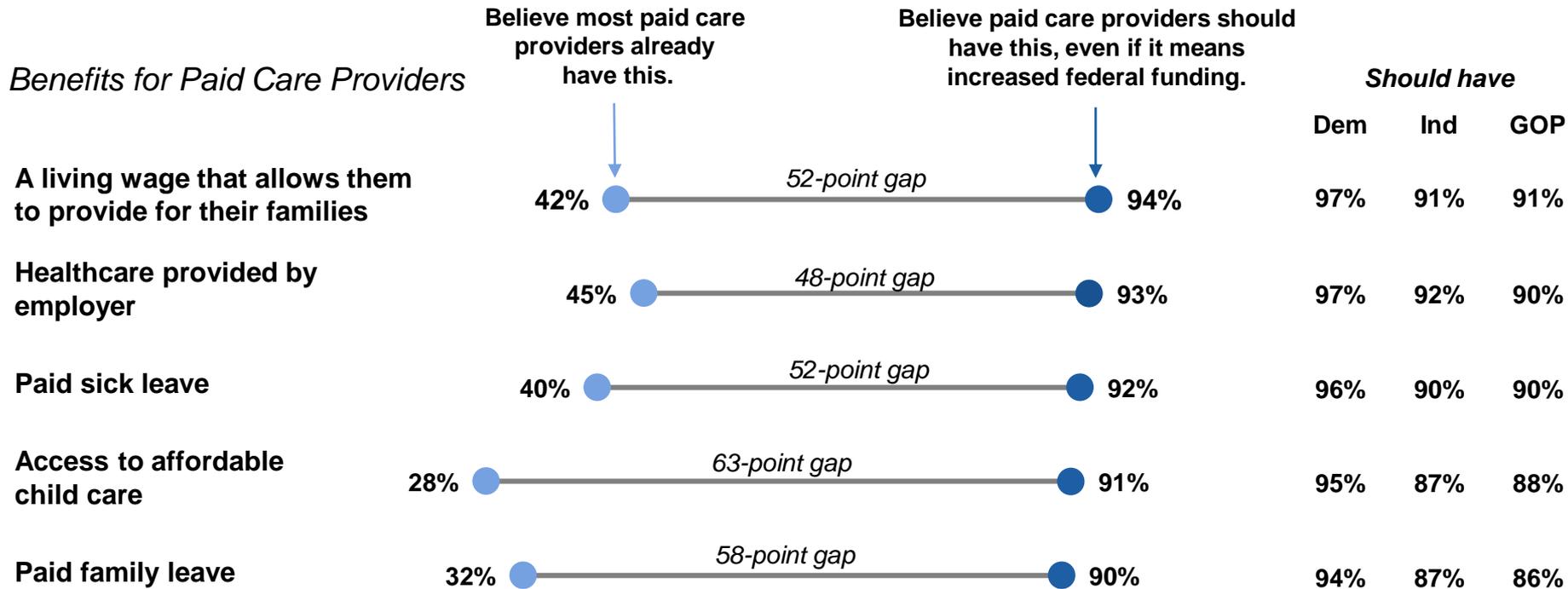
Considering the Work/Working Conditions of Paid Care Providers, the Federal Government:*



*Description provided:
 “Workers who provide care and assistance to those who need it, including young children, the elderly, and people with disabilities”

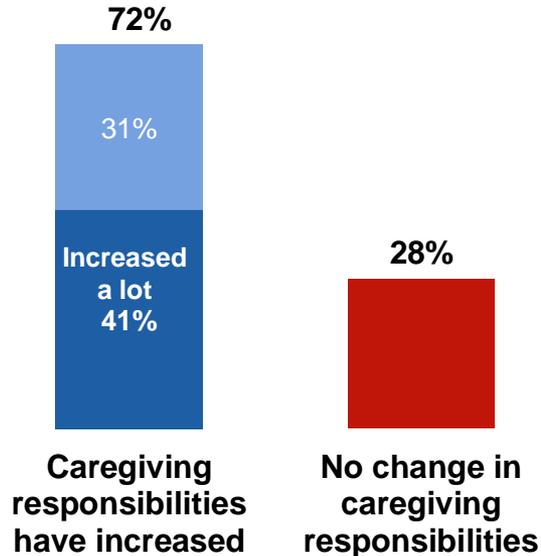


Most Americans believe that many paid caregivers do not receive basic support and benefits and overwhelmingly believe they should have access to them, even if it means an increase in federal funding.



Family caregivers report that their caregiving responsibilities have increased significantly due to the coronavirus.

Impact of the Coronavirus on Family's Caregiving Responsibilities



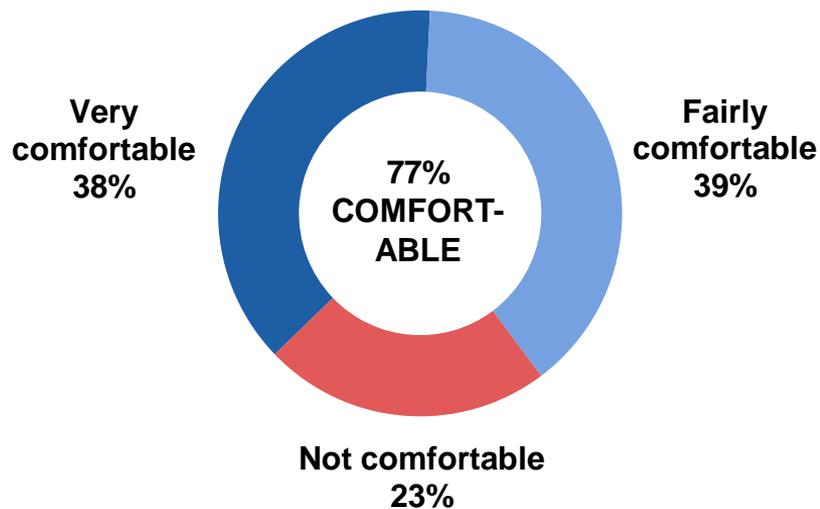
Impact of the Coronavirus on Specific Caregiving Responsibilities

	Average hours per week		
	Before	Current	Change
Care for a child who attended daycare/ school, but is now home because daycare/ school closed due to the coronavirus	22.1	34.7	+12.6
Staying home and providing care for my own child or a relative's child before they enter elementary school	9.1	9.8	+0.7
Assist with care of older relative or someone who does not live with me	6.6	9.2	+2.6
Assist with the daily care of aging or disabled loved one in my home	7.8	8.6	+0.8

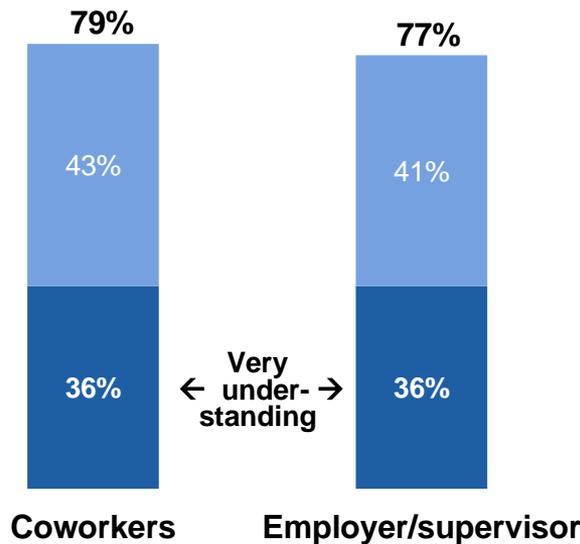
Most are comfortable discussing their caregiving responsibilities at work and say their supervisors and colleagues are understanding for now.

84% say their employer/supervisor knows about their caregiving responsibilities.

Comfort with Discussing Caregiving Responsibilities with Employer

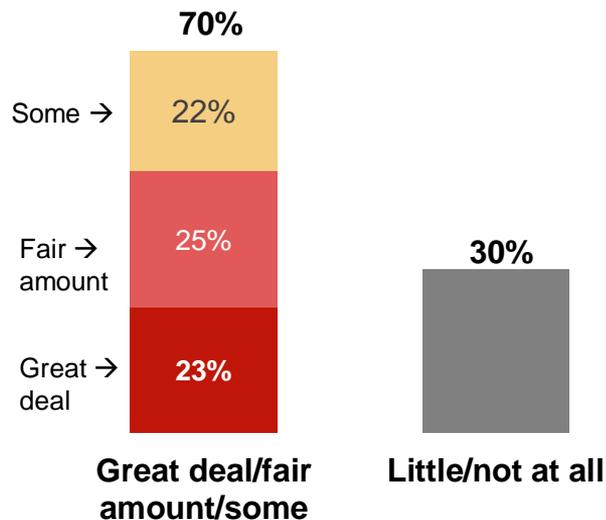


They are VERY/FAIRLY UNDERSTANDING about my caregiving responsibilities:

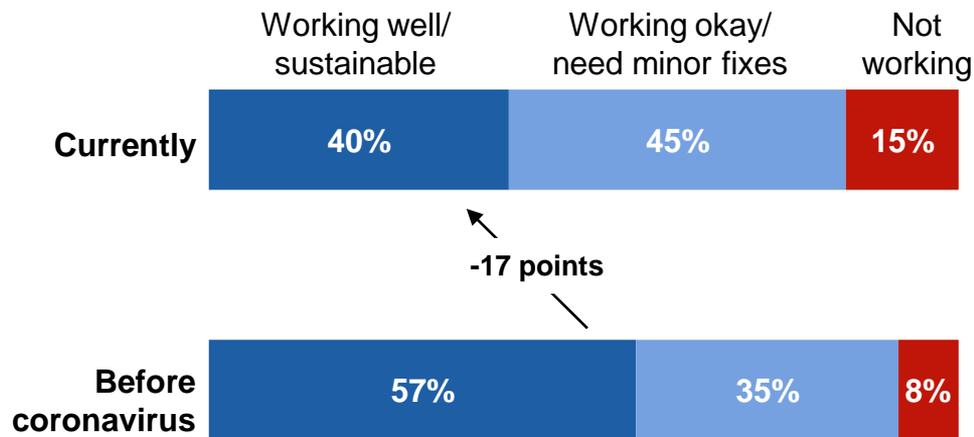


But most working family caregivers say their caregiving responsibilities have impacted their work at least somewhat and that the balance has shifted to no longer being sustainable for most.

Since the coronavirus, how much have caregiving responsibilities impacted your work?

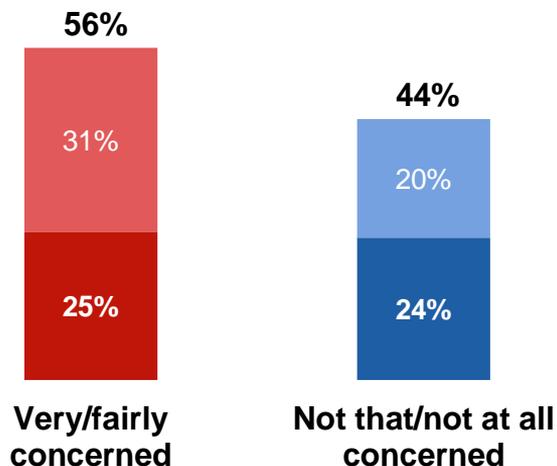


My Ability to Balance Work and Caregiving Responsibilities



Majorities of caregivers are concerned they won't be able to work at the same level due to increased responsibilities from COVID-19, and that working from home will eventually prevent their continuing to work.

Due to caregiving responsibilities since the coronavirus outbreak, I won't be able to work at the same level as before.



Now that I am working from home along with caregiving responsibilities since the coronavirus outbreak, I won't be able to continue working.

