NRDC- Plastics Research Survey Analysis
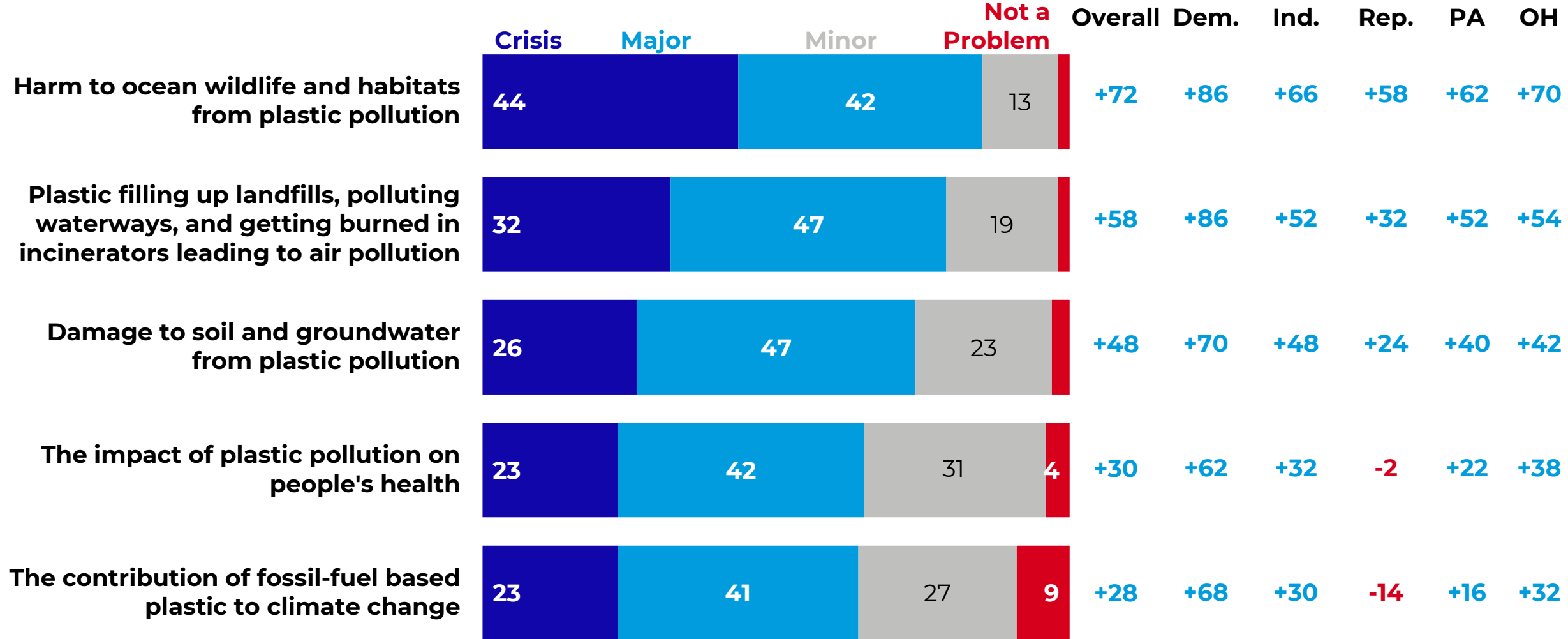
Attitudes toward Plastics

GSG

Respondents are very concerned about the impacts of plastic, and particularly concerned about their impact on oceans and wildlife
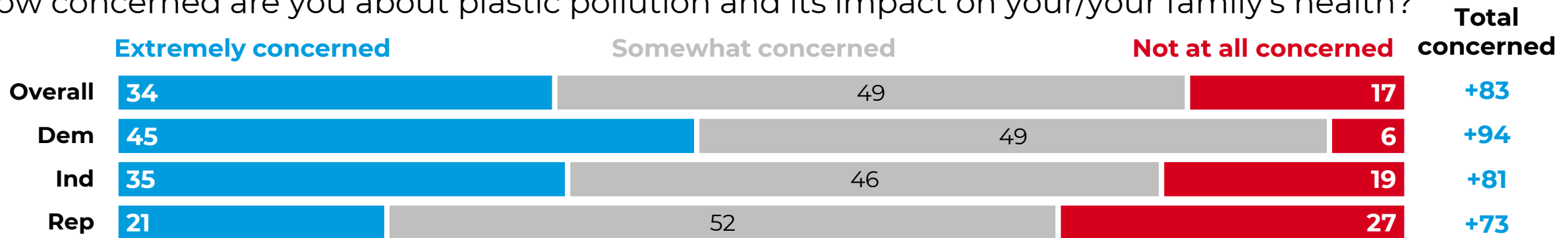
How big of a problem do you think each of the following is?

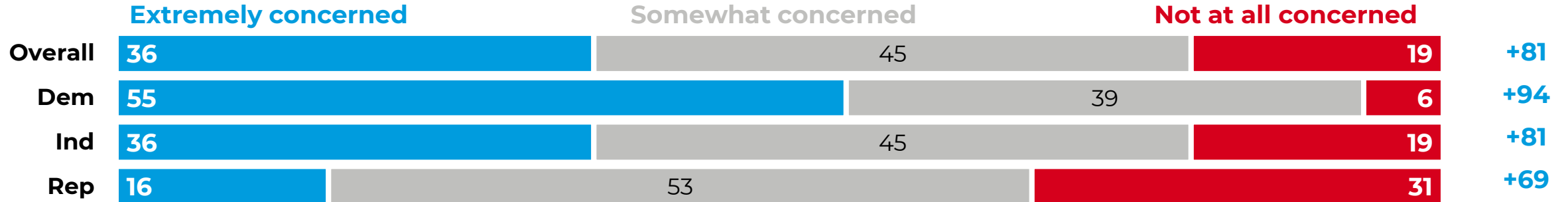|	**Crisis**	**Major**	**Minor**	**Not a Problem**	**Overall**	**Dem.**	**Ind.**	**Rep.**	**PA**	**OH**
Harm to ocean wildlife and habitats from plastic pollution	44	42	13		+72	+86	+66	+58	+62	+70
Plastic filling up landfills, polluting waterways, and getting burned in incinerators leading to air pollution	32	47	19		+58	+86	+52	+32	+52	+54
Damage to soil and groundwater from plastic pollution	26	47	23		+48	+70	+48	+24	+40	+42
The impact of plastic pollution on people's health	23	42	31	4	+30	+62	+32	-2	+22	+38
The contribution of fossil-fuel based plastic to climate change	23	41	27	9	+28	+68	+30	-14	+16	+32

3

The public shows widespread concern about the impacts of plastic on people's health, the climate, and air and water pollution

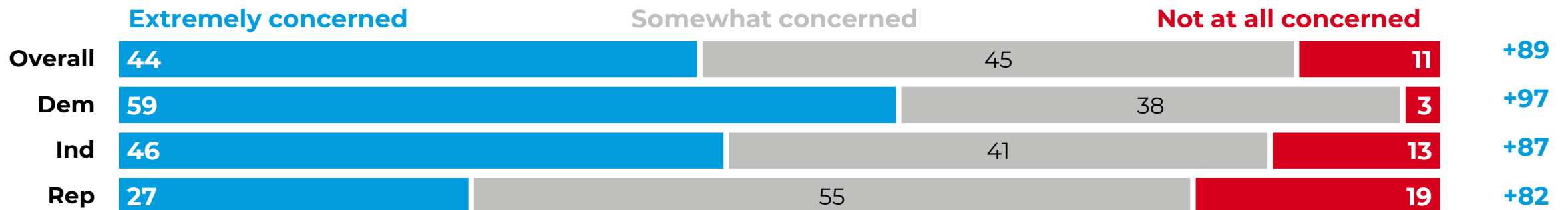## How concerned are you about plastic pollution and its impact on your/your family's health?

	Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not at all concerned	Total concerned
Overall	34	49	17	+83
Dem	45	49	6	+94
Ind	35	46	19	+81
Rep	21	52	27	+73

How concerned are you about fossil-fuel-based plastic and its contribution to climate change?

	Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not at all concerned	Total concerned
Overall	36	45	19	+81
Dem	55	39	6	+94
Ind	36	45	19	+81
Rep	16	53	31	+69

How concerned are you about plastic and its impact on air and water pollution?

	Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not at all concerned	Total concerned
Overall	44	45	11	+89
Dem	59	38	3	+97
Ind	46	41	13	+87
Rep	27	55	19	+82

4

The public wants to see government act when it comes to plastics. Even among Republicans, respondents are not deterred by the fewer jobs claim

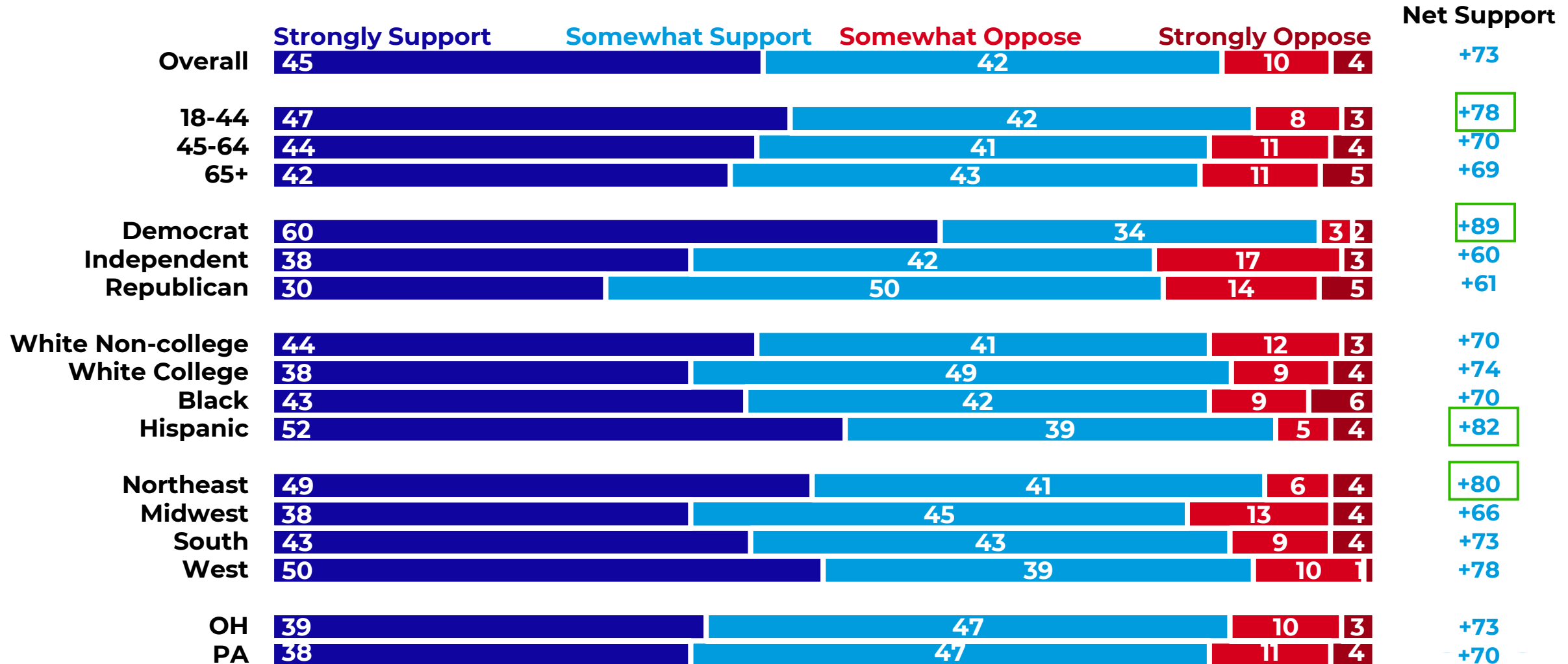Statements about Plastic and the Environment – Initial Ask

Strongly agree · **Somewhat agree** · **Disagree**

Statement	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Net Agree Overall	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	PA	OH
The U.S. should take action to eliminate the most toxic forms of plastic	63	31	6	+88	+96	+90	+78	+78	+86
The U.S. should take action to prevent microplastics from entering our food and water supplies	63	31	6	+88	+96	+88	+78	+78	+86
The U.S. should invest in solutions that reduce plastic production and waste	50	40	10	+80	+94	+80	+66	+74	+76
The U.S. should take action to move away from single-use plastic	49	37	14	+72	+90	+74	+54	+68	+68
The U.S. should be an international leader in addressing plastic pollution	45	39	16	+62	+90	+64	+46	+60	+64
I want to see national and state lawmakers take action to address plastic pollution	44	43	13	+74	+92	+72	+56	+66	+66
The U.S. should limit plastic pollution to protect people's health, even if it might mean fewer jobs	43	39	18	+62	+86	+60	+38	+62	+58

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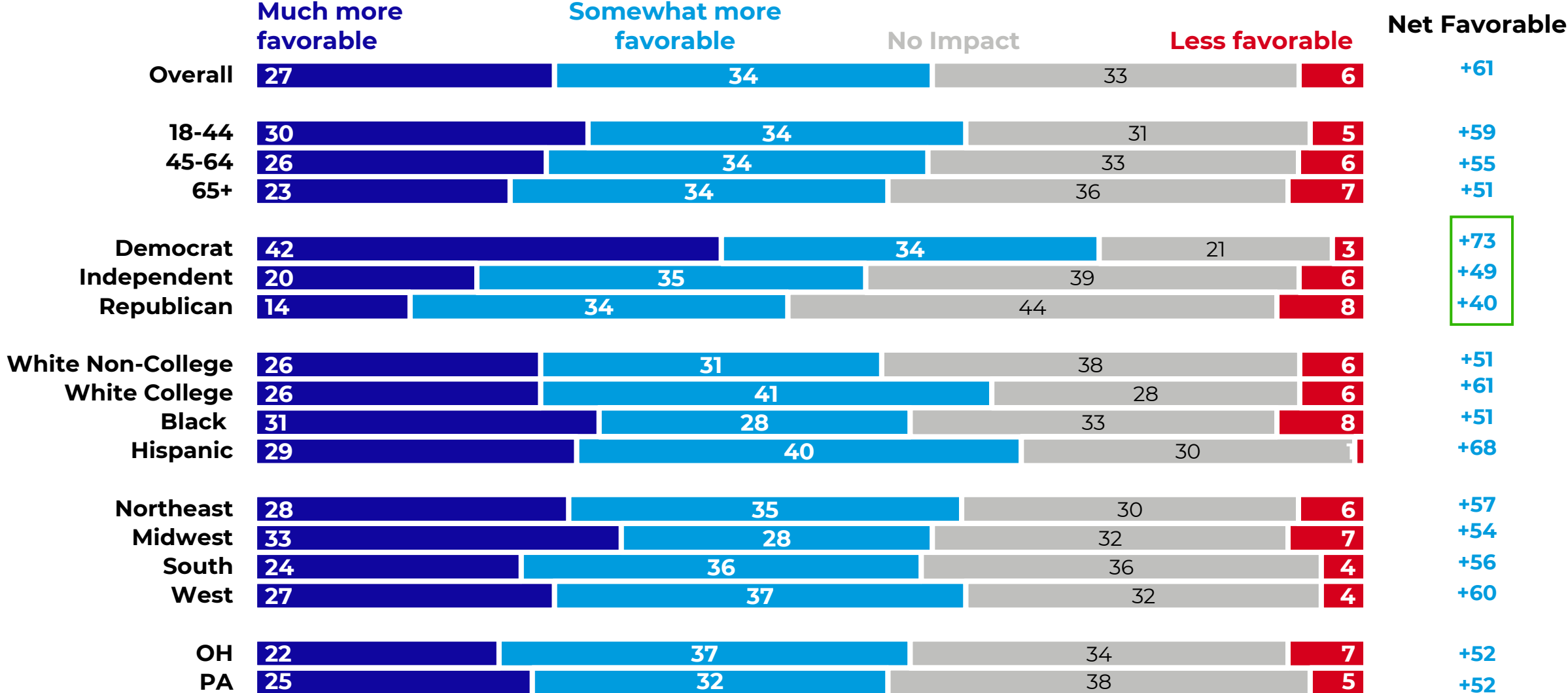# Support for US policy

GSG

Reducing the production of plastics has near-universal support; Intensity around support is driven by Democrats, Hispanic, and younger respondents

Do you support or oppose measures to reduce the production of plastics?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Net Support
Overall	45	42	10	4	+73
18-44	47	42	8	3	+78
45-64	44	41	11	4	+70
65+	42	43	11	5	+69
Democrat	60	34	3	2	+89
Independent	38	42	17	3	+60
Republican	30	50	14	5	+61
White Non-college	44	41	12	3	+70
White College	38	49	9	4	+74
Black	43	42	9	6	+70
Hispanic	52	39	5	4	+82
Northeast	49	41	6	4	+80
Midwest	38	45	13	4	+66
South	43	43	9	4	+73
West	50	39	10	1	+78
OH	39	47	10	3	+73
PA	38	47	11	4	+70

Respondents showed higher favorability to lawmakers who support measures to reduce plastic production

Would you have a more or less favorable opinion towards a lawmaker who supports measures to reduce the production of plastics?

	Much more favorable	Somewhat more favorable	No Impact	Less favorable	Net Favorable
Overall	27	34	33	6	+61
18-44	30	34	31	5	+59
45-64	26	34	33	6	+55
65+	23	34	36	7	+51
Democrat	42	34	21	3	+73
Independent	20	35	39	6	+49
Republican	14	34	44	8	+40
White Non-College	26	31	38	6	+51
White College	26	41	28	6	+61
Black	31	28	33	8	+51
Hispanic	29	40	30	1	+68
Northeast	28	35	30	6	+57
Midwest	33	28	32	7	+54
South	24	36	36	4	+56
West	27	37	32	4	+60
OH	22	37	34	7	+52
PA	25	32	38	5	+52

After messaging, respondents are more likely to support the U.S. as a global leader in addressing plastic pollution and to demand action from lawmakers on the issue
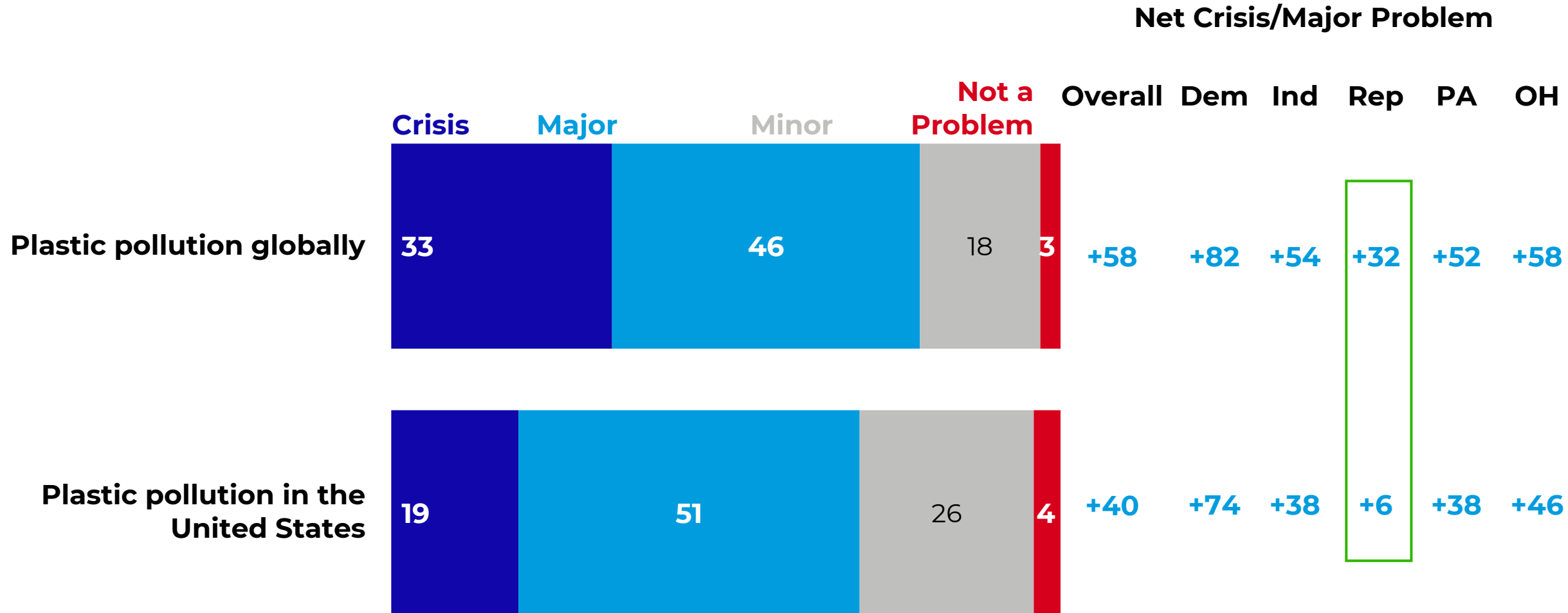
Statements about Plastic and the Environment – Final Ask

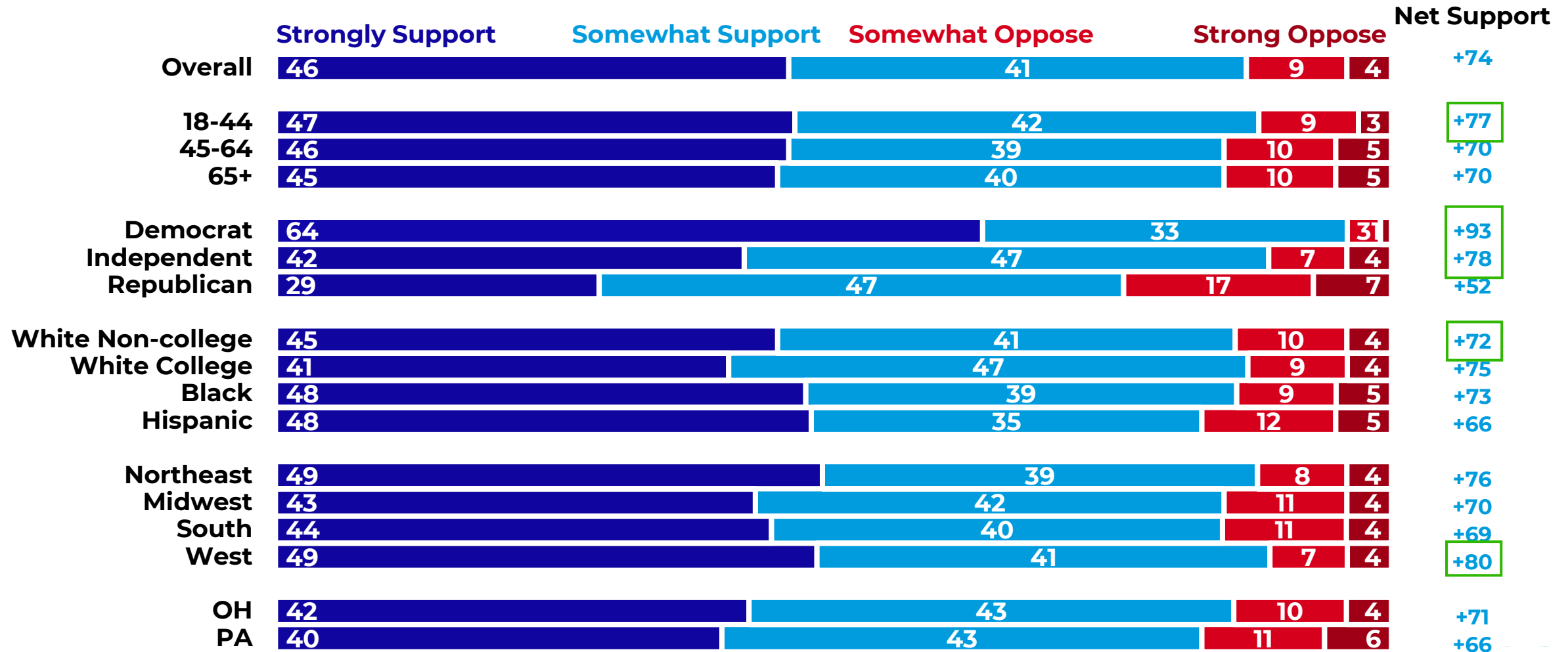|	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree	Net Agree Final			Net Agree Initial			SHIFT
				Overall	PA	OH	Overall	PA	OH	Overall
The U.S. should take action to eliminate the most toxic forms of plastic	64	31	5	+90	+82	+86	+88	+82	+86	+2
The U.S. should take action to prevent microplastics from entering our food and water supplies	62	32	6	+88	+80	+86	+88	+78	+86	0
The U.S. should invest in solutions that reduce plastic production and waste	56	35	9	+82	+74	+80	+80	+74	+76	+2
The U.S. should take action to move away from single-use plastic	54	37	9	+82	+72	+74	+72	+68	+68	+10
I want to see national and state lawmakers take action to address plastic pollution	53	36	11	+78	+68	+74	+74	+66	+66	+12
The U.S. should be an international leader in addressing plastic pollution	50	36	14	+72	+68	+72	+68	+60	+64	+4
The U.S. should limit plastic pollution to protect people's health, even if it might mean fewer jobs	51	33	16	+68	+60	+74	+62	+62	+58	+6

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Treaty Landscape

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A decisive majority of respondents see plastic pollution as a crisis or major problem, especially when considering its global impacts

How big of a problem do you think each of the following is?

Net Crisis/Major Problem

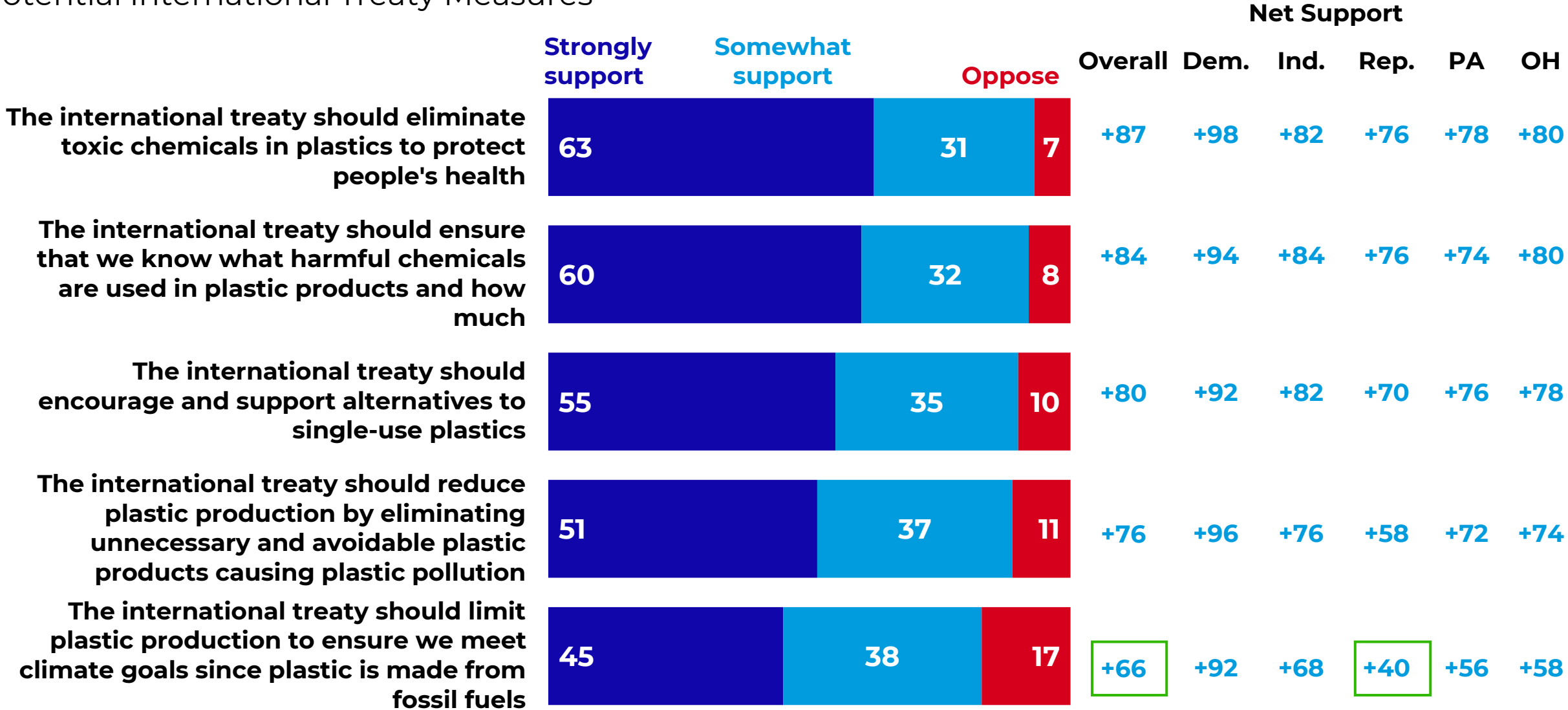|	Crisis	Major	Minor	Not a Problem	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	PA	OH
Plastic pollution globally	33	46	18	3	+58	+82	+54	+32	+52	+58
Plastic pollution in the United States	19	51	26	4	+40	+74	+38	+6	+38	+46

Support for the U.S. joining an international treaty on plastic pollution is high, with Democrats driving intensity

Do you support or oppose the U.S. joining an international treaty on plastic pollution?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strong Oppose	Net Support
Overall	46	41	9	4	+74
18-44	47	42	9	3	+77
45-64	46	39	10	5	+70
65+	45	40	10	5	+70
Democrat	64	33	3	1	+93
Independent	42	47	7	4	+78
Republican	29	47	17	7	+52
White Non-college	45	41	10	4	+72
White College	41	47	9	4	+75
Black	48	39	9	5	+73
Hispanic	48	35	12	5	+66
Northeast	49	39	8	4	+76
Midwest	43	42	11	4	+70
South	44	40	11	4	+69
West	49	41	7	4	+80
OH	42	43	10	4	+71
PA	40	43	11	6	+66

Proposed treaty provisions are popular, with respondents prioritizing health and transparency

Potential International Treaty Measures

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Oppose	Net Support Overall	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.	PA	OH
The international treaty should eliminate toxic chemicals in plastics to protect people's health	63	31	7	+87	+98	+82	+76	+78	+80
The international treaty should ensure that we know what harmful chemicals are used in plastic products and how much	60	32	8	+84	+94	+84	+76	+74	+80
The international treaty should encourage and support alternatives to single-use plastics	55	35	10	+80	+92	+82	+70	+76	+78
The international treaty should reduce plastic production by eliminating unnecessary and avoidable plastic products causing plastic pollution	51	37	11	+76	+96	+76	+58	+72	+74
The international treaty should limit plastic production to ensure we meet climate goals since plastic is made from fossil fuels	45	38	17	+66	+92	+68	+40	+56	+58

Conclusions

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Conclusions

The public is gravely concerned when it comes to plastics — especially as it relates to the ocean and wildlife, air and water pollution, and their health.

Support for U.S. policies to reduce plastic production is near-universal across the entirety of the political spectrum. This is true even when the public is confronted with opposition messaging designed to decrease support. Support is so strong that a majority support reducing plastic production—even if it means fewer jobs.

The U.S. public overwhelmingly supports the United States joining an international treaty on plastic pollution and a decisive majority want the U.S. to be an international leader in addressing the issue. Public support for the U.S. joining an international treaty on plastic pollution is largely unwavering, remaining sky-high with significant cross-partisan support even after the public is exposed to opposition messaging.

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Thank You

New York   Washington, DC   Hartford   Chicago   Denver   Seattle

Appendix

New York   Washington, DC   Hartford   Chicago   Denver   Seattle

Methodology

Respondents

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey of **1,608 registered voters nationwide with additional oversamples in both Ohio and Pennsylvania** between March 20th and 26th, 2024.

This includes a base sample of 1003 interviews nationwide and oversamples of the following groups:

- 300 registered voters in Pennsylvania resulting in a total of 348 interviews.

- 300 registered voters in Ohio resulting in a total of 339 interviews

Margin of error

The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 3.1%.

The margin of error on sub-samples is +/- 5.3%.

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Demographics of the 2024 Electorate

Gender	National	PA	OH
Men	47	47	47
Women	53	52	52

Age	National	PA	OH
18-44 year olds	41	39	41
45-64 year olds	32	32	32
Seniors 65+	27	29	28

Education	National	PA	OH
High school or less	26	29	32
Some college	41	38	38
4-year college graduates	25	22	21
Post-graduate	8	11	8

Ethnicity	National	PA	OH
White	69	82	82
Black	14	12	14
Hispanic	11	7	4

Party Identification	National	PA	OH
Democrats	45	46	42
Independents	12	8	9
Republicans	43	45	49

Ideology	National	PA	OH
Very liberal	14	11	16
Somewhat liberal	17	21	16
Moderate	35	31	34
Somewhat conservative	22	23	19
Very conservative	12	14	15

Region	National	PA	OH
Northeast	18	100	-
Midwest	22	-	100
South	39	-	-
West	22	-	-