

G B A O

National Center for State Courts Texas Juror Poll

June 2020

N = 850 eligible Texas jurors

Conducted June 8-11, 2020 via landline, cell phone, and online interviews

Margin of error = +/- 3.4 percentage points



Amidst a pandemic, Texans are hesitant to resume regular activities. People are looking for **alternatives to reporting to the courthouse.**



Seniors (age 65+) present the greatest challenge – they are as uncomfortable with going to a courthouse as they are with accessing remote technology.



Composition of jury pool likely to present a challenge in either environment.

Recent Events In Relationship To Survey Timing

Figure 3

May 25

Killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis

May 27

U.S. surpasses 100,000 deaths from COVID-19

June 1

Lafayette Square in D.C. cleared using teargas

June 8-11

SURVEY INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

June 10

NASCAR bans Confederate flag

June 12

Killing of Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta

Attitudes Toward Courts

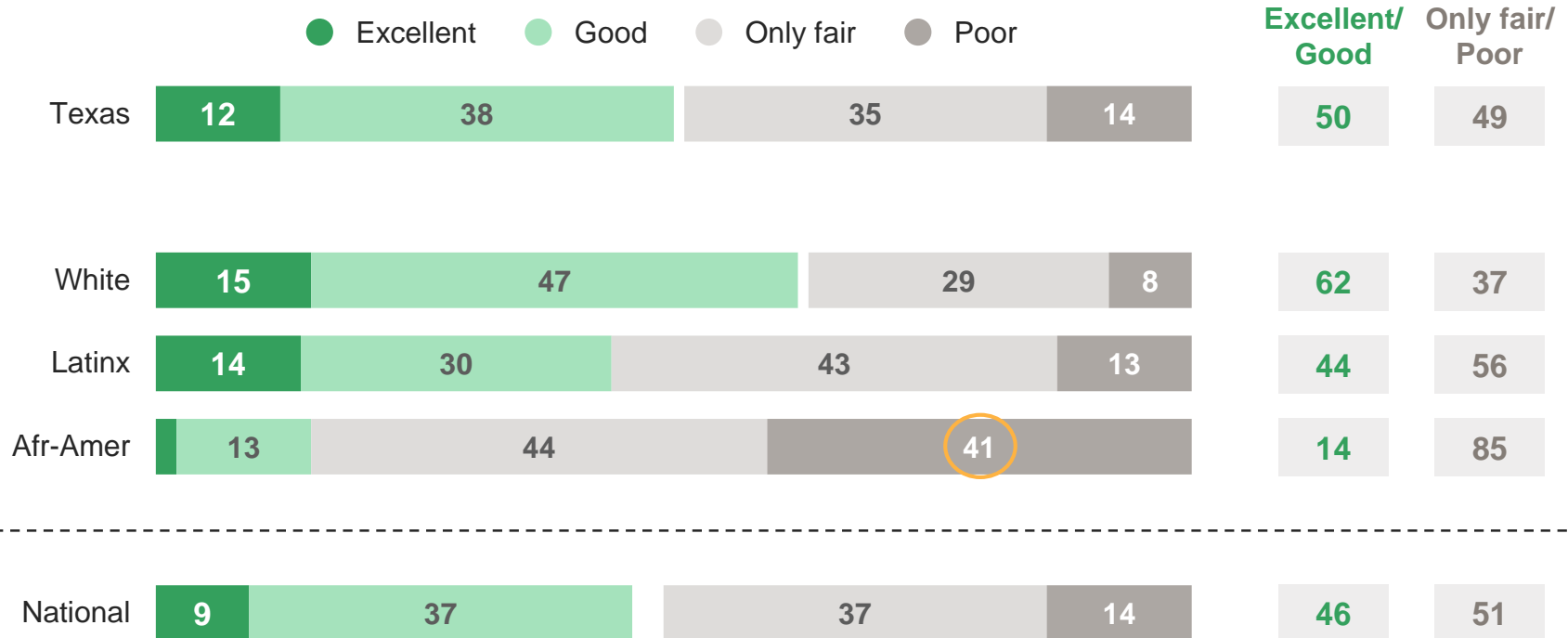


TX Courts Face A Large Racial Divide In Views Of Job Performance

Figure 5

TX Courts Job Approval

How would you rate the job being done by courts in Texas?

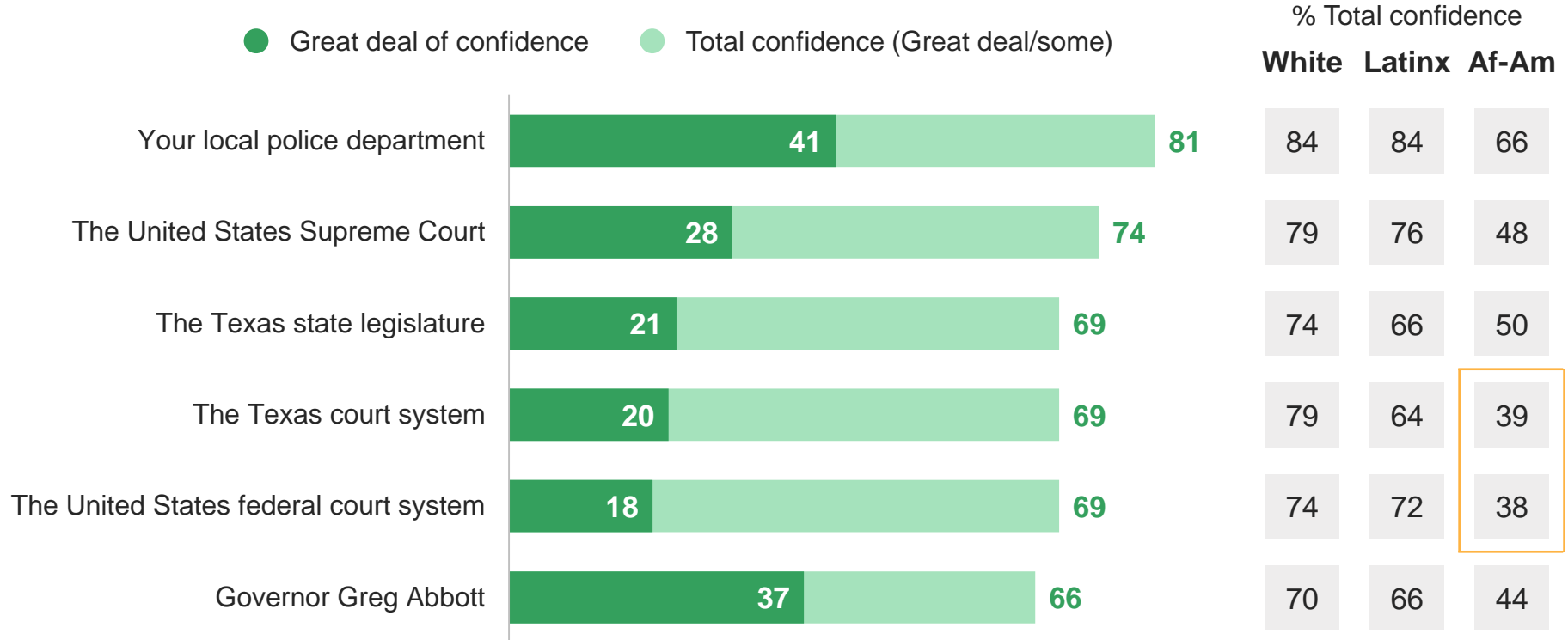


Overall Confidence In Criminal Justice Institutions Is High, Including Local Police; African-Americans Not Confident In Court Systems

Figure 6

Confidence in Institutions

Please indicate how much confidence you have in each institution - a great deal of confidence, some confidence, not very much confidence, or no confidence at all.





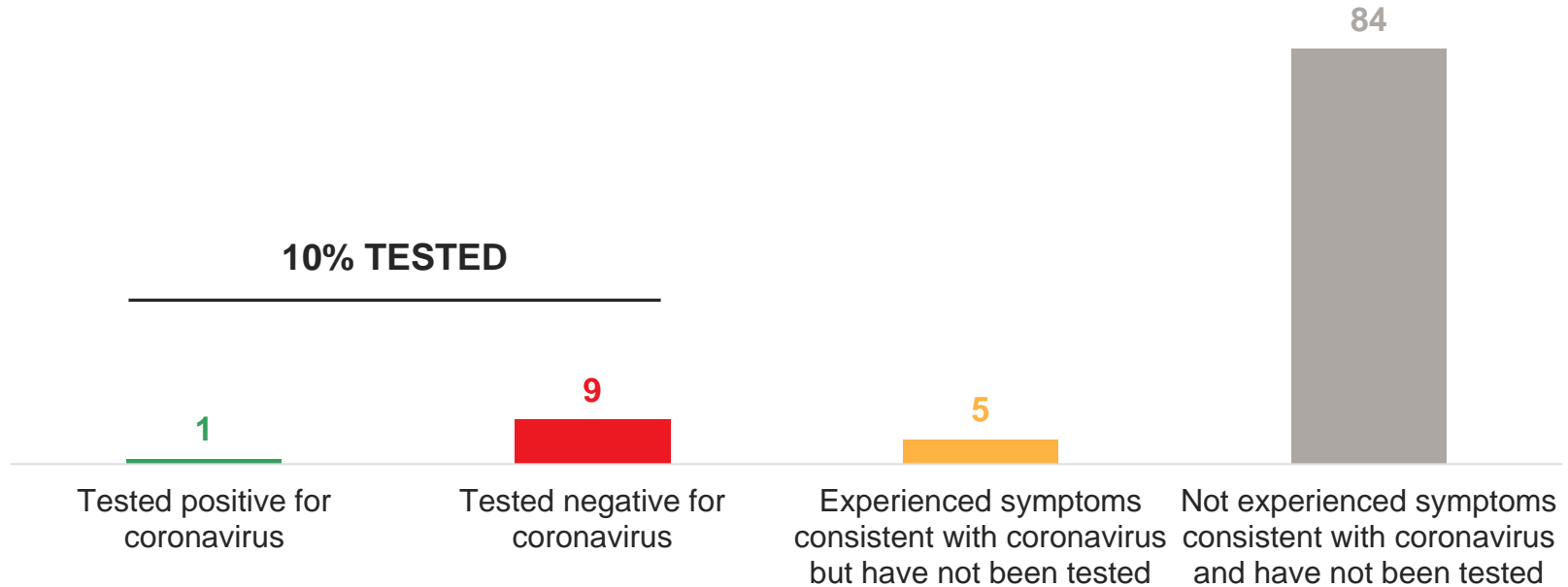
Juror Considerations: Pandemic Concerns

The Direct Impact Of COVID-19 Has Been Limited

Figure 8

COVID-19 Testing

Which of the following best describes your personal situation with regards to the coronavirus and testing?



But For Half, The Pandemic Still Poses A Challenge To Jury Duty

Figure 9

Jury Duty Obstacles

Underlying health conditions, caregiving, and childcare

45%

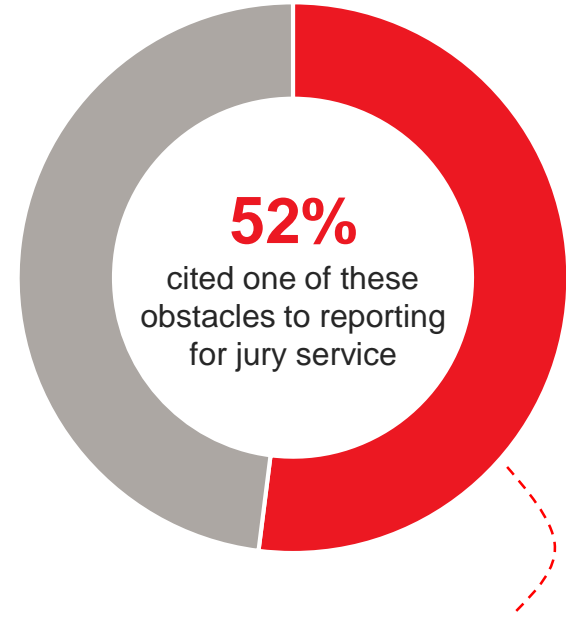
Someone in the household has an **underlying health condition**

14%

Primary caregiver to an **elderly family member**

12%

Could not secure **childcare**










More likely to be women, older, and people of color.
Young men reported fewest obstacles.

Many Are Apprehensive Of Public Activities, Particularly Those Related To Jury Service

Figure 10

In-Person Activities

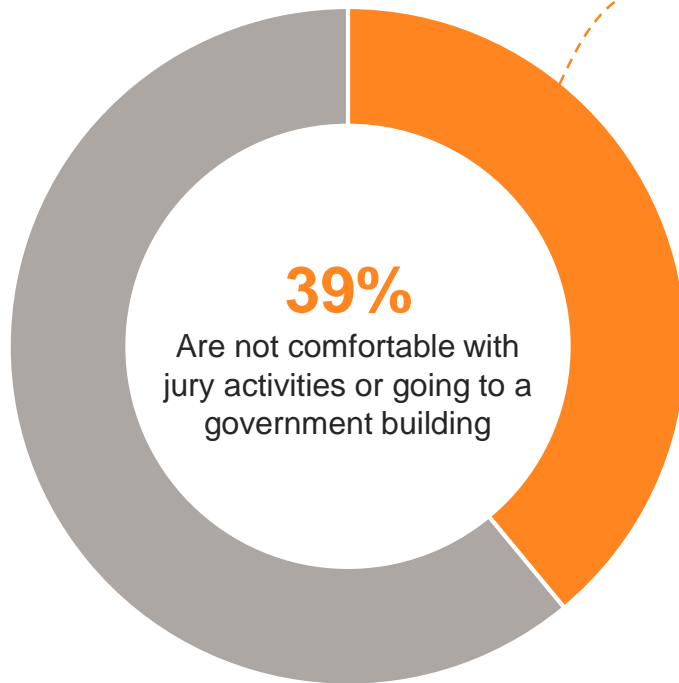
On a scale of 0 to 10, how comfortable do you personally feel right now...?
10 = extremely comfortable, 0 = extremely uncomfortable

		<i>Mean rating</i>	
	Going to a friend or family member's home	7.4	
	Going to the grocery store	7.1	
	Going to a polling place to vote	6.6	
	Going to a government office	6.0	
	Eating out in a restaurant	5.6	
	Reporting for jury duty at your local courthouse	5.3	54% scored this 0-5
	Serving on a jury if selected	5.2	53% scored this 0-5

Democrats, African-Americans, Women, And Seniors Least Comfortable With Participating In-Person Court Services

Figure 11

Court Activities



Individuals least comfortable with participating in in-person court activities:

- 66% of liberals
- 56% of African Americans
- 49% of college educated women
- 49% of high-risk households
- 47% of older women
- 47% of seniors



Juror Considerations: Digital Divide

Most Have The Technology Required For Remote Participation

Figure 13

Technology At Home

Internet and cell phone ownership



Subscribes to internet at home 88

Subscribes to high-speed internet at home 84



Owns a cell phone 97

Owns a smartphone 90



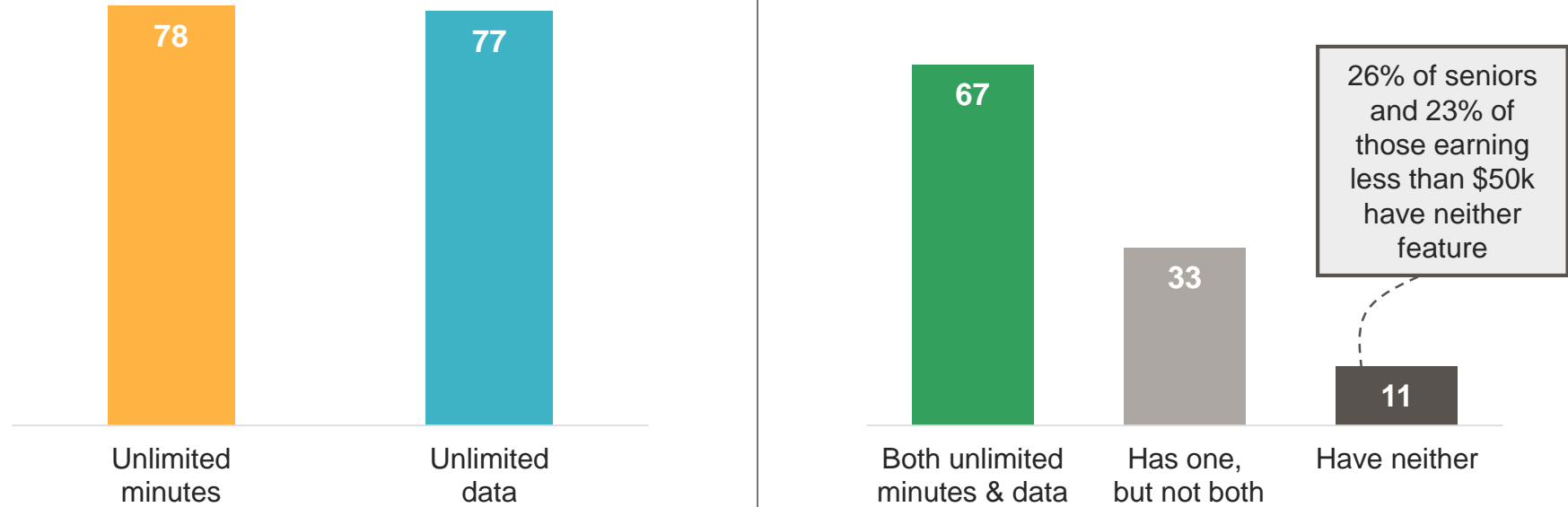
1 No home internet, no cell phone

But Not All Have Wireless Plans That Enable Them To Engage All Day

Figure 14

Wireless Service

Does your wireless plan include any of the following features?



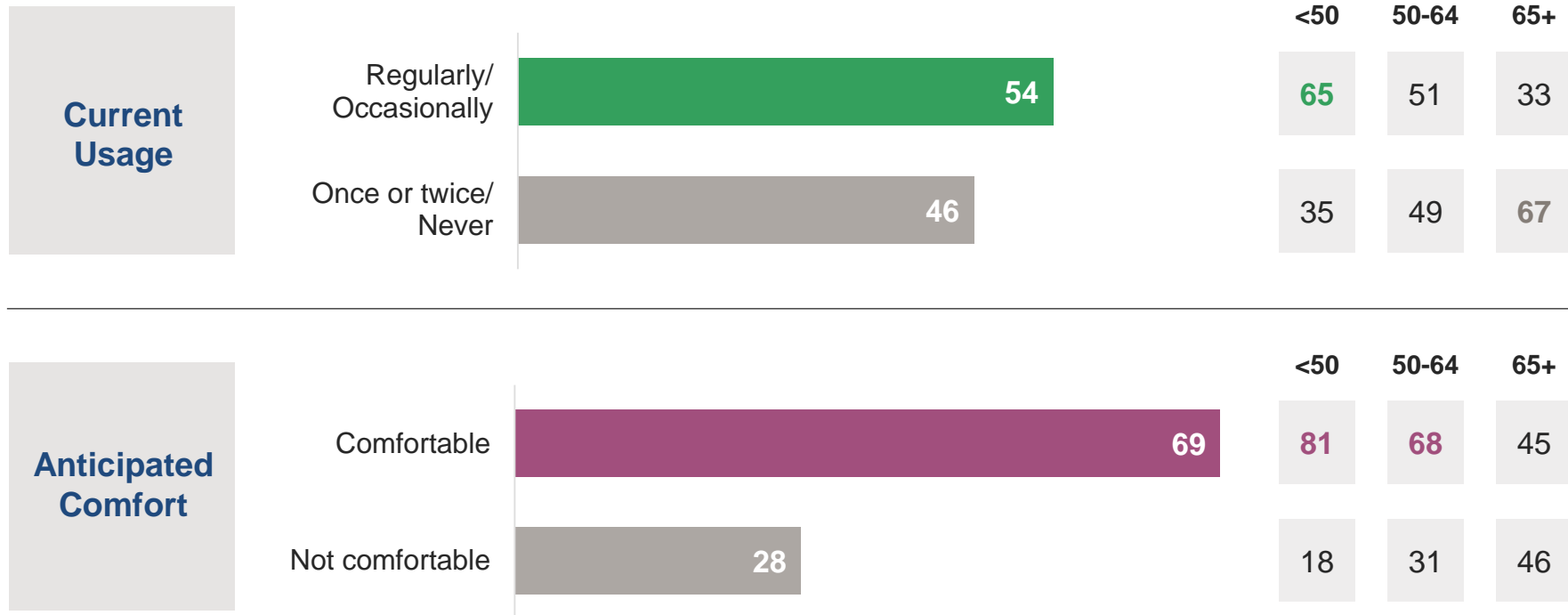
And While A Majority Are Already Using Or Would Be Comfortable With Video Conferencing, Older Individuals Would Face Tech Challenges

Figure 15

Video Conferencing

Usage - How often have you used video conferencing services?

Comfort - How comfortable do you feel using video conferencing services for meetings or appointments typically held in person?

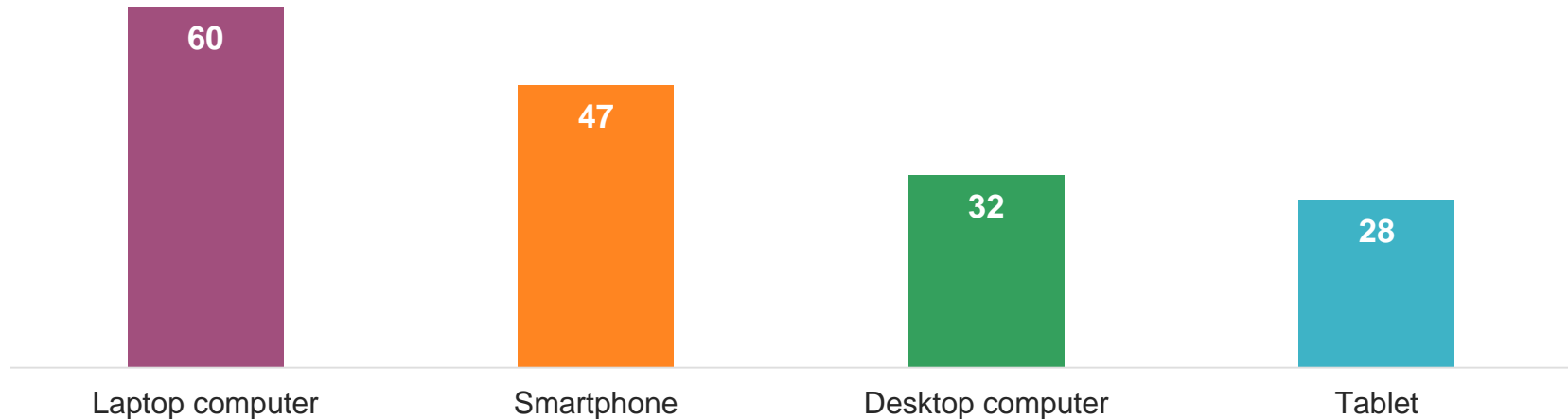


Any Remote Plan Must Anticipate A Variety Of Devices; Nearly Half Say They Would Use Cell Phones To Participate In Remote Proceedings

Figure 16

Remote Jury Device

If you were required to serve remotely on a jury, what device or devices would you use to participate in the jury from home?



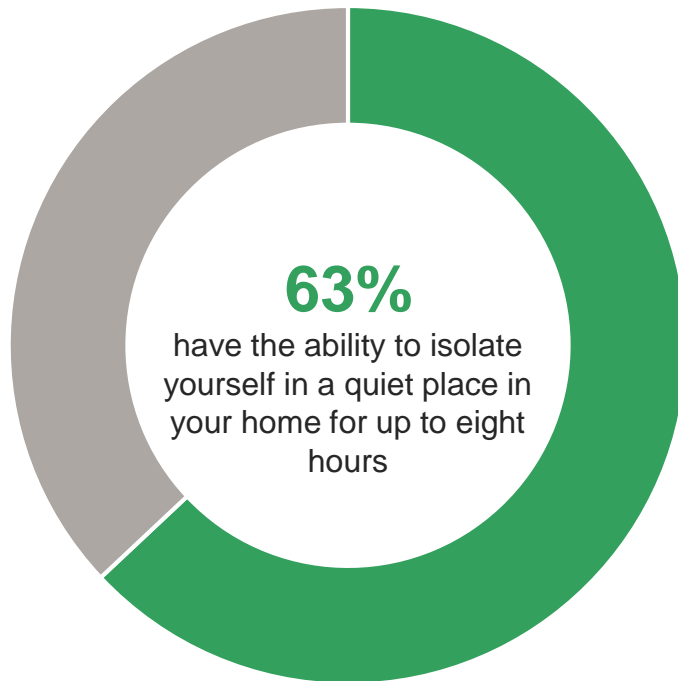
However, Even With Devices, Not All Have The Ability To Participate Undisturbed

Figure 17

Ability To Isolate At Home

If you were asked to serve remotely on a jury, do you have the availability to isolate yourself in a quiet place in your home where you could focus on the proceedings of the case for up to eight hours without being interrupted?

Lower-income audiences and moms find it particularly hard to isolate at home.



A photograph of a courtroom interior. The walls are covered in light-colored wood paneling with a grid of rectangular sections. In the foreground, a long wooden bench is visible. Behind it, several rows of blue, tufted leather chairs are arranged. On the left side, a wooden pillar supports a lamp with a glowing light. The overall atmosphere is formal and traditional.

Jury Participation: In-Person

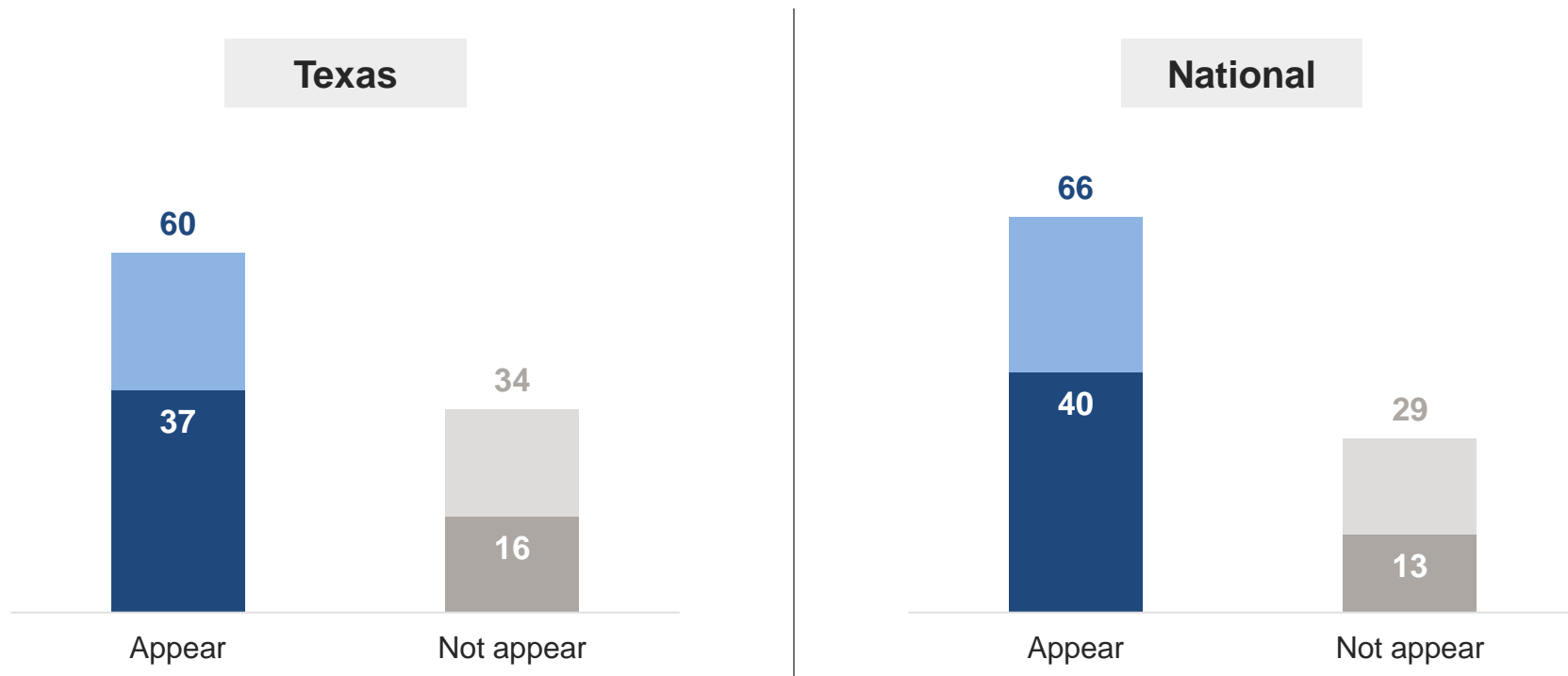
A Third of Texans Say They Would Not Appear For Jury Duty If Summoned In The Next Three Months, Slightly More Than Nationally

Figure 19

Appear For Jury Duty

Darker shade = Stronger intensity

If you received a summons to appear for jury duty in the next three months, would you definitely appear for jury duty, probably appear, probably not appear, or definitely not appear for jury duty?



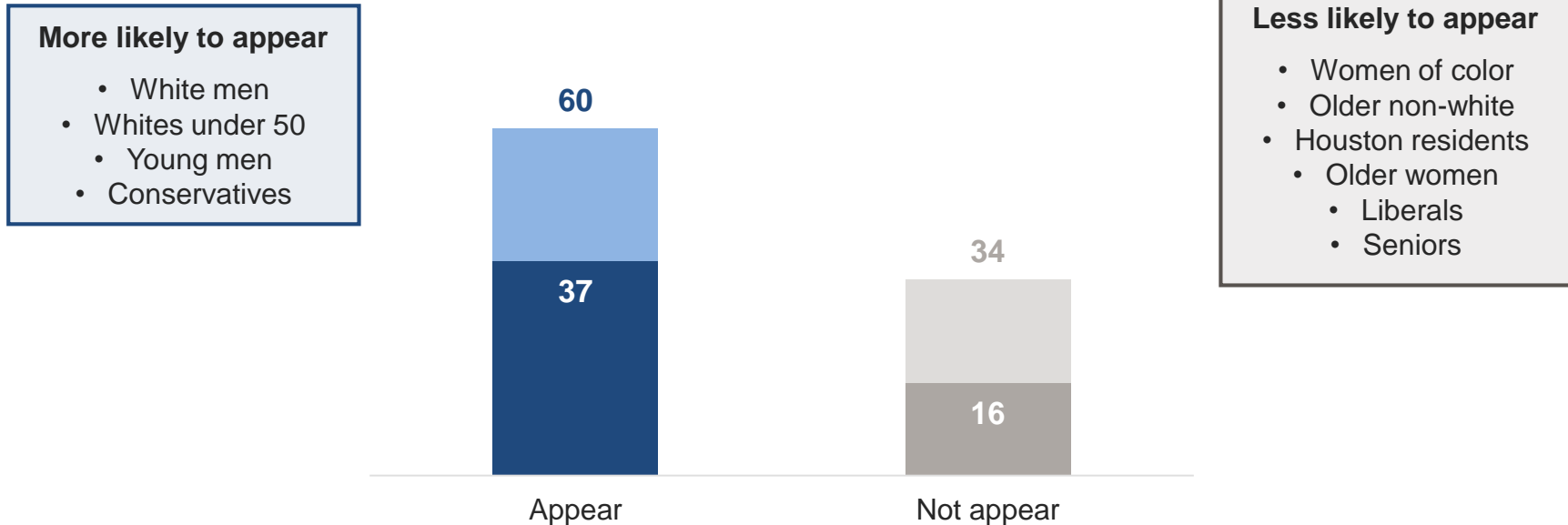
Jury Pool Composition Could Be A Challenge

Figure 20

Appear For Jury Duty

If you received a summons to appear for jury duty in the next three months, would you definitely appear for jury duty, probably appear, probably not appear, or definitely not appear for jury duty?

Darker shade = Stronger intensity

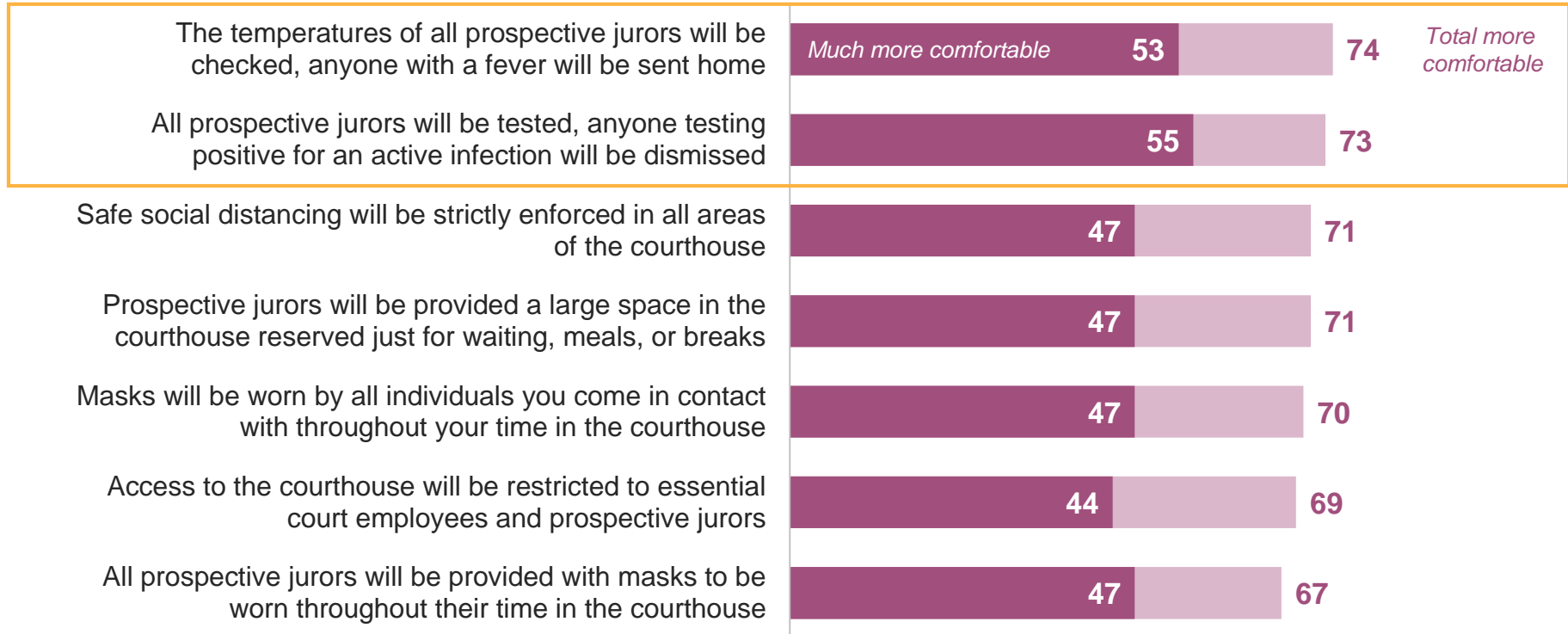


Safety Measures Widely Desired, Testing And Temperature Checks Most Impactful On Making People Feel Safe

Figure 21

Safety Measures

Please indicate how comfortable the implementation of this protective measure would make you to report to your local courthouse for jury duty if you received a summons.



Broad Majority Of Texans Support Requiring Face Masks

Figure 22

Face Masks

If you were required to report in person to your local courthouse for jury duty, which of the following best captures the rules you would like to see in place regarding the wearing of masks to reduce the risk of exposure to coronavirus?

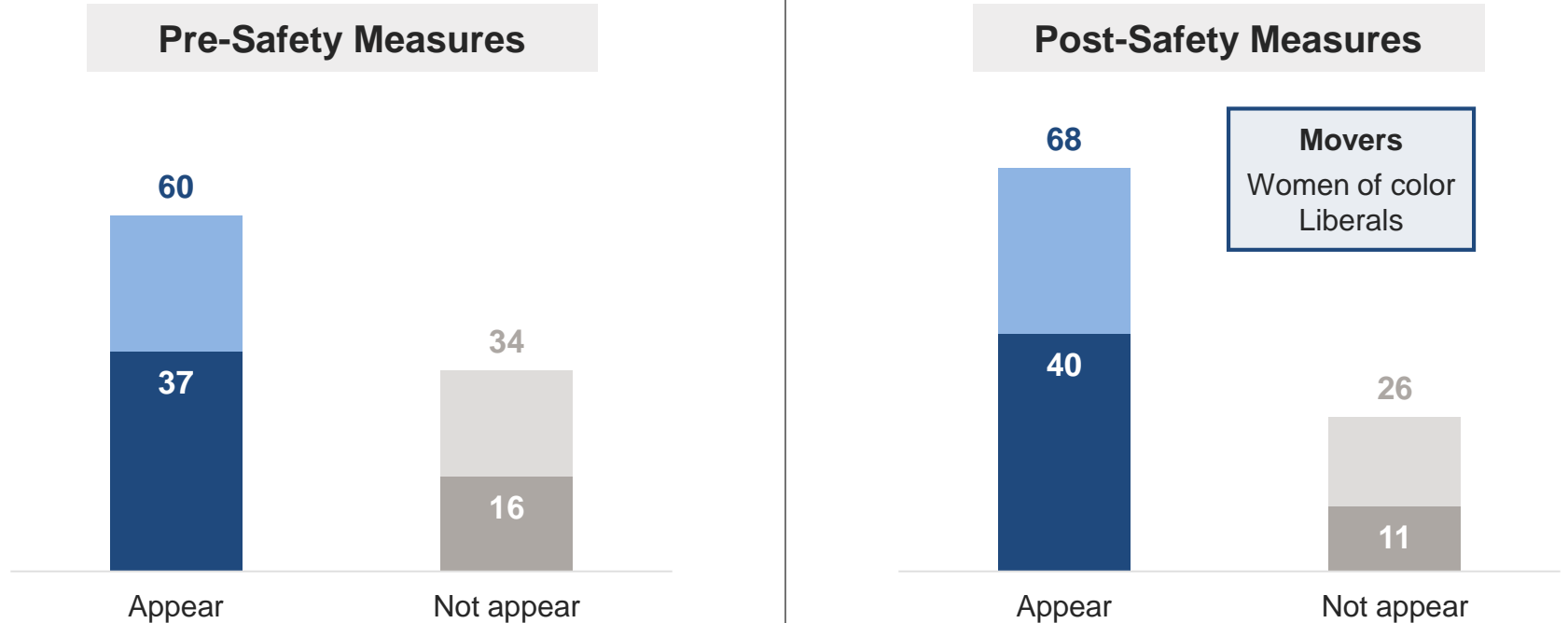
		National
All individuals entering the courthouse should be required to wear masks	68	67
Masks should be encouraged but not required for all individuals entering the courthouse	16	16
There should be no rules regarding masks in the courthouse	13	13

Reassurance Of Safety Measures Moves Few, Appears Expected

Appear For Jury Duty

Darker shade = Stronger intensity

If you received a summons to appear for jury duty in the next three months, would you definitely appear for jury duty, probably appear, probably not appear, or definitely not appear for jury duty?





Jury Participation: Virtual

Texans Are Open To Remote Participation, But Resistance Grows As Age Increases

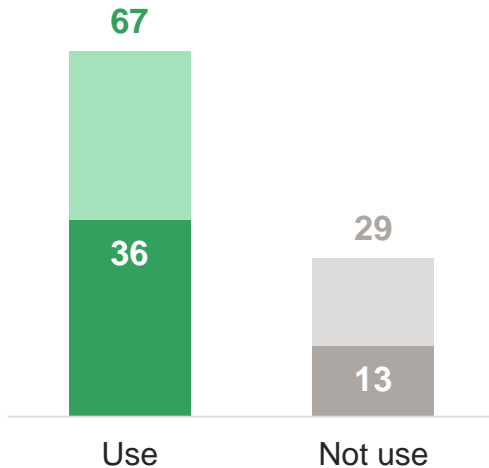
Figure 25

Remote Participation

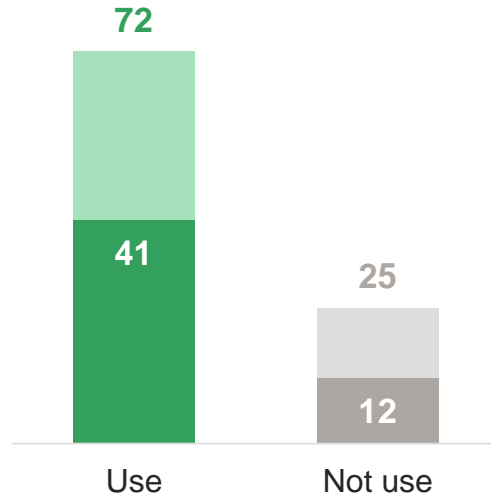
Darker shade = Stronger intensity

If you had business with the courts and this service was available online via video conference, would you definitely use it, probably use it, probably not use it, or definitely not use it.

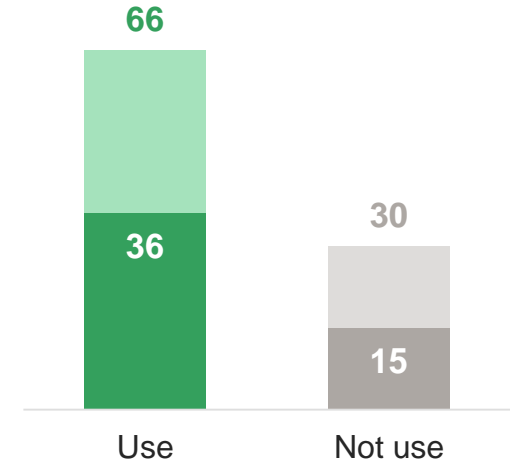
Appear remotely for a case you had before the court



Report for jury duty and undergo screening for jury selection



Serve as a member of a jury in a trial conducted remotely

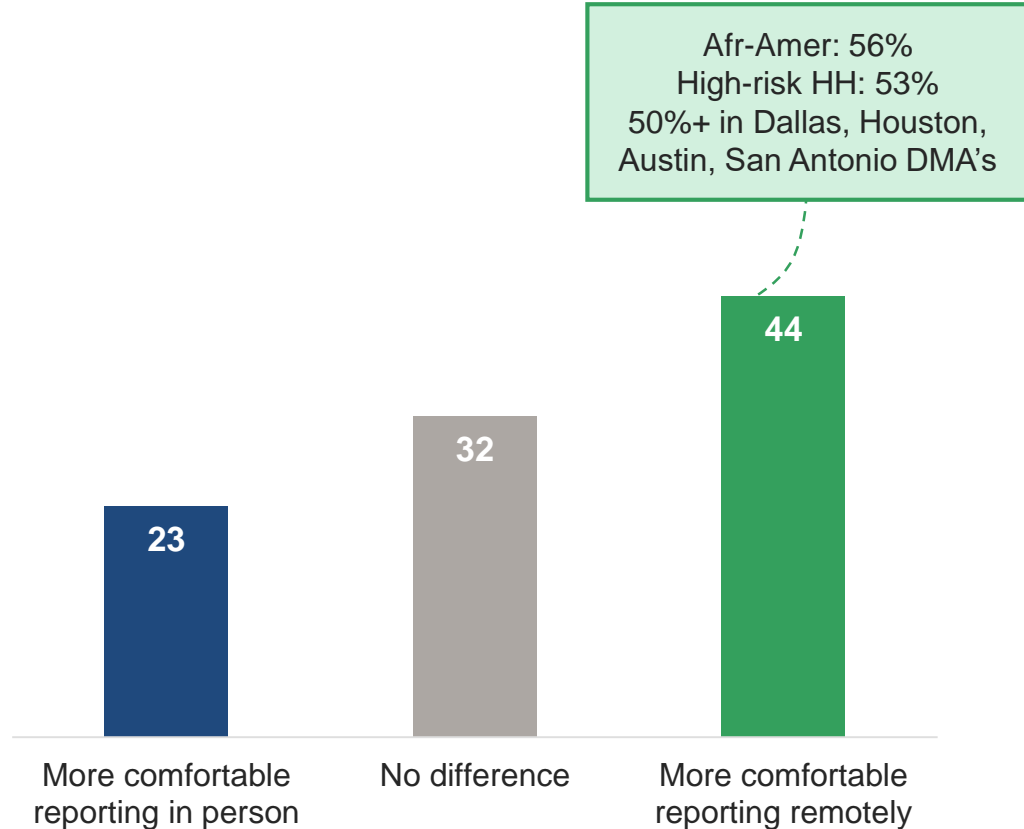


Given A Choice, More Prefer Serving On A Jury Remotely

Figure 26

As you may know, the right to trial by an impartial jury selected from a pool that reflects a fair cross section of the community is guaranteed in the United States Constitution and all fifty state constitutions. However, the need to observe social distancing and other public health and safety recommendations during the coronavirus pandemic has prompted state and local courts to consider a variety of technology solutions to allow jury trials and grand jury proceedings to continue.

If you were called to serve on a jury in the next few months, would you be more comfortable reporting to your local courthouse in person, more comfortable reporting for jury duty remotely from your home, or would it not make a difference to you?



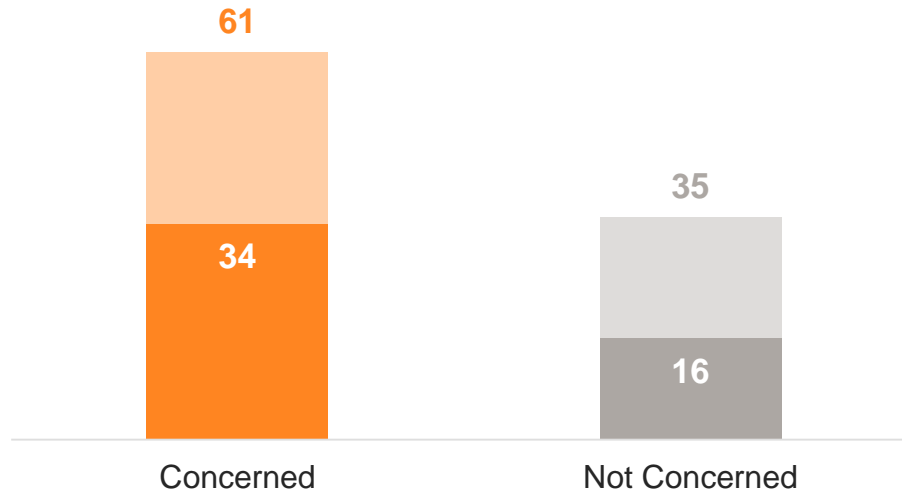
However, Significant Concerns About Ability To Deliver A Fair And Impartial Trial Online

Figure 27

Online Trial Legitimacy

If you were party in a case before your state or local courts, how concerned would you be about receiving a fair and impartial trial if the trial was conducted online rather than in person?

Darker shade = Stronger intensity



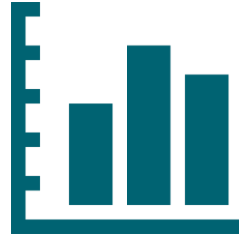
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RESEARCH + STRATEGY

Attorney Survey Results



// METHODOLOGY



What: Online Survey

When: June 10-17, 2020

Respondents: 3,744 licensed attorneys

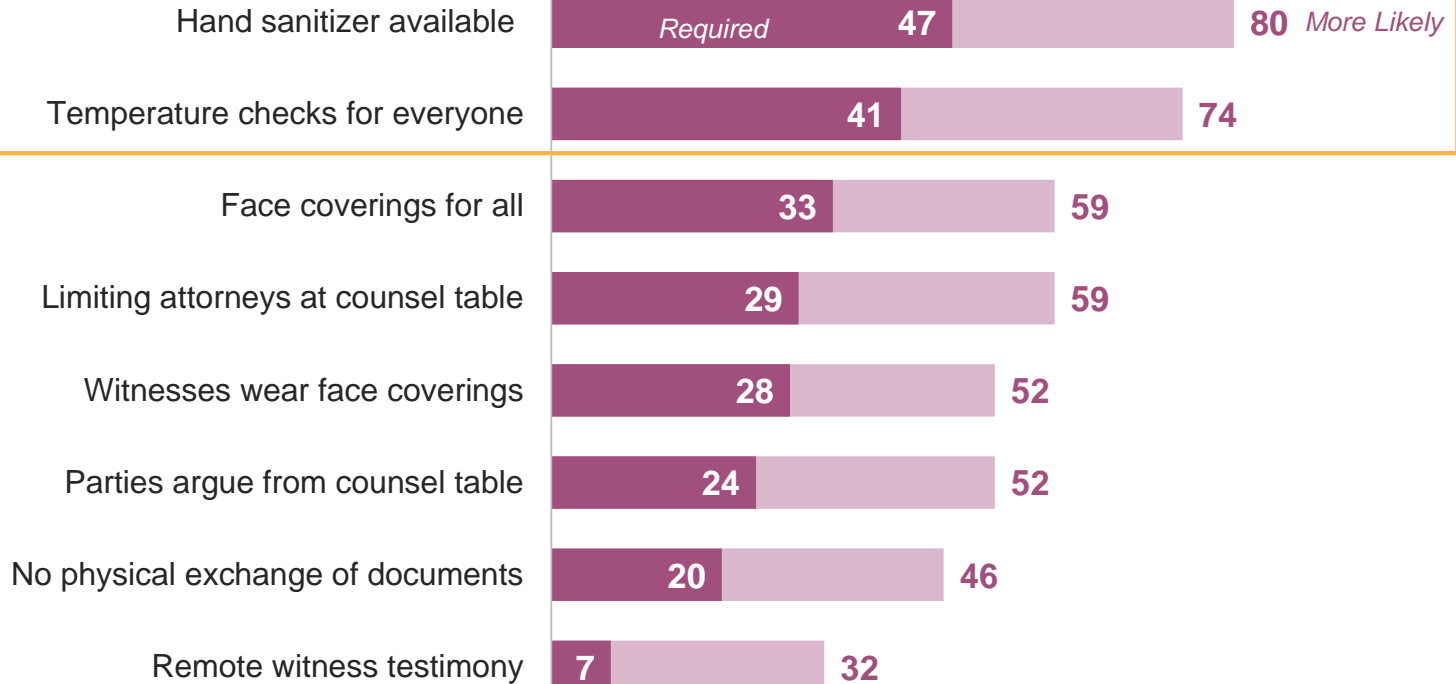
Stats: MOE +/- 1.6% (19 times out of 20)

- 76% of respondents had a hearing during the pandemic.
- 70% of hearings were fully video, 72% using Zoom.
- 94% had no issues communicating with client during hearing.
- <5% felt livestreaming altered conduct of any participant.
- 93% had positive or neutral impression of the hearing.
- 85% would recommend remote hearings to colleagues or clients.
- 44% feel remote hearings are worse than in-person hearings, but 73% say they are effective.
- 43% open to conducting some portion of jury trial remotely.
 - Juror qualification, witness testimony, voir dire top answers

Safety Measures Widely Desired, Temperature Checks & Hand Sanitizer Most Impactful On Making People Feel Safe

Figure 32

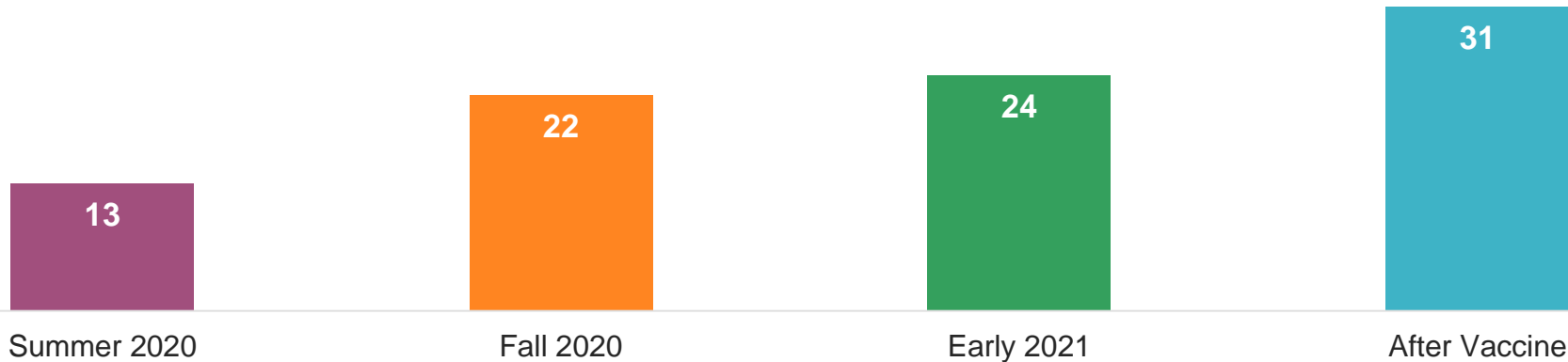
Safety Measures



Hesitation for Resumption of Jury Trials Remain

Figure 33

Resumption of Jury Trials



A photograph of a courtroom interior. The walls are covered in dark wood paneling. In the foreground, there is a long wooden bench. Behind it, several rows of blue tufted leather chairs are arranged. A floor lamp is visible on the left side of the room.

Questions?