

Summary

"Make America Great Again" (MAGA) Republicans are a distinct minority of Republicans who are far more likely than other Republicans and non-Republicans to hold extreme and racist beliefs, justify and anticipate political violence, and plan to be armed and openly carry a firearm in settings where they consider political violence justified. They are not more willing to engage personally in political violence.

Background

Support for political violence is not evenly distributed in the population. Some suggest MAGA Republicans may be at high risk, yet little is known about them. This study asked: *Are MAGA Republicans a distinct group? Are they more likely to justify or be willing to engage in political violence?*

Definition

This study defined MAGA Republicans as self-identified Republicans who voted for Donald Trump in 2020 and agreed strongly or very strongly with the statement that "the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Tump, and Joe Biden is an illegitimate president."

Methods

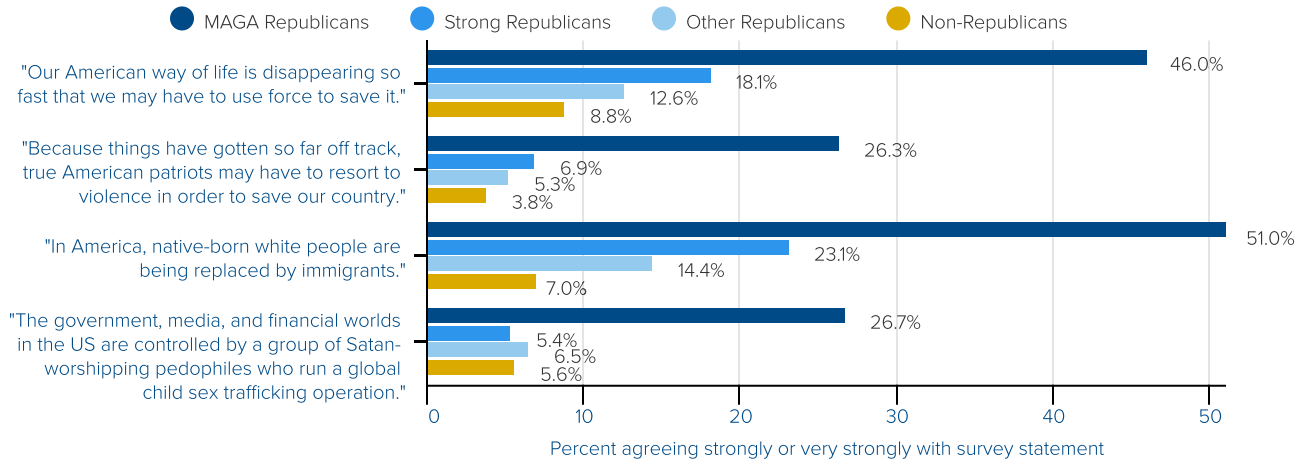
Large, nationally representative survey of 7,255 US adults conducted online May 13 to June 2, 2022. Respondents answered questions about voting history, political party affiliation, democracy, society, extreme beliefs, and violence.

Findings

Despite increased endorsement of political violence, **MAGA Republicans are not more likely than others to engage in violence themselves**, including:

- when specified by type of violence;
- against 9 categories of people defined by occupational or social characteristics; or
- to threaten or kill someone with a gun in a situation where they believe political violence is justified.

MAGA Republicans, as defined, are a distinct group holding extreme views:



Big Picture

Some optimism is warranted: most respondents rejected political violence, and most who endorsed it were unwilling to take part personally.

Still, widespread support for political violence can incite violence by those who are willing.

This research can help customize intervention strategies for high-risk MAGA Republicans to prevent transition from support for political violence to willingness to engage in it.