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Environmental and
Energy Study Institute

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Congressional Climate Camp: Public Polling on Climate Change

Thursday, February 09, 2023

About EESI



Non-partisan Educational Resources for Policymakers

A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies



Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program

In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs



Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making



Sustainable Solutions

Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges in order to achieve *our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.*

Polycymaker Education

Briefings and Webcasts



Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived webcasts, and written summaries

Climate Change Solutions



Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker

Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs



Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics

Social Media (@EESIOnline)



Active engagement on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube



Upcoming Briefings in this Series



Congressional Climate Camp

4

Budget and Appropriations | Thursday, January 26, 2-3:30 PM

Public Polling on Climate Change | Thursday, February 9, 2-3:30 PM

Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases | Thursday, February 23, 2-3:30 PM

Implementing the *Inflation Reduction Act* and *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* | Thursday, March 9, 2-3:30 PM

Briefing RSVP here: eesi.org/2023cc

Climate Change in the American Mind

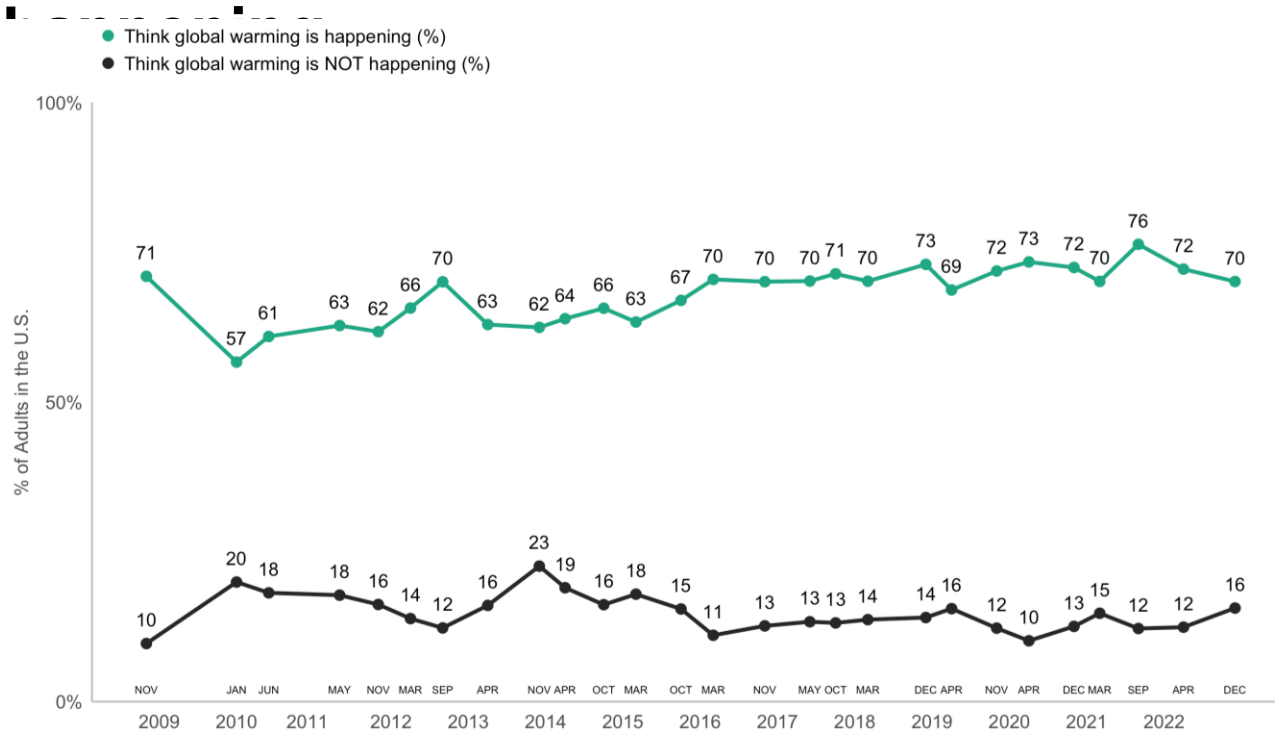
Anthony Leiserowitz, PhD
Yale University
@ecotone2

Yale SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT



YALE PROGRAM ON
Climate Change
Communication

Most Americans think global warming is

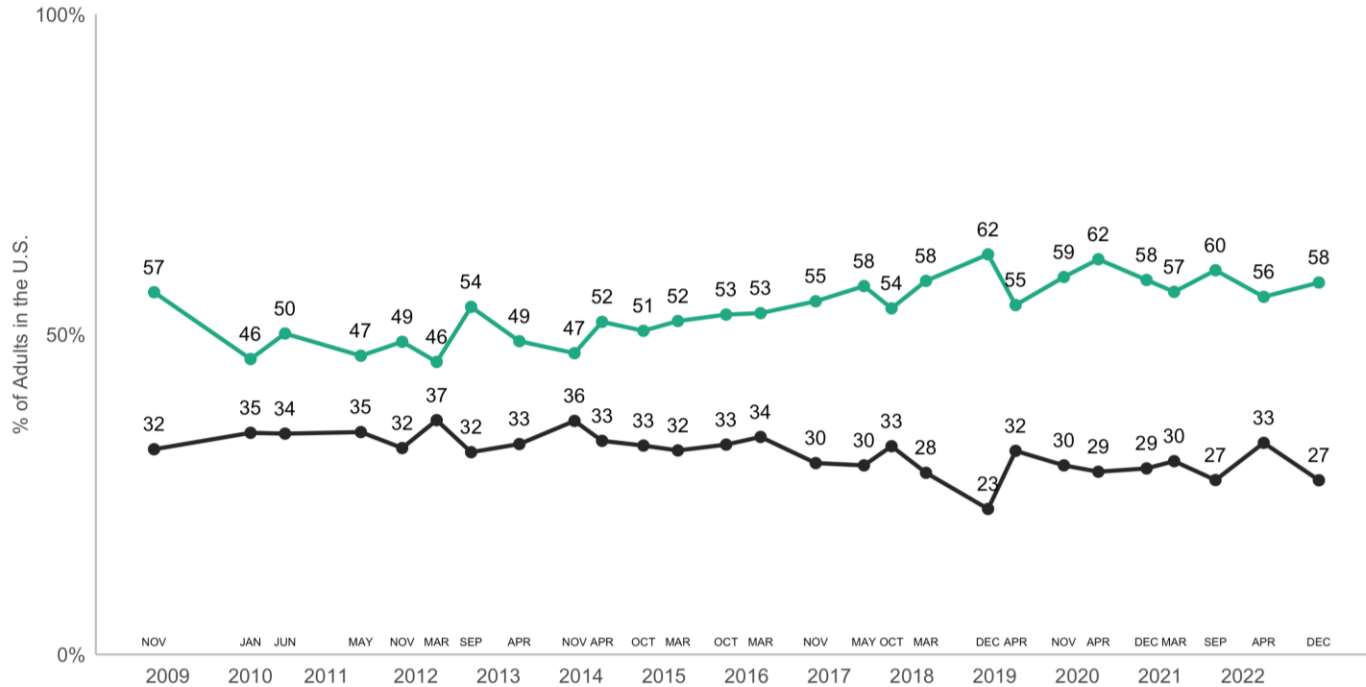


Do you think global warming is happening?

December 2022

A majority of Americans think global warming is mostly human-caused

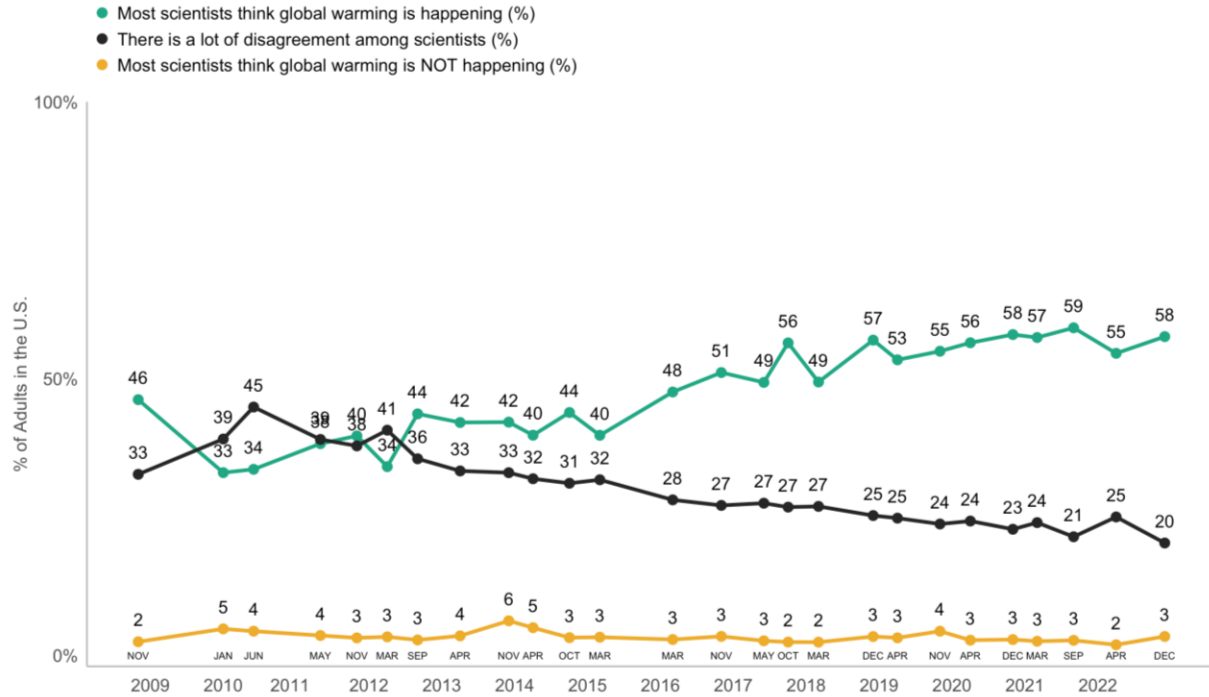
- Think global warming is caused mostly by human activities (%)
- Think global warming is caused mostly by natural changes in the environment (%)



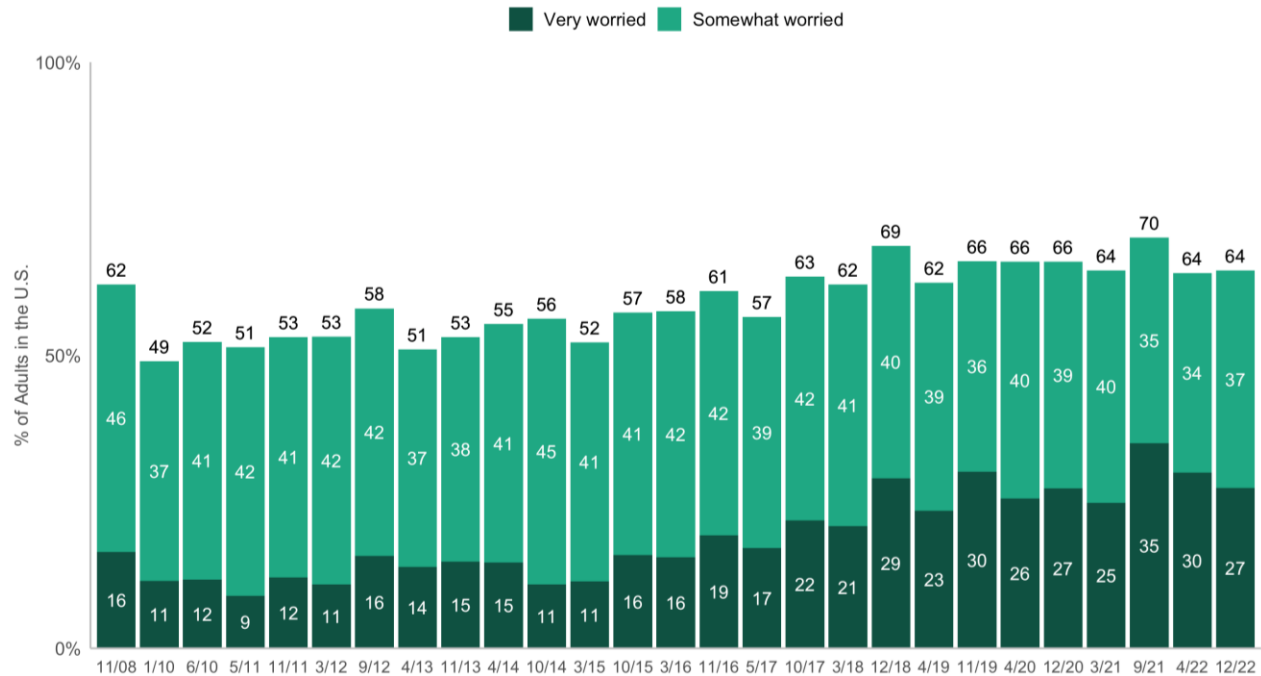
Assuming global warming is happening, do you think it is . . .

December 2022

A majority of Americans understand that most scientists think global warming is happening



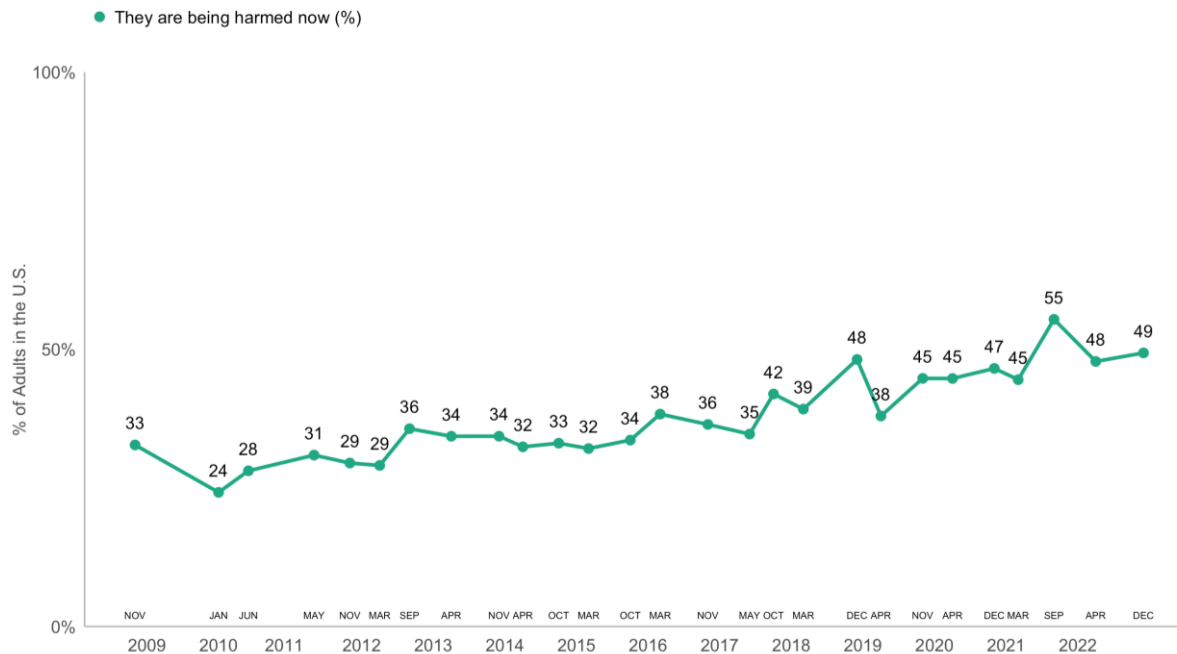
Nearly 2/3 of Americans are worried



How worried are you about global warming?

December 2022

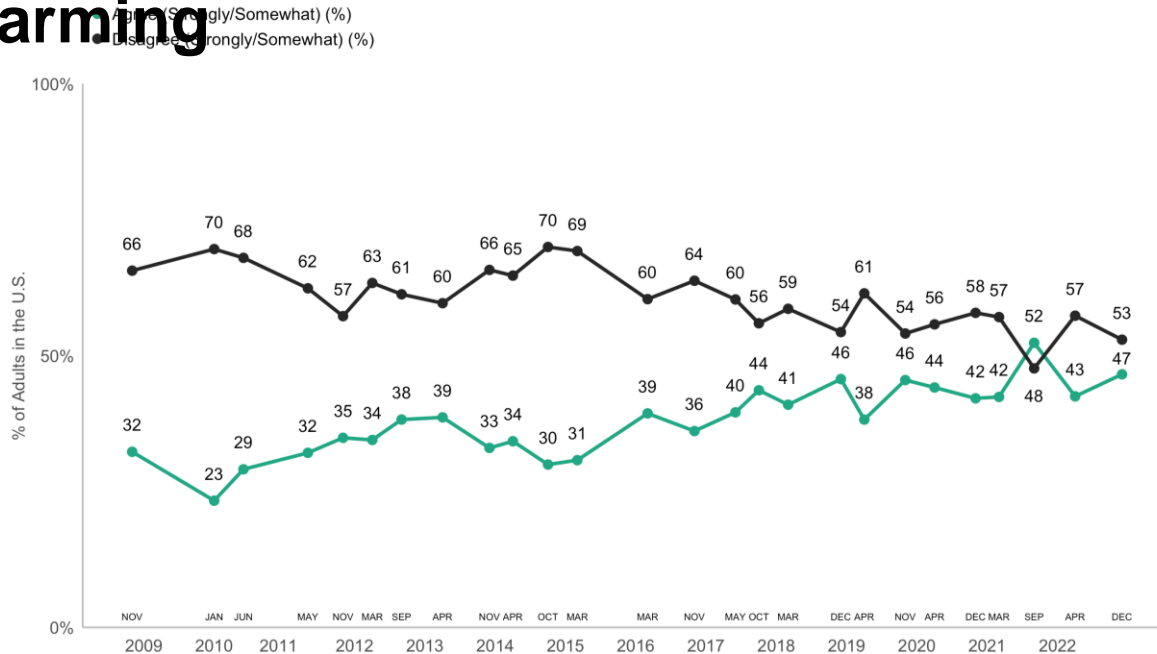
About half of Americans think global warming is harming people in the United States now



When do you think global warming will start to harm people in the United States?

December 2022

Nearly half of Americans say they have personally experienced the effects of global warming



How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I have personally experienced the effects of global warming.

December 2022

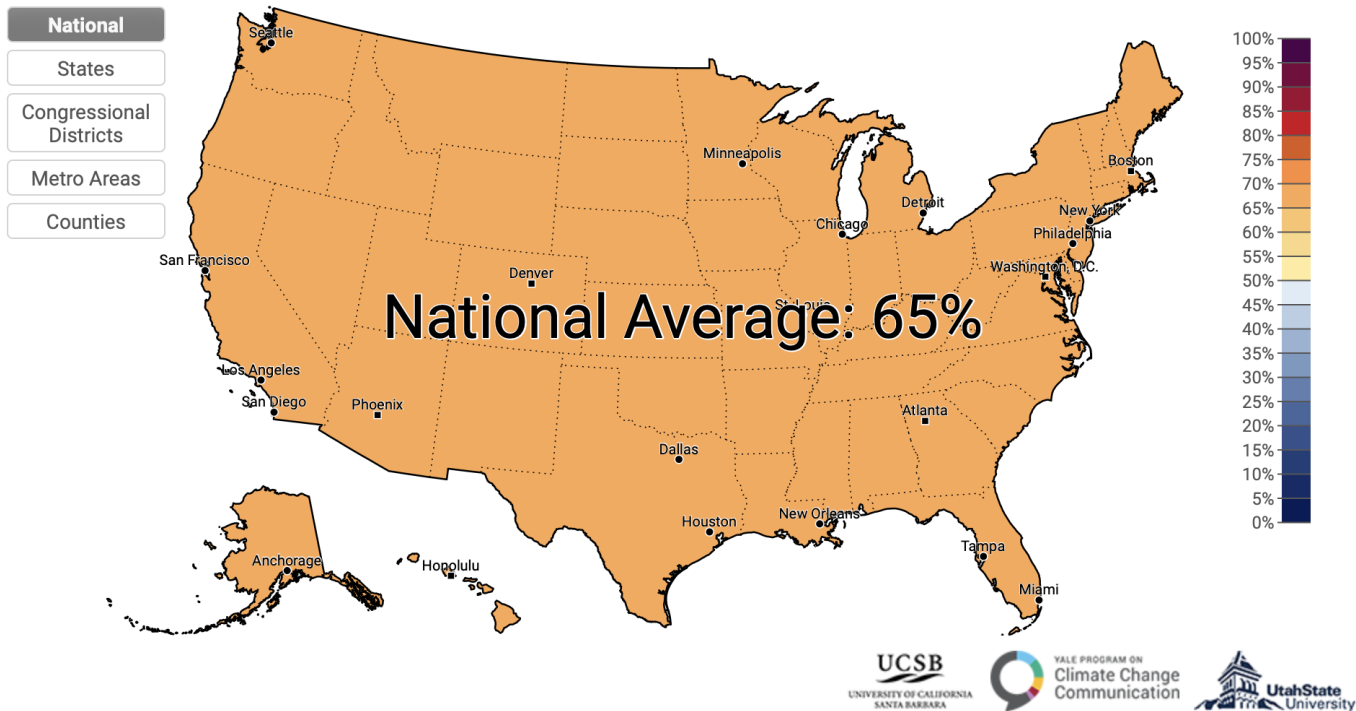
The Yale Climate Opinion Maps

Estimated % of adults who are worried about global warming (nat'l avg. 65%), 2021

Select Question: Worried about global warming

Absolute Value

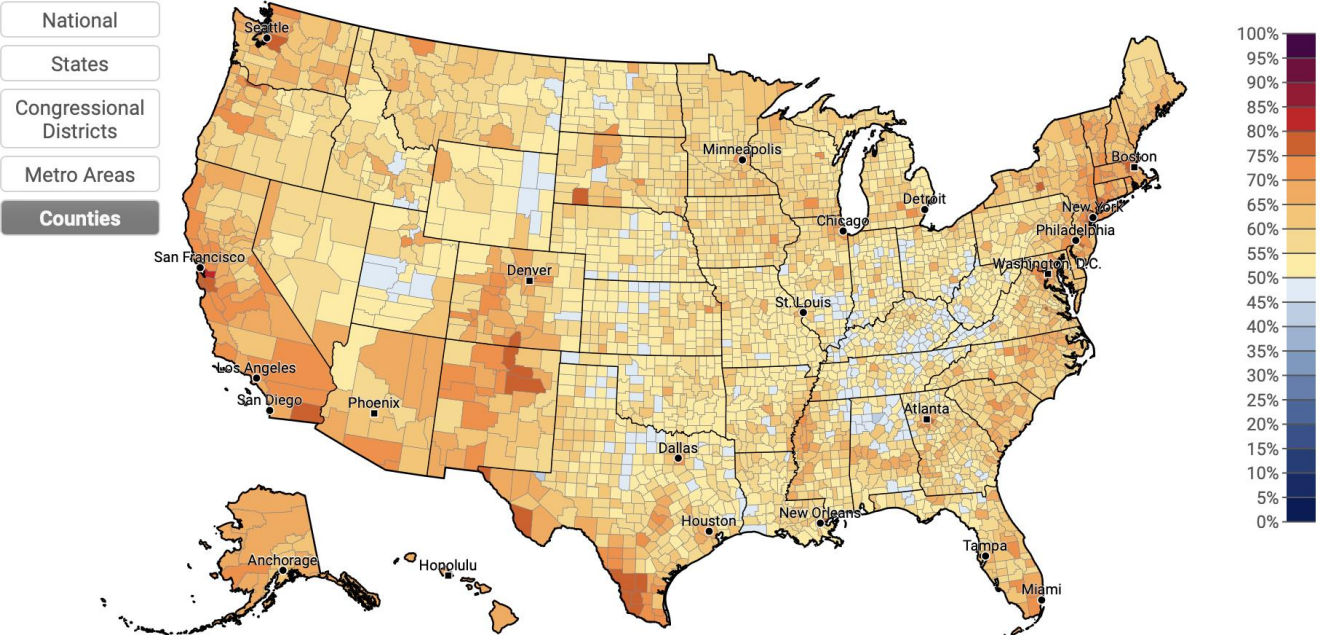
Click on map to select geography, or:



Estimated % of adults who are worried about global warming (nat'l avg. 65%), 2021

Select Question: Absolute Value

Click on map to select geography, or:

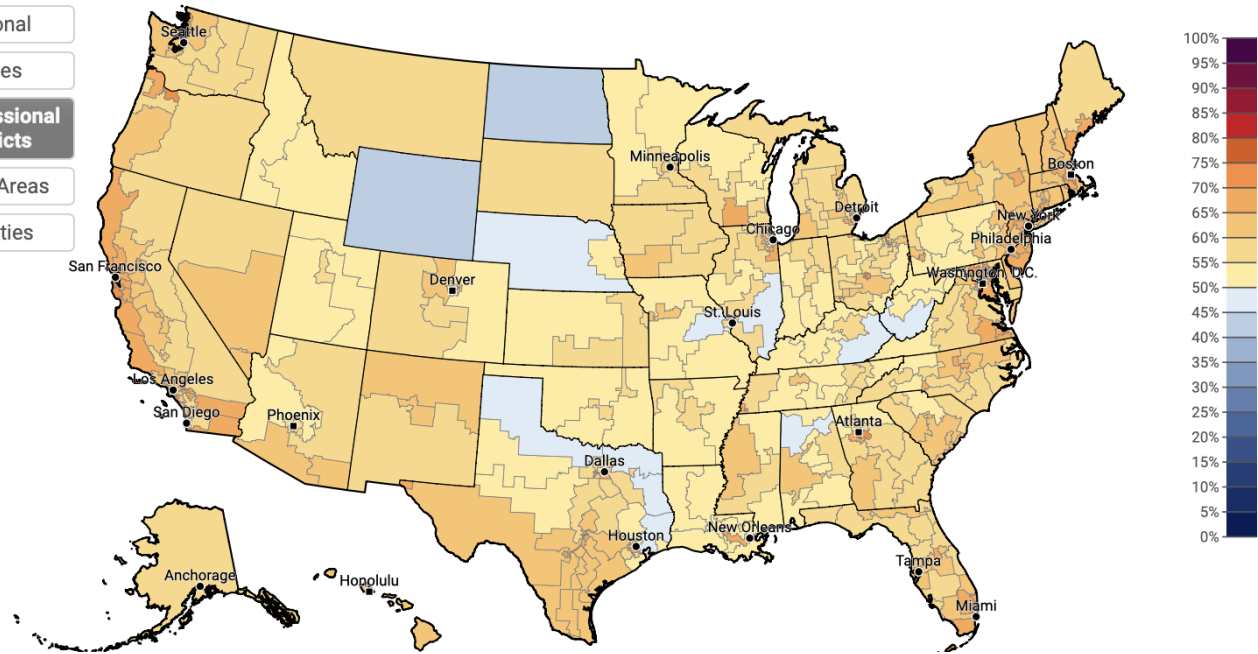


Estimated % of adults who think Congress should do more to address global warming (nat'l avg. 61%), 2021

Select Question: Absolute Value

Click on map to select geography, or:

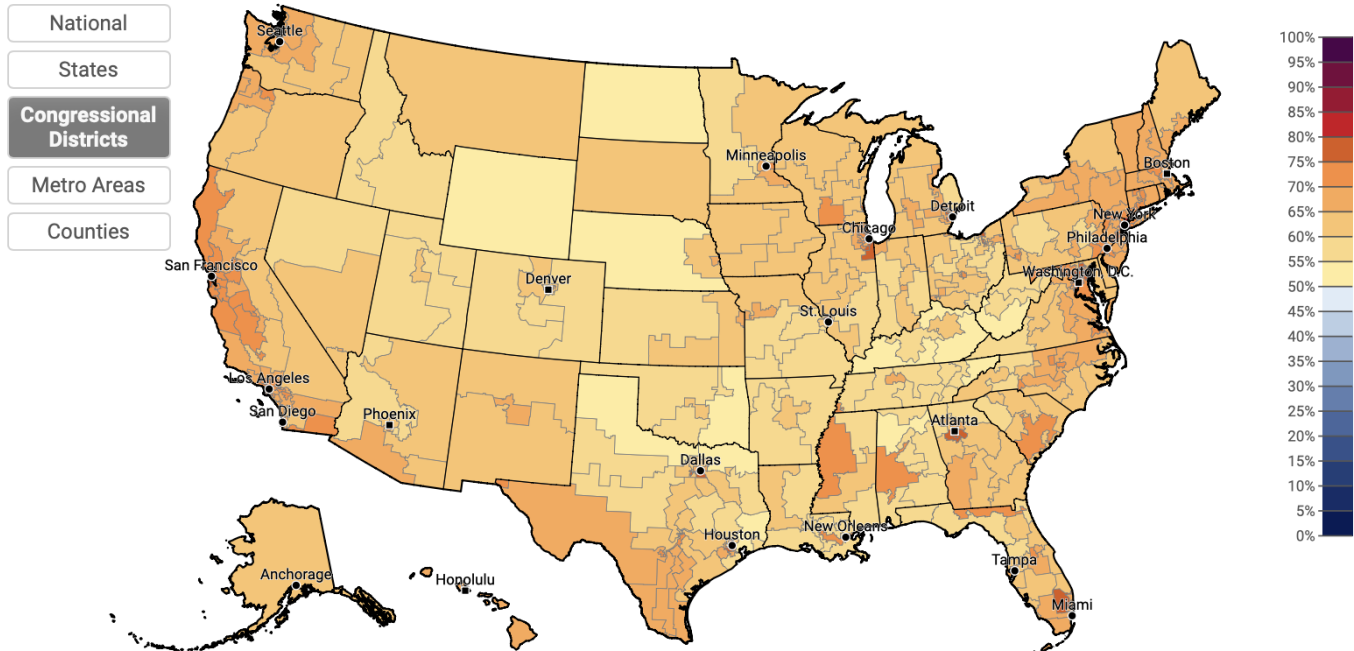
- National
- States
- Congressional Districts**
- Metro Areas
- Counties



Estimated % of adults who support taxing fossil fuel companies while equally reducing other taxes (nat'l avg. 66%), 2021

Select Question: Absolute Value

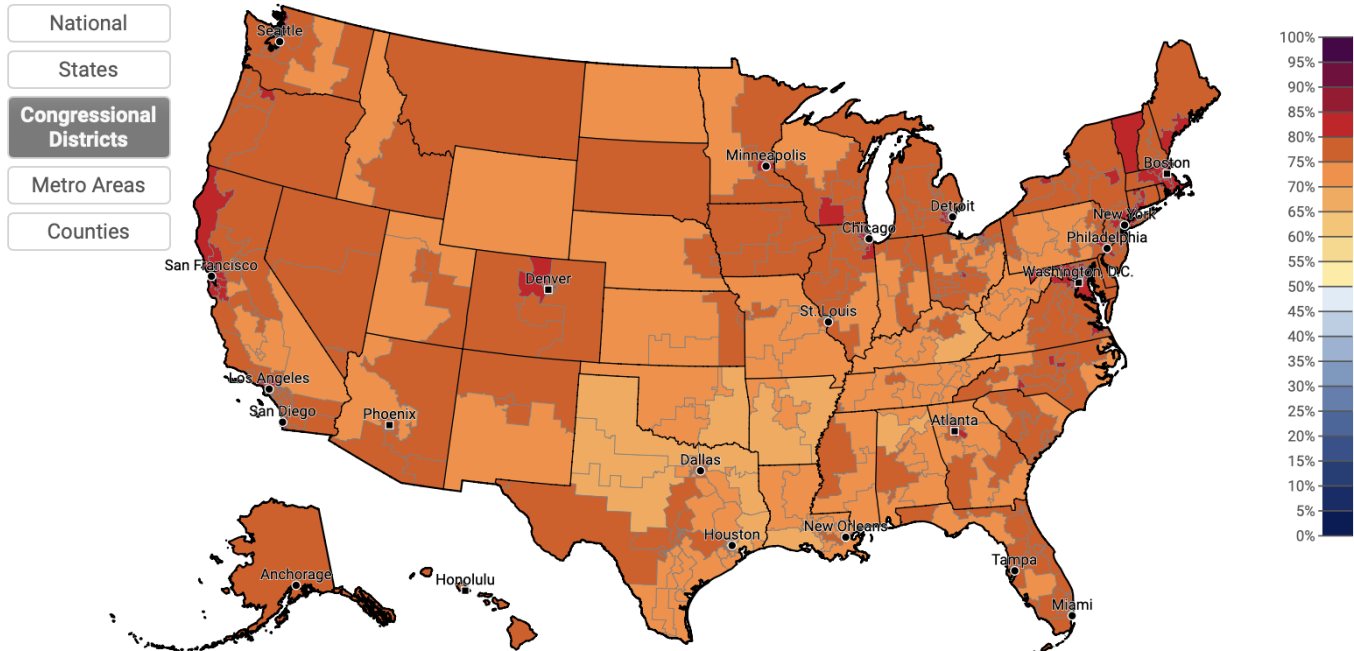
Click on map to select geography, or:



Estimated % of adults who support funding research into renewable energy sources (nat'l avg. 77%), 2021

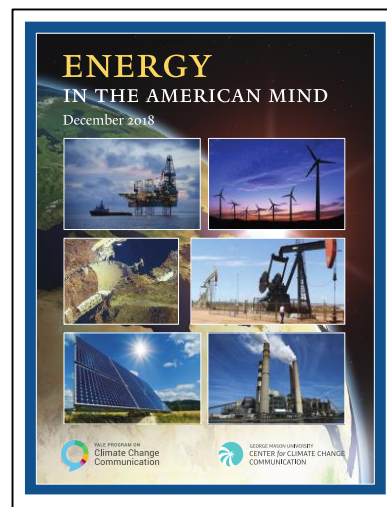
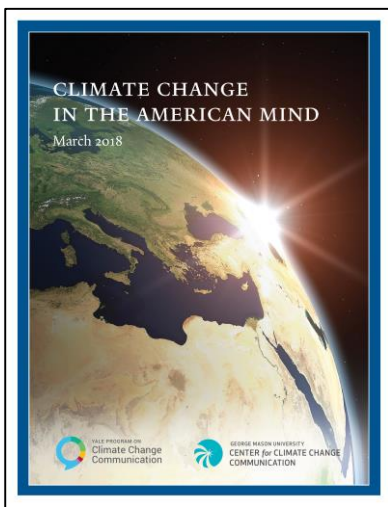
Select Question: Absolute Value

Click on map to select geography, or:



Summary

1. Americans are increasingly convinced global warming is happening, human-caused, and a serious problem.
2. Americans increasingly understand that climate impacts are here and now, not far away in time and space.
3. Google “Yale Climate Opinion Maps” to learn more about your district / area.



For new research alerts, please sign up at

climatecommunication.yale.edu



Americans' Views About Climate and Energy Policy

Cary Funk, Ph.D.

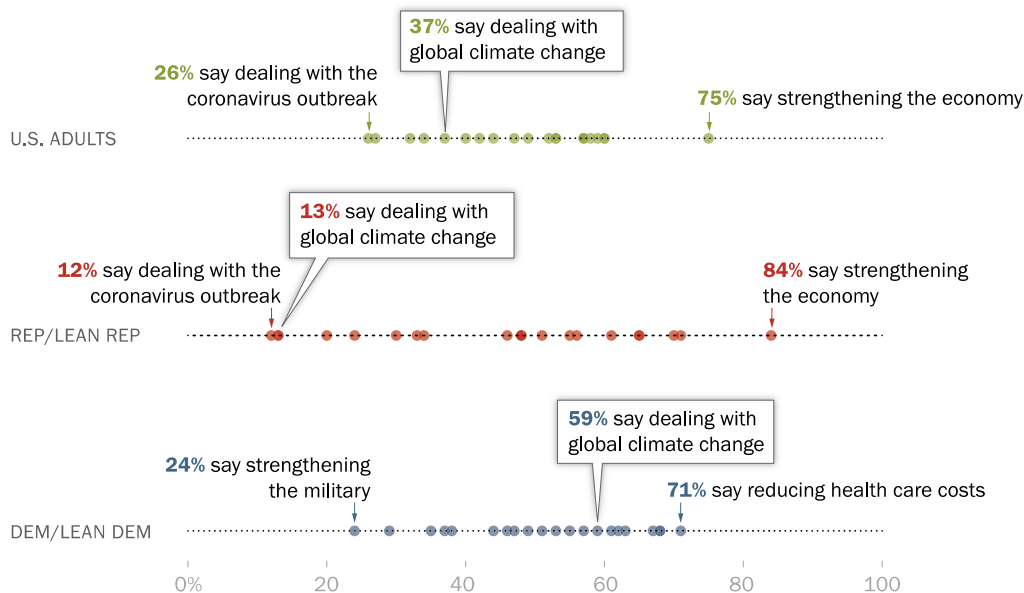
Director, Science and Society Research

@surveyfunk

Wide differences between Republicans and Democrats on policy priorities for the president and Congress

% of U.S. adults who say each issue should be a top priority for the president and Congress to address this year

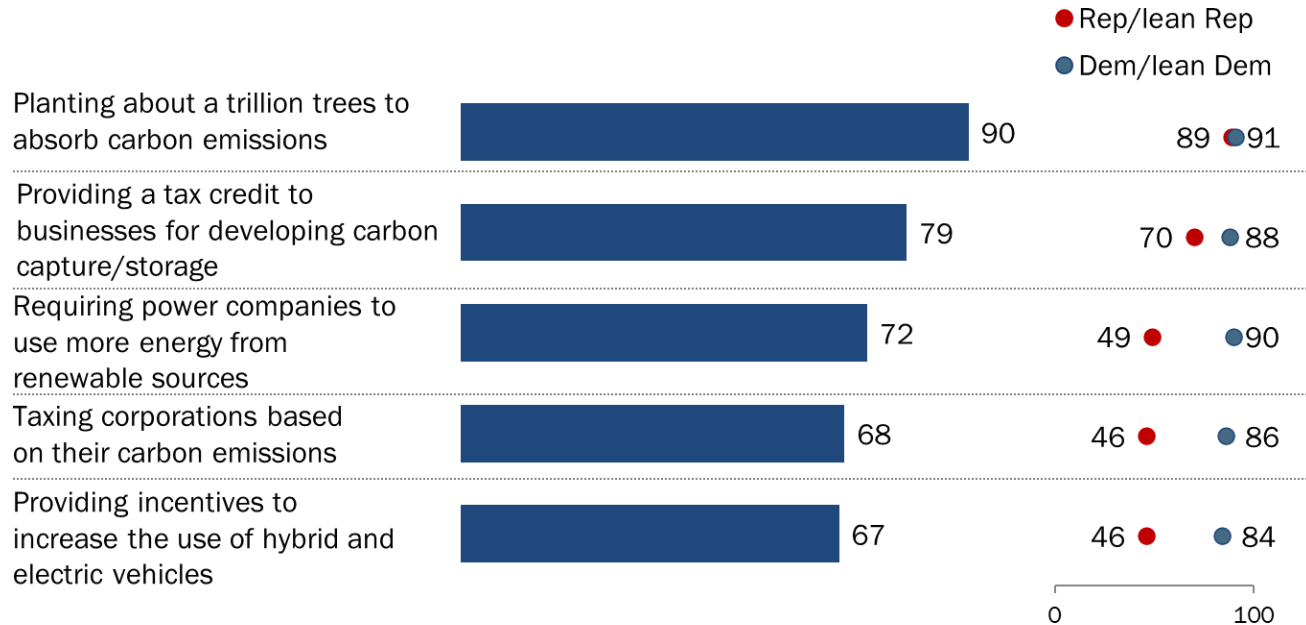
EACH DOT REPRESENTS ONE OF 21 ISSUES ASKED ABOUT



Source: Survey conducted January 18-24, 2023.

Two-thirds of Americans support incentives for more use of hybrid and electric vehicles

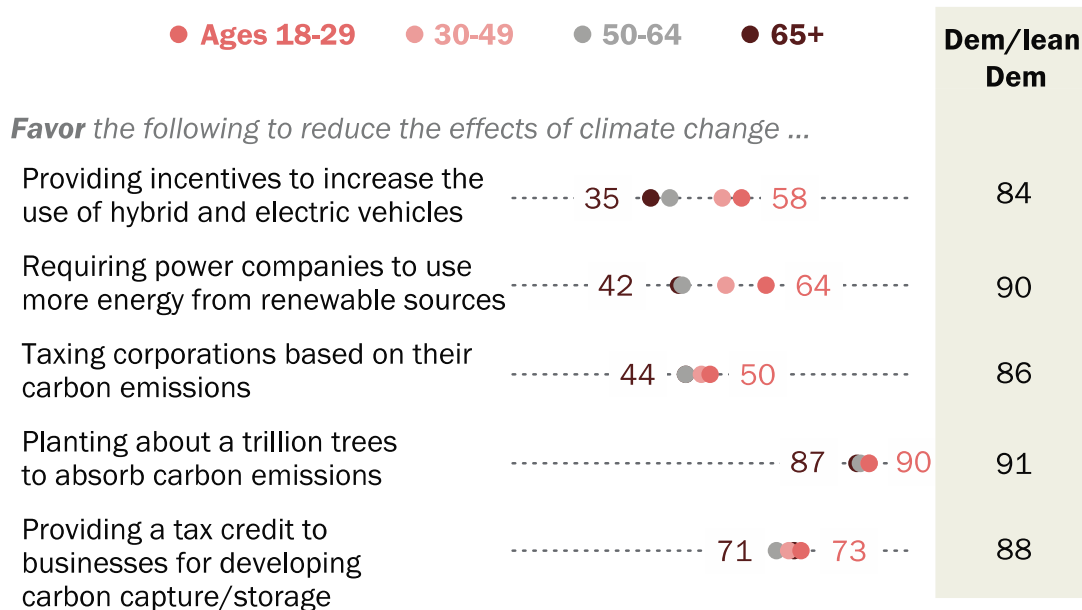
% of U.S. adults who say they favor the following proposals to reduce the effects of climate change



Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

Younger Republicans more supportive of range of policies to reduce the effects of climate change

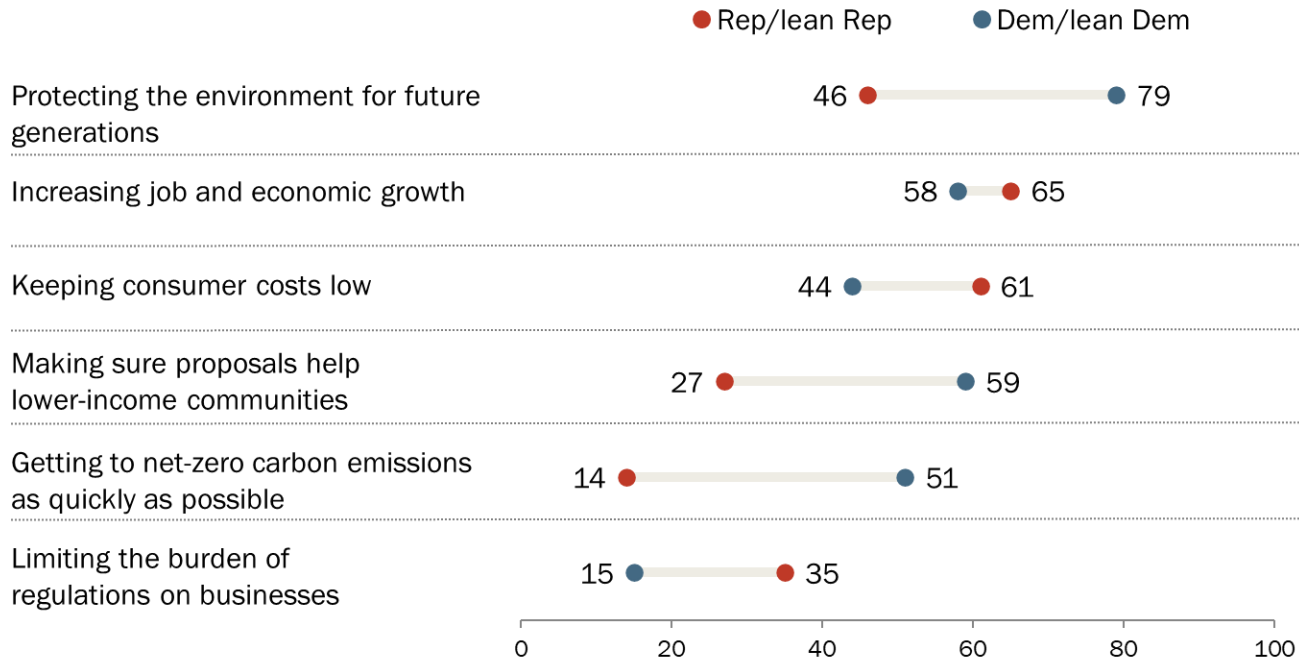
% of Republicans/Republican leaners who say each of the following



Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

Republicans and Democrats have different priorities when evaluating climate policies

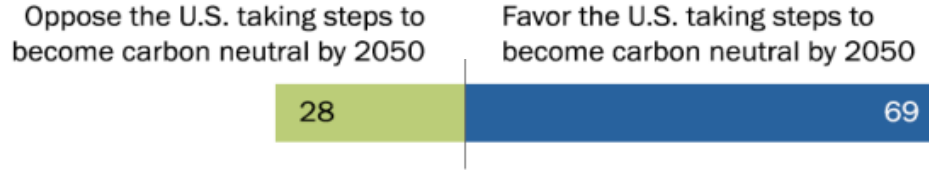
% of U.S. adults who say each of the following is very important to them personally when thinking about proposals to reduce the effects of climate change



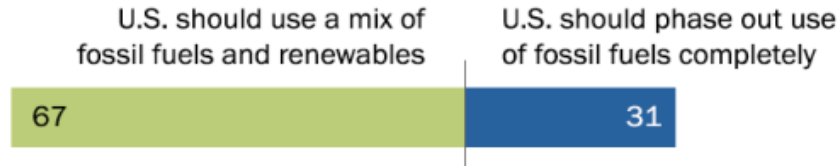
Source: Survey conducted April 20-29, 2021.

A majority backs U.S. taking steps to become carbon neutral

% of U.S. adults who say ...



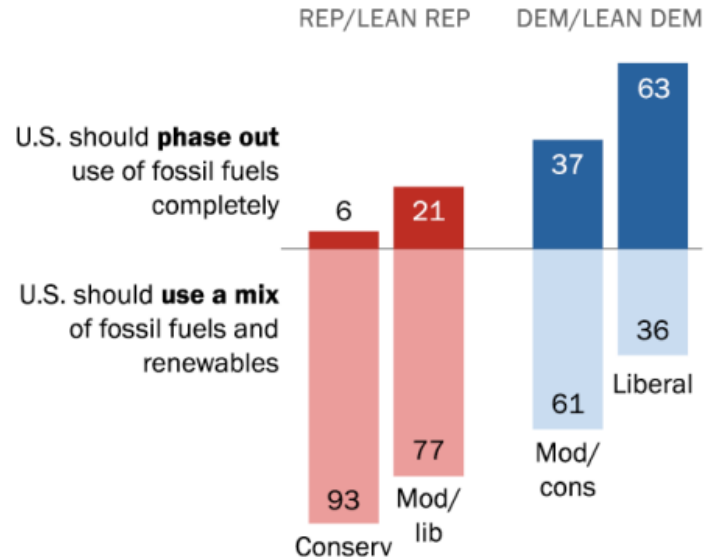
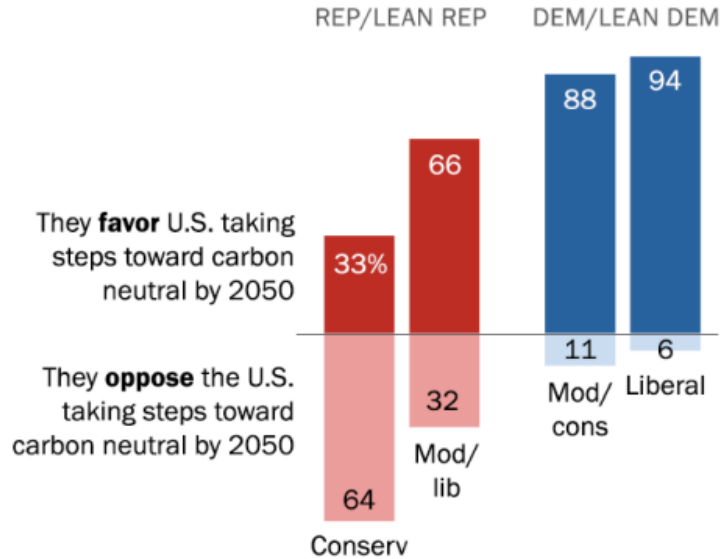
But two-thirds want U.S. to keep a mix of fossil fuel and renewable energy sources



Source: Survey conducted January 24-30, 2022.

Both party coalitions have internal differences over energy policy

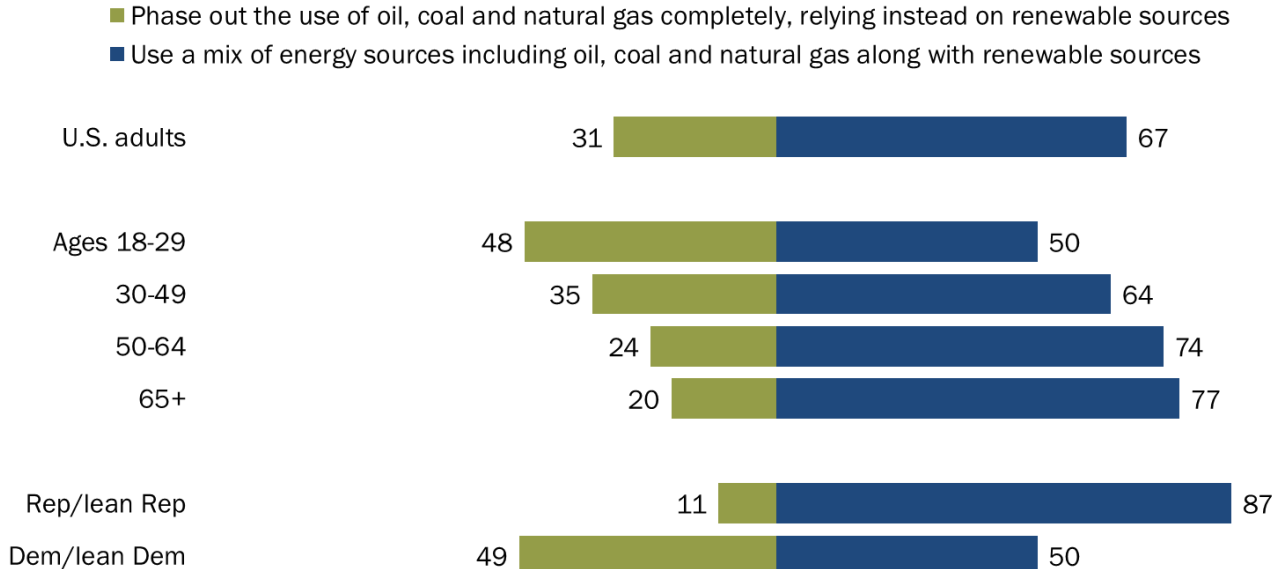
% of U.S. adults who say ...



Source: Survey conducted January 24-30, 2022.

Still, most Americans – and especially older adults – not ready to phase out fossil fuels entirely

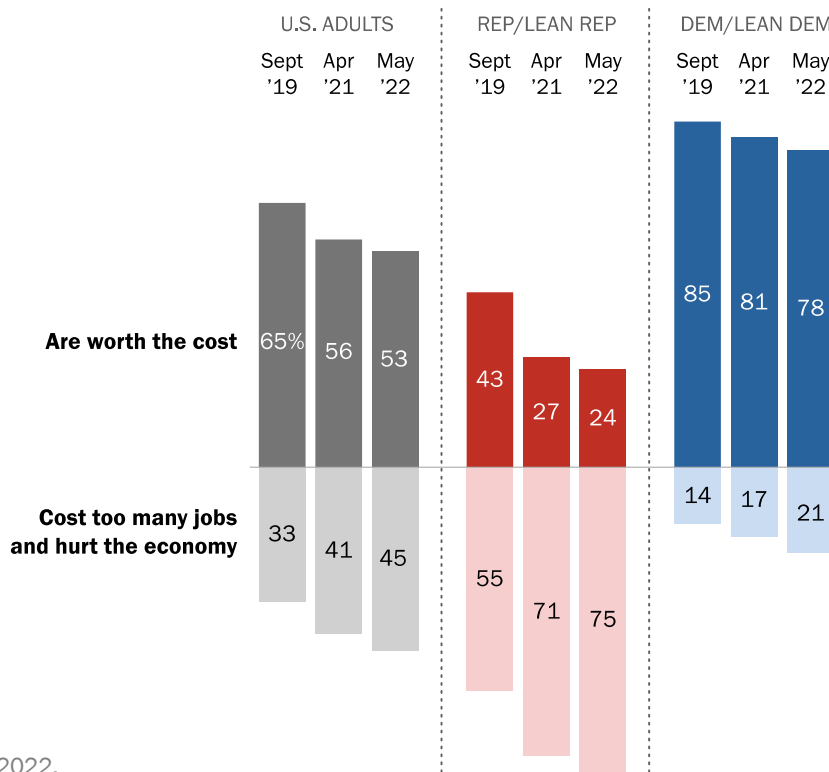
% of U.S. adults who say the U.S. should ...



Source: Survey conducted January 24-30, 2022.

By narrow margin, Americans more likely than not to say stricter environmental laws are worth the cost

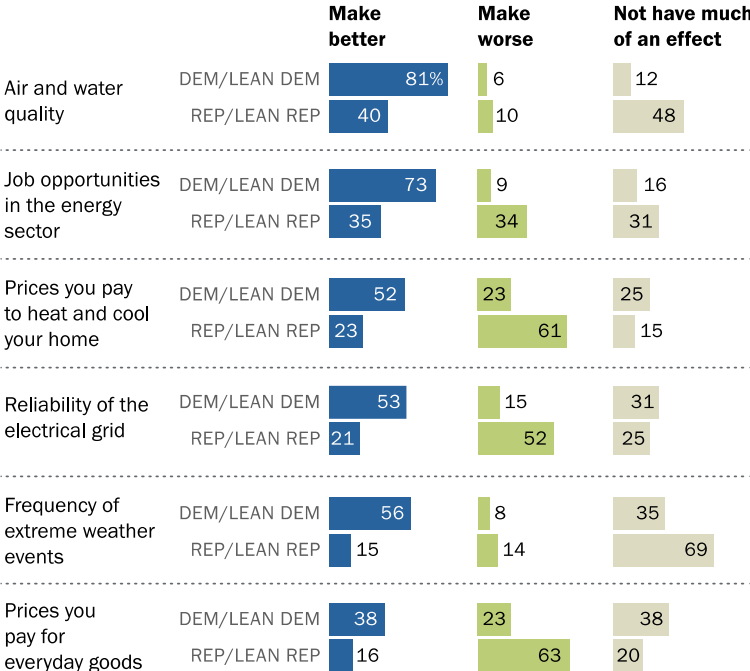
% of U.S. adults who say stricter environmental laws and regulations ...



Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

Democrats expect positive impacts from a possible transition to much more renewable energy in U.S.

If the U.S. greatly reduces energy production from fossil fuel sources and increases energy production from renewable sources, % of U.S. adults who say it would __ each of the following in their local area



Source: Survey conducted January 24-30, 2022.



Cary Funk, Ph.D.

Director, Science and Society Research

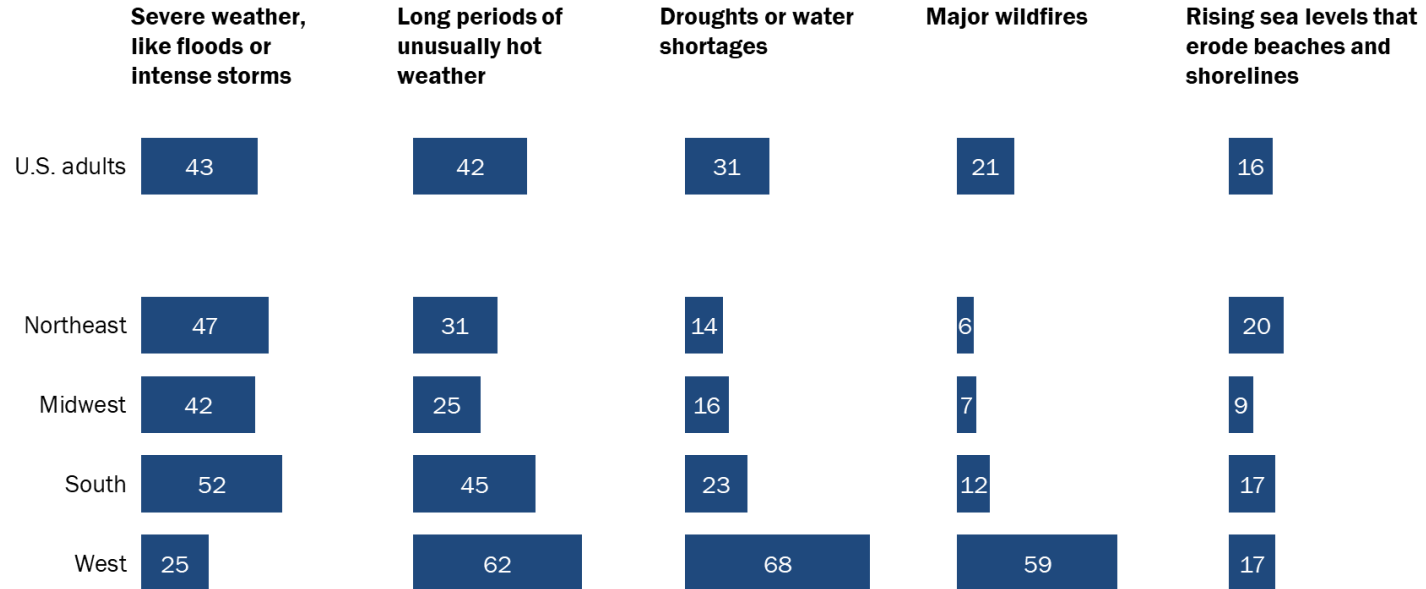
@surveyfunk 



LOCAL PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER

Majorities of Americans who live in the West report unusually hot weather, droughts and major wildfires in the last year

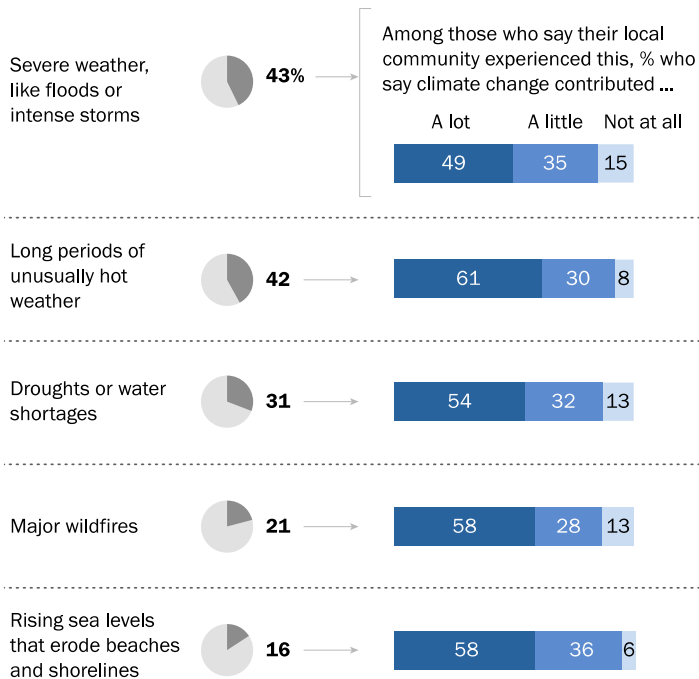
% of U.S. adults who say that their local community has experienced each of the following in the past 12 months



Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

Most who say their community experienced extreme weather see climate change as a factor

% of U.S. adults who say that their local community has experienced the following in the past 12 months

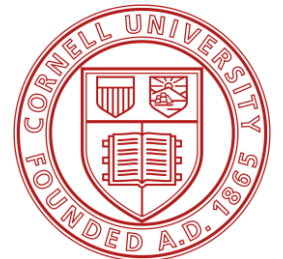


Source: Survey conducted May 2-8, 2022.

Climate Change Public Opinion & Recognition of Inequities within the U.S.

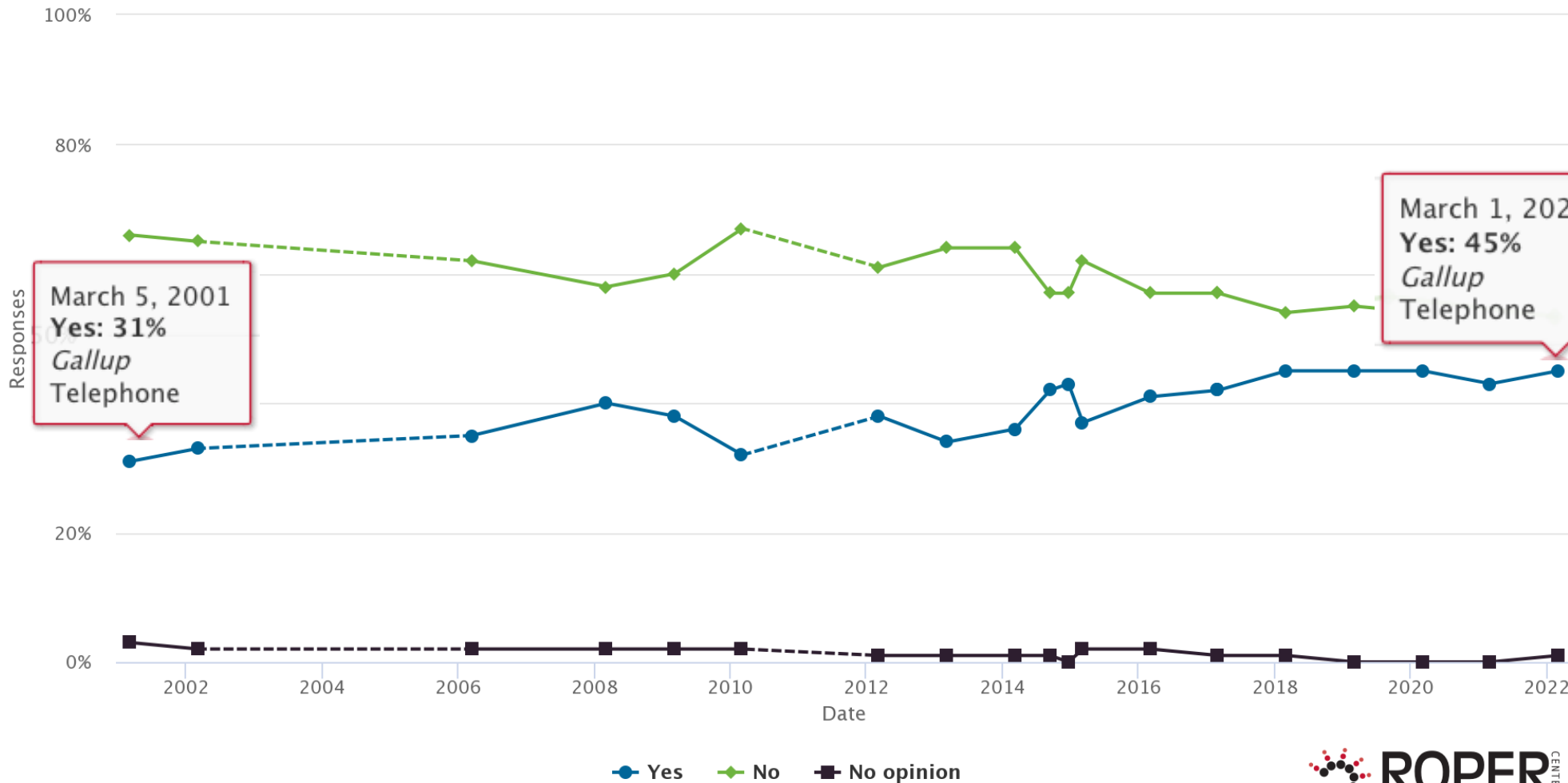
Jonathon P. Schuldt, PhD

Executive Director, Roper Center for Public Opinion Research &
Associate Professor, Cornell University



Roper Trend: Global Warming a Serious Imminent Threat

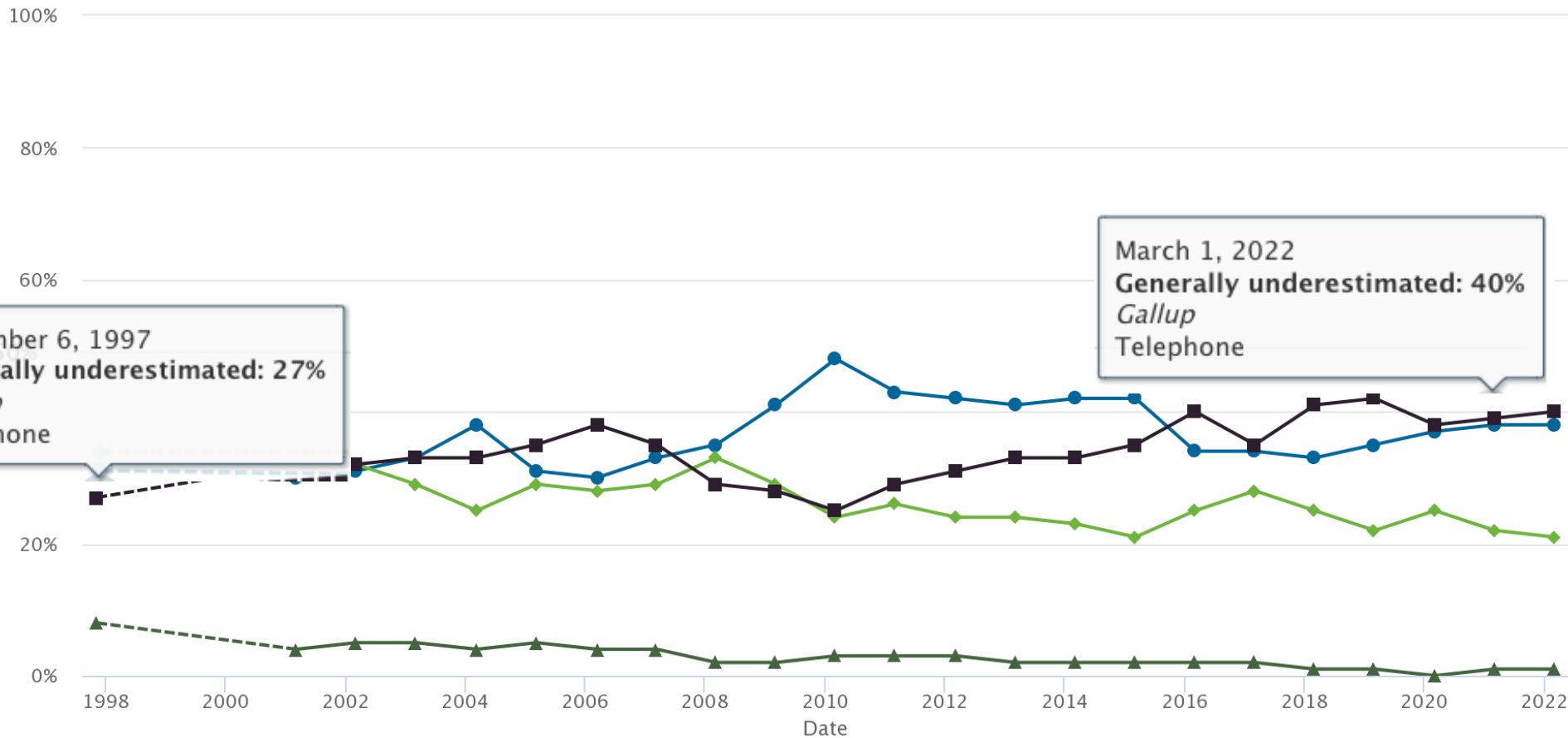
Core Question: Do you think that global warming will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?



Data: *Gallup, CBS News/New York Times, ORC International*

Roper Trend: Accuracy of News Reporting on Seriousness of Global Warming

Core Question: Thinking about what is said in the news, in your view is the seriousness of global warming--generally exaggerated, generally correct, or is it generally underestimated?



Recent Polls: **Most Americans...**

- See solid evidence of human-caused global warming (Muhlenberg)
- Say effects have already begun (Gallup)
- Think it is very serious (ABC News/Washington Post)
- Are worried about global warming (Yale/George Mason)
- Feel government is doing too little (AP-NORC & Pew Research Center)

DESA Working Paper No. 152
ST/ESA/2017/DWP/152

October 2017



Climate Change and Social Inequality*

By S. Nazrul Islam and John Winkel

See also: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2022):
Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.

GW Concerns by Race & Ethnicity

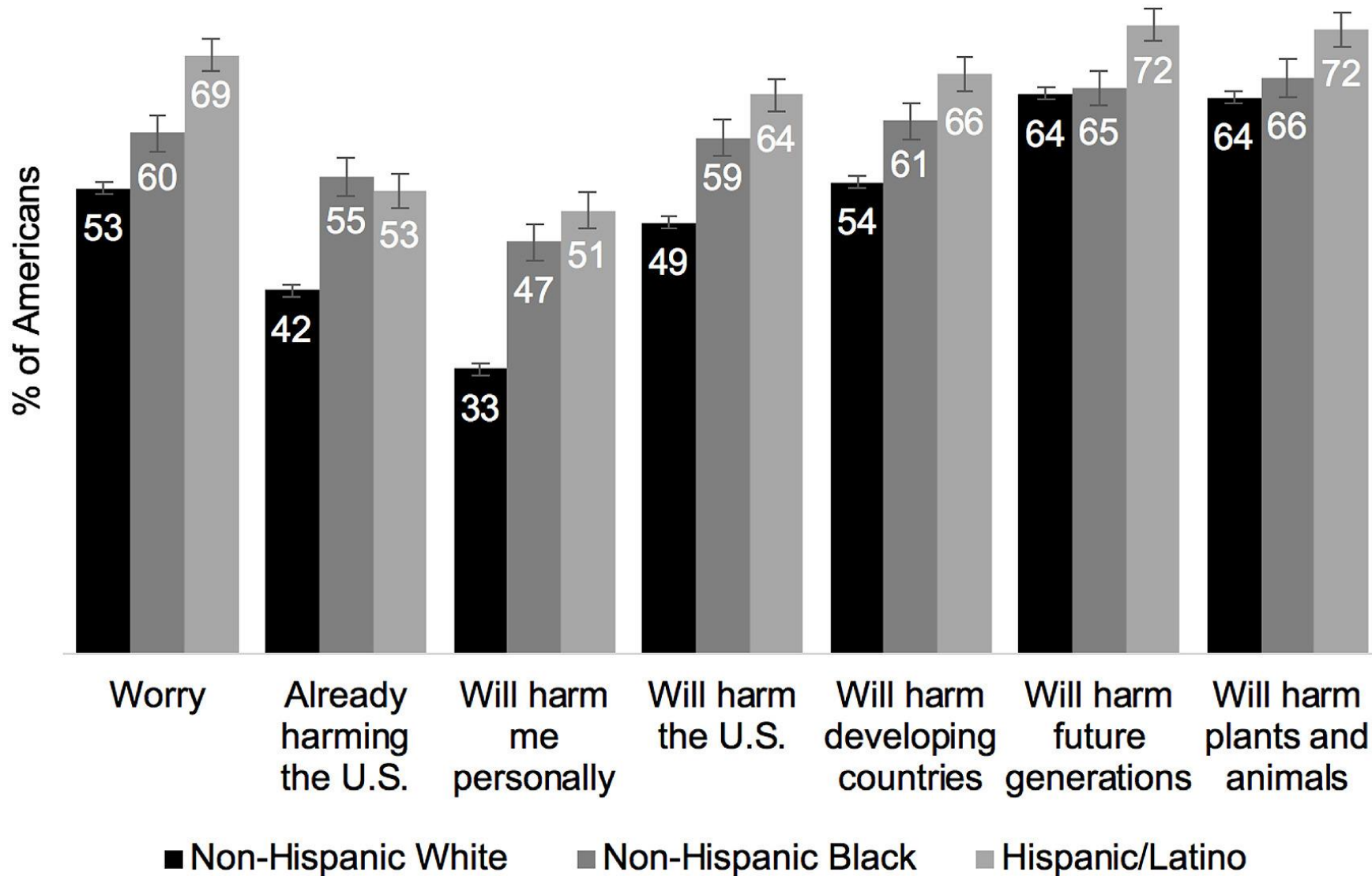
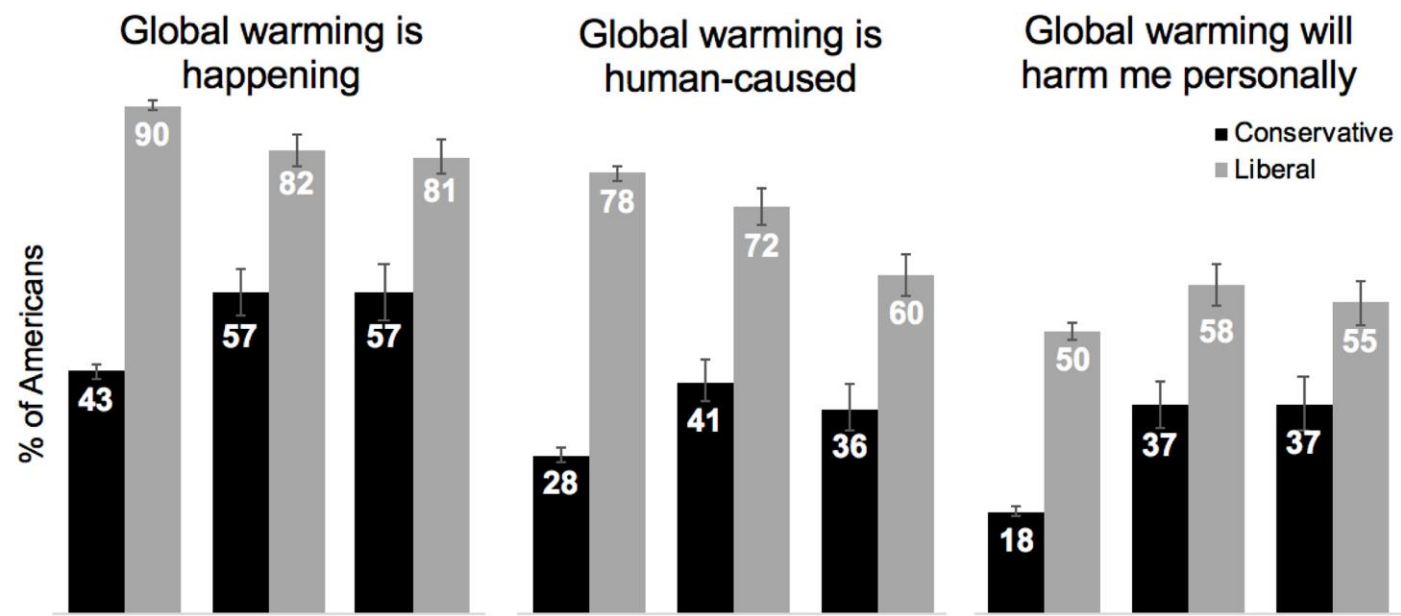


Figure: Ballew et al. (2021)
Data: Yale & GMU (2009-2018)



Race & Ethnicity with Political Partisanship

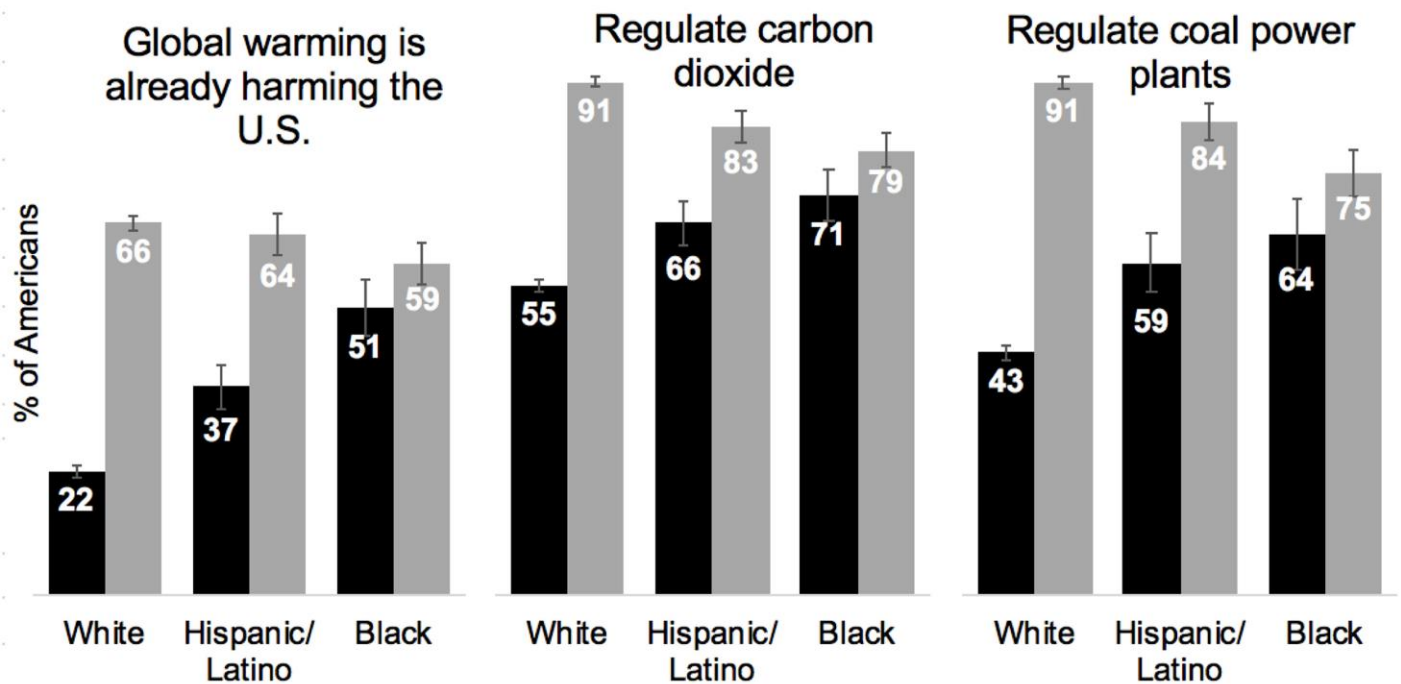


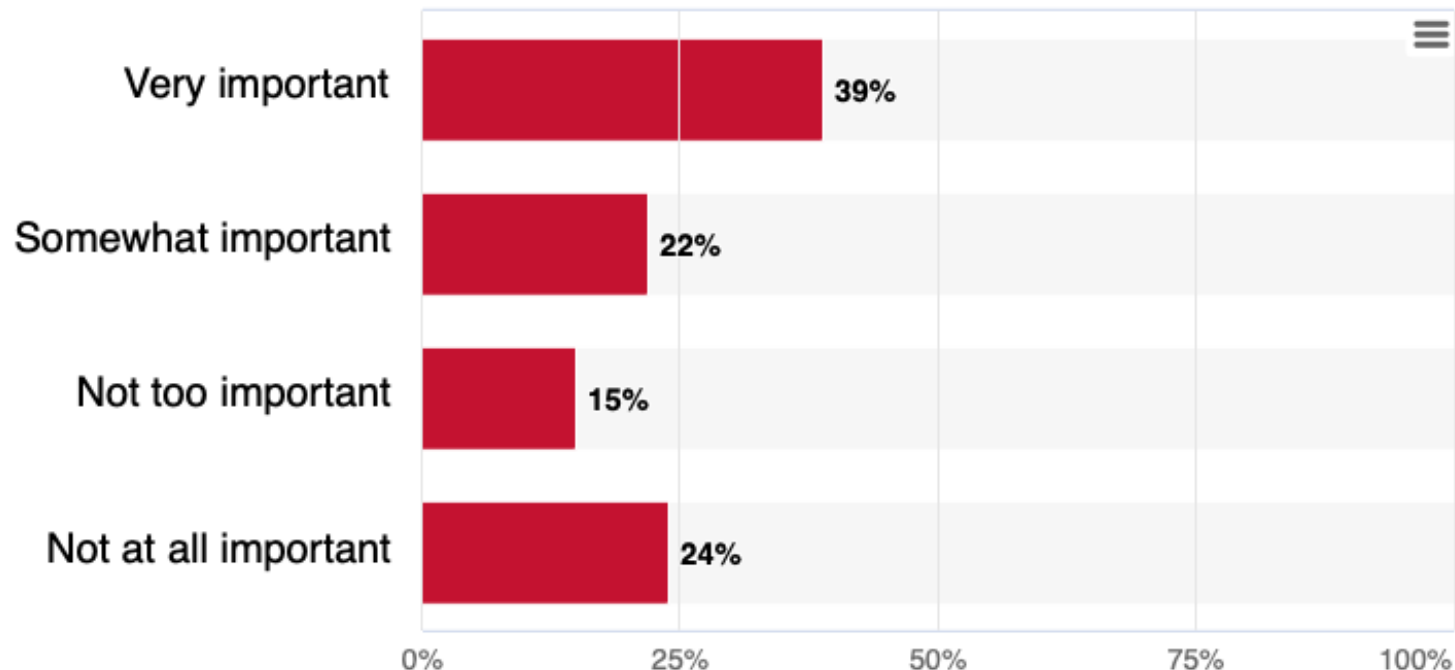
Figure: Ballew et al. (2021)
Data: Yale & GMU (2009-2018)

Thinking about this year's (2022) midterm elections, how important, if at all, will...climate change be in making your decision about who to vote for?

Sample: National adult, including oversamples of Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black respondents as well as those living in areas with high rates of COVID-19 hesitancy, potentially undocumented respondents and of prepaid (pay-as-you-go) telephone numbers (n=1502)

Subpopulation: Registered voters (79%)

Registered Voter Sample (KFF)



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Poll: February 2022 COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor. February, 2022. Roper Center at Cornell University

Interview Dates: February 9, 2022 - February 21, 2022

Geographic Coverage: United States

Survey Organization: SSRS

Sponsor: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Question: Thinking about this year's (2022) midterm elections, how important, if at all, will...climate change be in making your decision about who to vote for?

- Study Info
- Questions**
- Cite Study
- Downloads
- Transparency

Search questions within this study...



Showing 1-50 of 85 questions

Topline

Crosstabs

- Age
- Education
- Ethnicity**
- Gender
- Ideology
- Income
- Party ID
- Race/Ethnicity
- Region

	(1) Hispanic	(2) Non-Hispanic	All Groups
Very important	53%	37%	39%
Somewhat important	22%	22%	22%
Not too important	10%	15%	15%
Not at all important	14%	25%	24%
Don't know	1%	0%	0%
Refused	0%	0%	0%
Column Totals	100%	99%	100%

Question: Thinking about this year's (2022) midterm elections, how important, if at all, will...climate change be in making your decision about who to vote for?

- Study Info
- Questions**
- Cite Study
- Downloads
- Transparency



Showing 1-50 of 85 questions

Topline

Crosstabs

- Age
- Education
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Ideology
- Income**
- Party ID
- Race/Ethnicity
- Region

	(1) Under \$30,000	(2) \$30,000-49,999	(3) \$50,000-74,999	(4) \$75,000 or more	All Groups
Very important	50%	39%	42%	35%	39%
Somewhat important	26%	24%	23%	21%	23%
Not too important	10%	18%	15%	15%	14%
Not at all important	13%	19%	20%	30%	23%
Don't know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Column Totals	99%	100%	100%	101%	99%

Question: Thinking about this year's (2022) midterm elections, how important, if at all, will...climate change be in making your decision about who to vote for?

- Study Info
- Questions
- Cite Study
- Downloads
- Transparency

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Showing 1-50 of 85 questions

- Topline
- Crosstabs

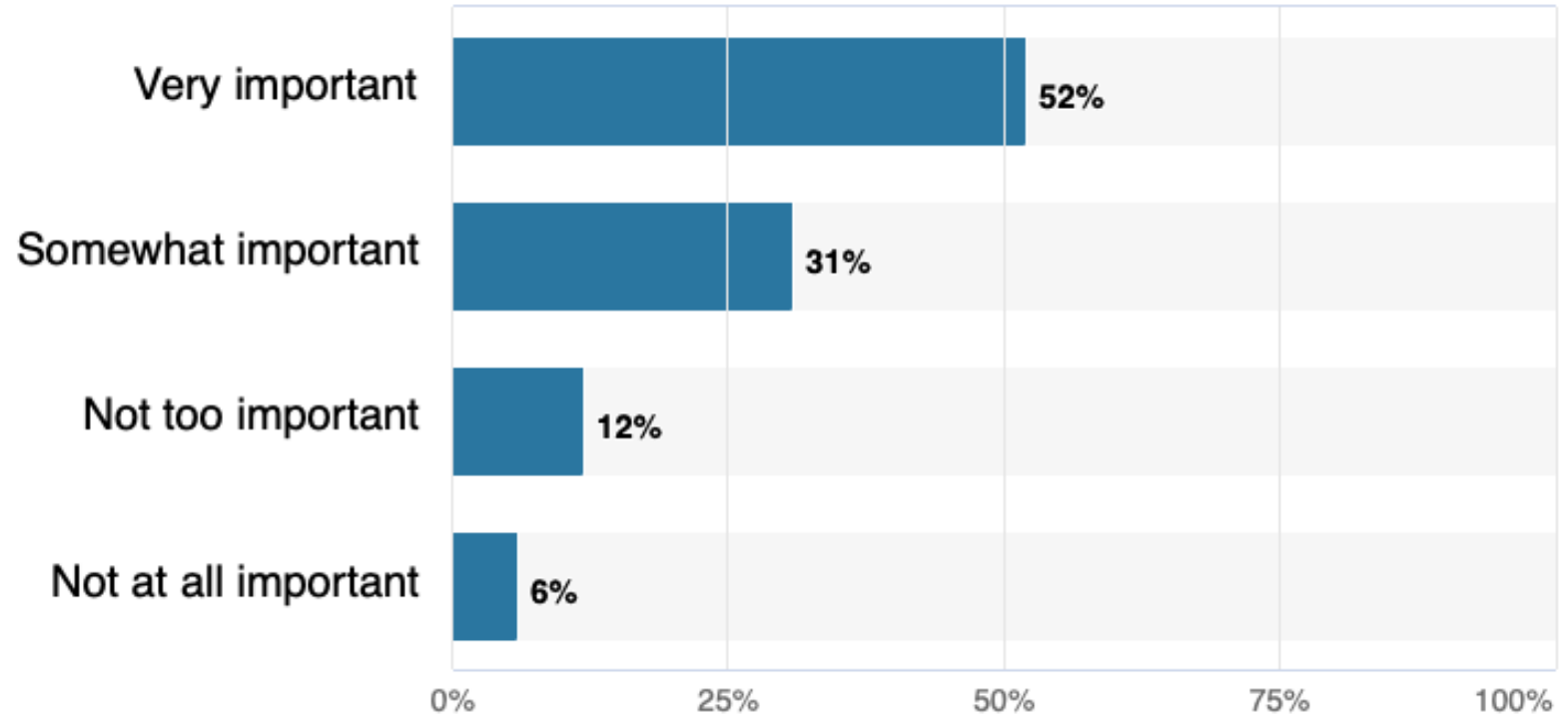
- Age
- Education
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Ideology
- Income
- Party ID
- Race/Ethnicity
- Region

	(1) White	(2) Black	All Groups
Very important	35%	60%	38%
Somewhat important	23%	22%	22%
Not too important	15%	11%	15%
Not at all important	27%	8%	24%
Don't know	0%	0%	0%
Refused	0%	0%	0%
Column Totals	100%	101%	99%

(How important will each of the following issues be in making your decision about who to vote for in this year's (2022) midterm elections?...Very important, somewhat important, not too important, not at all important)...Climate change

Sample: National Black registered voters (n=1000)

Black Registered
Voter
Sample (KFF)



Source: KFF/TheGrio Survey of Black Voters. August, 2022. Roper Center at Cornell University

Interview Dates: August 24, 2022 - September 5, 2022

Survey Organization: SSRS

Sponsor: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; theGrio



Do Americans accurately perceive these
group differences?



Diverse segments of the US public underestimate the environmental concerns of minority and low-income Americans

Adam R. Pearson^{a,1}, Jonathon P. Schuldt^b, Rainer Romero-Canyas^{c,d}, Matthew T. Ballew^e, and Dylan Larson-Konar^{c,f}

^aDepartment of Psychology, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 91711; ^bDepartment of Communication, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; ^cEnvironmental Defense Fund, New York, NY 10010; ^dDepartment of Psychology, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027; ^eYale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511; and ^fDepartment of Psychology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

Edited by Baruch Fischhoff, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, and approved October 2, 2018 (received for review March 17, 2018)

Actual vs. **Perceived** Environmental Concern

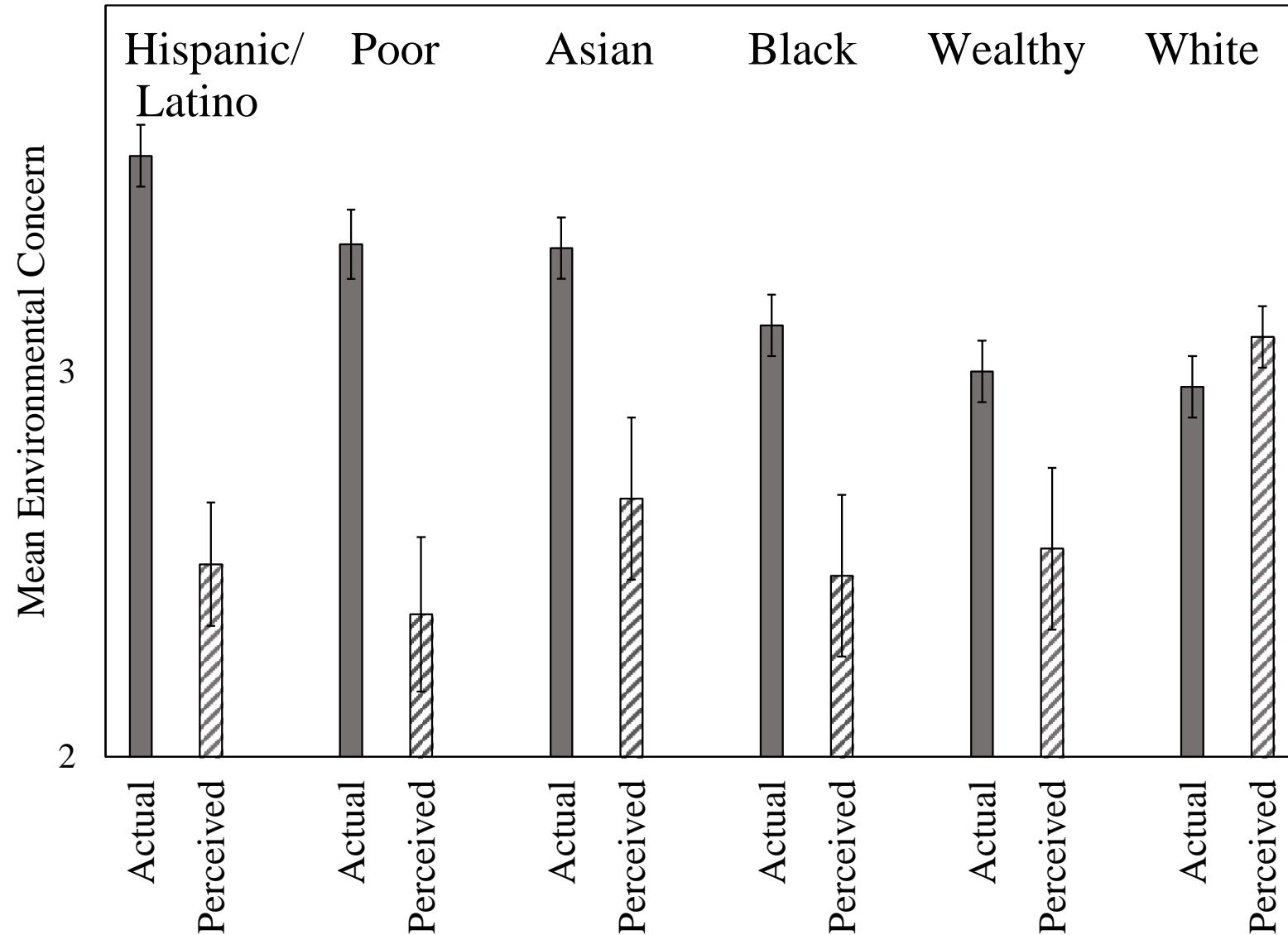


Figure: Pearson et al. (2018)
Data: GfK/KN (2016)



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Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Journal of Environmental Psychology

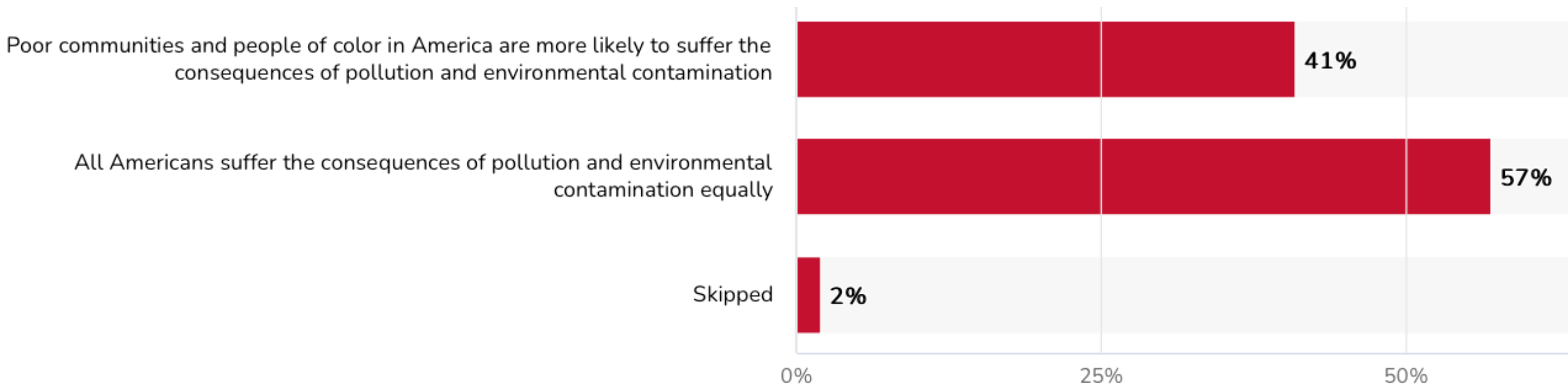
journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jep

What counts as an “environmental” issue? Differences in issue conceptualization by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status

Hwanseok Song^a, Neil A. Lewis Jr.^b, Matthew T. Ballew^c, Mario Bravo^d, Julie Davydova^b, H. Oliver Gao^b, Robert J. Garcia^d, Sofia Hiltner^d, Sarah M. Naiman^b, Adam R. Pearson^e, Rainer Romero-Canyas^d, Jonathon P. Schuldt^{b,*}

Do Americans even recognize climate
inequities?

Core Question: Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?...



Survey by Axios. Conducted by Ipsos.

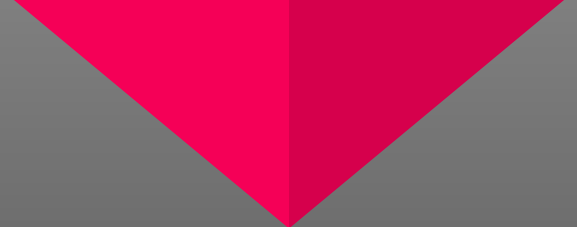
Interview Date(s): 09/09/2021 - 09/15/2021

Country(ies): 

Concluding Remarks

Public opinion & recognition of climate inequities

- Trends show **rising concern** about climate change
- Americans are **highly concerned** and **want more government action**
- Black, Hispanic and Latino, and Lower-Income Americans are among the groups **most** concerned
 - Yet are *misperceived as among the least concerned*
- **Low recognition** of the unequal impacts across groups in the U.S.



Why the media need climate polling to do their jobs

(And people in politics might, too)

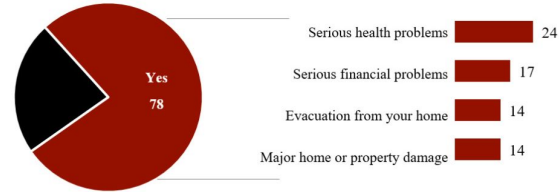
- The Impact of Extreme Weather on Views About Climate Policy in the United States, from March 31 – May 8, 2022.
- Nationally representative sample of 2,646 U.S. adults ages 18 or older.
- Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish, according to respondents' preferences.

The vast majority of respondents had experienced extreme weather events

Figure 2. Serious Damage, Health, Financial Problems for U.S. Households Facing Extreme Weather Events in the Past Five Years (in Percent)

U.S. adults reporting they have personally been affected extreme weather events in the last five years

Among the 78% of adults who reported facing extreme weather events in the last 5 years, those reporting they or household members faced _____ as a result



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. *The Impact of Extreme Weather on Views About Climate Policy in the United States, 3/31/22 – 5/8/22*. N=2,646 U.S. adults ages 18+. Q2a-i and Q4a-i.

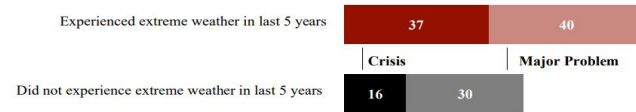
- Notice how it compares to the U.S. adult population more broadly
- The takeaway: as more people experience extreme weather, they are more likely to see it and climate change as a problem.
- And that has implications for policy makers

If you've been affected by extreme weather, you are more likely to consider climate change a crisis or a major problem

Figure 1. Public Views on Climate Change as a Crisis/Major Problem, by Recent Experiences with Extreme Weather (in Percent)

Q11. In the United States, do you think that climate change is a crisis, a major problem but not a crisis, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

% reporting they see climate change as a crisis/major problem



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *The Impact of Extreme Weather on Views About Climate Policy in the United States*, 3/31/22 – 5/8/22. N=2,646 U.S. adults ages 18+.



About 17% of respondents said they'd experienced serious financial hardship because of extreme weather

Of those, more than 70% said they were uninsured or underinsured to cover those losses.

Insurance does not cover most extreme weather losses

71% of those who reported major losses or financial problems after extreme weather were either uninsured or underinsured.



Notes

This graph represents the 18% of U.S. adults who reported major home or property damage or serious financial problems as a result of extreme weather events in the last five years.

Source: NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health poll of 2,646 U.S. adults conducted March 31-May 5. The margin of error for the overall sample is 2.8 percentage points.

Credit: LA Johnson/NPR

Nearly one in four respondents said they or someone in their home faced health issues because of extreme weather

One unexpected health issue was the lack of air conditioning, in places in the Pacific Northwest and parts of California

The image shows a screenshot of an NPR news article page. At the top left is the NPR logo (n p r) and the station identifier WAMU 88.5 AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO. To the right are links for SIGN IN, NPR SHOP, and a red DONATE button. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for NEWS, CULTURE, MUSIC, PODCASTS & SHOWS, and SEARCH. The main content area features a social media sharing sidebar on the left with icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, and Print. The article title is "Americans connect extreme heat and climate change to their health, a survey finds". Below the title is the date "June 22, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET" and the text "Heard on Morning Edition". At the bottom of the article is the author's name "MOLLY PETERSON" in a light blue box.

n p r WAMU 88.5 AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

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Americans connect extreme heat and climate change to their health, a survey finds

June 22, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET
Heard on Morning Edition

MOLLY PETERSON

Americans who suffer through extreme weather are more likely to support action on climate

Figure 2. Public Support for Specific Policies Related to Protecting Against Weather Disasters (in Percent)

% support, by experiences of extreme weather in the past five years

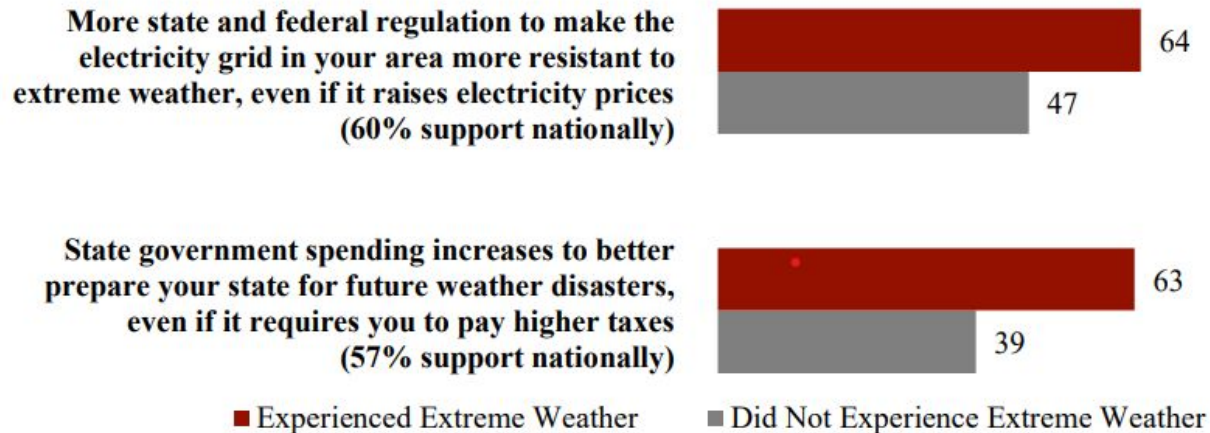
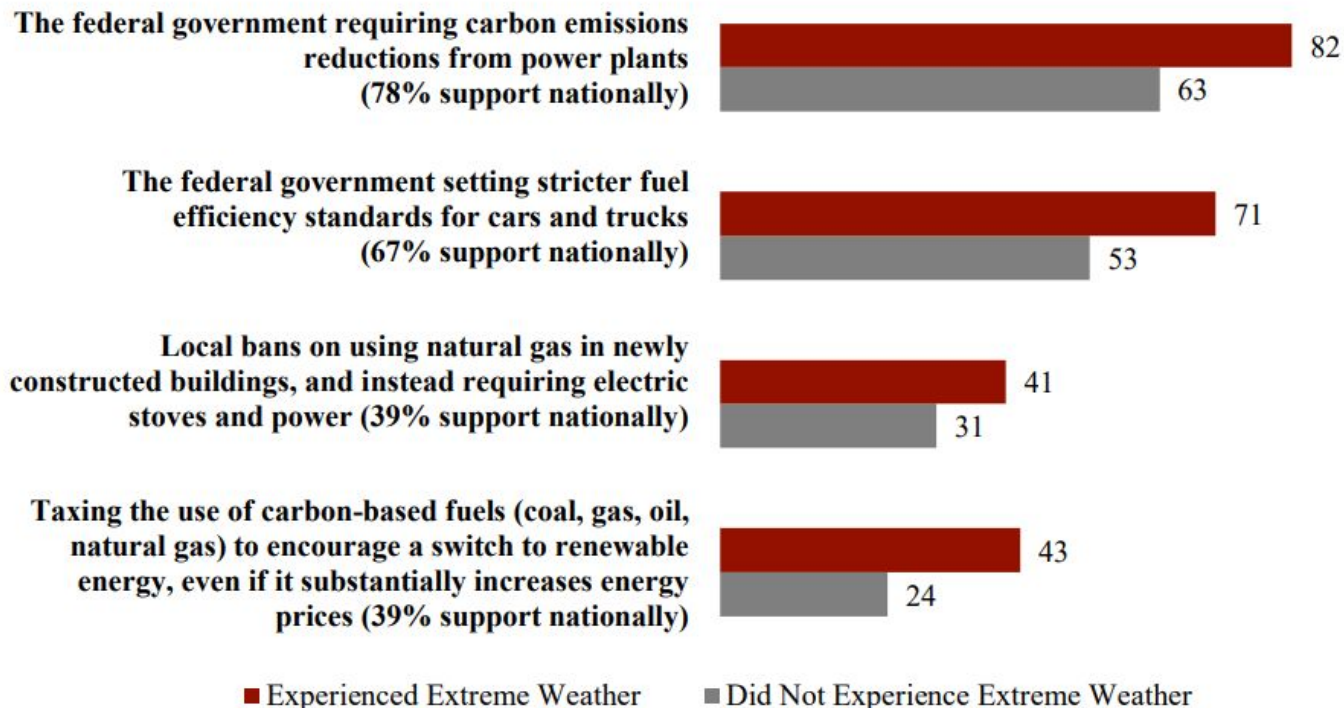


Figure 3. Public Support for Policies Related to Climate Change (in Percent)

% support, by experiences of extreme weather in the past five years



NPR/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *The Impact of Extreme Weather on Views About Climate Policy in the United States*, 3/31/22 – 5/8/22. N=2,646 U.S. adults ages 18+.

What the impact of climate change on people's lives means for you

30% of registered voters say they are likely to vote for a candidate in the next election who favors major government action to limit climate change

When it comes to the upcoming 2022 Congressional election, 30% of registered voters say they are very likely to vote for a candidate because they favor major government action to limit climate change. Meanwhile, 33% of registered voters say they are somewhat likely, 15% say they are somewhat unlikely, and 22% say they are very unlikely to vote for such a candidate.



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Thursday, February 09, 2023