

Health Is A Major Motivator for American Climate Action

American Climate Perspective 2019, Vol III - Toplines
 Fielded September 14-18th, 2018

	2018	2017	2016	2015
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
N=	800	802	800	800

Over Half of Americans Report Experiencing Health Impacts from Climate Change

Q1. For each of the following issues, please indicate how much they are personally affecting you.

Record heat waves during summer (causing heat strokes/dehydration)

A lot.....	35	31
Some.....	24	28
A little.....	20	20
Not at all.....	18	17
Not sure.....	3	4
A lot/Some	60	59
A little/Not at all.....	38	37

More damage and harm from extreme weather (storms, hurricanes, tornados)

A lot.....	24	29
Some.....	25	22
A little.....	23	21
Not at all.....	25	23
Not sure.....	3	5
A lot/Some	49	51
A little/Not at all.....	48	44

Increased rates of breathing problems, such as asthma

A lot.....	22	26
Some.....	22	24
A little.....	17	18
Not at all.....	34	26
Not sure.....	5	6
A lot/Some	45	50
A little/Not at all.....	50	44

2018 (%)	2017 (%)	2016 (%)	2015 (%)
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Americans Believe that Creating a Safe and Healthy Climate is a Moral Imperative

Q2. Now you are going to see a series of statements. Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each one.

We have a moral responsibility to create a safe and healthy climate for ourselves and our children.

Strongly agree	71	63	65	64
Not so strongly agree.....	17	20	22	24
Not so strongly disagree.....	6	8	6	7
Strongly disagree	3	4	4	3
Not sure.....	3	5	3	2
 Agree	 88	 83	 87	 88
Disagree	9	12	10	10

Two in Three Americans Understand that Climate Solutions Benefit Their Health

Q3. If the United States took steps to help prevent future climate change, how would it affect your health?

Improve your health - a lot.....	36	40	33	24
Improve your health – a little	30	27	35	35
 Make no difference	 23	 24	 27	 31
Harm your health – a little.....	1	1	1	2
Harm your health – a lot.....	1	1	1	3
 Not sure.....	 9	 6	 4	 5
 Improve your health.....	 66	 67	 67	 59
Harm your health.....	2	3	2	5

	2018	2017	2016	2015
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)

Americans Trust Health Professionals for Information and Guidance on Climate Change

Q4. As a source of information about climate change, how much do you trust each of the following?

Health professionals

A lot.....	26	29	24	18
Some.....	38	33	40	40
A little.....	22	23	24	29
Not at all.....	9	9	9	8
Not sure.....	4	5	3	4
 A lot/Some	 64	 62	 64	 58
A little/Not at all.....	31	33	33	38

Q5. As a source of guidance about climate change, how much do you trust each of the following?

Health professionals

A lot.....	28			
Some.....	34			
A little.....	23			
Not at all.....	11			
Not sure.....	5			
 A lot/Some	 62			
A little/Not at all.....	33			

Q6. Have you heard or read anything recently about climate change from any of the following?

Health professionals	19	20	18	18
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	U.S. 2018 (%)	African Americans (%)	Latinos (%)	Women < 50 (%)	Millennials (%)
N=	800	99	104	225	229

Key Demographics: Most Americans Resonate with Health, Some More Than Others

Q7. For each of the following issues, please indicate how much they are personally affecting you:

Record heat waves during summer (causing heat strokes / dehydration)

A lot.....	35	44	45	43	39
Some.....	24	26	22	21	27
A little.....	20	17	20	20	19
Not at all.....	18	13	9	13	14
Not sure.....	3	0	5	2	1
A lot/Some	60	70	66	65	66
A little/Not at all.....	38	30	29	33	33

More damage and harm from extreme weather (storms, hurricanes, tornados)

A lot.....	24	39	27	30	24
Some.....	25	20	26	23	25
A little.....	23	18	19	22	24
Not at all.....	25	21	23	23	25
Not sure.....	3	1	5	2	1
A lot/Some	49	59	53	53	49
A little/Not at all.....	48	40	42	45	49

Increased rates of breathing problems, such as asthma

A lot.....	22	34	33	28	22
Some.....	22	23	28	26	26
A little.....	17	13	10	17	19
Not at all.....	34	26	24	28	30
Not sure.....	5	4	6	2	3
A lot/Some	45	56	61	54	48
A little/Not at all.....	50	39	33	44	49

Q8. If the United States took steps to help prevent future climate change, how would it affect your health?

Improve your health - a lot.....	36	52	45	45	45
Improve your health - a little	30	25	31	30	33
Make no difference	23	14	14	14	16
Harm your health - a little.....	1	1	1	1	1
Harm your health - a lot.....	1	1	2	1	0
Not sure.....	9	6	8	9	5
Improve your health.....	66	77	76	75	77
Harm your health.....	2	3	3	2	2

	2018 (%)	2017 (%)	2016 (%)	2015 (%)
<u>DEMOGRAPHICS</u>				
Political Party				
Republican.....	34	41	39	26
Independent	12	17	10	12
Democrat	44	30	43	54
Other	6	9	4	6
Age				
18 - 24.....	12	11	9	14
25 - 29.....	10	6	8	14
30 - 34.....	9	9	9	10
35 - 39.....	8	6	11	8
40 - 44.....	8	7	8	9
45 - 49.....	8	6	9	10
50 - 54.....	7	8	7	6
55 - 59.....	10	16	8	8
60 - 64.....	9	12	11	5
65 - 69.....	10	14	10	8
70 - 74.....	5	3	7	6
Over 74.....	3	3	4	3
Gender				
Male.....	49	41	52	51
Female	51	59	48	48
Region				
New England.....	5	6	5	4
Middle Atlantic.....	13	12	16	11
East North Central.....	14	15	15	12
West North Central.....	7	11	3	8
South Atlantic.....	20	22	24	14
East South Central	6	7	3	8
West South Central.....	12	11	10	14
Mountain.....	7	5	7	8
Pacific.....	16	9	16	21
Race or Ethnicity				
White/Caucasian.....	65	75	68	56
Black/African American	12	8	9	17
Hispanic/Latino.....	16	10	17	19
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	1	7	6
Native American/American Indian.....	3	7	1	3
Other	3	1	2	5

Methodology

ecoAmerica and Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online September 14-16, 2018. The survey yielded a total of 800 adult responses. The sample was drawn from an online panel and the respondents were screened to ensure that they were over the age of 18. The margin of error for the sample is +/-3.5%. In interpreting the survey results, it is important to note that all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error. Thus, the results of a survey may differ from the results that would be obtained if the entire population was interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of the responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of the respondents in a sample of 802 respondents answered, “Yes” to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage would fall within 3.5 points, or range from 46.5% to 53.5%.

Suggested Citation

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