Student Climate Strikes Raise Awareness, Understanding, Emotions

American Climate Perspective 2019, Vol VII - Toplines
Fielded October 14th, 2019

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From Zero to 79: Youth Garner High Public Awareness in Under a Year

Q1. How much have you heard of youth-activist Greta Thunberg or the youth-led protests taking place across the U.S. and internationally calling for climate action?

A lot.......................................................... 30  46  39  25  26  33
Some........................................................ 32  32  32  31  35  33
A little....................................................... 17  12  17  20  15  10
Not at all.................................................... 20  10  13  24  24  24

Heard.......................................................... 62  78  71  56  61  66
Have not heard............................................ 38  22  29  20  39  34

Americans Understand WHY Students are Striking

Q2. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statement: I understand what youth-activists are striking for.

Strongly agree ............................................ 40  72  63  32  23  28
Somewhat agree ........................................... 39  25  32  44  42  32
Somewhat disagree ....................................... 12  2  4  14  21  17
Strongly agree ............................................  9  1  1  10  16  23

Total Agree .................................................. 79  96  95  76  64  60
Total Disagree ............................................. 21  4  5  20  36  40

Americans are Divided on IF Students Should Strike

Q3. Should students take time off from school to demand action on climate change?

Yes, they need to act....................................... 35  68  59  28  17  21
No, they should stay in school........................... 49  21  25  54  72  73
Not sure....................................................... 15  11  16  18  11  7

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**Are the Youth Making a Difference on Climate? Yes, No, and Not Sure.**

Q4. Do you think the youth-led protests are making any difference in moving America to climate action?

- Yes, they are making a difference..........................35 57 54 30 19 21
- No, they are not making a difference......................37 16 15 41 57 60
- Not sure..................................................................28 26 31 29 24 20

**Are the Youth Stoking American Emotions on Climate? YES!**

Q6. How do the youth-led climate protests make you feel about climate action?

**Hopeful**

- Very ...............................................................28 46 44 23 15 18
- Somewhat..........................................................30 31 31 33 25 18
- A little..............................................................20 13 16 22 21 15
- Not at all.........................................................22 10 9 22 38 49

Total Agree.........................................................58 77 75 56 40 36
Total Disagree .....................................................42 23 25 20 60 64

**Motivated**

- Very ...............................................................27 52 46 23 12 15
- Somewhat..........................................................31 38 37 30 23 19
- A little..............................................................19 4 10 22 24 15
- Not at all.........................................................23 6 7 25 40 51

Total Agree.........................................................58 90 83 53 35 34
Total Disagree .....................................................42 10 17 20 65 66

**Alarmed**

- Very ...............................................................24 44 38 22 10 11
- Somewhat..........................................................27 28 30 29 22 21
- A little..............................................................21 11 16 21 26 19
- Not at all.........................................................28 16 15 29 42 50

Total Agree.........................................................51 72 69 50 32 31
Total Disagree .....................................................49 28 31 20 68 69

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**DEMOGRAPHICS DOUBLE CHECK**

**Political Party**

- Strong Republican: 14
- Republican: 28
- Independent: 37
- Democrat: 34
- Strong Democrat: 16

**Age**

- <18: 0
- 18-29: 24
- 30-44: 22
- 45-60: 38
- >60: 16

**Gender**

- Male: 46
- Female: 54

**Region**

- New England: 5
- Middle Atlantic: 11
- East North Central: 19
- West North Central: 8
- South Atlantic: 17
- East South Central: 7
- West South Central: 10
- Mountain: 6
- Pacific: 16
Methodology

ecoAmerica designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online October 14th, 2019 using Survey Monkey. The survey yielded a total of 849 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%. 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 points, or range from 47% to 53%.

Suggested Citation


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