

Americans Voice a Clear Call for Health Professionals to Lead on Climate

OVERVIEW

There is a clear and urgent opportunity for the health sector to inform and support Americans on climate change as a matter of health, according to ecoAmerica's latest American Climate Perspectives Survey (ACPS) 2024.

With record-breaking heat last July, there is a [98% likelihood that 2023-2027 will be the hottest five-year period on record](#), signaling the urgency for climate action. Escalating humanitarian crises due to extreme weather events like heatwaves, wildfires, floods, and hurricanes threaten to [reverse decades of health progress](#). Climate change poses multifaceted threats to human health, increasing the risk of illness, injury, and death through direct exposure to extreme weather and the spread of infectious diseases. Hazards such as air and water pollution compromise essential resources like air, water, and food, endangering public health. Moreover, the psychological toll of climate-related disasters exacerbates mental health challenges. Additionally, climate health risks [disproportionately impact the most vulnerable populations](#), raising equity and justice concerns.

Against this backdrop, ecoAmerica's survey captures a growing awareness among Americans about the health impacts of climate change. 70% of Americans have heard that climate change can affect their health. However, more Americans acknowledge the health impacts on others (69%) than themselves (46%), likely due to cognitive dissonance.

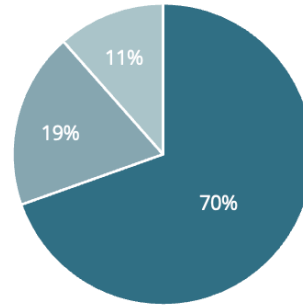
Fairness factors into American climate attitudes, most notably regarding the disproportionate health impacts of climate change on younger generations. Over three-quarters (77%) of Americans believe it is unfair that young people will encounter more extreme impacts than older people. There is similar sentiment (71%) regarding lower income people, and similar still (66%), yet with notable differences across political affiliations regarding Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

The survey also finds that the health sector and local health professionals can play a larger role in educating people about health and climate connection. Most Americans (69%) trust health professionals for climate health information and, 61% want to learn how to protect their health from adverse climate effects such as poor air quality, extreme heat, or severe storms. By disseminating accurate information and guidance across a variety of mediums (including direct conversations), the health sector can empower Americans to protect their health from climate-related risks and advocate for broader systemic changes to address climate change in inclusive, just, and equitable ways.

Majority of Americans Link Climate Change to Health

Most Americans have heard that climate change can affect health. The survey finds that 70% have heard this, while 11% are unsure. Only a small proportion, 19%, say no.

Climate Change Affects Health: 70% of Americans say Yes. Survey question: Have you heard that climate change can affect your health? 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



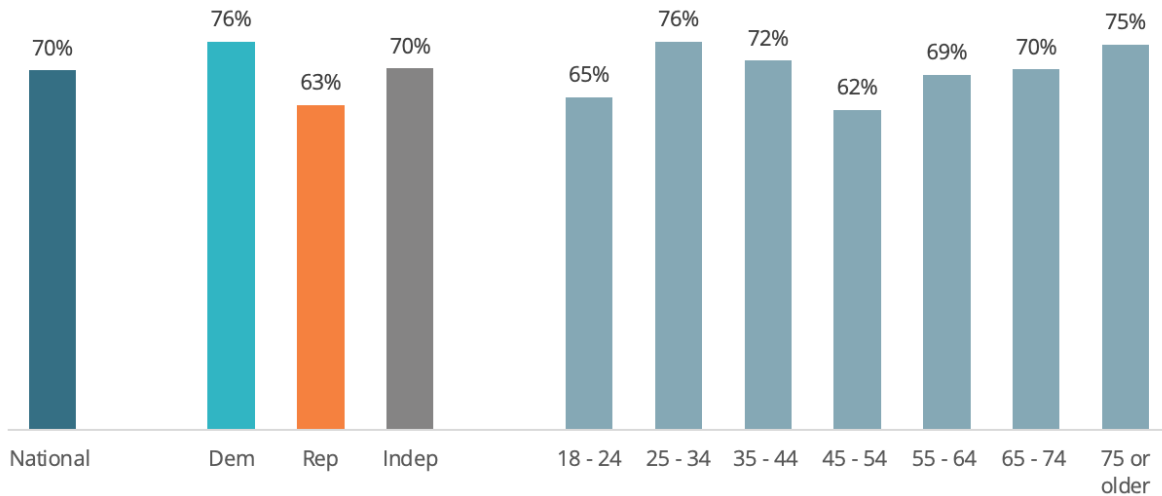
■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure/Don't Remember

This pie chart shows that nationally, 70% of Americans say “yes” they have heard that climate change can affect their health. 19% say no, while 11% are unsure or don’t remember.

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This consensus is observed across party lines and age groups. 76% of Democrats, 63% of Republicans, and 70% of Independents have heard climate change can affect health. Similarly, most (>60%) across all age groups are aware of this.

Majorities of Americans are aware that climate change can affect their health. Survey question: Have you heard that climate change can affect your health? “Yes”. 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.

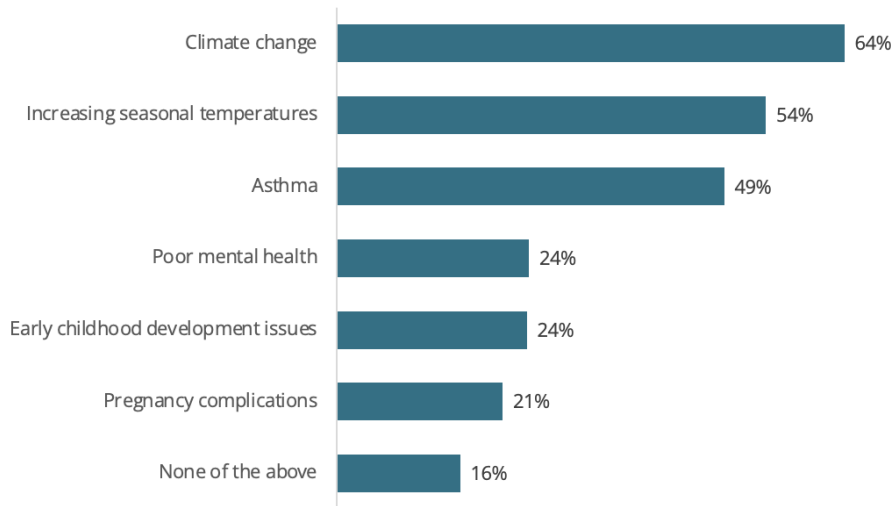


This chart shows that nationally, 70% of Americans say “yes” they have heard that climate change can affect their health. 76% of Democrats, 63% of Republicans, and 70% of Independents say “yes” they have heard that climate change can affect their health. 65% of Americans aged 18-24, 76% aged 25-34, 72% aged 35-44, 62% aged 45-54, 69% aged 55-64, 70% aged 65-74, and 75% 75 years or older, say “yes” they have heard that climate change can affect their health.

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Moreover, the ecoAmerica survey reveals that 64% of Americans link climate change to burning fossil fuels and air pollution. About half associate burning fossil fuels and air pollution with increasing seasonal temperatures (54%) and asthma (49%). However, fewer connect poor mental health, early childhood development issues, and pregnancy complications to these factors. This presents an educational opportunity for health professionals to offer guidance on the breadth of health impacts of burning fossil fuels and climate change.

Majority of Americans relate climate change to burning fossil fuels and air pollution. Survey question: Do you think that any of the following are related to burning fossil fuels and air pollution 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



This chart shows that nationally, 64% of Americans think that climate change is related to burning fossil fuels and air pollution. 54% think that increasing seasonal temperatures is related to burning fossil fuels and air pollution. 49% think that asthma is related to burning fossil fuels and air pollution. 24% think that poor mental health, another 24% think that early childhood development issues and 21% think that pregnancy complications are related to burning fossil fuels and air pollution. 16% of Americans do not think any of the listed issues are related to burning fossil fuels and air pollution.

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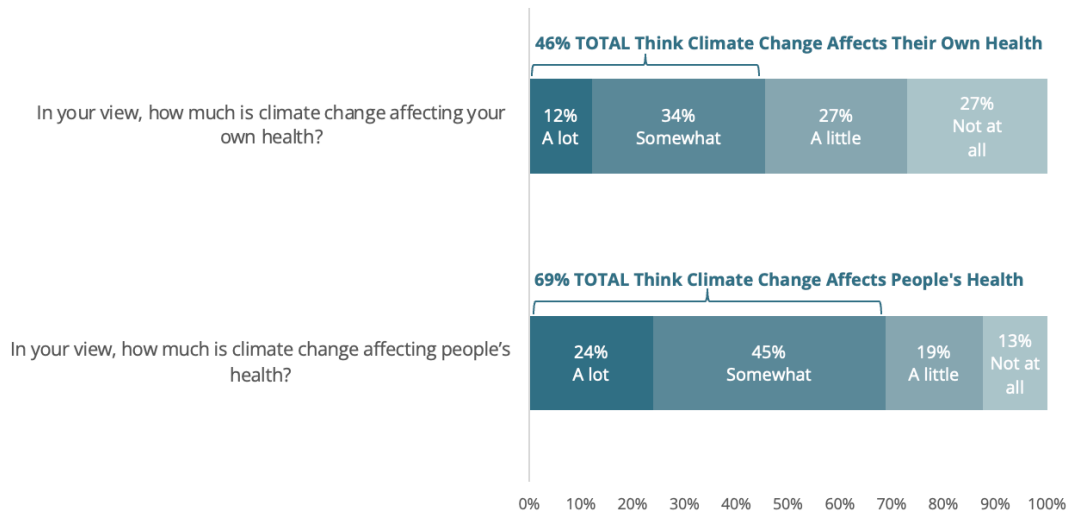
Americans See Climate Change More as A Health Risk for Others vs. Themselves

Just less than half (46%) of Americans believe climate change affects their health, with 12% saying “a lot” and 34% saying “somewhat.” Adding in the 27% who say climate change affects their health “a little” brings the total to 73%. Over a quarter (27%) believe climate change does not affect their health at all.

While these findings suggest that Americans are beginning to see the impacts on their own health, they also show that many more think climate change affects people’s health in general. Twice as many Americans (24%) believe climate change affects people’s health “a lot,” and 45% believe it affects people’s health “somewhat,” totaling 69%, a 23-point increase versus beliefs regarding personal health impacts. Adding in the 19% saying it affects others’ health “a little,” totals 88%.

Cognitive dissonance theory may explain why people hold distorted perceptions and believe others are more affected by climate change than themselves.¹ Effective communication by healthcare professionals could play a key role in reducing this dissonance by highlighting climate change impacts on personal health in communities and underscoring the urgency of local climate action.

Perceptions of Climate Change Impact on Health: Self vs. Others. Survey questions: 1) In your view, how much is climate change affecting your own health? 2) In your view, how much is climate change affecting people’s health? 1,006 national respondents. Showing total agree +/- 3% margin of error.



This chart shows that nationally, 46% of Americans think climate change is affecting their own health, whereas 69% of Americans think that climate change is affecting people’s health.

12% of Americans say that climate change is affecting their own health “a lot,” 34% say “somewhat,” 27% say “a little,” and another 27% say “not at all.”

24% of Americans say that climate change is affecting people’s health “a lot,” 45% say “somewhat,” 19% say “a little,” and another 13% say “not at all.”

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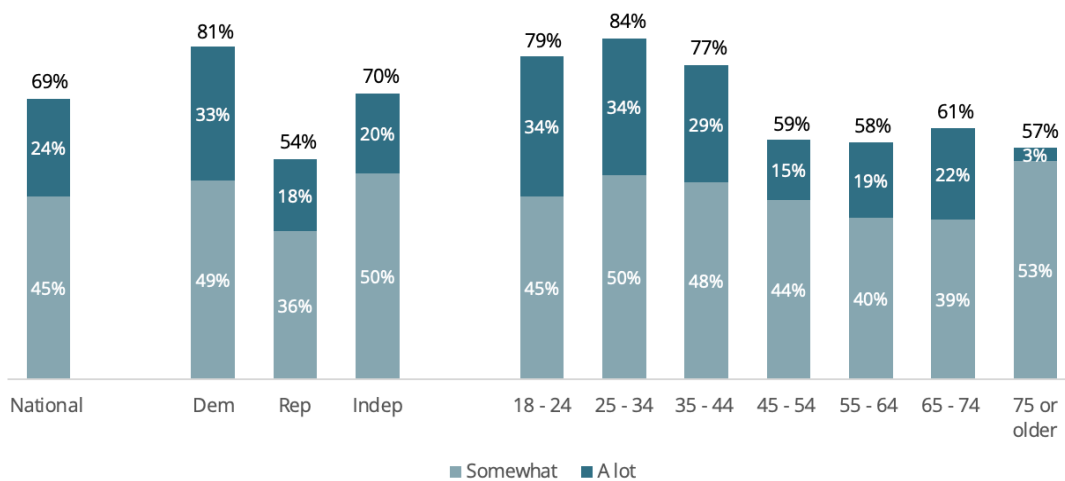
1 Katharina van Baal, Stephanie Stiel, and Peter Schulte, “Public Perceptions of Climate Change and Health—a Cross-Sectional Survey Study,” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 20, no. 2 (January 13, 2023): 1464, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20021464>.

Majority Across Party Lines and Ages Agree: Climate Change *Is* Affecting People’s Health

Across party lines, a majority of Democrats (81%) believe that climate change is affecting people’s health, while over half of Republicans (54%) believe the same. 70% of Independents agree. Well over half of Americans across ages understand that climate change is affecting people’s health, with people under 45 years old showing the strongest understanding. These results indicate that there are opportunities to boost climate and health understanding amongst Republicans and with people ages 45 and older.

Most Americans across party and age believe that climate change is affecting people’s health.

Survey question: In your view, how much is climate change affecting people’s health? 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



This chart shows that nationally, 69% of Americans think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 24% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 45% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

81% of Democrats think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 33% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 49% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

54% of Republicans think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 18% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 36% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

70% of Independents think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 20% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 50% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

79% aged 18-24 think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 34% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 45% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

84% aged 25-34 think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 34% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 50% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

77% aged 35-44 think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 29% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 48% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

59% aged 45-54 think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 15% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 44% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

58% aged 55-64 think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 19% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 40% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

61% aged 65-74 think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 22% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 39% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

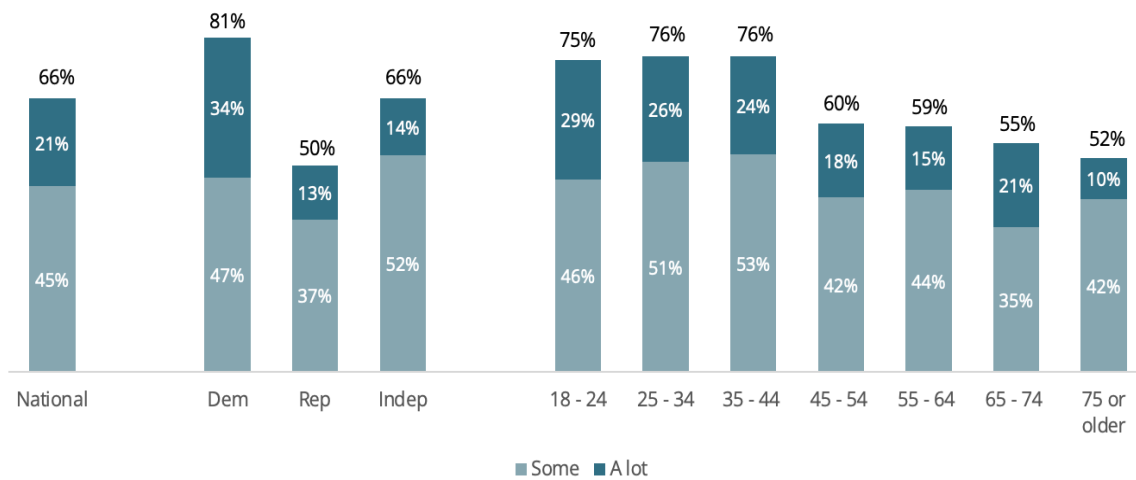
57% aged 75 or older think that climate change is affecting people’s health, with 3% saying it affects people’s health “a lot” and 53% saying it affects people’s health “somewhat.”

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Politics and Age Shape Trust of Climate and Health Information

ecoAmerica finds that most Americans (66%) trust the information they receive about the health effects of climate change. The trust in climate health information remains relatively strong across demographics, however, there are notable differences across political affiliation and age groups. 81% of Democrats, 50% of Republicans, and 66% of Independents trust the information they receive about the health effects of climate change. Over half of Americans across all age groups trust the health information they receive about climate change, however, people under 45 years of age report considerably higher levels of trust.

Politics and Age Shape Trust of Climate and Health Information. Survey question: How much do you trust the information you have received about the health effects climate change? 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



This chart shows that nationally, 66% of Americans trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 21% saying they trust the information “a lot” and 45% saying they trust the information “some.”

81% of Democrats trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 34% saying “a lot” and 47% saying “some.”

50% of Republicans trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 13% saying “a lot” and 37% saying “some.”

66% of Independents trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 14% saying “a lot” and 52% saying “some.”

75% aged 18-24 trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 29% saying “a lot” and 46% saying “some.”

76% aged 25-34 trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 26% saying “a lot” and 51% saying “some.”

76% aged 35-44 trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 24% saying “a lot” and 53% saying “some.”

60% aged 45-54 trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 18% saying “a lot” and 42% saying “some.”

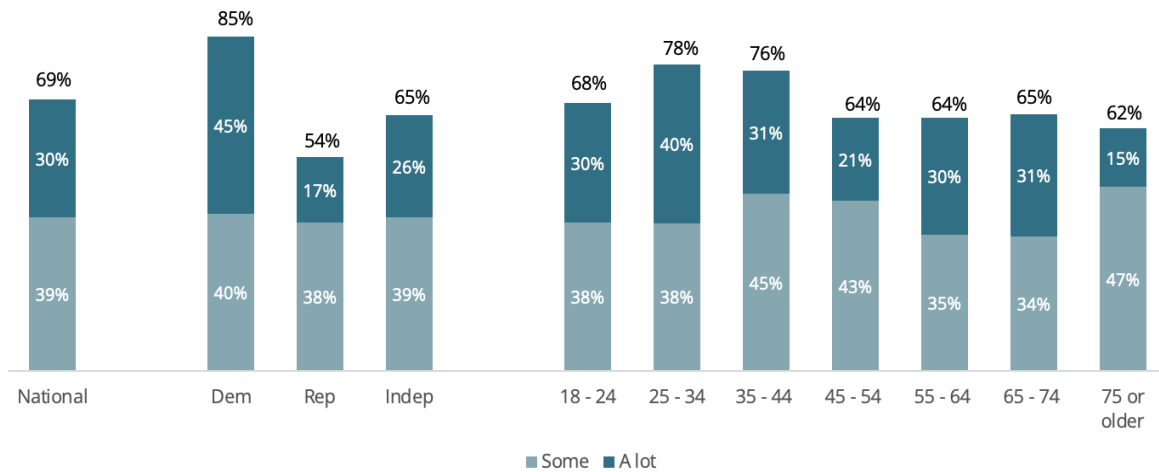
59% aged 55-64 trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 15% saying “a lot” and 44% saying “some.”

55% aged 65-74 trust the information they have received about the health effects of climate change, with 21% saying “a lot” and 35% saying “some.”

Some good news for the health sector: ecoAmerica’s survey reveals a stronger trust in information about the health effects of climate change when it is delivered through health professionals. 69% of Americans trust health professionals for climate change information, with 85% of Democrats, 54% of Republicans, and 65% of Independents reporting this level of trust. Across ages, an encouraging majority (>60%) trust health professionals for information on climate change, which is of particular note in people ages 45 and older.

Majority of Americans trust health professionals for climate change information across party and age.

Survey question: As a source of information about climate change, how much do you trust health professionals?? 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



This chart shows that nationally, 69% of Americans trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 30% saying “a lot” and 39% saying “some.”

85% of Democrats trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 45% saying “a lot” and 40% saying “some.”

54% of Republicans trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 17% saying “a lot” and 38% saying “some.”

65% of Independents trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 26% saying “a lot” and 39% saying “some.”

68% aged 18-24 trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 30% saying “a lot” and 38% saying “some.”

78% aged 25-34 trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 40% saying “a lot” and 38% saying “some.”

76% aged 35-44 trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 31% saying “a lot” and 45% saying “some.”

64% aged 45-54 trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 21% saying “a lot” and 43% saying “some.”

64% aged 55-64 trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 30% saying “a lot” and 35% saying “some.”

65% aged 65-74 trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 31% saying “a lot” and 34% saying “some.”

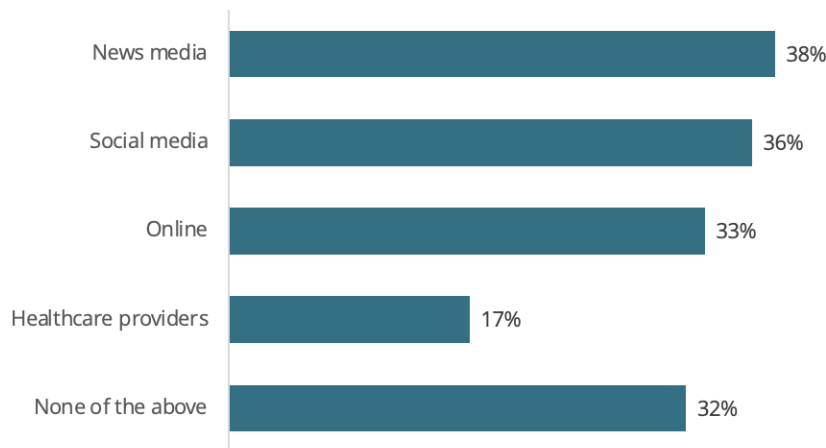
62% aged 75 or older trust health professionals as a source of information about climate change, with 15% saying “a lot” and 47% saying “some.”

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Few Americans are Hearing about Climate and Health, but Most Want to

Too few Americans are hearing about climate and health. Only a little over a third of Americans report receiving information about climate change and its health effects from news and social media or online. Fewer still (17%) report receiving similar information from healthcare providers.

Too few Americans Are Hearing About Climate and Health Across Sources. Survey question: Have you ever received information about climate change and its health effects from any of the following? 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



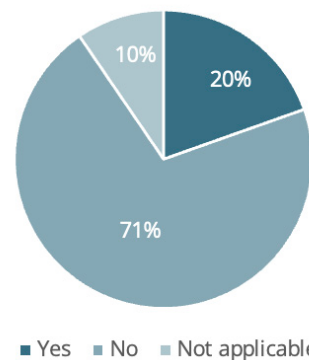
This chart shows that nationally, 38% of Americans have received information about climate change and its health effects from news media, 36% from social media, 33% from online, 17% from healthcare providers, and 32% from none of the listed sources.

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Only one-fifth of Americans have discussed the health effects of climate change with a doctor or other healthcare provider. As climate and health impacts accelerate, more Americans will be seeking guidance from health professionals, pointing to the need to be ready with information and support.

One-fifth of Americans have discussed climate change health effects with healthcare providers.

Survey question: Have you ever discussed the health effects of climate change with a doctor or other health care provider? 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.

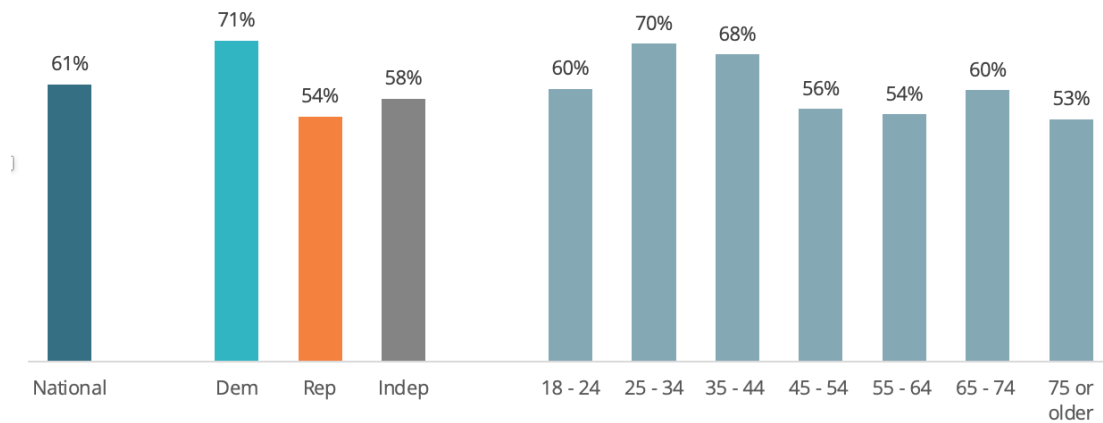


This pie chart shows that nationally, 20% of Americans say “yes” when asked if they have ever discussed the health effects of climate change with a doctor or other healthcare provider, 71% say “no,” and the remaining 10% choose “not applicable.”

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Climate change effects such as poor air quality, extreme heat, and severe storms can impact people’s health, resulting in respiratory illness, heat stroke, and mental health stress, among a breadth of health issues. ecoAmerica’s survey finds that most Americans (61%) want to learn how to protect their health from these effects. This sentiment holds across demographics: 71% of Democrats, 54% of Republicans, and 58% of Independents want to learn more about how to protect their health from adverse climate change effects. Similarly, over half of all age groups (>50%) express interest in learning about protecting their health from climate change impacts. These findings reinforce the urgent opportunity for the health sector to invest in efforts to train health professionals and educate their patients and the public on how to care for their personal and familial health as our climate changes.

Over Half of Americans Interested in Learning Health Protection from Climate Change Effects. Survey question: Climate change effects such as poor air quality, extreme heat, and severe storms can impact people’s health resulting in respiratory illness, heat stroke, and mental health issues. Do you want to learn about how to protect your health from poor air quality, extreme heat or severe storms? “Yes”. 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.

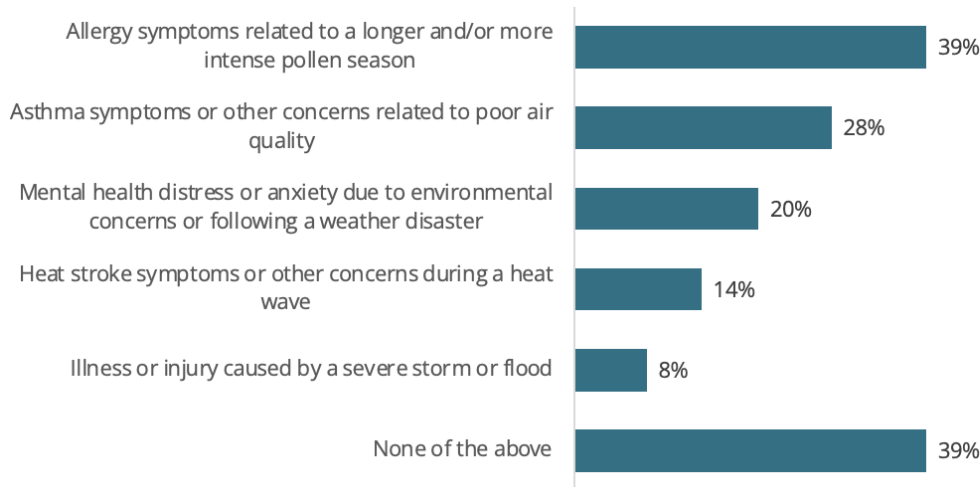


This chart shows that nationally, 61% of Americans say “yes” they want to learn about how to protect their health from poor air quality, extreme heat, or severe storms. 71% of Democrats, 54% of Republicans, and 58% of Independents say “yes” they want to learn about how to protect their health from poor air quality, extreme heat, or severe storms. 60% of Americans aged 18-24, 70% aged 25-34, 68% aged 35-44, 56% aged 45-54, 54% aged 55-64, 60% aged 65-74, and 53% aged 75 or older say “yes” they want to learn about how to protect their health from poor air quality, extreme heat, or severe storms.

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Whether they realize it or not, significant numbers of Americans are already visiting the doctor for reasons that can be connected to a changing climate. Nearly 2 in 5 (39%) of Americans have or have known someone who has visited a doctor for allergy symptoms related to a longer and/or more intense pollen season, over a quarter (28%) due to asthma symptoms or other concerns related to poor air quality, and fully one fifth (20%) due to environmentally-related mental distress or anxiety.

Americans Report Environmental Health Reasons for Doctor Visits. Survey question: Have you or someone you know ever visited the doctor for any of the following?. 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.

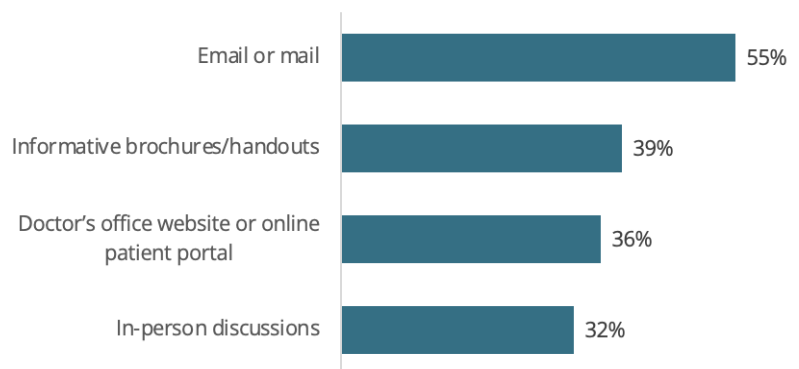


This chart shows that nationally, 39% of Americans have or have known someone who has visited the doctor for allergy symptoms related to a longer and/or more intense pollen season, 28% for asthma symptoms or other concerns related to poor air quality, 20% for mental health distress or anxiety due to environmental concerns or following a weather disaster, 14% for heat stroke symptoms or other concerns during a heat wave, 8% for illness or injury caused by a severe storm or flood, and 39% for none of the reasons listed above.

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And, there are a variety of ways health professionals and providers can provide information and guidance to Americans on climate and health. Survey respondents reported interest in receiving information via email or mail (55%), informative brochures/handouts (39%), doctor’s office website or online patient portal (36%), and in-person discussions (32%).

Preferred Methods for Receiving Climate Information from Healthcare Providers. Survey question: How would you like to receive information from your healthcare provider about poor air quality, extreme heat or severe storms? 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



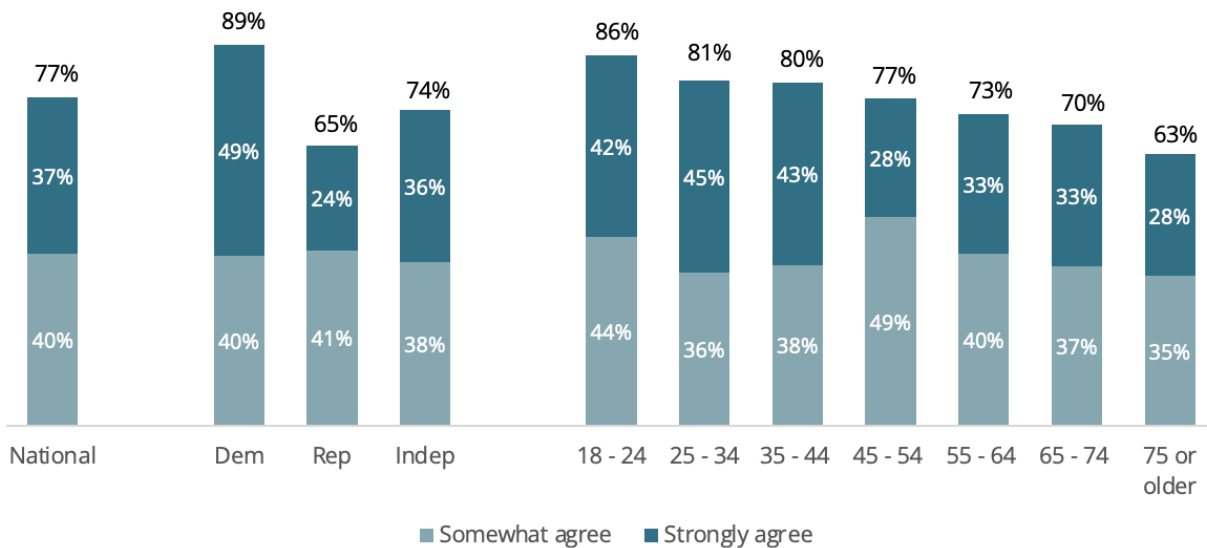
This chart shows that nationally, 55% of Americans would like to receive information from their healthcare provider about poor air quality, extreme heat, or severe storms through email or mail, 39% through informative brochures/handouts, 36% through doctor’s office website or online patient portal, and 32% through in-person discussions.

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How do Americans View Fairness and Equity in Climate Change Impacts?

ecoAmerica’s survey reveals that a majority of Americans (77%, 37% strongly) believe it’s unfair that younger people face greater impacts from climate change, such as extreme heat, severe storms, and poor air quality, compared to older people. This sentiment holds across political affiliations and age groups. Specifically, 89% of Democrats, 65% of Republicans, and 74% of Independents find this disparity unfair. Strong agreement (>80%) is observed among younger age groups, with overall consensus persisting across all ages in strong majorities.

Americans Agree: Unfair for Young People to Face Disproportionate Climate Impact. Survey question: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement. “It’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people?” 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



This chart shows that nationally, 77% of Americans agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 37% strongly agreeing and 40% somewhat agreeing.

89% of Democrats agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 49% strongly agreeing and 40% somewhat agreeing. 65% of Republicans agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 24% strongly agreeing and 41% somewhat agreeing. 74% of Independents agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 36% strongly agreeing and 38% somewhat agreeing.

86% aged 18-24 agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 42% strongly agreeing and 44% somewhat agreeing.

81% aged 25-34 agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 45% strongly agreeing and 36% somewhat agreeing.

80% aged 35-44 agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 43% strongly agreeing and 38% somewhat agreeing.

77% aged 45-54 agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 28% strongly agreeing and 49% somewhat agreeing.

73% aged 55-64 agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 33% strongly agreeing and 40% somewhat agreeing.

70% aged 65-74 agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 33% strongly agreeing and 37% somewhat agreeing.

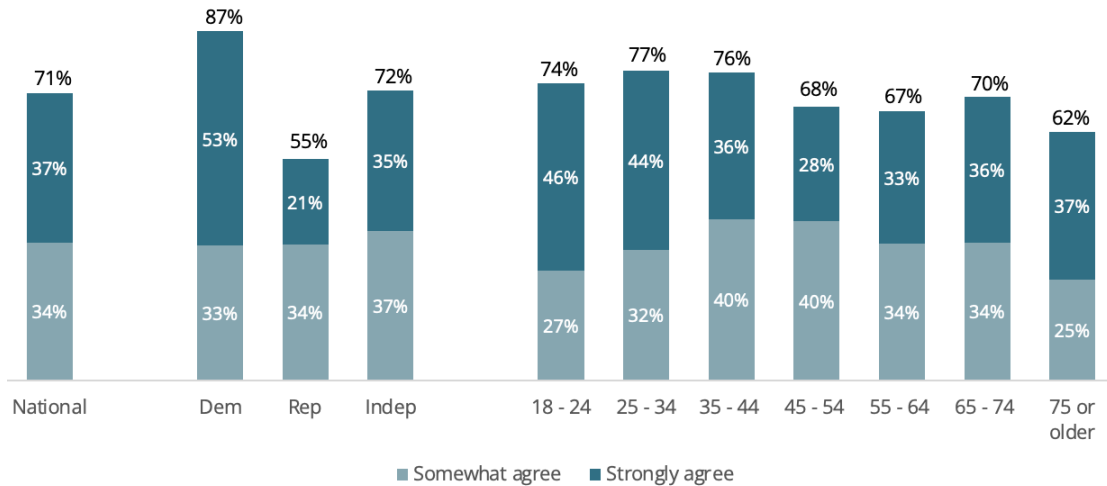
63% aged 75 or older agree it’s not fair that young people will live with more extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than older people, with 28% strongly agreeing and 35% somewhat agreeing.

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Moreover, most Americans (71%) agree it’s unfair that lower-income people are more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people. This consensus spans party lines and age groups. 87% of Democrats, 55% of Republicans, and 72% of Independents find the economic disparity inherent in climate change impacts unfair. Similarly, most Americans (>60%) across all ages recognize the unfair climate change impacts on lower-income individuals.

Americans Agree: Unfair for Lower-Income People to Face Disproportionate Climate Impact.

Survey question: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement. “It’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people.” 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



This chart shows that nationally, 71% of Americans agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 37% strongly and 34% somewhat agreeing.

87% of Democrats agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 53% strongly and 33% somewhat agreeing.

55% of Republicans agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 21% strongly and 34% somewhat agreeing.

72% of Independents agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 35% strongly and 37% somewhat agreeing.

74% aged 18-24 agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 46% strongly and 27% somewhat agreeing.

77% aged 25-34 agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 44% strongly and 32% somewhat agreeing.

76% aged 35-44 agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 36% strongly and 40% somewhat agreeing.

68% aged 45-54 agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 28% strongly and 40% somewhat agreeing.

67% aged 55-64 agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 33% strongly and 34% somewhat agreeing.

70% aged 65-74 agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 36% strongly and 34% somewhat agreeing.

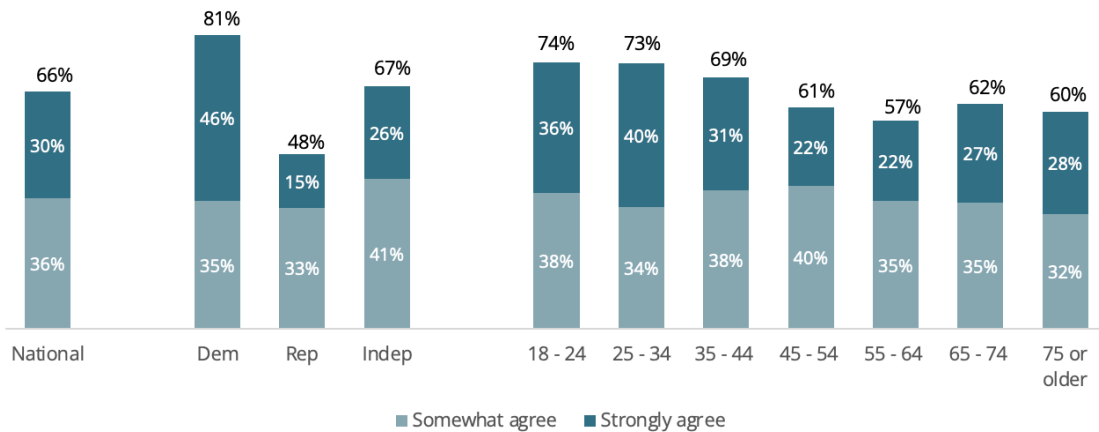
62% aged 75 or older agree it’s not fair that lower-income people are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than wealthy people, with 37% strongly and 25% somewhat agreeing.

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Furthermore, most Americans (66%) agree it’s unfair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts compared to White Americans. Across party lines, a majority of Democrats (81%) and Independents (67%) agree, but only less than half of Republicans (48%) agree it is unfair. Similarly, overall agreement (>55%) persists across age groups; however, higher percentages of people under 45 years of age recognize this injustice compared to those ages 45 and older. These findings underscore the need for further education and awareness to illuminate the racial injustices inherent in climate change impacts, particularly emphasizing the disproportionate burden on communities of color and the increasingly intertwined justice implications.

American Sentiment on Fairness of Climate Impacts on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Survey question: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement. “It’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people.” 1,006 national respondents. +/- 3% margin of error.



This chart shows that nationally, 66% of Americans agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 30% strongly and 36% somewhat agreeing.

81% of Democrats agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 46% strongly and 35% somewhat agreeing.

48% of Republicans agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 15% strongly and 33% somewhat agreeing.

67% of Independents agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 26% strongly and 41% somewhat agreeing.

74% aged 18-24 agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 36% strongly and 38% somewhat agreeing.

73% aged 25-34 agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 40% strongly and 34% somewhat agreeing.

69% aged 35-44 agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 31% strongly and 38% somewhat agreeing.

61% aged 45-54 agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 22% strongly and 40% somewhat agreeing.

57% aged 55-64 agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 22% strongly and 35% somewhat agreeing.

62% aged 65-74 agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 27% strongly and 35% somewhat agreeing.

60% aged 75 and older agree it’s not fair that Black, Indigenous, and people of color are often more impacted by extreme heat, severe storms, or poor air quality than white people, with 28% strongly and 32% somewhat agreeing.

Conclusion: A Critical Opportunity for Health Leadership on Climate Actions

ecoAmerica's American Climate Perspectives Survey highlights broad public awareness of the health impacts of climate change and trust in healthcare professionals as key information sources and guides. With record-breaking temperatures and extreme weather events increasingly threatening people's health, the health sector, and health professionals in particular, possess the wherewithal and permission to advance efforts — locally, regionally, and nationally — to lead in educating and guiding all Americans to understand and care for their health in response. Equally essential is for the health sector and professionals to elevate their roles in advocating for policies that alleviate and ameliorate the disproportionate burden of climate impacts on vulnerable populations by promoting inclusion and equitable climate solutions that safeguard health and secure a thriving future for all.

Full data is available in the accompanying [toplines](#).

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Methodology

ecoAmerica designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online on February 26-27, 2024, using Survey Monkey. The survey yielded a total of 1,006 complete adult responses and used the Census Bureau's American Community Survey to weigh the national general population and reflect the demographic composition of the US. 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 errors. Thus, the results of a survey may differ from the results that would be obtained if the entire population were 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 1,006 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%.

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