

Climate Change in the American Mind: Americans' Global Warming Beliefs and Attitudes in June 2010

Interview dates: May 14, 2010 – June 1, 2010

Interviews: 1,024 Adults (18+)

Margin of error: +/- 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Totals may occasionally sum to more than 100 percent due to rounding.

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<http://environment.yale.edu/climate/files/ClimateBeliefsJune2010.pdf>

(Questions 1-46 to be released at a later date.)

Q47. Recently, you may have noticed that global warming has been getting some attention in the news. Global warming refers to the idea that the world's average temperature has been increasing over the past 150 years, may be increasing more in the future, and that the world's climate may change as a result. What do you think? Do you think that global warming is happening?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Yes	61	57	71
No	18	20	10
Don't Know	21	23	19

People who answered yes to question 47 (i.e. those who believe global warming is happening) were asked the following question.

Q48. How sure are you that global warming is happening?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Extremely sure	20	24	35
Very sure	37	35	37
Somewhat sure	40	37	24
Not at all sure	3	5	4

People who answered no to question 47 (i.e. those who do not believe global warming is happening) were asked the following question.

Q49. How sure are you that global warming is not happening?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Extremely sure	20	28	26
Very sure	31	31	28
Somewhat sure	44	34	38
Not at all sure	4	7	8

Q50. Assuming global warming is happening, do you think it is...

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Caused mostly by human activities	50	47	57
Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment	34	36	32
None of the above because global warming isn't happening	6	9	4
Caused by both human activities and natural changes (volunteered)	7	6	5
Other	1	1	1
Don't know (volunteered)	1	1	1

(Questions 51-58 to be released at a later date.)

Q59. Which comes closer to your own view?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Most scientists think global warming is happening	34	34	47
Most scientists think global warming is not happening	4	5	3
There is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether or not global warming is happening	45	40	33
Don't know enough to say	17	22	18

Q60. How worried are you about global warming?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Very worried	12	12	17
Somewhat worried	41	38	46
Not very worried	30	27	24
Not at all worried	18	23	13

Q61. How concerned are you about the impact of global warming on your health? (Measured on a scale from 1-7, with one being "not at all concerned" and seven being "extremely concerned".)

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Seven (Extremely concerned)	8	7	-
Six	9	7	-
Five	14	14	-
Four	22	17	-
Three	9	12	-
Two	14	13	-
One (Not at all concerned)	25	29	-

Q62. How much do you think global warming will harm you personally?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A great deal	10	14	10
A moderate amount	21	23	22
Only a little	27	22	24
Not at all	24	31	22
Don't know	18	11	23

Q63. How much do you think global warming will harm your family?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A great deal	11	15	11
A moderate amount	25	25	24
Only a little	24	21	23
Not at all	21	28	19
Don't know	19	11	23

Q64. How much do you think global warming will harm people in your community?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A great deal	11	15	13
A moderate amount	25	27	26
Only a little	24	22	20
Not at all	21	24	17
Don't know	19	12	23

Q65. How much do you think global warming will harm people in the United States?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A great deal	16	22	21
A moderate amount	28	29	28
Only a little	22	16	15
Not at all	17	22	14
Don't know	18	12	22

Q66. How much do you think global warming will harm people in other modern industrialized countries?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A great deal	17	23	22
A moderate amount	28	29	28
Only a little	21	16	13
Not at all	15	19	13
Don't know	18	13	24

Q67. How much do you think global warming will harm people in developing countries?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A great deal	22	29	31
A moderate amount	28	25	22
Only a little	17	14	11
Not at all	15	19	13
Don't know	18	13	24

Q68. How much do you think global warming will harm future generations of people?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A great deal	39	42	44
A moderate amount	22	22	17
Only a little	11	9	7
Not at all	12	15	10
Don't know	16	12	22

Q69. How much do you think global warming will harm plant and animal species?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A great deal	40	43	45
A moderate amount	21	19	17
Only a little	12	11	8
Not at all	13	15	9
Don't know	15	12	20

Q70. When do you think global warming will start to harm people in the United States?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
They are being harmed now	29	25	34
In 10 years	12	12	13
In 25 years	12	14	13
In 50 years	13	13	13
In 100 years	15	13	12
Never	19	23	15

Q71. When do you think global warming will start to harm other people around the world?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
They are being harmed now	32	28	38
In 10 years	11	13	13
In 25 years	13	12	12
In 50 years	12	12	12
In 100 years	13	13	11
Never	18	22	14

Q72. How much had you thought about global warming before today?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A lot	18	15	20
Some	37	31	35
A little	32	36	33
Not at all	13	18	12

Q73. How important is the issue of global warming to you personally?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Extremely important	6	5	11
Very important	18	15	21
Somewhat important	39	38	40
Not too important	24	23	18
Not at all important	14	20	11

Q74. On some issues people feel that they have all the information they need in order to form a firm opinion, while on other issues they would like more information before making up their mind. For global warming, where would you place yourself?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
I need a lot more information	20	22	30
I need some more information	27	23	30
I need a little more information	29	26	22
I do not need any more information	24	29	18

Q75. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “I could easily change my mind about global warming.”

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly agree	5	5	5
Somewhat agree	32	30	28
Somewhat disagree	36	31	34
Strongly disagree	27	34	34

(Questions 76-134 to be released at a later date.)

Q135. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Humans can reduce global warming, and we are going to do so successfully	5	10	6
Humans could reduce global warming, but it's unclear at this point whether we will do what's needed	47	45	51
Humans could reduce global warming, but people aren't willing to change their behavior, so we're not going to	21	17	22
Humans can't reduce global warming, even if it is happening	18	15	16
Global warming isn't happening	10	13	5

(Questions 137-160 to be released at a later date.)

Q161. How much do you trust or distrust the following as a source of information about global warming?

Television weather reporters

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly trust	5	5	6
Somewhat trust	56	51	60
Somewhat distrust	28	30	25
Strongly distrust	11	14	10

The mainstream news media

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly trust	3	3	4
Somewhat trust	42	33	43
Somewhat distrust	34	35	33
Strongly distrust	22	29	20

Scientists

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly trust	26	22	28
Somewhat trust	55	52	54
Somewhat distrust	15	19	14
Strongly distrust	4	7	4

Religious leaders

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly trust	4	6	5
Somewhat trust	38	39	43
Somewhat distrust	32	34	30
Strongly distrust	26	21	22

(Questions 162-234 to be released at a later date.)

Q235. The actions of a single individual won't make any difference in global warming.

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly agree	13	17	9
Somewhat agree	29	29	22
Somewhat disagree	43	37	45
Strongly disagree	15	17	24

Q236. I have personally experienced the effects of global warming.

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly agree	5	5	4
Somewhat agree	25	21	29
Somewhat disagree	35	35	43
Strongly disagree	35	40	24

Q237. New technologies can solve global warming, without individuals having to make big changes in their lives.

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly agree	6	6	4
Somewhat agree	33	42	26
Somewhat disagree	40	33	46
Strongly disagree	21	19	25

Q238. Most of my friends are trying to act in ways that reduce global warming.

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly agree	5	5	4
Somewhat agree	47	43	44
Somewhat disagree	36	37	40
Strongly disagree	12	14	11

Q238A. With the economy in such bad shape, the US can't afford to reduce global warming.

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly agree	13	-	-
Somewhat agree	30	-	-
Somewhat disagree	42	-	-
Strongly disagree	15	-	-

Q238B. The record snowstorms this winter in the eastern United States make me question whether global warming is occurring.

	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly agree	17	-	-
Somewhat agree	35	-	-
Somewhat disagree	29	-	-
Strongly disagree	20	-	-

Methodology

These results come from nationally representative surveys of American adults, aged 18 and older. The samples were weighted to correspond with US Census Bureau parameters for the United States. The surveys were designed by Anthony Leiserowitz of Yale University and Edward Maibach and Connie Roser-Renouf of George Mason University and conducted by Knowledge Networks, using an online research panel of American adults.

- June 2010: Fielded May 14 through June 1 with 1,024 American adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent, with 95 percent confidence.
- January 2010: Fielded December 24, 2009 through January 3, 2010 with 1,001 American adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent, with 95 percent confidence.
- November 2008: Fielded October 7 through November 12 with 2,164 American adults. Data was collected in two waves: wave 1 from October 7 through October 20 and wave 2 from October 24 through November 12. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2 percent, with 95 percent confidence.