

This activity is inspired by the New York Times [What's Going On in This Graph?](#) feature and offers you the chance to practice your data interpretation skills with Global Warming's Six Americas data.

What are Global Warming's Six Americas? They are six unique audiences within the American public that each responds to issues of global warming and climate change in their own distinct way:

GLOBAL WARMING'S SIX AMERICAS



Alarmed: Fully convinced of the reality and seriousness of climate change and are already taking action to address it.



Concerned: Convinced that global warming is happening and a serious problem, but have not yet engaged the issue personally.



Cautious: Not sure if climate change is real or human-caused. If it is real, this group believes that it is only a distant threat.



Disengaged: Do not have an opinion about climate change one way or the other, do not know a long about climate change, and do not believe it is an issue that is relevant to them.



Doubtful: Not likely to think that climate change is real or human-caused and likely to oppose climate change policies that cost them money (i.e. taxes).



Dismissive: Very sure climate change is not happening and actively oppose efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

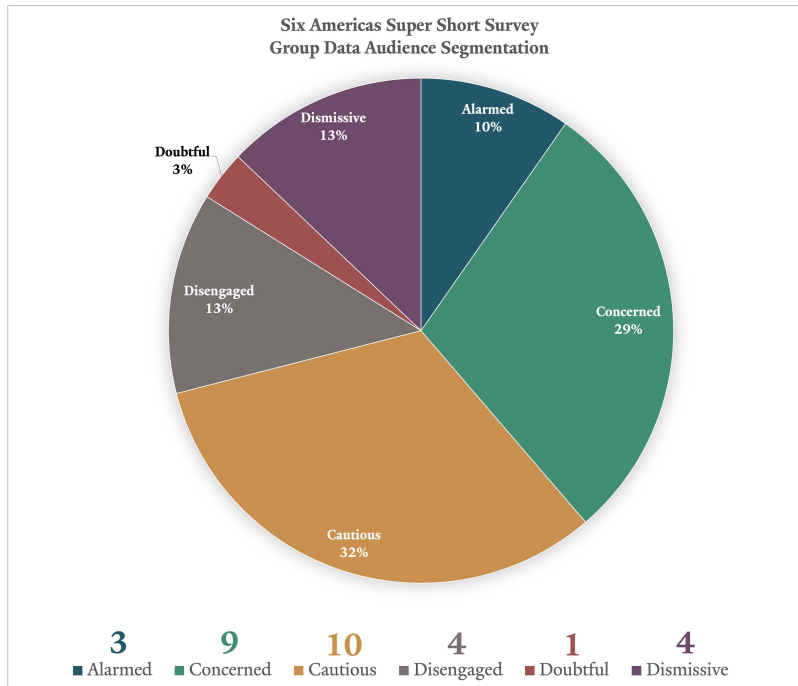
In addition to identifying the Six Americas, YPCCC has created a 4-question multiple choice survey that will tell you which of the Six Americas you are in: The Six Americas Super Short SurveY (SASSY), which you can find at <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/sassy/>

ACTIVITY

Use the graphs to answer the questions below.

A group of 31 people took the Six Americas Super Short Survey (SASSY). The pie chart below shows the breakdown of their results.

Figure 1.



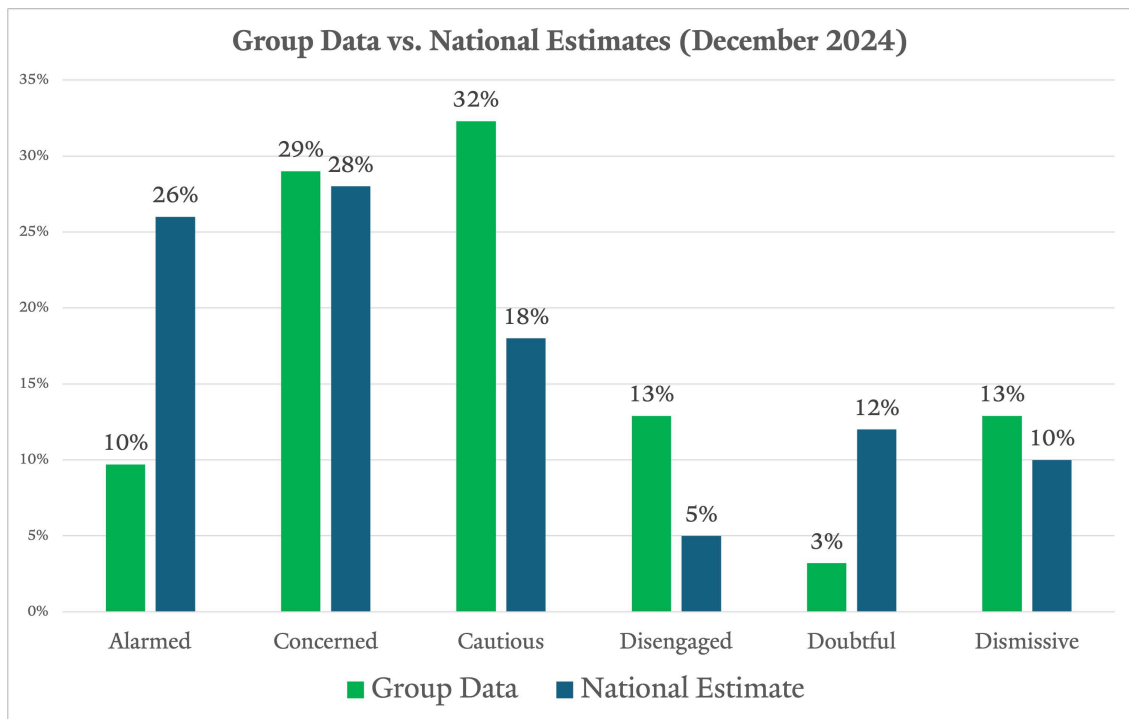
1 What are two things you notice?

2 What are two things you wonder based on what you notice? What are you curious about when you look at this pie chart?

3 What kind of data would you need to collect to answer one of your “wonders” (i.e. conduct interviews, take measurements, etc.)?

4 If your class, family, or community took the SASSY quiz, do you think their results would be similar or different from the results of this group of 31 people? Why or why not? (As a follow-up to this activity, you can actually give your class, family, or community members the SASSY quiz and test the accuracy of your predictions.)

Figure 2.



Here we can see the data from the group of 31 people (**Group Data**) compared to the data of America as a whole (**National Estimate**).

5 What would you label the x and y axes?

a. X axis: _____

b. Y axis: _____

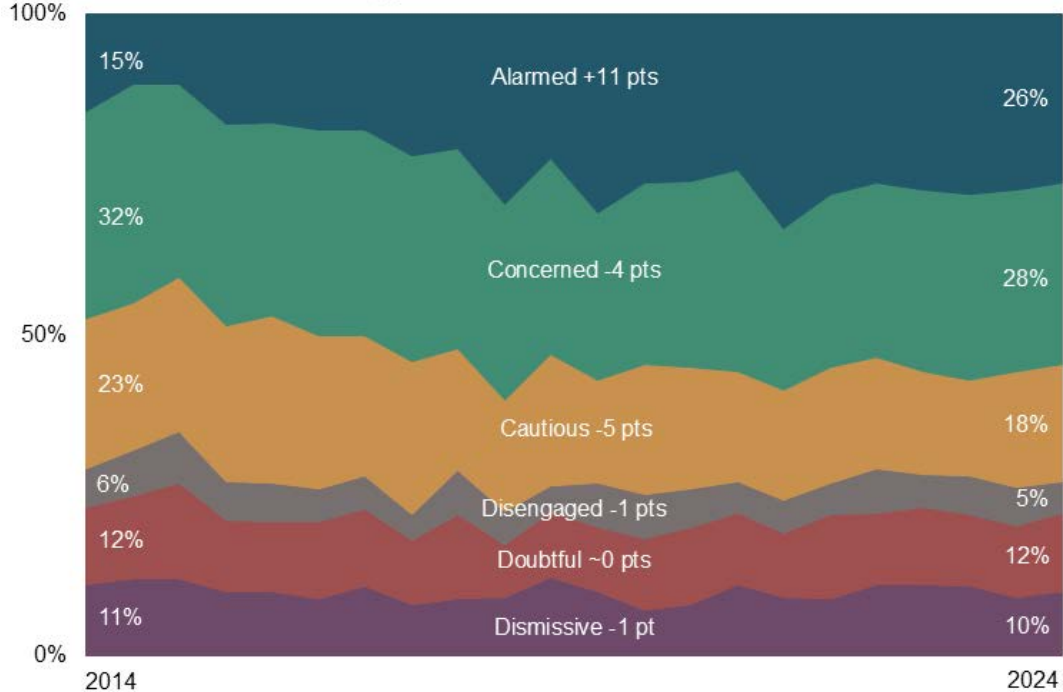
6 What are 2 things you notice about this bar graph? Use evidence to support your claims.

7 Now that we see the data from the original group and data from the nation side by side, what inferences might you make about the original group of 31 people? For example, where do you think they might live? How old might they be? What level of education do you think they may have? Do you think they are more likely to be conservative or liberal?

8 Now that we see the original group data and the nation's data side by side, does your answer to Question 4 change? Why or why not?

Now we will look at some national data with Figure 3, below.

Figure 3. Global Warming's Six Americas Over the Last Decade



Base: 25,537 U.S. adults. Data include 22 waves of national surveys spanning April 2014 – December 2024.
Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication;
George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication

9 What do you notice about this graph? Use evidence to support your claims.

10 What do you wonder based on what you notice? What does this graph make you curious to know?

11 What’s going on in this graph? In 1-3 sentences, describe what this graph is showing.

12 Label this graph

- a. X axis: _____
- b. Y axis: _____
- c. Catchy title: _____

13 As you can see from the graph, people change their beliefs about climate change over time. Which SASSY groups do you think people are changing their minds to over time? For example, do you think that people who were Dismissive in 2014 are Alarmed in 2024? Do you think that those who were Cautious in 2014 are Doubtful in 2024? Explain your thinking.

14 Do you think that this graph is an effective way to show how the SASSY groups have changed over time? Why or why not? Do you think there is a better way to convey this information (i.e. video, book, article, etc.)?

- 15 Display the data in Figure 1, 2, or 3 in a different way. You can represent the data in a different type of chart or graph, or through a different medium (i.e. art, a story, a comic, video, etc.). Explain why you decided to display the data in the way that you did.

EXTENSION SUGGESTIONS

- Use the NYT [What’s Going On in This Graph?](#) feature to continue practicing your graph interpretation skills.
- Give the [Six Americas Super Short Survey](#) to your family members, friends, or other members of your community to see which audience they fall into. Do they have the same attitude towards climate change as you do?

