

Nearly three quarters of Americans believe humans can reduce climate change but aren't willing to change their behaviors

One in four Americans believe climate change is caused by natural patterns rather than human activity

Topline Findings

Washington DC, April 21, 2022

Detailed Findings

Over half (57%) of Americans believe climate change is mostly caused by human activity, a 6-percentage point increase from the number of Americans saying the same in 2017 and 2018. However, while the majority of Americans believe climate change is caused by human activity, over a quarter (27%) believe it is mostly caused by natural patterns, and 6% believe it is not happening at all. Nearly half of Republicans believe climate change is caused by natural patterns (46%) compared to just 12% of Democrats.

Among those who believe climate change is caused by human activity, the majority (89%) agree that humans could slow or reverse climate change but aren't willing to change their behavior. Along these lines, less than half of Americans say they are likely to make changes in the next year to help limit climate change, such as using public transportation (29%), trading in their car for an electric vehicle (38%), or walking or biking to close locations instead of driving (43%).

Despite the majority of Americans believing humans could reverse climate change but will not change their behavior (71%), most do not agree that it is too late to stop climate change (62%). Younger age groups are slightly more pessimistic, with about a third of 18-34-year old's (31%) and 35–54-year old's (30%) agreeing that it is too late to stop climate change, compared to 20% of respondents over the age of 55.

When it comes to what climate change Americans have experienced, two-thirds say unusual weather for the season has gotten more frequent (66%) and more intense (61%) in their areas compared to ten years ago. Extreme heat and poor air quality or air pollution are also reported by a plurality of Americans as becoming more frequent and more intense.

However, experiences vary by region and political affiliations. Those living in the west are more likely to report poor air quality and extreme heat becoming more frequent than are respondents from the Northeast, Midwest, or the South. The majority of those living in the West also say droughts (66%) and wildfires (73%) have become more frequent, while people in the Northeast and South report increasing frequency of flooding and hurricanes or tropical storms. Additionally, for all extreme weather occurrences, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they have become more frequent and intense in their areas of the past ten years





These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between April 13-14, 2022. For this survey, a sample of 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire: Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. Compared to ten years ago, do you think the following have become more or less frequent where you live, or has there been no change?

More Frequent Summary

	Total 2022 (N=1,005)	Total 2021 (N=1,003)	Total 2018 (N=966)	Total 2017 (N=1,009)	Democrats 2022 (N=419)	Republicans 2022 (N=369)
Unusual weather for the season	66%	-	-	-	76%	54%
Extreme heat	53%	-	-	-	65%	38%
Poor air quality/air pollution	47%	-	-	-	57%	35%
Wildfires	46%	41%	40%	-	55%	40%
Droughts	44%	33%	39%	41%	52%	38%
Severe thunderstorms	43%	38%	44%	40%	53%	30%
Flooding	38%	39%	47%	42%	47%	27%
Extreme cold	38%	38%	46%	-	45%	30%
Tornadoes	35%	31%	-	-	43%	29%
Hurricanes or tropical storms	34%	35%	38%	27%	43%	24%
Blizzards	22%	22%	30%	22%	28%	17%
Earthquakes	17%	20%	20%	-	24%	12%

a) Severe thunderstorms

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	14%	19%	10%
Somewhat more frequent	29%	33%	20%
No change	44%	35%	57%
Somewhat less frequent	6%	7%	6%
Much less frequent	3%	3%	4%
Don't know	4%	2%	4%
More Frequent	43%	53%	30%
Less Frequent	9%	10%	9%





b) Droughts

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	15%	22%	9%
Somewhat more frequent	29%	30%	29%
No change	41%	32%	51%
Somewhat less frequent	6%	7%	5%
Much less frequent	5%	5%	4%
Don't know	5%	4%	3%
More Frequent	44%	52%	38%
Less Frequent	10%	12%	9%

c) Flooding

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	12%	16%	9%
Somewhat more frequent	26%	31%	18%
No change	47%	39%	57%
Somewhat less frequent	6%	7%	7%
Much less frequent	5%	4%	5%
Don't know	5%	3%	4%
More Frequent	38%	47%	27%
Less Frequent	11%	11%	12%

d) Hurricanes or tropical storms

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	12%	17%	9%
Somewhat more frequent	22%	26%	15%
No change	52%	44%	63%
Somewhat less frequent	6%	6%	5%
Much less frequent	4%	5%	4%
Don't know	4%	3%	4%
More Frequent	34%	43%	24%
Less Frequent	10%	11%	9%

e) Blizzards

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	7%	11%	5%
Somewhat more frequent	14%	17%	12%
No change	54%	50%	58%
Somewhat less frequent	11%	11%	12%
Much less frequent	8%	7%	8%
Don't know	6%	4%	6%
More Frequent	22%	28%	17%
Less Frequent	18%	19%	20%





f) Wildfires

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	20%	28%	13%
Somewhat more frequent	27%	28%	27%
No change	40%	33%	49%
Somewhat less frequent	5%	5%	4%
Much less frequent	4%	4%	4%
Don't know	4%	3%	3%
More Frequent	46%	55%	40%
Less Frequent	9%	10%	8%

g) Earthquakes

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	6%	9%	4%
Somewhat more frequent	12%	15%	8%
No change	64%	59%	72%
Somewhat less frequent	6%	5%	6%
Much less frequent	6%	7%	5%
Don't know	7%	5%	5%
More Frequent	17%	24%	12%
Less Frequent	12%	12%	11%

h) Extreme cold

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	12%	16%	9%
Somewhat more frequent	25%	28%	20%
No change	42%	36%	53%
Somewhat less frequent	13%	14%	10%
Much less frequent	4%	3%	6%
Don't know	4%	3%	2%
More Frequent	38%	45%	30%
Less Frequent	17%	17%	16%

i) Extreme heat

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	19%	28%	12%
Somewhat more frequent	34%	37%	26%
No change	36%	24%	51%
Somewhat less frequent	6%	5%	7%
Much less frequent	3%	3%	2%
Don't know	3%	3%	2%
More Frequent	53%	65%	38%
Less Frequent	8%	8%	8%





j) Poor air quality/air pollution

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	16%	21%	10%
Somewhat more frequent	31%	36%	24%
No change	40%	30%	52%
Somewhat less frequent	6%	5%	9%
Much less frequent	3%	3%	3%
Don't know	5%	5%	2%
More Frequent	47%	57%	35%
Less Frequent	9%	8%	12%

k) Tornadoes

,	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	11%	16%	7%
Somewhat more frequent	24%	27%	21%
No change	50%	44%	58%
Somewhat less frequent	5%	7%	4%
Much less frequent	5%	3%	5%
Don't know	5%	3%	5%
More Frequent	35%	43%	29%
Less Frequent	10%	10%	9%

I) Unusual weather for the season (i.e. unseasonably warm or cold days, more or less rain, etc.)

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more frequent	25%	34%	15%
Somewhat more frequent	41%	42%	38%
No change	25%	15%	38%
Somewhat less frequent	4%	4%	4%
Much less frequent	3%	3%	2%
Don't know	3%	2%	2%
More Frequent	66%	76%	54%
Less Frequent	7%	7%	6%





2. Thinking about the intensity of these weather events, do you think the following have become more or less intense or has there been no change, compared to ten years ago?

More Intense Summary

Word mende damm	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2018	Total 2017	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Unusual weather for the season	61%	-	-	-	74%	48%
Extreme heat	55%	-	-	-	67%	43%
Wildfires	51%	48%	46%	-	60%	44%
Poor air quality/air pollution	48%	-	-	-	59%	37%
Severe thunderstorms	44%	42%	49%	46%	56%	30%
Droughts	43%	38%	42%	44%	56%	34%
Flooding	42%	44%	55%	47%	57%	28%
Extreme cold	41%	40%	53%	-	52%	29%
Hurricanes or tropical storms	38%	42%	48%	36%	49%	28%
Tornadoes	38%	37%	-	-	48%	29%
Blizzards	29%	30%	37%	29%	41%	19%
Earthquakes	23%	24%	25%	_	34%	15%

a) Severe thunderstorms

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	16%	22%	10%
Somewhat more intense	28%	34%	20%
No change	43%	33%	55%
Somewhat less intense	6%	5%	8%
Much less intense	3%	2%	2%
Don't know	5%	4%	4%
More Intense	44%	56%	30%
Less Intense	9%	8%	11%

b) Droughts

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	13%	19%	8%
Somewhat more intense	31%	37%	25%
No change	42%	30%	53%
Somewhat less intense	5%	6%	5%
Much less intense	4%	4%	5%
Don't know	6%	5%	5%
More Intense	43%	56%	34%
Less Intense	9%	9%	10%





c) Flooding

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	13%	19%	7%
Somewhat more intense	29%	37%	21%
No change	42%	29%	57%
Somewhat less intense	7%	8%	7%
Much less intense	3%	3%	3%
Don't know	6%	4%	5%
More Intense	42%	57%	28%
Less Intense	10%	11%	10%

d) Hurricanes or tropical storms

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	13%	18%	9%
Somewhat more intense	26%	32%	19%
No change	48%	39%	58%
Somewhat less intense	4%	4%	5%
Much less intense	4%	4%	5%
Don't know	5%	4%	5%
More Intense	38%	49%	28%
Less Intense	8%	8%	9%

e) Blizzards

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	9%	15%	6%
Somewhat more intense	20%	26%	12%
No change	50%	42%	58%
Somewhat less intense	10%	8%	12%
Much less intense	5%	4%	6%
Don't know	7%	5%	5%
More Intense	29%	41%	19%
Less Intense	14%	12%	18%

f) Wildfires

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	21%	31%	13%
Somewhat more intense	30%	29%	31%
No change	37%	29%	47%
Somewhat less intense	3%	3%	3%
Much less intense	4%	4%	4%
Don't know	5%	4%	3%
More Intense	51%	60%	44%
Less Intense	7%	7%	7%





g) Earthquakes

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	7%	11%	4%
Somewhat more intense	16%	23%	11%
No change	59%	50%	68%
Somewhat less intense	4%	4%	5%
Much less intense	5%	6%	6%
Don't know	8%	6%	7%
More Intense	23%	34%	15%
Less Intense	10%	10%	11%

h) Extreme cold

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	13%	19%	8%
Somewhat more intense	29%	32%	22%
No change	40%	31%	52%
Somewhat less intense	10%	9%	11%
Much less intense	4%	4%	4%
Don't know	6%	5%	4%
More Intense	41%	52%	29%
Less Intense	13%	13%	15%

i) Extreme heat

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	19%	29%	12%
Somewhat more intense	36%	39%	31%
No change	33%	22%	46%
Somewhat less intense	6%	6%	7%
Much less intense	3%	3%	2%
Don't know	4%	2%	3%
More Intense	55%	67%	43%
Less Intense	9%	8%	9%

j) Poor air quality/air pollution

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	15%	22%	10%
Somewhat more intense	32%	37%	27%
No change	38%	28%	47%
Somewhat less intense	6%	5%	9%
Much less intense	3%	2%	3%
Don't know	6%	6%	4%
More Intense	48%	59%	37%
Less Intense	9%	6%	12%





k) Tornadoes

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	13%	19%	8%
Somewhat more intense	25%	29%	21%
No change	48%	39%	58%
Somewhat less intense	5%	5%	5%
Much less intense	4%	3%	4%
Don't know	6%	5%	4%
More Intense	38%	48%	29%
Less Intense	8%	8%	9%

I) Unusual weather for the season (i.e. unseasonably warm or cold days, more or less rain, etc.)

,	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Much more intense	19%	28%	11%
Somewhat more intense	42%	46%	36%
No change	29%	17%	42%
Somewhat less intense	4%	4%	5%
Much less intense	3%	2%	3%
Don't know	4%	3%	2%
More Intense	61%	74%	48%
Less Intense	6%	6%	8%

3. Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion?

o. whom or the concurring	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2018	Total 2017	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Climate change is mostly caused by human activity	57%	54%	51%	51%	78%	33%
Climate change is mostly caused by natural patterns	27%	27%	31%	31%	12%	46%
Climate change is not really happening	6%	7%	6%	6%	3%	10%
Other	3%	2%	3%	3%	1%	3%
Don't know	8%	10%	9%	10%	6%	8%

4. How concerned are you about climate change?

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Very concerned	35%	56%	14%
Somewhat concerned	40%	37%	38%
Not very concerned	16%	5%	28%
Not at all concerned	10%	1%	20%
Concerned	75%	94%	52%
Not Concerned	25%	6%	48%





5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Agree Summary

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Humans can slow/reverse climate change but aren't willing to change their behavior	71%	85%	55%
Humans are making progress to slow/reverse climate change	45%	49%	43%
Large corporations and government policy can reduce climate change, but individual action makes no difference	39%	45%	35%
It is too late to stop climate change at this point	27%	27%	27%

a) Humans can slow/reverse climate change but aren't willing to change their behavior

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	2022 Republicans 2022	
Strongly agree	30%	47%	15%	
Somewhat agree	40%	39%	40%	
Somewhat disagree	14%	8%	19%	
Strongly disagree	9%	3%	16%	
Don't know	7%	4%	10%	
Agree	71%	85%	55%	
Disagree	22%	11%	36%	

b) Humans are making progress to slow/reverse climate change

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Strongly agree	8%	11%	7%
Somewhat agree	37%	38%	35%
Somewhat disagree	28%	31%	24%
Strongly disagree	15%	10%	19%
Don't know	12%	9%	14%
Agree	45%	49%	43%
Disagree	43%	41%	43%

c) It is too late to stop climate change at this point

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Strongly agree	8%	8%	11%
Somewhat agree	19%	20%	16%
Somewhat disagree	37%	38%	34%
Strongly disagree	25%	29%	22%
Don't know	12%	6%	17%
Agree	27%	27%	27%
Disagree	62%	67%	56%





d) Large corporations and government policy can reduce climate change, but individual action makes no difference

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Strongly agree	14%	21%	11%
Somewhat agree	24%	24%	24%
Somewhat disagree	31%	25%	35%
Strongly disagree	22%	25%	20%
Don't know	8%	4%	10%
Agree	39%	45%	35%
Disagree	53%	50%	56%

6. As you may know, most climate experts believe that global average temperatures will climb rapidly in the next few decades. Furthermore, to prevent the worst effects of climate change, the world should work to limit this change in global average temperature to an increase of no more than 2 degrees.

How familiar are you, if at all, with the position of climate scientists just described?

Tiow farinial arc	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2018	Total 2017	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Very familiar	19%	16%	15%	20%	26%	15%
Somewhat familiar	41%	38%	44%	44%	45%	40%
Not very familiar	27%	29%	27%	24%	22%	29%
Never heard of it before	8%	10%	7%	7%	4%	11%
Don't know	5%	9%	8%	5%	2%	5%
Familiar	60%	53%	59%	64%	71%	54%
Unfamiliar	35%	38%	34%	31%	27%	40%



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7. Here are some actions that have been suggested as ways regular people can help limit climate change. How likely would you be to do the following in the next year?

Total Likely Summary

Total Likely Sulfillary						
	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2018	Total 2017	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Put solar panels on your home	43%	35%	50%	-	49%	37%
Walk or bike to close locations instead of driving	43%	-	-	-	46%	37%
Pay an additional \$100 a year in taxes dedicated to reducing pollution	40%	37%	45%	-	58%	27%
Pay an additional \$100 a year in electricity bills dedicated to renewable energy	40%	33%	42%	-	54%	30%
Trade in your current vehicle for an electric vehicle	38%	30%	37%	-	50%	21%
Use public transportation	29%	30%	41%	-	34%	21%

a) Trade in your current vehicle for an electric vehicle

_	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Very likely	14%	22%	6%
Somewhat likely	24%	28%	15%
Not very likely	23%	21%	28%
Not at all likely	29%	16%	46%
I already do this	8%	8%	4%
Not applicable	3%	5%	1%
Likely	38%	50%	21%
Not Likely	52%	37%	74%

b) Put solar panels on your home

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Very likely	16%	20%	9%
Somewhat likely	28%	29%	28%
Not very likely	23%	21%	22%
Not at all likely	19%	13%	31%
I already do this	9%	11%	5%
Not applicable	6%	7%	5%
Likely	43%	49%	37%
Not Likely	42%	34%	54%



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GAME CHANGERS





c) Pay an additional \$100 a year in taxes dedicated to reducing pollution

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Very likely	14%	24%	8%
Somewhat likely	26%	34%	19%
Not very likely	21%	20%	21%
Not at all likely	31%	15%	47%
I already do this	5%	5%	2%
Not applicable	3%	3%	3%
Likely	40%	58%	27%
Not Likely	52%	35%	68%

d) Pay an additional \$100 a year in electricity bills dedicated to renewable energy

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Very likely	14%	22%	9%
Somewhat likely	26%	32%	21%
Not very likely	24%	23%	23%
Not at all likely	27%	14%	42%
I already do this	6%	6%	2%
Not applicable	3%	4%	3%
Likely	40%	54%	30%
Not Likely	52%	37%	66%

e) Use public transportation

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Very likely	10%	13%	8%
Somewhat likely	18%	22%	14%
Not very likely	27%	27%	28%
Not at all likely	29%	19%	43%
I already do this	9%	8%	5%
Not applicable	7%	12%	4%
Likely	29%	34%	21%
Not Likely	55%	46%	70%

f) Walk or bike to close locations instead of driving

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Very likely	16%	19%	11%
Somewhat likely	27%	27%	26%
Not very likely	18%	20%	18%
Not at all likely	20%	12%	31%
I already do this	6%	6%	4%
Not applicable	14%	16%	10%
Likely	43%	46%	37%
Not Likely	38%	32%	49%





8. How do you get most of your news? Select all that apply.

	Total 2022	Democrats 2022	Republicans 2022
Television broadcast news	48%	52%	46%
Online/internet news	46%	48%	43%
Television cable news	34%	37%	37%
Social media (Twitter, Facebook)	34%	35%	35%
Mobile News apps	22%	26%	21%
Radio	22%	24%	21%
Print newspapers/magazines (and	22%	26%	22%
their online versions)	2270	20%	2270
None of the above	5%	3%	4%





About the Study

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between April 13-14, 2022. For this survey, a sample of 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 369 Republicans and 419 Democrats.

The sample was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel, partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,005, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.3 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 6.2 percentage points for Republicans and plus or minus 5.9 percentage points for Democrats.

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