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Americans Are Increasingly Pessimistic About Avoiding the Worst Effects of Climate Change

Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to perceive harms from climate change

BY *Brian Kennedy and Isabelle Pula*

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Brian Kennedy, Senior Researcher, Science and Society Research

Eileen Yam, Director, Science and Society Research

Haley Nolan, Communications Manager
202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

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About this research

This Pew Research Center report looks at Americans' views of climate change, the environment and related topics.

Why did we do this?

Pew Research Center does research to help the public, media and decision-makers understand important topics. This research builds on our long-standing work studying Americans' views of [climate change and environmental issues](#).

Learn more [about Pew Research Center](#) and our other research on [science and society](#).

How did we do this?

For this report, we surveyed 3,524 U.S. adults from March 16 to 22, 2026. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of the Center's [American Trends Panel](#). The survey represents the views of the full U.S. adult population.

Here are the [survey questions](#) used for this report, the [detailed responses](#) and the [survey methodology](#).

Americans Are Increasingly Pessimistic About Avoiding the Worst Effects of Climate Change

Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to perceive harms from climate change

Key takeaways:

- About six-in-ten Americans say **countries around the world, including the U.S., will not do enough to avoid the worst effects of climate change**. Among Democrats, this share has increased from 51% in 2022 to 69% in 2026.
- About half of U.S. adults say **tech companies** can do a lot to address climate change, but **few expect technology to actually solve problems** caused by climate change in the future.
- **A majority of Americans, especially Democrats, say the federal government is doing too little** on climate change. This overall share is slightly higher than it was during the Biden administration.

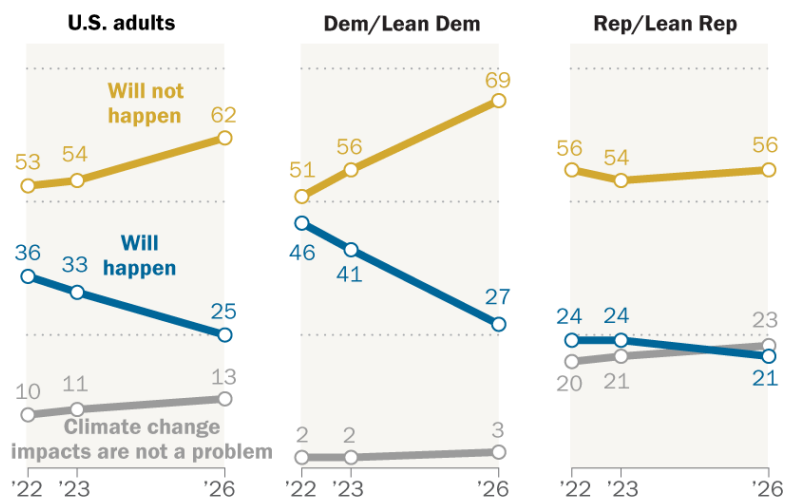
A majority of Americans think climate change is a [very big or moderately big problem](#) for the country, including almost all Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents. But just one-quarter of adults now say international actors will do enough to avoid the worst effects of climate change – while a clear majority say the opposite. **This growing pessimism is driven by Democrats.**

Four years ago, during the Biden administration, Democrats were more closely split on whether the United States and other countries will do enough to avoid the worst impacts from climate change (46% said this will happen, 51% said it will not). Most Democrats now predict the U.S. and other countries will not do enough (69%).

This increasing pessimism comes at a time when the Trump administration has dramatically reshaped federal climate policy by taking actions such as withdrawing from [international climate agreements](#), weakening limits on [power plant emissions](#) and weakening [fuel efficiency standards](#).

Most Democrats now don't expect U.S. and world actors will do enough to avoid the worst effects of climate change

How likely is it that countries around the world, including the U.S., will collectively do enough to avoid the worst impacts from climate change? % who say this definitely or probably ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. “Will definitely/probably happen” and “Will definitely/probably not happen” responses are combined.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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These findings come from a Pew Research Center survey of 3,524 U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026. This research builds on our long-standing work related to Americans' views of [climate change, the environment and extreme weather](#).

How big of a problem is climate change, and what should be done about it?

Republicans and Democrats remain deeply divided about how big a problem climate change is, how much harm it's causing and how to address it.

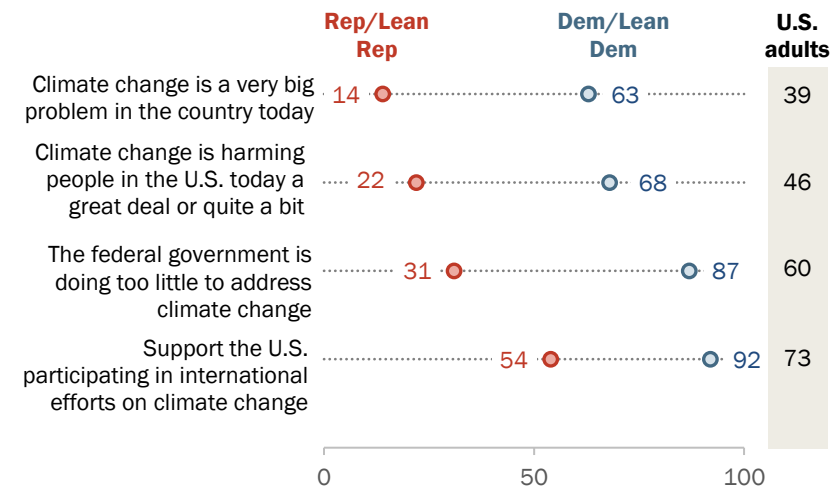
Most Democrats and Democratic leaners (68%) say climate change is harming people in the U.S. a great deal or quite a bit. And about six-in-ten also say climate change is a [very big problem](#) facing the country today.

In contrast, only about two-in-ten Republicans and GOP leaners (22%) say climate change is harming people in the U.S. a great deal or quite a bit. And a majority see climate change as no more than a small problem.

Partisans also remain divided in how much they think the federal government is doing on climate change: 87% of Democrats say it's doing too little, compared with 31% of Republicans. This gap has been wide – spanning at least 51 percentage points – since we started asking about the federal government's role in 2018.

Democrats and Republicans disagree on how much climate change is harming the U.S. today

% who (say) ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted April 20-26, 2026, and March 16-22, 2026.

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Although many Republicans are unconcerned about climate change, they show some openness to the U.S. working with other countries to address it. For example, 54% of Republicans today support the U.S. participating in international efforts on climate change, consistent with [past Center surveys](#).

Younger and older Republicans differ on climate change

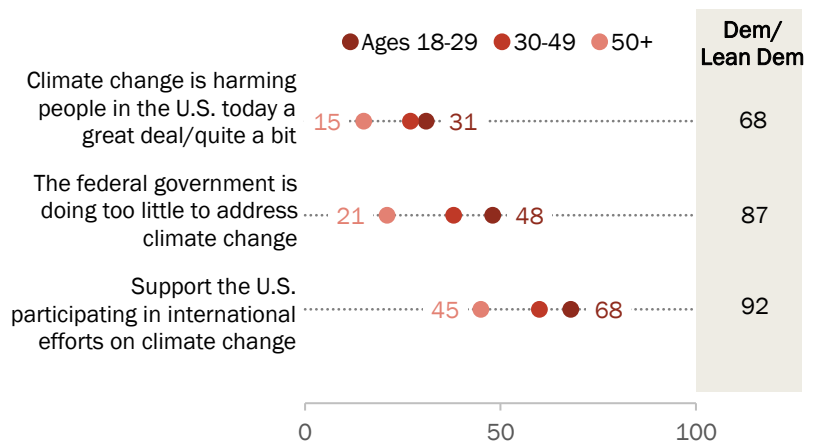
Younger Republicans see more harm in climate change and are more open to efforts to address it, compared with older Republicans.

- 31% of Republicans under 30 say climate change is harming the U.S. a great deal or quite a bit, and another 37% say it is harming the country some. In contrast, a majority of Republicans ages 50 and older (57%) say climate change is harming the country only a little or not at all.
- 48% of Republicans under 30 say the federal government is doing too little on climate change, compared with 21% of Republicans ages 50 and older.

These age differences are consistent with [past Center surveys](#). We've also found that younger Republicans are [less supportive of fossil fuel energy sources](#) than older Republicans.

About half of young Republicans say the federal government is doing too little on climate change

% of *Republican and Republican leaners* who (say) ...



Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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Who can do the most to address climate change?

The survey asked the roughly three-quarters of U.S. adults who say climate change is causing *at least some* harm to the country how much certain actors can do to address its effects.

Most of these Americans say big businesses and corporations – including energy and technology companies – and the federal government can make a big difference. They are far less likely to say ordinary Americans can make a big difference.

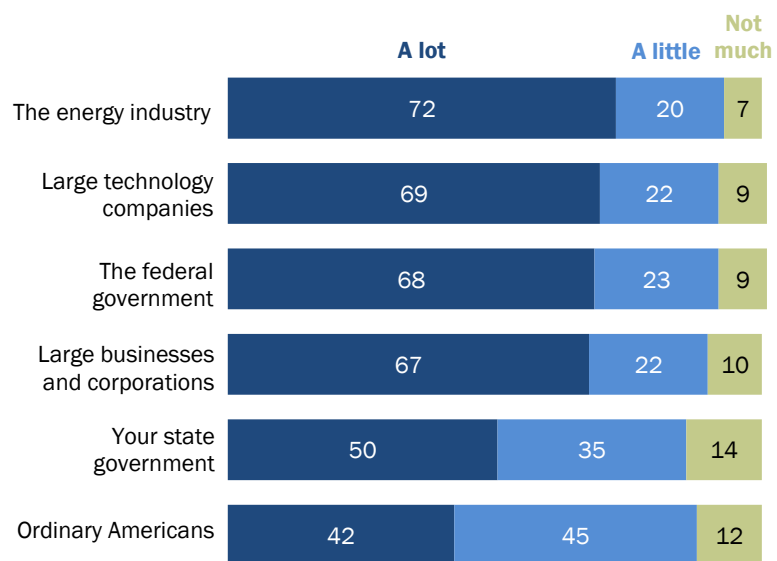
Among those who say climate change is harming the U.S. at least some, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say each of the groups we asked about can do a lot to reduce the effects of climate change.

The biggest difference between Democrats and Republicans is on the federal government (80% vs. 48%).

Even with these partisan gaps, more than half of Republicans who see harm from climate change say the energy industry and large technology companies can do a lot.

Many Americans say companies can do a lot to reduce the impact of climate change; fewer say the same of ordinary people

Among those who say climate change is harming people in the U.S. at least some, % who say efforts by each of the following can help to reduce the effects of climate change ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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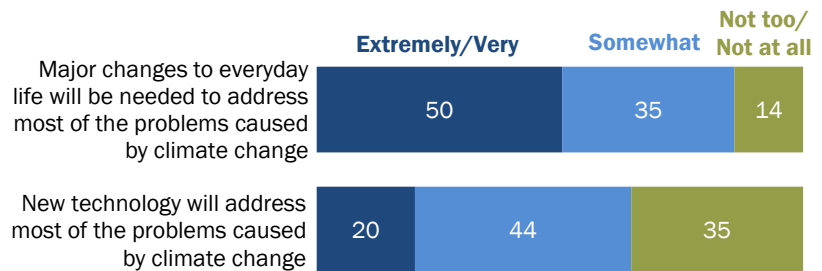
Can new technology address problems caused by climate change?

Experts increasingly talk about [technological innovations](#) that could address the effects of climate change. But thinking 30 years into the future, Americans are far more likely to say lifestyle changes will be needed to tackle these issues instead.

Among U.S. adults who say climate change is harming the country at least some, half think it is extremely or very likely that major changes to everyday life will be needed to address most of the problems caused by climate change.

Smaller shares say new tech will address climate change, compared with major everyday life changes

Among those who say climate change is harming people in the U.S. at least some, % who say that, looking ahead to 30 years from now, each of the following is ___ likely



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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Only two-in-ten say it is extremely or very likely that new technology will address most of the problems caused by climate change. A larger share (35%) say it is not too or not at all likely that technology will address these problems in the coming decades.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to expect major lifestyle changes will be needed (58% vs. 38% among those who say climate change is harming people in the U.S. at least some). Partisans largely agree that it's not extremely or very likely new technology will address most problems caused by climate change.

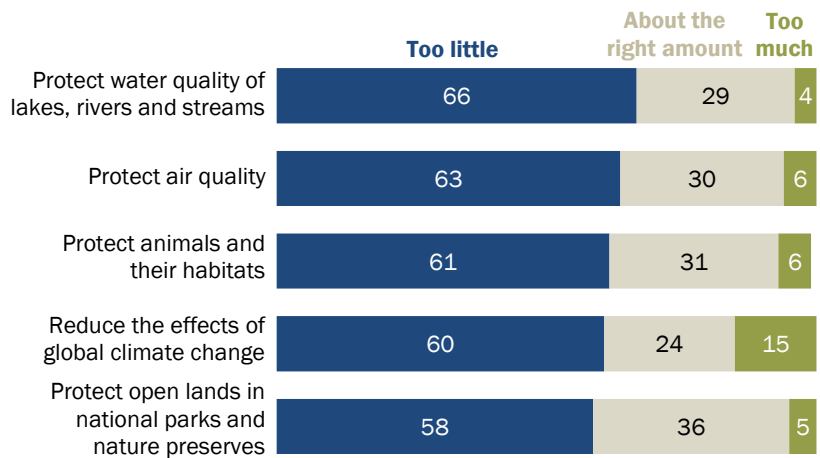
How much is the federal government doing on environmental protection?

The second Trump administration has moved to weaken environmental protections. Its actions since 2025 include rolling back [air pollution regulations](#) and proposing limits to [waterway protections](#), as well as increasing [access to federal lands](#) for fossil fuel development and mining.

Majorities of Americans say the federal government is doing too little on certain aspects of environmental protection, such as preserving water and air quality and reducing the general effects of climate change.

Majorities of Americans say the federal government is doing little to protect water and air quality

% of U.S. adults who say the federal government is doing ___ to ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

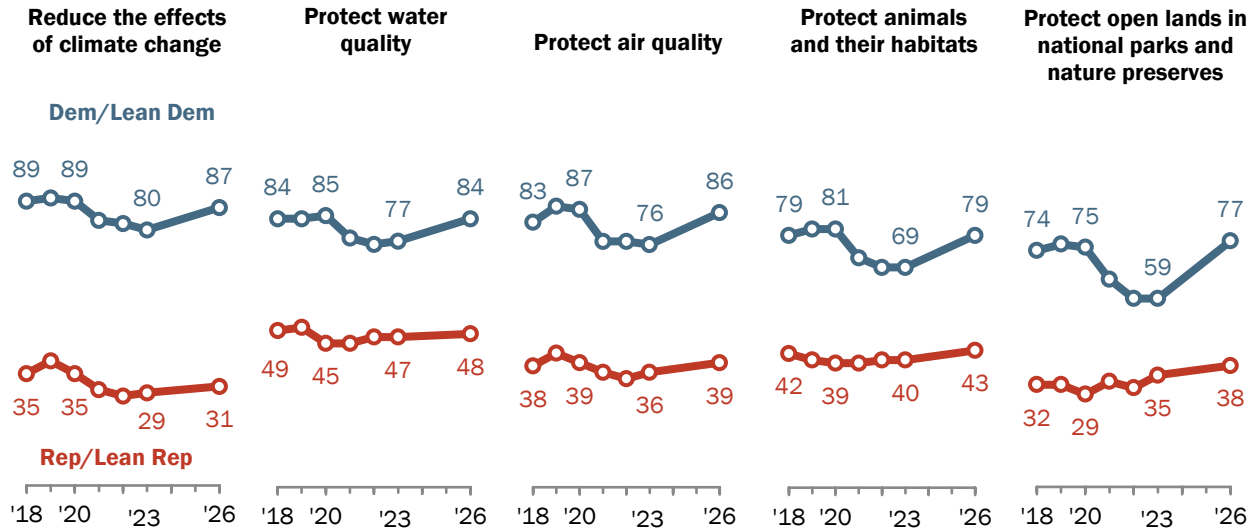
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These shares are all modestly higher than they were during the Biden administration, increasing 3 to 10 percentage points each. The changes are driven mostly by the growing shares of Democrats who say the federal government is doing too little in these areas.

Somewhat more Democrats say the federal government under Trump is doing too little to protect the environment than said this under Biden

% who say the federal government is doing **too little** to ...



Note: Respondents who said the federal government is doing too much or about the right amount or who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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Democratic views of the federal government’s current role in environmental protection are roughly similar to what they were during the first Trump administration. (Majorities of Democrats said that the federal government was doing too little in these areas during the Biden administration as well).

Republican views are also broadly similar to the first Trump administration, though they are now a little more likely to say the federal government is doing too little to protect open lands in national parks and nature preserves.

Americans on what causes climate change: Human activity or natural patterns?

Key takeaways:

- The share of Americans who say climate change is mostly the result of human activity has largely not changed in the last decade.
- Younger Republicans are more likely than older Republicans to say the Earth is warming mostly due to human activity. But younger Republicans are still far less likely than Democrats of all ages to hold this view.
- Among Democrats, those with more education are more likely to say climate change is mostly due to human activity. There are no education differences among Republicans.

Almost all climate scientists [say the planet is warming](#), and that this is caused mostly by human activity. But a far smaller share of the American public has shared this view over the last decade.

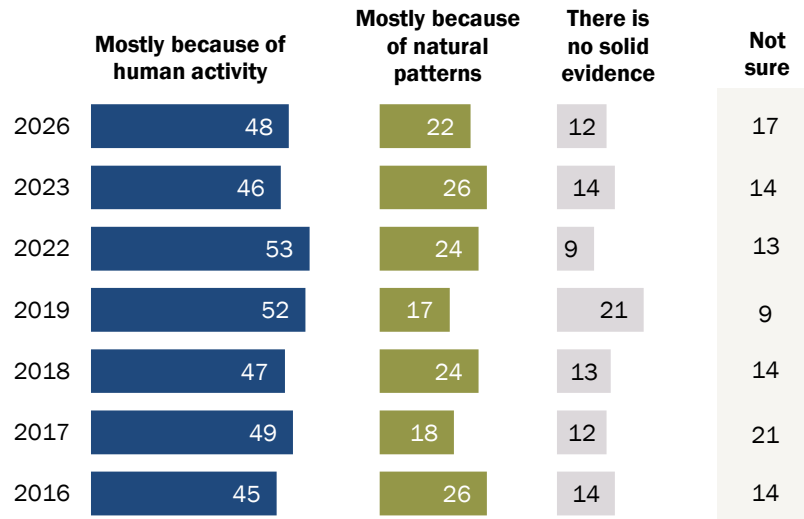
Pew Research Center has been tracking Americans' views on the cause of climate change since 2016 using our American Trends Panel. In this section, we explore trends over the past decade in more detail.

Americans' views on what, if anything, is causing climate change have been largely stable since 2016.

In the latest survey, about half (48%) say that the Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity, such as burning fossil fuels. The share of Americans who hold this view has hovered around 50% since 2016, ranging from 45% to 53%.

About half of Americans say the Earth is getting warmer due to human activity

% of U.S. adults who say the Earth is getting warmer ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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Fewer Americans overall say climate change is the result of natural patterns in the Earth's environment (22%). This share has ranged from 17% to 26% since 2016.

The share of Americans who say there is no solid evidence the Earth is getting warmer has been a consistent minority in our surveys. Only about one-in-ten (12%) hold this view in the latest poll. This share has ranged from 9% to 21% over the last decade.

Another 17% say they are not sure why the Earth is getting warmer, or if it is at all. This share is about the same as it was in 2016.

Most Democrats say climate change is the result of human activity, while Republicans' views are more varied

Democrats and Republicans have consistently held different views on what causes climate change.

In the new survey, three-quarters of Democrats and Democratic leaners say climate change is the result of human activity. About two-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners (21%) say the same, a difference of 54 percentage points. This gap has been very wide – at least 46 points – in every survey we've conducted since 2016.

The share of Democrats who say the Earth is warming due to human activity is slightly higher than it was in 2016, while the share among Republicans has not changed.

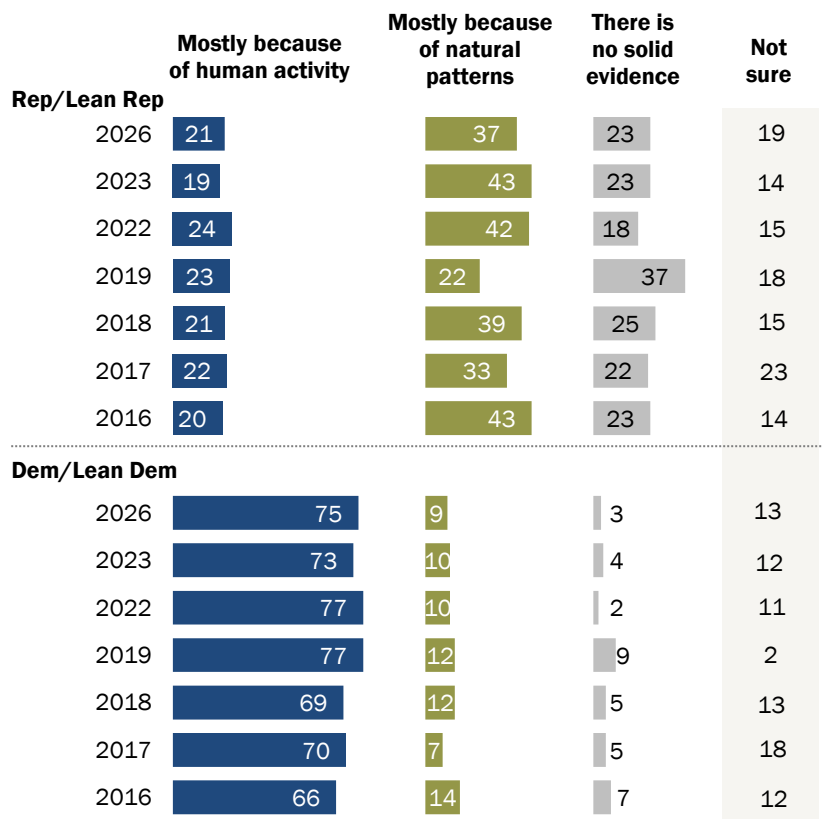
Republicans have been consistently more likely than Democrats to say the Earth is getting warmer due to natural patterns. Today, 37% of Republicans say this is the case, compared with 9% of Democrats.

Republicans have also been more likely than Democrats to say there is no solid evidence that the Earth is warming. Still, only one-quarter of Republicans or fewer have held this view in most of our surveys.

We also find ideological differences among both Republicans and Democrats. A

Wide partisan divides on the main cause of climate change persist

% who say the Earth is getting warmer ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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larger share of moderate and liberal Republicans say the Earth is getting warmer because of human activity than conservative Republicans (31% vs. 14%).

And although majorities of Democrats across the ideological spectrum say climate change is mostly the result of human activity, liberal Democrats have been consistently more likely than moderate and conservative Democrats to say this (87% vs. 66%).

Americans with more education are more likely to say humans cause climate change, but there’s no such divide among Republicans

Past Center surveys have found that Americans with [higher levels of formal education](#) are more likely to say human activity is a big cause of climate change. This pattern is driven by Democrats. In contrast, Republicans of all education levels are unlikely to say climate change is mostly the result of human activity.

In the new survey, 90% of Democrats with a postgraduate degree say the Earth is warming mostly because of human activity, compared with 63% of Democrats with a high school diploma or less education.

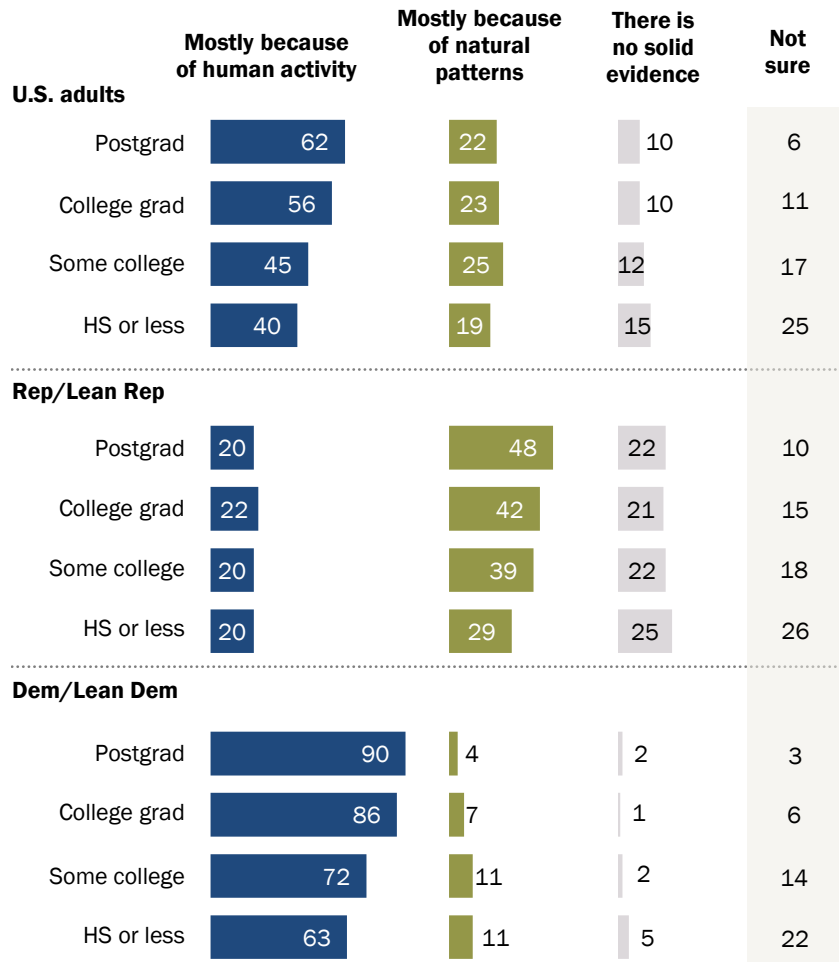
Around one-in-five Republicans across education levels say climate change is mostly the result of human activity.

Republicans with more education are more likely to say the Earth is warming

because of natural patterns: 48% of those with a postgraduate degree say this, compared with 29% of those with a high school diploma or less education.

Democrats drive education differences in overall views on the role of human activity in climate change

% who say the Earth is getting warmer ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted between March 16-22, 2026.
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Younger Republicans are more likely than older ones to say humans cause climate change

Younger Americans have been consistently more likely to say climate change is mostly caused by human activity, but this is driven by age differences among Republicans.

In the latest survey, about four-in-ten Republicans ages 18 to 29 say the Earth is warming mostly because of human activity. By comparison, just 15% of Republicans ages 50 to 64 and 8% of those ages 65 and older say the same.

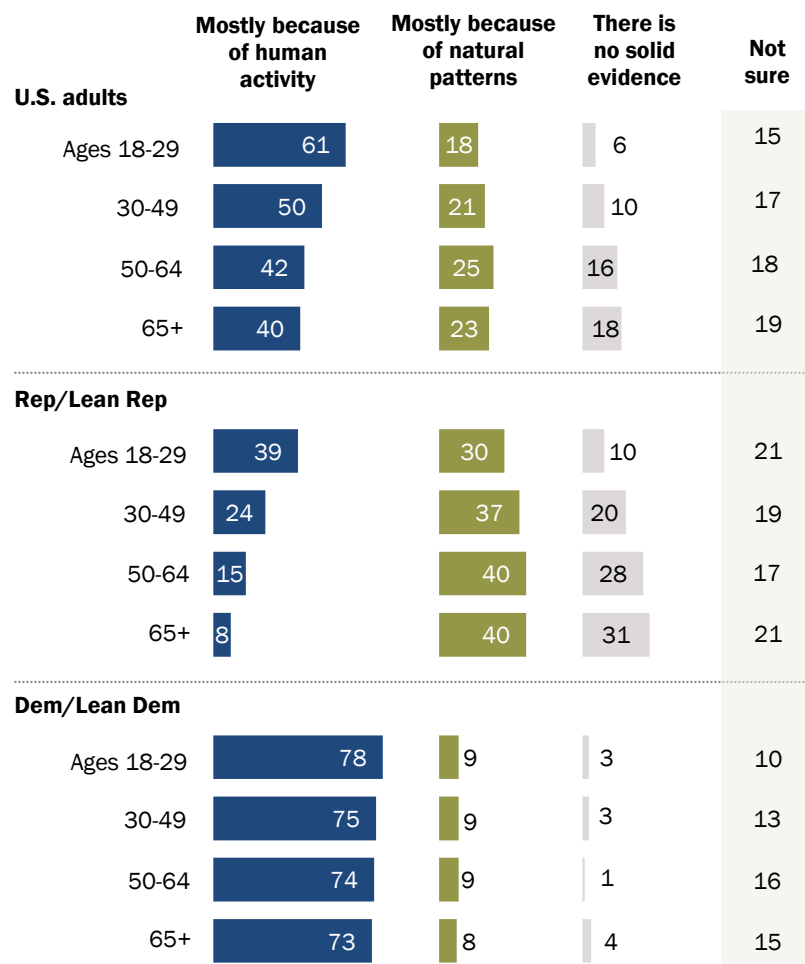
Younger Republicans are still far less likely than Democrats of all ages to say the Earth is warming mostly due to human activity.

Republicans ages 65 and older are about three times more likely than those under 30 to say there is no solid evidence that the Earth is warming (31% vs. 10%).

There are no differences by age among Democrats. Most Democrats across age groups say climate change is mostly caused by human activity.

Younger Republicans are more likely than older Republicans to say climate change is mainly caused by human activity

% who say the Earth is getting warmer ...



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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Do Americans think extreme weather is worse today than in the past?

Key takeaways:

- Majorities of Americans say extreme weather in the United States has become more frequent and severe in recent years.
- Partisanship is a much stronger factor than region in perceptions of extreme weather in the U.S. Even within the same region, Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to report experiencing extreme weather.

Recent [scientific studies](#) have found that extreme weather is becoming both more common and more intense, and many Americans have noticed.

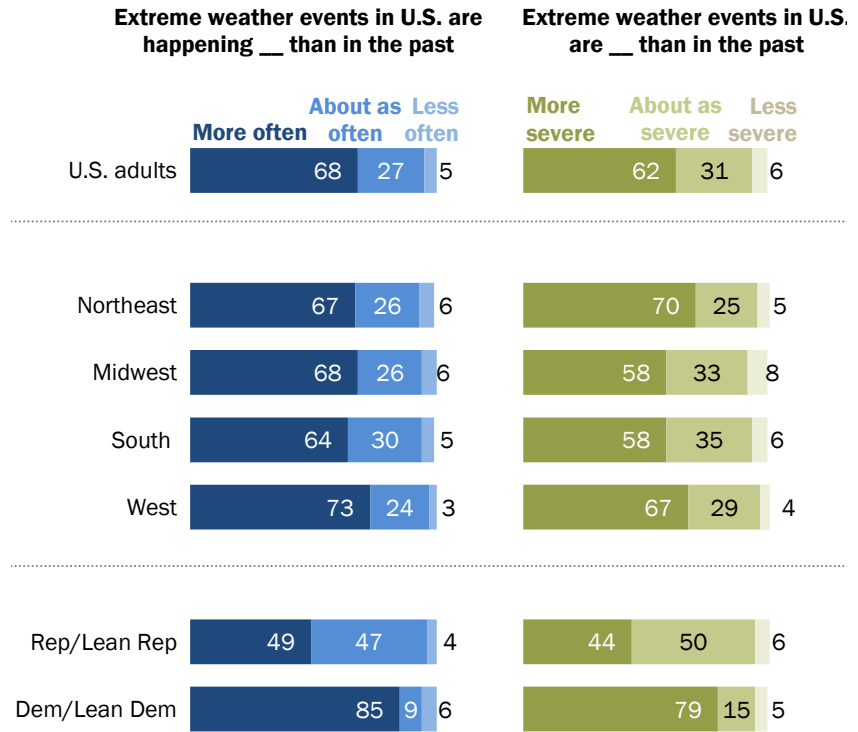
Majorities of Americans say extreme weather events in the U.S. are happening more often (68%) and are more severe (62%) than in the past.

Partisan differences

Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to say that these events are now more frequent and more severe. Most Democrats and Democratic leaners say that extreme weather events are happening more often (85%) and that they are more severe (79%). Much smaller shares of Republicans and GOP leaners say the same (49% say more often, 44% say more severe). Across all four census-designated regions of the country, Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to say extreme weather has become more common and more severe in recent years.

Majorities of Americans say extreme weather is now more frequent and more severe

% who say that, thinking about the last few years ...



Notes: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.
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Past Center surveys have found that, even within the same region, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to report [experiencing specific kinds of extreme weather](#) in their community, such as unusually hot weather, wildfires and droughts.

From carpooling to buying secondhand, what eco-friendly actions do Americans take and why?

Key takeaways:

- Many Americans say they recycle to protect the environment, but they are far less likely to say they engage in other environmentally friendly behaviors – such as carpooling – for environmental reasons.
- Many Americans say they regularly engage in these behaviors, but they are more likely to be motivated by financial savings than by environmental causes.

Americans engage in all sorts of green behaviors, from recycling to carpooling to shopping secondhand. A new Pew Research Center survey asked Americans why they do these things.

Almost all Americans engage in at least one of the environmentally friendly behaviors we asked about. But except for when it comes to recycling, helping the environment is not their main reason for doing so.

The survey asked about the following environmentally friendly actions: turning off the lights when no one is home, recycling, limiting home water use, buying clothes or other goods secondhand, and carpooling. The most common behavior is turning off the lights when not in use: Almost all Americans (95%) say they do this regularly.

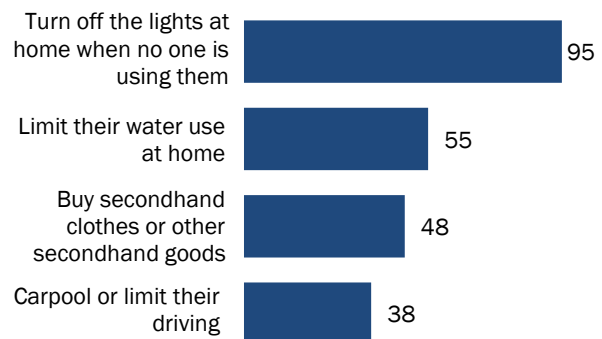
Far fewer, but still more than half, say they regularly limit their home water use (55%) and about half say they regularly buy secondhand (48%).

A minority of Americans (38%) say they routinely carpool or limit their driving.

Americans are more likely to say they do these things to save money than to help the environment.

Most Americans turn off their lights when not in use, but far fewer report other eco-friendly habits

% of U.S. adults who say they regularly ...



Note: Respondents who said they do not regularly do these things or who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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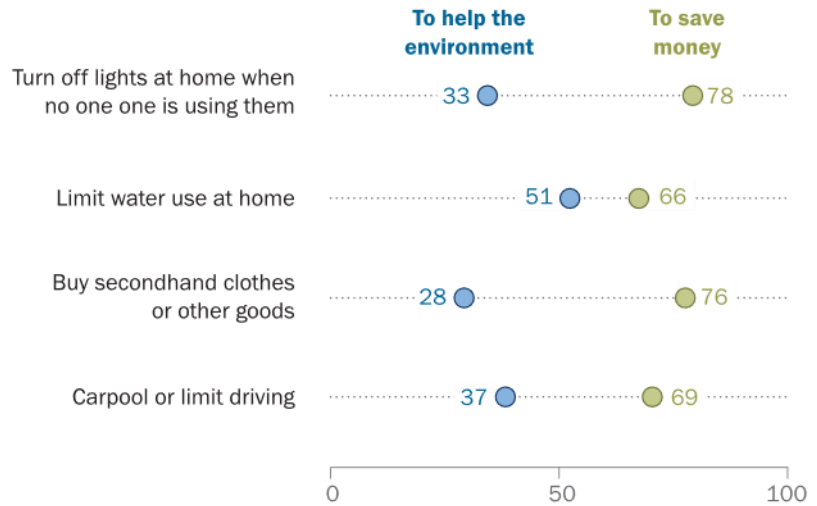
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Among those who say they regularly do each of these, majorities report that saving money is a major motivator. For example, 78% say they turn off the lights to save money and 76% say they shop secondhand for this reason.

No more than around four-in-ten say they carpool, turn off lights or buy secondhand clothes to help the environment. Somewhat more (51%) say they regularly limit water use for this reason.

Saving money is a stronger motivation than saving the environment when it comes to some green habits

*Among those who say they regularly do each of the following, % who say each of the following is a **major** reason*



Note: Respondents who said each is a minor reason or not a reason or who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

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Why do Americans recycle?

Two-thirds of U.S. adults say they regularly recycle. We asked this group what factors motivate them to do so.

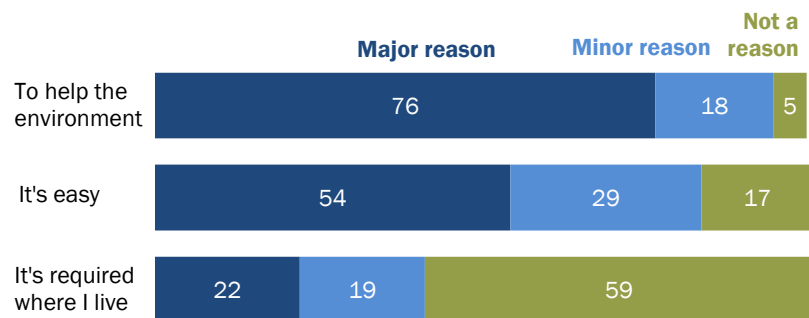
Most Americans who report regular recycling say a major reason they do it is because it helps the environment (76%).

Fewer, but still about half (54%), say they regularly recycle because it is easy. About one-in-five say a major reason they regularly recycle is because it is required where they live.

(The survey did not ask about saving money as a motivation since most recycling does not save or earn money.)

Majority of recyclers say they do it for the environment and because it's easy

Among those who say they regularly recycle, % who say each of the following is a ...



Notes: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted between March 16-22, 2026.

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Primary research team

Eileen Yam, *Director, Science and Society Research*
Galen Stocking, *Associate Director, Science and Society Research*
Brian Kennedy, *Senior Researcher*
Giancarlo Pasquini, *Research Associate*
Emma Kikuchi, *Research Analyst*
Isabelle Pula, *Former Research Assistant*

Editorial and graphic design

Anna Jackson, *Editorial Specialist*
Peter Bell, *Associate Director, Design and Production*
Sharon McGill, *Information Graphics Designer*

Communications and web publishing

Haley Nolan, *Communications Manager*
Ashley Loprete, *Communications Associate*
Reem Nadeem, *Digital Producer*

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

Data in this report comes from Wave 189 of the American Trends Panel (ATP), Pew Research Center’s nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. The survey was conducted March 16-22, 2026. A total of 3,524 panelists responded out of 4,053 who were sampled, for a survey-level response rate of 87%.

The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 3,524 respondents is plus or minus 1.8 percentage points.

The survey includes an [oversample](#) of non-Hispanic Asian adults in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of this smaller demographic subgroup. Oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population.

SSRS conducted the survey for Pew Research Center via online (n=3,383) and live telephone (n=141) interviewing. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the ATP, read “[About the American Trends Panel](#).”

Panel recruitment

Since 2018, the ATP has used address-based sampling (ABS) for recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Computerized Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover 90% to 98% of the population.¹ Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is selected to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.² Prior to 2018, the ATP was recruited using landline and cellphone random-digit-dial surveys administered in English and Spanish.

A national sample of U.S. adults has been recruited to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”)

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. “[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#).”

² Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

to improve the accuracy of data for underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the United States. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which non-Hispanic Asian adults were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with SSRS. The web program used for online respondents was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the SSRS project team and Pew Research Center researchers. The SSRS project team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or gift code to Amazon.com, Target.com or Walmart.com. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$15 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was March 16-22, 2026. Surveys were conducted via self-administered web survey or by live telephone interviewing.

For panelists who take surveys online:³ Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset on March 16.⁴ Survey invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on

³ The ATP does not use routers or chains in any part of its online data collection protocol, nor are they used to direct respondents to additional surveys.

⁴ Postcard notifications for web panelists are sent to 1) panelists who were recruited within the last two years and 2) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

March 16. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled online panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on March 17.

**Invitation and reminder dates for web respondents,
ATP Wave 189**

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	March 16, 2026	March 17, 2026
First reminder	March 19, 2026	March 19, 2026
Final reminder	March 21, 2026	March 21, 2026

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Panelists participating online were sent an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages were sent an SMS invitation with a link to the survey and up to two SMS reminders.

For panelists who take surveys over the phone with a live interviewer: Prenotification postcards were mailed on March 13. Soft launch took place on March 16 and involved dialing until a total of nine interviews had been completed. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled phone panelists' numbers were dialed throughout the remaining field period. Panelists who take surveys via phone can receive up to six calls from trained SSRS interviewers.

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, Center researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, eight ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the panel survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of recruitment into the panel. These weights are then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2024 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Race/Ethnicity x Gender	
Race/Ethnicity x Age	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	2023 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Frequency of internet use	2025 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	
Party affiliation x Age	
Validated 2024 presidential election turnout and vote choice	Candidate vote share is based on official results from the Federal Election Commission. Turnout is based on estimates from the Election Lab at the University of Florida. The size of the voting-eligible population is based on the 2023 ACS.

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. For weighting to the 2024 presidential election results, panelists are considered validated voters if their self-report of having voted was confirmed after matching to a national voter registry.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 189

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	3,524		1.8 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,753		2.6 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	1,567	46%	2.7 percentage points
Half form	At least 767		3.8 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	1,800	48%	2.6 percentage points
Half form	At least 877		3.7 percentage points
Those who say climate change causing at least some harm to people in the U.S. today	2,624	74%	2.1 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,310		3.0 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of non-Hispanic Asian adults. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. Refer to the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 189

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	3,524
Logged in (web) / Contacted (CATI), but did not complete any items	2.11	88
Started survey; broke off before completion	2.12	23
Never logged on (web) / Never reached on phone (CATI)	2.20	410
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Other noninterview	2.30	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.90	8
Total panelists sampled for the survey		4,053
Completed interviews	I	3,524
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	111
Noncontact	NC	410
Other	O	8
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		4,053
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		87%

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Cumulative response rate, ATP Wave 189

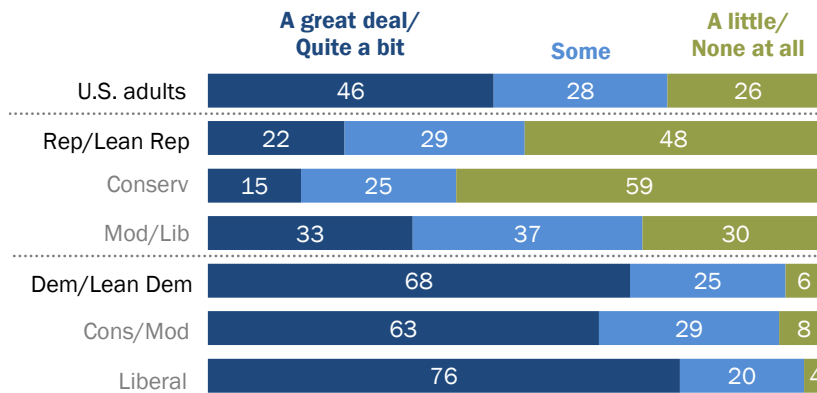
	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	74%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 189	40%
Response rate to Wave 189 survey	87%
Cumulative response rate	3%

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Appendix: Additional charts

Most Democrats say climate change is causing at least quite a bit of harm to people in the U.S. today

% who say climate change is causing people in this country ___ (of) harm today



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

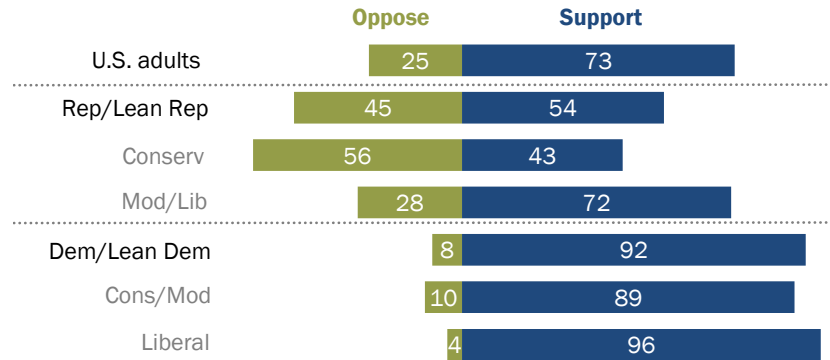
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

"Americans Are Increasingly Pessimistic About Avoiding the Worst Effects of Climate Change"

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73% of Americans support U.S. participation in international efforts to address climate change

% who say they ___ the U.S. participating in international efforts to help reduce the effects of global climate change



Notes: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown. “Strongly/Somewhat support” and “Strongly/Somewhat oppose” responses are combined.

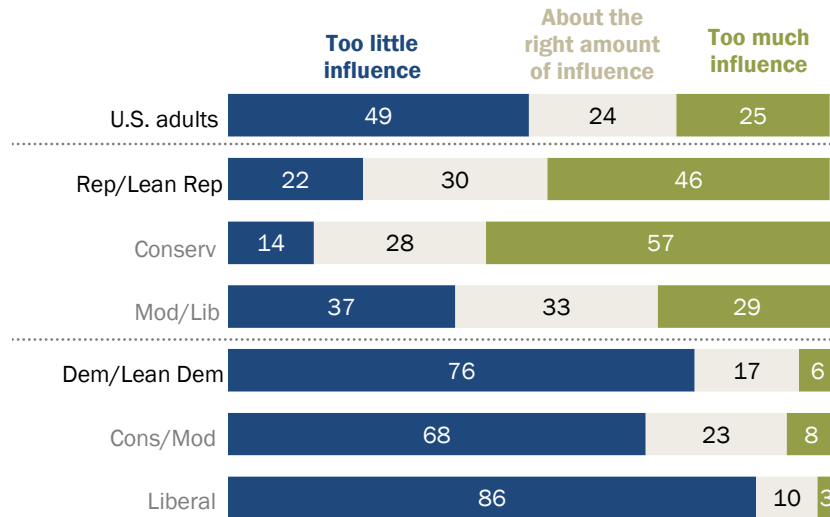
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

“Americans Are Increasingly Pessimistic About Avoiding the Worst Effects of Climate Change”

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About half of Americans say climate scientists have too little influence in policy debates on climate change

% who say climate scientists have ___ in public policy debates about addressing global climate change



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

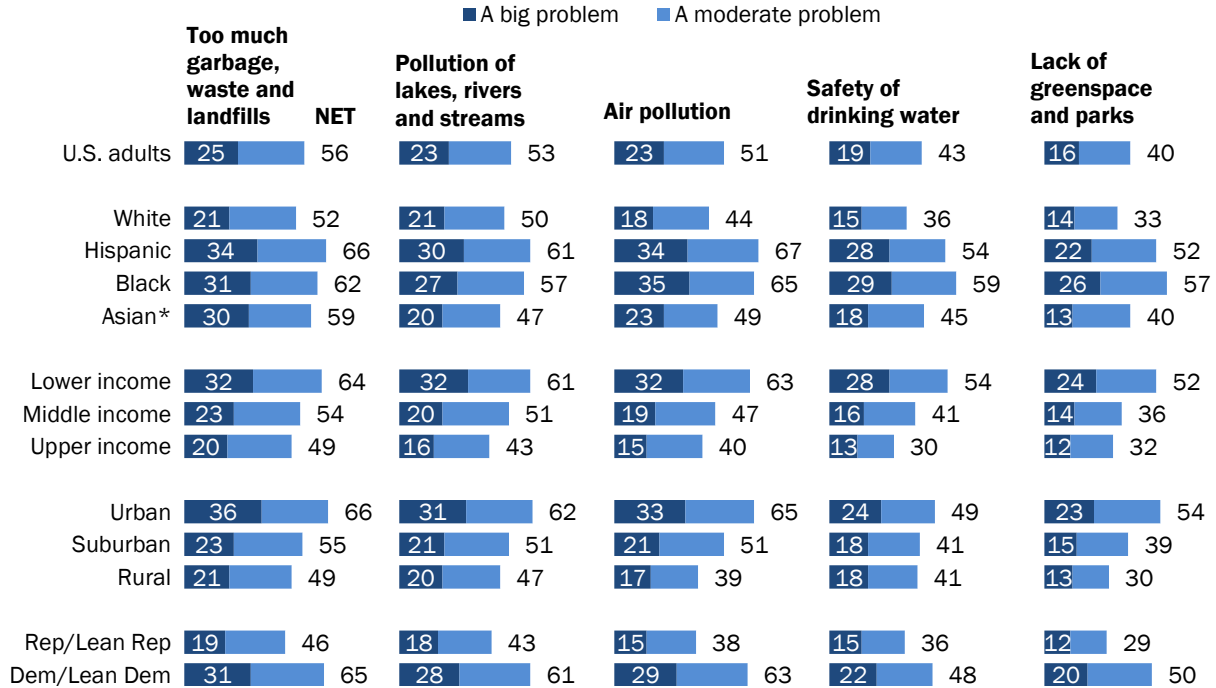
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

"Americans Are Increasingly Pessimistic About Avoiding the Worst Effects of Climate Change"

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About half of Americans or more say too much garbage, water pollution and air pollution are at least moderate problems in their local community

% who say each of the following is ___ in their local community



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2024 earnings. Respondents who said each is a small problem or not a problem or who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 16-22, 2026.

"Americans Are Increasingly Pessimistic About Avoiding the Worst Effects of Climate Change"

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