

# Building Resilience for the Climate Anxious Generation

October 20, 2022

**Moderator:** Margo Murphy *(Camden Hills Regional HS, Rockport, ME)*  
**Panelists:** Dr. Susanne Moser *(Independent Researcher & Consultant, Hadley, MA)*  
Denise Rogers *(Richmond City Public Schools, Richmond, VA)*  
Ronnie Vesnaver *(Director Chesapeake Watershed Semester, Eastern Shore, MD)*  
Sadie Woodruff *(Student Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT)*

# WHY IS CLIMATE SO HARD FOR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND?



Climate Hypocrisy



Florida Leaders Rejected Major Climate Laws. Now They're Seeking Storm Aid.

Climate Change Made Summer Hotter and Drier Worldwide, Study Finds

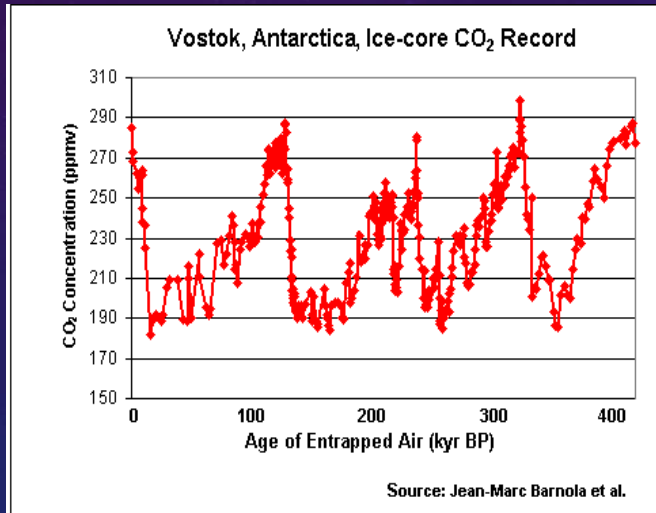
Sea level will rise by up to 1.2 metres despite Paris agreement



The New York Times

Global sea ice hits new low

Environment Chief: climate change might not be a bad thing.



Greenwashing



Cape Town dreads 'Day Zero' when the taps will run dry

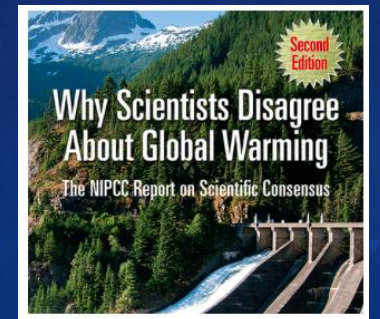
In the Netherlands, Balancing Energy Security Against Climate Concerns

Climate Chaos

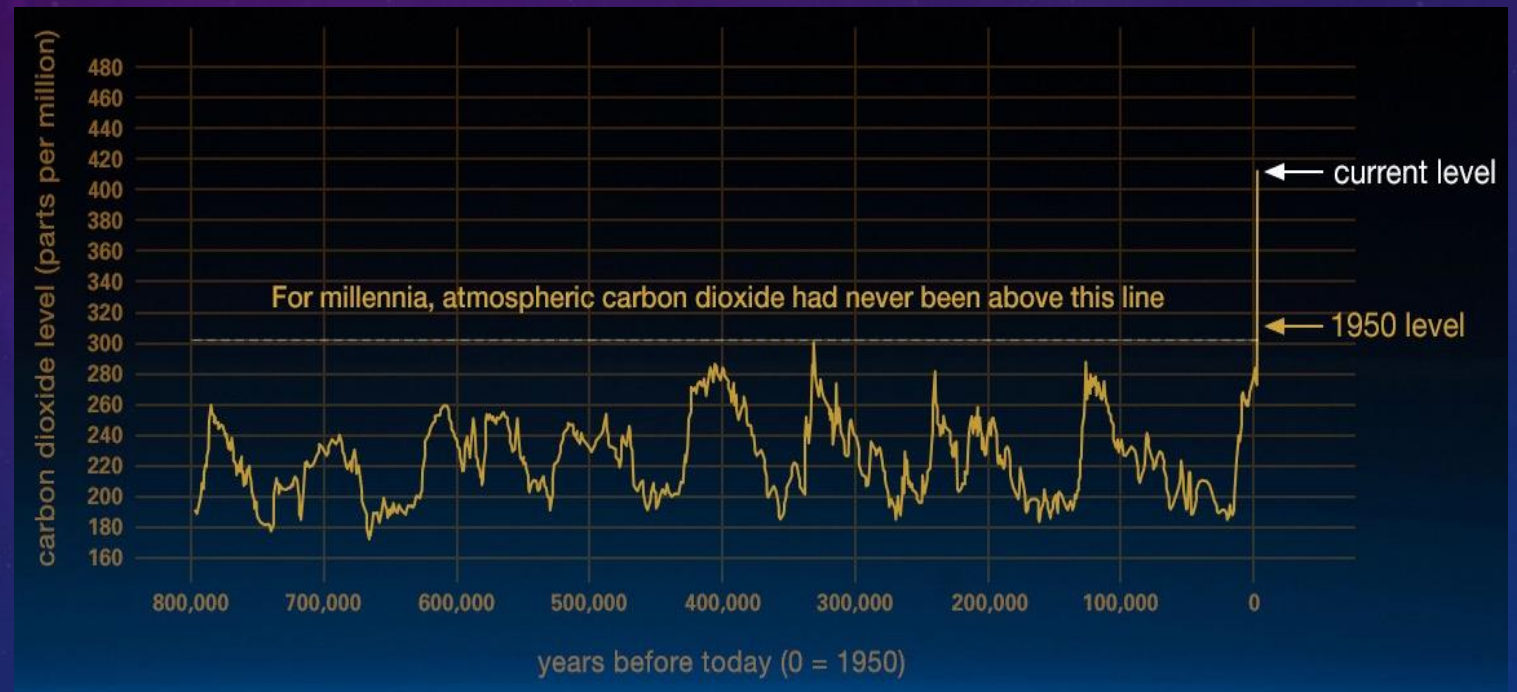
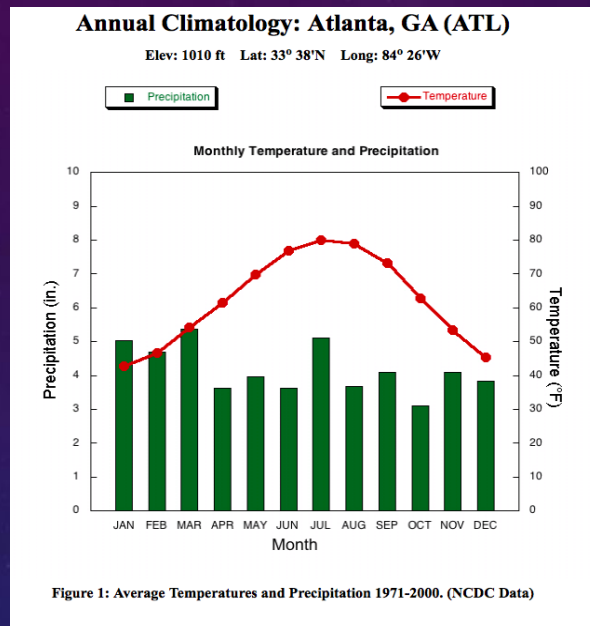
Hares no longer turning white during winter due to climate change

"It's just part of a natural cycle"

The Washington Post



# STABLE CLIMATE VS. UNSTABLE OR CHANGING CLIMATE



Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is higher than any time in that last 800,000 years, and levels are increasing faster than any time in millions of years.



**CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS HAVE COST THE WORLD \$650 BILLION OVER 2016-2018. DAMAGES ASSOCIATED WITH GLOBAL WARMING COULD TOTAL \$54 TRILLION BY 2040, ACCORDING TO A UN PANEL. (HURRICANE IAN ALONE MAY COST THE US OVER \$67 BILLION)**



Economic  
Impacts are Real

But often we are  
skeptical about  
direct links to  
climate  
change

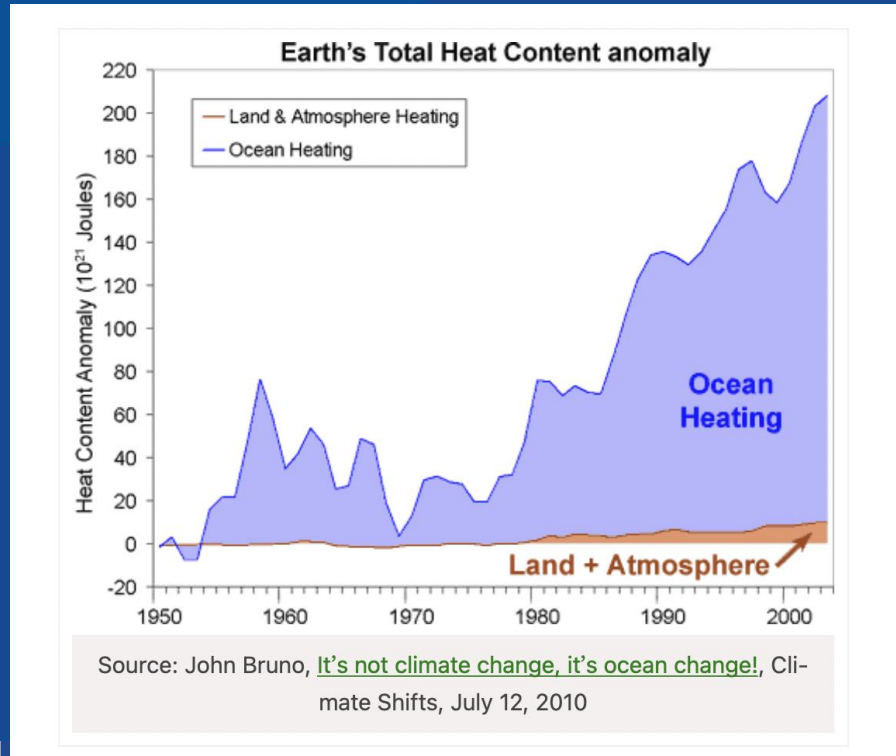


# Humans are Changing the Planet!

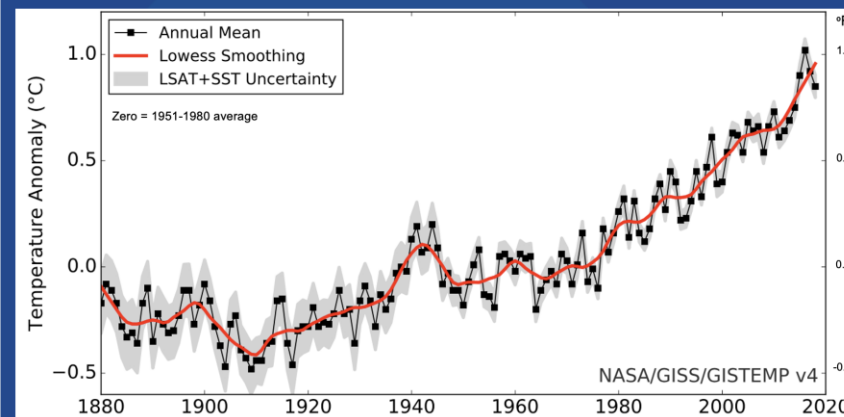
Young people don't understand why the adults in society aren't acting in their interest



anthropocene.info



## Global average surface temperatures are increasing



Source: <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>

# THE PERFECT STORM OF THIS TIME



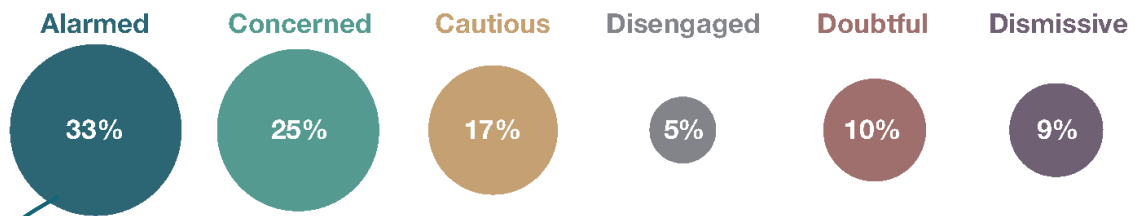




# ALARMED, WORRIED AND P\*\*\*ED OFF:

SETTING THE STAGE FOR TODAY'S DISCUSSION





Highest Belief in Global Warming  
Most Concerned  
Most Motivated

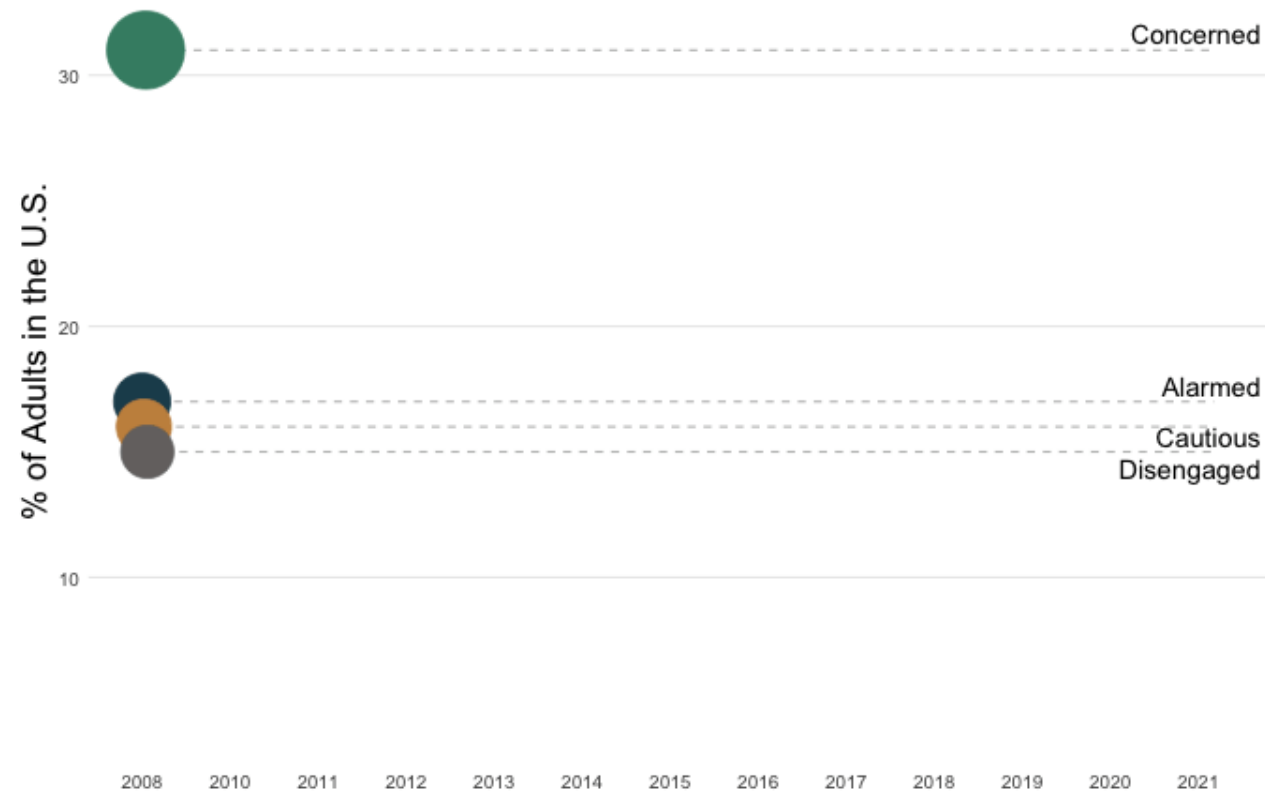
Lowest Belief in Global Warming  
Least Concerned  
Least Motivated

September 2021  
(n=1,006)



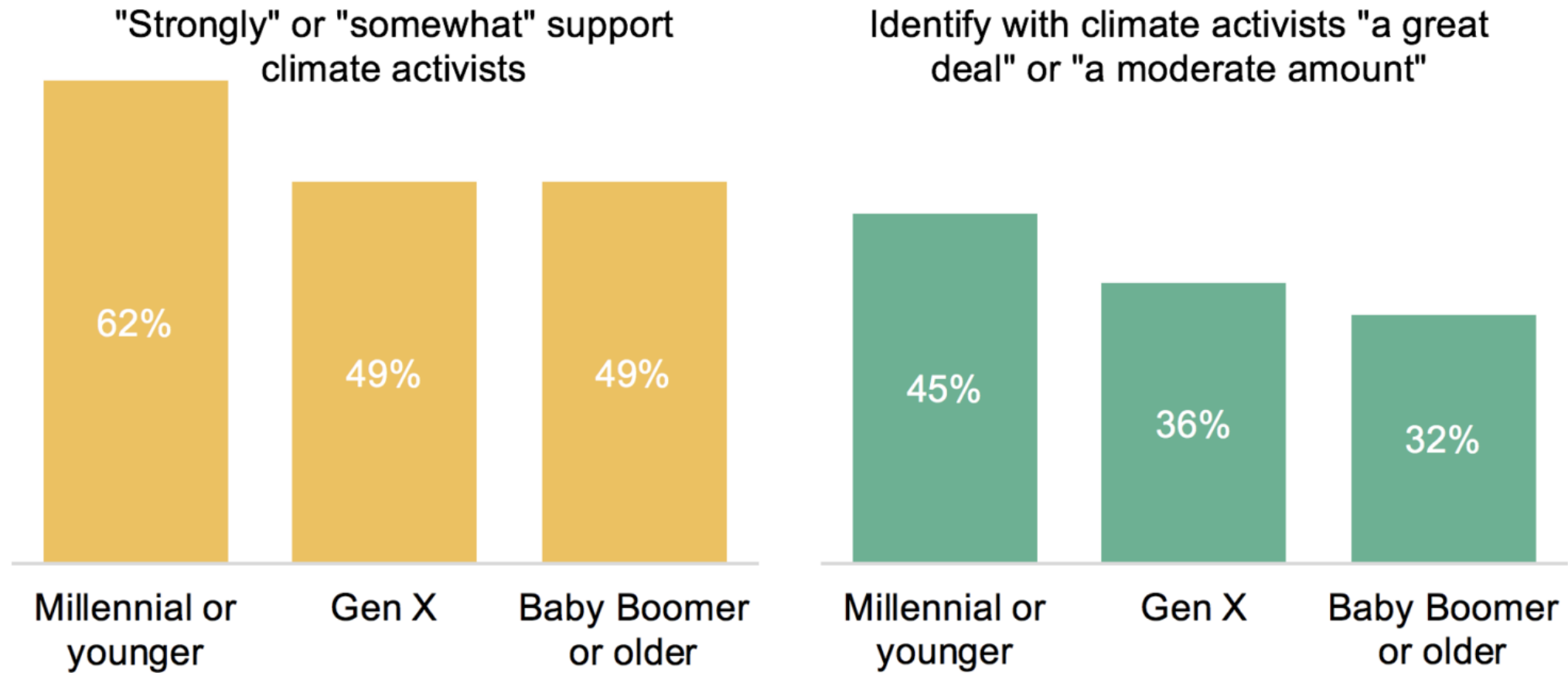
- Active (ca. 1/3)
- Willing (ca. 1/2)
- Inactive (ca. 1/5)

## Global Warming's Six Americas





# Younger generations of Americans, more than older generations, support and identify with climate activists who urge elected officials to act on global warming



Nov 2019. Base: 1,303 U.S. adults – Millennial or younger (1981 or later)  $n = 375$ ; Gen X (1965 – 1980)  $n = 336$ ; Baby Boomer or older (1964 or earlier)  $n = 592$

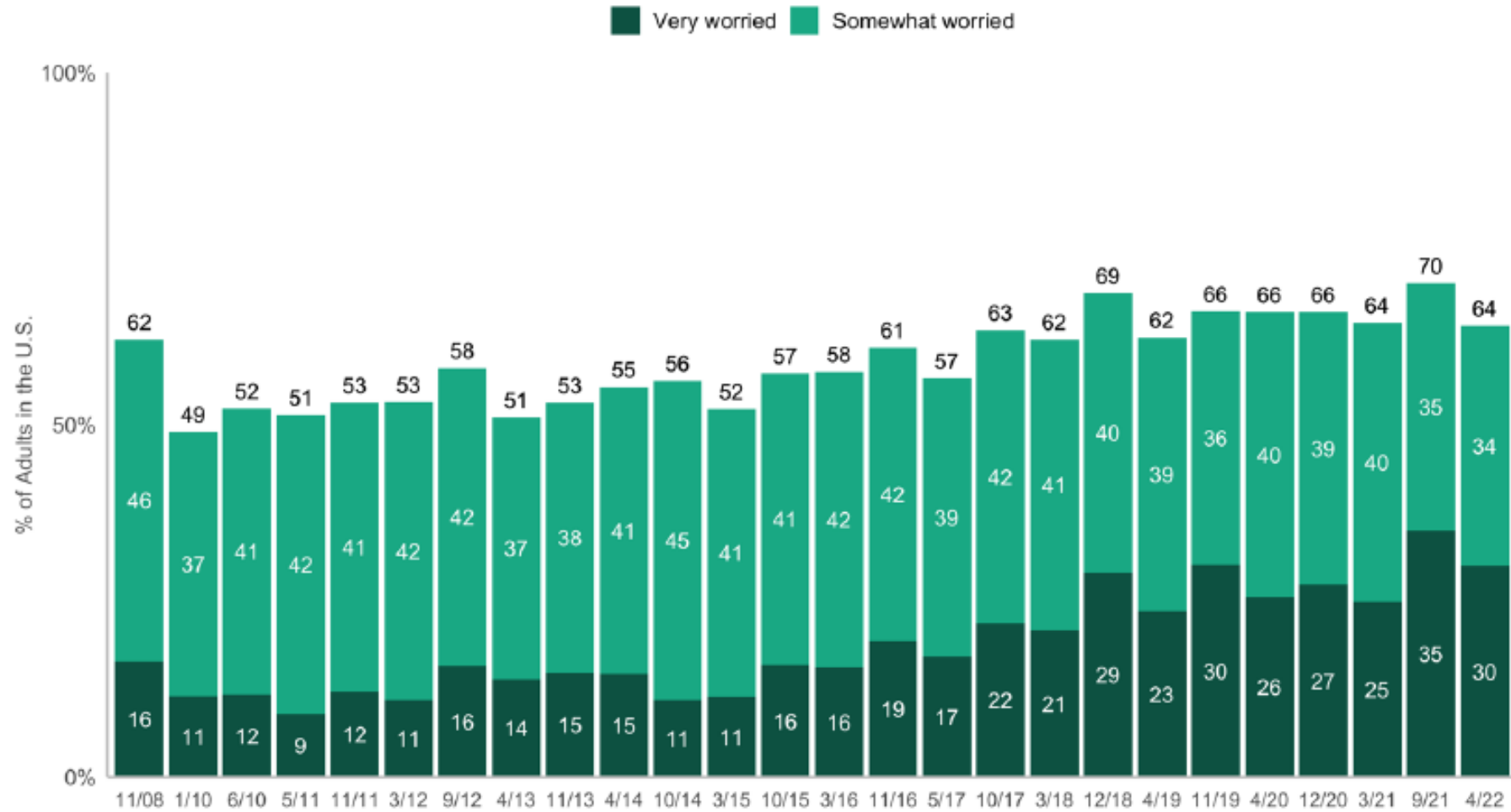


YALE PROGRAM ON  
Climate Change  
Communication



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
CENTER for CLIMATE CHANGE  
COMMUNICATION

## A majority of Americans are worried about global warming



How worried are you about global warming?

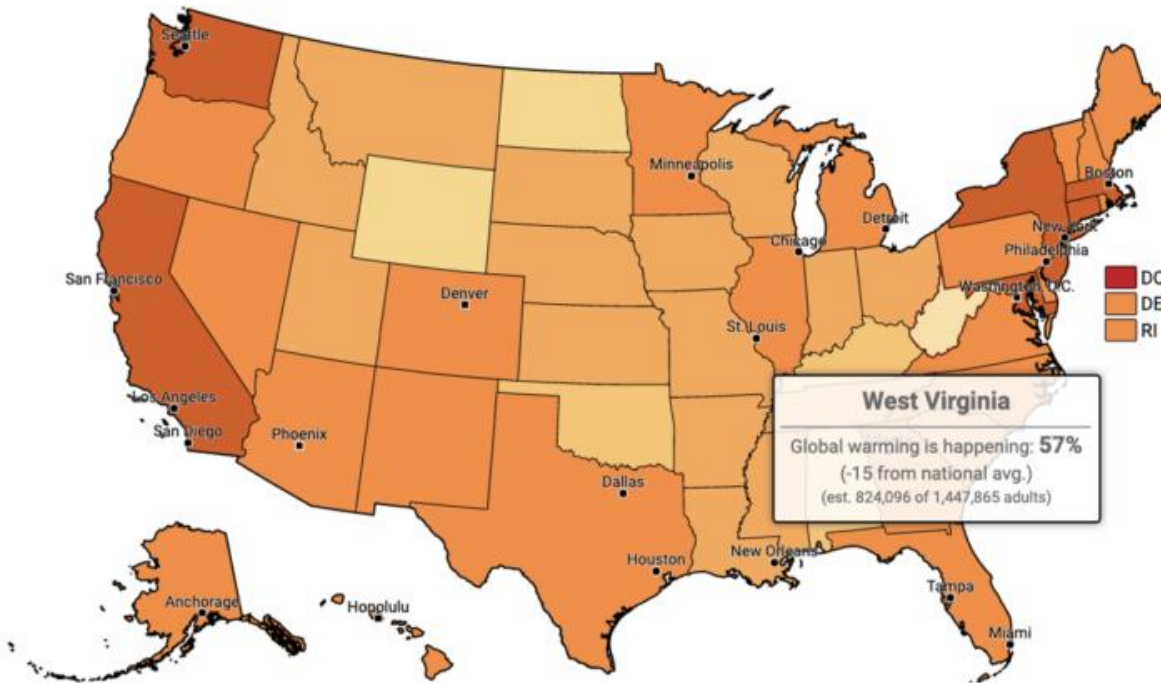
April 2022



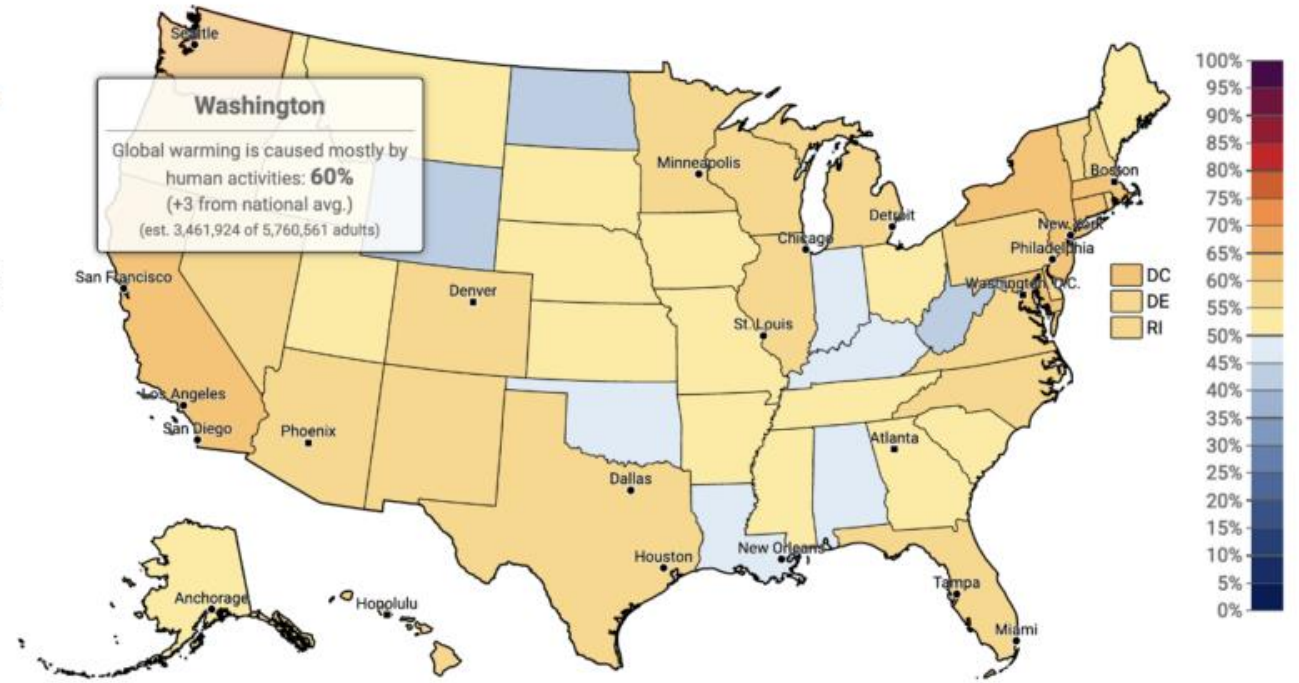


# RESOURCE: STATE-BY-STATE DATA

## % who think global warming is happening



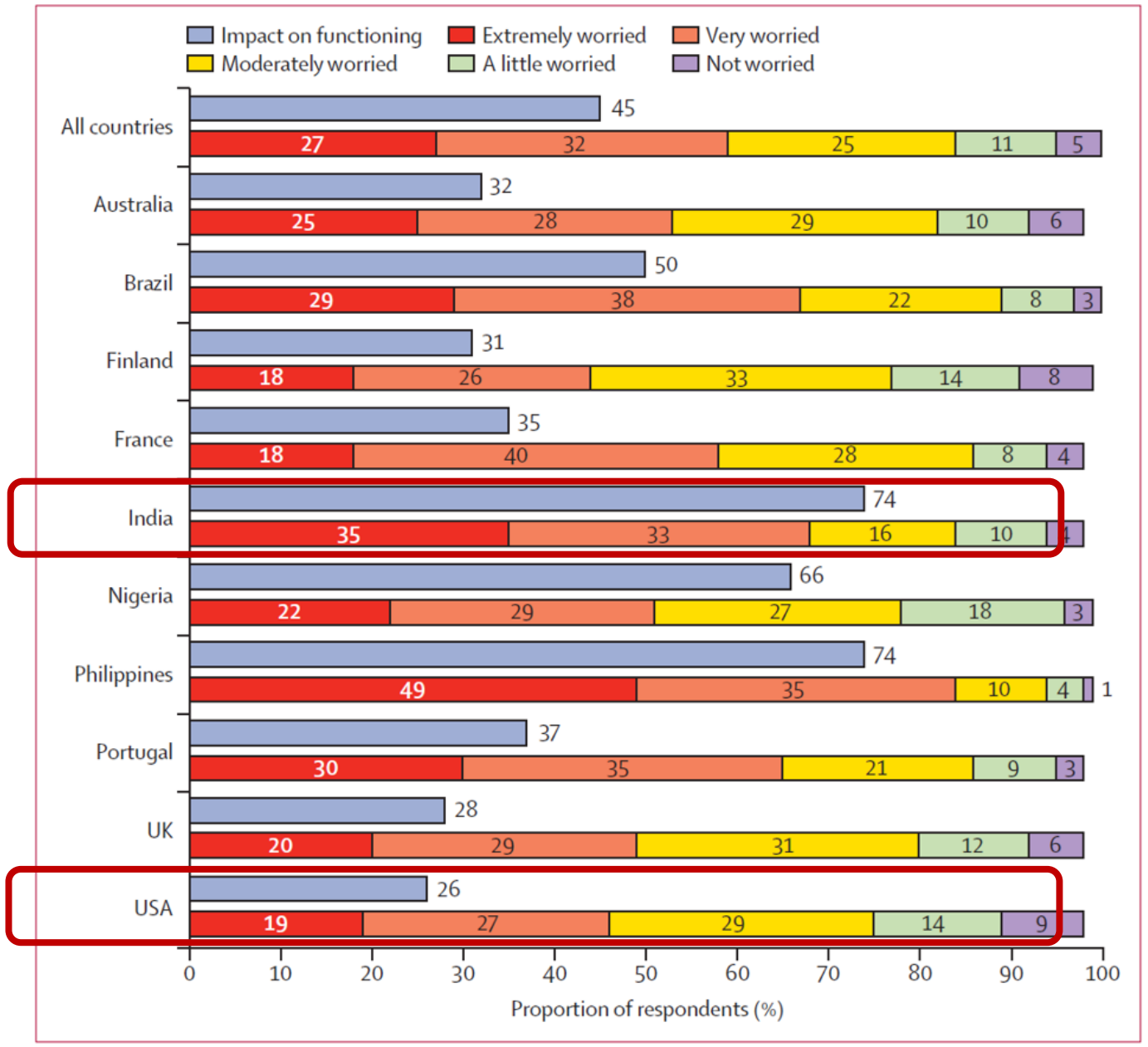
## % who think global warming is mostly human caused



2021

Source: Marlon et al (2022). Perceived harm from global warming is becoming more widespread. Yale Climate Change Communication. Available at: <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/perceived-harm-ycom-2021/>

# Worry about climate change and impact on functioning among 16-25 years-olds



Note: Data are shown in % for the whole sample (n=10,000) and by country (n=1,000 per country) of 16–25 year olds, surveyed between May 18 and June 7, 2021.

Source: Hickman et al. (2021). Climate anxiety in children and young people and their beliefs about government responses to climate change: A global survey. *Lancet Planetary Health* 5: e863–73.



# SOME RESOURCES



## Teaching Resources:

- <https://subjecttoclimate.org/>
- <https://www.allwecansave.earth/for-educators>
- <https://climatechange.rutgers.edu/resources/climate-education-resources/k-12-educators>
- [RADICAL HOPE – Inspiring Sustainability Transformations Through our Past | A Group-Sourced Syllabus \(https://radicalhopesyllabus.com/\)](https://radicalhopesyllabus.com/)
- <https://www.edutopia.org/article/teaching-climate-change-social-studies>
- <https://stemteachingtools.org/sp/climate-learning>
- <https://climatechampions.ucsd.edu/k12-curriculum/>

## Speakers and Resources:

- <https://www.climateactionproject.org/climatejustice>

## Teacher Professional Development

- <https://k12.presidio.edu/climate-education/>

## Activism for/with Students:

- Change the Chamber:  
[https://www.mobilize.us/climateactioncampaign/event/520380/?referrer\\_vol=5056328&rname=Aaron&share\\_context=event\\_details&share\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://www.mobilize.us/climateactioncampaign/event/520380/?referrer_vol=5056328&rname=Aaron&share_context=event_details&share_medium=copy_link)

## Ecoanxiety & Climate Grief

- <https://www.existentialtoolkit.com/> (developed by an educator)
- <https://www.goodgriefnetwork.org/>
- <https://www.psychologyforasafeclimate.org/>
- <https://deepadaptation.ning.com/>
- <https://www.climatepsychologyalliance.org/handbook>
- <https://www.climatehope.earth/>
- <https://www.climateandmind.org/>
- <http://ecoanxietyandhope.blogspot.com/>
- <https://www.theresilientactivist.org/>
- <https://transitionnetwork.org/do-transition/inner-transition/>
- <https://extinctionrebellion.uk/act-now/resources/wellbeing/>
- <https://www.themindfulnessinitiative.org/>
- <https://www.climatementalhealth.net/>
- <https://climateawakening.org/>
- [https://www.climatepsychology.us/intersectionality?mc\\_cid=&mc\\_eid=05af7a57b9](https://www.climatepsychology.us/intersectionality?mc_cid=&mc_eid=05af7a57b9)
- <https://onbeing.org/starting-points/hope-is-a-muscle/>
- <https://gendread.substack.com/p/resources-for-working-with-climate> (and generally, the newsletter from Britt Wray, Gen Dread and the book by the same name!)

## Connecting with other educators on Climate Change:

- [WorldWide Teach-in Google Group](#)