The Faith Factor in Climate Change

Presentation and Panel Discussion

FEATURING

- Melissa Deckman, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of Public Religion Research Institute
- Paul Djupe, Ph.D., Director, Data for Political Research Program at Denison University and PRRI Affiliated Scholar
- Sevim Kalyoncu, Executive Director of Green Muslims
- Rev. Jessica Moerman, Ph.D., President and CEO of Evangelical Environment Network, Climate Scientist
Survey Methodology

• Designed by PRRI and conducted online between June 8 and June 28, 2023

• Margin of error for the full sample is +/-1.6 percentage points

• A representative sample of 5,192 adults from the Ipsos Knowledge Panel (age 18 and up) living in all 50 states and DC, who are part of Ipsos’s Knowledge Panel and an additional 348 who were recruited by Ipsos using opt-in survey panels to increase the sample sizes in smaller states
ATTITUDES ABOUT THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE
### Causes of Climate Change, by Party and Trusted News Source

#### Percent who say:

- Climate change is caused mostly by human activity such as burning fossil fuels
- Climate change is mostly caused by natural patterns in the earth's environment
- There is no solid evidence that climate change is happening
- Don't know/ Skipped

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Americans</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
<th>Republican</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate change is caused mostly by human activity</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change is mostly caused by natural patterns in the earth's environment</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>There is no solid evidence that climate change is happening</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't know/ Skipped</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Source:** PRRI Climate Change Survey, 2023.
# Causes of Climate Change, by Religious Affiliation

Percent who say:

- Climate change is caused mostly by human activity such as burning fossil fuels
- Climate change is mostly caused by natural patterns in the earth's environment
- There is no solid evidence that climate change is happening
- Don't know/Skipped

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Americans</th>
<th>Religiously unaffiliated</th>
<th>Hispanic Catholic</th>
<th>Other non-Christian religions</th>
<th>Jewish</th>
<th>Hispanic Protestant</th>
<th>Black Protestant</th>
<th>Other Protestant of color</th>
<th>White Catholic</th>
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<td>Don't know/Skipped</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>44</td>
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Views on Natural Disasters and ‘End Times’
Views on ‘End Times,’ by Religious Affiliation

Percent who agree the severity of recent natural disasters is evidence that we are in what the Bible calls “the end of times”

- **2014**
  - All Americans: 35%
  - Black Protestant: 62%
  - Hispanic Catholic*: 23%
  - White mainline/non-evangelical Protestant: 21%
  - White Catholic: 13%

- **2023**
  - All Americans: 49%
  - Black Protestant: 73%
  - Hispanic Catholic*: 49%
  - White mainline/non-evangelical Protestant: 35%
  - White Catholic: 26%
  - Religiously unaffiliated: 29%

CHRISTIAN DOMINIONISM AND STEWARDSHIP
## Christian Dominionism and Stewardship, by Religious Affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Affiliation</th>
<th>Agree that God has called Christians to exercise dominion over American society</th>
<th>Say living up to our God given role as stewards to take care of the earth is extremely/very important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Americans</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White evangelical Protestant</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Protestant</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Protestant</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other nonwhite Protestant</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White mainline/non-evangelical Protestant</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Catholic</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Catholic</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latter-day Saint</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Christian</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other non-Christian religions</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religiously unaffiliated</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS TO THE EARTH
Spiritual Connection to the Earth, by Religious Affiliation

Percent who say they feel a deep spiritual connection with nature and the earth most days:

- All Americans: 52%
- Latter-day Saint: 73%
- Other non-Christian religions: 61%
- Hispanic Catholic: 60%
- White mainline/non-evangelical Protestant: 58%
- Black Protestant: 56%
- Hispanic Protestant: 54%
- White Catholic: 53%
- Other nonwhite Protestant: 48%
- Religiously unaffiliated: 46%
- Jewish: 42%

Is Climate Change a Crisis?
Concern About Climate Change, 2014 to 2023

Percent who say climate change is a crisis:

- All Americans: 2014 - 23, 2023 - 27
- Religiously unaffiliated: 2014 - 33, 2023 - 43
- Jewish: 2014 - 31, 2023 - 32
- Hispanic Catholic: 2014 - 28, 2023 - 31
- Other Protestants of color*: 2014 - 19, 2023 - 22
- White mainline/non-evangelical Protestant: 2014 - 16, 2023 - 20
- Black Protestant: 2014 - 16, 2023 -
- Hispanic Protestant*: 2014 - 10, 2023 -
- Latter-day Saint*: 2014 - 8, 2023 - 13

* Number of cases too small to report

**Concern About Climate Change, by Party and Trusted News Source**

Percent who believe climate change is a:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Crisis</th>
<th>Major problem</th>
<th>Don’t know/ Skipped</th>
<th>Minor problem</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Americans</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mainstream news</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No TV news</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fox News</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Far-right news</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>47</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Concern About Climate Change, by Generation

Percent who believe climate change is a:

- **Crisis**
- **Major problem**
- **Don't know/Skipped**
- **Minor problem**
- **Not a problem at all**

**All Americans**
- Crisis: 27%
- Major problem: 36%
- Don't know/Skipped: 23%
- Minor problem: 14%

**Generation Z**
- Crisis: 34%
- Major problem: 36%
- Don't know/Skipped: 18%
- Minor problem: 11%

**Millennial**
- Crisis: 32%
- Major problem: 36%
- Don't know/Skipped: 20%
- Minor problem: 11%

**Generation X**
- Crisis: 23%
- Major problem: 35%
- Don't know/Skipped: 26%
- Minor problem: 16%

**Baby Boomers**
- Crisis: 23%
- Major problem: 37%
- Don't know/Skipped: 25%
- Minor problem: 14%

**Silent Generation**
- Crisis: 17%
- Major problem: 40%
- Don't know/Skipped: 25%
- Minor problem: 17%

SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION
Support for Climate Policies

PRRI asked Americans about their support for five different policies to combat climate change:

1. Increasing federal funding for research on renewable energy such as wind, solar, and hydrogen, even if it raises taxes

2. Setting stricter limits on the amount of carbon dioxide that power plants and other industrial facilities can release, even if it raises the prices of goods and services

3. Requiring companies that produce fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas to pay a tax, even if it raises the cost of electricity

4. Setting stricter limits on the amount of carbon dioxide that vehicles produce, even if it raises the price of cars

5. Providing tax breaks for individuals who adopt renewable energy sources to power their home

The Climate Action Scale
The Climate Action Scale, by Religious Affiliation and Importance

Climate Action Scale score (0-1):

- All Americans: 0.57
- Religiously unaffiliated: 0.66
- Other non-Christian religions: 0.66
- Jewish: 0.62
- Black Protestant: 0.61
- Hispanic Catholic: 0.6
- White Catholic: 0.53
- White mainline/non-evangelical Protestant: 0.52
- Hispanic Protestant: 0.52
- Other Protestant of color: 0.51
- Latter-day Saint: 0.51
- White evangelical Protestant: 0.41

In my life, religion is:

- The most important thing: 0.45
- One among many important things: 0.54
- Not as important as other things: 0.58
- Not important: 0.67

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