



## Public Opinion of Climate Impacts and Preparation

### **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH IMPACTS: Americans are experiencing extreme weather events, but aren't always connecting the dots to climate disruption.**

- 59% of Americans say that the country's weather has been worse over the past several years and 56% attribute these changes to global warming.<sup>i</sup>
- 70% of Americans report that they experienced one or more extreme weather events in the past year.<sup>ii</sup> However, only 33% respond affirmatively when asked if they have personally experienced the effects of global warming.<sup>iii</sup>

*Extreme high winds were the most commonly reported extreme storm event in 2013.*

- 40% of Americans say they've experienced extreme high winds in the past year.<sup>iv</sup>
- 28% say that they have personally experienced an extreme rainstorm in the past year.<sup>v</sup>

*A majority of Americans are concerned about the consequences of sea-level rise.*

- 73% of Americans believe that global warming will cause sea-level rise and 76% say this will be a serious problem for the U.S.<sup>vi</sup>

*Americans are beginning to see understand heat waves, drought and wildfires as impacts of climate disruption.*

- 32% of Americans say they have personally experienced extreme heat in the past year.<sup>vii</sup>
- 24% of Americans say they have personally experienced drought conditions in the past year.<sup>viii</sup>
- 65% of Americans agree that global warming is fueling record wildfires.<sup>ix</sup>

*Most Americans are concerned about the public health impacts of climate disruption.*

- 66% of Americans are concerned that global warming will cause them personal harm, which is an increase of 10 percentage points since 2008.<sup>x</sup>

### **VIEWS ON PREPARATION: A majority of Americans say that they support proactive climate preparedness, but are unsure if preparation efforts will be successful.**

- 82% of Americans think people and organizations should take steps to prepare for impacts, rather than wait to deal with the damage after it occurs.<sup>xi</sup>
- 94% of Americans still think preparation will be difficult.<sup>xii</sup>
- 5% of Americans say humans can reduce global warming and will do so successfully.<sup>xiii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Leiserowitz, A., Maibach, E., Roser-Renouf, C., Feinberg, G., Rosenthal, S., Marlon, J., and Howe, P. "Extreme Weather and Climate Change in the American Mind, November, 2013." Yale University and George Mason University. 2014

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid

<sup>v</sup> Ibid

<sup>vi</sup> Krosnick, J. "Climate Adaptation National Poll" Gfk Custom Research North America, Stanford University 2013

<sup>vii</sup> Leiserowitz et al 2014

<sup>viii</sup> Ibid

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid

<sup>x</sup> Leiserowitz A., Maibach, E., Roser-Renouf, C., Feinberg, G., & Howe, P. "Climate change in the American mind: Americans' global warming beliefs and attitudes in April 2013." Yale University and George Mason University. 2013

<sup>xi</sup> Gfk Custom Research, Stanford University "Climate Adaptation National Poll" 2013

<sup>xii</sup> Ibid

<sup>xiii</sup> Leiserowitz, A., Maibach, E., Roser-Renouf, C., Feinberg, G., Rosenthal, S., & Marlon, J. "Climate change in the American mind: Americans' global warming beliefs and attitudes in November, 2013." Yale University and George Mason University. 2014