

The MassINC Polling Group
Boston Museum of Science - Youth Climate Change Poll
 National survey of 1,501 students grades 6 – 12
 Field dates: March 28 – April 12, 2024

What do you think is the biggest issue facing the world right now?

Inflation / cost of living / economy	23%
War / global conflict	13%
Climate Change / Global Warming	11%
Crime, violence, drug abuse	8%
Hunger / poverty / homelessness	8%
Hatred / division	7%
Politics / govt / democratic decline	5%
Migration / Borders	5%
Gun violence	5%
Bullying / peer pressure	5%
Racism	4%
Pollution / environmental degradation	3%
Social Media	2%
College / job prospects	1%
Other	12%
Don't know / refused	2%

How often do you think about climate change?

All the time	11%
Often	24%
Sometimes	37%
Rarely	18%
Never	10%
Don't know / refused	<1%

What are the TOP 3 emotions you feel when you think about climate change?

Angry	14%
Bored	11%
Challenged	19%
Confused	26%
Curious	26%
Discouraged	23%
Disgusted	13%
Excited	3%
Guilty	7%
Hopeful	18%
Helpless	28%
Indifferent	17%
Inspired	6%
Joyful	3%
Satisfied	4%
Sad	32%
Serene	2%
Surprised	7%
Uneasy	30%
Don't know / refused	1%

How much of an impact do you think climate change is having on your life?

Major impact	30%
Minor impact	42%
No impact	17%
Don't know / refused	11%

How much of a problem do you think climate change will be in your lifetime?

Major problem	53%
Minor problem	29%
Not a problem	9%
Don't know / refused	10%

Would you agree or disagree with each of the following?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know / refused
My generation will find solutions to address climate change	28%	44%	10%	5%	12%
Addressing climate change will require radical changes in how we live	40%	37%	9%	6%	7%
Innovation is a key strategy to addressing climate change	38%	42%	6%	4%	10%
We need US government officials to make climate change their top priority	39%	34%	11%	9%	8%
We need world leaders to make climate change their top priority	43%	33%	9%	7%	8%

Compared to other places, do you think the area where you live is ...?

More vulnerable to the impacts of climate change	26%
Less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change	22%
About the same	44%
Don't know / refused	8%

How much should leaders listen to the ideas of each group as they work to address climate change?

	A lot	Just some	A little	Not at all	Don't know / refused
Indigenous people	47%	22%	13%	6%	12%
People of color	49%	23%	12%	5%	11%
Higher income people	38%	25%	18%	8%	10%
Lower income people	48%	22%	14%	7%	9%
People who are disabled	46%	23%	14%	7%	11%
Young people	56%	21%	11%	6%	6%
Big companies	38%	21%	22%	10%	8%
People who live in urban areas	50%	26%	12%	4%	8%
People who live in rural areas	48%	25%	14%	4%	9%
People who live in suburban areas	45%	29%	14%	3%	8%

..How hopeful are you about humans' ability **to adapt to living with** climate change during your lifetime?

Very hopeful	23%
Somewhat hopeful	51%
Not too hopeful	17%
Not at all hopeful	3%
Don't know / refused	6%

Overall, how hopeful are you about humans' ability **to reduce the pace of climate change** during your lifetime?

Very hopeful	21%
Somewhat hopeful	50%
Not too hopeful	16%
Not at all hopeful	4%
Don't know / refused	9%

Do you think the United States government is doing too little, the right amount, or too much to address climate change?

Too little	55%
The right amount	19%
Too much	10%
Don't know / refused	16%

Do you think corporations are doing too little, the right amount, or too much to address climate change?

Too little	61%
The right amount	17%
Too much	6%
Don't know / refused	16%

Do you think adults are doing too little, the right amount, or too much to address climate change?

Too little	56%
The right amount	24%
Too much	5%
Don't know / refused	14%

Do you think scientists are doing too little, the right amount, or too much to address climate change?

Too little	28%
The right amount	45%
Too much	7%
Don't know / refused	20%

Do you think other people your age are doing too little, the right amount, or too much to address climate change?

Too little	47%
The right amount	28%
Too much	6%
Don't know / refused	19%

How often do your friends discuss climate change?

All the time	3%
Often	10%
Sometimes	29%
Rarely	31%
Never	25%
Don't know / refused	1%

How often do you hear adults in your life discuss climate change?

All the time	3%
Often	13%
Sometimes	39%
Rarely	30%
Never	14%
Don't know / refused	1%

How often is climate change discussed at school during class?

All the time	4%
Often	18%
Sometimes	45%
Rarely	23%
Never	9%
Don't know / refused	1%

In which class(es) do you hear climate change discussed at school?

Social Studies	52%
Science	91%
Math	6%
Foreign Language	4%
Language Arts	6%
Music	3%
Art	5%
Other	3%
Don't know / refused	1%

Do you think we will have to live differently as the impacts of climate change grow?

Yes, we will have to live differently	72%
No, we can keep living mostly the same way	17%
Don't know / refused	11%

In your ideal future, how would you get around most of the time?

Drive your own car	60%
Rideshare via app	16%
Carpool with someone	24%
Take the bus	18%
Bike	34%
Walk	42%
Take the train	12%
Other ways	2%
Don't know / refused	4%

How important or unimportant are each of the following to how you envision your future?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Don't know / refused
Your job having a direct impact on reducing climate change and preserving the environment	35%	37%	13%	6%	9%
Education that provides experience preparing you to work in a field that focuses on climate change solutions	40%	35%	11%	7%	8%
Your job allowing you to work a hybrid or remote schedule	41%	34%	13%	4%	8%
Your job allowing shorter work weeks	38%	35%	14%	6%	8%

Which of the following is most important to you?

A job that makes good money	54%
A job that has a positive impact on the environment	35%
Don't know / refused	11%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Youth Gender:

Boy / Man	50%
Girl / Woman	49%
Non-binary	1%
Don't know / refused	<1%

Youth Age:

12 years	15%
13 years	17%
14 years	13%
15 years	14%
16 years	14%
17 years	17%
18 years	4%
Over 18 years	6%
Don't know / refused	1%

Youth Race:

White / Caucasian	61%
African-American / Black	18%
Hispanic / Latino	25%
Asian	7%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%
Native American or Alaskan Native	3%
Middle Eastern / Arab American	<1%
Prefer to self-describe	<1%
More than one race	2%
Don't know / refused	<1%

Youth Grade:

6 th grade	14%
7 th grade	14%
8 th grade	14%
9 th grade	14%
10 th grade	14%
11 th grade	14%
12 th grade	15%
Don't know / refused	2%

About the poll

These results are based on a national survey of 1,501 students in grades 6 through 12. Survey invitations were sent to parents and caregivers. After demographic questions, parents and caregivers were asked about the presence of a student in the target age group living in the household, and then for permission for the student to participate in the survey. To ensure final data reflected known and estimated population parameters, results were weighted by race, age, gender, and geography of students as well as caregivers' education level. Targets were derived from US Census Bureau Figures. The credibility interval for this survey is +/- 2.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, inclusive of the design effect. This project was conducted by The MassINC Polling Group and sponsored by The Boston Museum of Science.