



Climate Change Beliefs Among Snow Sport Enthusiasts in the West Central Mountains of Idaho

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Methods and Materials

I created a google forms survey that was placed on several social media platforms such as: Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. I then kept the survey open for ten days from February 3rd, 2020 through February 13th, 2020.

Abstract/Intro

I chose this subject as my science fair project because I've grown up in such a cold climate area. I've been hearing of climate change since I first got into school. My thought process behind this was, well I hear how climate change has affected all these different places around the world but how is it affecting where I live?

Leading up to this project I had read three research papers that were similar to the project I was aiming for. Each paper went deep into how the beliefs of one person can affect their thought process behind climate change. Things like: if you grew up in a rural area or an urban one, if you grew up poor or wealthy, where you grew up, and even things you would have never thought of, like which government party you side with. In reading this I realized that this project is not only about where I live and how the climate is starting to reshape my home, but also how our local community members are retaining this info. There is so much psychology in this project, which is something I never thought would come up in a project like this, but I think it's extremely interesting and I can't wait to dive in!

Objectives

1. Is there a correlation between people who think climate change is happening globally vs. locally?
2. Does your level of education influence your opinion about climate change?
3. Does the amount of years an individual spends in snow sports influence their ideas about global climate change?
4. Does number of years an individual has spent in snow sports influence their ideas about local climate change?

References

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Morris, S. M., Chrysochou, P., Christensen, J. D., Orquiu, J. L., Barraza, J. Paul, J. Z., & Mitkidis, P. (2019). Stories vs. facts: Triggering emotion and action-taking on climate change. *Climatic Change*, 154, 19-36.

Acknowledgements

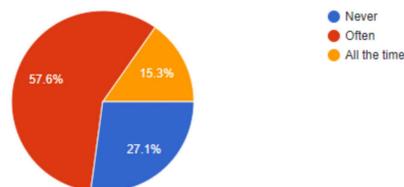
Spencer Lamarche for capturing my interest on this topic. Mrs. Goodwin (my science inquiry teacher) for keeping me motivated and helping me when I needed it. And a big thank you to everyone who took my survey. You guys really helped me out and I couldn't have done any of this without any of you.



Results/Data

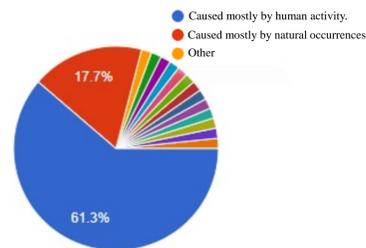
How often do you discuss climate change?

59 responses



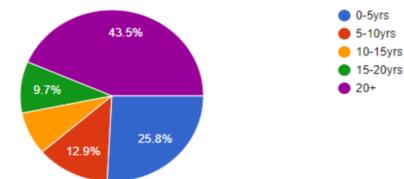
Assuming that climate change is happening, do you think it is...?

62 responses



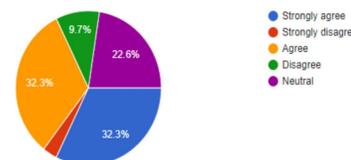
How many years have you participated in snow sports?

62 responses



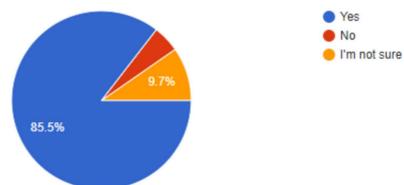
How strongly do you agree with the statement: Climate change is obviously affecting my local community

62 responses



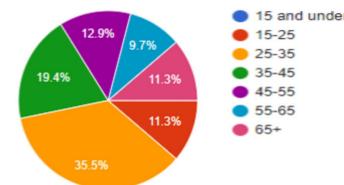
Do you believe climate change is happening?

62 responses



Age

62 responses



Conclusion

- 95% of people who believed climate change is having an obvious affect on our local community also believed that climate change is happening around the world. The other 5% was unsure if it was really happening in the entire world but they believed that climate change was happening within our local community.
- 77% of people who didn't believe that climate change was affecting our local community thought that climate change was happening in the real world.
- 93% of people with a high school education believed that climate change was really happening in the world. The other 7% said that climate change wasn't happening.
- 8% of people with a masters degree were not sure if climate change was happening. The other 92% thought that climate change was definitely happening.
- 6% of people with 0-5 years of snow sports experience believed that climate change isn't happening. The remainder agree.
- 97% of people with 20+ years in snow sports experience believed that climate change is happening. The remainder are unsure.

Survey questions:

- Question 6:** Do you believe climate change is happening?
- Question 7:** Assuming that climate change is happening, do you think it is...?
- Question 8:** Which statement comes closest to what you believe?
- Question 9:** How strongly do you agree with the statement: Climate change is obviously affecting my local community?
- Question 10:** If you agreed with the statement above then please explain why.
- Question 11:** How often do you discuss climate change?

Gender	Age	Snow Sports Experience	Level of Education	Question 6	Question 7	Question 8	Question 9	Question 10	Question 11
Female	45-55	20+	PHD	Yes	Caused mostly by human activities	Most scientists believe that climate change is happening	Strongly agree	Climate change has been impacting our snowpack for the last couple of decades. We are also seeing increased wildfire intensity and severity. Additionally, climate change is impacting our community in that people are anxious about the future, and want to see change. However, as the topic causes so much disagreement across the political spectrum, it can be difficult for folks to know how to talk about it with others, and this also increases anxiety I think.	Often
Female	45-55	15-20yrs	Masters	I'm not sure	both human activity and natural occurrences.	There is a lot of disagreement as to whether or not climate change is happening	Agree	I do see affects of changes in average temperatures and changes in snow pack etc... Not sure if it is actual climate change or long term cyclical changes that have occurred since the beginning of the earth.	
Female	55-65	20+	Bachelor's degree	Yes	Caused mostly by natural occurrences in nature	Most scientists believe that climate change is happening	Agree	Weather affects outdoor activities and farm and ranches	Often
Female	35-45	20+	Masters	I'm not sure	both are a factor in the event climate change can be 100% proven.	Most scientists believe that climate change is happening	Neutral		
Female	35-45	20+	Masters	I'm not sure	both are a factor in the event climate change can be 100% proven.	Most scientists believe that climate change is happening	Neutral		
Male	65+	20+	High school	Yes	Caused mostly by natural occurrences in nature	There is a lot of disagreement as to whether or not climate change is happening	Disagree		Never
Female	25-35	20+	Bachelor's degree	I'm not sure	Some of both of the above. I would need a definition of "climate change" to answer more definitively.	Most scientists believe that climate change is happening	Disagree		Never
Male	65+	20+	High school	Yes	Aided by lack of fire suppression in the last 20 years	There is a lot of disagreement as to whether or not climate change is happening	Strongly disagree		Often