

Background

The effects of climate change have been shown to negatively impact San Joaquin Valley residents (Ganesh & Smith 2018). Agricultural labor productivity, migration, and housing are all pressing socio economic issues within the San Joaquin Valley that are also affected by climate change and are, inevitably, focal points within the local legislature. Thus, it is important to understand the overall knowledge, beliefs, and opinions on climate change in Fresno County to inform policymakers. To our knowledge, there has not been a survey study of this scale performed in the Central Valley. Our objectives are twofold:

1. Identify relationships between the opinions and knowledge of Fresno County residents toward climate change according to their age, gender, race ethnicity, and place of residence.
2. Highlight themes derived from statistical analysis to inform policymakers and community program directors.

Methods

Data was collected from a community-wide survey distributed in a cross-sectional study design. The survey utilized Likert-Type scales to quantitatively measure collected ordinal data. The survey was distributed to Fresno County residents using snowball and convenience sampling methods. SPSS software analyzed statistically significant trends among participant responses via one-way ANOVA test. Avenue for distribution of surveys included fliers, qr code and anonymous link.

Flyer distributed to Fresno County residents for their opinions and ideas on climate change

PLEASE TAKE THIS SURVEY!

YOU CAN USE YOUR CAMERA OR QR APP TO READ THE QR CODE OR CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW.

POR FAVOR TOME ESTA ENCUESTA!

PUÉDE USAR SU CÁMARA O APLICACIÓN QR PARA LEER EL CÓDIGO QR O HACER CLIC EN EL ENLACE A CONTINUACIÓN.

We want to hear your thoughts on climate change

Queremos escuchar tu opinión sobre el cambio climático

Results

Demographic Characteristics

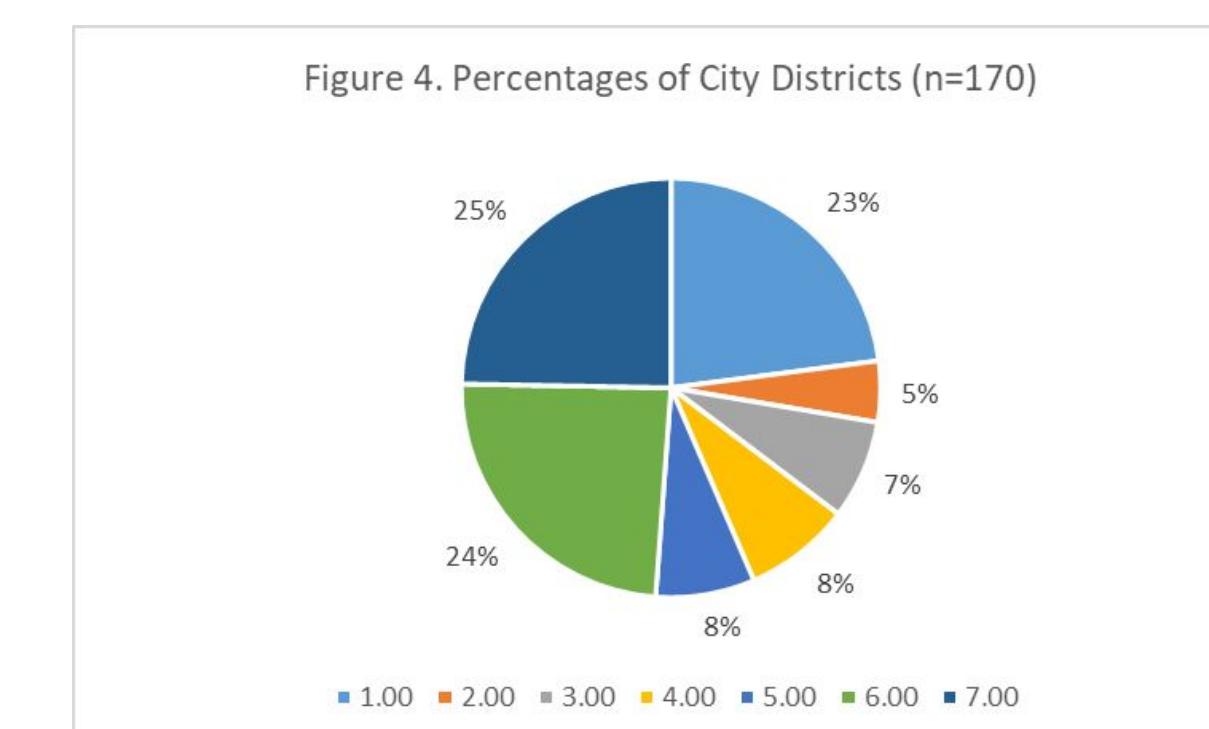
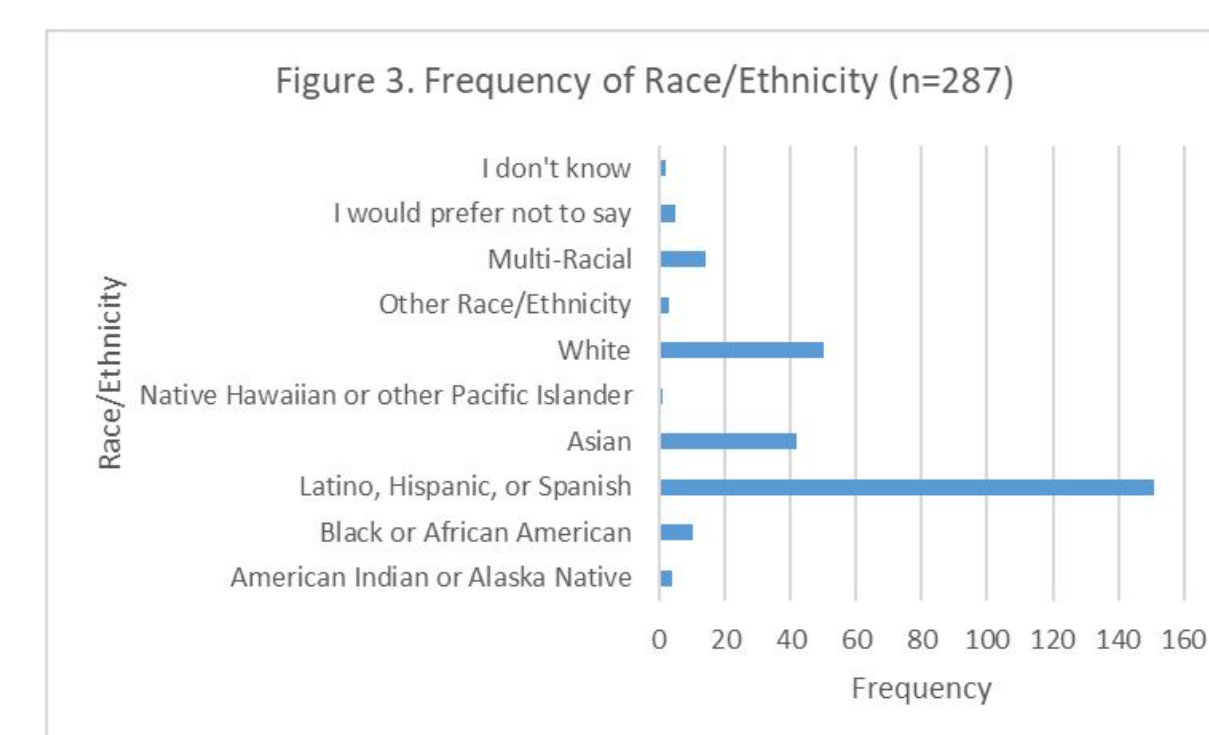
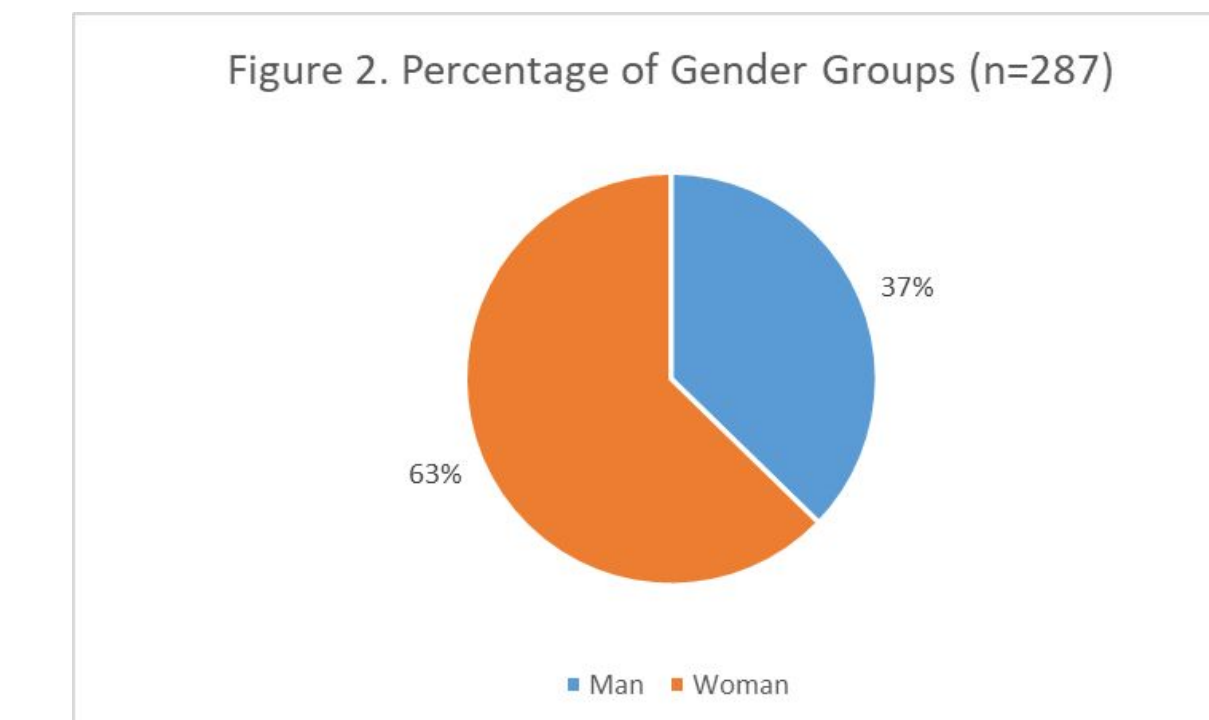
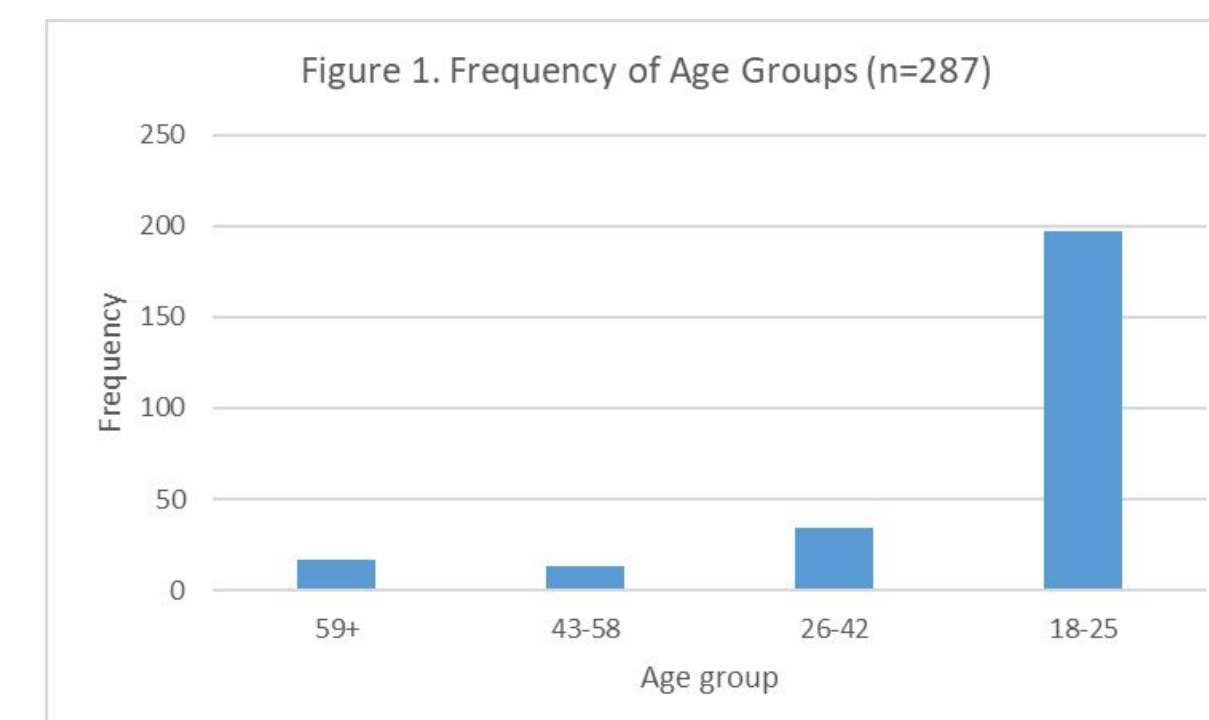


Figure 5. Mean of "Knowing about..." by Age Groups

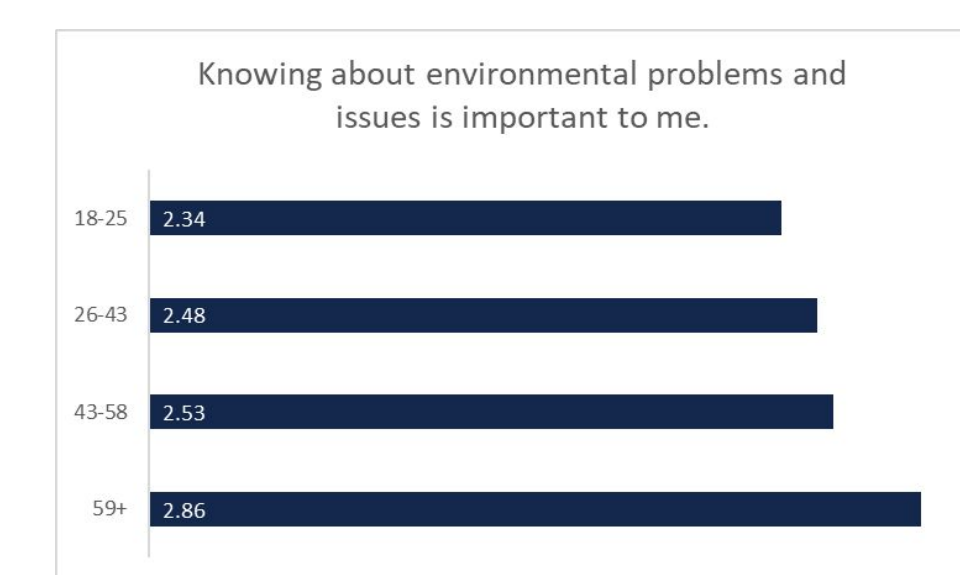


Figure 6. Would you support a regulatory CO₂ Policy? by Age Groups

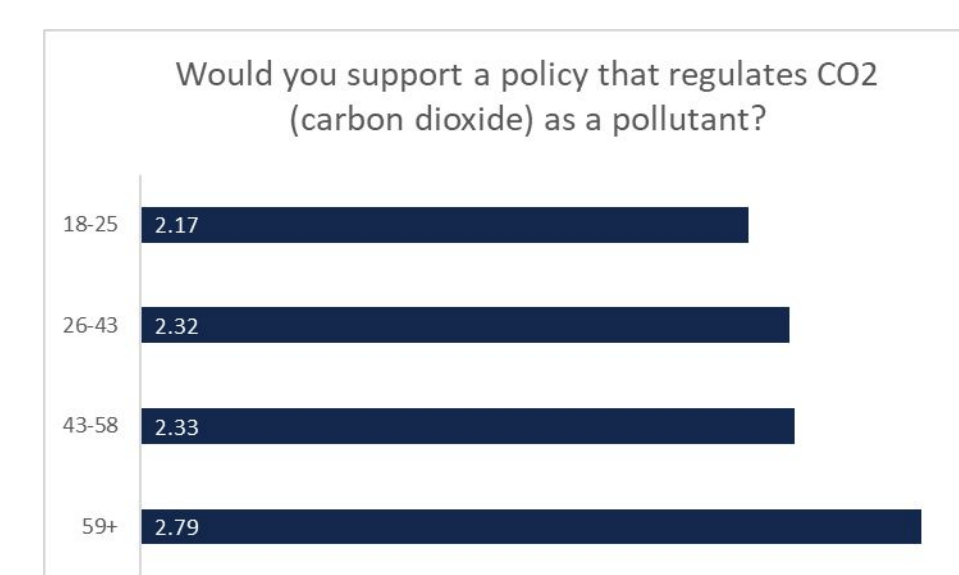


Figure 7. Fresno is doing a better job regulating land use by Age Groups

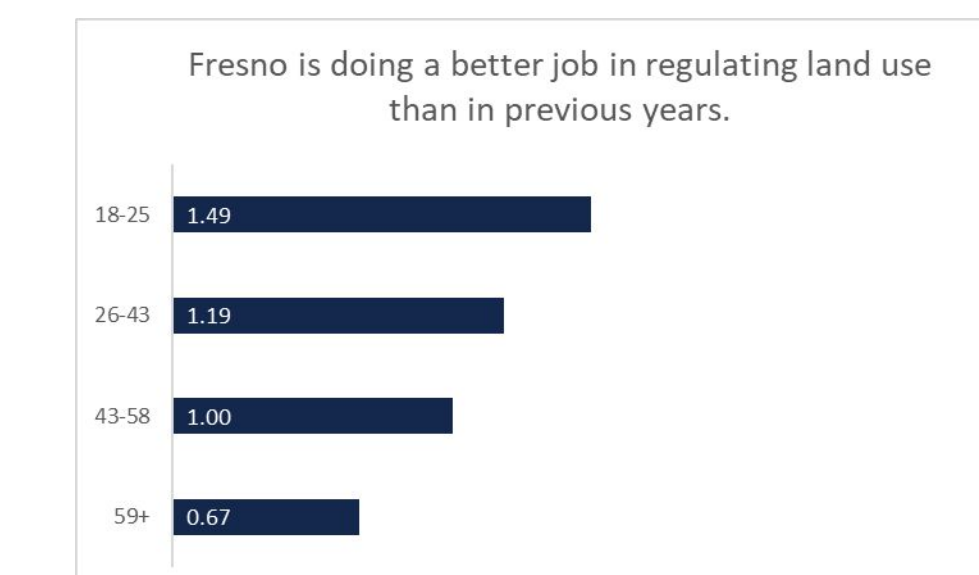


Figure 8. Climate change is exaggerated by Gender Groups

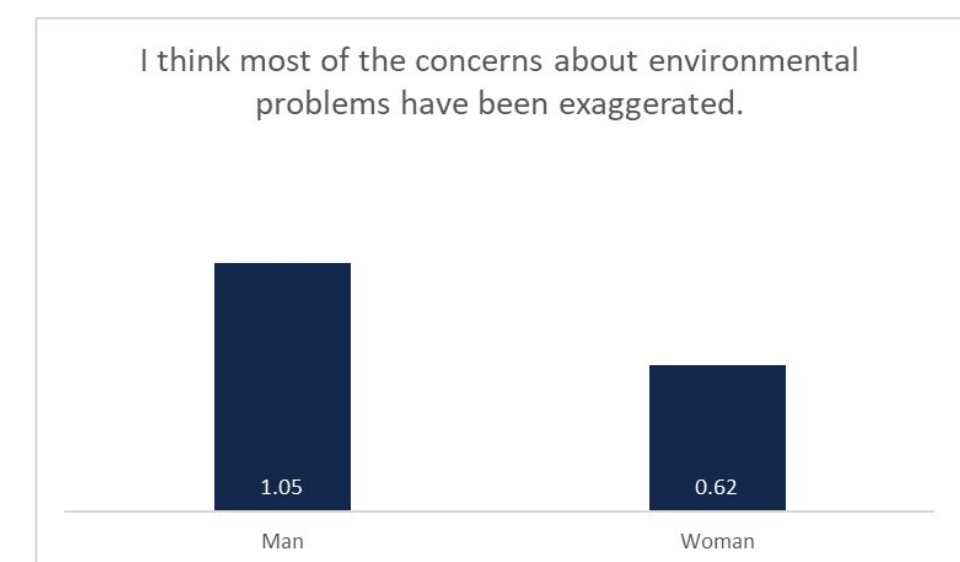


Figure 9. Global climate change will impact our environment by Gender Groups

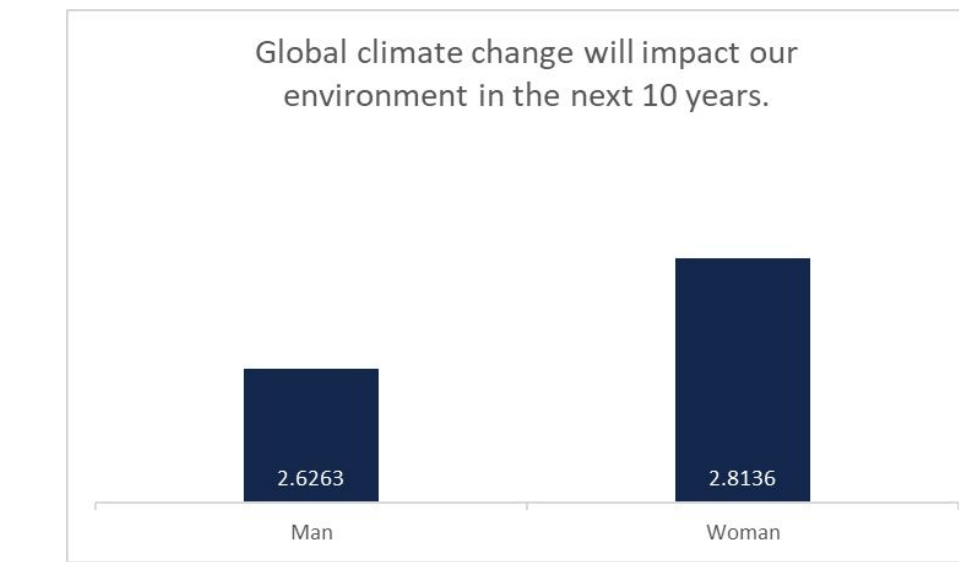


Figure 10. Local officials need to do more by Gender Groups

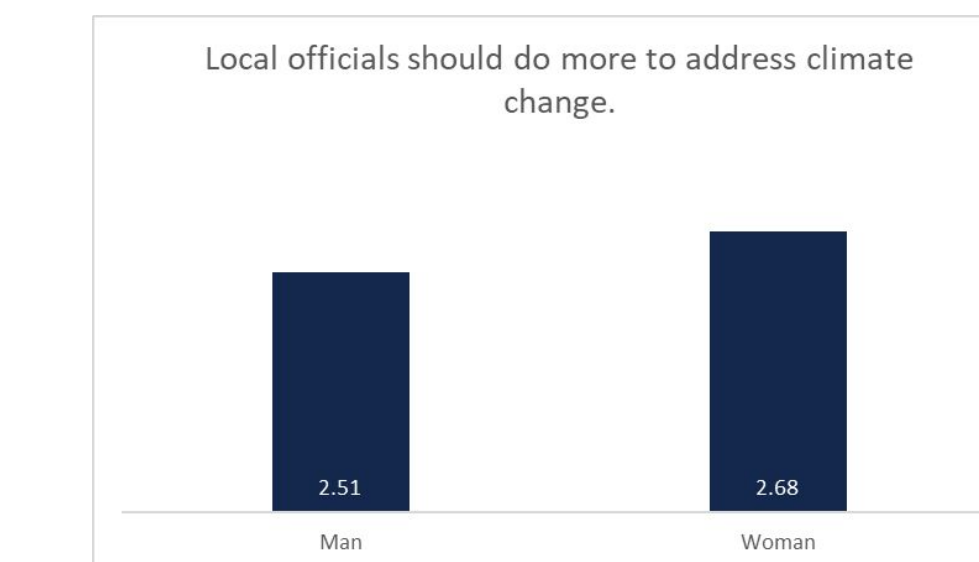


Figure 11. It is a waste to try and solve by Race/Ethnicity groups

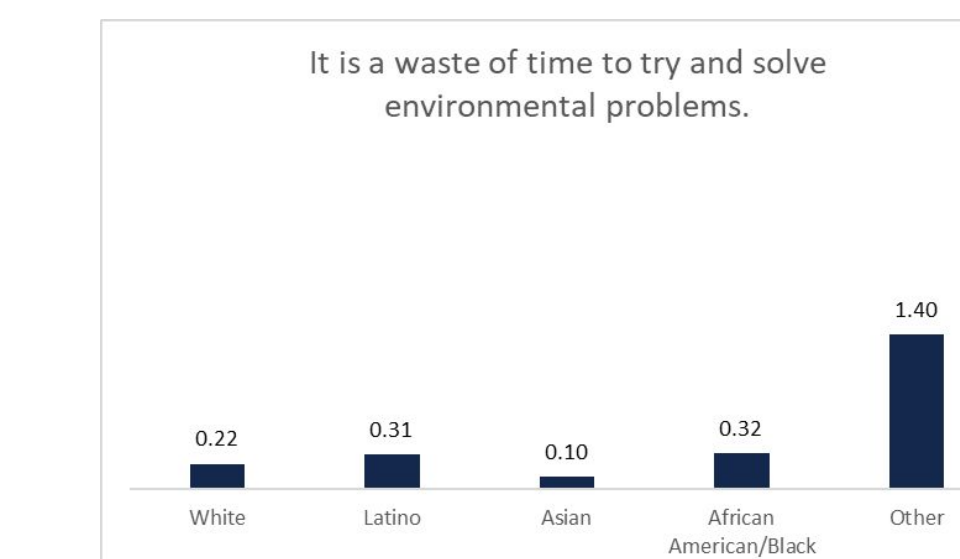


Figure 12. Should there be required lessons in schools by Race/Ethnicity groups

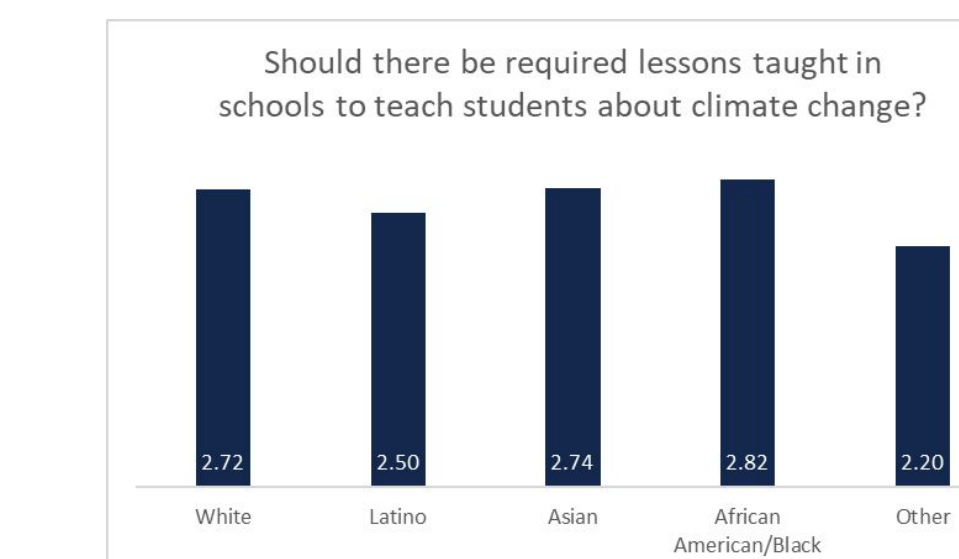


Figure 13. We should expand offshore drilling by Race/Ethnicity Groups

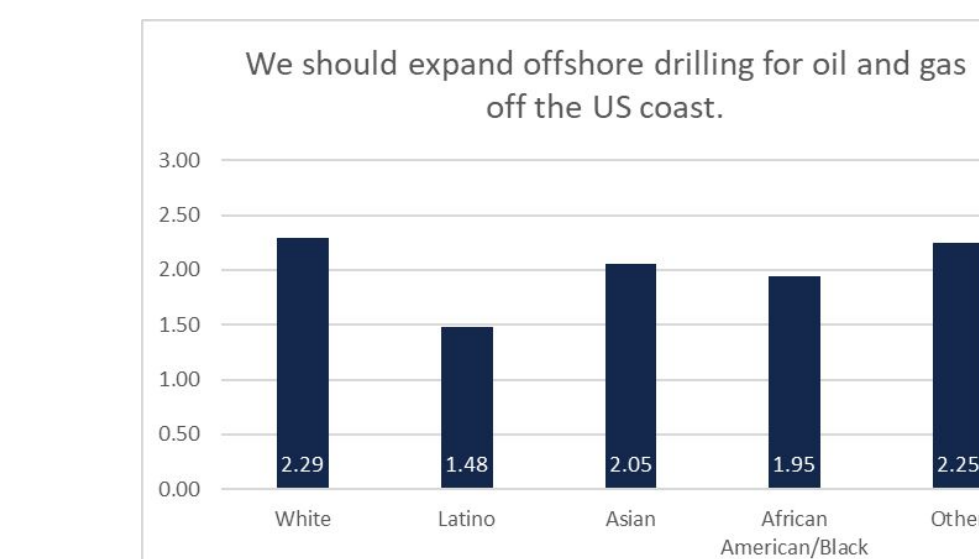


Figure 14. There is not much I can do to help by City District Groups.



Figure 15. Scoring numbers for questions

3	Strongly Agree
2	Somewhat Agree
1	Somewhat Disagree
0	Strongly Disagree

Discussion

Age
The age group 59+ was more willing to learn about environmental problems and issues, support more progressive environmental policies. They also show the lowest levels of confidence that Fresno is doing better regulating land use than in prior years. It is assumed the 59+ group have a better gauge of how Fresno has handled land use in the past and are more passionate compared to other groups who have less experience with environmental issues. The data shows that environmental issues are important to all age groups in Fresno County despite data from [pew research](#) that shows that younger generations are more willing to engage in environmental policy.

Gender
The differences between gender did not have high levels of variance. Men and women strongly disagreed that concerns were exaggerated about environmental problems. Both groups somewhat agree that global climate change will impact the environment in the next 10 years and want to see local officials do more about climate change. In research by [Yale University](#), men and women both expressed that climate change is happening but women expressed higher levels of risk perception than men

Race/Ethnicity
All groups strongly disagreed that it would be a waste of time to solve environmental problems. The groups would like to see more lessons of climate change being taught in schools. They showed varying levels of disagreement to expanding offshore drilling with Latinos and African Americans showing the highest levels of disagreements

City District
Each district expressed disagreement that they could not do anything about solving environmental problems.

Limitations
We used a convenience sample so these findings cannot be generalized to the entire population. We think some participants may not understand some of the questions (offshore drilling). Future surveys should include more questions about other demographics characteristics (i.e income, education level, occupation) to measure differences in those groups.

Conclusion

The survey is still receiving submissions from within the Fresno County area. Data will be analyzed again at a later date. It is important to continue data collection to hear from as many residents. Their voices will be instrumental for local officials creating climate change legislation that will protect the people of Fresno County.

Acknowledgements

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