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Data Article

Survey data reflecting popular opinions of the causes and mitigation of climate change

Jonathan E. Thompson

Department of Chemistry, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-1061, United States

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ABSTRACT

The data presented within this manuscript reports the results of a 20-question opinion survey concerning popular beliefs regarding the causes of and possible mitigation of climate change. The results and opinions from 746 survey respondents are presented. The data reflects certain misconceptions of climate change, and is useful for investigators to begin forming opinions of the public's knowledge regarding the potentially inflammatory topics of climate change, greenhouse gases, and geo-engineering.

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Specifications Table

Subject area	<i>Environmental Science, Public Policy, Public Opinion</i>
More specific subject area	<i>Climate Change</i>
Type of data	<i>Opinion Survey Results in Tables & Lists</i>
How data was acquired	<i>Online Survey</i>
Data format	<i>Summarized Responses for Each Survey Question is Reported</i>
Experimental factors	<i>Various</i>

E-mail address: jon.thompson@ttu.edu

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Experimental features	<i>An online survey was administered through Google forms to sample opinions related to climate change. Participants were recruited through social media, University email lists, and Amazon Mechanical Turk.</i>
Data source location	<i>Online Survey – various locations</i>
Data accessibility	<i>Data is provided within this article</i>

Value of the data

- The data allows investigators to have a base understanding of current public opinion and knowledge regarding the topic of climate change.
- As the data reports some scientific misconceptions it will allow targeted educational campaigns to be established to contribute to the public good.
- The data establishes current public beliefs and concerns that serve as a baseline for future study and establishment of public policy.

1. Data

Below I report the quantitative survey responses that describe public knowledge / opinion regarding climate change. It should be noted that the responses should not be considered scientifically accurate. Rather, the data reported here reflects only public opinion, not scientific facts.

Response Data for Question 1. Self reported age range.

Age range	% of Total respondents (N = 746)
18–30	43.6
31–40	30
41–50	12.7
51–60	7.2
61–70	5.3
71–80	0.8
Over 80	0.4

Response Data for Question 2. Self Reported Nationality.

Self-Reported Nationality	# of Respondents	% of Total Respondents (N = 746)
<i>Austrian, Bahreini, Bangladeshi, Chilean, Ecuadorian, Finnish, Greek, Guatemalan, Honhuran, Luxembourgish, Macedonian, Nepali, Netherlands, Romanian, Serbian, Singaporean, Slovene, South African, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, Turkish, Vietnamese, Yemeni, Zambian</i>	<i>1 each</i>	<i>0.13 each</i>
<i>Brazillian, Canadian, Chinese, French, Jamaican, Korean, Malaysian, Nigerian, Thai,</i>	<i>2 each</i>	<i>0.27 each</i>
<i>Irish, Mexican, Native American</i>	<i>3 each</i>	<i>0.4 each</i>
<i>British, Colombian, Filipino, German, Italian,</i>	<i>4 each</i>	<i>0.54 each</i>
<i>Asian</i>	<i>5 each</i>	<i>0.67</i>

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