



TO: Environmental Defense Action Fund
FR: Morning Consult
DT: June 2021
RE: Results: Respondents' Perceptions of Hurricanes and Flooding, Support for Preventative Measures



Respondents support preventative measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters before they happen, and support funding natural infrastructure as part of the American Jobs Plan. Hurricanes and flooding are viewed as problems in the U.S., and respondents believe the costs to clean up and recover from these events has increased in recent years.

SUPPORT FOR POLICIES

A MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS (83%) SUPPORT PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF NATURAL DISASTERS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN, INCLUDING HALF OF RESPONDENTS (51%) WHO STRONGLY SUPPORT THEM.

- Respondents in both parties support preventative measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters before they happen. Nine in ten Democrats (93%) and three quarters or more independents (75%) and Republicans (78%) support these measures.
- Support for preventative measures spans region, with 85% of Northeastern respondents, 80% of Midwestern respondents, 84% of Southern respondents, and 83% of Western respondents supporting preventative measures.
- Strong support also exists across community type. 84% of urban respondents, 84% of suburban respondents, and 78% of rural respondents support these measures.

RESPONDENTS RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL OF PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO HELP ON A RANGE OF ISSUES.

- Respondents say preventative measures to deal with natural disasters would “mostly help” the safety of human life (68%), infrastructure (58%), the condition of property (57%), agriculture (55%) as well as state (54%), local (56%), and national (53%) economies.

MORE THAN TWO THIRDS OF RESPONDENTS (69%) SUPPORT FUNDING NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS PART OF THE AMERICAN JOBS PLAN.

- Nine in ten Democrats (89%), three in five independents (61%) and half of Republicans (50%) support funding for natural infrastructure as part of the proposed plan.
- Three quarters of coastal respondents (74%) support funding natural infrastructure, as do 70% of inland respondents.

Methodology: This poll was conducted between May 18-May 20, 2021 among a sample of 2122 adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

WHEN IT COMES TO DISASTER READINESS, RESPONDENTS SUPPORT A NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE APPROACH, DEFINED AS NATURALLY OCCURRING LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND/OR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS THAT PROMOTE, USE, RESTORE OR EMULATE NATURAL ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES.

Percentage of Respondents Who Support the Following Proposal to Address Disaster Readiness	
% Support (strongly + somewhat)	Natural infrastructure measures, such as restored barrier islands, wetlands, and floodplains
Respondents	82%
Democrats	90%
Independents	75%
Republicans	77%
Coastal Respondents	87%
Inland Respondents	83%
Urban Respondents	82%
Suburban Respondents	83%
Rural Respondents	77%

CONCERN OVER HURRICANES AND FLOODING

MAJORITIES OF RESPONDENTS VIEW HURRICANES (75%) AND FLOODING (80%) AS PROBLEMS IN THE U.S.

- Respondents living in coastal areas are more likely to view hurricanes as a major problem (53%) compared to respondents overall (48%).

MORE THAN TWO THIRDS OF RESPONDENTS BELIEVE THE ECONOMIC OR FINANCIAL COSTS TO CLEAN UP AND RECOVER FROM NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE U.S. HAS INCREASED IN THE PAST 3-5 YEARS.

- 69% of respondents say the costs of cleaning up and recovering from hurricanes has increased (a lot + somewhat) in the past 3-5 years, and 71% say the same of flooding.
- 71% of coastal respondents say the cost of hurricanes and flooding has increased in recent years.

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR COST OF NATURAL DISASTERS

WHEN IT COMES TO HURRICANES AND FLOODING, RESPONDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO SAY GOVERNMENT ACROSS THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINANCIAL COSTS OF CONTAINING AND RECOVERING FROM THESE EVENTS AS OPPOSED TO INDIVIDUALS.

Percentage of Respondents Who Believe Each of the Following Should be Responsible for Costs of Containing and Recovering From...		
% Responsible (very + somewhat)	Hurricanes	Flooding
Federal Government	81%	83%
State Government	84%	84%
Local Government	79%	82%
Individuals	58%	60%

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