DELAWARE RESIDENTS’ OPINIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

Conducted for the State of Delaware and the Delaware Sea Grant College Program

by Responsive Management

2014
Acknowledgments

Responsive Management would like to thank Kelly Valencik, Susan Love, and Jennifer DeMooy of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Jennifer Merrill of the University of Delaware for their input, support, and guidance on this project.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY
This study was conducted for the State of Delaware and the Delaware Sea Grant College Program to determine residents’ opinions on climate change and sea level rise, whether residents believe they are happening, the perceived threats posed by them, and opinions on the potential mitigative actions that could taken. The study entailed a telephone survey of Delaware residents 18 years old and older. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Delaware residents (both landlines and cell phones were called in their proper proportions). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. Telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires.

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and Delaware research team. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey. The sample of Delaware residents was obtained from SSI and DatabaseUSA, companies that specialize in providing scientifically valid samples for surveys. Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. The survey was conducted in August 2014. The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language. Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,508 completed interviews. The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

In general, the trends analysis shows that fluctuations in responses from 2009 to 2014 were not dramatic and often only slight, even when statistically significant. Overall, it seems that Delaware residents have become slightly more supportive of or agreeable to the concept of and
actions related to climate change and, to a lesser degree, sea level rise and may be slightly more likely to consider them threats, but concern for both has not increased substantially. Self-reported knowledge levels about climate change and sea level rise have also not experienced increases, even though strong agreement that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts related to each showed substantial and statistically significant increases: 35% strongly agreed we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of climate change in 2009 compared to 54% in 2014, and 35% strongly agreed we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise in 2009 compared to 49% in 2014.

It is worth noting that many of the increases and decreases that were seen in the trends analysis are in the extreme categories, such the responses that are qualified with strongly or very, suggesting the changes in attitudes could be more a shift in degree, that is, perhaps some who were previously only slightly or moderately of an opinion have now progressed to a more solidified or stronger opinion. Nonetheless, there are also some small yet encouraging decreases in responses that suggest a denial or misinformed stance on climate change and sea level rise.

PERCEPTIONS OF IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

To test where climate change and sea level rise rank in the concerns that Delaware residents have, the survey presented a list of seven areas of possible concern and asked residents to indicate if they were very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned about each. Both climate change and sea level rise are the lowest ranked of the items. While a majority of residents are very concerned about the economy (72% are very concerned), public education (69%), health care (67%), crime rates (62%), and the environment (60%), less than a majority are very concerned about climate change (41%) and sea level rise (25%).

Similar to the above question, the survey presented a list of nine possible environmental concerns and asked residents to rate their concern (very, somewhat, or not at all). Again, climate change (the 7th ranked) and sea level rise (the 9th ranked) are low on the ranking by very concerned. A majority of residents are very concerned about water pollution (71%), toxic waste (68%), air quality (61%), loss of forest habitat (54%), and declining fish and
wildlife populations (52%). This compares to 43% being very concerned about climate change and 36% being very concerned about sea level rise.

**KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE**

- Two questions asked residents to rate their knowledge about climate change and sea level rise. They claim to know a bit more about climate change than sea level rise.
  - Most Delaware residents say that they know at least a moderate amount about climate change: 62% say that they know either a great deal (14%) or a moderate amount (48%). At the other end, 32% claim to know a little, and only 5% say that they know nothing.
  - In looking at knowledge of sea level rise, 41% of residents say that they know a great deal or moderate amount; meanwhile, 58% say that they know a little or nothing.

**OPINION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE AND WHETHER THEY ARE HAPPENING**

- Residents fall into three camps: deniers/the misinformed (making up about a quarter of residents), those on the fence, so to speak (making up about a third), and those who think that climate change and sea level rise are happening (making up just under half).
  - The deniers/misinformed are the 20% who are not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening, and the 26% who are not so or not at all convinced that sea level rise is happening. They include all of the 3% who say that most scientists think climate change is not happening, and a portion of the 31% who say that there is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether it is happening.
  - The middle ground consists of those who are convinced that climate change and sea level rise are happening but are only mostly convinced (rather than completely convinced). This group consists of the 32% who are mostly convinced about climate change and the 31% who are mostly convinced about sea level rise. Some of this group say that there is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether it is happening, while some know that most scientists think climate change is happening.
  - The final group are those who think that climate change and sea level rise are happening. This group consists of those who are completely convinced that climate change (46%)
and sea level rise (39%) are happening and the 49% who say that most scientists think climate change is happening.

- The survey questions that made up this section summary are discussed below.

- In basic questions, the survey directly asked residents about their opinions on whether climate change and sea level rise are happening.

- Regarding climate change, 20% of Delaware residents say that they are not so convinced or not at all convinced that climate change is happening. At the other end, 79% are completely or mostly convinced; however, a substantial portion of that consists of residents who are only mostly convinced (46% are completely and 32% are mostly convinced—rounding on the graph causes the apparent discrepancy in the sum, which is 79% when calculated on unrounded numbers).

- Likewise, 26% of residents are not so convinced or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising; 70% are completely or mostly convinced, the latter split between completely convinced (39%) and mostly convinced (31%).

- The survey included another way to assess opinion on whether climate change is happening. The survey asked residents if they agree or disagree that “Scientists are right that climate change is occurring”: while the majority of residents agree (83%), a substantial percentage (11%) disagree.

- Another question asked residents to say, regardless of their personal views, whether or not most scientists think climate change is happening. Misinformation is rampant, as 31% say that there is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether it is happening or not, and another 3% say that most scientists think climate change is not happening. Only 49% of residents correctly say that most scientists think that climate change is happening.

- A follow-up question asked residents to say whether climate change, if it is indeed happening, is caused mostly by human activities, mostly by natural changes in the environment, or both about equally. Most commonly, residents say it is caused mostly by human activities (41%), while 24% say mostly natural causes, and 29% say both about equally.
Another question asked if residents agree or disagree that “Climate change is contributing to the rise in sea levels.” The majority (79%) agree, but 11% disagree.

The survey delved into personal experiences with climate change and sea level rise, asking residents if they agree or disagree that they have personally experienced the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

- A slight majority agree that they have “personally experienced or observed local impacts of climate change” (53%), but 40% disagree.
- Just over a quarter agree that they have “personally experienced the impacts of sea level rise” (28%), but the majority disagree (66%).

**PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE AS A THREAT**

- About a fifth of Delaware residents (19%) are complacent about climate change, saying that climate change as a threat is not very serious or not at all serious. At the other end of the scale, 34% say it is a somewhat serious threat, and 45% say it is a very serious threat.

- A question asked about level of worry about sea level rise: 31% of residents are not at all worried about sea level rise. Moving up the scale, 24% are only a little worried, 31% are worried a moderate amount, and 13% are worried a great deal.

- The survey presented ten items and asked respondents to rate how much of a threat climate change was to each. The items fall into four tiers:
  - The top tier consists of people’s health and Delaware’s agriculture: 45% and 44%, respectively, say that climate change is a very serious threat to the items.
  - The next tier consists of people’s safety and the natural resources of Delaware: 38% and 34% say it is a very serious threat to them.
  - The third tier is made up of Delaware’s economy, Delaware’s infrastructure, and outdoor recreation in Delaware: 30%, 29%, and 28%, respectively, say climate change is a very serious threat to these.
  - The bottom tier consists of national security, the local community, and people’s homes: less than 25% think climate change is a very serious threat to these.
Similar to the above series, another series presented 15 items to residents and asked them to say how much of a threat sea level rise is to each. In looking at the percentages who think that sea level rise is a very serious threat, three tiers emerge:

- Two items are at the top substantially ahead of the rest of the items: Delaware’s beaches and ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware. On these, 57% and 56%, respectively, think sea level rise is a very serious threat.

- A middle tier consists of 9 of the 15 items, with a quarter to just under half saying sea level rise is a very serious threat: these include marsh and wetlands areas and riverfront cities and towns in Delaware, as well as Delaware’s public works systems, its wildlife populations, its economy, and outdoor recreation in Delaware.

- The bottom tier is people’s local community, themselves, their property, and their families. Each of these has less than 25% saying that sea level rise is a very serious threat to it.

Two questions examined perceptions of the timing of climate change and sea level rise.

- Residents were asked when they think climate change will have an impact on their area. The most common response is that it is having impacts now (41% give this response). Another 33% give a time of 25 years or less. However, 18% consist of those saying 50 or 100 years or saying never (i.e., climate change is not happening).

- Regarding sea level rise, 20% say now, 40% give a time of 25 years or less, and 29% saying 50 or 100 years or never.

PERCEPTIONS OF EFFICACY OF TAKING ACTION TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

- A majority of Delaware residents (72%) agree that the impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts; on the other hand, 21% disagree. Likewise, 59% agree that sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts, while 29% disagree.

- Similarly, 65% agree that they can personally take actions that will help reduce climate change; meanwhile, 28% disagree.
Two questions delved into the amount of action that can be taken to reduce climate change, both asking about agreement or disagreement with statements. The first statement says that “There is limited action that can be taken to reduce climate change,” and the second statement says that “There are many actions that can be taken to reduce climate change.” A greater percentage agree that there are many actions that can be taken than agree that there is limited action that can be taken.

- For limited action, 49% of residents agree that there is limited action that can be taken to reduce climate change. However, 42% disagree with this statement.
- For many actions, 70% of residents agree that there are many actions that can be taken to reduce climate change, while only 19% disagree.

Management Strategies Pertaining to Climate Change

Regardless of their opinions on climate change and sea level rise, the large majority of residents say that action should be taken to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in their area before impacts occur (74% say this) rather than as impacts begin (8%) or after impacts cause problems (3%). Note that 8% said never because sea levels are not rising.

Two questions looked at whether action should be taken now or whether more study should be done.

- A large majority of Delaware residents (76%) agree that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of climate change; on the other hand, 18% disagree.
- This compares to 63% who agree that we should conduct more research before taking any action to address climate change and 32% who disagree.
- A similar pairing of questions asked the same thing about sea level rise. A large majority of Delaware residents (72%) agree that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise, while 21% disagree. Meanwhile, 64% agree that we should conduct more research before taking any action to address sea level rise, and 30% disagree.

A large majority of residents (74%) agree that the state of Delaware needs to conduct more research to identify the impacts of sea level rise in the state; 18% disagree.
The survey presented ten actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware. For each action, residents were asked if they would support or oppose it.

- Two actions are in a top tier: *change building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas* and *avoid building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise*: 63% and 62%, respectively, *strongly* support those actions.

- The next tier consists of those actions with well more than a third to a half in *strong* support: *increasing funding for research* (50%); *elevating buildings in areas of risk using private funding* (46%); *allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland* (41%); *building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back* (38%); and *elevating the land surface in areas of risk* (38%).

- The bottom tier are those that explicitly entail using government funds: *elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds* (34%), *purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds* (29%), and *purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds* (24%).

The large majority of Delaware residents (70%) support having their local and state governments spend more money on public construction projects if it means that the structures could withstand or accommodate sea level rise; however, 20% oppose.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKING ACTION**
- The survey presented five entities and asked whether each should be doing more to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware. In looking at the percentages who say that the entities should be doing *much* more, there is little separation between the top four entities: business and industry (43% say that they should do *much* more), the federal government (41%), the state government (40%), and the local/county government (38%). At the bottom are Delaware’s residents (34% of residents say that Delaware’s residents should be doing *much* more).
PERSONAL ACTIONS TAKEN RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

- About 2 in 5 Delaware residents (41% of them) say that they have personally taken action within the past 2 years to try to reduce climate change.

- The survey presented six things that people could have done pertaining to addressing sea level rise or learning more about sea level rise. The majority of residents have read a newspaper or magazine article about sea level rise (53%), and nearly half have had a conversation with a friend or family member about sea level rise (45%). Lesser percentages have read about sea level rise on social media (29%), have visited a website for sea level rise information (24%), have read a brochure or handout about sea level rise (17%), or have attended a public meeting or workshop about sea level rise (7%).

 SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

- The most popular sources of information about environmental issues in Delaware are television (47% get environmental information this way), newspapers (44%), and the Internet (42%). No other source was named by more than 15% of residents.

- The topics about climate change and sea level rise most in demand include the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, the impacts specifically on the Delaware Bay and the state’s beaches, actions that can be taken to mitigate climate change and sea level rise, impacts on specific resources or groups, how to protect property, how climate change and sea level rise correlate, and funding needs to address the impacts.

- Residents are split on whether there is enough available information about sea level rise: 46% agree that there is, but 44% disagree.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introduction and Methodology ................................................................. 1
  - Use of Telephones for the Survey .......................................................... 1
  - Questionnaire Design ............................................................................ 1
  - Survey Sample ........................................................................................ 1
  - Telephone Interviewing Facilities ......................................................... 2
  - Interviewing Dates and Times ................................................................. 2
  - Telephone Survey Data Collection and Quality Control ....................... 2
  - Data Analysis ......................................................................................... 3
  - Sampling Error ...................................................................................... 3
  - Additional Information About the Presentation of Results in the Report .... 4
- Perceptions of Important Environmental Issues ........................................... 6
- Knowledge and Awareness of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise ............ 52
- Opinion on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise and Whether They Are Happening ................................................................. 6
- Perceptions of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise as a Threat .................. 108
- Potential Actions Perceived to Affect Climate Change ............................... 182
  - Perceptions of Efficacy of Taking Action to Mitigate Climate Change ........ 182
  - Management Strategies Pertaining to Climate Change ......................... 210
  - Responsibility for Taking Action ............................................................ 292
  - Personal Actions Taken Related to Climate Change and Sea Level Rise .... 307
- Sources of Information About Climate Change and Sea Level Rise ............ 316
- Demographic Data .................................................................................... 332
- About Responsive Management .................................................................. 380
INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY
This study was conducted for the State of Delaware and the Delaware Sea Grant College Program to determine residents’ opinions on climate change and sea level rise, whether residents believe they are happening, the perceived threats posed by them, and opinions on the potential mitigative actions that could taken. The study entailed a telephone survey of Delaware residents 18 years old and older. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

USE OF TELEPHONES FOR THE SURVEY
For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Delaware residents (both landlines and cell phones were called in their proper proportions). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. Telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires.

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN
The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and Delaware research team, based in part on a similar survey administered in 2009. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

SURVEY SAMPLE
The sample of Delaware residents was obtained from SSI and DatabaseUSA, companies that specialize in providing scientifically valid samples for surveys. The sample was stratified in two ways: by county, with a goal of 500 completed interviews per county, and by cell phone/landline, with these being sampled proportionally in each county so that cell phones and landlines would be in their proper proportions. For statewide results, the sample was weighted to be representative of all residents across the state 18 years old and older.
TELEPHONE INTERVIEWING FACILITIES
A central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of outdoor recreation and natural resources.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers and other professional staff conducted a project briefing with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey questionnaire, reading of the survey questions, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey questionnaire.

INTERVIEWING DATES AND TIMES
Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. The survey was conducted in August 2014.

TELEPHONE SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL
The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey questionnaire was programmed so that QPL
branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection.

The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers’ knowledge, to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. The survey questionnaire itself contains error checkers and computation statements to ensure quality and consistent data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness. Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,508 completed interviews.

DATA ANALYSIS
The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The results were weighted by demographic and geographic characteristics in each county and then by county population for statewide results, so that the sample was representative of residents of Delaware as a whole.

Crosstabulations were run on many questions by county of residence and by coastal/non-coastal residency. For each question, these graphs are in the body of the report following the main graph of the question. Additionally, trends based on the aforementioned 2009 survey are included on some questions.

SAMPLING ERROR
Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. The sampling errors for all residents and the various subsamples are shown in the tabulation that follows. Sampling error was calculated using the formula described after the tabulation.
Sample Sizes and Sampling Errors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Number in Sample</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Sampling Error</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall (all State Residents)</td>
<td>1,508</td>
<td>692,169</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half the Sample*</td>
<td>754</td>
<td>692,169</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Castle County</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>413,400</td>
<td>4.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent County</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>121,931</td>
<td>4.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex County</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>156,838</td>
<td>4.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Residents**</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>141,895</td>
<td>5.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Coastal Residents**</td>
<td>1,199</td>
<td>550,274</td>
<td>2.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Because the survey was long, in some places the sample was randomly split, with half the sample getting some questions and the other half getting other questions. This shows the sampling error on a random half of the sample.

**This categorization was based on the subjective opinion of the respondent, who was asked if he/she lived in a coastal or non-coastal area. Based on the proportions who say that they are coastal/non-coastal, an estimated population was calculated and then the sampling error was determined.

Sampling Error Equation

\[ B = \sqrt{\frac{N_p \cdot .25}{N_s}} \quad (1.96) \]

Where:  
- \( B \) = maximum sampling error (as decimal)  
- \( N_p \) = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)  
- \( N_s \) = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)


Note: This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the maximum sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTATION OF RESULTS IN THE REPORT

In examining the results, it is important to be aware that the questionnaire included several types of questions:

- Open-ended questions are those in which no answer set is read to the respondents; rather, they can respond with anything that comes to mind from the question.
- Closed-ended questions have an answer set from which to choose.
- Single or multiple response questions: Some questions allow only a single response, while other questions allow respondents to give more than one response or choose all that apply. Those that allow more than a single response are indicated on the graphs with the label, “Multiple Responses Allowed.”
- Scaled questions: Many closed-ended questions (but not all) are in a scale, such as excellent-good-fair-poor.
• Series questions: Many questions are part of a series, and the results are primarily intended to be examined relative to the other questions in that series (although results of the questions individually can also be valuable). Typically, results of all questions in a series are shown together.

Most graphs show results rounded to the nearest integer; however, all data are stored in decimal format, and all calculations are performed on unrounded numbers. For this reason, some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of this rounding on the graphs. Additionally, rounding may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly support” and “moderately support” are summed to determine the total percentage in support).
PERCEPTIONS OF IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

To test where climate change and sea level rise rank in the concerns that Delaware residents have, the survey presented a list of seven areas of possible concern and asked residents to indicate if they were very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned about each. Both climate change and sea level rise are the lowest ranked of the items. While a majority of residents are very concerned about the economy (72% are very concerned), public education (69%), health care (67%), crime rates (62%), and the environment (60%), less than a majority are very concerned about climate change (41%) and sea level rise (25%).

- Two other graphs of statewide results are included along with the percentages who are very concerned: the percentages who are very or somewhat concerned, and the percentages who are not at all concerned. The “not at all” graph shows that about a fifth to a quarter of Delaware residents are not at all concerned about climate change or sea level rise.

- In the trends analysis, the percentage of Delaware residents who are very concerned about sea level rise decreased (from 30% in 2009 to 25% in 2014), and this change is statistically significant at $p \leq 0.05$, meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 5 out of 100 times. Although the percentage of those very concerned about climate change increased (36% to 41%), this change is not statistically significant. For the other items on the list, the percentage of those who are very concerned decreased for health care and the economy and increased for public education, crime rates, and the environment.
  
  - This list was presented to a random half of the sample; the other half received the list discussed below.

- Similar to the above question, the survey presented a list of nine possible environmental concerns and asked residents to rate their concern (very, somewhat, or not at all). Again, climate change (the 7th ranked) and sea level rise (the 9th ranked) are low on the ranking by very concerned. A majority of residents are very concerned about water pollution (71%), toxic waste (68%), air quality (61%), loss of forest habitat (54%), and declining fish and wildlife populations (52%). This compares to 43% being very concerned about climate change and 36% being very concerned about sea level rise.
• Two other graphs of statewide results are included along with the percentages who are very concerned: the percentages who are very or somewhat concerned, and the percentages who are not at all concerned. The “not at all” graph shows that about a quarter of Delaware residents are not at all concerned about climate change or sea level rise.

• In the trends analysis, the percentage of Delaware residents who are very concerned increased for both sea level rise (32% in 2009 to 36% in 2014) and climate change (from 36% to 43%) while decreasing for each other item on the list with the exception of the loss of marsh or wetlands, which remained approximately the same. It is important to note that the increases in the percentage of those who are very concerned about sea level rise and climate change are not statistically significant. While the percentage of those who are very concerned increased for both, note that overall concern (very and somewhat concerned combined) did not change substantially for sea level rise, climate change, nor any other item on the list.
  o This list was presented to a random half of the sample; the other half received the list discussed above.
Q14-Q20. Percent of respondents who are very concerned about each of the following in the U.S.

- The economy: 72%
- Public education: 69%
- Health care: 67%
- Crime rates: 62%
- The environment: 60%
- Climate change: 41%
- Sea level rise: 25%
Q14-Q20. Percent of respondents who are very or somewhat concerned about each of the following in the U.S.

- The economy: 96%
- Public education: 93%
- Health care: 92%
- The environment: 92%
- Crime rates: 91%
- Climate change: 78%
- Sea level rise: 66%
Q14-Q20. Percent of respondents who are not at all concerned about each of the following in the U.S.

- Sea level rise: 28%
- Climate change: 20%
- Crime rates: 8%
- The environment: 8%
- Health care: 8%
- Public education: 5%
- The economy: 4%
Q14-Q20. Percent of respondents who are very concerned about each of the following in the U.S.

- Public education: New Castle 72%, Kent 60%, Sussex 70%
- The economy: New Castle 75%, Kent 69%, Sussex 70%
- Health care: New Castle 67%, Kent 66%, Sussex 70%
- The environment: New Castle 62%, Kent 59%, Sussex 56%
- Crime rates: New Castle 61%, Kent 63%, Sussex 63%
- Climate change: New Castle 44%, Kent 35%, Sussex 38%
- Sea level rise: New Castle 26%, Kent 23%, Sussex 25%
Q14-Q20. Percent of respondents who are very or somewhat concerned about each of the following in the U.S.

- The economy: 96%
- Public education: 94%
- Health care: 92%
- Crime rates: 92%
- The environment: 90%
- Climate change: 74%, 73%
- Sea level rise: 69%, 62%

New Castle: 96%, 93%, 93%, 92%, 90%, 81%, 69%
Kent: 73%
Sussex: 62%
Q14-Q20. Percent of respondents who are not at all concerned about each of the following in the U.S.

- **Sea level rise**: New Castle 27%, Kent 31%, Sussex 31%
- **Climate change**: New Castle 16%, Kent 25%, Sussex 27%
- **The environment**: New Castle 9%, Kent 7%, Sussex 5%
- **Crime rates**: New Castle 8%, Kent 9%, Sussex 7%
- **Health care**: New Castle 7%, Kent 12%, Sussex 8%
- **Public education**: New Castle 5%, Kent 6%, Sussex 5%
- **The economy**: New Castle 4%, Kent 4%, Sussex 3%
Q14-Q20. Percent of respondents who are very concerned about each of the following in the U.S.

- The economy: 72% (Coastal), 72% (Non-coastal)
- Health care: 71% (Coastal), 67% (Non-coastal)
- The environment: 64% (Coastal), 60% (Non-coastal)
- Crime rates: 64% (Coastal), 61% (Non-coastal)
- Public education: 60% (Coastal), 72% (Non-coastal)
- Climate change: 54% (Coastal), 38% (Non-coastal)
- Sea level rise: 33% (Coastal), 24% (Non-coastal)
Q14-Q20. Percent of respondents who are very or somewhat concerned about each of the following in the U.S.
Q14-Q20. Percent of respondents who are not at all concerned about each of the following in the U.S.

- Sea level rise
  - Coastal: 23
  - Non-coastal: 29
- Climate change
  - Coastal: 20
  - Non-coastal: 20
- Health care
  - Coastal: 7
  - Non-coastal: 11
- Public education
  - Coastal: 4
  - Non-coastal: 7
- The environment
  - Coastal: 5
  - Non-coastal: 8
- The economy
  - Coastal: 4
  - Non-coastal: 3
- Crime rates
  - Coastal: 4
  - Non-coastal: 9
## Percent who are very concerned about climate change as a national issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>54.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>52.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>51.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>51.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>49.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>46.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>46.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>44.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor's degree</td>
<td>42.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>41.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor's degree</td>
<td>41.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>40.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>35.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) concerned about climate change as a national issue relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 41.5% of Delaware residents are very concerned about climate change as a national issue (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to be very concerned are above that bar (for instance, 54.2% of those who live in a coastal area are very concerned); those groups less inclined to be very concerned are below that bar (for instance, only 35.2% of Kent County residents are very concerned).
### Percent who are very concerned about sea level rise as a national issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>33.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>32.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>32.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor's degree</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>26.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor's degree</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>22.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) concerned about sea level rise as a national issue relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 25.3% of Delaware residents are very concerned about sea level rise as a national issue (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to be very concerned are above that bar (for instance, 32.9% of those who live in a coastal area are very concerned); those groups less inclined to be very concerned are below that bar (for instance, only 22.6% of Kent County residents are very concerned).
Q14. Thinking about issues that the country faces, how concerned are you about public education in the U.S.?
Q15. Thinking about issues that the country faces, how concerned are you about health care in the U.S.?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all concerned</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q16. Thinking about issues that the country faces, how concerned are you about crime rates in the U.S.? 

- Very concerned: 52% (2009), 62% (2014)
- Somewhat concerned: 42% (2009), 30% (2014)
- Not at all concerned: 6% (2009), 8% (2014)
- Don't know: 0% (2009), 0% (2014)
Q17. Thinking about issues that the country faces, how concerned are you about sea level rise in the U.S.?
Q18. Thinking about issues that the country faces, how concerned are you about the economy in the U.S.?
Q19. Thinking about issues that the country faces, how concerned are you about the environment in the U.S.?

- **2009**
  - Very concerned: 55%
  - Somewhat concerned: 37%
  - Not at all concerned: 7%
  - Don't know: 1%

- **2014**
  - Very concerned: 60%
  - Somewhat concerned: 31%
  - Not at all concerned: 8%
  - Don't know: 0%
Q20. Thinking about issues that the country faces, how concerned are you about climate change in the U.S.?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all concerned</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q23-Q31. Percent of respondents who are very concerned about each of the following in Delaware.

- Water pollution: 71%
- Toxic waste: 68%
- Air quality: 61%
- Loss of forest habitat: 54%
- Declining fish and wildlife populations: 52%
- Loss of marsh or wetlands: 45%
- Climate change: 43%
- Flooding: 38%
- Sea level rise: 36%
Q23-Q31. Percent of respondents who are very or somewhat concerned about each of the following in Delaware.

- Water pollution: 94%
- Toxic waste: 92%
- Air quality: 89%
- Loss of forest habitat: 86%
- Declining fish and wildlife populations: 84%
- Loss of marsh or wetlands: 81%
- Flooding: 74%
- Climate change: 73%
- Sea level rise: 69%
Q23-Q31. Percent of respondents who are not at all concerned about each of the following in Delaware.

- Sea level rise: 28%
- Climate change: 26%
- Flooding: 25%
- Loss of marsh or wetlands: 16%
- Declining fish and wildlife populations: 12%
- Loss of forest habitat: 12%
- Air quality: 10%
- Toxic waste: 7%
- Water pollution: 5%
Q23-Q31. Percent of respondents who are very concerned about each of the following in Delaware.
Q23-Q31. Percent of respondents who are very or somewhat concerned about each of the following in Delaware.

- Water pollution: New Castle 96%, Kent 90%, Sussex 94%
- Toxic waste: New Castle 93%, Kent 88%, Sussex 91%
- Air quality: New Castle 92%, Kent 88%, Sussex 84%
- Loss of forest habitat: New Castle 86%, Kent 86%, Sussex 86%
- Declining fish and wildlife populations: New Castle 85%, Kent 82%, Sussex 84%
- Loss of marsh or wetlands: New Castle 82%, Kent 79%, Sussex 79%
- Flooding: New Castle 75%, Kent 76%, Sussex 75%
- Climate change: New Castle 73%, Kent 71%, Sussex 75%
- Sea level rise: New Castle 66%, Kent 72%, Sussex 73%
Q23-Q31. Percent of respondents who are not at all concerned about each of the following in Delaware.

- Sea level rise: New Castle 30%, Kent 26%, Sussex 26%
- Climate change: New Castle 28%, Kent 24%, Sussex 28%
- Flooding: New Castle 32%, Kent 23%, Sussex 23%
- Loss of marsh or wetlands: New Castle 17%, Kent 17%, Sussex 17%
- Loss of forest habitat: New Castle 13%, Kent 11%, Sussex 11%
- Declining fish and wildlife populations: New Castle 16%, Kent 12%, Sussex 12%
- Air quality: New Castle 16%, Kent 12%, Sussex 12%
- Toxic waste: New Castle 11%, Kent 8%, Sussex 8%
- Water pollution: New Castle 9%, Kent 5%, Sussex 5%
Q23-Q31. Percent of respondents who are very concerned about each of the following in Delaware.
Q23-Q31. Percent of respondents who are very or somewhat concerned about each of the following in Delaware.

- Water pollution: 94%
- Air quality: 88%
- Toxic waste: 92%
- Declining fish and wildlife populations: 83%
- Loss of forest habitat: 86%
- Flooding: 81%
- Loss of marsh or wetlands: 81%
- Climate change: 75%
- Sea level rise: 67%

Legend:
- Coastal
- Non-coastal
Q23-Q31. Percent of respondents who are not at all concerned about each of the following in Delaware.

- **Sea level rise**: 26% (Coastal), 29% (Non-coastal)
- **Climate change**: 22% (Coastal), 28% (Non-coastal)
- **Flooding**: 18% (Coastal), 28% (Non-coastal)
- **Loss of marsh or wetlands**: 17% (Coastal), 16% (Non-coastal)
- **Loss of forest habitat**: 12% (Coastal), 12% (Non-coastal)
- **Declining fish and wildlife populations**: 9% (Coastal), 14% (Non-coastal)
- **Air quality**: 8% (Coastal), 12% (Non-coastal)
- **Toxic waste**: 7% (Coastal), 8% (Non-coastal)
- **Water pollution**: 5% (Coastal), 5% (Non-coastal)
Percent who are very concerned about climate change as an environmental issue in Delaware:

- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 57.5%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 52.6%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 52.6%
- Lives in a coastal area: 50.5%
- Female: 49.8%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 49.7%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 48.0%
- Lives in New Castle County: 47.8%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 46.3%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 44.6%
- Median age (48) or older: 43.8%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 43.7%
- Total: 43.5%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 42.1%
- Younger than the median age (48): 41.9%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 41.1%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 39.7%
- Lives in Sussex County: 38.2%
- Male: 36.6%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 36.2%
- Lives in Kent County: 35.5%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 33.5%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 14.5%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 6.8%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) concerned about climate change as an environmental issue, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 43.5% of Delaware residents are very concerned about climate change as an environmental issue (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to be very concerned are above that bar (for instance, 50.5% of those who live in a coastal area are very concerned); those groups less inclined to be very concerned are below that bar (for instance, only 35.5% of Kent County residents are very concerned).
Percent who are very concerned about sea level rise as an environmental issue in Delaware:

- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 48.0%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 45.4%
- Lives in a coastal area: 44.9%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 44.1%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 41.9%
- Female: 41.6%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 40.3%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 40.0%
- Median age (48) or older: 39.9%
- Lives in Sussex County: 38.1%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 37.2%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 36.0%
- Total: 35.8%
- Lives in Kent County: 35.4%
- Lives in New Castle County: 34.9%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 33.3%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 31.6%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 31.0%
- Male: 29.4%
- Younger than the median age (48): 29.3%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 28.7%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 27.1%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 13.2%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 12.8%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) concerned about sea level rise as an environmental issue, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 35.8% of Delaware residents are very concerned about sea level rise as an environmental issue (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to be very concerned are above that bar (for instance, 44.9% of those who live in a coastal area are very concerned); those groups less inclined to be very concerned are below that bar (for instance, only 29.4% of males are very concerned).
Percent who are very concerned about flooding as an environmental issue in Delaware:

- Lives in a coastal area: 50.2%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 45.8%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 45.7%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 43.8%
- Female: 43.1%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 42.8%
- Median age (48) or older: 42.7%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 42.5%
- Lives in New Castle County: 41.5%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 39.4%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 39.1%
- Total: 38.2%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 38.1%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 37.7%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 37.7%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 34.7%
- Lives in Sussex County: 34.2%
- Younger than the median age (48): 33.1%
- Male: 33.1%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 32.7%
- Lives in Kent County: 32.0%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 30.8%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 16.8%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 14.8%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) concerned about flooding as an environmental issue, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 38.2% of Delaware residents are very concerned about flooding as an environmental issue (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to be very concerned are above that bar (for instance, 50.2% of those who live in a coastal area are very concerned); those groups less inclined to be very concerned are below that bar (for instance, only 32.0% of Kent County residents are very concerned).
Q23. Thinking specifically about environmental issues, how concerned are you about water pollution in Delaware?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all concerned</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q24. Thinking specifically about environmental issues, how concerned are you about toxic waste in Delaware?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all concerned</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q25. Thinking specifically about environmental issues, how concerned are you about air quality in Delaware?

- Very concerned: 65% (2009), 61% (2014)
- Somewhat concerned: 22% (2009), 28% (2014)
- Not at all concerned: 12% (2009), 10% (2014)
- Don't know: 1% (2009), 0% (2014)
Q26. Thinking specifically about environmental issues, how concerned are you about climate change in Delaware?

- Very concerned: 36% (2009), 43% (2014)
- Somewhat concerned: 35% (2009), 29% (2014)
- Not at all concerned: 27% (2009), 26% (2014)
- Don't know: 2% (2009), 1% (2014)
Q27. Thinking specifically about environmental issues, how concerned are you about flooding in Delaware?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all concerned</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q28. Thinking specifically about environmental issues, how concerned are you about declining fish and wildlife populations in Delaware?

- Very concerned: 54% (2009), 52% (2014)
- Somewhat concerned: 30% (2009), 33% (2014)
- Not at all concerned: 13% (2009), 12% (2014)
- Don't know: 2% (2009), 3% (2014)
Q29. Thinking specifically about environmental issues, how concerned are you about loss of marsh or wetlands in Delaware?

![Bar chart showing percentage of concern in 2009 and 2014 for very concerned, somewhat concerned, not at all concerned, and don't know categories.]

- Very concerned: 45% (2009), 45% (2014)
- Somewhat concerned: 34% (2009), 36% (2014)
- Not at all concerned: 18% (2009), 16% (2014)
- Don't know: 3% (2009), 4% (2014)
Q30. Thinking specifically about environmental issues, how concerned are you about loss of forest habitat in Delaware?

- Very concerned: 58% in 2009, 54% in 2014
- Somewhat concerned: 28% in 2009, 32% in 2014
- Not at all concerned: 12% in both years
- Don’t know: 2% in both years
Q31. Thinking specifically about environmental issues, how concerned are you about sea level rise in Delaware?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat concerned</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all concerned</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

➢ Two questions asked residents to rate their knowledge about climate change and sea level rise. They claim to know a bit more about climate change than sea level rise.

• Most Delaware residents say that they know at least a moderate amount about climate change: 62% say that they know either a great deal (14%) or a moderate amount (48%). At the other end, 32% claim to know a little, and only 5% say that they know nothing.

• In looking at knowledge of sea level rise, 41% of residents say that they know a great deal or moderate amount; meanwhile, 58% say that they know a little or nothing.

  o The trends analysis found that self-professed knowledge levels regarding climate change dropped slightly from 2009 to 2014: 70% reported knowing at least a moderate amount about climate change in 2009 compared to 62% in 2014, while the percentage reporting they know a little increased from 25% to 32%. The increase in those reporting they know a little is statistically significant at $p \leq 0.01$, meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times. The self-reported knowledge levels regarding sea level rise are about the same as they were in 2009.
Q34/Q56. How much would you say you know about [climate change / sea level rise]?

![Bar chart showing responses to Q34/Q56]

- **A great deal**
  - Climate change: 14%
  - Sea level rise: 11%
- **A moderate amount**
  - Climate change: 30%
  - Sea level rise: 39%
- **A little**
  - Climate change: 32%
  - Sea level rise: 39%
- **Nothing**
  - Climate change: 5%
  - Sea level rise: 19%
- **Don't know**
  - Climate change: 0%
  - Sea level rise: 1%
Q34. How much would you say you know about climate change?

- A great deal: New Castle 11, Kent 15, Sussex 16
- A moderate amount: New Castle 49, Kent 46, Sussex 48
- A little: New Castle 32, Kent 38, Sussex 30
- Nothing: New Castle 4, Kent 5, Sussex 6
- Don't know: New Castle 0, Kent 0, Sussex 1
Q34. How much would you say you know about climate change?

![Bar chart showing the percentages of coastal and non-coastal residents' knowledge levels regarding climate change.]

- A great deal: 20% coastal, 13% non-coastal
- A moderate amount: 43% coastal, 49% non-coastal
- A little: 30% coastal, 34% non-coastal
- Nothing: 6% coastal, 4% non-coastal
- Don't know: 1% coastal, 0% non-coastal
Percent stating they know a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change:

- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 88.0%
- Education level is at least a bachelor’s degree: 71.1%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 70.3%
- Male: 67.0%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 67.1%
- Median age (48) or older: 66.8%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 64.4%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 64.3%
- Lives in Sussex County: 63.6%
- Lives in New Castle County: 63.6%
- Lives in a coastal area: 63.4%
- Total: 62.3%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 61.6%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 59.9%
- Younger than the median age (48): 58.3%
- Female: 58.0%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 56.7%
- Lives in Kent County: 56.6%
- Education level is less than bachelor’s degree: 56.2%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 56.1%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 52.4%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 43.8%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to say that they know a great deal or moderate amount about climate change, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 62.3% of Delaware residents say that they know a great deal or moderate amount about climate change (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to say that they know a great deal or moderate amount are above that bar (for instance, 67.1% of males say this); those groups less inclined to say that they know a great deal or moderate amount are below that bar (for instance, only 56.6% of Kent County residents say this).
Q34. How much would you say you know about climate change?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A moderate amount</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q56. How much would you say you know about sea level rise?

- A great deal: 11% (New Castle), 9% (Kent), 11% (Sussex)
- A moderate amount: 28% (New Castle), 33% (Kent), 30% (Sussex)
- A little: 39% (New Castle), 39% (Kent), 40% (Sussex)
- Nothing: 22% (New Castle), 20% (Kent), 14% (Sussex)
- Don't know: 0% (New Castle), 1% (Kent), 1% (Sussex)

Percent
Q56. How much would you say you know about sea level rise?

- A great deal: 10 Coastal, 17 Non-coastal
- A moderate amount: 29 Coastal, 35 Non-coastal
- A little: 40 Coastal, 37 Non-coastal
- Nothing: 22 Coastal, 10 Non-coastal
- Don't know: 1 Coastal, 1 Non-coastal
Percent stating they know a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise:

- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 58.0%
- Lives in a coastal area: 52.2%
- Male: 49.6%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 49.3%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 48.3%
- Median age (48) or older: 47.0%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 46.7%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 45.7%
- Lives in Sussex County: 43.9%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 42.6%
- Total: 40.8%
- Lives in New Castle County: 40.8%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 38.1%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 37.4%
- Lives in Kent County: 37.3%
- Younger than the median age (48): 34.9%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 34.7%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 34.7%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 33.5%
- Female: 33.5%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 26.9%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 13.0%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to say that they know a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 40.8% of Delaware residents say that they know a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to say that they know a great deal or moderate amount are above that bar (for instance, 52.2% of those who live in a coastal area say this); those groups less inclined to say that they know a great deal or moderate amount are below that bar (for instance, only 33.5% of females say this).
Q56. How much would you say you know about sea level rise?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A great deal</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A moderate amount</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OPINION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE AND WHETHER THEY ARE HAPPENING

- **Section summary:** This section includes several questions that probe Delaware residents’ beliefs regarding climate change and concomitant sea level rise; with so many related questions, this summary is included. Residents fall into three camps: deniers/the misinformed (making up about a quarter of residents), those on the fence, so to speak (making up about a third), and those who think that climate change and sea level rise are happening (making up just under half). Note that the questions discussed below were randomized; some respondents received some questions, and other respondents received other questions, although all of them received Question 38 about whether climate change is happening.

  - The deniers/misinformed are the 20% who are not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening, and the 26% who are not so or not at all convinced that sea level rise is happening. They include all of the 3% who say that most scientists think climate change is not happening, and a portion of the 31% who say that there is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether it is happening.

  - The middle ground consists of those who are convinced that climate change and sea level rise are happening but are only mostly convinced (rather than completely convinced). This group consists of the 32% who are mostly convinced about climate change and the 31% who are mostly convinced about sea level rise. Some of this group say that there is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether it is happening, while some know that most scientists think climate change is happening.

  - The final group are those who think that climate change and sea level rise are happening. This group consists of those who are completely convinced that climate change (46%) and sea level rise (39%) are happening and the 49% who say that most scientists think climate change is happening.

    - The survey questions that made up this section summary are discussed on the following pages.
In basic questions, the survey directly asked residents about their opinions on whether climate change and sea level rise are happening.

- Regarding climate change, 20% of Delaware residents say that they are *not so convinced* or *not at all convinced* that climate change is happening. At the other end, 79% are *completely* or *mostly* convinced; however, a substantial portion of that consists of residents who are only *mostly* convinced (46% are *completely* and 32% are *mostly* convinced—rounding on the graph causes the apparent discrepancy in the sum, which is 79% when calculated on unrounded numbers).
  
  In the trends analysis, the percentages of Delaware residents who say they are *completely* convinced climate change is happening increased: 40% said they were *completely* convinced in 2009 compared to 46% in 2014; however, this increase is *not* statistically significant.

- Likewise, 26% of residents are *not so convinced* or *not at all convinced* that sea levels are rising; 70% are *completely* or *mostly* convinced, the latter split between *completely* convinced (39%) and *mostly* convinced (31%).
  
  Although the percentage of Delaware residents who are *completely* convinced that sea levels are rising remains lower than the percentage who are completely convinced that climate change is happening, the trends analysis shows a substantial increase in the percentage who are *completely* convinced that sea levels are rising from 2009 to 2014: 29% in 2009 compared to 39% in 2014. The increases in the percentage of those who are *completely* convinced as well as the overall percentage of those who are completely or mostly convinced (from 63% to 70% combined) are both statistically significant at $p \leq 0.01$, meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times.

- The survey included another way to assess opinion on whether climate change is happening. The survey asked residents if they agree or disagree that “Scientists are right that climate change is occurring”: while the majority of residents agree (83%), a substantial percentage (11%) disagree. In sum, 17% do not agree (they respond neutrally, that they disagree, or that they do not know). The trends analysis shows that the percentage of Delaware residents who *strongly* agree that “Scientists are right that climate change is occurring” increased from 51% in 2009 to 58% in 2014;
however, the overall increase in agreement (strongly and moderately combined) with this statement is *not* statistically significant.

- Another question asked residents to say, regardless of their personal views, whether or not most *scientists* think climate change is happening (the overwhelming majority of climate scientists think climate change is happening). Misinformation is rampant, as 31% say that there is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether it is happening or not, and another 3% say that most scientists think climate change is not happening. Only 49% of residents correctly say that most scientists think that climate change is happening. In the trends analysis, the percentage who say most scientists think climate change is happening increased (from 42% to 49%); while this increase is *not* statistically significant, the decrease among those who say there is a lot of disagreement and the increase among those who say they don’t know enough to say are each statistically significant at \( p \leq 0.01 \), meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times.

- A follow-up question asked residents to say whether climate change, if it is indeed happening, is caused mostly by human activities, mostly by natural changes in the environment, or both about equally. Most commonly, residents say it is caused mostly by human activities (41%), while 24% say mostly natural causes, and 29% say both about equally.

- Another question asked if residents agree or disagree that “Climate change is contributing to the rise in sea levels.” The majority (79%) agree, but 11% disagree. (The remainder answer neutrally or do not know.) The percentage who *strongly* agree that “Climate change is contributing to the rise in sea levels” increased (from 52% in 2009 to 57% in 2014), but it is *not* a statistically significant change.

 graphql

- The survey delved into personal experiences with climate change and sea level rise, asking residents if they agree or disagree that they have personally experienced the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.
  - A slight majority agree that they have “personally experienced or observed local impacts of climate change” (53%), but 40% disagree. (The remainder answer neutrally or do not know.)
• Just over a quarter agree that they have “personally experienced the impacts of sea level rise” (28%), but the majority disagree (66%). (The remainder answer neutrally or do not know.)
  
  o In the trends analysis, the percentage of those who agree (strongly or moderately combined) that they have personally experienced the impacts of sea level rise increased substantially from 22% in 2009 to 30% in 2014. This increase is statistically significant at p ≤ 0.01, meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times.
Q38/Q58. How convinced are you that [climate change is happening / sea levels are rising]? Would you say you are completely convinced, mostly convinced, not so convinced, or not at all convinced?
Q38. How convinced are you that climate change is happening? Would you say you are completely convinced, mostly convinced, not so convinced, or not at all convinced?
Q38. How convinced are you that climate change is happening? Would you say you are completely convinced, mostly convinced, not so convinced, or not at all convinced?

[Bar chart showing responses to Q38 for Coastal and Non-coastal regions]
**Percent who are (completely or mostly) convinced climate change is happening:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>91.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>90.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>84.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>84.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>83.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>81.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>81.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>81.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor's degree</td>
<td>80.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>79.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>78.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise</td>
<td>78.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>78.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>77.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor's degree</td>
<td>77.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>74.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>46.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to say that they are completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 78.8% of Delaware residents are completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to say so are above that bar (for instance, 83.2% of females say that they are completely or mostly convinced); those groups less inclined to say so are below that bar (for instance, only 74.0% of males are completely or mostly convinced).
Q38. How convinced are you that climate change is happening?

- Completely convinced: 40% (2009), 46% (2014)
- Mostly convinced: 30% (2009), 32% (2014)
- Not so convinced: 17% (2009), 13% (2014)
- Not at all convinced: 10% (2009), 7% (2014)
- Don't know: 3% (2009), 1% (2014)
Q58. How convinced are you that sea levels are rising? Would you say you are completely convinced, mostly convinced, not so convinced, or not at all convinced?
Q58. How convinced are you that sea levels are rising? Would you say you are completely convinced, mostly convinced, not so convinced, or not at all convinced?
Percent who are (completely or mostly) convinced sea levels are rising:

- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 84.1%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 80.6%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 80.3%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 77.3%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 75.4%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 73.2%
- Lives in a coastal area: 72.9%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 71.8%
- Female: 71.1%
- Median age (48) or older: 70.8%
- Lives in New Castle County: 70.4%
- Younger than the median age (48): 70.3%
- Total: 70.2%
- Lives in Kent County: 70.1%
- Lives in Sussex County: 69.6%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 69.6%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 69.2%
- Male: 69.2%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 63.0%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 62.5%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 61.8%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 30.5%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to say that they are completely or mostly convinced that sea level rise is happening, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 70.2% of Delaware residents are completely or mostly convinced that sea level rise is happening (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to say so are above that bar (for instance, 72.9% of those who live in a coastal area say that they are completely or mostly convinced); those groups less inclined to say so are below that bar (for instance, only 69.2% of males are completely or mostly convinced).
Q58. How convinced are you that sea levels are rising?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completely convinced</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly convinced</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not so convinced</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all convinced</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q83. Scientists are right that climate change is occurring. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 58%
- Moderately agree: 25%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4%
- Moderately disagree: 4%
- Strongly disagree: 7%
- Don't know: 2%
Q83. Scientists are right that climate change is occurring. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>New Castle</th>
<th>Kent</th>
<th>Sussex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q83. Scientists are right that climate change is occurring. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 61% (Coastal: 57%)
- Moderately agree: 26% (Coastal: 25%)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 3% (Coastal: 3%)
- Moderately disagree: 1% (Coastal: 5%)
- Strongly disagree: 7% (Coastal: 7%)
- Don't know: 2% (Coastal: 2%)
### Percent who agree (strongly or moderately) that scientists are right that climate change is occurring:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>92.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>89.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>87.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>87.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>86.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>86.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor's degree</td>
<td>85.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>85.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>82.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>82.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>82.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>82.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor's degree</td>
<td>82.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise</td>
<td>81.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>80.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>80.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>78.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>77.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>76.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>38.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to agree that scientists are right that climate change is occurring, relative to what residents as a whole think. Overall, 82.7% of Delaware residents agree that scientists are right that climate change is occurring (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to agree are above that bar (for instance, 87.2% of females agree); those groups less inclined to agree are below that bar (for instance, only 77.4% of males agree).
Q83. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: Scientists are right that climate change is occurring.
Q39. Which of the following statements best describes your own view of climate change?

- Most scientists think climate change is happening. 49%
- There is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether or not climate change is happening. 31%
- Most scientists think climate change is NOT happening. 3%
- I don't feel I know enough to say. 17%
Most scientists think climate change is happening.

There is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether climate change is happening.

Most scientists think climate change is not happening.

I don’t feel I know enough to say.
Q39. Which of the following statements best describes your own view of climate change?

- Most scientists think climate change is happening.
  - Coastal: 42%
  - Non-coastal: 51%

- There is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether or not climate change is happening.
  - Coastal: 38%
  - Non-coastal: 30%

- Most scientists think climate change is not happening.
  - Coastal: 1%
  - Non-coastal: 3%

- I don't feel I know enough to say.
  - Coastal: 18%
  - Non-coastal: 16%
Most scientists think climate change is happening. There is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether or not climate change is happening. Most scientists think climate change is not happening. I don't feel I know enough to say.
Q40. Please tell me which comes closer to your own view. If climate change is happening, do you think it is...

- Caused mostly by human activities: 41%
- Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment: 24%
- Caused about equally by human activities and natural changes: 29%
- None of these because climate change isn't happening: 3%
- Don't know: 2%
Q40. Please tell me which comes closer to your own view. If climate change is happening, do you think it is...?

- Caused mostly by human activities
- Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment
- Caused about equally by human activities and natural changes
- None of these because climate change isn't happening
- Other
- Don't know

- New Castle
- Kent
- Sussex
Q40. Please tell me which comes closer to your own view. If climate change is happening, do you think it is...?

- Caused mostly by human activities: 41 Coastal, 40 Non-coastal
- Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment: 19 Coastal, 26 Non-coastal
- Caused about equally by human activities and natural changes: 33 Coastal, 29 Non-coastal
- None of these because climate change isn't happening: 5 Coastal, 3 Non-coastal
- Other: 0 Coastal, 1 Non-coastal
- Don't know: 3 Coastal, 2 Non-coastal

Percent scale from 0 to 100.
Q98. Climate change is contributing to the rise in sea levels. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 57
- Moderately agree: 22
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4
- Moderately disagree: 3
- Strongly disagree: 8
- Don't know: 5
Q98. Climate change is contributing to the rise in sea levels. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

[Bar chart showing responses by location (New Castle, Kent, Sussex)]
Q98. Climate change is contributing to the rise in sea levels. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- **Strongly agree**: 57% (Coastal), 60% (Non-coastal)
- **Moderately agree**: 22% (Coastal), 18% (Non-coastal)
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: 5% (Coastal), 4% (Non-coastal)
- **Moderately disagree**: 4% (Coastal), 2% (Non-coastal)
- **Strongly disagree**: 7% (Coastal), 12% (Non-coastal)
- **Don't know**: 6% (Coastal), 5% (Non-coastal)
Percent of each of the following groups who agree (strongly or moderately) that climate change is contributing to the rise in sea levels:

- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 90.7%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 90.6%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 88.2%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 86.0%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 85.5%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 82.9%
- Female: 82.9%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 82.7%
- Younger than the median age (48): 82.6%
- Lives in New Castle County: 81.3%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 81.3%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 80.0%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 79.2%
- Total: 79.0%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 78.3%
- Lives in a coastal area: 78.0%
- Lives in Kent County: 77.0%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 75.7%
- Male: 74.9%
- Median age (48) or older: 74.8%
- Lives in Sussex County: 74.3%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 50.4%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 46.4%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to agree that climate change is contributing to sea level rise, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 79.0% of Delaware residents agree (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to agree are above that bar (for instance, 82.9% of females agree); those groups less inclined to agree are below that bar (for instance, only 74.9% of males agree).
Q98. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: Climate change is contributing to the rise in sea levels.

![Bar chart showing responses to Q98.](chart.png)
Q84. I have personally experienced or observed local impacts of climate change.
Q99. I have personally experienced the impacts of sea level rise.
(Do you agree or disagree with these statements?)

![Bar chart showing responses to Q84 and Q99]

- **Strongly agree**: 33%
  - Climate change: 16%
  - Sea level rise: 16%
- **Moderately agree**: 20%
  - Climate change: 12%
  - Sea level rise: 12%
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: 6%
  - Climate change: 4%
  - Sea level rise: 4%
- **Moderately disagree**: 16%
  - Climate change: 16%
  - Sea level rise: 18%
- **Strongly disagree**: 48%
  - Climate change: 24%
  - Sea level rise: 48%
- **Don't know**: 2%
  - Climate change: 2%
  - Sea level rise: 2%
Q84. I have personally experienced or observed local impacts of climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>New Castle</th>
<th>Kent</th>
<th>Sussex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q84. I have personally experienced or observed local impacts of climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Coastal</th>
<th>Non-coastal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percent who agree (strongly or moderately) that they have personally experienced or observed local impacts of climate change:

- Lives in a coastal area: 67.5%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 66.0%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 65.2%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 63.8%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 61.4%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 58.0%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 57.4%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 56.1%
- Education level is less than bachelor’s degree: 55.3%
- Female: 55.2%
- Younger than the median age (48): 54.9%
- Lives in New Castle County: 53.5%
- Total: 52.7%
- Lives in Sussex County: 52.2%
- Median age (48) or older: 51.6%
- Education level is at least a bachelor’s degree: 50.9%
- Lives in Kent County: 50.7%
- Male: 50.1%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 48.7%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 44.9%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 44.0%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 43.6%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 19.1%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 18.6%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to agree that they have personally experienced or observed local impacts of climate change, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 52.7% of Delaware residents agree (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to agree are above that bar (for instance, 67.5% of those who live in a coastal area agree); those groups less inclined to agree are below that bar (for instance, only 50.1% of males agree).
Q99. I have personally experienced the impacts of sea level rise. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: New Castle 14, Kent 14, Sussex 21
- Moderately agree: New Castle 11, Kent 15, Sussex 14
- Neither agree nor disagree: New Castle 5, Kent 3, Sussex 2
- Moderately disagree: New Castle 18, Kent 17, Sussex 17
- Strongly disagree: New Castle 50, Kent 50, Sussex 45
- Don't know: New Castle 2, Kent 2, Sussex 2
Q99. I have personally experienced the impacts of sea level rise. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement Level</th>
<th>Coastal</th>
<th>Non-coastal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent
Percent of each of the following groups who agree (strongly or moderately) that s/he has personally experienced the impacts of sea level rise:

- Lives in a coastal area: 47.0%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 35.2%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 34.8%
- Lives in Sussex County: 34.4%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 33.0%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 32.8%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is occurring: 32.7%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 30.8%
- Female: 29.4%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 28.7%
- Lives in Kent County: 28.3%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 28.2%
- Median age (48) or older: 28.0%
- Total: 27.8%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 27.5%
- Younger than the median age (48): 26.9%
- Male: 26.2%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 25.6%
- Lives in New Castle County: 25.0%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 24.6%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 21.9%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is occurring: 8.9%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 6.9%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to agree that they have personally experienced the impacts of sea level rise, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 27.8% of Delaware residents agree (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to agree are above that bar (for instance, 47.0% of those who live in a coastal area agree); those groups less inclined to agree are below that bar (for instance, only 26.2% of males agree).
Q99. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: I have personally experienced the impacts of sea level rise.
PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE AS A THREAT

➢ About a fifth of Delaware residents (19%) are complacent about climate change, saying that climate change as a threat is *not very* serious or *not at all* serious. At the other end of the scale, 34% say it is a *somewhat* serious threat, and 45% say it is a *very* serious threat.

• The trends analysis shows a substantial increase in the percentage of those who say climate change is a *very* serious threat, increasing from 38% in 2009 to 45% in 2014; this increase is significant at $p \leq 0.01$, meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times. The percentage of those who think climate change is a *somewhat* serious threat decreased, while opinions that climate change is *not very* or *not at all* serious and “don’t know” responses remained relatively stable, suggesting that perhaps those who already thought climate change was a *somewhat* serious threat now progressed to believing it is a *very* serious threat.

➢ A question asked about level of worry about sea level rise: 31% of residents are *not at all* worried about sea level rise. Moving up the scale, 24% are *only a little* worried, 31% are worried *a moderate amount*, and 13% are worried *a great deal*.

• In the trends analysis, the percentages of residents who worry about sea level rise *a great deal* and *a moderate amount* both increased slightly, resulting in a combined increased from 39% who were worried a great deal or a moderate amount in 2009 to 44% in 2014. The combined increase is significant at $p \leq 0.05$, meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 5 out of 100 times.

➢ The survey presented ten items and asked respondents to rate how much of a threat climate change was to each. The items fall into four tiers:

• The top tier consists of *people’s health* and *Delaware’s agriculture*: 45% and 44%, respectively, say that climate change is a *very* serious threat to the items.

• The next tier consists of *people’s safety* and the *natural resources of Delaware*: 38% and 34% say it is a *very* serious threat to them.
• The third tier is made up of Delaware’s economy, Delaware’s infrastructure, and outdoor recreation in Delaware: 30%, 29%, and 28%, respectively, say climate change is a very serious threat to these.

• The bottom tier consists of national security, the local community, and people’s homes: less than 25% think climate change is a very serious threat to these.

Similar to the above series, another series presented 15 items to residents and asked them to say how much of a threat sea level rise is to each. In looking at the percentages who think that sea level rise is a very serious threat, three tiers emerge:

• Two items are at the top substantially ahead of the rest of the items: Delaware’s beaches and ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware. On these, 57% and 56%, respectively, think sea level rise is a very serious threat.

• A middle tier consists of 9 of the 15 items, with a quarter to just under half saying sea level rise is a very serious threat: these include marsh and wetlands areas and riverfront cities and towns in Delaware, as well as Delaware’s public works systems, its wildlife populations, its economy, and outdoor recreation in Delaware.

• The bottom tier is people’s local community, themselves, their property, and their families. Each of these has less than 25% saying that sea level rise is a very serious threat to it.

  o In the trends analysis, the percentages of residents who think sea level rise is a very serious threat increased the most for river-front cities and towns in Delaware (from 34% in 2009 to 43% in 2014), the State of Delaware (from 33% to 42%), the mid-Atlantic U.S. (from 30% to 38%), ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware (from 48% to 56%), and outdoor recreation in Delaware (from 24% to 29%). These increases were each significant at p ≤ 0.01, meaning the correlations would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times. The percentages of residents who think sea level rise is a very serious threat also increased slightly for nearly every other item on the list except for Delaware’s economy and residents themselves.
Two questions examined perceptions of the timing of climate change and sea level rise.

- Residents were asked when they think climate change will have an impact on their area. The most common response is that it is having impacts now (41% give this response). Another 33% give a time of 25 years or less. However, 18% consist of those saying 50 or 100 years or saying never (i.e., climate change is not happening).

- Regarding sea level rise, 20% say now, 40% give a time of 25 years or less, and 29% saying 50 or 100 years or never.
  - In the trends analysis, the percentage of residents who say sea level rise is having impacts now in the area where they live increased from 14% in 2009 to 20% in 2014; this increase is significant at $p \leq 0.01$, meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times.

The majority of Delaware residents choose Sussex County (74%) as the county that is most threatened by sea level rise, with only 7% choosing New Castle County and 7% choosing Kent County.

- The trends analysis shows that the percentages of Delaware residents who think one of Delaware’s three counties is the county most threatened by sea level rise changed slightly for each county, but these changes are not statistically significant.
Q36. How serious a threat do you think climate change is?

- Very serious: 45%
- Somewhat serious: 34%
- Not very serious: 10%
- Not at all serious: 9%
- Don't know: 2%
Q36. How serious a threat do you think climate change is?

- **Very serious**: 47% (New Castle), 44% (Kent), 42% (Sussex)
- **Somewhat serious**: 36% (New Castle), 33% (Kent), 32% (Sussex)
- **Not very serious**: 9% (New Castle), 10% (Kent), 14% (Sussex)
- **Not at all serious**: 8% (New Castle), 10% (Kent), 10% (Sussex)
- **Don't know**: 1% (New Castle), 4% (Kent), 2% (Sussex)
Q36. How serious a threat do you think climate change is?

- Very serious: 51% Coastal, 44% Non-coastal
- Somewhat serious: 32% Coastal, 35% Non-coastal
- Not very serious: 7% Coastal, 11% Non-coastal
- Not at all serious: 8% Coastal, 9% Non-coastal
- Don't know: 2% Coastal, 2% Non-coastal
Percent who think that climate change is a very or somewhat serious threat:

- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 91.8%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 91.6%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 89.9%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 87.2%
  - Female: 84.6%
  - Lives in a coastal area: 82.7%
  - Lives in New Castle County: 82.5%
  - Younger than the median age (48): 82.1%
  - Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 81.8%
  - Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 80.9%
  - Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 80.6%
  - Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 79.9%
  - Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 79.9%
  - Total: 79.5%
  - Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 79.3%
  - Lives in a non-coastal area: 79.0%
  - Lives in Kent County: 77.1%
  - Median age (48) or older: 76.6%
  - Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 75.8%
  - Male: 73.9%
  - Lives in Sussex County: 73.4%
  - Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 70.8%
  - Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 51.1%
  - Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 33.0%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to say that climate change is a very or serious threat, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 79.5% of Delaware residents say that climate change is a very or somewhat serious threat (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to say so are above that bar (for instance, 84.6% of females say this); those groups less inclined to say so are below that bar (for instance, only 73.9% of males say this).
Q36. How serious a threat do you think climate change is?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q59. How much do you personally worry about sea level rise? Would you say a great deal, a moderate amount, only a little, or not at all?

- A great deal: 13
- A moderate amount: 31
- Only a little: 24
- Not at all: 31
- Don't know: 1
Q59. How much do you personally worry about sea level rise? Would you say a great deal, a moderate amount, only a little, or not at all?
Q59. How much do you personally worry about sea level rise? Would you say a great deal, a moderate amount, only a little, or not at all?
Percent who worry a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise:

- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 70.0%
- Lives in a coastal area: 58.4%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 57.9%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 56.4%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 53.4%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 53.3%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 51.6%
- Lives in Sussex County: 50.4%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 49.4%
- Female: 49.2%
- Median age (48) or older: 46.5%
- Total: 44.1%
- Lives in New Castle County: 42.4%
- Younger than the median age (48): 42.3%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 41.7%
- Lives in Kent County: 41.1%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 40.2%
- Male: 38.8%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 38.2%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 37.3%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 35.3%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 31.8%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 12.6%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 10.9%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to say that they worry a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 44.1% of Delaware residents worry a great deal or moderate amount (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to worry are above that bar (for instance, 58.4% of those who live in a coastal area are worried a great deal or moderate amount); those groups less inclined to be worried are below that bar (for instance, only 38.8% of males are worried a great deal or moderate amount).
Q59. How much do you personally worry about sea level rise?

- A great deal: 11%
- A moderate amount: 28%
- Only a little: 29%
- Not at all: 31%
- Don't know: 1%

Total: 9 respondents
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is a very serious threat to each of the following.

- People's health: 45%
- Delaware's agriculture: 44%
- People's safety: 38%
- Natural resources of Delaware: 34%
- Delaware's economy: 30%
- Delaware's infrastructure: 29%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 28%
- National security: 24%
- Your local community: 21%
- Your home: 18%
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is a very or somewhat serious threat to each of the following.

- People’s health: 78%
- Delaware’s agriculture: 77%
- People’s safety: 72%
- Natural resources of Delaware: 70%
- Delaware’s economy: 66%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 65%
- Delaware’s infrastructure: 65%
- Your local community: 57%
- National security: 53%
- Your home: 49%
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is not at all a threat to each of the following.
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is not at all a threat or not a very serious threat to each of the following.

- Your home: 49%
- National security: 39%
- Your local community: 38%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 31%
- Delaware’s economy: 29%
- Delaware’s infrastructure: 28%
- People’s safety: 25%
- Natural resources of Delaware: 24%
- People’s health: 21%
- Delaware’s agriculture: 18%
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is a very serious threat to each of the following.
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is a very or somewhat serious threat to each of the following.

- People’s health: 80% (New Castle), 71% (Delaware’s agriculture), 78% (People’s safety), 73% (Natural resources of Delaware), 67% (Outdoor recreation in Delaware), 66% (Delaware’s infrastructure), 65% (Delaware’s economy), 57% (National security), 57% (Your local community), 54% (Your home).
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is not at all a threat to each of the following.

- Your home: New Castle 25%, Kent 26%, Sussex 25%
- National security: New Castle 22%, Kent 25%, Sussex 28%
- Your local community: New Castle 16%, Kent 20%, Sussex 15%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: New Castle 16%, Kent 19%, Sussex 16%
- Delaware’s economy: New Castle 13%, Kent 11%, Sussex 17%
- Natural resources of Delaware: New Castle 11%, Kent 13%, Sussex 14%
- Delaware’s infrastructure: New Castle 10%, Kent 13%, Sussex 14%
- People’s safety: New Castle 10%, Kent 13%, Sussex 14%
- People’s health: New Castle 8%, Kent 11%, Sussex 13%
- Delaware’s agriculture: New Castle 7%, Kent 8%, Sussex 12%
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is not at all a threat or not a very serious threat to each of the following.
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is a very serious threat to each of the following.

- People’s health: Coastal 49%, Non-coastal 45%
- Delaware’s agriculture: Coastal 48%, Non-coastal 44%
- Natural resources of Delaware: Coastal 31%, Non-coastal 46%
- People’s safety: Coastal 44%, Non-coastal 36%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: Coastal 37%, Non-coastal 26%
- Delaware’s economy: Coastal 36%, Non-coastal 29%
- Your local community: Coastal 35%, Non-coastal 18%
- Your home: Coastal 31%, Non-coastal 15%
- Delaware’s infrastructure: Coastal 31%, Non-coastal 29%
- National security: Coastal 24%, Non-coastal 23%
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is a very or somewhat serious threat to each of the following.

- Delaware’s agriculture: 78% (Coastal), 77% (Non-coastal)
- People’s safety: 77% (Coastal), 71% (Non-coastal)
- People’s health: 75% (Coastal), 79% (Non-coastal)
- Delaware’s economy: 72% (Coastal), 64% (Non-coastal)
- Natural resources of Delaware: 71% (Coastal), 70% (Non-coastal)
- Delaware’s infrastructure: 71% (Coastal), 64% (Non-coastal)
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 69% (Coastal), 65% (Non-coastal)
- Your local community: 54% (Coastal), 67% (Non-coastal)
- National security: 58% (Coastal), 52% (Non-coastal)
- Your home: 47% (Coastal), 57% (Non-coastal)
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is not at all a threat to each of the following.

- National security: 25% (Coastal), 27% (Non-coastal)
- Your home: 25% (Coastal), 27% (Non-coastal)
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 16% (Coastal), 17% (Non-coastal)
- Delaware’s infrastructure: 12% (Coastal), 13% (Non-coastal)
- Your local community: 18% (Coastal), 13% (Non-coastal)
- People’s safety: 12% (Coastal), 12% (Non-coastal)
- Delaware’s economy: 14% (Coastal), 12% (Non-coastal)
- Natural resources of Delaware: 11% (Coastal), 11% (Non-coastal)
- People’s health: 9% (Coastal), 11% (Non-coastal)
- Delaware’s agriculture: 8% (Coastal), 9% (Non-coastal)
Q44-Q53. Percent of respondents who think climate change is not at all a threat or not a very serious threat to each of the following.

- Your home: 42% (Coastal), 50% (Non-coastal)
- National security: 34% (Coastal), 41% (Non-coastal)
- Your local community: 31% (Coastal), 42% (Non-coastal)
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 30% (Coastal), 31% (Non-coastal)
- People’s health: 24% (Coastal), 19% (Non-coastal)
- Delaware’s economy: 23% (Coastal), 31% (Non-coastal)
- Delaware’s infrastructure: 23% (Coastal), 29% (Non-coastal)
- People’s safety: 21% (Coastal), 26% (Non-coastal)
- Natural resources of Delaware: 20% (Coastal), 24% (Non-coastal)
- Delaware’s agriculture: 18% (Coastal), 18% (Non-coastal)
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is a very serious threat to each of the following.

- Delaware beaches: 57%
- Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware: 56%
- Marsh and wetlands in Delaware: 47%
- River-front cities and towns in Delaware: 43%
- The State of Delaware: 42%
- The Mid-Atlantic U.S.: 39%
- The United States: 38%
- Delaware's public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems: 34%
- Delaware's wildlife populations: 33%
- Delaware's economy: 30%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 29%
- Your local community: 22%
- You personally: 18%
- Your property: 16%
- Your family: 16%
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to each of the following.

- Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware: 83%
- Delaware beaches: 81%
- Marsh and wetlands in Delaware: 77%
- The State of Delaware: 77%
- The United States: 76%
- The Mid-Atlantic U.S.: 76%
- River-front cities and towns in Delaware: 76%
- Delaware's public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems: 69%
- Delaware's wildlife populations: 66%
- Delaware's economy: 65%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 61%
- Your local community: 49%
- You personally: 45%
- Your family: 41%
- Your property: 37%
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is not at all a threat to each of the following.

- Your property: 39%
- Your family: 37%
- You personally: 32%
- Your local community: 23%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 15%
- Delaware’s public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems: 13%
- Delaware’s wildlife populations: 13%
- Delaware’s economy: 12%
- The State of Delaware: 11%
- The United States: 10%
- The Mid-Atlantic U.S.: 9%
- Marsh and wetlands in Delaware: 8%
- Delaware beaches: 8%
- River-front cities and towns in Delaware: 8%
- Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware: 6%
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is not at all a threat or not a very serious threat to each of the following.

- Your property: 60%
- Your family: 57%
- You personally: 52%
- Your local community: 48%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 34%
- Delaware's economy: 30%
- Delaware's wildlife populations: 29%
- Delaware's public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems: 27%
- The State of Delaware: 21%
- The Mid-Atlantic U.S.: 20%
- The United States: 19%
- River-front cities and towns in Delaware: 19%
- Marsh and wetlands in Delaware: 17%
- Delaware beaches: 15%
- Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware: 13%
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is a very serious threat to each of the following.

- Delaware beaches
- Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware
- Marsh and wetlands in Delaware
- River-front cities and towns in Delaware
- The United States
- The State of Delaware
- The Mid-Atlantic U.S.
- Delaware's wildlife populations
- Delaware's public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems
- Delaware's economy
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware
- Your local community
- You personally
- Your family
- Your property

Percent
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to each of the following.

- **Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware**: 82%
- **Delaware beaches**: 81%
- **The Mid-Atlantic U.S.**: 78%
- **The United States**: 75%
- **The State of Delaware**: 74%
- **Marsh and wetlands in Delaware**: 74%
- **River-front cities and towns in Delaware**: 77%
- **Delaware’s public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems**: 69%
- **Delaware’s wildlife populations**: 64%
- **Delaware’s economy**: 60%
- **Outdoor recreation in Delaware**: 59%
- **You personally**: 46%
- **Your local community**: 46%
- **Your family**: 43%
- **Your property**: 42%

Percentages for New Castle, Kent, and Sussex are also shown in the diagram.
Q62-Q76. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to each of the following?

- Your property
- Your family
- You personally
- Your local community
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware
- Delaware’s wildlife populations
- Delaware’s public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems
- Delaware’s economy
- The State of Delaware
- Marsh and wetlands in Delaware
- The United States
- The Mid-Atlantic U.S.
- River-front cities and towns in Delaware
- Delaware beaches
- Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware

[Bar chart showing percentage of responses from New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties for each category.]
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is not at all a threat or not a very serious threat to each of the following.

- Your property: 64%
- Your family: 61%
- You personally: 61%
- Your local community: 51%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 37%
- Delaware’s economy: 32%
- Delaware’s wildlife populations: 31%
- Delaware’s public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems: 29%
- The State of Delaware: 24%
- River-front cities and towns in Delaware: 20%
- Marsh and wetlands in Delaware: 18%
- The United States: 18%
- The Mid-Atlantic U.S.: 24%
- Delaware beaches: 18%
- Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware: 14%
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is a very serious threat to each of the following.

- Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware: 67%
- Delaware beaches: 65%
- River-front cities and towns in Delaware: 61%
- Delaware's public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems: 53%
- The State of Delaware: 52%
- Marsh and wetlands in Delaware: 52%
- Delaware's wildlife populations: 51%
- The Mid-Atlantic U.S.: 50%
- Your local community: 49%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 48%
- Delaware's economy: 44%
- You personally: 39%
- The United States: 38%
- Your property: 38%
- Your family: 31%

Coastal and Non-coastal categories are indicated by black and white bars respectively.
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to each of the following.

Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware: 87%
River-front cities and towns in Delaware: 85%
Delaware beaches: 84%
The State of Delaware: 82%
The Mid-Atlantic U.S.: 81%
Marsh and wetlands in Delaware: 80%
Delaware’s public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems: 78%
Delaware’s wildlife populations: 77%
The United States: 77%
Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 76%
Delaware’s economy: 75%
Your local community: 73%
You personally: 60%
Your property: 60%
Your family: 55%
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is not at all a threat to each of the following.
Q62-Q76. Percent of respondents who think sea level rise is not at all a threat or not a very serious threat to each of the following.

- Your family: 62%
- Your property: 66%
- You personally: 56%
- Your local community: 54%
- Outdoor recreation in Delaware: 38%
- Delaware's economy: 32%
- Delaware's wildlife populations: 32%
- Delaware's public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems: 29%
- The United States: 19%
- The State of Delaware: 21%
- The Mid-Atlantic U.S.: 20%
- Marsh and wetlands in Delaware: 17%
- Delaware beaches: 15%
- Ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware: 13%
- River-front cities and towns in Delaware: 20%

Coastal vs. Non-coastal respondents.
Percent who think sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to the state of Delaware:

- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 89.5%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 87.1%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 86.0%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 84.3%
- Lives in a coastal area: 82.4%
- Female: 82.1%
- Younger than the median age (48): 82.0%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 81.5%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 79.3%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 78.0%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 77.9%
- Lives in New Castle County: 77.4%
- Lives in Kent County: 77.4%
- Total: 76.8%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 76.6%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 76.6%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 75.7%
- Lives in Sussex County: 74.7%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 74.1%
- Median age (48) or older: 73.0%
- Male: 71.5%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 69.3%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 44.7%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 44.5%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to think that sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to Delaware, relative to what residents as a whole think. Overall, 76.8% of Delaware residents think that sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to Delaware (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to think this are above that bar (for instance, 82.1% of females think so); those groups less inclined to think so are below that bar (for instance, only 71.5% of males think so).
Percent who think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community:

- Lives in a coastal area: 73.0%
- Lives in Sussex County: 59.5%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 56.9%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 56.7%
- Female: 56.1%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 56.0%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 50.8%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 49.8%
- Total: 49.2%
- Younger than the median age (48): 48.6%
- Lives in Kent County: 48.1%
- Median age (48) or older: 47.9%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 47.9%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 47.0%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 46.7%
- Lives in New Castle County: 45.8%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 44.5%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 42.6%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 42.6%
- Male: 41.1%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 39.6%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 25.2%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 22.3%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to think that sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to their local community, relative to what residents as a whole think. Overall, 49.2% of Delaware residents think that sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to their local community (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to think this are above that bar (for instance, 73.0% of those who live in a coastal area think so); those groups less inclined to think so are below that bar (for instance, only 41.1% of males think so).
Percent who think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves:

- Lives in a coastal area: 60.4%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 55.2%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 55.0%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 53.6%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 53.2%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 52.1%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 50.6%
- Female: 48.3%
- Lives in Sussex County: 46.6%
- Younger than the median age (48): 46.3%
- Lives in New Castle County: 46.1%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 45.7%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 45.5%
- Total: 45.4%
- Median age (48) or older: 44.9%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 44.2%
- Male: 42.4%
- Lives in Kent County: 41.7%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 41.2%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 39.9%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 38.6%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 37.2%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 20.8%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 16.8%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to think that sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to themselves, relative to what residents as a whole think. Overall, 45.4% of Delaware residents think that sea level rise is a very or somewhat serious threat to themselves (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to think this are above that bar (for instance, 48.3% of females think so); those groups less inclined to think so are below that bar (for instance, only 42.4% of males think so).
Q62. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to the United States?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q63. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to the Mid-Atlantic U.S.? 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q64. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to the State of Delaware?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q65. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to Delaware beaches?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q66. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to marsh and wetlands in Delaware?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q67. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to ocean-front cities and towns in Delaware?

- Very serious: 48% (2009), 56% (2014)
- Somewhat serious: 28% (2009), 27% (2014)
- Not very serious: 9% (2009), 7% (2014)
- Not at all serious: 12% (2009), 6% (2014)
- Don't know: 3% (2009), 4% (2014)
Q68. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to river-front cities and towns in Delaware?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q69. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to outdoor recreation in Delaware?
Q70. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to Delaware’s wildlife populations?

- Very serious: 32% (2009), 33% (2014)
- Somewhat serious: 38% (2009), 33% (2014)
- Not very serious: 13% (2009), 16% (2014)
- Not at all serious: 13% (2009), 13% (2014)
- Don't know: 3% (2009), 5% (2014)
Q71. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to Delaware's economy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q72. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to Delaware’s public works systems, such as public buildings, roads, and sewer systems?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q73. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to your local community?

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q74. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to your property?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q75. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to your family?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not very serious</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all serious</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q76. How serious a threat do you think sea level rise is to you personally?

- Very serious: 18% (2009), 18% (2014)
- Somewhat serious: 31% (2009), 28% (2014)
- Not very serious: 20% (2009), 20% (2014)
- Not at all serious: 30% (2009), 32% (2014)
- Don't know: 2% (2009), 3% (2014)
Q54/Q79. When do you think [climate change / sea level rise] will start to have impacts on the area where you live in Delaware? Is it having impacts now, will it have impacts in 5 years, 10 years, in 25 years, in 50 years, in 100 years, or will it never have impacts?
Q54. When do you think climate change will start to have impacts on the area in which you live in Delaware? Is it having impacts now, or will it start to have impacts in 5 years? 10 years? 25 years? 50 years? 100 years? Or never because climate change is not happening?

![Bar chart showing responses to Q54.]

- It is having impacts now: 40% New Castle, 43% Kent, 43% Sussex
- 5 years: 14% New Castle, 11% Kent, 11% Sussex
- 10 years: 11% New Castle, 12% Kent, 8% Sussex
- 25 years: 10% New Castle, 9% Kent, 11% Sussex
- 50 years: 6% New Castle, 6% Kent, 5% Sussex
- 100 years: 6% New Castle, 6% Kent, 5% Sussex
- Never / climate change is not happening: 5% New Castle, 7% Kent, 9% Sussex

Don't know: 7% New Castle, 8% Kent, 8% Sussex
Q54. When do you think climate change will start to have impacts on the area in which you live in Delaware? Is it having impacts now, or will it start to have impacts in 5 years? 10 years? 25 years? 50 years? 100 years? Or never because climate change is not happening?
Percent who think climate change is having impacts now:

- Lives in a coastal area: 52.4%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 51.9%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 50.4%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 49.2%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 48.5%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 47.5%
- Female: 47.4%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 45.5%
- Median age (48) or older: 44.0%
- Lives in Kent County: 43.1%
- Lives in Sussex County: 42.6%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 42.3%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 40.3%
- Lives in New Castle County: 39.7%
- Younger than the median age (48): 38.6%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 38.5%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 37.2%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 34.6%
- Male: 34.5%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 34.2%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 33.8%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 19.0%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 6.7%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to think that climate change is having impacts now, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 41.3% of Delaware residents think that climate change is having impacts now (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to think so are above that bar (for instance, 52.4% of those who live in a coastal area think climate change is having impacts now); those groups less inclined to think so are below that bar (for instance, only 34.5% of males think so).
Q79. When do you think sea level rise will start to have impacts on the area where you live in Delaware? Is it having impacts now, will it have impacts in 5 years, 10 years, in 25 years, in 50 years, in 100 years, or will it never have impacts?

![Bar chart showing responses to Q79]

- **It is having impacts now**:
  - New Castle: 17%
  - Kent: 14%
  - Sussex: 31%

- **In 5 years**:
  - New Castle: 9%
  - Kent: 10%
  - Sussex: 15%

- **In 10 years**:
  - New Castle: 12%
  - Kent: 9%
  - Sussex: 15%

- **In 25 years**:
  - New Castle: 20%
  - Kent: 15%
  - Sussex: 17%

- **In 50 years**:
  - New Castle: 11%
  - Kent: 7%
  - Sussex: 9%

- **In 100 years**:
  - New Castle: 10%
  - Kent: 8%
  - Sussex: 9%

- **Never / sea levels are not rising**:
  - New Castle: 9%
  - Kent: 12%
  - Sussex: 7%

- **Don't know**:
  - New Castle: 11%
  - Kent: 12%
  - Sussex: 10%
Q79. When do you think sea level rise will start to have impacts on the area where you live in Delaware? Is it having impacts now, will it have impacts in 5 years, 10 years, in 25 years, in 50 years, in 100 years, or will it never have impacts?

![Bar chart showing responses to Q79, with categories including 'It is having impacts now', 'In 5 years', 'In 10 years', 'In 25 years', 'In 50 years', 'In 100 years', 'Never / sea levels are not rising', 'Don’t know'.]
Percent who think sea level rise is having impacts now:

- Lives in a coastal area: 36.1%
- Lives in Sussex County: 30.7%
- Median age (48) or older: 26.5%
- Female: 24.8%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 23.9%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 23.5%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 23.3%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 22.6%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 22.2%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 21.8%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 21.0%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 20.4%
- Total: 19.6%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 17.3%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 16.9%
- Lives in New Castle County: 16.9%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 16.7%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 16.4%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 15.7%
- Male: 14.5%
- Lives in Kent County: 14.3%
- Younger than the median age (48): 12.9%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 7.9%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 7.6%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to think that sea level rise is having impacts now, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 19.6% of Delaware residents think that sea level rise is having impacts now (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to think so are above that bar (for instance, 36.1% of those who live in a coastal area think that sea level rise is having impacts now); those groups less inclined to think so are below that bar (for instance, only 14.5% of males think so).
Q79. When do you think sea level rise will start to have impacts on the area where you live in Delaware?
Q77. In your opinion, which Delaware county is most threatened by sea level rise?

- New Castle: 7%
- Kent: 7%
- Sussex: 74%
- Don't know: 12%
Q77. In your opinion, which Delaware county is most threatened by sea level rise?

- New Castle: 9 people
- Kent: 7 people
- Sussex: 73 people
- Don't know: 13 people

Percentages:
- New Castle: 9%
- Kent: 7%
- Sussex: 82%
- Don't know: 13%
Q77. In your opinion, which Delaware county is most threatened by sea level rise?

- New Castle: Coastal 9, Non-coastal 6
- Kent: Coastal 6, Non-coastal 7
- Sussex: Coastal 74, Non-coastal 75
- Don't know: Coastal 11, Non-coastal 12

**Percent**
Q77. In your opinion, which Delaware county is most threatened by sea level rise?

- New Castle: 5% (2009), 7% (2014)
- Kent: 5% (2009), 7% (2014)
- Sussex: 78% (2009), 74% (2014)
- Don’t know: 12% (2009), 12% (2014)
POTENTIAL ACTIONS PERCEIVED TO AFFECT CLIMATE CHANGE

PERCEPTIONS OF EFFICACY OF TAKING ACTION TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

- A majority of Delaware residents (72%) agree that the *impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts*; on the other hand, 21% disagree. Likewise, 59% agree that sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts, while 29% disagree.

- Similarly, 65% agree that they can personally *take actions that will help reduce climate change*; meanwhile, 28% disagree.

- A negative phrasing of a question found that 65% of residents *disagree* that the *actions of a single person...won’t make any difference in reducing climate change*, while 32% agree.

  - While a majority of Delaware residents agree that the *impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts*, the trends analysis shows a slight increase in the percentage of those who *strongly disagree* (from 11% in 2009 to 15% in 2014); this increase is statistically significant at $p \leq 0.01$, meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times, but the similar increase in the percentage of those who *strongly disagree* that they can *personally take actions that will help reduce climate change* is *not* statistically significant.

  - The trends analysis also shows that although overall agreement that sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts decreased slightly, the small increase in the percentage of residents who *strongly agree* is *not* statistically significant.

  - Overall disagreement with the negative statement that the *actions of a single person...won’t make any difference in reducing climate change* remained relatively stable from 2009 to 2014.

- Two questions delved into the amount of action that can be taken to reduce climate change, both asking about agreement or disagreement with statements. The first statement says that “*There is limited action* that can be taken to reduce climate change,” and the second statement says that “*There are many actions* that can be taken to reduce climate change.” A
greater percentage agree that there are *many actions* that can be taken than agree that there is *limited action* that can be taken.

- For limited action, 49% of residents agree that *there is limited action that can be taken to reduce climate change*. However, 42% disagree with this statement.

- For many actions, 70% of residents agree that *there are many actions that can be taken to reduce climate change*, while only 19% disagree.
  
  - In the trends analysis, there is a decrease in the percentage of residents who disagree (moderately or strongly) that *there is limited action that can be taken to reduce climate change* (from 47% in 2009 to 42% in 2014), and this change is significant at \( p \leq 0.05 \), meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 5 out of 100 times. For the statement about *many actions can be taken*, agreement and disagreement remained relatively stable from 2009 to 2014.
Q85. The impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts.
Q101. Sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts.

(Do you agree or disagree with these statements?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Climate change</th>
<th>Sea level rise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q85. The impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- **Strongly agree**
  - New Castle: 41
  - Kent: 38
  - Sussex: 38

- **Moderately agree**
  - New Castle: 30
  - Kent: 31
  - Sussex: 31

- **Neither agree nor disagree**
  - New Castle: 4
  - Kent: 3
  - Sussex: 4

- **Moderately disagree**
  - New Castle: 8
  - Kent: 7

- **Strongly disagree**
  - New Castle: 18
  - Kent: 13

- **Don't know**
  - New Castle: 2
  - Kent: 4
  - Sussex: 4
Q85. The impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

![Bar chart showing responses to Q85.]

- **Strongly agree**: 42% (Coastal: 48%, Non-coastal: 48%)
- **Moderately agree**: 29% (Coastal: 24%, Non-coastal: 32%)
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: 4% (Coastal: 3%, Non-coastal: 6%)
- **Moderately disagree**: 5% (Coastal: 7%, Non-coastal: 3%)
- **Strongly disagree**: 17% (Coastal: 15%, Non-coastal: 19%)
- **Don't know**: 2% (Coastal: 3%, Non-coastal: 1%)
Percent who agree (strongly or moderately) that the impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts:

- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 89.7%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 84.3%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 81.9%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 80.4%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 78.1%
- Female: 75.5%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 75.2%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 73.8%
- Lives in New Castle County: 73.7%
- Younger than the median age (48): 73.4%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 72.7%
- Total: 72.1%
- Lives in Kent County: 71.4%
- Lives in a coastal area: 71.3%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 70.6%
- Median age (48) or older: 70.6%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 70.2%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 69.8%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 69.4%
- Lives in Sussex County: 68.8%
- Male: 68.7%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 58.9%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 44.2%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 38.8%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to agree that the impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 72.1% of Delaware residents agree that the impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to agree are above that bar (for instance, 75.5% of females agree); those groups less inclined to agree are below that bar (for instance, only 68.7% of males agree).
Q85. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: The impacts of climate change can be reduced by human efforts.

2009

- Strongly agree: 48%
- Moderately agree: 28%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 2%
- Moderately disagree: 8%
- Strongly disagree: 11%
- Don't know: 3%

2014

- Strongly agree: 47%
- Moderately agree: 25%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4%
- Moderately disagree: 6%
- Strongly disagree: 15%
- Don't know: 3%
Q101. Sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>New Castle</th>
<th>Kent</th>
<th>Sussex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent
Q101. Sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Coastal</th>
<th>Non-coastal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percent of each of the following groups who agree (strongly or moderately) that sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>76.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>71.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>66.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>64.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>63.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor's degree</td>
<td>62.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>61.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>60.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>59.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>59.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>58.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor's degree</td>
<td>56.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>56.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>55.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise</td>
<td>54.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to agree that sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 59.6% of Delaware residents agree that sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to agree are above that bar (for instance, 62.4% of those who live in a coastal area agree); those groups less inclined to agree are below that bar (for instance, only 55.7% of Kent County residents agree).
Q101. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Sea level rise can be reduced by human efforts.
Q93. You can personally take actions that will help reduce climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 44 percent
- Moderately agree: 21 percent
- Neither agree nor disagree: 3 percent
- Moderately disagree: 7 percent
- Strongly disagree: 21 percent
- Don't know: 4 percent
Q93. You can personally take actions that will help reduce climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 44%
- Moderately agree: 28%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 22%
- Moderately disagree: 6%
- Strongly disagree: 7%
- Don't know: 2%

By location:
- New Castle: 44%
- Kent: 21%
- Sussex: 16%
Q93. You can personally take actions that will help reduce climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Coastal</th>
<th>Non-coastal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q93. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: You can personally take actions that will help reduce climate change.
Q94. The actions of single person like you won't make any difference in reducing climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 20%
- Moderately agree: 12%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 2%
- Moderately disagree: 15%
- Strongly disagree: 50%
- Don't know: 2%
Q94. The actions of single person like you won't make any difference in reducing climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>New Castle</th>
<th>Kent</th>
<th>Sussex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q94. The actions of single person like you won't make any difference in reducing climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

![Bar chart showing responses to Q94]

- **Strongly agree**: 23% (Coastal), 20% (Non-coastal)
- **Moderately agree**: 10% (Coastal), 11% (Non-coastal)
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: 2% (Coastal), 2% (Non-coastal)
- **Moderately disagree**: 12% (Coastal), 15% (Non-coastal)
- **Strongly disagree**: 51% (Coastal), 50% (Non-coastal)
- **Don't know**: 2% (Coastal), 2% (Non-coastal)
Q94. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: The actions of single person like you won't make any difference in reducing climate change.
Q87. There is limited action that can be taken to reduce climate change.
Q88. There are many actions that can be taken to reduce climate change.
(Do you agree or disagree with these statements?)
Q87. There is limited action that can be taken to reduce climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: New Castle = 27, Kent = 23, Sussex = 23
- Moderately agree: New Castle = 21, Kent = 25, Sussex = 30
- Neither agree nor disagree: New Castle = 5, Kent = 4, Sussex = 6
- Moderately disagree: New Castle = 12, Kent = 14, Sussex = 15
- Strongly disagree: New Castle = 31, Kent = 27, Sussex = 23
- Don’t know: New Castle = 4, Kent = 6, Sussex = 3

Percent
Q87. There is limited action that can be taken to reduce climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: Coastal 21, Non-coastal 27
- Moderately agree: Coastal 31, Non-coastal 22
- Neither agree nor disagree: Coastal 6, Non-coastal 4
- Moderately disagree: Coastal 9, Non-coastal 14
- Strongly disagree: Coastal 28, Non-coastal 29
- Don't know: Coastal 5, Non-coastal 4
Q87. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: There is limited action that can be taken to reduce climate change.
Q88. There are many actions that can be taken to reduce climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

![Bar chart showing responses to Q88]

- **Strongly agree**: New Castle 49, Kent 45, Sussex 48
- **Moderately agree**: New Castle 21, Kent 26, Sussex 23
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: New Castle 5, Kent 5, Sussex 3
- **Moderately disagree**: New Castle 6, Kent 9, Sussex 4
- **Strongly disagree**: New Castle 14, Kent 10, Sussex 15
- **Don’t know**: New Castle 5, Kent 5, Sussex 6
Q88. There are many actions that can be taken to reduce climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 51% (Coastal), 48% (Non-coastal)
- Moderately agree: 22% (Coastal), 23% (Non-coastal)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4% (Coastal), 4% (Non-coastal)
- Moderately disagree: 5% (Coastal), 7% (Non-coastal)
- Strongly disagree: 12% (Coastal), 13% (Non-coastal)
- Don’t know: 7% (Coastal), 5% (Non-coastal)
Q88. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
There are many actions that can be taken to reduce climate change.

- Strongly agree: 47 (2009), 48 (2014)
- Moderately agree: 25 (2009), 22 (2014)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 2 (2009), 4 (2014)
- Moderately disagree: 9 (2009), 6 (2014)
- Strongly disagree: 12 (2009), 13 (2014)
- Don’t know: 5 (2009), 5 (2014)
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES PERTAINING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- Regardless of their opinions on climate change and sea level rise, the large majority of residents say that action should be taken to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in their area before impacts occur (74% say this) rather than as impacts begin (8%) or after impacts cause problems (3%). Note that 8% said never because sea levels are not rising.

  - The trends analysis shows a small decrease in the percentage of residents who say that action should be taken to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in their area before impacts occur (from 80% in 2009 to 74% in 2014) and a small increase in the percentage who say never because sea levels are not rising (from 4% to 8%). Each of these changes are significant at $p \leq 0.01$, meaning the correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times.

- Two questions looked at whether action should be taken now or whether more study should be done.

  - A large majority of Delaware residents (76%) agree that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of climate change; on the other hand, 18% disagree.

  - This compares to 63% who agree that we should conduct more research before taking any action to address climate change and 32% who disagree.

    - Note that one half of the sample received one question, and the other half received the other question. Nonetheless, the results show the ambivalence some people have about climate change—it is likely that some respondents would have agreed with both statements, had both questions been asked of the same respondents. This demonstrates that, for many people, their beliefs on climate change and actions that can be taken are not strongly held.

  - A similar pairing of questions asked the same thing about sea level rise. A large majority of Delaware residents (72%) agree that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise, while 21% disagree. Meanwhile, 64% agree that we should conduct more research before taking any action to address sea level rise, and 30% disagree.

    - This pair of questions was also asked of halves of the sample, and it also demonstrates that, for some people, their beliefs are not strongly held.
The trends analysis shows a dramatic increase in the percentage of residents who strongly agree that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of climate change: 54% of Delaware residents today strongly agree that immediate action should be taken compared to 35% in 2009. Although this change is significant at \( p \leq 0.01 \), the increase should be considered with caution due to a change in question wording from 2009 to 2014; in 2010 the statement respondents were asked to agree or disagree with was, “We should take immediate and drastic action to reduce the impacts of climate change.” In 2014, the phrase “and drastic” was deleted.

A similar yet slightly less dramatic increase occurred for the statement that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise, with 35% strongly agreeing in 2009 compared to 49% in 2014. Both of these increases are significant at \( p \leq 0.01 \), meaning each correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times.

The percentage of residents who disagree (strongly or moderately) that we should conduct more research before taking any action to address climate change increased slightly from 28% in 2009 to 32% in 2014; however, this change is not statistically significant. A similar increase in the disagree response occurred for the statement that we should conduct more research before taking any action to address sea level rise, and the increase in disagreement for this statement occurred only in the strongly disagree category (from 15% to 22%); it is statistically significant at \( p \leq 0.01 \), meaning each correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times.

A large majority of residents (74%) agree that the state of Delaware needs to conduct more research to identify the impacts of sea level rise in the state; 18% disagree.

The percentage of residents who strongly agree that the state of Delaware needs to conduct more research to identify the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware increased to a slight majority (from 45% in 2009 to 52% in 2014), and overall disagreement (strongly and moderately) decreased. Each of these changes is statistically significant at \( p \leq 0.05 \), meaning each correlation would happen by chance only 5 out of 100 times.
The survey presented ten actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware. For each action, residents were asked if they would support or oppose it.

- Two actions are in a top tier: *change building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas* and *avoid building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise*: 63% and 62%, respectively, *strongly* support those actions.

- The next tier consists of those actions with well more than a third to a half in *strong* support: *increasing funding for research* (50%); *elevating buildings in areas of risk using private funding* (46%); *allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland* (41%); *building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back* (38%); and *elevating the land surface in areas of risk* (38%).

- The bottom tier are those that explicitly entail using government funds: *elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds* (34%), *purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds* (29%), and *purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds* (24%).

  - In the trends analysis, two actions showed substantial increases in overall support, with corresponding decreases in overall opposition: *elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds* (the percentage of residents who support this action increased from 39% in 2009 to 52% in 2014) and *elevating the land surface in areas at risk* (from 54% to 63%). For each of these the increase occurred either entirely or mostly in the *strongly* support category, but the increases in overall support are both statistically significant at \( p \leq 0.01 \), meaning each correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times. The percentage of residents who *strongly* support *allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland* increased from 29% to 41% and is statistically significant, also at \( p \leq 0.01 \).

- For the remaining actions, overall support and opposition remained relatively stable from 2009 to 2014.

- Four graphs are shown: the percentages who *strongly* support, the percentages who *strongly* or *moderately* support, the percentages who *strongly* oppose, and the percentages who *strongly* or *moderately* oppose.
The large majority of Delaware residents (70%) support having their local and state governments spend more money on public construction projects if it means that the structures could withstand or accommodate sea level rise; however, 20% oppose.

- Those who opposed in the preceding question were then asked if they would support or oppose such construction measures if they knew that it would save money in the long run: 33% of this group then support the idea (meanwhile, 61% still oppose).

- In the trends analysis, overall support for having local and state governments spend more money on public construction projects if it means the structures can withstand or accommodate sea level rise increased slightly from 2009 to 2014, and overall opposition decreased slightly. The most substantial change was an increase in the percentage of residents who strongly support the action, going from 34% in 2009 to 46% in 2014, and this increase is significant at $p \leq 0.01$, meaning each correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times. Results for the conditional follow-up questions among those who initially opposed such action did not result in any substantial fluctuations from 2009 to 2014.
Q80. When do you think action should be taken to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in the area where you live in Delaware? Would you say...?

- **Before impacts occur**: 74%
- **As impacts begin**: 8%
- **After impacts cause problems**: 3%
- **Never / sea levels are not rising**: 8%
- **Don't know**: 6%
Q80. When do you think action should be taken to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in the area where you live in Delaware? Would you say...?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of Delaware residents' opinions on when action should be taken to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise.

- 75% choose Before impacts occur.
- 73% choose As impacts begin.
- 73% choose After impacts cause problems.
- 6% choose Never / sea levels are not rising.
- 6% choose Don't know.

The chart is color-coded by county: New Castle, Kent, and Sussex.]
Q80. When do you think action should be taken to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in the area where you live in Delaware? Would you say...?

- **Before impacts occur**: 77%
- **As impacts begin**: 10%
- **After impacts cause problems**: 4%
- **Never / sea levels are not rising**: 12%
- **Don't know**: 6%

[Bar chart showing distribution]
Percent who think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>87.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>81.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>80.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>80.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>80.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>78.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise</td>
<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>76.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>75.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>74.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>74.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>74.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>66.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>64.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>55.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>48.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to think that action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur, relative to what residents as a whole think. Overall, 74.4% of Delaware residents think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to think this are above that bar (for instance, 80.5% of females think so); those groups less inclined to think so are below that bar (for instance, only 66.8% of males think so).
Q80. When do you think action should be taken to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in the area where you live in Delaware?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before impacts occur</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As impacts begin</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After impacts cause problems</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never / sea levels are not rising</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q90. We should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 54%
- Moderately agree: 22%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 5%
- Moderately disagree: 4%
- Strongly disagree: 14%
- Don't know: 2%
Q90. We should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

![Bar chart showing the percentage of Delaware residents' opinions on climate change and sea level rise. The chart is divided into categories: Strongly agree, Moderately agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Moderately disagree, Strongly disagree, and Don't know. The data is separated by counties: New Castle, Kent, and Sussex.]
Q90. We should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)
Percent of each of the following groups who agree (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change:

- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 94.8%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 87.1%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 86.5%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 84.9%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 82.4%
- Younger than the median age (48): 81.0%
- Female: 80.2%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 78.4%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 77.4%
- Lives in Sussex County: 76.9%
- Lives in a coastal area: 76.6%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 76.4%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 76.2%
- Total: 75.6%
- Lives in New Castle County: 75.3%
- Lives in Kent County: 75.2%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 74.8%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 73.7%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 72.8%
- Male: 70.7%
- Median age (48) or older: 69.9%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 42.3%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 37.5%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to agree that immediate action to reduce climate change should be taken, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 75.6% of Delaware residents agree (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to agree are above that bar (for instance, 80.2% of females agree); those groups less inclined to agree are below that bar (for instance, only 70.7% of males agree).
Q90. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: We should take immediate [and drastic] action to reduce the impacts of climate change.

- Strongly agree: 35% (2009), 54% (2014)
- Moderately agree: 26% (2009), 22% (2014)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 3% (2009), 5% (2014)
- Moderately disagree: 13% (2009), 4% (2014)
- Strongly disagree: 20% (2009), 14% (2014)
- Don’t know: 3% (2009), 2% (2014)
Q91. We should conduct more research before taking any action to address climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 45%
- Moderately agree: 18%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4%
- Moderately disagree: 9%
- Strongly disagree: 23%
- Don't know: 1%
Q91. We should conduct more research before taking any action to address climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- **Strongly agree**: New Castle 46%, Kent 42%, Sussex 44%
- **Moderately agree**: New Castle 28%, Kent 20%, Sussex 20%
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: New Castle 15%, Kent 20%, Sussex 4%
- **Moderately disagree**: New Castle 9%, Kent 9%, Sussex 9%
- **Strongly disagree**: New Castle 25%, Kent 18%, Sussex 20%
- **Don’t know**: New Castle 1%, Kent 2%, Sussex 1%
Q91. We should conduct more research before taking any action to address climate change. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)
Q91. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: We should conduct more research before taking any action to address climate change.
Q103. We should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 49%
- Moderately agree: 22%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4%
- Moderately disagree: 6%
- Strongly disagree: 15%
- Don't know: 4%
Q103. We should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>New Castle</th>
<th>Kent</th>
<th>Sussex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q103. We should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)
Percent of each of the following groups who agree (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>83.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>82.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is...</td>
<td>80.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>76.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>73.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor's degree</td>
<td>72.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>72.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>72.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>71.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor's degree</td>
<td>70.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>70.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise rise</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>68.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>64.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is...</td>
<td>34.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to agree that we should take immediate action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 71.2% of Delaware residents agree with this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to agree with this are above that bar (for instance, 76.8% of females agree); those groups less inclined to agree are below that bar (for instance, only 64.5% of males agree).
Q103. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: We should take immediate [and drastic] action to reduce the impacts of sea level rise.
Q104. We should conduct more research before taking any action to address sea level rise. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: 45%
- Moderately agree: 19%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4%
- Moderately disagree: 8%
- Strongly disagree: 22%
- Don't know: 3%
Q104. We should conduct more research before taking any action to address sea level rise. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree: New Castle 46%, Kent 44%, Sussex 42%
- Moderately agree: New Castle 17%, Kent 25%, Sussex 21%
- Neither agree nor disagree: New Castle 4%, Kent 2%, Sussex 3%
- Moderately disagree: New Castle 9%, Kent 10%, Sussex 5%
- Strongly disagree: New Castle 22%, Kent 16%, Sussex 26%
- Don't know: New Castle 2%, Kent 4%, Sussex 4%
Q104. We should conduct more research before taking any action to address sea level rise. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

- Strongly agree
- Moderately agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Moderately disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Percent

Coastal □ Non-coastal

0 20 40 60 80 100
Q104. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: We should conduct more research before taking any action to address sea level rise.
Q100. The state of Delaware needs to conduct more research to identify the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.
Q100. The state of Delaware needs to conduct more research to identify the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

![Bar chart showing responses to Q100 for Delaware residents by county.]

- **Strongly agree**: New Castle 53, Kent 49, Sussex 52
- **Moderately agree**: New Castle 19, Kent 27, Sussex 25
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: New Castle 7, Kent 2, Sussex 3
- **Moderately disagree**: New Castle 3, Kent 8, Sussex 4
- **Strongly disagree**: New Castle 15, Kent 11, Sussex 14
- **Don't know**: New Castle 3, Kent 3, Sussex 2
Q100. The state of Delaware needs to conduct more research to identify the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)

![Bar chart showing responses to Q100.]

- **Strongly agree**: 57% (Coastal 51%, Non-coastal 23%)
- **Moderately agree**: 23% (Coastal 21%, Non-coastal 23%)
- **Neither agree nor disagree**: 3% (Coastal 6%, Non-coastal 3%)
- **Moderately disagree**: 5% (Coastal 4%, Non-coastal 4%)
- **Strongly disagree**: 8% (Coastal 16%, Non-coastal 16%)
- **Don't know**: 4% (Coastal 3%, Non-coastal 3%)
Q100. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
The state of Delaware needs to conduct more research
to identify the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly support the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas: 63%
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise: 62%
- Increasing funding for research: 50%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding: 46%
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland: 41%
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back: 38%
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise: 38%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds: 34%
- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds: 29%
- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds: 24%
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately support the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas: 85%
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise: 77%
- Increasing funding for research: 72%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding: 71%
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back: 65%
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland: 64%
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise: 63%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds: 52%
- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds: 46%
- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds: 42%
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly oppose the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds: 34%
- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds: 31%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds: 29%
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise: 17%
- Increasing funding for research: 15%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding: 15%
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back: 13%
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland: 13%
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise: 9%
- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas: 6%
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately oppose the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds: 45%
- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds: 43%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds: 39%
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise: 26%
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back: 24%
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland: 22%
- Increasing funding for research: 20%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding: 19%
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise: 14%
- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas: 9%
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly support the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas: 67% in New Castle, 57% in Kent, 59% in Sussex.
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise: 66% in New Castle, 52% in Kent, 58% in Sussex.
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding: 50% in New Castle, 42% in Kent, 39% in Sussex.
- Increasing funding for research: 50% in New Castle, 46% in Kent, 54% in Sussex.
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland: 41% in New Castle, 41% in Kent, 38% in Sussex.
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back: 38% in New Castle, 36% in Kent, 39% in Sussex.
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds: 37% in New Castle, 31% in Kent, 39% in Sussex.
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise: 36% in New Castle, 31% in Kent, 38% in Sussex.
- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds: 32% in New Castle, 21% in Kent, 28% in Sussex.
- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds: 19% in New Castle, 18% in Kent, 18% in Sussex.
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately support the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas: 88% (New Castle), 78% (Kent), 64% (Sussex)
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise: 78% (New Castle), 75% (Kent), 72% (Sussex)
- Increasing funding for research: 75% (New Castle), 71% (Kent), 67% (Sussex)
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding: 71% (New Castle), 67% (Kent), 63% (Sussex)
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland: 64% (New Castle), 65% (Kent), 62% (Sussex)
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back: 65% (New Castle), 69% (Kent), 68% (Sussex)
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise: 61% (New Castle), 65% (Kent), 64% (Sussex)
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds: 48% (New Castle), 47% (Kent), 46% (Sussex)
- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds: 35% (New Castle), 47% (Kent), 47% (Sussex)
- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds: 46% (New Castle), 47% (Kent), 47% (Sussex)
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly oppose the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds
- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise
- Increasing funding for research
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise
- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas

Percent

New Castle
Kent
Sussex
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately oppose the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds
  - New Castle: 43%
  - Kent: 44%
  - Sussex: 42%

- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds
  - New Castle: 40%
  - Kent: 54%
  - Sussex: 51%

- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds
  - New Castle: 35%
  - Kent: 43%
  - Sussex: 46%

- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back
  - New Castle: 21%
  - Kent: 22%
  - Sussex: 26%

- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise
  - New Castle: 26%
  - Kent: 28%
  - Sussex: 25%

- Increasing funding for research
  - New Castle: 21%
  - Kent: 22%
  - Sussex: 16%

- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland
  - New Castle: 21%
  - Kent: 23%
  - Sussex: 24%

- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding
  - New Castle: 19%
  - Kent: 18%
  - Sussex: 22%

- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise
  - New Castle: 13%
  - Kent: 18%
  - Sussex: 15%

- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas
  - New Castle: 6%
  - Kent: 13%
  - Sussex: 12%
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly support the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas: Coastal 65%, Non-coastal 65%
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise: Coastal 59%, Non-coastal 63%
- Increasing funding for research: Coastal 49%, Non-coastal 49%
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland: Coastal 46%, Non-coastal 40%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding: Coastal 45%, Non-coastal 48%
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back: Coastal 44%, Non-coastal 37%
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise: Coastal 42%, Non-coastal 37%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds: Coastal 34%, Non-coastal 34%
- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds: Coastal 30%, Non-coastal 28%
- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds: Coastal 26%, Non-coastal 23%
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately support the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas: 81% (Coastal), 87% (Non-coastal)
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise: 75% (Coastal), 78% (Non-coastal)
- Increasing funding for research: 74% (Coastal), 72% (Non-coastal)
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding: 73% (Coastal), 71% (Non-coastal)
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland: 68% (Coastal), 64% (Non-coastal)
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back: 67% (Coastal), 65% (Non-coastal)
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise: 65% (Coastal), 62% (Non-coastal)
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds: 51% (Coastal), 53% (Non-coastal)
- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds: 51% (Coastal), 44% (Non-coastal)
- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds: 49% (Coastal), 40% (Non-coastal)
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly oppose the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds: 32%
- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds: 29%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds: 24%
- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise: 18%
- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland: 16%
- Increasing funding for research: 16%
- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back: 15%
- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding: 13%
- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise: 12%
- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas: 7%

Coastal vs. Non-coastal
Q107-Q116. Percent of respondents who strongly or moderately oppose the following potential actions that could be taken to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts.

- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds
  - Coastal: 39%
  - Non-coastal: 39%

- Purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds
  - Coastal: 37%
  - Non-coastal: 47%

- Purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds
  - Coastal: 37%
  - Non-coastal: 44%

- Elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise
  - Coastal: 23%
  - Non-coastal: 26%

- Building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back
  - Coastal: 23%
  - Non-coastal: 25%

- Allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland
  - Coastal: 22%
  - Non-coastal: 21%

- Elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding
  - Coastal: 18%
  - Non-coastal: 19%

- Avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise
  - Coastal: 17%
  - Non-coastal: 14%

- Increasing funding for research
  - Coastal: 17%
  - Non-coastal: 21%

- Changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas
  - Coastal: 12%
  - Non-coastal: 8%
Percent of each of the following group who support increasing funding for research to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:

- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 83.1%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is...: 81.4%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about...: 81.2%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 80.2%
- Lives in Kent County: 78.4%
- Younger than the median age (48): 78.0%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 76.3%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 75.4%
- Female: 74.6%
- Lives in a coastal area: 74.3%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 73.4%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 72.6%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 72.3%
- Total: 72.3%
- Lives in Sussex County: 71.8%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate...: 70.9%
- Male: 69.7%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea...: 68.6%
- Lives in New Castle County: 68.6%
- Median age (48) or older: 68.0%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate...: 64.8%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise...: 64.7%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 53.4%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is...: 43.3%

Percent of each of the following group who support increasing funding for research to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to support increasing funding for research to address sea level rise or reduce its impacts, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 72.3% of Delaware residents support this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to support this are above that bar (for instance, 78.4% of Kent County residents support); those groups less inclined to support are below that bar (for instance, only 68.6% of Sussex County residents support).
Percent of each of the following groups who support purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:

- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 58.2%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 52.1%
- Lives in a coastal area: 50.9%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 50.6%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 50.4%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 50.0%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 49.7%
- Median age (48) or older: 47.3%
- Lives in Kent County: 46.8%
- Female: 46.6%
- Lives in New Castle County: 46.4%
- Total: 45.8%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 45.7%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 45.2%
- Male: 44.8%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 44.5%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 44.5%
- Lives in Sussex County: 43.8%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 43.1%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 39.8%
- Has not taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 37.6%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 30.4%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 29.3%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to support purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise using government funds, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 45.8% of Delaware residents support this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to support this are above that bar (for instance, 50.9% of those who live in a coastal area support); those groups less inclined to support are below that bar (for instance, only 43.8% of Sussex County residents support).
Percent of each of the following groups who support purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:

- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 51.6%
- Lives in a coastal area: 49.0%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 48.6%
- Lives in New Castle County: 47.2%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is: 47.2%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 47.0%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about: 46.6%
- Younger than the median age (48): 46.4%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea: 44.5%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 44.5%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 43.3%
- Male: 42.4%
- Total: 42.1%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 41.9%
- Female: 41.7%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate: 41.6%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 40.3%
- Median age (48) or older: 39.2%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 36.6%
- Lives in Kent County: 35.3%
- Lives in Sussex County: 33.7%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 26.4%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is: 23.9%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to support purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 42.1% of Delaware residents support this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to support this are above that bar (for instance, 49.0% of those who live in a coastal area support); those groups less inclined to support are below that bar (for instance, only 35.3% of Kent County residents support).
Percent of each of the following groups who support about elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:

- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 60.1%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 59.6%
- Younger than the median age (48): 59.3%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 57.8%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 56.8%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is: 56.5%
- Lives in New Castle County: 55.3%
- Female: 53.5%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 52.6%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 52.3%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 52.2%
- Total: 52.1%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 52.0%
- Lives in a coastal area: 51.1%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 50.4%
- Male: 50.4%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 49.0%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 49.0%
- Lives in Kent County: 48.2%
- Median age (48) or older: 46.6%
- Lives in Sussex County: 46.5%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is: 31.7%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 30.9%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to support elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 52.1% of Delaware residents support this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to support this are above that bar (for instance, 55.3% of New Castle County residents support); those groups less inclined to support are below that bar (for instance, only 46.5% of Sussex County residents support).
Percent of each of the following groups who support elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:

- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 78.2%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 77.4%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about climate change: 76.9%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 76.8%
- Education level is at least a bachelor’s degree: 76.6%
- Lives in Kent County: 74.8%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is occurring: 74.2%
- Younger than the median age (48): 73.5%
- Lives in a coastal area: 72.6%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 71.5%
- Female: 71.4%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 71.4%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 71.3%
- Education level is less than bachelor’s degree: 71.1%
- Median age (48) or older: 71.1%
- Lives in New Castle County: 70.8%
- Total: 70.7%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 70.1%
- Male: 69.8%
- Lives in Sussex County: 67.3%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 65.5%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 59.0%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is occurring: 56.2%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to support elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funds, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 70.7% of Delaware residents support this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to support this are above that bar (for instance, 74.8% of Kent County residents support); those groups less inclined to support are below that bar (for instance, only 67.3% of Sussex County residents support).
Percent of each of the following groups who support elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>73.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>67.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>67.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>67.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor's degree</td>
<td>66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>66.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>65.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>65.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise</td>
<td>64.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>64.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>63.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>63.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>62.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>61.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>61.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>59.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor's degree</td>
<td>58.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>56.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>55.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>50.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>50.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to support elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 62.5% of Delaware residents support this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to support this are above that bar (for instance, 67.9% of females support); those groups less inclined to support are below that bar (for instance, only 56.0% of males support).
Percent of each of the following groups who support about avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>82.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>82.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>81.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>80.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>78.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>77.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>77.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor's degree</td>
<td>77.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>76.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>76.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor's degree</td>
<td>76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>75.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise</td>
<td>75.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>74.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>73.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>71.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>65.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>56.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to support avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 76.7% of Delaware residents support this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to support this are above that bar (for instance, 81.1% of females support); those groups less inclined to support are below that bar (for instance, only 71.9% of males support).
Percent of each of the following groups who support changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change</td>
<td>91.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>90.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>89.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise</td>
<td>89.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>89.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than the median age (48)</td>
<td>88.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>88.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in New Castle County</td>
<td>87.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is at least a bachelor's degree</td>
<td>86.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a non-coastal area</td>
<td>86.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise</td>
<td>85.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change</td>
<td>85.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>85.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows a little or nothing about climate change</td>
<td>84.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education level is less than bachelor's degree</td>
<td>84.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise</td>
<td>83.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (48) or older</td>
<td>82.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>81.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Kent County</td>
<td>81.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in a coastal area</td>
<td>81.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives in Sussex County</td>
<td>80.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to support changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 85.1% of Delaware residents support this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to support this are above that bar (for instance, 88.4% of females support); those groups less inclined to support are below that bar (for instance, only 80.6% of Sussex County residents support).
Percent of each of the following groups who support allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland to address sea rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts:

- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 76.5%
- Younger than the median age (48): 67.9%
- Lives in a coastal area: 67.6%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 67.4%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 66.7%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 66.7%
- Male: 66.2%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 65.8%
- Lives in Kent County: 65.3%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 64.7%
- Lives in New Castle County: 64.1%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 63.9%
- Total: 63.8%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 63.6%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 63.5%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 63.4%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 62.2%
- Median age (48) or older: 62.1%
- Lives in Sussex County: 62.0%
- Female: 61.4%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 59.8%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 58.6%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 58.1%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to support allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 63.8% of Delaware residents support this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to support this are above that bar (for instance, 67.6% of those who live in a coastal area support); those groups less inclined to support are below that bar (for instance, only 62.0% of Sussex County residents support).
Q107. Do you support or oppose allowing beaches and wetlands to naturally migrate inland to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately support</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support nor oppose</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately oppose</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q108. Do you support or oppose building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads to keep water back to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?

![Bar chart showing support and opposition to building dikes, seawalls, and bulkheads in 2009 and 2014.](chart_image)

- **Strongly support**: 33% in 2009, 38% in 2014
- **Moderately support**: 32% in 2009, 28% in 2014
- **Neither support nor oppose**: 6% in 2009, 6% in 2014
- **Moderately oppose**: 9% in 2009, 11% in 2014
- **Strongly oppose**: 17% in 2009, 13% in 2014
- **Don't know**: 4% in 2009, 5% in 2014
Q109. Do you support or oppose changing building codes and regulations to reduce risk in flood prone areas to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?
Q110. Do you support or oppose avoiding building new structures in areas at risk from sea level rise to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?

Percent

- Strongly support: 67 (2009), 62 (2014)
- Moderately support: 18 (2009), 15 (2014)
- Neither support nor oppose: 2 (2009), 5 (2014)
- Strongly oppose: 7 (2009), 9 (2014)
- Don’t know: 2 (2009), 4 (2014)
Q111. Do you support or oppose elevating the land surface in areas at risk from sea level rise to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?
Q112. Do you support or oppose elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using private funding to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately support</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support nor oppose</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately oppose</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q113. Do you support or oppose elevating buildings in areas at risk from sea level rise using government funds to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?
Q114. Do you support or oppose purchasing or buying out frequently flooded properties using government funds to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?

- Strongly support: 2009 (16%), 2014 (24%)
- Moderately support: 2009 (22%), 2014 (18%)
- Neither support nor oppose: 2009 (5%), 2014 (7%)
- Moderately oppose: 2009 (13%), 2014 (11%)
- Strongly oppose: 2009 (38%), 2014 (34%)
- Don't know: 2009 (6%), 2014 (6%)
Q115. Do you support or oppose purchasing or acquiring land and open space at risk from sea level rise from willing land sellers using government funds to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately support</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support nor oppose</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately oppose</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q116. Do you support or oppose increasing funding for research to address sea level rise in Delaware or reduce its impacts?

Percent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately support</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither nor oppose</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately oppose</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q116: Delaware Residents' Opinions on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

2009: Strongly support 44%, Moderately support 30%, Neither support nor oppose 6%, Moderately oppose 15%, Strongly oppose 2%

2014: Strongly support 50%, Moderately support 22%, Neither support nor oppose 5%, Moderately oppose 15%, Strongly oppose 2%
Q117. Please consider that your local and state governments in Delaware could construct public buildings and other structures, such as roads and sewer systems, to withstand or accommodate sea level rise but that doing so would be more expensive than constructing structures that could not. Would you support or oppose your local and state governments spending more money on public construction projects if it meant the structures could withstand or accommodate sea level rise in Delaware?
Q117. Please consider that your local and state governments in Delaware could construct public buildings and other structures, such as roads and sewer systems, to withstand or accommodate sea level rise but that doing so would be more expensive than constructing structures that could not. Would you support or oppose your local and state governments spending more money on public construction projects if it meant the structures could withstand or accommodate sea level rise in Delaware?
Q117. Please consider that your local and state governments in Delaware could construct public buildings and other structures, such as roads and sewer systems, to withstand or accommodate sea level rise but that doing so would be more expensive than constructing structures that could not. Would you support or oppose your local and state governments spending more money on public construction projects if it meant the structures could withstand or accommodate sea level rise in Delaware?
Q117. Please consider that your local and state governments in Delaware could construct public buildings and other structures, such as roads and sewer systems, to withstand or accommodate sea level rise but that doing so would be more expensive than constructing structures that could not. Would you support or oppose your local and state governments spending more money on public construction projects if it meant the structures could withstand or accommodate sea level rise in Delaware?
Q118. What if you knew it would save money or be less costly long-term for Delaware to construct structures to withstand or accommodate sea level rise? (Asked of those who oppose spending more money on public construction projects if it meant the structures could withstand or accommodate sea level rise in Delaware.)
Q118. What if you knew it would save money or be less costly long-term for Delaware to construct structures to withstand or accommodate sea level rise? (Asked of those who oppose spending more money on public construction projects if it meant the structures could withstand or accommodate sea level rise in Delaware.)
Q118. What if you knew it would save money or be less costly long-term for Delaware to construct structures to withstand or accommodate sea level rise? (Asked of those who oppose spending more money on public construction projects if it meant the structures could withstand or accommodate sea level rise in Delaware.)
Q118. What if you knew it would save money or be less costly long-term for Delaware to construct structures to withstand or accommodate sea level rise?
RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKING ACTION

The survey presented five entities and asked whether each should be doing more to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware. In looking at the percentages who say that the entities should be doing much more, there is little separation between the top four entities: business and industry (43% say that they should do much more), the federal government (41%), the state government (40%), and the local/county government (38%). At the bottom are Delaware’s residents (34% of residents say that Delaware’s residents should be doing much more).

- Most of the entities asked about in 2014 differed from those asked about in 2009. For the two entities that were comparable (corporations and industry / business and industry, Delaware citizens / Delaware’s residents), the trends analysis shows little variation in the results from 2009 to 2014.
  - Four graphs are shown: the percentages who say much more, the percentages who say much or somewhat more, the percentages who say much less, and the percentages who say much or somewhat less.
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much more to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.

- Business and industry: 43%
- Federal government: 41%
- Delaware's state government: 40%
- Local or county government: 38%
- Delaware's residents: 34%
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much or somewhat more to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.

- Business and industry: 69%
- Local or county government: 63%
- Delaware’s state government: 63%
- Delaware’s residents: 63%
- Federal government: 63%
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much less to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.

- Federal government: 6%
- Local or county government: 4%
- Delaware's residents: 4%
- Delaware's state government: 4%
- Business and industry: 3%
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much or somewhat less to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.

- Federal government: 10%
- Delaware’s residents: 6%
- Delaware’s state government: 6%
- Local or county government: 6%
- Business and industry: 5%
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much more to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.

- Business and industry: New Castle 45%, Kent 40%, Sussex 38%
- Delaware’s state government: New Castle 43%, Kent 38%, Sussex 35%
- Federal government: New Castle 42%, Kent 39%, Sussex 40%
- Local or county government: New Castle 41%, Kent 33%, Sussex 34%
- Delaware’s residents: New Castle 35%, Kent 34%, Sussex 30%
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much or somewhat more to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.

- **Business and industry**: 71 (New Castle), 67 (Kent), 65 (Sussex)
- **Local or county government**: 66 (New Castle), 59 (Kent), 61 (Sussex)
- **Federal government**: 65 (New Castle), 60 (Kent), 60 (Sussex)
- **Delaware’s residents**: 65 (New Castle), 62 (Kent), 59 (Sussex)
- **Delaware’s state government**: 64 (New Castle), 59 (Kent), 62 (Sussex)
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much less to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much or somewhat less to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.

- **Federal government**: 9 (New Castle), 10 (Kent), 11 (Sussex)
- **Delaware’s state government**: 6 (New Castle), 7 (Kent), 6 (Sussex)
- **Delaware’s residents**: 5 (New Castle), 7 (Kent), 8 (Sussex)
- **Local or county government**: 5 (New Castle), 8 (Kent), 8 (Sussex)
- **Business and industry**: 4 (New Castle), 5 (Kent), 7 (Sussex)
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much more to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much or somewhat more to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Coastal</th>
<th>Non-coastal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business and industry</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware’s state government</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware’s residents</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local or county government</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal government</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much less to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.
Q121-125. Percent of respondents who think each of the following should be doing much or somewhat less to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware.

- Federal government: 7% coastal, 10% non-coastal
- Delaware's residents: 6% coastal, 6% non-coastal
- Local or county government: 6% coastal, 6% non-coastal
- Business and industry: 5% coastal, 5% non-coastal
- Delaware's state government: 5% coastal, 7% non-coastal
Q124. Do you think corporations and industry should be doing more or less to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware or are they currently doing about the right amount?
Q125. Do you think Delaware citizens should be doing more or less to address or reduce the impacts of sea level rise in Delaware or are they currently doing about the right amount?
PERSONAL ACTIONS TAKEN RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

➢ About 2 in 5 Delaware residents (41% of them) say that they have personally taken action within the past 2 years to try to reduce climate change.

• Note that 30% of residents do not believe that personal actions can help mitigate the impacts of climate change. If it is assumed that they did not take any action, 56% of residents did not take any action to try to reduce climate change.
  o That 56% includes those who may have taken a conservation action that mitigates climate change/sea level rise without consciously doing it for that reason (they may have had another reason for taking the action).

➢ The survey presented six things that people could have done pertaining to addressing sea level rise or learning more about sea level rise. The majority of residents have read a newspaper or magazine article about sea level rise (53%), and nearly half have had a conversation with a friend or family member about sea level rise (45%). Lesser percentages have read about sea level rise on social media (29%), have visited a website for sea level rise information (24%), have read a brochure or handout about sea level rise (17%), or have attended a public meeting or workshop about sea level rise (7%).
Q95. Have you personally taken action in the past 2 years to try to reduce climate change?

- Yes: 41%
- No: 26%
- Think that personal actions cannot help (did not get question): 30%
- Don't know: 2%
Q95. Have you personally taken action in the past 2 years to try to reduce climate change?
Q95. Have you personally taken action in the past 2 years to try to reduce climate change?
Percent of each of the following groups who have personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change:

- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 47.9%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 47.5%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 47.4%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 46.8%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 46.6%
- Younger than the median age (48): 46.6%
- Disagrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 45.5%
- Female: 43.2%
- Lives in New Castle County: 42.9%
- Agrees that there is enough available information about sea level rise: 42.7%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 42.0%
- Total: 41.5%
- Lives in a coastal area: 41.2%
- Lives in Kent County: 40.2%
- Male: 39.8%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 39.7%
- Median age (48) or older: 39.6%
- Lives in Sussex County: 38.9%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise: 38.6%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 33.1%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 24.1%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 16.6%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to have personally taken action to reduce climate change, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 41.5% of Delaware residents have taken action (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to have taken action are above that bar (for instance, 46.6% of those people younger than the median age have taken action); those groups less inclined to have taken action are below that bar (for instance, only 39.8% of males have taken action).
Q134. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following?

- Read a newspaper or magazine article about sea level rise: 53%
- Had a conversation with a friend or family member about sea level rise: 45%
- Read about sea level rise on social media: 29%
- Visited a website for sea level rise information: 24%
- Read a brochure or handout about sea level rise: 17%
- Attended a public meeting or workshop on sea level rise: 7%
- None of these: 25%
Q134. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following?

- Read a newspaper or magazine article about sea level rise
- Had a conversation with a friend or family member about sea level rise
- Read about sea level rise on social media
- Visited a website for sea level rise information
- Read a brochure or handout about sea level rise
- Attended a public meeting or workshop on sea level rise
- None of these

Multiple Responses Allowed

New Castle
Kent
Sussex

Percent

0 20 40 60 80 100
Q134. In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following?

- Read a newspaper or magazine article about sea level rise: 53 Coastal, 55 Non-coastal
- Had a conversation with a friend or family member about sea level rise: 50 Coastal, 44 Non-coastal
- Read about sea level rise on social media: 28 Coastal, 31 Non-coastal
- Visited a website for sea level rise information: 25 Coastal, 25 Non-coastal
- Read a brochure or handout about sea level rise: 21 Coastal, 16 Non-coastal
- Attended a public meeting or workshop on sea level rise: 10 Coastal, 6 Non-coastal
- None of these: 23 Coastal, 24 Non-coastal
SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE

- The most popular sources of information about environmental issues in Delaware are television (47% get environmental information this way), newspapers (44%), and the Internet (42%). No other source was named by more than 15% of residents.

- The sample was randomly split, with one group being asked to name the topics about climate change on which they want more information, and the other group being asked to name the topics about sea level rise on which they want more information. The questions were open-ended, meaning that no answer set was read to respondents; instead, they could say whatever topics came to mind.
  - The topics about climate change and sea level rise most in demand include the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, the impacts specifically on the Delaware Bay and the state’s beaches, actions that can be taken to mitigate climate change and sea level rise, impacts on specific resources or groups, how to protect property, how climate change and sea level rise correlate, and funding needs to address the impacts.

- Residents are split on whether there is enough available information about sea level rise: 46% agree that there is, but 44% disagree.
  - The trends analysis shows a slight increase in the percentage of residents who agree that there is enough available information about sea level rise (from 39% in 2009 to 46% in 2014), with most of that increase occurring in the strongly agree category (from 22% to 28%). The increase in the percentage of those who strongly agree is significant at \( p \leq 0.01 \), meaning each correlation would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times.
Q130. Where do you get most of your information about environmental issues in Delaware?

- Television: 47%
- Newspaper: 44%
- Internet: 42%
- Magazines: 15%
- Word of mouth / family or friends: 11%
- DNREC website: 8%
- Radio: 7%
- Social media like Twitter or Facebook: 5%
- Conservation or environmental organization: 4%
- Pamphlets or newsletters from DNREC: 4%
- University / UD and DSU Sea Grant Extension: 3%
- Other state agency / government office: 3%
- Personal knowledge / common sense: 1%
- Other: 3%
- Don't know: 5%

Multiple Responses Allowed
Q130. Where do you get most of your information about environmental issues in Delaware?

- Television
- Newspaper
- Internet
- Magazines
- Word of mouth / family or friends
- DNREC website
- Radio
- Social media like Twitter or Facebook
- Conservation or environmental organization
- Pamphlets or newsletters from DNREC
- University / UD and DSU Sea Grant Extension
- Other state agency / government office
- Personal knowledge / common sense
- Other
- Don't know

Percent: New Castle, Kent, Sussex
Q130. Where do you get most of your information about environmental issues in Delaware?

- Television: 45% Coastal, 48% Non-coastal
- Newspaper: 43% Coastal, 44% Non-coastal
- Internet: 39% Coastal, 44% Non-coastal
- Magazines: 14% Coastal, 15% Non-coastal
- Word of mouth / family or friends: 12% Coastal, 10% Non-coastal
- DNREC website: 8% Coastal, 8% Non-coastal
- Radio: 8% Coastal, 7% Non-coastal
- Social media like Twitter or Facebook: 5% Coastal, 5% Non-coastal
- Conservation or environmental organization: 5% Coastal, 4% Non-coastal
- Pamphlets or newsletters from DNREC: 4% Coastal, 5% Non-coastal
- University / UD and DSU Sea Grant Extension: 6% Coastal, 2% Non-coastal
- Other state agency / government office: 3% Coastal, 2% Non-coastal
- Personal knowledge / common sense: 3% Coastal, 1% Non-coastal
- Other: 5% Coastal, 3% Non-coastal
- Don't know: 4% Coastal, 4% Non-coastal
Q136. Do you agree or disagree that there is enough available information about sea level rise?
Q136. Do you agree or disagree that there is enough available information about sea level rise?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>New Castle</th>
<th>Kent</th>
<th>Sussex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

%
Q136. Do you agree or disagree that there is enough available information about sea level rise?

- Strongly agree: Coastal 29, Non-coastal 28
- Moderately agree: Coastal 16, Non-coastal 18
- Neither agree nor disagree: Coastal 6, Non-coastal 3
- Moderately disagree: Coastal 13, Non-coastal 13
- Strongly disagree: Coastal 33, Non-coastal 30
- Don't know: Coastal 3, Non-coastal 8
Percent of each of the following groups who agree (strongly or moderately) that there is enough available information about sea level rise:

- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about sea level rise: 50.8%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that sea levels are rising: 49.4%
- Younger than the median age (48): 49.1%
- Lives in New Castle County: 48.6%
- Knows a great deal or a moderate amount about climate change: 48.6%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that climate change is happening: 48.1%
- Male: 47.4%
- Has taken action in the past 2 years to prevent climate change: 46.5%
- Lives in a non-coastal area: 46.3%
- Education level is less than bachelor's degree: 46.2%
- Is completely or mostly convinced that climate change is happening: 46.0%
- Total: 45.9%
- Education level is at least a bachelor's degree: 45.3%
- Lives in a coastal area: 45.2%
- Female: 44.5%
- Median age (48) or older: 42.3%
- Lives in Sussex County: 42.1%
- Knows a little or nothing about climate change: 41.7%
- Is not so or not at all convinced that sea levels are rising: 41.1%
- Lives in Kent County: 40.7%
- Knows a little or nothing about sea level rise rise: 39.2%
The graph on the previous page shows the demographic and attitudinal groups that are either more (above the striped bar) or less (below the striped bar) likely to agree that there is enough available information about sea level rise, relative to residents as a whole. Overall, 45.9% of Delaware residents agree with this (striped bar). Those groups more inclined to agree are above that bar (for instance, 48.6% of New Castle County residents agree); those groups less inclined to agree are below that bar (for instance, only 40.7% of Kent County residents agree).

Use caution when drawing conclusions from this graph. There are two opposing reasons to agree. Some people may agree because they think that sea level rise is happening but they think that enough information is available. Other people may agree because they do not think that sea level rise is happening and, therefore, think that no more information is needed.
Q136. Do you agree or disagree that there is enough available information about sea level rise?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately agree</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately disagree</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q140. What topics related to climate change would you most like to have more information on? We are not sending out information at this time; we are simply measuring interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate change in general</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea level rise in general</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts of climate change / sea level rise</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts on Delaware Bay and state’s beaches</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions that can be taken to reduce impacts</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts for specific resource, group, species, etc.</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to protect property</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How climate change and sea level rise relate</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding needs / estimated budget to address climate change in Delaware</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air quality</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic data</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q140. What topics related to climate change would you most like to have more information on? We are not sending out information at this time; we are simply measuring interest.
Q140. What topics related to climate change would you most like to have more information on? We are not sending out information at this time; we are simply measuring interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Coastal</th>
<th>Non-coastal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate change in general</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea level rise</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts of climate change / sea level rise</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts on Delaware Bay and state’s beaches</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions that can be taken to reduce impacts</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impacts for specific resource, group, species, etc.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to protect property</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How climate change and sea level rise relate</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding needs / estimated budget to address climate change in Delaware</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air quality</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic data</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q144. What topics related to sea level rise would you most like to have more information on? We are not sending out information at this time; we are simply measuring interest.

- Climate change in general: 29%
- Sea level rise in general: 29%
- Impacts on Delaware Bay and state’s beaches: 28%
- Impacts of climate change / sea level rise: 22%
- Actions that can be taken to reduce impacts: 21%
- Impacts for specific resource, group, species, etc.: 18%
- How to protect property: 18%
- How climate change and sea level rise relate: 15%
- Funding needs / estimated budget to address climate change in Delaware: 13%
- Nothing: 2%
- Projected impacts (timing): 1%
- Source of information: 1%
- Any information (general): 1%
- Historic data: 1%
- Causes of sea level rise: 1%
- Other: 2%
- Don’t know: 29%
Q144. What topics related to sea level rise would you most like to have more information on? We are not sending out information at this time; we are simply measuring interest.
Q144. What topics related to sea level rise would you most like to have more information on? We are not sending out information at this time; we are simply measuring interest.
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- The demographic data, primarily used in crosstabulations, that were gathered include:
  - Gender.
  - Age.
  - Whether the respondent has children living at home.
  - Ethnicity.
  - Education level.
  - Years lived in Delaware.
  - County of residence.
  - Whether they consider their residence to be coastal or non-coastal.
  - Whether they rent or own their property.
  - Whether they have flood insurance or not.
    - Graphs are included showing the opinions and attitudes of various demographic groups.
    - The trends analysis shows very little variation in the demographics of Delaware residents from 2009 to 2014.
Q167. Respondent's gender (observed by interviewer; not asked).
Q167. Respondent's gender (observed by interviewer; not asked).

- **Male**: 47%
- **Female**: 53%

- **New Castle**: 52%
- **Kent**: 48%
- **Sussex**: 53%
Q167. Respondent's gender (observed by interviewer; not asked).

- **Male**
  - Coastal: 46%
  - Non-coastal: 48%

- **Female**
  - Coastal: 54%
  - Non-coastal: 52%
Percent of males who...

- Does not think sea level rise is having impacts now: 85%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the state of Delaware: 71%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 71%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 69%
- Thinks action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 67%
- Does not think climate change is having impacts now: 65%
- Has not personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 60%
- Worries a little or not at all about sea level rise: 60%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 58%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 56%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 42%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 41%
- Has personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 40%
- Worries a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise: 39%
- Thinks climate change is having impacts now: 35%
- Does not think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 33%
- Thinks sea level rise is not a (very or serious) serious threat to the State of Delaware: 27%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 26%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 22%
- Thinks sea level rise is having impacts now: 15%
Delaware Residents’ Opinions on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Percent of females who...

- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the state of Delaware: 82%
- Thinks action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 81%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 80%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 75%
- Does not think sea level rise is having impacts now: 75%
- Has not personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 57%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 56%
- Does not think climate change is having impacts now: 53%
- Worries a little or not at all about sea level rise: 50%
- Worries a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise: 49%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 48%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 48%
- Thinks climate change is having impacts now: 47%
- Has personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 43%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 39%
- Thinks sea level rise is having impacts now: 25%
- Does not think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 19%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 18%
- Thinks sea level rise is not a (very or serious) serious threat to the State of Delaware: 15%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 13%
Q167. Respondent's gender (observed, not asked, by interviewer).

- In 2009, 48% of respondents were male and 52% were female.
- In 2014, 48% of respondents were male and 52% were female.
Q161. Respondent's age.

- 65 years old or older: 17
- 55-64 years old: 15
- 45-54 years old: 18
- 35-44 years old: 16
- 25-34 years old: 15
- 18-24 years old: 12
- Don't know: 3
- Refused: 3

Mean = 47.61
Median = 48
Q161. Respondent's age.

- **65 years old or older**
  - New Castle: 14%
  - Kent: 15%
  - Sussex: 18%

- **55-64 years old**
  - New Castle: 14%
  - Kent: 18%
  - Sussex: 19%

- **45-54 years old**
  - New Castle: 18%
  - Kent: 19%
  - Sussex: 16%

- **35-44 years old**
  - New Castle: 17%
  - Kent: 16%
  - Sussex: 13%

- **25-34 years old**
  - New Castle: 16%
  - Kent: 13%
  - Sussex: 8%

- **18-24 years old**
  - New Castle: 14%
  - Kent: 14%
  - Sussex: 14%

- **Don't know**
  - New Castle: 2%
  - Kent: 2%
  - Sussex: 4%

- **Refused**
  - New Castle: 4%
  - Kent: 2%
  - Sussex: 3%

**New Castle**
- Mean = 45.14
- Median = 44

**Kent**
- Mean = 46.34
- Median = 47

**Sussex**
- Mean = 51.39
- Median = 53
Q161. Respondent’s age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Category</th>
<th>Coastal</th>
<th>Non-coastal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 years old or older</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 years old</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 years old</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44 years old</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 years old</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24 years old</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coastal
- Mean = 49.80
- Median = 53

Non-coastal
- Mean = 46.98
- Median = 47
Percent of those younger than the median age who...

- Does not think sea level rise is having impacts now: 87%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the state of Delaware: 82%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 81%
- Thinks action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 75%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 73%
- Does not think climate change is having impacts now: 61%
- Worries a little or not at all about sea level rise: 57%
- Has not personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 53%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 53%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 49%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 48%
- Has personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 47%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 46%
- Worries a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise: 42%
- Thinks climate change is having impacts now: 39%
- Does not think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 25%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 21%
- Thinks sea level rise is not a (very or serious) serious threat to the State of Delaware: 18%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 13%
- Thinks sea level rise is having impacts now: 13%
Percent of those the median age or older who...
Q161. Respondent's age.

- 65 years old or older: 17% (2009) / 17% (2014)
- 55-64 years old: 15% (2009) / 15% (2014)
- 45-54 years old: 18% (2009) / 18% (2014)
- 35-44 years old: 17% (2009) / 16% (2014)
- 25-34 years old: 15% (2009) / 15% (2014)
- 18-24 years old: 10% (2009) / 12% (2014)
- Don't know: 3% (2009) / 3% (2014)
- Refused: 5% (2009) / 3% (2014)
Q154. How many children, age 17 or younger, do you have living in your household?

- More than 3 children: 4
- 3 children: 6
- 2 children: 14
- 1 child: 17
- Have no children: 56
- Don't know / refused: 2

Mean = 0.82
Median = 0
Q154. How many children, age 17 or younger, do you have living in your household?

- More than 3 children: New Castle 5, Kent 3, Sussex 3
- 3 children: New Castle 6, Kent 7, Sussex 6
- 2 children: New Castle 16, Kent 16, Sussex 8
- 1 child: New Castle 18, Kent 16, Sussex 13
- Have no children: New Castle 53, Kent 56, Sussex 66
- Don't know / refused: New Castle 2, Kent 2, Sussex 3

- New Castle
  Mean = 0.92
  Median = 0
- Kent
  Mean = 0.87
  Median = 0
- Sussex
  Mean = 0.67
  Median = 0
Q154. How many children, age 17 or younger, do you have living in your household?

- More than 3 children: Coastal 4, Non-coastal 5
- 3 children: Coastal 8, Non-coastal 6
- 2 children: Coastal 10, Non-coastal 16
- 1 child: Coastal 15, Non-coastal 17
- Have no children: Coastal 61, Non-coastal 55
- Don't know / refused: Coastal 2, Non-coastal 1

Coastal:
- Mean = 0.77
- Median = 0

Non-coastal:
- Mean = 0.87
- Median = 0
Q154. How many children, age 17 or younger, do you have living in your household?
Q159. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?

- White or Caucasian: 71%
- Black or African-American: 16%
- Hispanic or Latino: 4%
- Native American or Alaskan native or Aleutian: 2%
- South Asian: 1%
- East Asian: 1%
- African: Less than 0.5%
- Middle Eastern: Less than 0.5%
- Other: Less than 0.5%
- Don't know: 1%
- Refused: 6%
Q159. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African-American
- Refused
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native American or Alaskan native or Aleutian
- South Asian
- East Asian
- African
- Middle Eastern
- Other
- Don't know

Multiple Responses Allowed

Percent

- New Castle
- Kent
- Sussex
Q159. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?
Q159. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?

![Graph showing racial and ethnic backgrounds]

- White or Caucasian: 76% (2009), 71% (2014)
- Black or African-American: 11% (2009), 16% (2014)
- Hispanic or Latino: 3% (2009), 4% (2014)
- Native American, Native Hawaiian or Other: 1% (2009), 2% (2014)
- South Asian: 1% (2009), 1% (2014)
- East Asian: 1% (2009), 1% (2014)
- Middle Eastern: 0% (2009), 0% (2014)
- Other: 1% (2009), 0% (2014)
- Don't know: 2% (2009), 1% (2014)
- Refused: 6% (2009), 6% (2014)
Q156. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Not a high school graduate: 3
- High school graduate or equivalent: 23
- Some college or trade school, no degree: 21
- Associate or trade school degree: 9
- Bachelor's degree: 21
- Master's degree: 13
- Professional or doctorate degree: 5
- Don't know: 1
- Refused: 4

Percent
Q156. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Not a high school graduate: New Castle 2% (Sussex 4%)
- High school graduate or equivalent: New Castle 20% (Sussex 24%)
- Some college or trade school, no degree: New Castle 20% (Sussex 21%)
- Associate or trade school degree: New Castle 9% (Sussex 10%)
- Bachelor's degree: New Castle 23% (Sussex 19%)
- Master's degree: New Castle 15% (Sussex 13%)
- Professional or doctorate degree: New Castle 6% (Sussex 4%)
- Don't know: New Castle 0% (Sussex 1%)
- Refused: New Castle 4% (Sussex 3%)

Percent:

- New Castle
- Kent
- Sussex
Q156. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Not a high school graduate
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Some college or trade school, no degree
- Associate or trade school degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional or doctorate degree
- Don't know
- Refused

Coastal vs. Non-coastal
Percent of those with at least a bachelor's degree who...

- Does not think sea level rise is having impacts now: 84%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 78%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the state of Delaware: 78%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 75%
- Thinks action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 75%
- Worries a little or not at all about sea level rise: 61%
- Does not think climate change is having impacts now: 60%
- Has not personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 53%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 52%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 51%
- Has personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 47%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 47%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 46%
- Thinks climate change is having impacts now: 40%
- Worries a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise: 38%
- Does not think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 25%
- Thinks sea level rise is not a (very or serious) serious threat to the State of Delaware: 20%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 20%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 18%
- Thinks sea level rise is having impacts now: 16%
Percent of those with less than a bachelor's degree who...

- Does not think sea level rise is having impacts now: 78%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the state of Delaware: 77%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 75%
- Thinks action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 75%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 70%
- Has not personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 60%
- Does not think climate change is having impacts now: 58%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 52%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 50%
- Worries a little or not at all about sea level rise: 50%
- Worries a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise: 49%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 47%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 47%
- Thinks climate change is having impacts now: 45%
- Has personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 42%
- Does not think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 40%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 25%
- Thinks sea level rise is having impacts now: 23%
- Thinks sea level rise is not a (very or serious) serious threat to the State of Delaware: 22%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 17%
Q156. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Not a high school graduate: 4% (2009), 3% (2014)
- High school graduate or equivalent: 23% (2009), 23% (2014)
- Some college or trade school, no degree: 16% (2009), 9% (2014)
- Associate or trade school degree: 9% (2009), 9% (2014)
- Bachelor's degree: 25% (2009), 21% (2014)
- Master's degree: 13% (2009), 13% (2014)
- Professional or doctorate degree: 6% (2009), 5% (2014)
- Don't know: 2% (2009), 1% (2014)
- Refused: 4% (2009), 4% (2014)
Q148. How many years have you lived in Delaware?

- More than 70 years: 3
- 61 - 70 years: 4
- 51 - 60 years: 9
- 41 - 50 years: 10
- 31 - 40 years: 14
- 21 - 30 years: 17
- 11 - 20 years: 19
- 10 years or less: 21
- Don't know / refused: 3

Mean = 28.73
Median = 25

Percent
Q148. How many years have you lived in Delaware?

- More than 70 years: New Castle 3, Kent 3, Sussex 2
- 61 - 70 years: New Castle 4, Kent 4, Sussex 5
- 51 - 60 years: New Castle 9, Kent 9, Sussex 10
- 41 - 50 years: New Castle 10, Kent 9, Sussex 8
- 31 - 40 years: New Castle 15, Kent 14, Sussex 11
- 21 - 30 years: New Castle 17, Kent 19, Sussex 17
- 11 - 20 years: New Castle 20, Kent 18, Sussex 19
- 10 years or less: New Castle 19, Kent 23, Sussex 23
- Don't know / refused: New Castle 2, Kent 4, Sussex

New Castle
Mean = 29.32
Median = 25

Kent
Mean = 28.93
Median = 26

Sussex
Mean = 27.92
Median = 25
Q148. How many years have you lived in Delaware?

- More than 70 years: Coastal 2, Non-coastal 3
- 61 - 70 years: Coastal 3, Non-coastal 5
- 51 - 60 years: Coastal 14, Non-coastal 8
- 41 - 50 years: Coastal 11, Non-coastal 7
- 31 - 40 years: Coastal 14, Non-coastal 13
- 21 - 30 years: Coastal 19, Non-coastal 17
- 11 - 20 years: Coastal 20, Non-coastal 19
- 10 years or less: Coastal 22, Non-coastal 21
- Don’t know / refused: Both 1

Coastal
Mean = 27.82
Median = 24

Non-coastal
Mean = 28.99
Median = 26
Q148. How many years have you lived in Delaware?

![Bar chart showing years lived in Delaware by years and comparison between 2009 and 2014.]

- More than 70 years: 3 (2009), 3 (2014)
- 61 - 70 years: 3 (2009), 4 (2014)
- 51 - 60 years: 8 (2009), 9 (2014)
- 41 - 50 years: 12 (2009), 10 (2014)
- 31 - 40 years: 13 (2009), 14 (2014)
- 21 - 30 years: 17 (2009), 17 (2014)
- 11 - 20 years: 17 (2009), 19 (2014)
- 10 years or less: 24 (2009), 21 (2014)
- Don't know / refused: 3 (2009), 3 (2014)
Q149. What county do you live in?

- New Castle: 60%
- Kent: 18%
- Sussex: 23%
Q149. What county do you live in?

- **New Castle**: 37 Coastal, 66 Non-coastal
- **Kent**: 12 Coastal, 19 Non-coastal
- **Sussex**: 51 Coastal, 15 Non-coastal

Legend:
- Coastal
- Non-coastal
Percent New Castle County residents who...

- Does not think sea level rise is having impacts now: 83%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the state of Delaware: 77%
- Thinks action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 75%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 75%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 74%
- Does not think climate change is having impacts now: 60%
- Has not personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 57%
- Worries a little or not at all about sea level rise: 57%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 51%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 51%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 46%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 46%
- Has personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 43%
- Worries a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise: 42%
- Thinks climate change is having impacts now: 40%
- Does not think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 25%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 21%
- Thinks sea level rise is not a (very or serious) serious threat to the State of Delaware: 20%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 18%
- Thinks sea level rise is having impacts now: 17%
Does not think sea level rise is having impacts now: 86%
Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the state of Delaware: 77%
Agrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 75%
Thinks action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 73%
Agrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 71%
Has not personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 60%
Worries a little or not at all about sea level rise: 58%
Does not think climate change is having impacts now: 57%
Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 55%
Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 48%
Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 47%
Worries a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise: 43%
Has personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 41%
Does not think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 40%
Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 27%
Thinks sea level rise is not a (very or serious) serious threat to the State of Delaware: 21%
Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 20%
Thinks sea level rise is having impacts now: 18%
Q151. Do you consider your place of residence to be in a coastal or non-coastal area?

- Coastal: 20%
- Non-coastal: 77%
- Don't know: 3%
Q151. Do you consider your place of residence to be in a coastal or non-coastal area?
Percent of those who live in a coastal area

Who...% who

- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the state of Delaware 82
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change 77
- Thinks action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur 77
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community 73
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves 64
- Thinks climate change is having impacts now 60
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves 59
- Has not personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change 58
- Worries a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise 52
- Thinks climate change is having impacts now 48
- Does not think climate change is having impacts now 41
- Has personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change 40
- Worries a little or not at all about sea level rise 38
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves 36
- Thinks sea level rise is having impacts now 27
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community 23
- Does not think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur 22
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts 17
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change 16
- Thinks sea level rise is not a (very or serious) serious threat to the State of Delaware
Percent of those who live in a non-coastal area who...

- Does not think sea level rise is having impacts now: 84%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the state of Delaware: 77%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 76%
- Thinks action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 74%
- Agrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 73%
- Does not think climate change is having impacts now: 61%
- Worries a little or not at all about sea level rise: 59%
- Has not personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 58%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 56%
- Does not think sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 54%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to the local community: 43%
- Has personally taken action in the past 2 years to reduce climate change: 42%
- Thinks sea level rise is a (very or serious) threat to themselves: 41%
- Worries a great deal or moderate amount about sea level rise: 40%
- Thinks climate change is having impacts now: 39%
- Does not think action should be taken before impacts of sea level rise occur: 26%
- Thinks sea level rise is not a (very or serious) serious threat to the State of Delaware: 21%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that climate change can be reduced by human efforts: 21%
- Disagrees (strongly or moderately) that we should take immediate action to reduce climate change: 17%
- Thinks sea level rise is having impacts now: 16%
Q151. Do you consider your place of residence to be in a coastal or non-coastal area?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents considering their place of residence to be coastal or non-coastal in 2009 and 2014.](chart.png)
Q152. Do you rent or own your current place of residence?

- Rent: 21
- Own: 73
- Occupy without cash rent: 2
- Refused: 4
Q152. Do you rent or own your current place of residence?

- Rent: 23% (New Castle: 19, Kent: 19, Sussex: 19)
- Own: 71% (New Castle: 77, Kent: 76, Sussex: 76)
- Occupy without cash rent: 3%
- Refused: 4% (New Castle: 3, Kent: 1, Sussex: 4)
Q152. Do you rent or own your current place of residence?

- Rent
  - Coastal: 26
  - Non-coastal: 20

- Own
  - Coastal: 71
  - Non-coastal: 76

- Occupy without cash rent
  - Coastal: 1
  - Non-coastal: 2

- Refused
  - Coastal: 2
  - Non-coastal: 2
Q153. Do you have flood insurance for your current place of residence?

- Yes: 23
- No: 70
- Don’t know: 7
Q153. Do you have flood insurance for your current place of residence?

- Yes: 22%
  - New Castle: 20%
  - Kent: 27%
  - Sussex: 65%

- No: 72%
  - New Castle: 72%
  - Kent: 72%
  - Sussex: 65%

- Don't know: 7%
  - New Castle: 8%
  - Kent: 8%
  - Sussex: 8%
Q153. Do you have flood insurance for your current place of residence?

- Yes: 37%
- No: 75%
- Don't know: 6%

[Bar chart showing the distribution of responses by coastal and non-coastal areas]
Q153. Do you have flood insurance for your current place of residence?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Our mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing our in-house, full-service telephone, mail, and web-based survey center with 50 professional interviewers, we have conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communication plans, needs assessments, and program evaluations.

Clients include the federal natural resource and land management agencies, most state fish and wildlife agencies, state departments of natural resources, environmental protection agencies, state park agencies, tourism boards, most of the major conservation and sportsmen’s organizations, and numerous private businesses. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation’s top universities.

Specializing in research on public attitudes toward natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, Responsive Management has completed a wide range of projects during the past 24 years, including dozens of studies of hunters, anglers, wildlife viewers, boaters, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, birdwatchers, campers, and rock climbers. Responsive Management has conducted studies on endangered species; waterfowl and wetlands; and the reintroduction of large predators such as wolves, grizzly bears, and the Florida panther.

Responsive Management has assisted with research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and has helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their membership and donations. Additionally, Responsive Management has conducted major organizational and programmatic needs assessments to assist natural resource agencies and organizations in developing more effective programs based on a solid foundation of fact.
Responsive Management has conducted research on public attitudes toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in almost every state in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. Responsive Management has also conducted focus groups and personal interviews with residents of the African countries of Algeria, Cameroon, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Responsive Management routinely conducts surveys in Spanish and has conducted surveys in Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese and has completed numerous studies with specific target audiences, including Hispanics; African-Americans; Asians; women; children; senior citizens; urban, suburban, and rural residents; large landowners; and farmers.

Responsive Management’s research has been upheld in U.S. District Courts; used in peer-reviewed journals; and presented at major natural resource, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation conferences across the world. Company research has been featured in most of the nation’s major media, including CNN, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and on the front pages of USA Today and The Washington Post. Responsive Management’s research has also been highlighted in Newsweek magazine.

Visit the Responsive Management website at:

www.responsivemanagement.com