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The Public's Views on Global Warming Trends from the Past Year

***AAAS Conference on Promoting Climate Literacy
February 17, 2010***

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PewResearchCenter

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- Pew Environment Group
- Pew Center on Global Climate Change
- Pew Economic Policy Group
- Pew Center on the States
- Pew Health Group
- Stimulating Civic Life



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Data Sources

Telephone surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press using random samples of landline and cell phone numbers

February 3-9, 2010 (N=1,383)

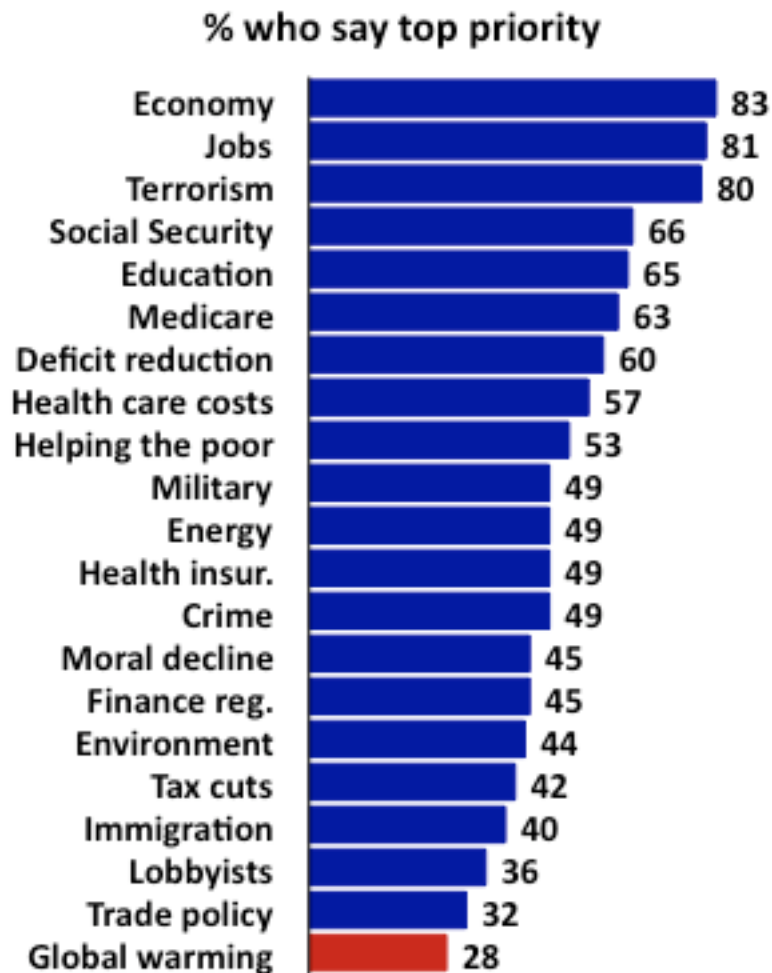
January 6-10, 2010 (N=1,504)

September 30 – October 4, 2009 (N=1,500)

April 28 – May 12, 2009 (N=2,001)



The Public's Policy Priorities for 2010



Jan 10

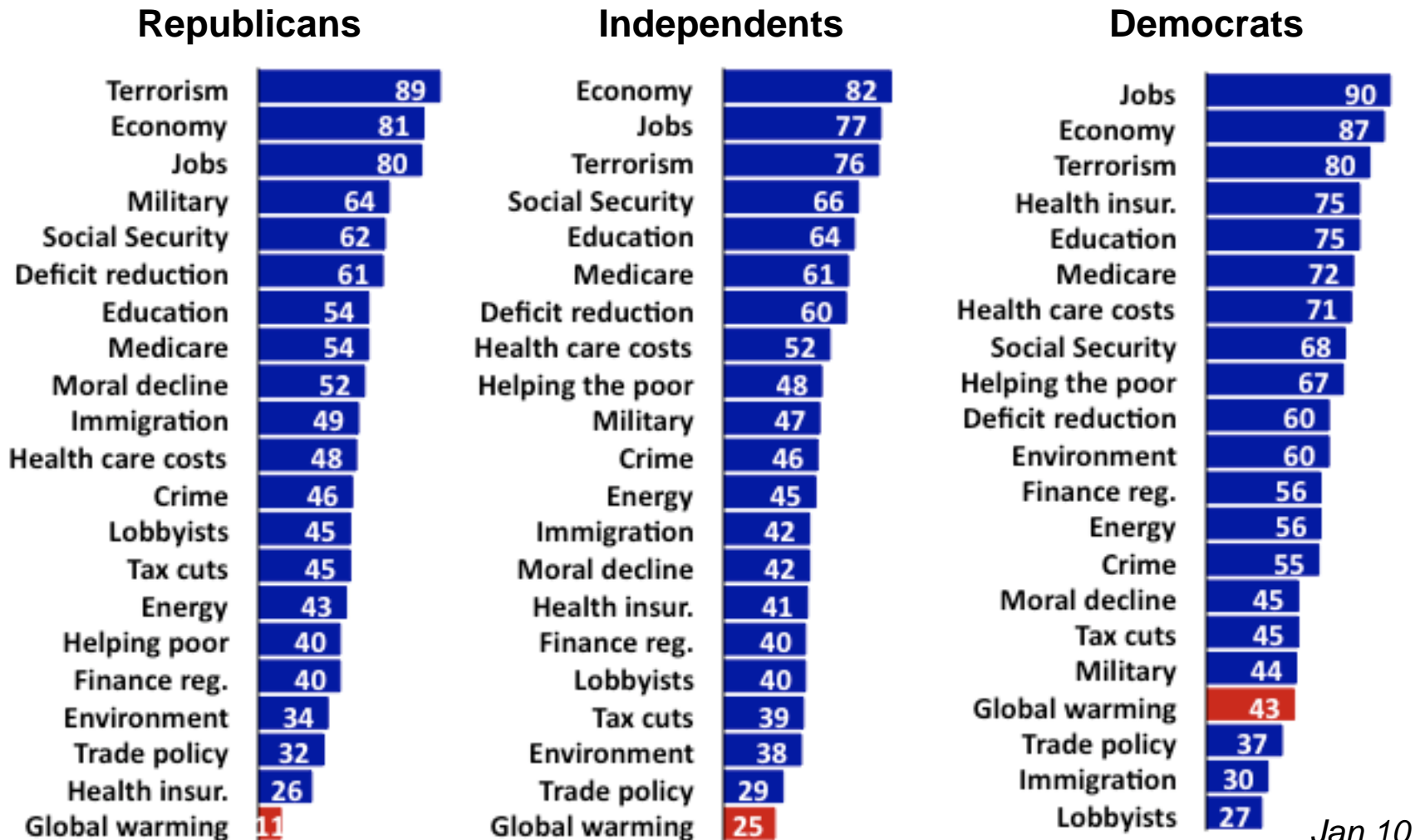


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Top Policy Priorities by Party



Jan 10

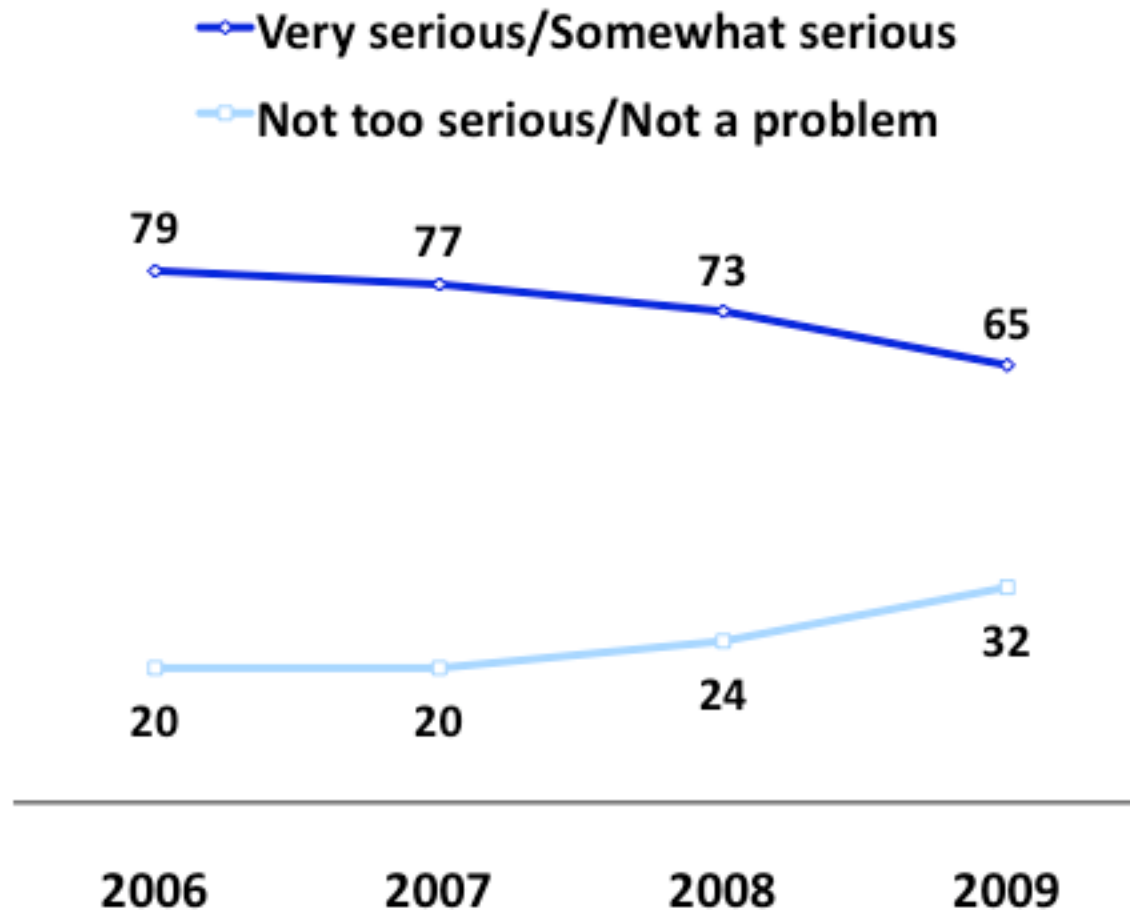


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How Serious of a Problem is Global Warming?



Oct 09



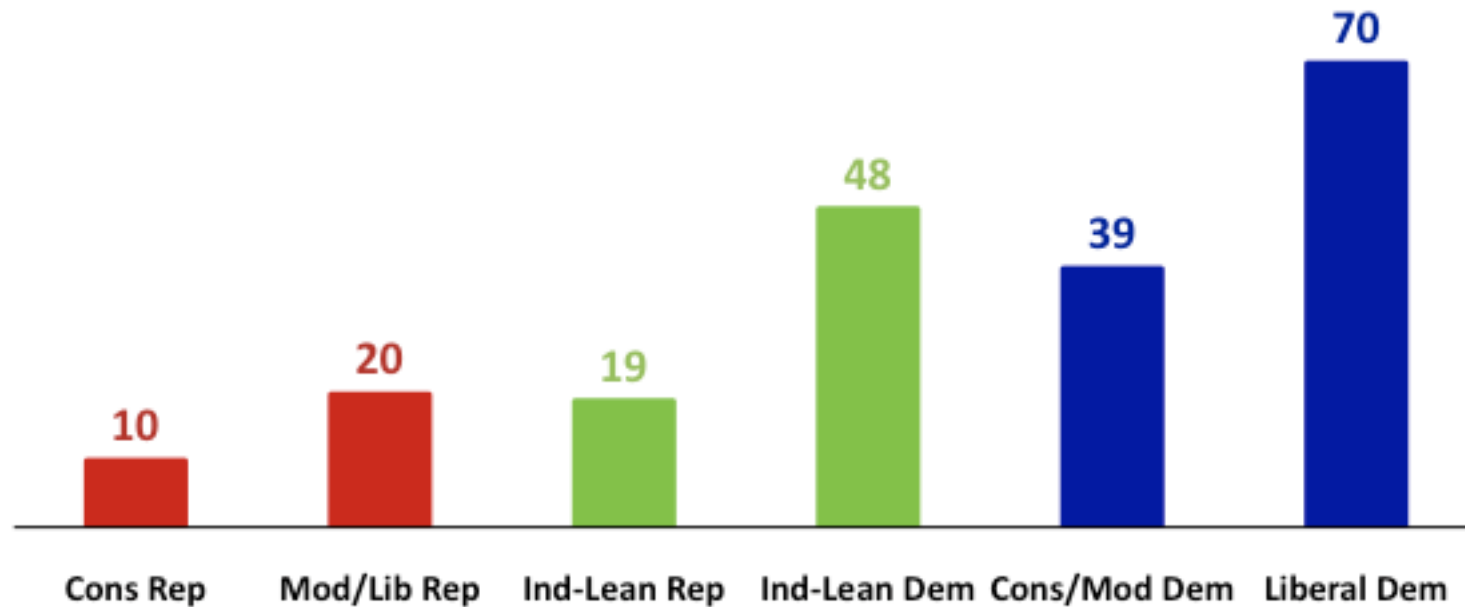
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Strong Partisan and Ideological Differences on the Seriousness of Global Warming

% who say global warming is a very serious problem



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Is There Solid Evidence that the Average Temperature on Earth Has Been Getting Warmer over the Past Few Decades?

Yes, solid evidence of warming	57
Mostly because of human activity	36
Mostly because of natural patterns	16
Yes, but don't know why	6
No solid evidence of warming	33
Mixed/Don't know (Vol.)	10

Oct 09

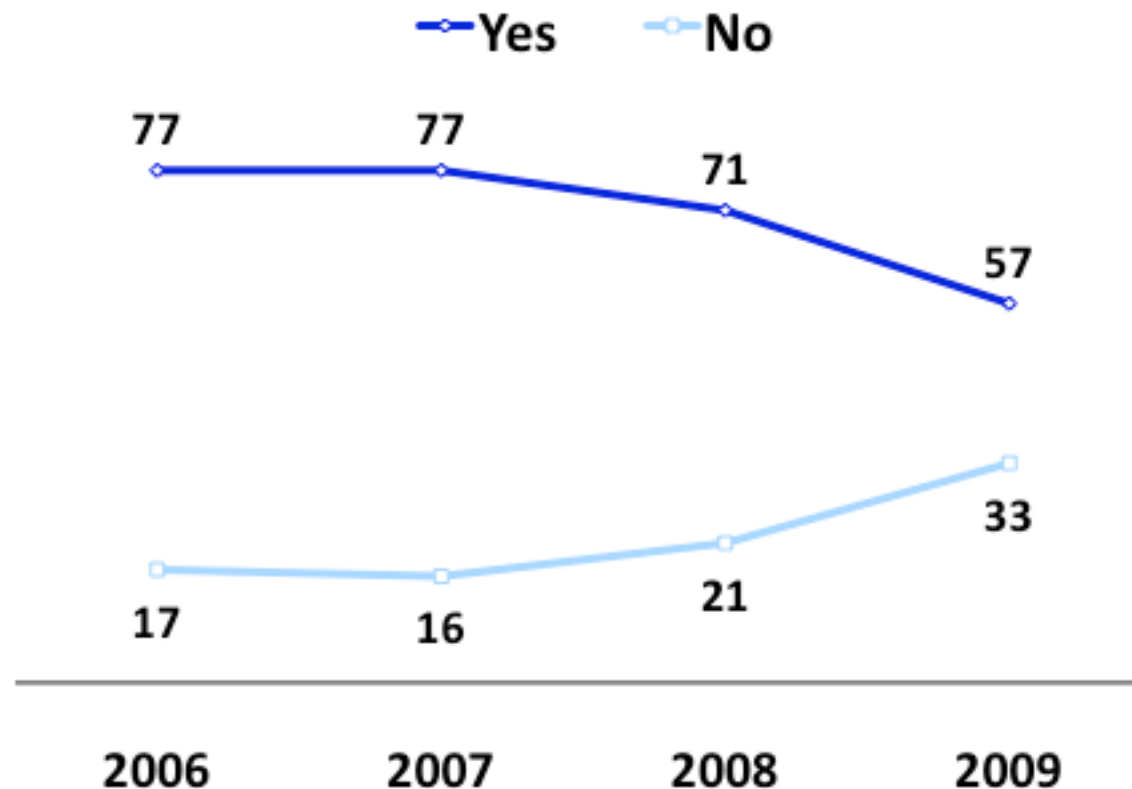


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Fewer Now Say There Is Solid Evidence that the Average Temperature on Earth Has Been Getting Warmer



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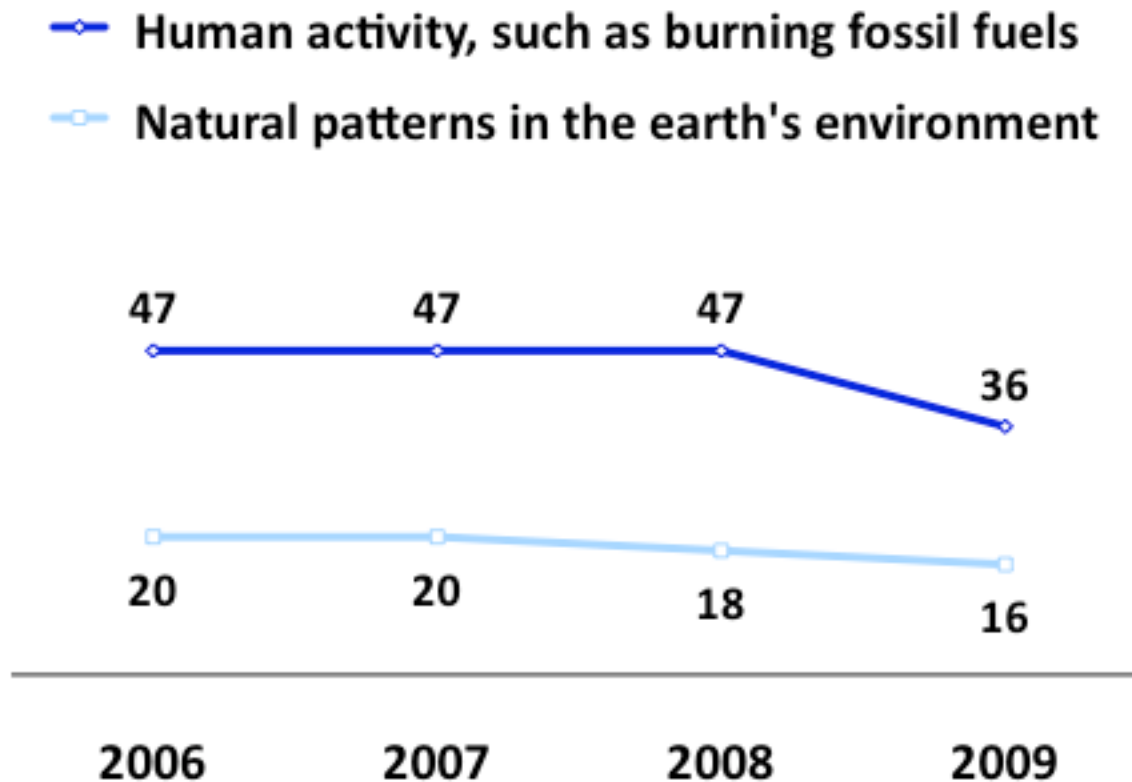


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And Fewer Who Believe the Earth is Warming Say it is Mostly Because of Human Activity



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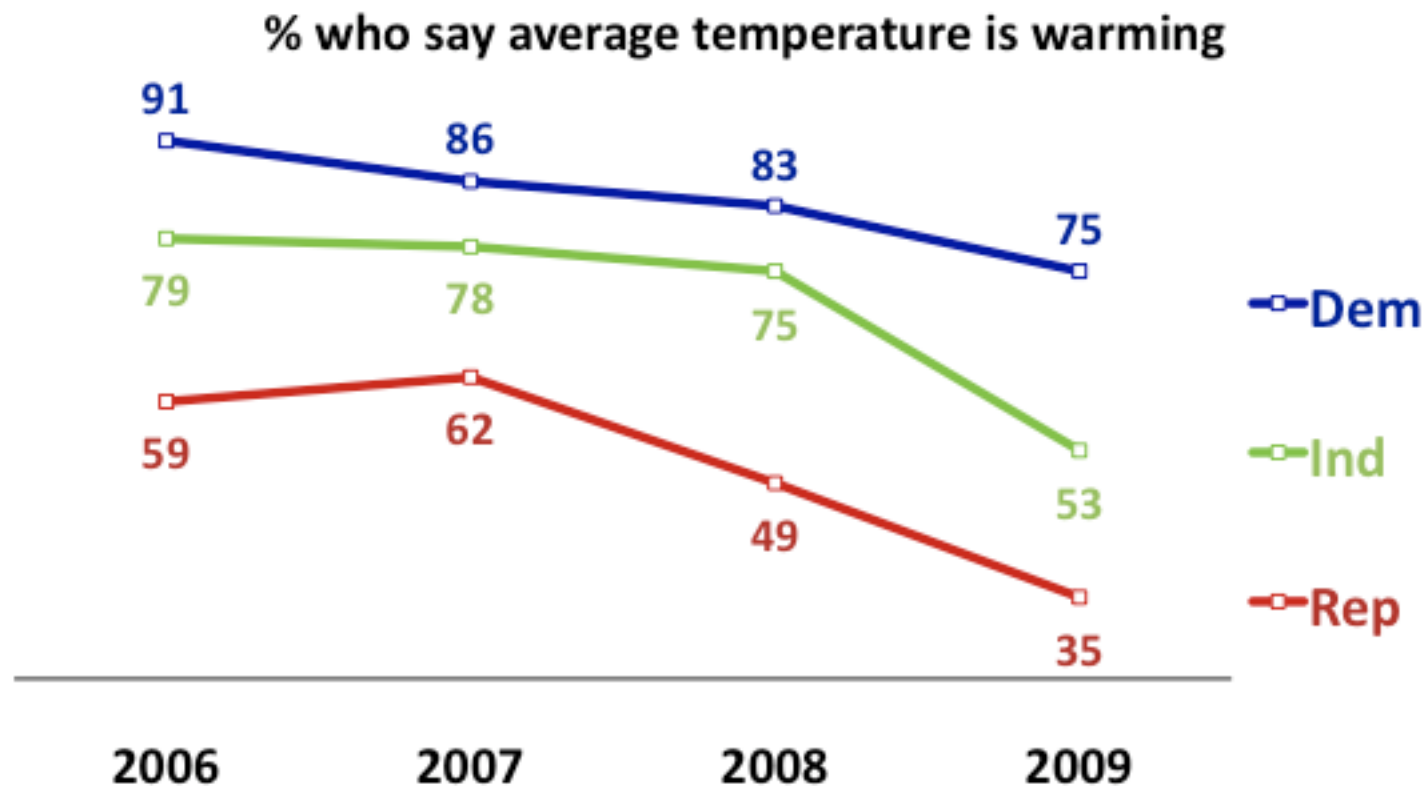


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Declines Across Partisan Lines But Especially Among Republicans and Republican-Leaning Independents



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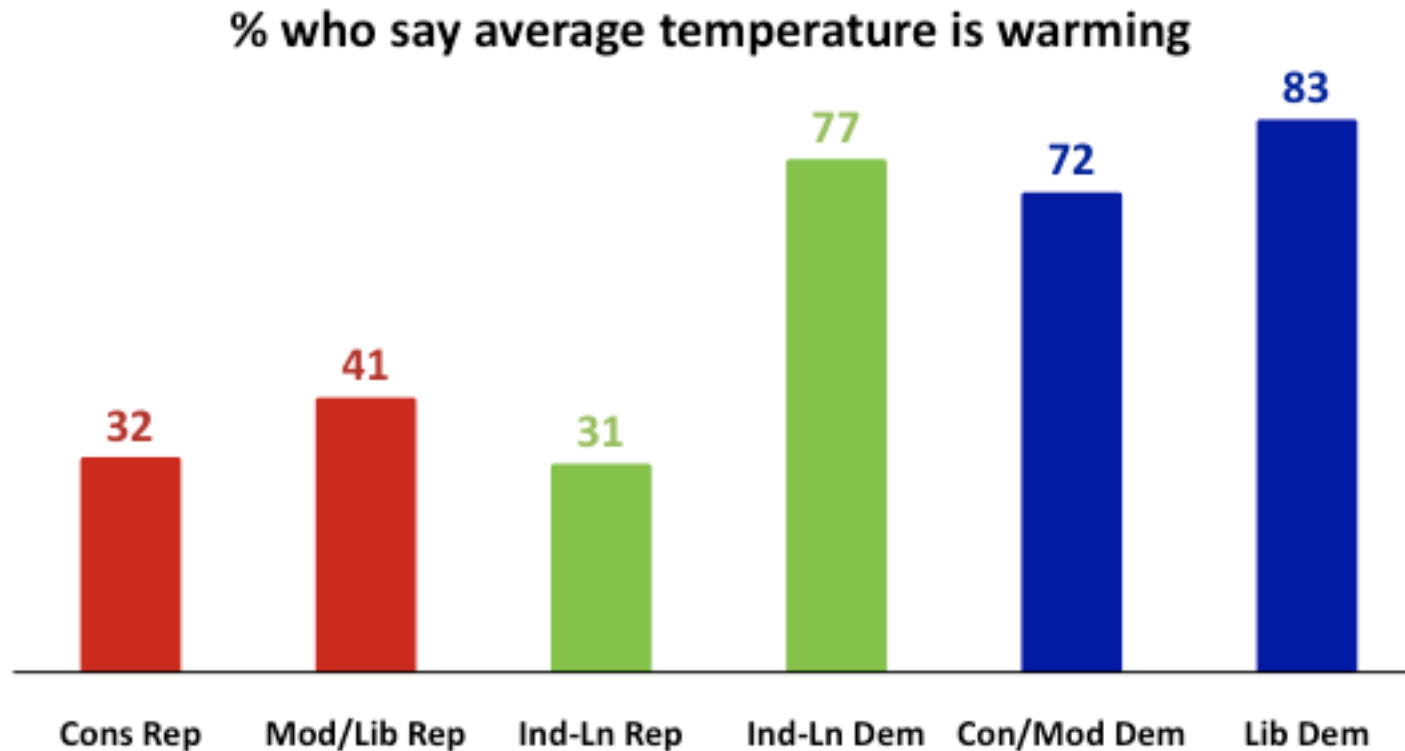


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Partisan and Ideological Differences on Whether Earth is Warming



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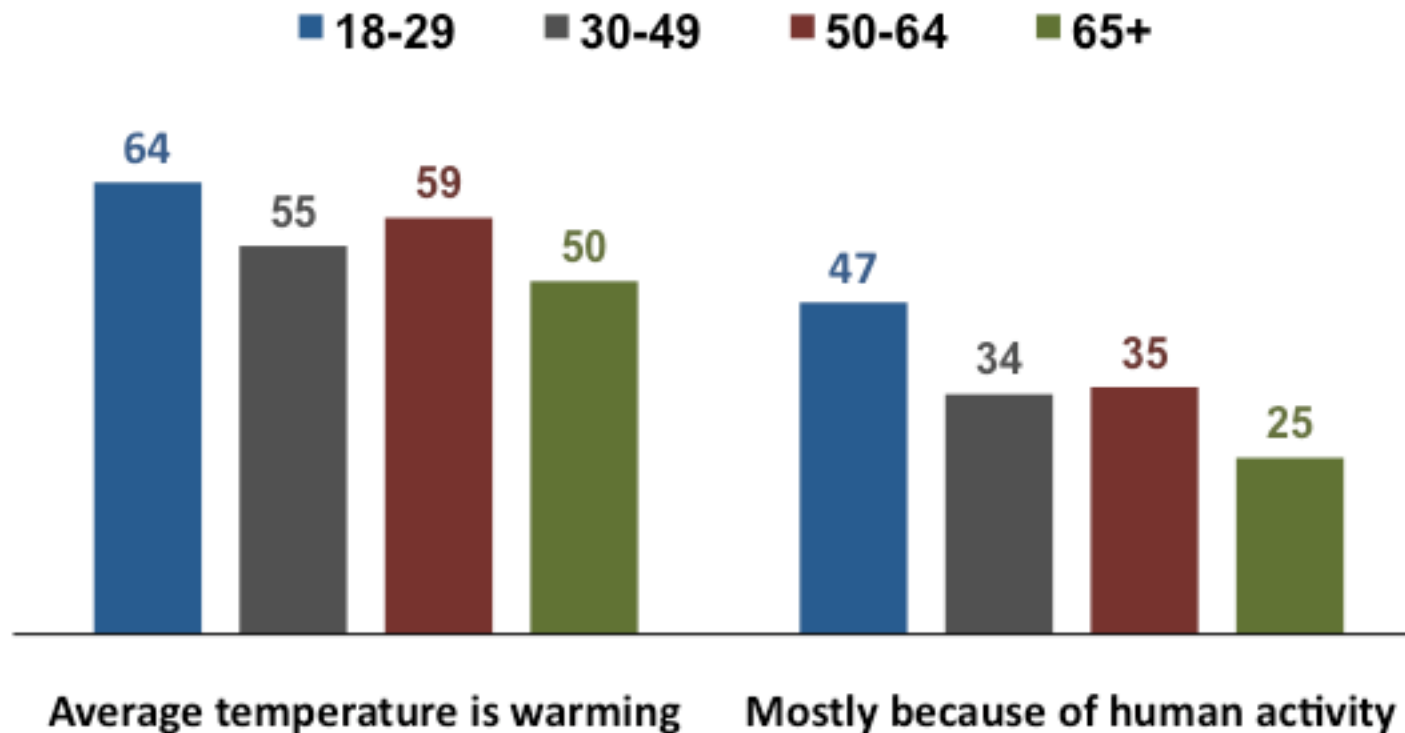


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Age Differences in Views About Evidence of Warming and Its Causes



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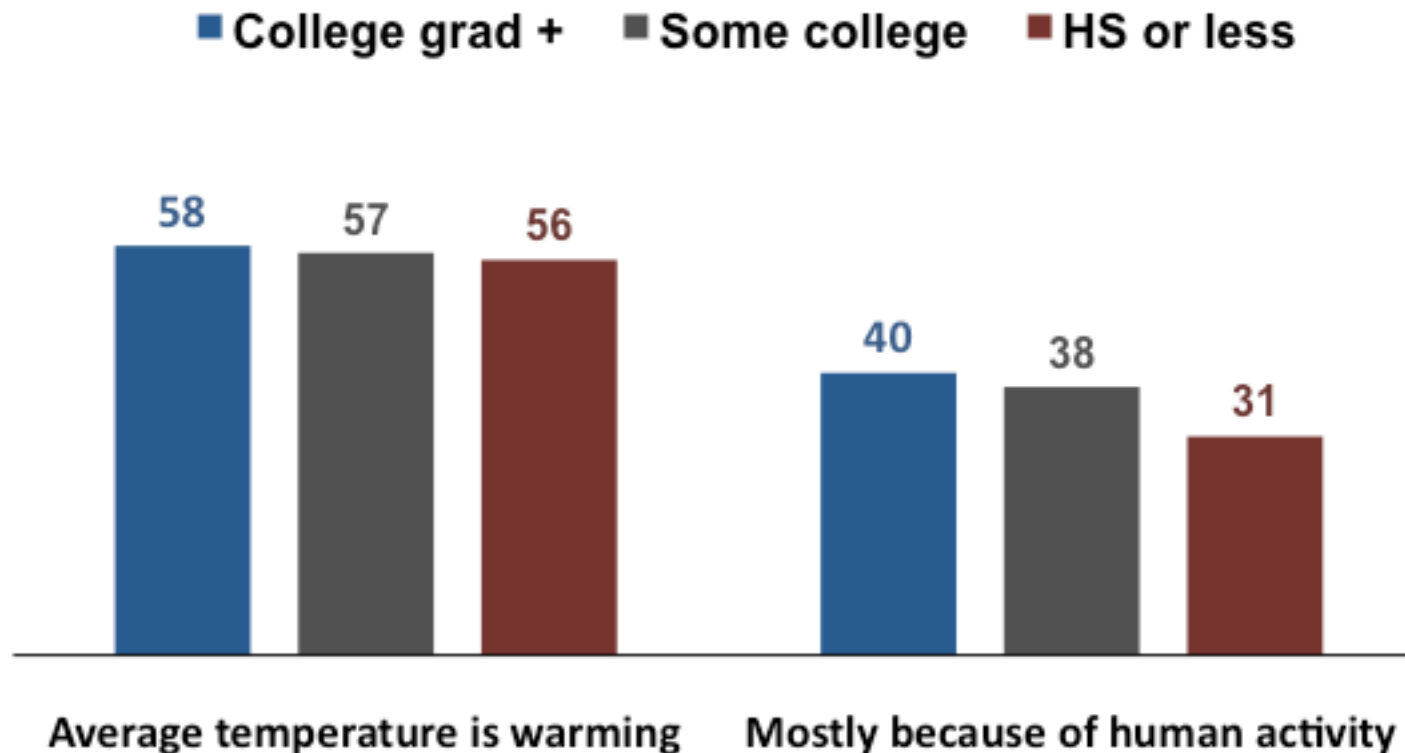


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Little Differences by Education in Views About Evidence of Warming and Its Causes



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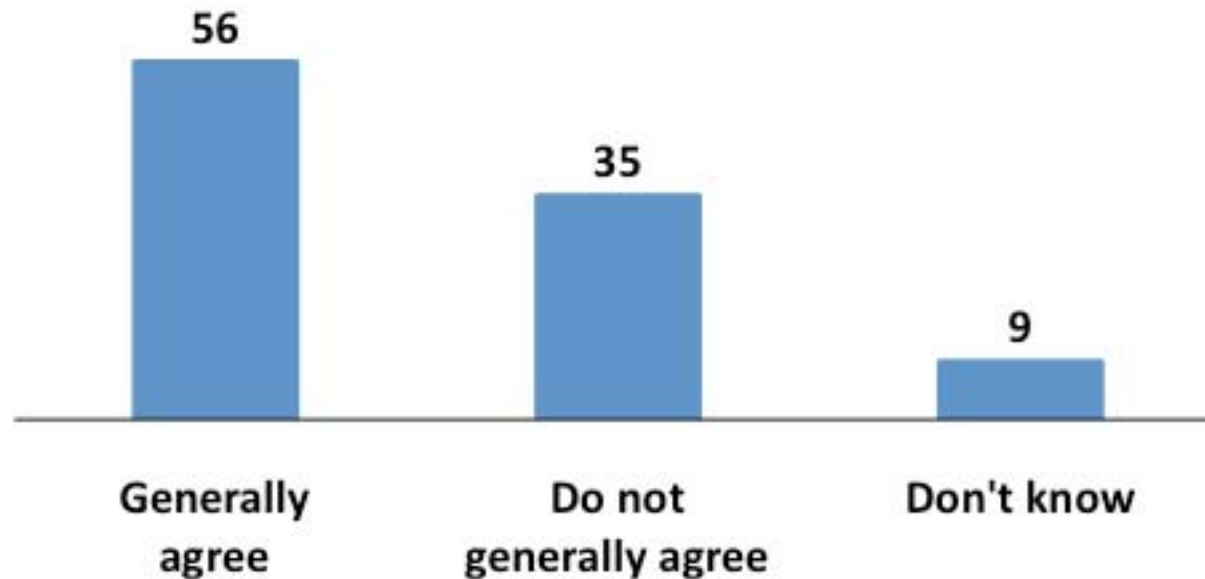


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From What You've Heard or Read, Do Scientists Generally Agree That the Earth is Getting Warmer Because of Human Activity or Do They Not Generally Agree About This?



May 09



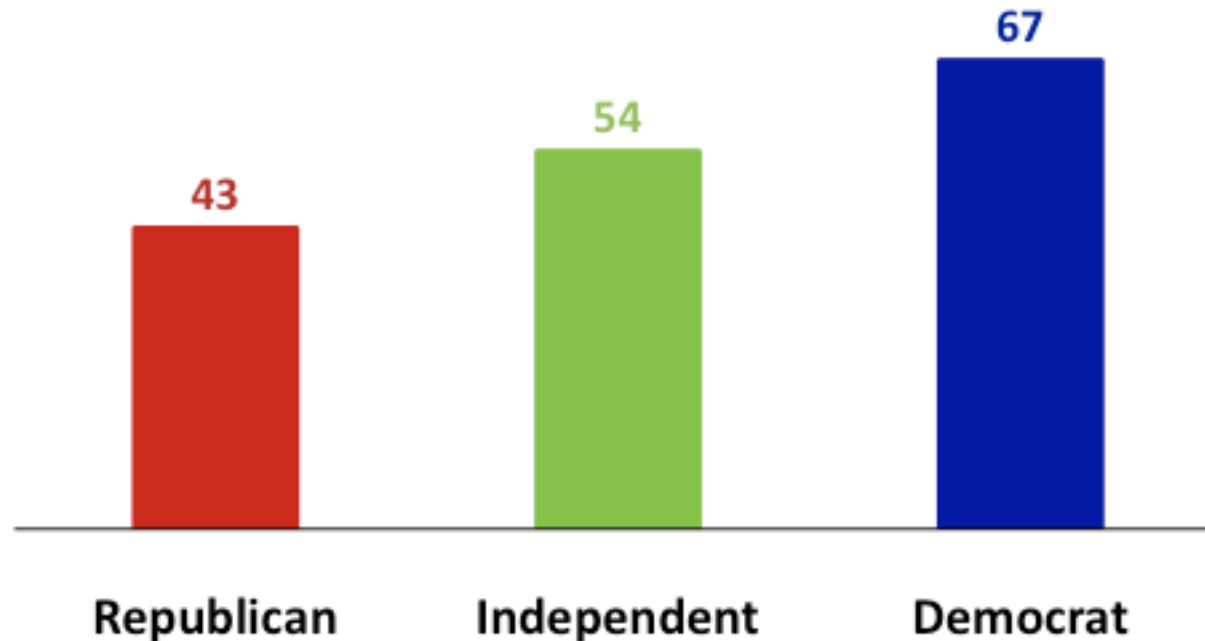
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Partisan Differences on Whether Scientists Agree That the Earth is Warming Because of Human Activity

% who say scientists generally agree



May 09

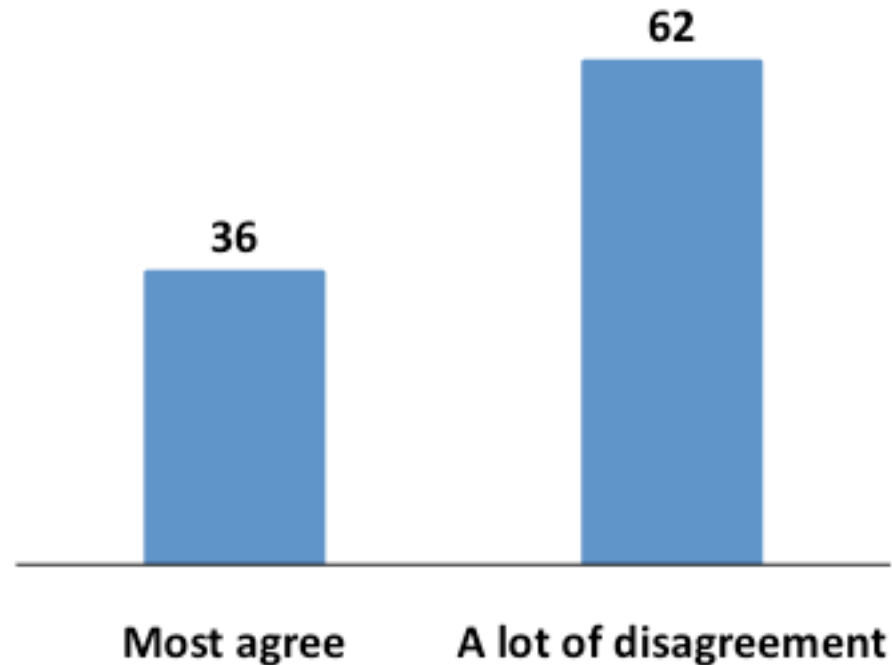


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Do You Think that Most Scientists Agree With One Another About Whether or Not Global Warming is Happening, or Do You Think There is a lot of Disagreement Among Scientists on This Issue?



ABC/WA Post Dec 09

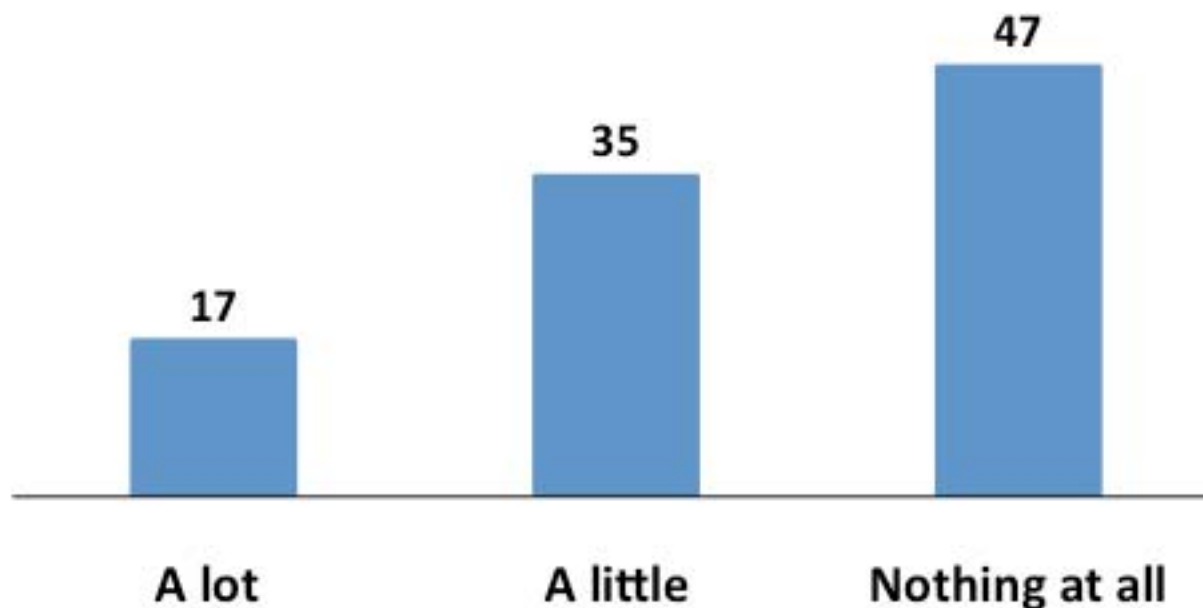


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How Much, if Anything, Have You Heard About The Disclosure of Private Emails Between Prominent Climate Scientists?



Nov 09

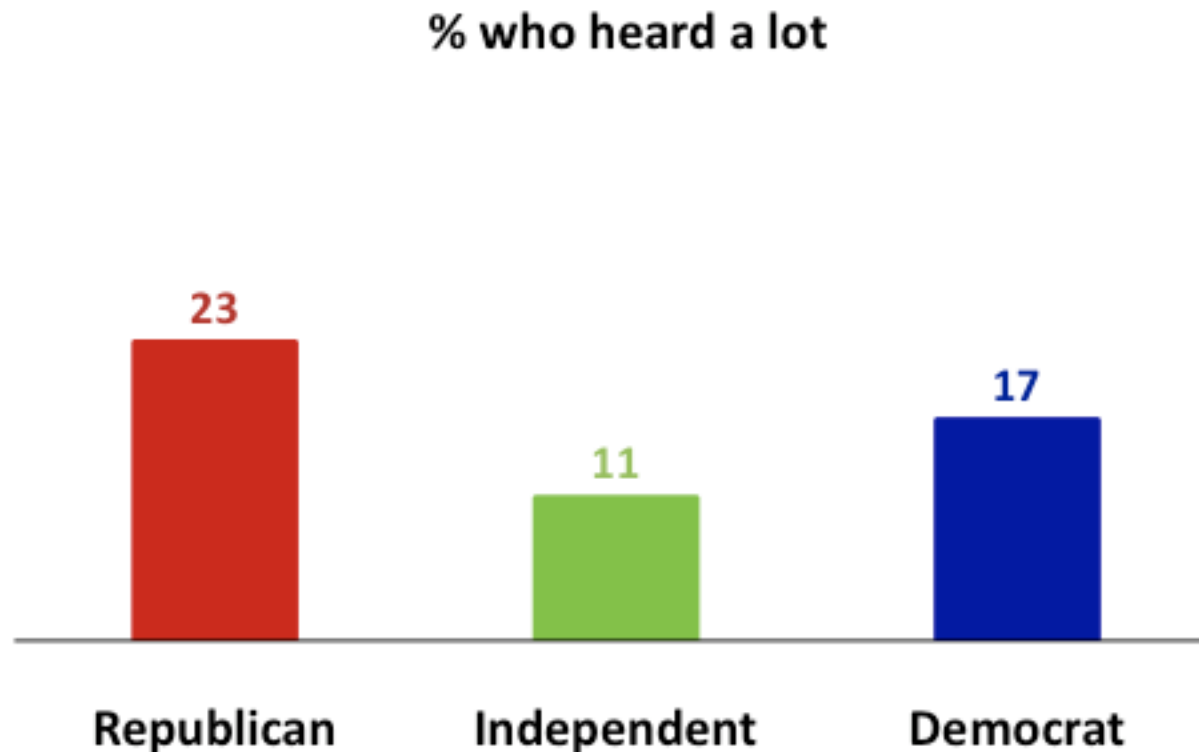


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More Republicans Heard A Lot About Emails



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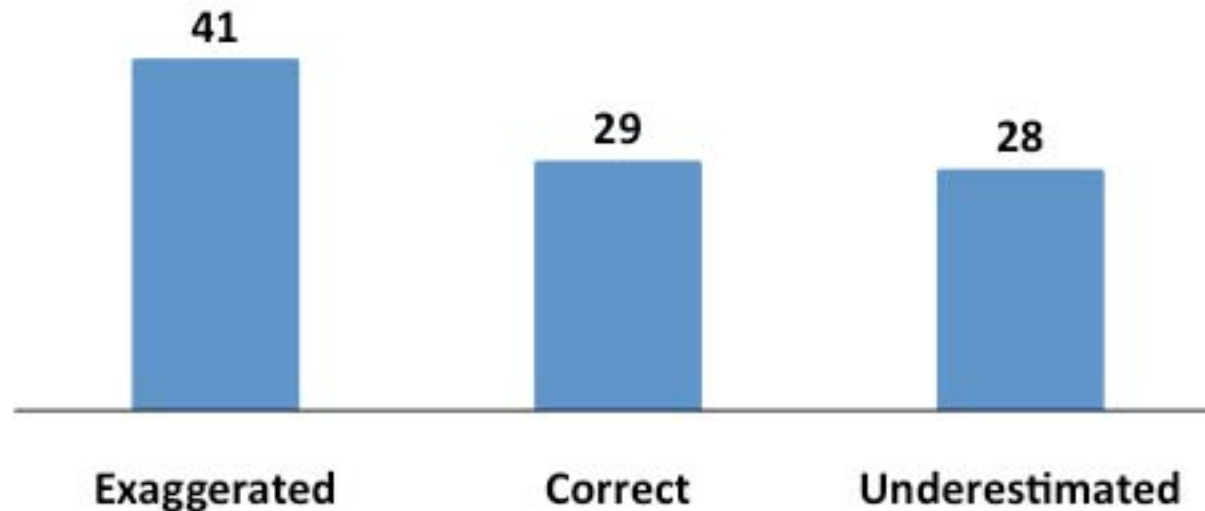


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Thinking About What is Said in the News, In Your View is the Seriousness of Global Warming Generally Exaggerated, Generally Correct, or is it Generally Underestimated?



Gallup March 09



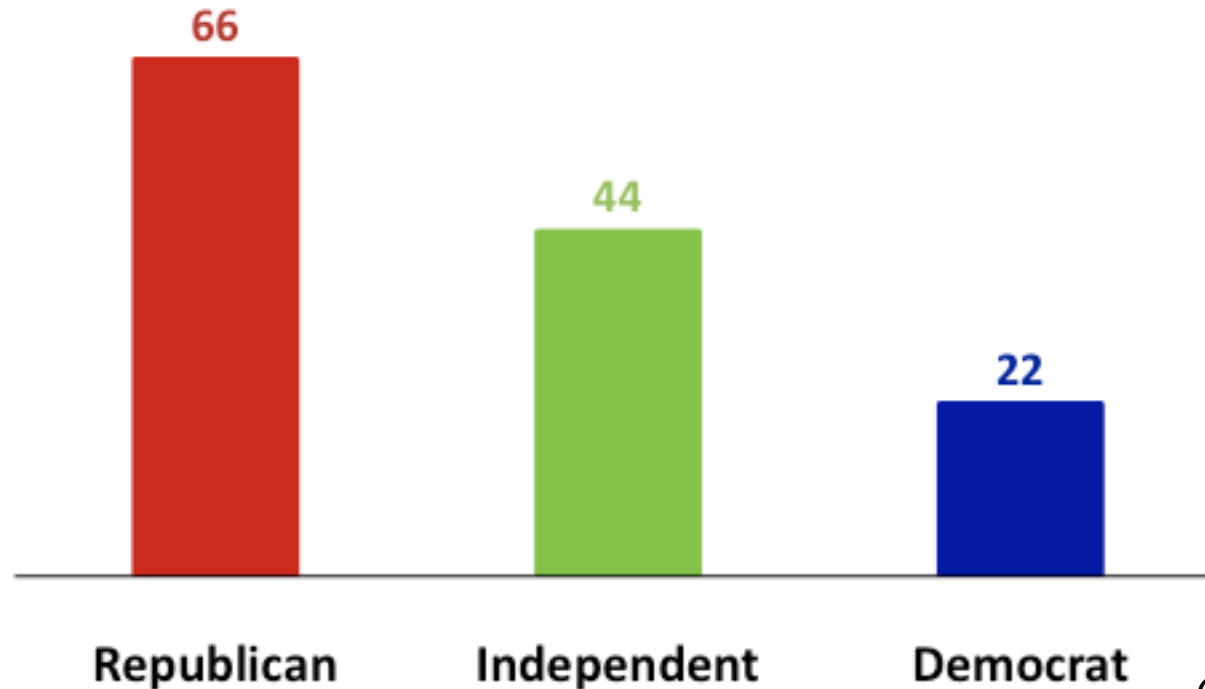
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Partisan Differences on Whether Global Warming is Generally Exaggerated in the News

% who say seriousness of global warming is generally exaggerated in the news



Gallup March 09

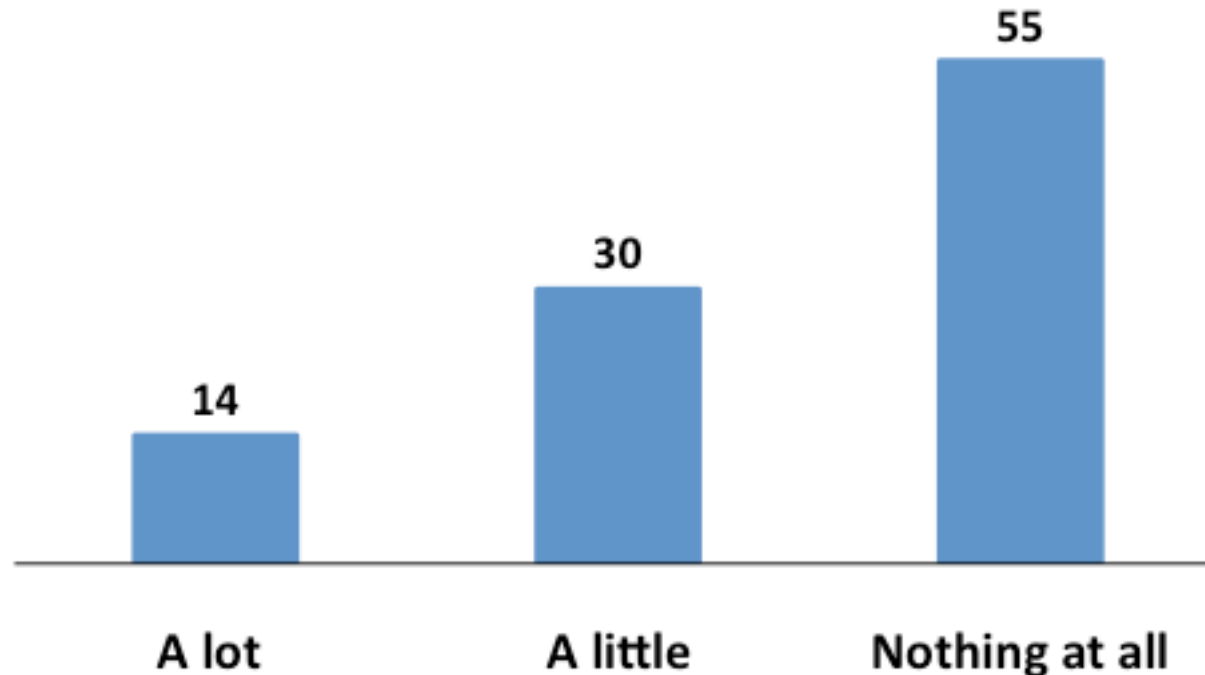


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How Much, if Anything, Have You Heard About a Policy Called “Cap and Trade” That Would Set Limits on Carbon Dioxide Emissions?



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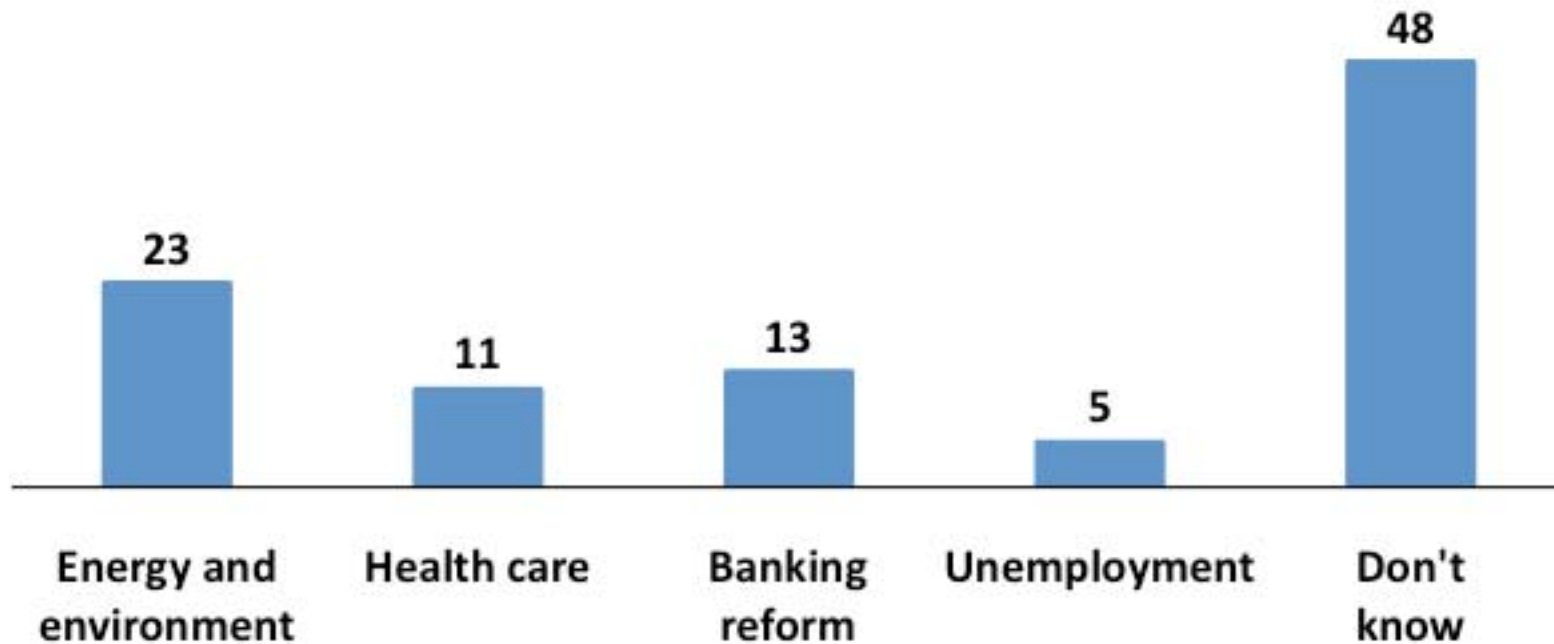


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What Does the “Cap and Trade” Legislation Being Discussed in Congress Deal With?



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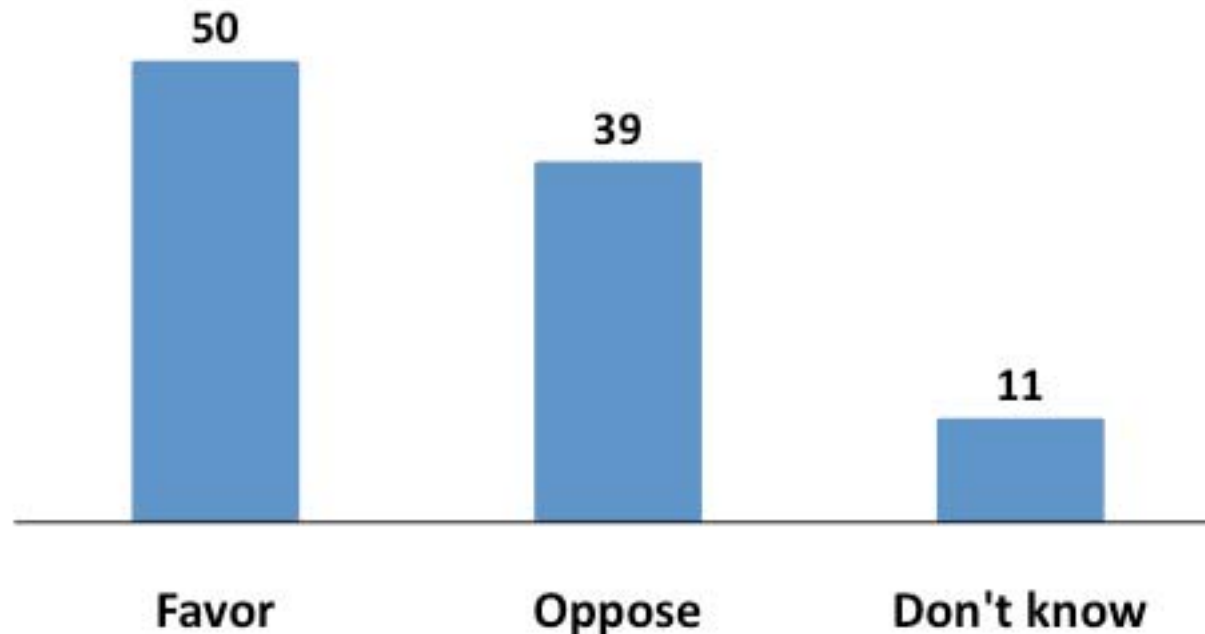


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Do You Favor or Oppose Setting Limits on Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Making Companies Pay for Their Emissions, Even if it May Mean Higher Energy Prices?



Oct 09

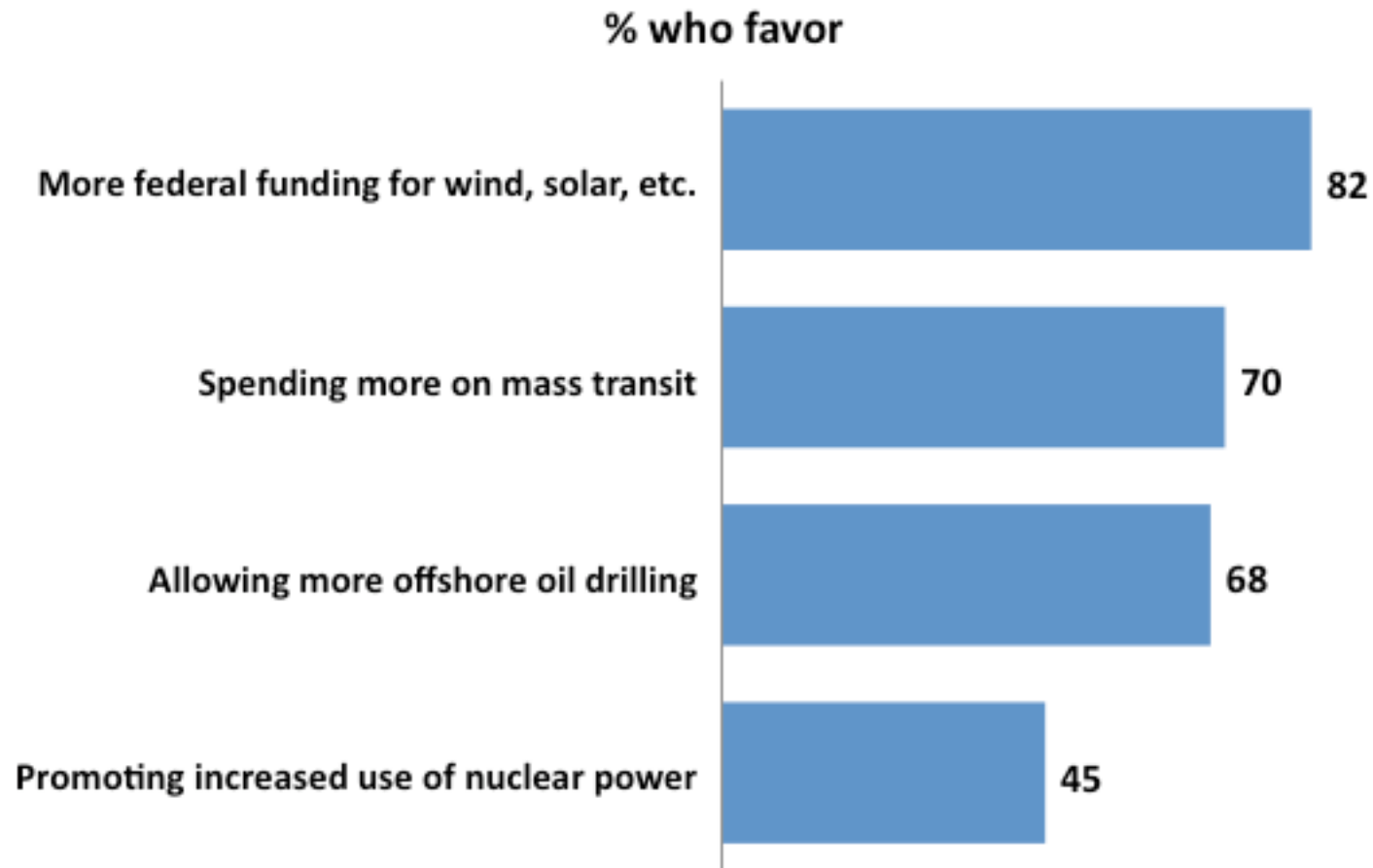


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Views of Other Energy Policies



April 09



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Summary

- Global warming has remained a low priority for the public, especially as economic concerns have come to dominate their attention
- Many are not engaged with the issue and have given it little thought
- The issue of global warming has become increasingly polarized across partisan lines
- Even though there has been a decline in those believing there is solid evidence of warming, large majorities still support many energy policies that may help to reduce carbon emissions



For More Information ...

lchristian@pewresearch.org

<http://people-press.org>

Fewer Americans See Solid Evidence of Global Warming

Modest Support for “Cap and Trade” Policy

<http://people-press.org/report/556/global-warming>

Public’s Priorities for 2010: Economy, Jobs, Terrorism

Energy Concerns Fall, Deficit Concerns Rise

<http://people-press.org/report/584/policy-priorities-2010>

Public Praises Science; Scientists Fault Media, Public
Scientific Achievements Less Prominent Than a Decade Ago

<http://people-press.org/report/528/>



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