



University of
Nottingham

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Ethnicity, climate change, & wellbeing in the UK

A whistle-stop tour of emerging research into climate perceptions, emotions, and the implications for wellbeing among UK people of colour

Charles Ogunbode



What I am going to talk about



Climate Mental Health Research Initiative



Spotlight - 2022

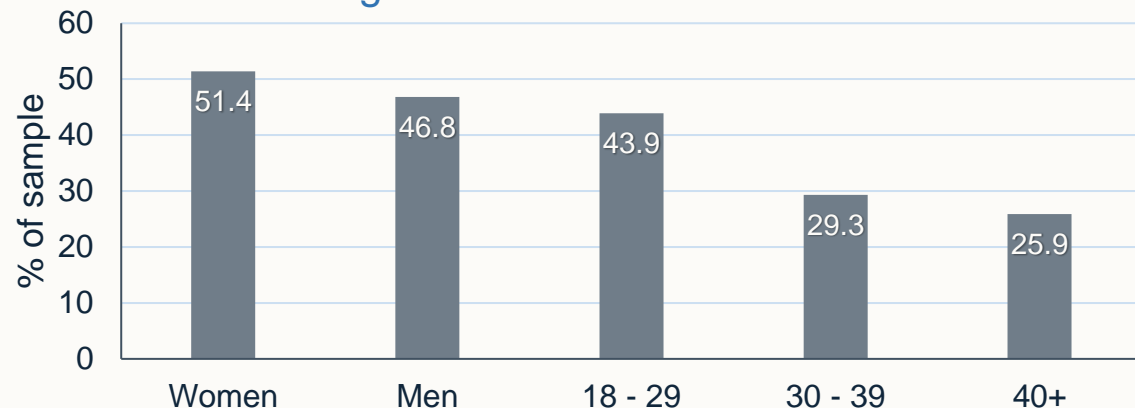
- First national study of climate change perceptions among POC
- Participants: 1,008 UK residents from ethnic minority backgrounds recruited in March 2022
- Question topics:
 - Knowledge and understanding of climate change
 - Climate experiences
 - Risk perceptions and emotions
 - Actions and policy support
 - Beliefs about climate (in)justice
- Report and data free to download online:
<https://zenodo.org/records/11130504>



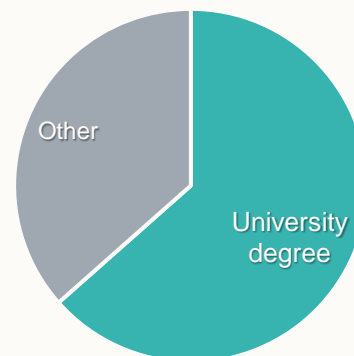


Who participated?

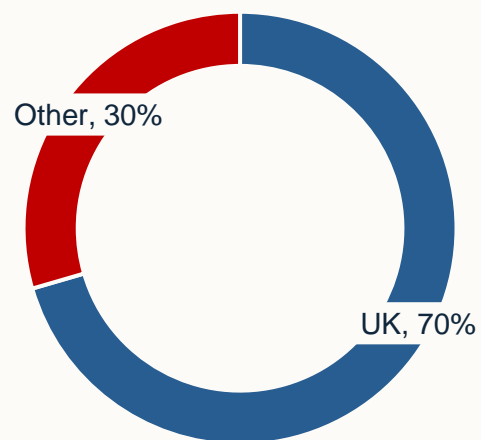
Gender & Age



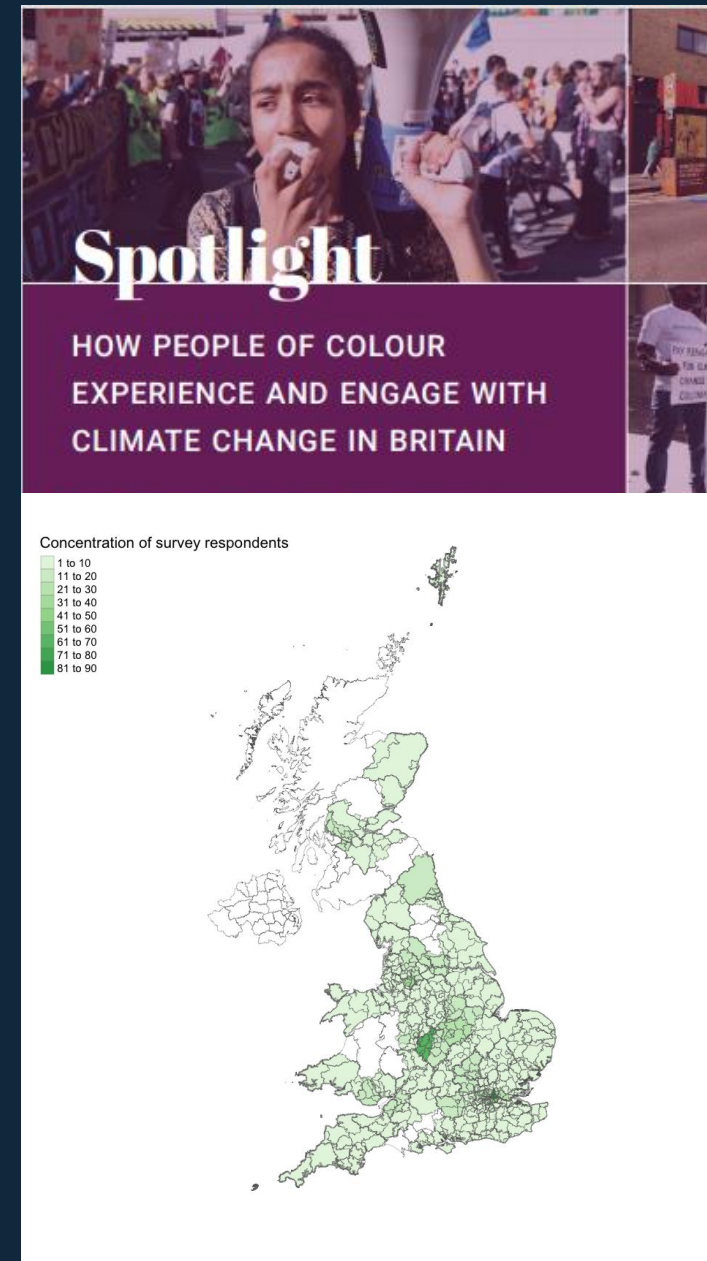
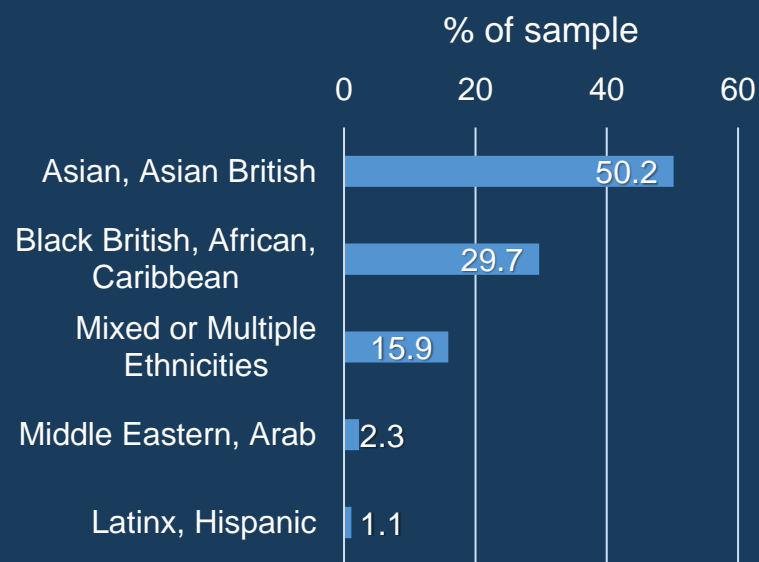
Education



Citizenship



Ethnicity

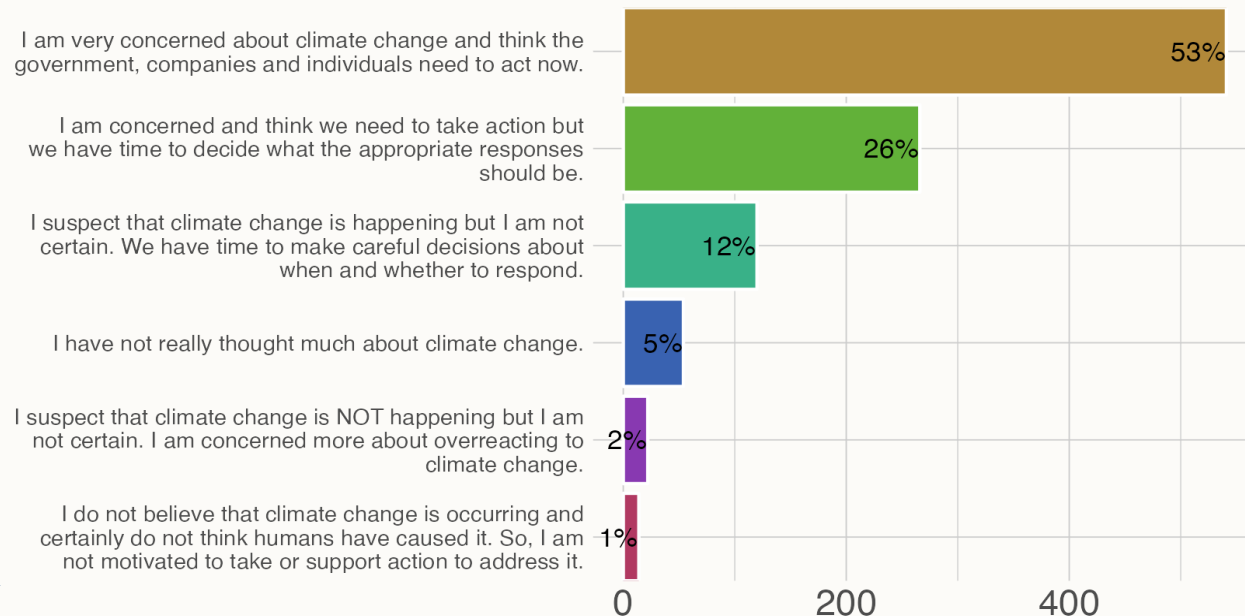




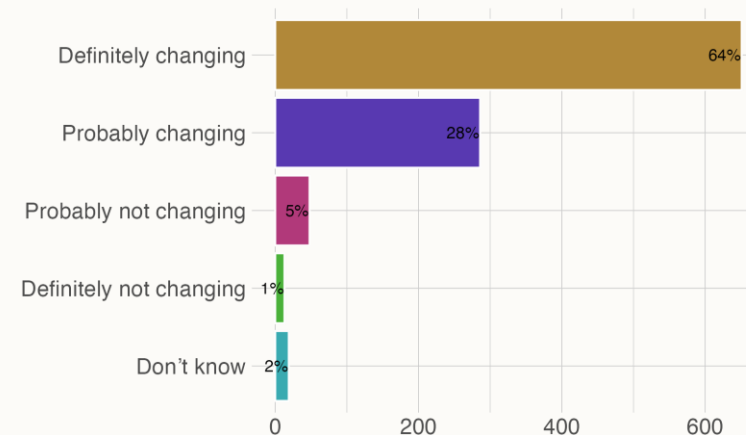
Spotlight – climate perceptions



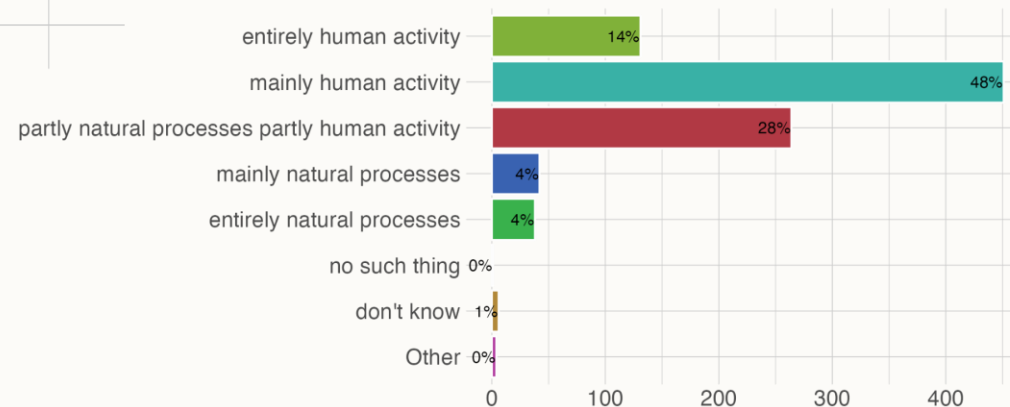
Which of the following best describes your view on climate change?



Do you think the climate is changing?

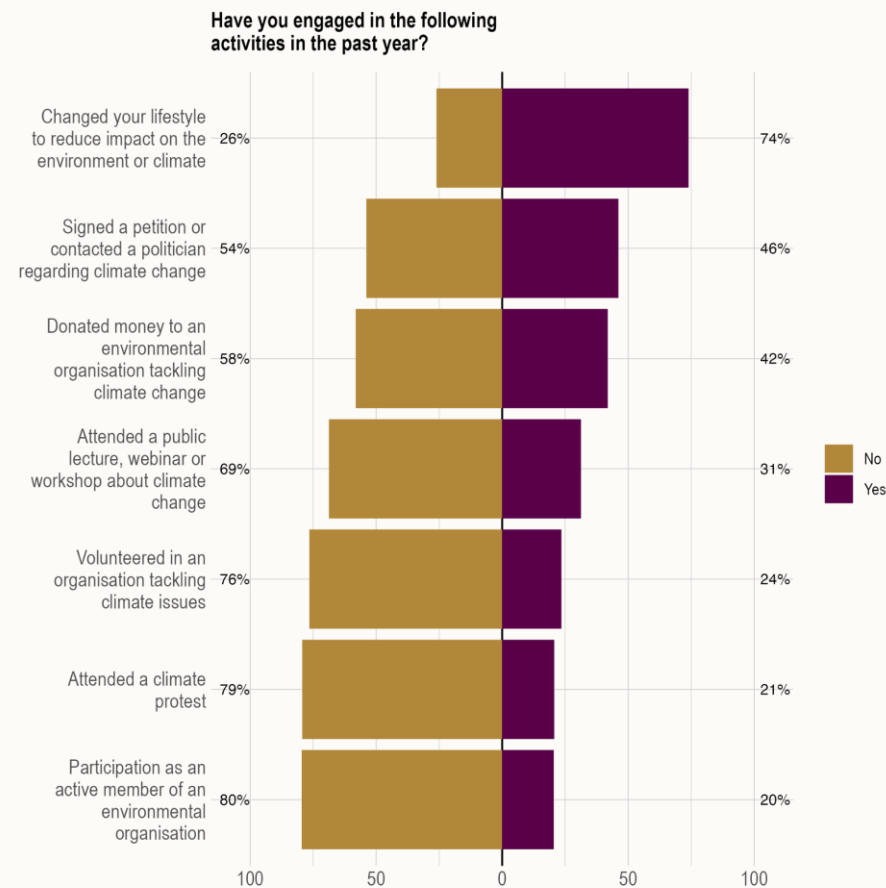
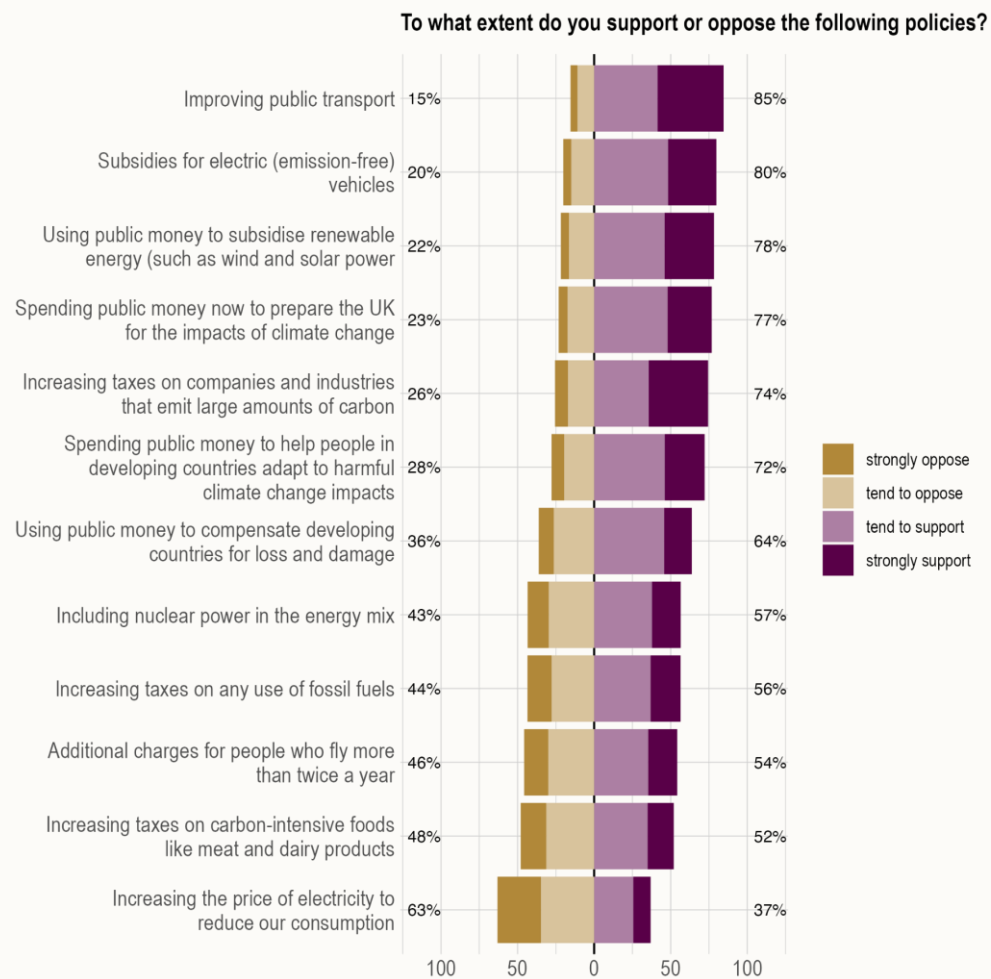


Which, if any, of the following best describes your opinion about the causes of climate change?





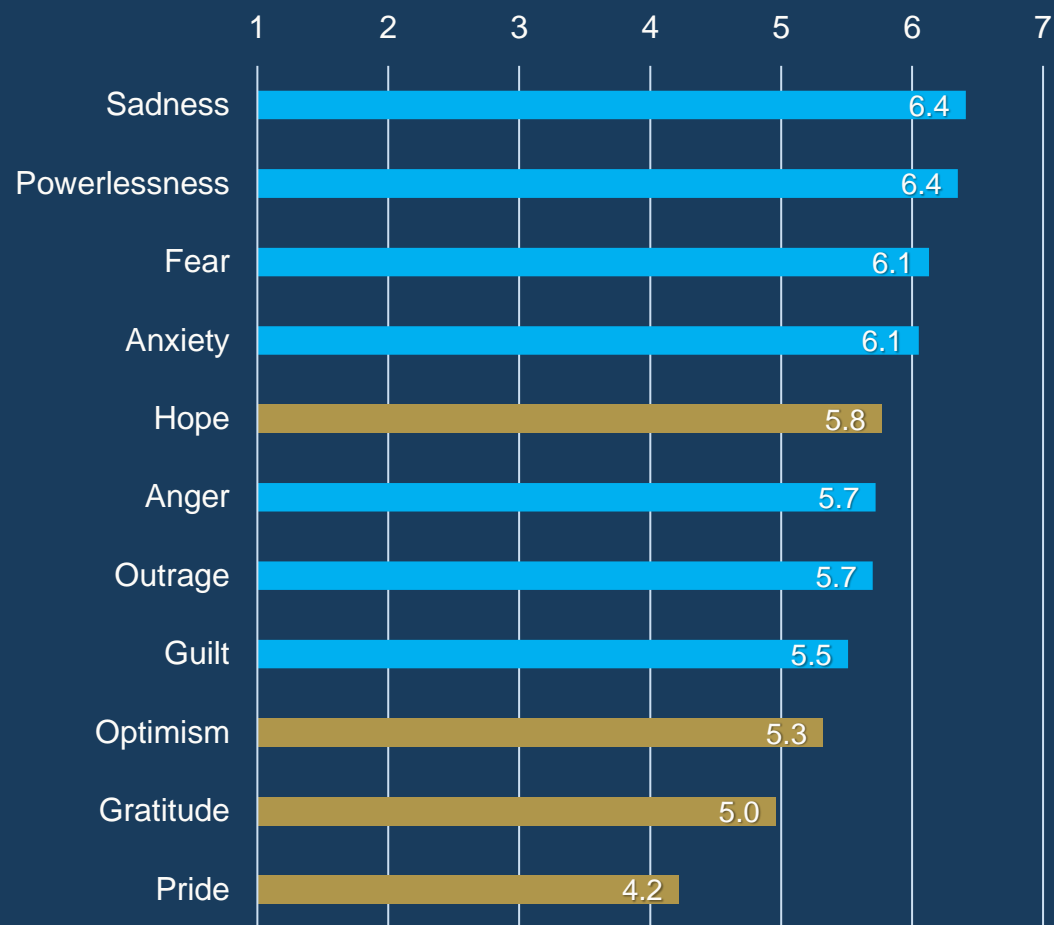
Spotlight – policy support & actions



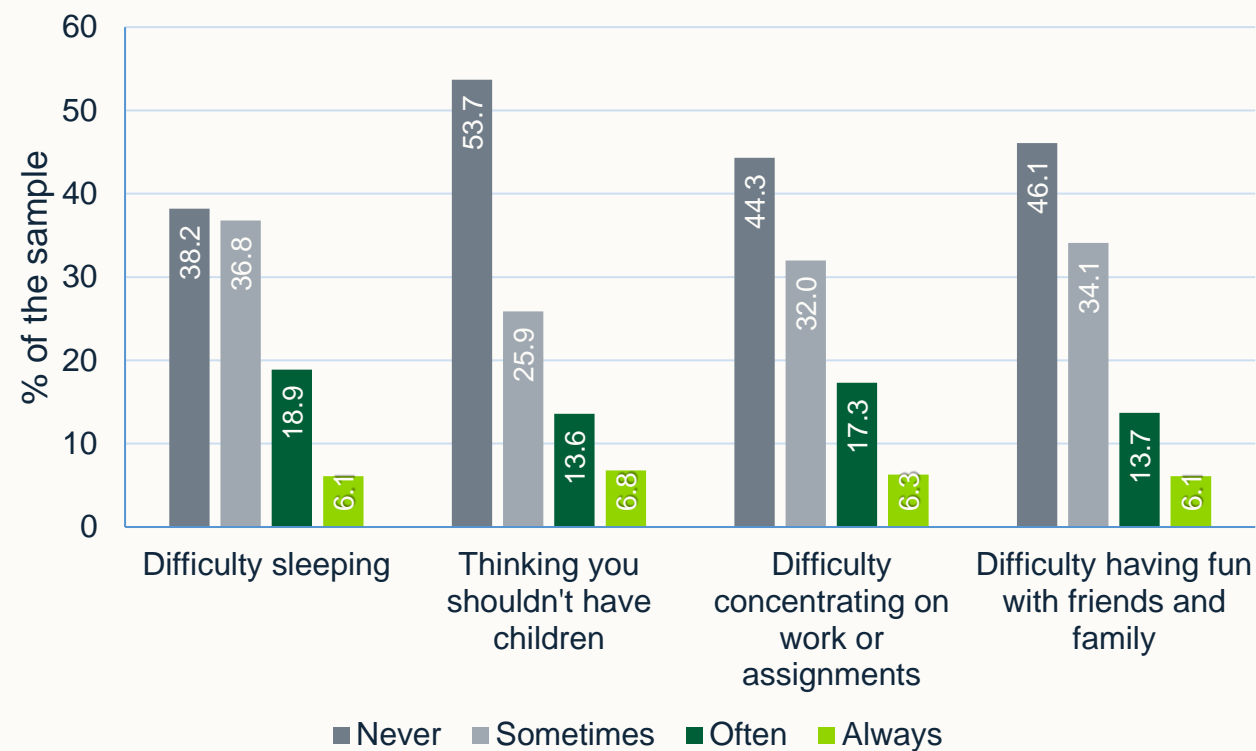


Spotlight – climate emotions

When you think about climate change and everything you associate with it, how strongly, if at all, do you feel the following emotions (scale: 1 – 10)?



Have you personally experienced (...) as a result of feeling anxious or distressed about climate change





CAST climate views survey 2023



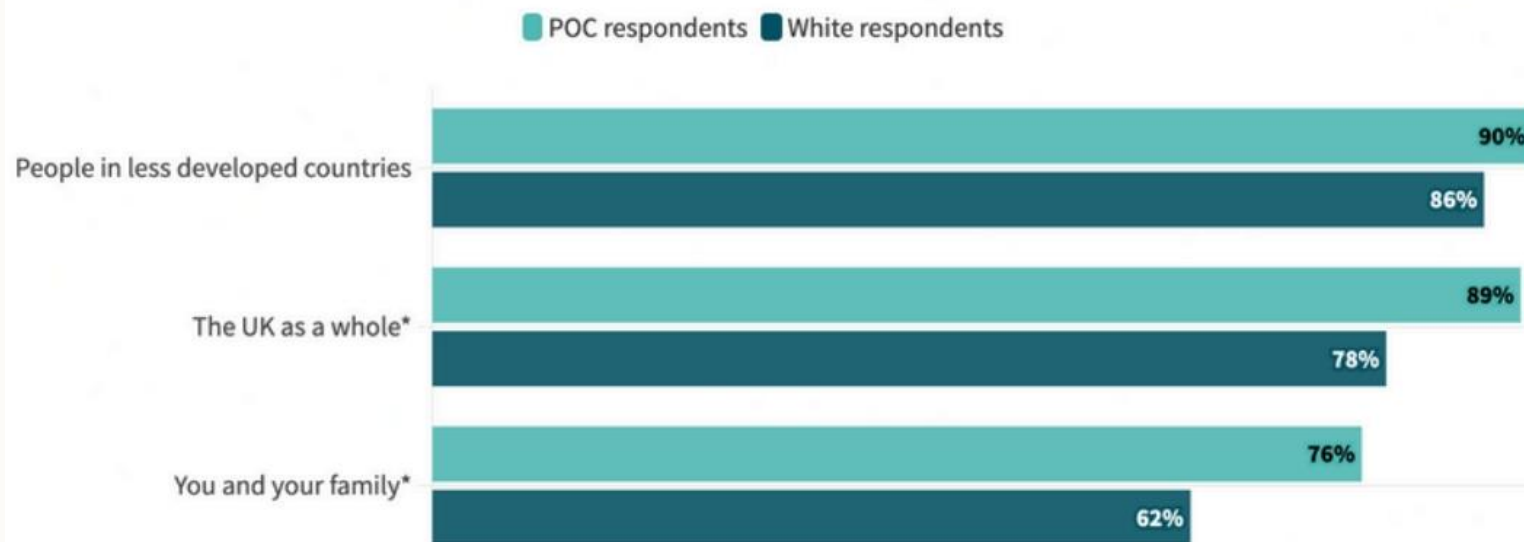
- Based on a survey of UK-representative sample + oversampling of people of colour.
- Climate perceptions compared across white British respondents ($N = 784$) and people of colour ($N = 410$).
- CAST survey combined with Spotlight data to generate insights on the need for greater diversity in climate research and engagement
- Report available online: <https://cast.ac.uk/resources/reports/>



CAST report – climate perceptions

Perceived seriousness of threat

'How serious a threat, if at all, is climate change to each of the following?' - Net serious



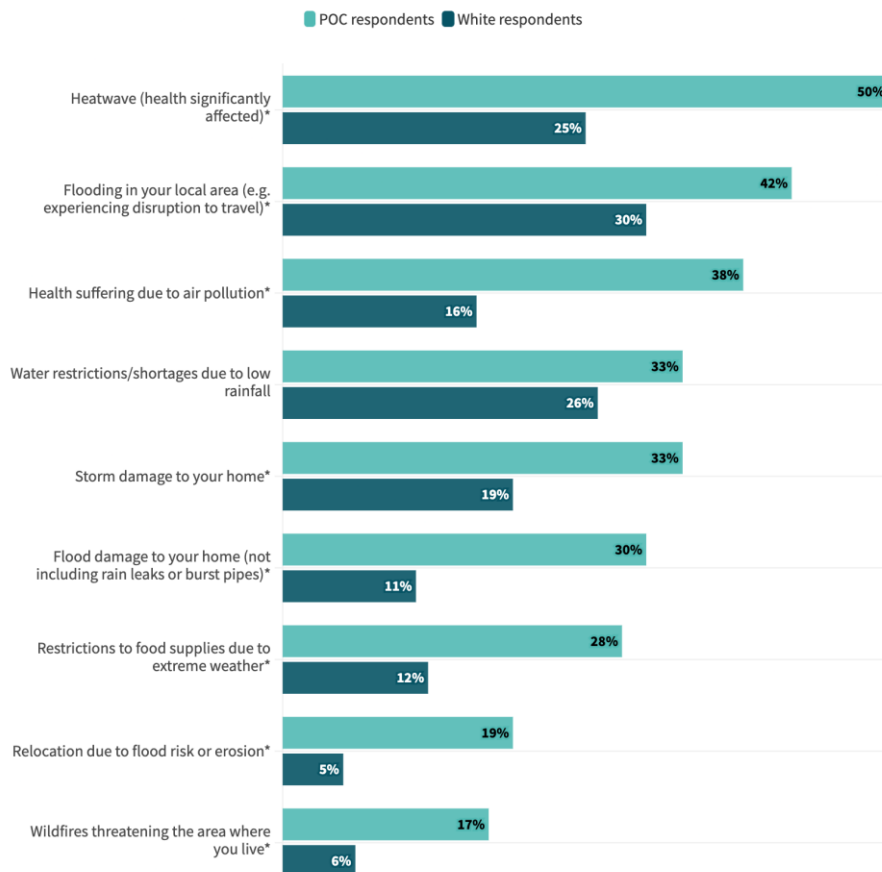
**People of colour
in Britain
perceive climate
impacts as more
serious and
urgent.**



CAST report – climate experiences

Experience of impacts

'Have you, or someone close to you, ever experienced any of the following due to extreme weather events?' - Net 'Yes'



Data is from a survey of 1298 UK adults, conducted in October-November 2023, where analysis focused on white British respondents (n= 784) and people of colour (n = 410). The number of valid responses varied slightly for each question. Net 'Yes' combines the responses 'Yes - I have', 'Yes - someone close to me has', and, 'Yes - I have and someone close to me has'.

* = A significant difference was found between the groups (T-test confidence level: 99.5%)

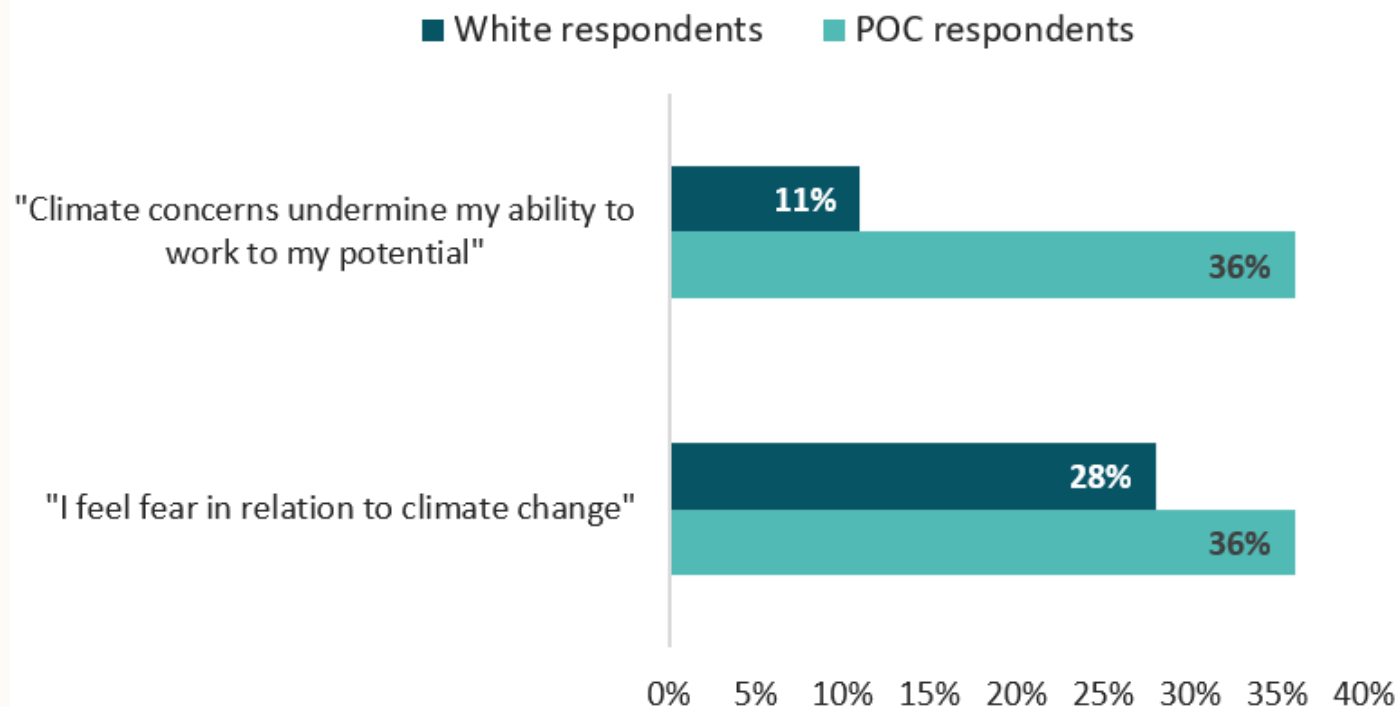
**People of colour
in Britain report
greater personal
experience of
climate impacts**



CAST report – climate emotions

Climate anxiety

Net yes



**People of colour
in Britain
experience
greater indicators
of climate
anxiety.**



CAST report – climate perceptions

Can help prevent climate change

To what extent do you feel that your own personal actions can help prevent climate change from worsening?

POC respondents White respondents

Can help prevent*

59%

40%

**People of colour
in Britain report
greater efficacy
and hope.**



Climate Mental Health Research initiative

- International collaboration aimed at innovating methods and advancing climate mental health research (leads in Canada, US, Germany, UK).
- Led by Uni of Alberta and funded by Canadian Govt
- UK undertaking case studies of Black and South Asian communities, Urban West African youth – mapping climate risks to mental wellness and identifying avenues for intervention in the broader social, political, institutional, and economic context.
 - Evidence synthesis and lived experience approaches
 - Cognitive interviewing
 - Co-produced design with community-based and practitioner groups
 - Intersectionality – class, citizenship, disability



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Thank you

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