

More Americans worry about climate change's effect on mental health, poll finds

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As summers get hotter and hurricane seasons less predictable, more Americans now say that climate change affects their mental health, a new <u>poll</u> finds.

In a survey conducted among more than 2,200 adults at the end of May, 53% of respondents said they believe that the <u>effects of global warming</u> impacts Americans' <u>mental health</u>.

That's up from 48% of those questioned in a similar poll conducted in 2022, according to the poll's sponsor, the American Psychiatric Association.

"As psychiatrists, we know our mental state is not immune to these weather changes, and we also know that certain communities are disproportionately impacted," said APA President Dr. Ramaswamy Viswanathan. "I would encourage those who feel overwhelmed to remember that there is still hope in the solutions we can adopt as individuals and on a more global scale."

It isn't just <u>peace of mind</u> that's being upset by high temperatures, wildfires, hurricanes and the like.

According to the poll, 39% said that climate change is also affecting folks' access to food, 37% said it was taking a toll on <u>personal finances</u>, their family (36%), housing (34%), their neighborhood (25%), their job or career (26%) or their education (24%).

Age mattered: "The majority of respondents ages 18-34 said climate change impacts their mental [53%] and physical health [52%], while less than a quarter [



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