

The Hoosier Life Survey

Statewide Report

What do Hoosiers think about climate change, how are they preparing, and what resilience policies do they support? Results from the Hoosier Life Survey provide answers.

Future impacts

Climate change is projected to bring more high heat days, more extreme precipitation events, and increased flood risks to the Indiana.

Extreme heat events per year

Current – 31

2050s Medium Emissions Scenario – 74

20502 High Emissions Scenario – 87

Extreme precipitation events per decade

Current – 15

2050s Medium Emissions Scenario – 17

20502 High Emissions Scenario – 18

Source: Hoosier Resilience Index

Beliefs

75% believe climate change is happening.

34% believe climate change is entirely or mostly caused by human activities.

11% don't know if climate change is happening.

56% believe most scientists think climate change is happening.

Information and trust

Thirty-five percent trust Indiana scientists “a lot” about how to prepare for climate change.

Twenty-eight percent feel very informed about the risks of extreme weather.

Fifty percent know someone who has suffered health impacts, such as dehydration or heat stroke, from heat waves or have experienced it themselves.

Climate change at home

25% of homeowners maintain a rain garden to absorb rainwater

20% of homeowners plant prairie grasses or wildflowers in their yard to reduce lawn size

64% of homeowners use shade trees to cool their home in the summer

36% of households grow food, such as fruit trees and vegetable gardens

53% of homeowners are interested in solar panels to reduce CO₂ emissions

Community policies and programs

Hoosiers support a mix of policies and programs to address the short- and long-term impacts of climate change. The most popular proposals to address heat and precipitation challenges are:

86% Plant more trees on town streets to reduce impacts of flooding and heat waves

81% Adopt a text-based early warning system to reduce risks from heat waves

71% Provide vulnerable populations free health services during heat waves

80% Build stronger and higher flood walls where necessary

78% Replace some paved areas with water-absorbent landscape

60% Construct new transportation routes to reduce the impact of flooding

About the Hoosier Life Survey

Conducted between August and December 2019, the Hoosier Life Survey captures how Indiana residents perceive environmental changes, how residents are being affected in their homes and communities, how Hoosiers are preparing, and what they expect in the future. For more about the survey go to go.iu.edu/31Mf.

Looking for more results? Complete survey responses for the state and other Indiana metro areas are available on the Hoosier Life Survey Opinion Map web page (go.iu.edu/2K35).

The composite margin of error for this survey fell within plus or minus 3.7 percentage points with a confidence level of 95 percent.