



How Healthcare Workers View Climate Change and Its Impacts On New Hampshire

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Background:

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared climate change the greatest health threat facing humanity.

Healthcare workers are highly trusted advocates for One Health and climate-related health issues that affect patients and communities.

Research Question: How do healthcare workers perceive climate crisis and the health impacts on New Hampshire (NH)?

Results: Healthcare workers are heavily concerned about the impacts of climate change

- **83%** of healthcare workers say that climate change is ‘extremely’ or ‘very’ important to them, compared to other social or environmental issues
- **48.7%** of healthcare workers talked to their patients about climate change and chronic conditions.
- Nurses were more likely to provide anticipatory guidance than physicians or other health professionals.
- Those who work in primary care or behavioral health are more likely to say they are ‘very concerned’.

Results (continued):

Q1 How important is the issue of climate change to you personally, compared to other social or environmental issues?

		Extremely important	Very Important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	N
Overall		52%	31%	10%	3%	4%	354
Age of Respondent	18 - 49	41%	41%	7%	3%	6%	94
	50 - 64	55%	29%	13%	3%	1%	104
	65 and older	64%	21%	12%		3%	67
Gender of Respondent	Female	51%	32%	13%	3%	2%	239
	Male	59%	28%	4%	4%	5%	81
Party Identification	Democrat	60%	34%	6%			231
	Independent	44%	27%	13%	7%	9%	45
	Republican	21%	21%	29%	14%	14%	28

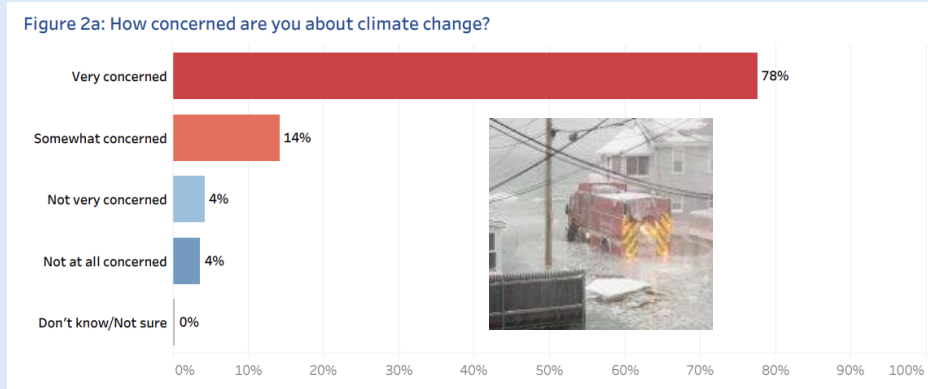
- No differences in perceptions of vector-borne, heat, extreme weather, or mental health impacts by healthcare worker role/sector. There was some variation by political identity.
- Demographics like age, gender, and years in practice did not significantly impact outcomes.
- Healthcare workers formed new partnerships and expanded their collaborative networks.

Conclusions:

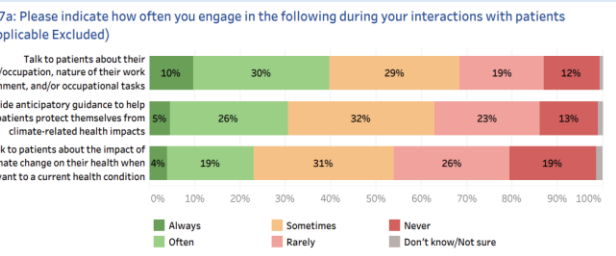
Tailored education, outreach, and attention to systemic barriers (i.e., time constraints) may be needed for different types of healthcare workers and community contexts.

[1]. Healthcare Worker Survey/Report Link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/612cd210a8d3d07eb4886599/t/66c368e90ae84f5402b9ff01/1724082411267/NH+Healthy+Climate+2024+Healthcare+Workers+Survey+Report+%2807-31-24%29.pdf>



UNH Students Perceptions of Planetary Health, Inclusion and Belonging (scan QR codes below):



Methods:

NH Healthy Climate, a non-profit group, conducted a survey in 2024 to understand the perceptions of healthcare workers on climate change and its current and future impacts [1]. A total of n=355 respondents completed the survey.