

**GLOBAL WARMING: ITS EFFECTS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE**

A majority of Americans acknowledge the threat of global warming, both in its environmental impact today and as a threat to the United States in the future. While Democrats and Independents are more likely than Republicans to perceive global warming as a serious threat, most Americans overall - 76% - think that something needs to be done right away about the problem.

**THE IMPACT TODAY**

67% of Americans believe that global warming is an environmental problem that is having a serious impact now, while fewer than half as many - 28% - don't think it is having a serious impact.

**IS GLOBAL WARMING HAVING A SERIOUS IMPACT NOW?**

Yes 67%  
No 28

Majorities of both Democrats (85%) and Independents (70%) think that global warming is having a serious impact now, but Republicans are divided on the issue. 44% of Republicans say it is having a serious impact and 49% say it is not. Americans who approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president are also divided.

**IS GLOBAL WARMING HAVING A SERIOUS IMPACT NOW?**

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	67%	85%	44%	70%
No	28	12	49	25

**THE IMPACT IN THE FUTURE**

Most Americans see global warming as at least somewhat of a threat to the future U.S. economy and quality of life. Nearly half, 49%, say global warming is a very serious threat, while another 30% say the threat is somewhat serious. Only 17% of Americans see the threat of global warming down the road as not too or not at all serious.

**HOW SERIOUS A THREAT IS GLOBAL WARMING TO THE FUTURE OF THE U.S.?**

Very serious 49%  
Somewhat serious 30  
Not too/not at all 17

Most Republicans disagree with majorities of Democrats and Independents on this. Only 28% of Republicans see global warming as a very serious threat. Still, a majority of them- 61% - see the threat

as being at least somewhat serious. Americans between 18 and 30 are more likely than older Americans to be concerned about the future impact of global warming. 60% of adults under 30 see global warming as a very serious threat to the U.S. down the line, while 46% of those over 30 see the threat as very serious.

#### **THE RESPONSE**

Although Americans may not all agree about the level of seriousness that the threat of global warming poses, most do agree that something needs to be done about it immediately. Three out of four Americans - majorities in all age groups and parties - think it is necessary to take steps to counter the effects of global warming right away. That has not changed much in the past five years.

#### **NEED ACTION TO COUNTER GLOBAL WARMING..**

	Now	6/2001
Right away	76%	72%
It can wait	19	19

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This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 1206 adults, interviewed by telephone August 17-21, 2006. The error due to sampling could be plus or minus three percentage points for results based on the complete sample.

**CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL**  
**GLOBAL WARMING: ITS EFFECTS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE**  
**August 17-21, 2006**

q68 Do you think global warming is an environmental problem that is causing a serious impact now, or do you think global warming isn't having a serious impact?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Impact now	67	44	85	70
No serious impact	28	49	12	25
DK/NA	5	7	3	5

q69 Do you think it is necessary to take steps to counter the effects of global warming right away, or isn't it necessary to take steps yet?

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					%
Right away	76	56	92	77	72
Not necessary yet	19	35	6	19	19
No steps (Vol.)	1	2	0	1	3
DK/NA	4	7	2	3	6

q70 How serious a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for the United States' future -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

Very serious	49	28	64	53
Somewhat serious	30	33	29	30
Not too serious	11	21	5	9
Not at all serious	6	13	1	6
DK/NA	4	5	1	2

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1206	
Total Republicans	357	367
Total Democrats	419	419
Total Independents	430	420