

**Trends Between 2008 and 2010 in American Public Opinion
Regarding Whether the U.S. Should Take Unilateral Action on Climate Change**

Jon A. Krosnick

Bo MacInnis

Stanford University

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Jon Krosnick is University Fellow at Resources for the Future. Address correspondence to Jon Krosnick, 432 McClatchy Hall, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305 (email: Krosnick@stanford.edu)

Methodology

Stanford University conducted three random digit dial telephone surveys of nationally representative sample of American adults ages 18 and older in June, 2010, and November, 2010, and in July, 2008 (collaborating with ABC News and Planet Green). Total numbers of completed interviews are 1001 in November, 2010 (671 respondents on landlines and 330 on cell phones), 1000 in June, 2010, (699 respondents on landlines and 301 on cellular telephones), and 1000 in July, 2008 (all respondents on landlines). Weights were constructed to adjust for unequal probabilities of selection due to varying numbers of telephone lines that could reach the respondent and varying numbers of adults living in each household, the patterns of land and cell phone usage by region, and post-stratification with age, sex, education and race, using targets from the Current Population Survey.

All respondents were asked the following question:

“Do you think the United States should take action on global warming only if other major industrial countries such as China and India agree to do equally effective things, that the United States should take action even if these other countries do less, or that the United States should not take action on this at all?”

This report presents trends in answers to this question. All data in Tables 1-8 are weighted.

Table 1: Responses for the Full Sample and by Party Identification

| Response | July 2008 | June 2010 | November 2010 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <u>All Respondents</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 18% | 14% | 13% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 67 | 68 | 71 |
| Not take action at all | 13 | 18 | 15 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=1000) | 100% (N=1000) | 100% (N=1001) |
| <u>Democrats</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 12% | 10% | 10% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 82 | 83 | 81 |
| Not take action at all | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Don't know | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=346) | 100% (N=318) | 100% (N=310) |
| <u>Republicans</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 23% | 17% | 20% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 52 | 49 | 53 |
| Not take action at all | 24 | 33 | 24 |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=260) | 100% (N=219) | 100% (N=246) |
| <u>Independents</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 19% | 15% | 11% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 65 | 65 | 73 |
| Not take action at all | 13 | 18 | 14 |
| Don't know | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=394) | 100% (N=463) | 100% (N=445) |

Table 2: Responses by Liberal/Conservative Ideology

| Response | July 2008 | June 2010 | November 2010 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Liberals</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 12% | 6% | 8% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 81 | 89 | 87 |
| Not take action at all | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Don't know | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=235) | 100% (N=226) | 100% (N=232) |
| <u>Conservatives</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 24% | 20% | 16% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 50 | 51 | 56 |
| Not take action at all | 24 | 27 | 26 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=324) | 100% (N=396) | 100% (N=362) |
| <u>Moderates</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 16% | 12% | 13% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 72 | 73 | 74 |
| Not take action at all | 9 | 15 | 11 |
| Don't know | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=441) | 100% (N=378) | 100% (N=407) |

Table 3: Responses by Gender

| Response | July 2008 | June 2010 | November 2010 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Males</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 19% | 18% | 13% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 63 | 60 | 67 |
| Not take action at all | 15 | 21 | 19 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=464) | 100% (N=484) | 100% (N=469) |
| <u>Females</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 17% | 10% | 13% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 71 | 75 | 75 |
| Not take action at all | 11 | 14 | 10 |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=536) | 100% (N=516) | 100% (N=532) |

Table 4: Responses by Race and Hispanic Ethnicity

| Response | July 2008 | June 2010 | November 2010 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Non-Hispanic Whites</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 18% | 16% | 13% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 65 | 66 | 70 |
| Not take action at all | 15 | 18 | 15 |
| Don't know | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=795) | 100% (N=751) | 100% (N=702) |
| <u>Non-Hispanic Blacks</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 12% | 8% | 14% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 81 | 75 | 71 |
| Not take action at all | 3 | 12 | 12 |
| Don't know | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| Refused | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=73) | 100% (N=65) | 100% (N=92) |
| <u>Hispanics</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 20% | 13% | 12% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 67 | 67 | 77 |
| Not take action at all | 13 | 19 | 11 |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=55) | 100% (N=79) | 100% (N=106) |
| <u>Other Race</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 21% | 8% | 10% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 70 | 69 | 69 |
| Not take action at all | 7 | 21 | 20 |
| Don't know | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Refused | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=77) | 100% (N=105) | 100% (N=101) |

Table 5: Responses by Age

| Response | July 2008 | June 2010 | November 2010 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Age 18 to 24</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 12% | 14% | 11% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 78 | 70 | 83 |
| Not take action at all | 6 | 16 | 6 |
| Don't know | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=62) | 100% (N=80) | 100% (N=99) |
| <u>Age 25 to 34</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 20% | 16% | 15% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 65 | 63 | 73 |
| Not take action at all | 14 | 19 | 12 |
| Don't know | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=106) | 100% (N=135) | 100% (N=105) |
| <u>Age 35 to 44</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 14% | 14% | 13% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 75 | 67 | 73 |
| Not take action at all | 10 | 20 | 12 |
| Don't know | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=146) | 100% (N=123) | 100% (N=124) |
| <u>Age 45 to 54</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 13% | 15% | 6% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 71 | 73 | 79 |
| Not take action at all | 15 | 12 | 15 |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=205) | 100% (N=145) | 100% (N=202) |
| <u>Age 55 to 64</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 21% | 12% | 18% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 58 | 74 | 58 |
| Not take action at all | 18 | 13 | 19 |
| Don't know | 2 | 0 | 5 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=210) | 100% (N=209) | 100% (N=177) |
| <u>Age 65 and older</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 26% | 13% | 15% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 56 | 61 | 58 |
| Not take action at all | 15 | 26 | 21 |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Refused | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=239) | 100% (N=289) | 100% (N=253) |

Table 6: Responses by Region

| Response | July 2008 | June 2010 | November 2010 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Northeast</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 16% | 17% | 15% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 72 | 67 | 71 |
| Not take action at all | 12 | 16 | 12 |
| Don't know | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=187) | 100% (N=200) | 100% (N=193) |
| <u>Midwest</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 18% | 18% | 15% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 70 | 62 | 70 |
| Not take action at all | 9 | 20 | 14 |
| Don't know | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=223) | 100% (N=214) | 100% (N=230) |
| <u>South</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 19% | 12% | 13% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 65 | 71 | 68 |
| Not take action at all | 14 | 15 | 17 |
| Don't know | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=366) | 100% (N=366) | 100% (N=364) |
| <u>West</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 16% | 11% | 10% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 66 | 67 | 75 |
| Not take action at all | 15 | 22 | 13 |
| Don't know | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=224) | 100% (N=220) | 100% (N=214) |

Table 7: Responses by Education

| Response | July 2008 | June 2010 | November 2010 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Did Not Graduate from High School</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 29% | 20% | 19% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 48 | 63 | 61 |
| Not take action at all | 18 | 17 | 14 |
| Don't know | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=56) | 100% (N=54) | 100% (N=73) |
| <u>High School Graduates</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 16% | 16% | 13% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 71 | 60 | 67 |
| Not take action at all | 11 | 23 | 17 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=265) | 100% (N=286) | 100% (N=273) |
| <u>Some College, No College Degree</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 18% | 11% | 11% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 70 | 77 | 76 |
| Not take action at all | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=257) | 100% (N=217) | 100% (N=230) |
| <u>College Degree</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 14% | 12% | 12% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 70 | 73 | 75 |
| Not take action at all | 14 | 15 | 13 |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=401) | 100% (N=437) | 100% (N=404) |

Table 8: Responses by Income

| Response | July 2008 | June 2010 | November 2010 |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Under \$10,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | | 14% | 12% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | | 62 | 66 |
| Not take action at all | | 24 | 23 |
| Don't know | | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 100% (N=72) | 100% (N=90) |
| <u>\$10,000 to under \$20,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | | 14% | 13% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | | 66 | 74 |
| Not take action at all | | 19 | 8 |
| Don't know | | 0 | 6 |
| Refused | | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 100% (N=89) | 100% (N=118) |
| <u>under \$20,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 22% | | |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 64 | | |
| Not take action at all | 9 | | |
| Don't know | 3 | | |
| Refused | 1 | | |
| Total | 100% (N=111) | | |
| <u>\$20,000 to under \$30,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | | 15% | 12% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | | 78 | 78 |
| Not take action at all | | 7 | 8 |
| Don't know | | 0 | 2 |
| Refused | | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 100% (N=90) | 100% (N=100) |
| <u>\$20,000 to under \$35,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 19% | | |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 67 | | |
| Not take action at all | 13 | | |
| Don't know | 1 | | |

| | | | |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Refused | 0 | | |
| Total | 100% | | |
| | (N=120) | | |
| <u>\$30,000 to under \$40,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 12% | | 14% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 70 | | 65 |
| Not take action at all | 17 | | 19 |
| Don't know | 1 | | 3 |
| Refused | 0 | | 0 |
| Total | 100% | | 100% |
| | (N=82) | | (N=60) |
| <u>\$40,000 to under \$50,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 16% | | 12% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 60 | | 77 |
| Not take action at all | 24 | | 11 |
| Don't know | 0 | | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | | 0 |
| Total | 100% | | 100% |
| | (N=75) | | (N=68) |
| <u>\$35,000 to under \$50,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 12% | | |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 72 | | |
| Not take action at all | 13 | | |
| Don't know | 2 | | |
| Refused | 1 | | |
| Total | 100% | | |
| | (N=154) | | |
| <u>\$50,000 to under \$75,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 15% | 15% | 12% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 70 | 68 | 76 |
| Not take action at all | 13 | 16 | 12 |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | (N=176) | (N=178) | (N=141) |
| <u>\$75,000 to under \$100,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 15% | 14% | 15% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 70 | 71 | 68 |
| Not take action at all | 14 | 15 | 17 |
| Don't know | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total | 100% (N=150) | 100% (N=108) | 100% (N=124) |
| <u>\$100,000 to under \$150,000</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 29% | 11% | 17% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 55 | 77 | 64 |
| Not take action at all | 14 | 6 | 18 |
| Don't know | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| Refused | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=118) | 100% (N=94) | 100% (N=102) |
| <u>\$150,000 or more</u> | | | |
| Only if other countries do | 18% | 11% | 9% |
| Take action even if other countries do less | 63 | 70 | 76 |
| Not take action at all | 19 | 20 | 15 |
| Don't know | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 100% (N=63) | 100% (N=73) | 100% (N=77) |
