

Background

South Florida is one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in the United States (Keenan). The success of disaster preparedness strategies is reliant upon improved understanding of how those most vulnerable to natural disasters experience them. A study conducted by Yale Climate Change Communication, reveals that Latinos are much more engaged with the issue of global warming than are non-Latinos (Leiserowitz). Latinos were found to be more convinced global warming is happening, human-caused, more worried about it, and perceive greater risks. Expanding upon this study, I further explored Latino experiences with climate, and examined diverse perceptions among Miami's residents. My results support the results of the Yale study and extend these findings to broaden our understanding of Latino experiences. The results have implications for how we communicate about climate change to diverse populations.

Research Objectives

- Understand diverse perceptions of climate change.
- Unpack Latino experiences with climate change further

Survey Participants

- **50** survey participants
- Age 18-34: **77%**
- Age 34-55: **12%**
- Age 65-74: **10%**

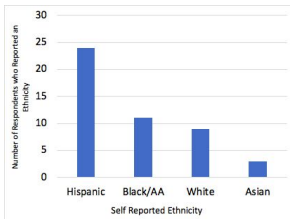


Fig. (1): What is your ethnicity?

Research Question

How do diverse communities perceive and experience climate change in South Florida?

Approach

The study uses a mixed methods approach, applying both qualitative and quantitative methods. Using Qualtrics, I designed a survey that assesses risk perceptions and experiences with climate change. Surveys were distributed at community meetings and through purposive sampling on FIU's campus. I observed five community meetings to understand ongoing disaster preparedness strategies under climate change.

Results/Discussion

- **48 out of 50** participants believe climate change is happening
- **34 out of 50** participants have been impacted by a natural disaster
- **9 out of 50** participants mentioned experiencing psychological stress due to climate change
- **3 out of 50** participants believe climate change is a punishment from God for the negligence of people.
- **2 out of 50** participants mentioned that the younger generation is at fault for climate change

Many community organizations objected to the distribution of surveys with their members. Although Latinos in the study reported that they were very concerned about climate change, very few mentioned climate change as the community issue that were most concerned about. This is indicative of how other issues are more pressing and personal to Latinos.

Acknowledgements

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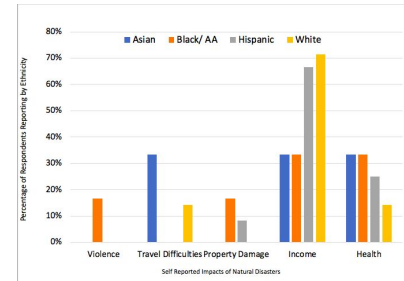


Fig. (2): How have you been impacted by natural disasters?

"My job was closed for 2 weeks. We ran out of food, clean clothes, and had no electricity for 3 weeks. We temporarily left for Orlando to get food, ice, and A/C"
-Miami Resident

"One of the most important problems in my community is the development of new expensive properties to offset higher income populations moving from the coast."
- Miami Resident

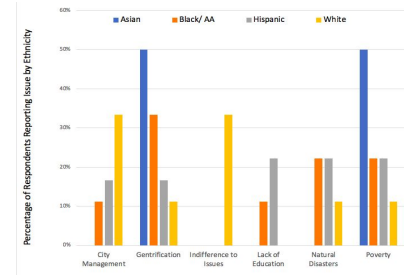


Fig. (3): What are the most important problems that you see in your community?

References

- Leiserowitz, A., Cutler, M., & Rosenthal, S. (2017). *Climate Change in the Latino Mind*. Yale University. New Haven, CT: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.
- Keenan, J. M., Hill, T., & Gumber, A. (2018). Climate gentrification: From theory to empiricism in Miami-Dade County, Florida. *Environmental Research Letters*, 13(5), 054001. doi:10.1088/1748-9326/aabb32