

[Research Summary]

Survey of Japanese Physicians Regarding Climate Change and Health

Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)
December 3, 2023

If you have any inquiries, please contact us at the following address.

Grand Cube 3F, Otemachi Financial City,
Global Business Hub Tokyo
1-9-2, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
100-0004 JAPAN

TEL: +81-3-4243-7156

FAX: +81-3-4243-7378

Info: info@hgpi.org

Website: <https://www.hgpi.org/en/>

Suggested Citation:

Health and Global Policy Institute (2023). Survey of Japanese Physicians Regarding Climate Change and Health.
<https://hgpi.org/en/research/cop28-survey.html>



HGPI Health and Global
Policy Institute

Summary of Survey Results



Summary of this survey

Objective:

To understand the knowledge and awareness of physicians working in Japan regarding climate change and its impact on health, their willingness to provide climate-specific advice to patients, and advocate on climate change policies.

Method:

Using an online self-administered questionnaire distributed through the PLAMED Inc. recruitment service platform.

Survey population:

Physicians licensed to practice medicine and engaged in clinical practice in Japan.

Survey period: November 21, 2023 - November 27, 2023

Ethics approval:

Obtained from the University of Tokyo Research Ethics Committee
(Ethics approval ID #2023229NI)

Research funding:

Health and Global Policy Institute and The University of Tokyo
SPRING GX (JST SPRING) Funded by Grant No. JPMJSP2108.



Key Findings

1. Physicians **do not have sufficient knowledge about climate change (36.1% got more than half of the question correct)**, the term **“planetary health” is not widely recognized (18.2%)**
2. Many physicians believe that climate change is affecting the health of the Japanese population and more specifically recognizing the impact on the health of the patients they see in their clinic.
 - ✓ **78.1%** of physicians believe that climate change is **affecting the health of people in Japan**
 - ✓ **51.5%** of physicians believe that climate change is **impacting the health of patients in their field of practice**
3. Around **70%** of physicians are **also aware of the health impacts caused by climate change** and believe that **over the next 10 years climate change will significantly adversely affect the following health issues.**
 - ✓ Physical harm and/or injury from extreme weather events (e.g., flooding, typhoons, landslides, wildfires) **(83.3%)**
 - ✓ Heat-related illness **(79.5%)**
 - ✓ Arthropod-borne infections **(75.8%)**
4. There is **limited access to education** on climate change and health
 - ✓ Received education on "climate change and health" or “planetary health” **while in medical school (6.5%)**
 - ✓ Received **specialized training** on climate change and health (11.6%)
5. More than 70% of the **physicians would like to choose products, equipment, etc. that have lower environmental impacts and are more sustainable options**, if available
6. More than half of the physicians agree that they should **educate and advocate to their patients and their institution/facility**
 - ✓ Physicians should advise their patients on the links climate change has on their health **(56.7%)**
 - ✓ Physicians should advocate within their institution/facility for implementing mitigation measures for more environmentally sustainable healthcare **(57.5%)**
7. More than half of the physicians reported that the main barriers that prevent them from taking more action include **lack of information and resources (54.4%), lack of knowledge (52.7%), and lack of time (51.7%)**.

Details of Survey Results



Respondent Characteristics (Gender, Age Group, Facility Category)

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

Item	N	N = 1,100	%
Age	1,100		
20s		36	3.3%
30s		176	16.0%
40s		263	23.9%
50s		308	28.0%
60s		272	24.7%
70s		41	3.7%
80s		3	0.3%
90s		1	0.1%
Gender	1,100		
Male		952	86.5%
Non-binary		14	1.3%
Female		133	12.1%
Declined to Respond		1	0.1%
Facility Category	1,100		
Medical Clinic		385	35.0%
Hospitals (excluding hospitals affiliated with medical schools)		591	53.7%
Medical education institutions (universities with medical schools or their affiliated institutions)		111	10.1%
Health care facility for the elderly		9	0.8%
Nursing and medical care hospital		2	0.2%
Facilities other than the above		2	0.2%



Respondent Characteristics (Work Area)

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

Item	N	N = 1,100	%
Work Area	1,100		
Hokkaido		55	5.0%
Tohoku		62	5.6%
Kanto		352	32.0%
Hokuriku		49	4.5%
Tokai		131	11.9%
Kinki		251	22.8%
Chugoku		67	6.1%
Shikoku		27	2.5%
Kyushu		99	9.0%
Okinawa		7	0.6%



Respondent Characteristics (Medical Speciality)

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

Medical Specialties	1,100		Medical Specialties	1,100	
Internal Medicine	177	16.1%	Gastroenterological Surgery (Gastrointestinal Surgery)	20	1.8%
Respiratory Medicine	39	3.5%	Urology	35	3.2%
Cardiovascular Medicine	57	5.2%	Neurosurgery	25	2.3%
Gastroenterology (Gastroenterology)	88	8.0%	Orthopedic Surgery	71	6.5%
Nephrology	26	2.4%	Plastic Surgery	8	0.7%
Neurology	25	2.3%	Cosmetic Surgery	3	0.3%
Diabetology (Metabolism)	36	3.3%	Ophthalmology	43	3.9%
Hematology	12	1.1%	Otorhinolaryngology	31	2.8%
Dermatology	40	3.6%	Pediatric Surgery	1	0.1%
Allergy	3	0.3%	Obstetrics and Gynecology	28	2.5%
Rheumatology	16	1.5%	Obstetrics	1	0.1%
Infectious Diseases	3	0.3%	Gynecology	5	0.5%
Pediatrics	58	5.3%	Rehabilitation Medicine	5	0.5%
Psychiatry	88	8.0%	Radiology	26	2.4%
Psychosomatic Medicine	7	0.6%	Anesthesiology	28	2.5%
Surgery	37	3.4%	Pathology	6	0.5%
Respiratory Surgery	16	1.5%	Laboratory Medicine	1	0.1%
Cardiovascular Surgery	8	0.7%	Emergency Medicine	10	0.9%
Breast Surgery	4	0.4%	Intensive Care	1	0.1%
Tracheoesophageal Surgery	2	0.2%	Specialties other than the above	10	0.9%

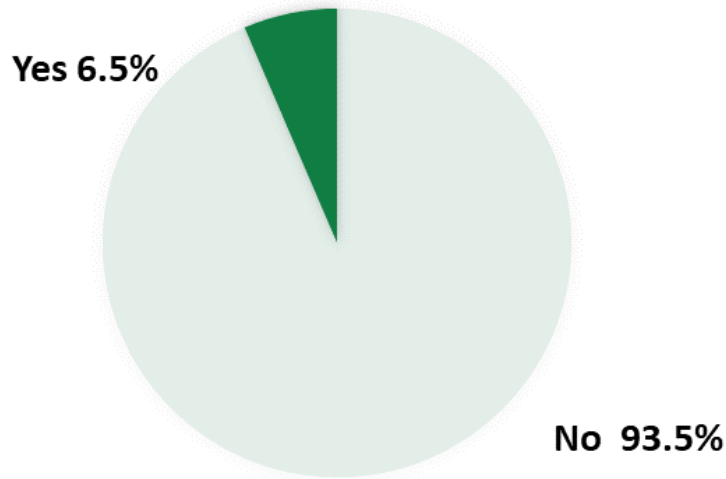
Physicians' Knowledge About Climate Change and Health



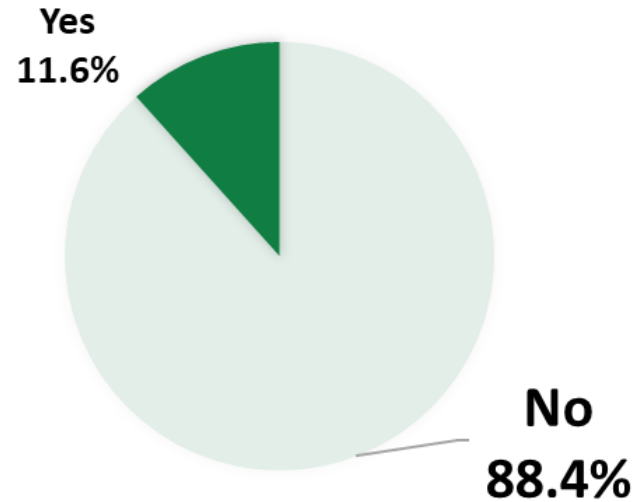
Limited opportunities to obtain education on Climate Change and Health

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

ATTENDED COURSES DURING MEDICAL SCHOOL ON PLANETARY HEALTH AND OR CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH



ATTENDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING ON PLANETARY HEALTH AND OR CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH





Many physicians do not have sufficient knowledge of Climate Change

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

KNOWLEDGE SURVEY ON CLIMATE CHANGE (4 QUESTIONS IN TOTAL)

All questions
correct 2%

3 correct 11%

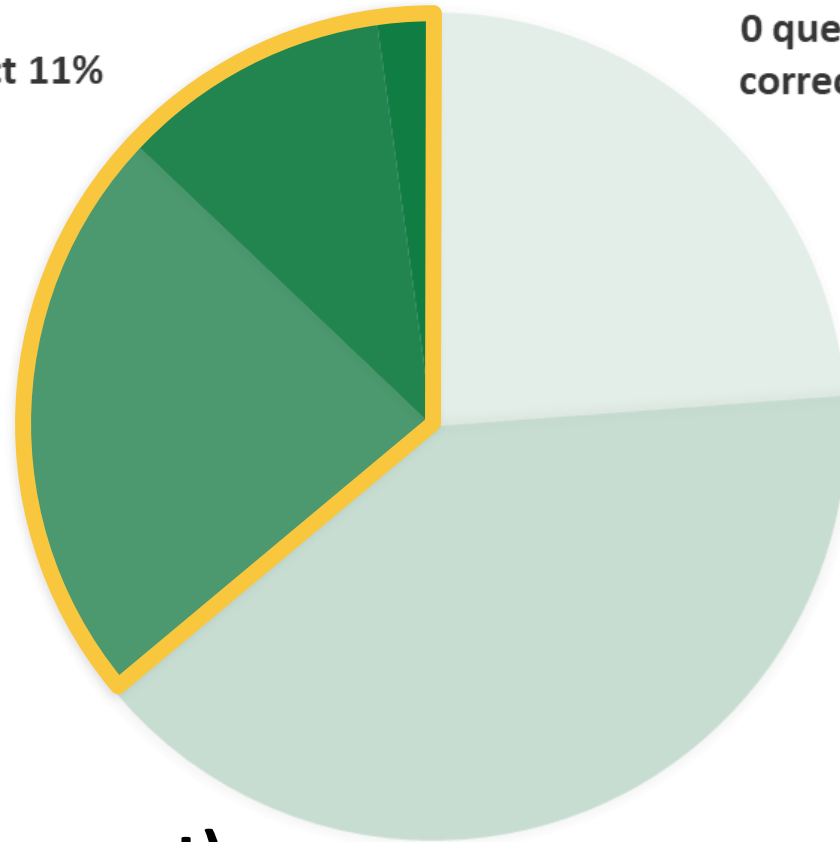
0 questions
correct 24%

2 questions
correct 23%

36.1%

(more than half correct)

1 correct 40%

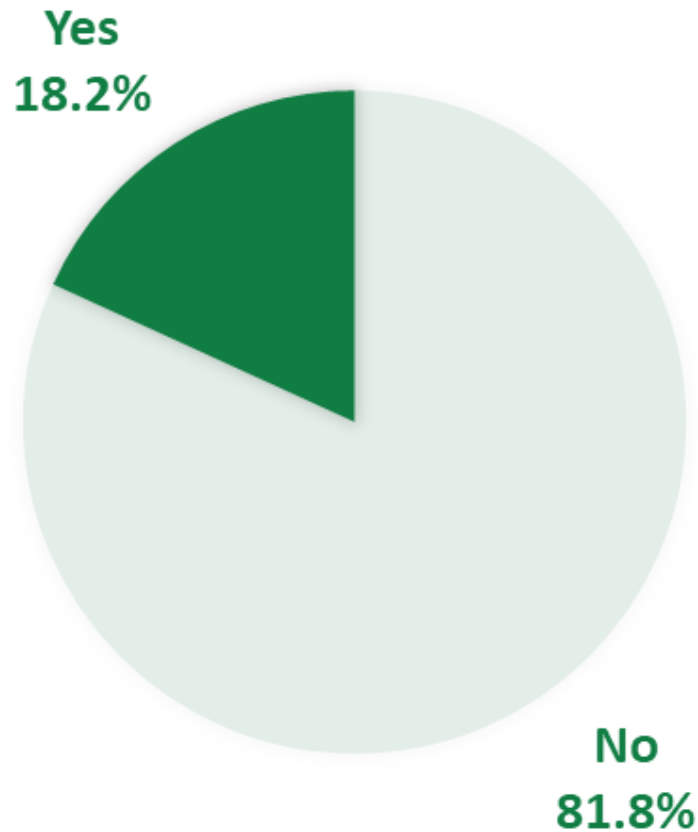




The term “Planetary Health” is not widely recognized

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE TERM “PLANETARY HEALTH”?



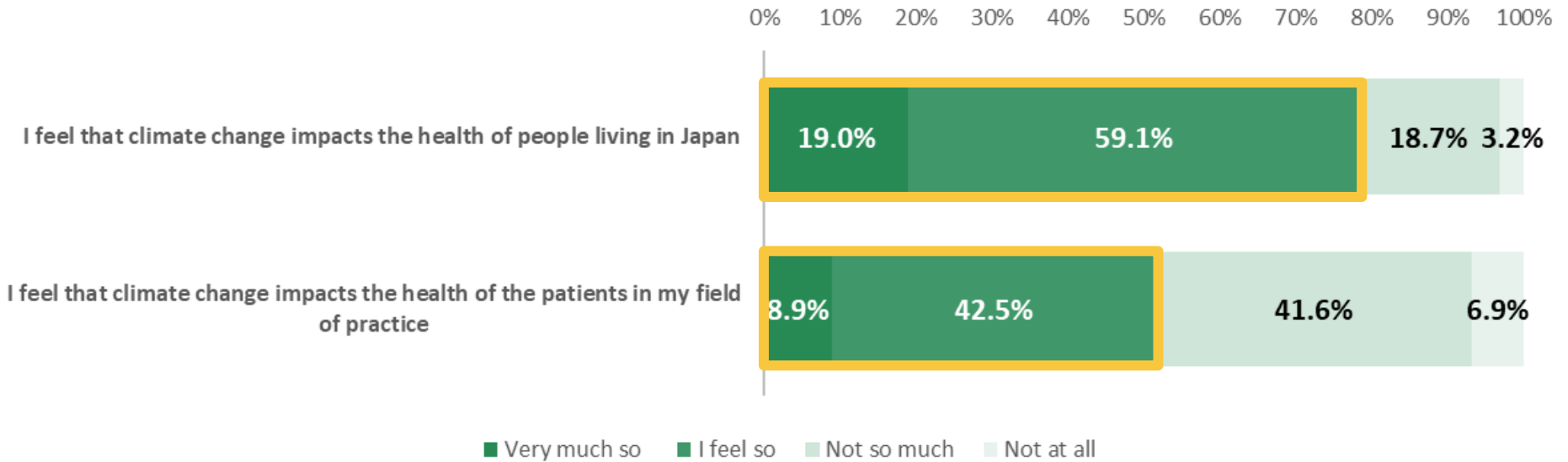
Perceptions of the Health Effects of Climate Change



The impact of climate change on health is recognized by many physicians

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

PERCEPTION OF THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



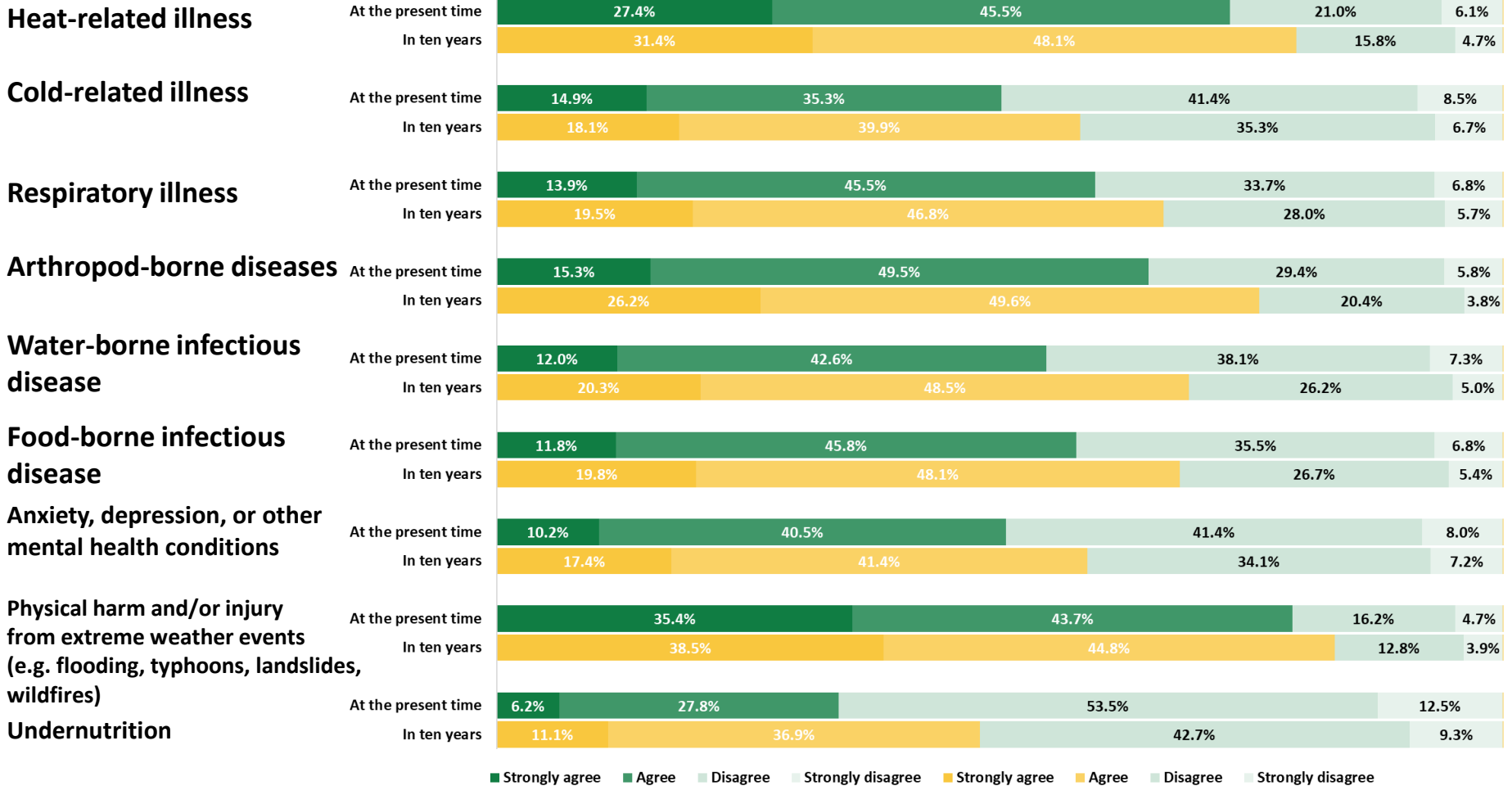
- **78.1%** of physicians perceive that climate change is currently impacting the health of people in Japan with **51.4%** recognizing this impact among their patients.



Physicians opinions on the health impacts of climate change now and their predictions over the next 10 years

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

Health issues that has already adversely affected by climate change, and predicted to be affected in ten year



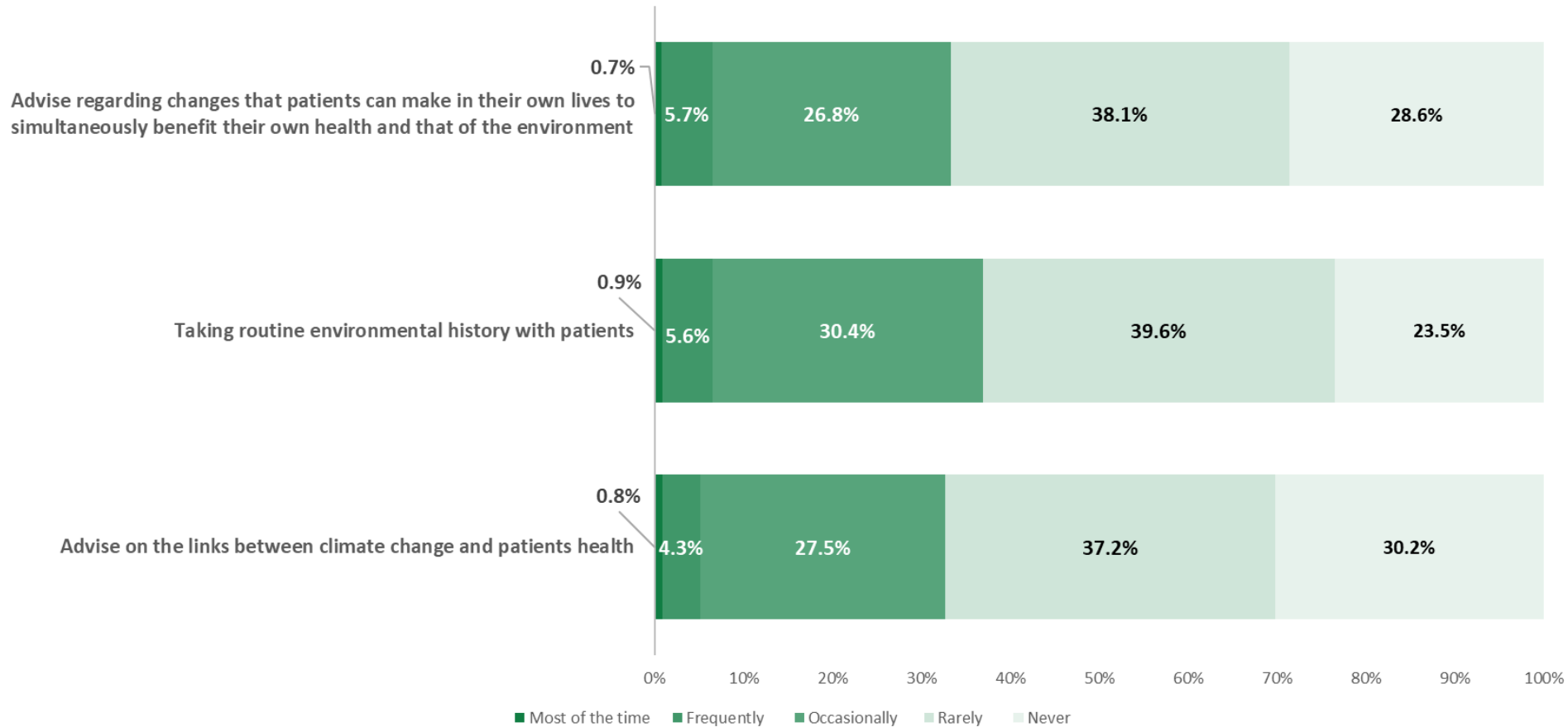
Climate Change and Health in Clinical Practice



Physicians' practice in advising patients on the link between climate change and health

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

MEDICAL PRACTICES THAT ARE MINDFUL OF THE LINK BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

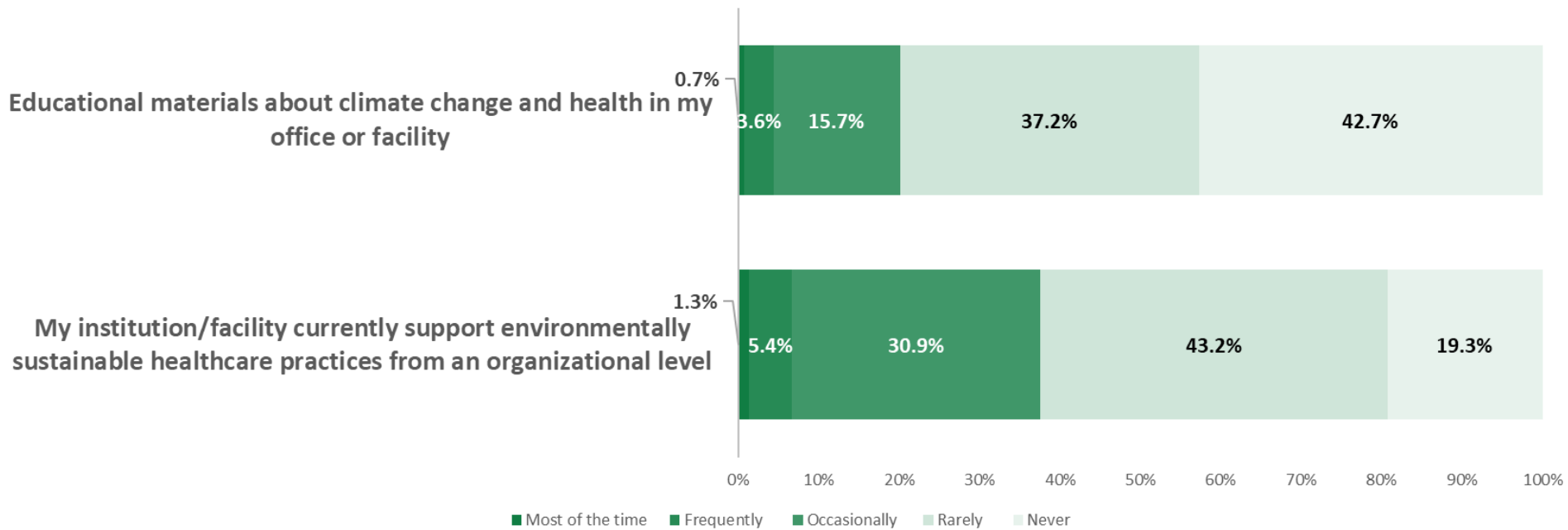




Medical institutions' efforts to provide environmentally sustainable healthcare is limited

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS' EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE MEDICAL CARE

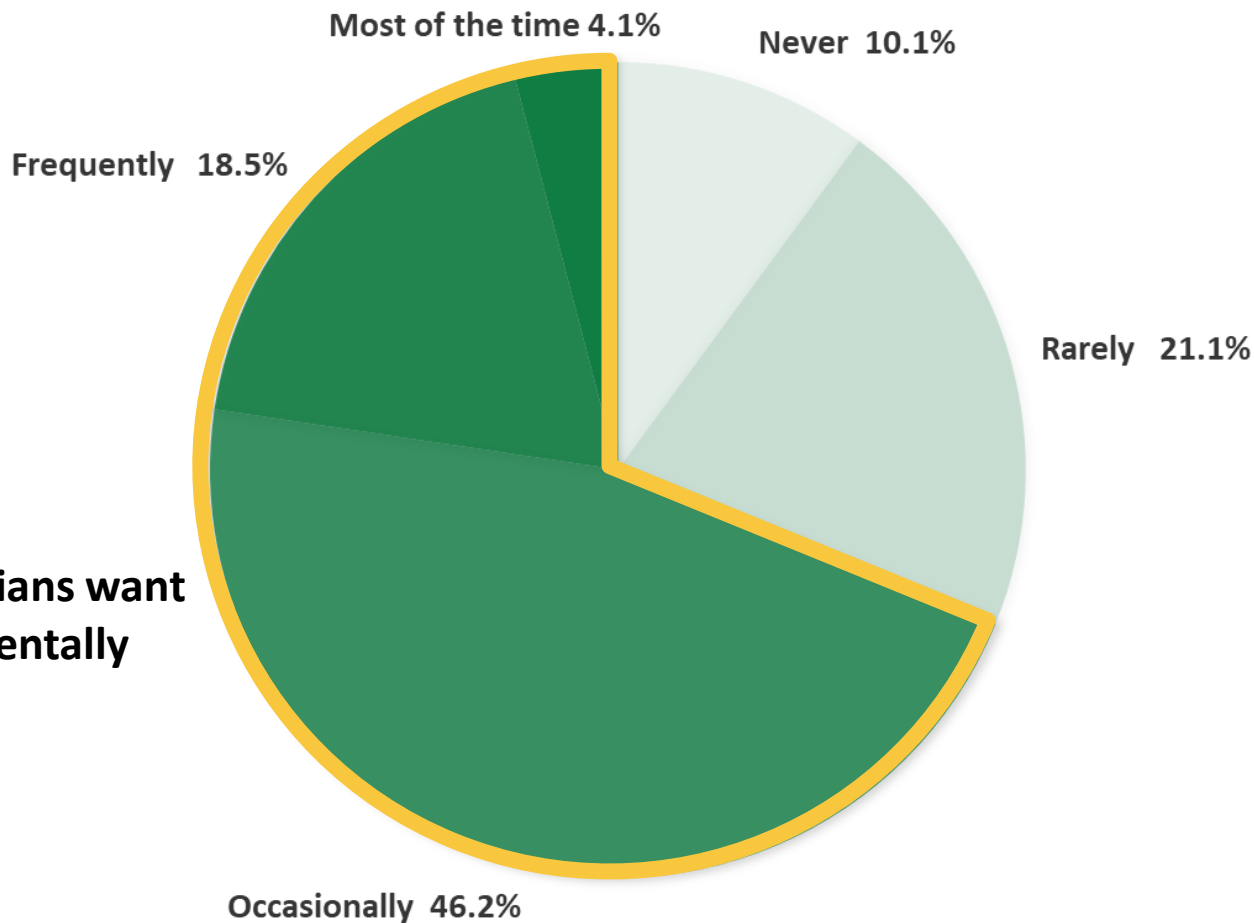




Physicians willingness to choose products, equipment, etc. that have lower environmental impacts and are more sustainable

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

WILLINGNESS TO CHOOSE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS, IF AVAILABLE



68.8% of physicians want more environmentally sustainable options

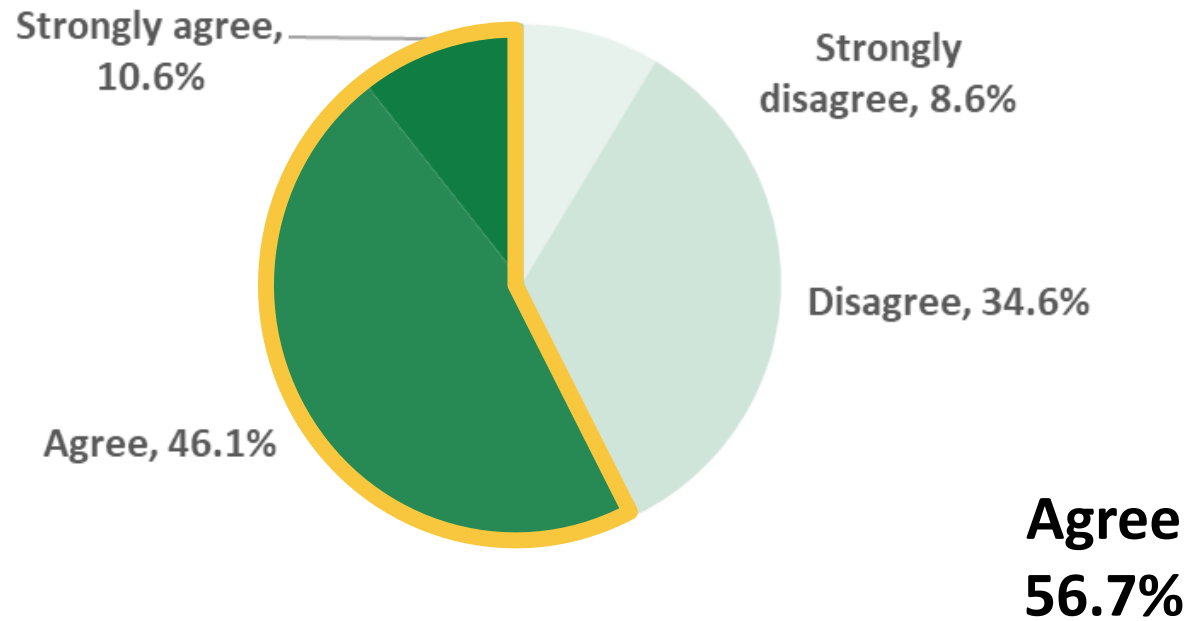
**Physicians' willingness to advocate
for society on climate change
and health**



Physicians should advise their patients on the links climate change has on their health

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

Physicians should advise their patients on the links climate change has on their health

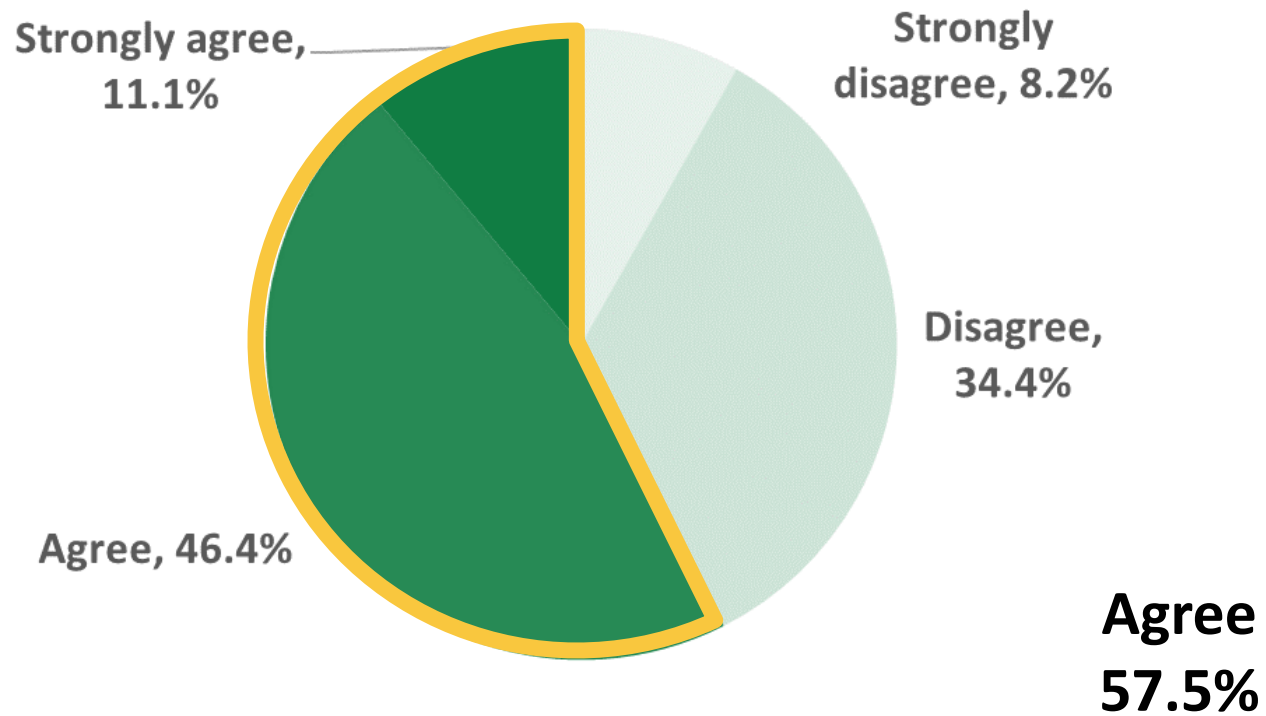




Physicians should advocate within their institution/facility for implementing mitigation measures for more environmentally sustainable healthcare

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

Physicians should advocate within their institution/facility for implementing mitigation measures for more environmentally sustainable healthcare

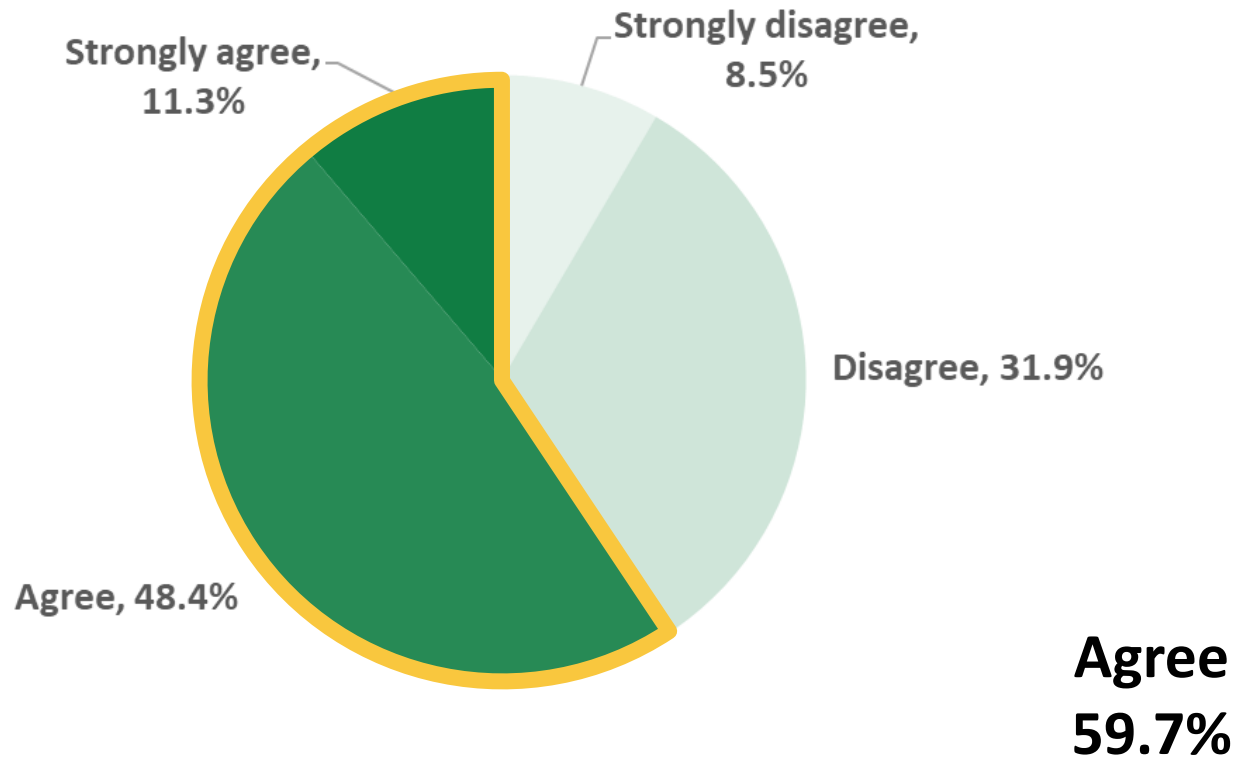




Physicians believe they can play a role in helping people change their behaviors to choose environmentally friendly and sustainable lifestyle

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

Physicians could play a role in changing the attitude and behaviors of their patients/the public regarding their willingness to engage in more environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices

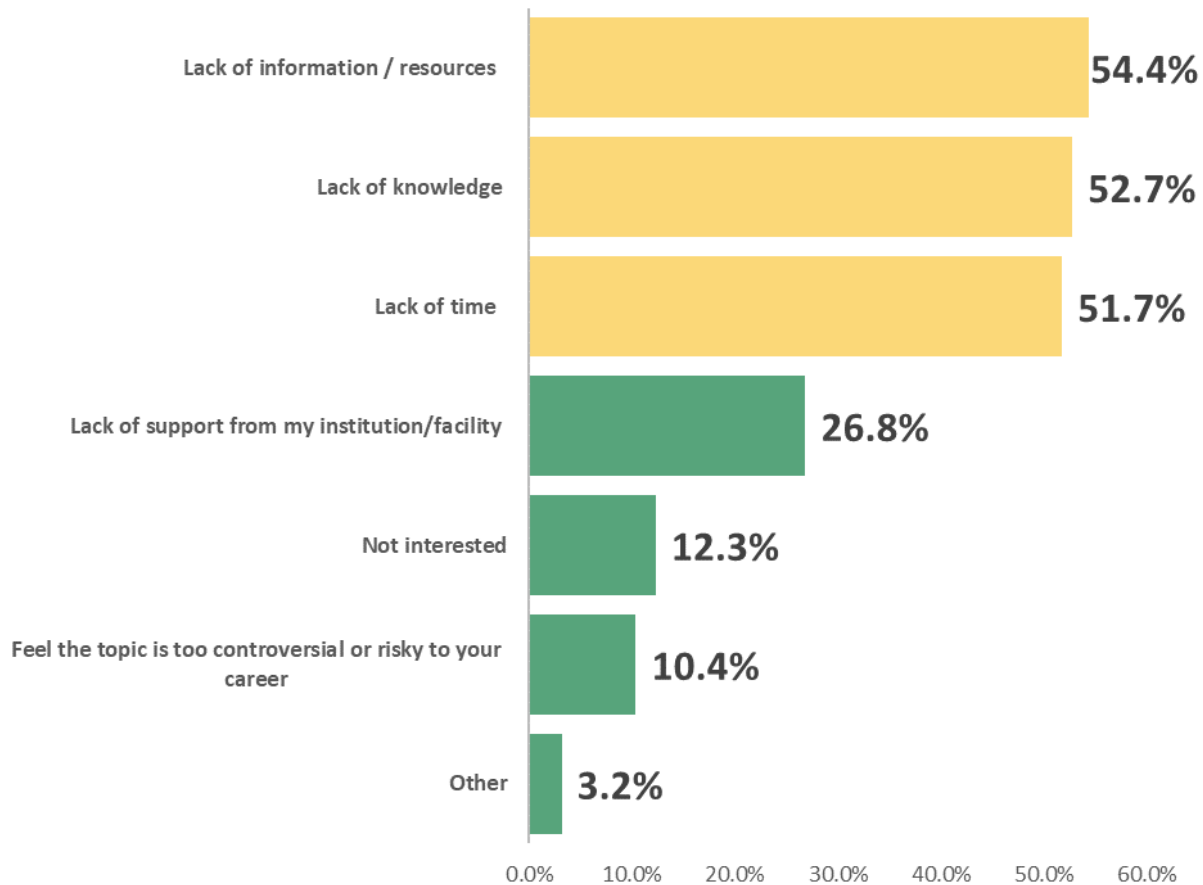




Lack of information, knowledge and time explains why raising awareness about climate change and health is challenging

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

FACTORS THAT REDUCE PHYSICIANS WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN ADVOCACIES AND ACTIVITIES RELATED "HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE"





Few physicians are affiliated with professional societies that advocate for climate change and health policies

(Conducted November 2023 N=1,100)

MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT EDUCATE AND RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADVOCATE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES

