

Extreme Heat Survey

Consent

You are invited to participate in a survey about how you are coping with extreme heat and its relation to COVID-19 and race. The goal of this survey is to understand how people living in Northern Manhattan (Harlem, Washington Heights, inwood) react to summer heat, and use the information to advocate for improvements around extreme heat. While there is no direct benefit to participating in this survey, your answers will help us advocate for changes needed to improve Northern Manhattan's preparation against extreme heat.

This survey is being conducted by Sonal Jessel, from WE ACT for Environmental Justice, and Robbie M. Parks from the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

Participation in this survey is voluntary. If you agree to participate below, you will be directed to the survey questions to fill out. You may skip any questions you don't want to answer and you may end the interview at any time. You may find answering some of the questions upsetting, but we expect that this would not be different from the kinds of things you discuss with family or friends.

The survey is anonymous. The information you will share with us if you participate in this study will be kept completely confidential to the full extent of the law.

We will be sharing the results of the survey with all survey participants. Study findings will be presented only in summary form. We may use quotes from the survey responses in publications, and those quotes will be anonymized. While the investigator(s) will keep your information confidential, there are some risks of data breaches when sending information over the internet that are beyond the control of the investigator(s).

Data from this study will be retained for future use and may be shared with other researchers

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Sonal Jessel at WE ACT for Environmental Justice, sonal@weact.org.

By completing this survey, you are consenting to participate in this study.

*Please print or save a copy of this form for your records. *

This survey should take less than 20 minutes

Please note: You must be 18 or older to participate in this study.

Do you consent to participate in this survey?

- YES, I understand the purpose of this study, and the process of consent, and consent to participation

- NO, I do not understand the purpose of this study and, and the process of consent, do not consent to participation

Extreme Heat Survey

Thank you for agreeing to take WE ACT's survey about extreme heat! In this survey, when we talk about the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown etc., we are referring to when a [state of emergency](#) in New York City and New York state was declared and shelter-in-place orders were given in mid-March 2020. This was the time when many of us stayed at home for long periods of time and stopped most social contact with people that we do not live with.

Some questions may feel sensitive. All questions in this survey are optional, so please skip them if you do not feel like answering or do not want to answer. This survey will take less than 20 minutes.

Background & Demographic Questions

1. With which racial groups do you identify? (check all that apply)
 - Black/African American
 - Latino/a/x, Hispanic, or Spanish origin
 - Asian
 - White
 - American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - Other: _____
 - I prefer not to say
2. If you identify as Latino/a/x, Hispanic, or Spanish origin, which origin? (check all that apply)
 - No
 - Yes, Dominican
 - Yes, Puerto Rican
 - Yes, Cuban
 - Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am, Chicano
 - Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin: _____
 - I prefer not to say
3. How do you describe yourself? As...
 - a. Female
 - b. Male
 - c. Trans male/Trans man
 - d. Trans female/Trans woman
 - e. Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming
 - f. Or do you have a different identity? _____
 - g. I prefer not to say

4. How old are you today? _____ years old
5. What is your current NYC ZIP Code? _____
6. **What best describes your current residence?**
 - a. NYCHA housing (New York City Housing Authority)
 - b. Section 8 housing, and not NYCHA
 - c. Rented apartment without State or Federal assistance
 - d. Owned apartment
 - e. Single-family residence, rented or owned
 - f. Other (please specify): _____
 - g. I don't know
7. **How many people live in your current home, including yourself?**
 - a. 1
 - b. 2 to 4
 - c. 5 to 8
 - d. 9 or more
 - e. I don't know
8. **How many current residents are at or over the age of 60?**
 - a. 0
 - b. 1 to 3
 - c. 4 or more
 - d. I don't know
9. **How many current residents are at or under the age of 6?**
 - a. 0
 - b. 1 to 3
 - c. 4 or more
 - d. I don't know
10. **How many current residents have limited mobility?**
 - a. 0
 - b. 1 to 3
 - c. 4 or more
 - d. I don't know
11. **Are any current residents pregnant or gave birth in the past 2 months?**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know

12. Do you have health insurance?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

COVID-19

This next question is about the COVID-19 pandemic, also referred to as coronavirus.

13. Since the COVID19 pandemic shelter-in-place orders (March 2020) went in place, have you been spending more time at home than you would have without the pandemic?

- a. Yes
- b. No, because I have had to work as an essential worker
- c. No, for another reason
- d. I don't know

Keeping cool

These next few questions are asking how you deal with extreme heat in the summertime, both in previous summers and this summer.

14. Do you have a working A/C in your home?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

15. Since hot weather began this year, where do you spend most of your afternoon on an extremely hot day?

- a. Indoors, at home
- b. Indoors, elsewhere
- c. Outdoors, in the park or local green space
- d. Outdoors elsewhere
- e. Other (please specify): _____
- f. I don't know

[BRANCH QUESTION If you answered indoors to the previous question] Did that space have air conditioning?

- g. Yes
- h. No
- i. I don't know

16. In past summers, where would you spend your afternoon on an extremely hot day?

- a. Indoors, at home

- b. Indoors, elsewhere
- c. Outdoors, in the park, garden, yard, or similar green space
- d. Outdoors elsewhere
- e. Other (please specify):

[BRANCH QUESTION If you answered indoors to the previous question] Did that space have air conditioning?

- f. Yes
- g. No
- h. I don't know

17. How are your current electricity costs this summer compared with an average summer month in previous years?

- a. Much higher than normal
- b. A bit higher than normal
- c. Around the same
- d. A bit lower than normal
- e. Much lower than normal
- f. I don't know

18. If at all, how has your plan for getting and staying cool when it is hot changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

-Comment box

Parks and green space

The next questions, we will ask you about green spaces and your experiences outdoors in the summertime. By "green space", we mean an area of grass, trees, or other vegetation set apart for recreational or lounging purposes, like a park, playground, or garden.

19. Do you have an accessible outdoor space attached to your home?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

20. How far is the nearest public green space from your home (walking)?

- a. Less than a 5 minute walk
- b. Between a 5 and 10 minute walk
- c. Between a 10 and 15 minute walk
- d. More than a 15 minute walk
- e. I don't know

21. How often do you visit your nearest public green space?

- a. Often
- b. Sometimes
- c. Rarely
- d. Never

22. Are you satisfied that your nearest public green space is a place where you can go to cool down on a particularly hot day?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

23. Do you feel that you can relax in a public green space while remaining socially distant (6 feet from others) due to COVID19?

- a. Yes
- b. No. [Comment box]

Park Policing and Safety

24. Do you generally feel safe from violence or harm when visiting a green space? If not, why not?

- a. Yes
- b. No. [Comment box]

25. How much does the way you are treated by police influence your likelihood to go to public green spaces this summer? If any level of influence, can you explain why?

- a. Has a lot of influence
- b. Has some influence
- c. Has a little influence
- d. Has no influence

- [Comment box]

26. If you have gone to public or green spaces recently, do you feel treated fairly by the police there? If no, can you explain why?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I have not seen or interacted with police at or around green spaces I've been to this summer
- d. I don't know

[Comment box]

27. If you have any further thoughts, ideas or concerns you wish to share with us, please feel free to comment below.

[Comment box]

Thank you for taking our survey, we appreciate your participation.

For questions, please contact Sonal Jessel at WE ACT, sonal@weact.org, 646-983-0224