Executive Summary

* We find a greater proportion of people believe in climate change than prior surveys. This may be attributable to the demographics of respondents as our sample was not nationally randomized.
* While responses generally indicated confidence in the existence of climate change, there was significantly less confidence with regards to the potential consequences where people were most confident that climate change would lead to the typical ‘global warming’ effects of melting ice caps and rising sea level and least confident in sociopolitical consequences like slow economic growth.
* The vast majority believe that climate change has both natural and anthropogenic contributing factors with the people more familiar with climate change leaning more toward human factors and people less familiar leaning toward natural causes.
* We find that people who were not exposed to severe weather in the last 5 years have a higher rate of non-belief in climate change.
* Gender does not have an apparent effect on belief in climate change with both the male and female breakdown looking very similar to the whole data set.
* Every respondent with an income below $35,000 believes in climate change.
* Existing literature suggests that people with less education are less likely to believe that the climate is changing, but our survey finds the opposite. This may be because many of the respondents with only a high school education are under age 24, indicating they are currently in college.
* People tend to believe that climate change is more serious for the world than for the United States and more serious for the United States than for their own community or themselves personally.