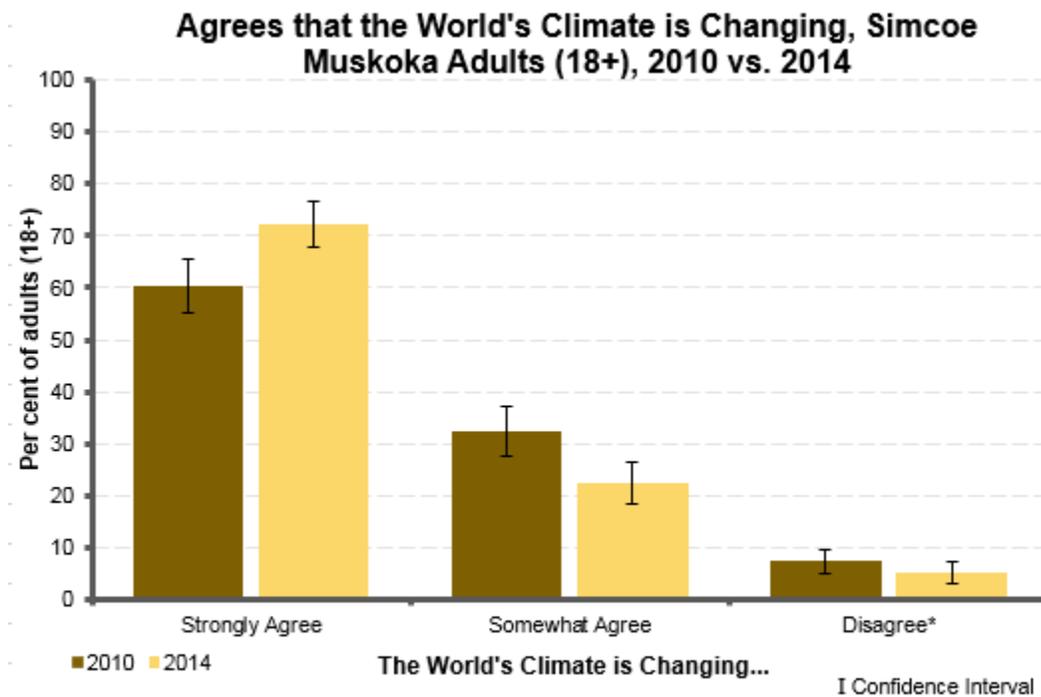


Climate Change: Knowledge & Perceived Impacts

Knowledge of Climate Change

In 2014, between May and December, approximately 500 randomly selected adults (18+) in Simcoe Muskoka were asked a series of questions related to their knowledge and perceptions of climate change as part of the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS). Nearly three-quarters (72% [68.0%, 76.6%]) of adults strongly agreed that the world's climate is changing, which was significantly higher than the 60% [55.1%, 65.5%] that strongly agreed in 2010 (see [figure 1](#)).

Figure 1: Percent of adults (18+) who agree/disagree with the statement that 'the world's climate is changing', 2010 & 2014.



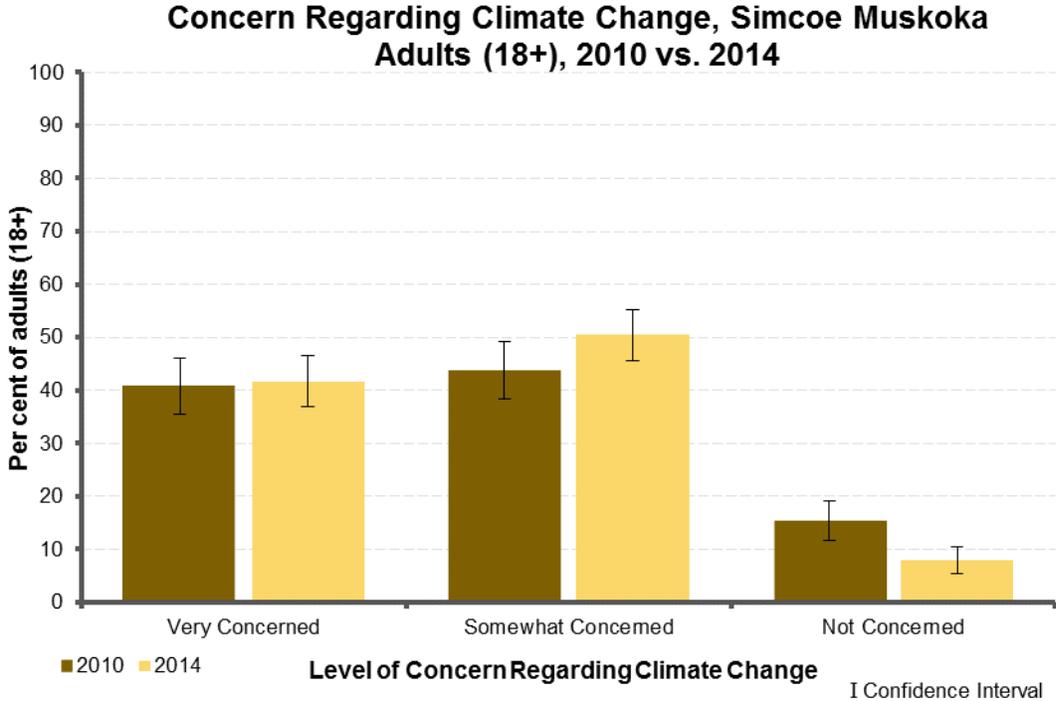
*Interpret with caution, high variability.

Data Sources: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS), Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Cycle 6 (Sept-Dec, 2010); Cycles 17&18 (May-Dec, 2014). Data collected by the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at York University, Toronto, Canada.

Concern Regarding Climate Change

Respondents that agreed the world’s climate was changing were also asked how concerned they were regarding climate change. The vast majority of adults in Simcoe Muskoka were either very concerned (42% [36.9%, 46.5%]) or somewhat concerned (50% [45.6%, 55.3%]) about climate change. There was a significantly smaller proportion of adults in Simcoe Muskoka that were not concerned about climate change in 2014 when compared with 2010 (see [figure 2](#)).

Figure 2: Percent of adults (18+) who are concerned or not concerned about climate change, 2010 & 2014.

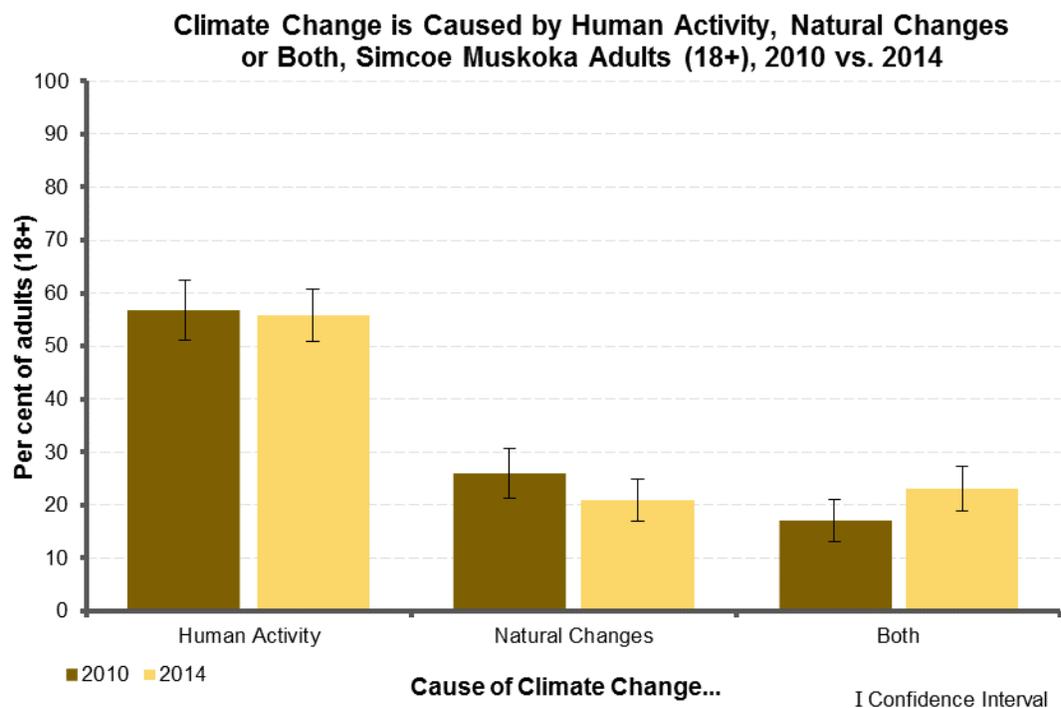


Data Sources: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS), Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Cycle 6 (Sept-Dec, 2010); Cycles 17&18 (May-Dec, 2014). Data collected by the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at York University, Toronto, Canada.

Human Impact on Climate Change

These same respondents were asked if they believed climate change was caused by human activity or by natural changes. Approximately three-quarters of Simcoe Muskoka adults said that climate change was either caused mainly by human activity (56% [51.0%, 60.8%]) or both human activity and natural changes (23% [18.9%, 27.3%]). There was a smaller proportion of adults in Simcoe Muskoka that reported climate change is caused by natural changes in 2014 (21% [17.0%, 25.1%]) when compared with 2010 (26% [21.4%, 31.3%]), but this difference was not statistically significant (see [figure 3](#)).

Figure 3: Percent of adults (18+) who report that climate change is caused by human activity, natural changes or both, 2010 & 2014.



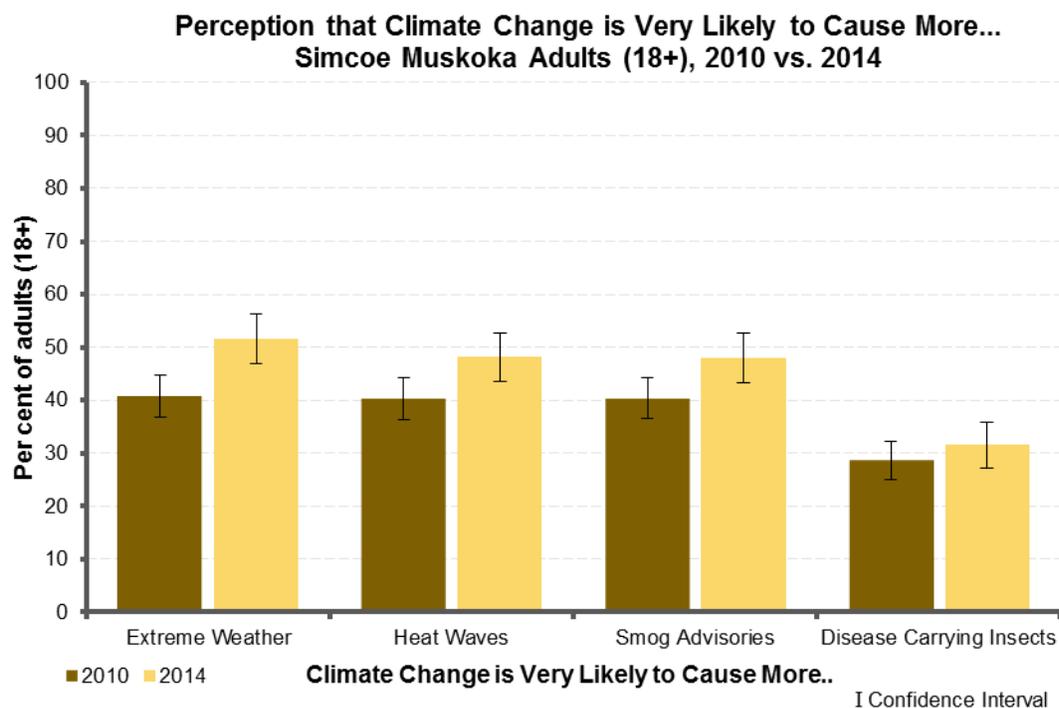
Data Sources: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS), Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Cycle 6 (Sept-Dec, 2010); Cycles 17&18 (May-Dec, 2014). Data collected by the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at York University, Toronto, Canada.

Among those that said climate change is caused by human activity: 92% [88.5%, 94.6%] said that vehicle exhaust contributes to climate change and 69% [63.6%, 73.7%] said that home energy use contributes to climate change. These figures were virtually the same as what was reported in 2010.

Perceived Effects of Climate Change

All respondents were asked how likely climate change was to result in increases of several health-related natural phenomena in their community. Approximately half of Simcoe Muskoka adults said that climate change was very likely to cause more: extreme weather (52% [47.0%, 56.3%]), heat waves (48% [43.5%, 52.8%]) and smog advisories (48% [43.3%, 52.6%]) in their community. These figures were all significantly higher than what was reported in 2010 (see [figure 4](#)). Approximately one-third (32% [27.3%, 35.9%]) of respondents said that climate change was very likely to result in more disease carry insects in their community, which was not significantly different from what was reported in 2010.

Figure 4: Percent of adults (18+) who report that climate change is very likely to cause increases of select health-related natural phenomena in their community, 2010 & 2014.



Data Sources: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS), Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Cycle 6 (Sept-Dec, 2010); Cycles 17&18 (May-Dec, 2014). Data collected by the Institute for Social Research (ISR) at York University, Toronto, Canada.