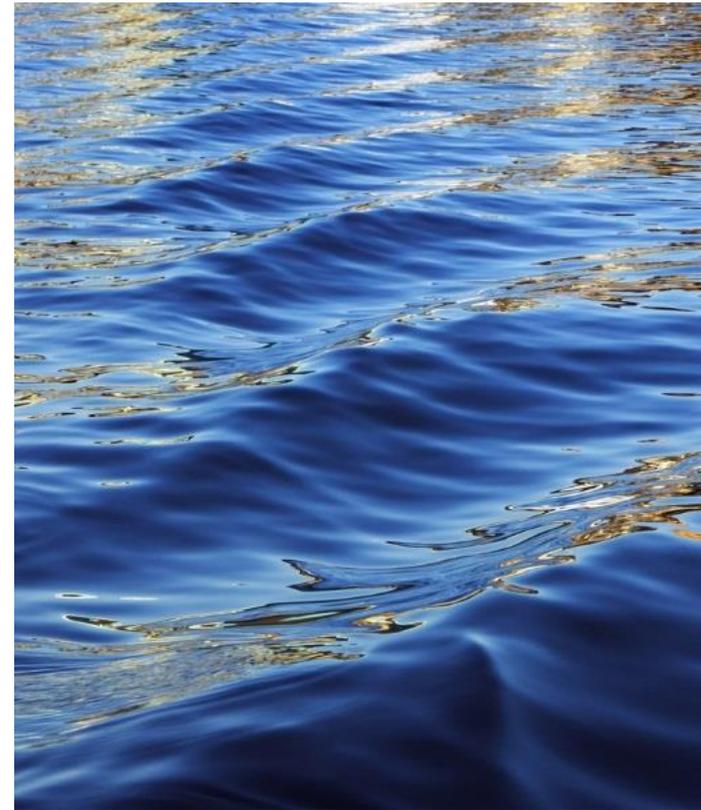


# Diverse perspectives of the theology of creation care and the science of climate change

Chong Ho Yu, Ph.D., D. Phil.  
Louise Huang, Ph.D.  
Ricky Yip

Presented at 2021 American Scientific  
Affiliation

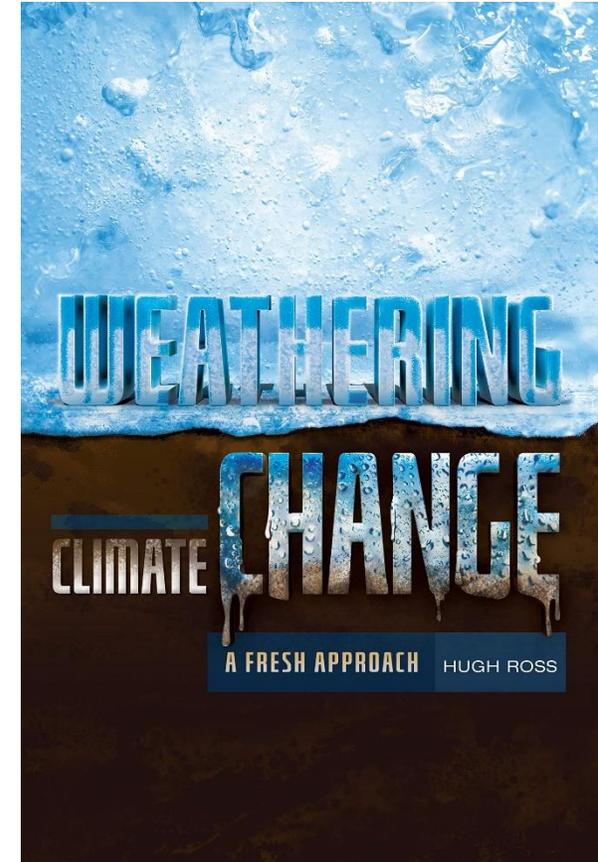


- **Michener argues that creation should neither be reduced to a product of God nor regarded as identical to God.**
- **Creation is NOT a done deal.**

"As a gift of God coming directly from his being, creation is integrally linked to God; it is not simply a done and settled event for humans to handle as they wish. God gave of himself in his act of creation, he gives of himself presently in and through creation, and he will give of himself as he redeems and renews creation in the future." p.38-39

Michener, R. T. (2019). Reflections on creation care through critical appropriation of Radical Orthodoxy. *European Journal of Theology*, 28(1), 34-43.

- **Hugh Ross provides comprehensive scientific evidence for climate change, the severe consequences that we will face, and what we can do to preserve our physical environmental in order to benefit all life on Earth.**
- **Rossing and Buitendag extend the discussion of the term "ecodomy" as it pertains to climate change. They argue for the current times as a "kairos" moment, a moment "of hope and urgency".**



Ross, H. (2020). Weathering Climate Change: A Fresh Approach. Reasons to Believe.

# Methodology

- **Mixed-method:**
  - Use an online survey to collect both quantitative and qualitative data.
- **Respondents:**
  - 109 Christians without any no leadership role
  - 62 Christians with a leadership role (Pastor, minister, elder, deacon, Sunday school teacher, cell group/fellowship leader, Professor/instructor of theology).
- **Questions cover their position on or perception of:**
  - Climate change and science
  - Green lifestyle and policies (e.g. Paris Climate Accord)
  - Christian Nationalism (e.g. The US is chosen by God as a Christian nation.)
  - Prosperity gospel (e.g. God will grant wealth and health to believers.)
- **Data analysis:**
  - Data visualization for quantitative data
  - Content analysis for qualitative data (MAXQDA).

# Measure of Christian Nationalism

- *The federal government should declare the United States a Christian nation.*

Strongly Agree – Mostly Agree – Undecided – Mostly Disagree – Strongly Disagree

- *The federal government should advocate Christian values.*

Strongly Agree – Mostly Agree – Undecided – Mostly Disagree – Strongly Disagree

- *The federal government should enforce strict separation of church and state.*

Strongly Agree – Mostly Agree – Undecided – Mostly Disagree – Strongly Disagree

- *The federal government should allow the display of religious symbols in public spaces.*

Strongly Agree – Mostly Agree – Undecided – Mostly Disagree – Strongly Disagree

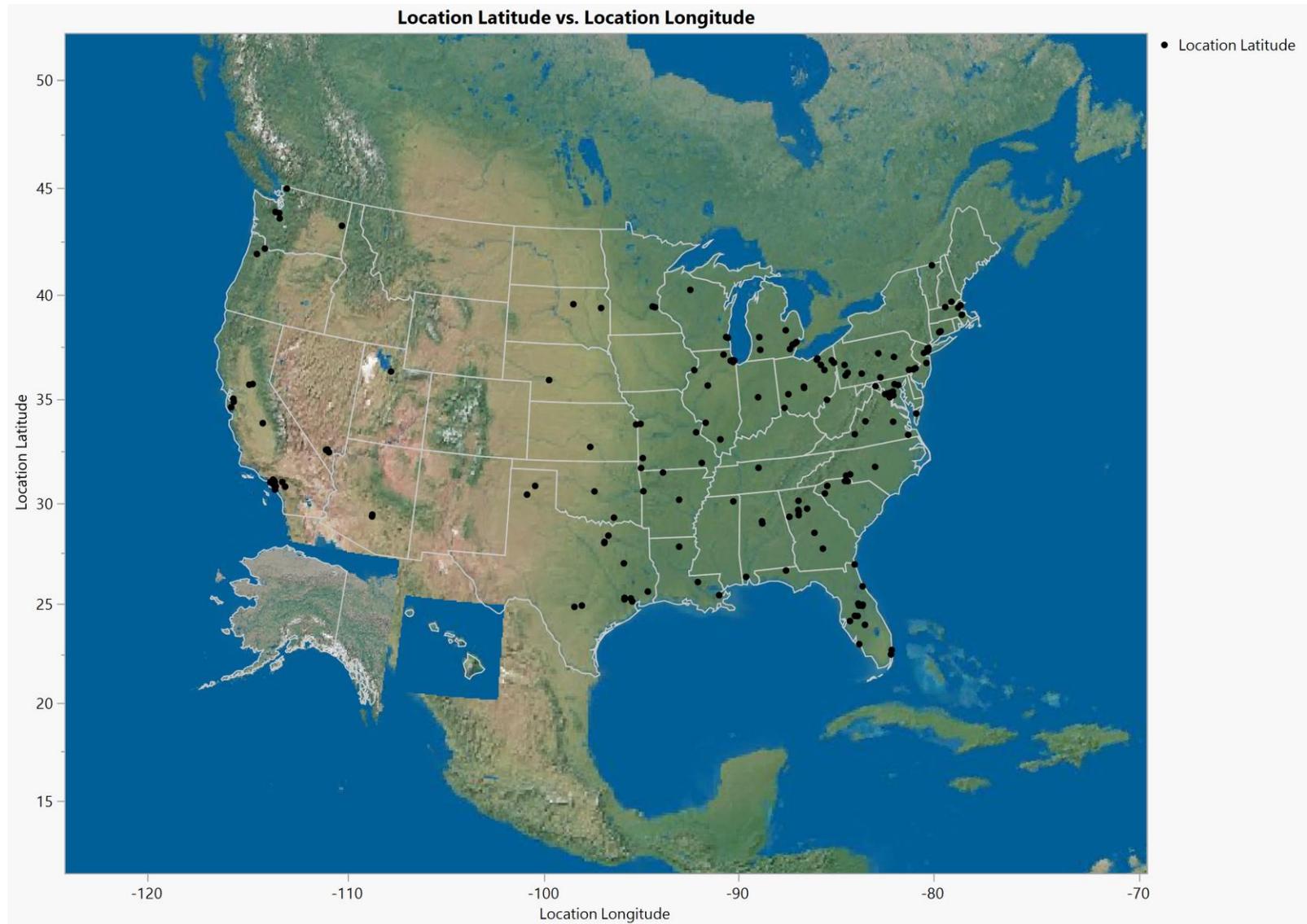
- *The federal government should allow prayer in public schools.*

Strongly Agree – Mostly Agree – Undecided – Mostly Disagree – Strongly Disagree

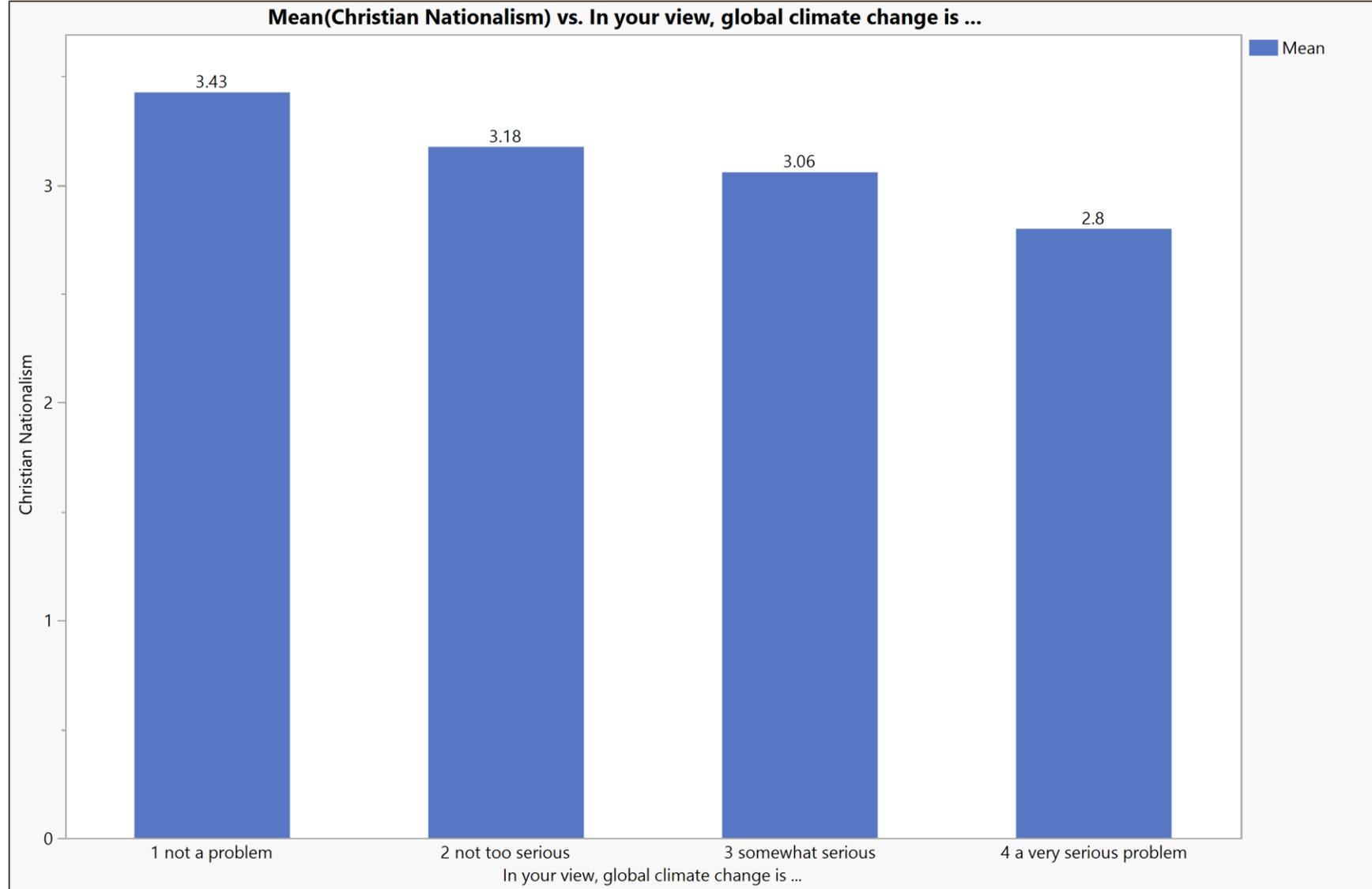
- *The success of the United States is part of God's plan.*

Strongly Agree – Mostly Agree – Undecided – Mostly Disagree – Strongly Disagree

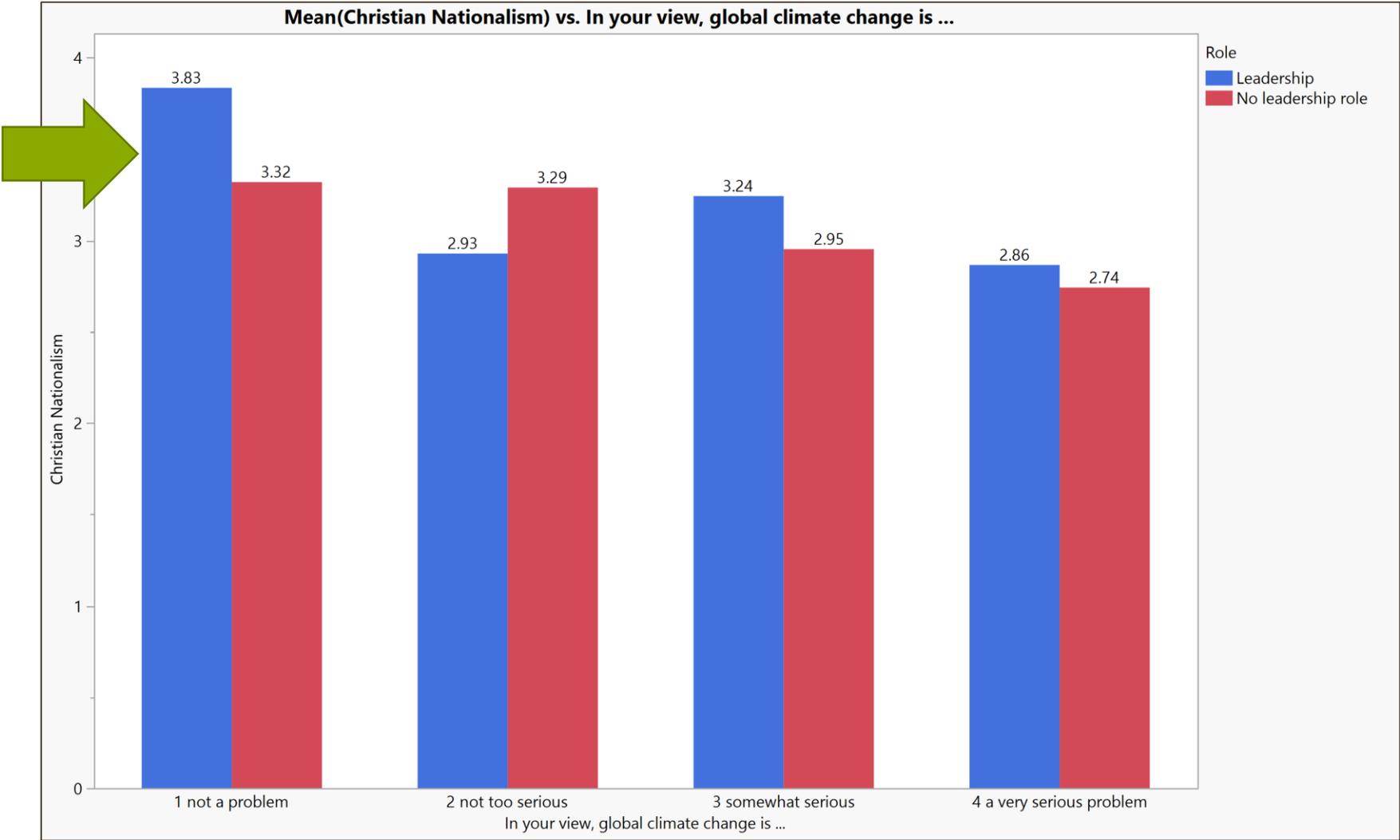
# A nationwide sample from Cloud Research



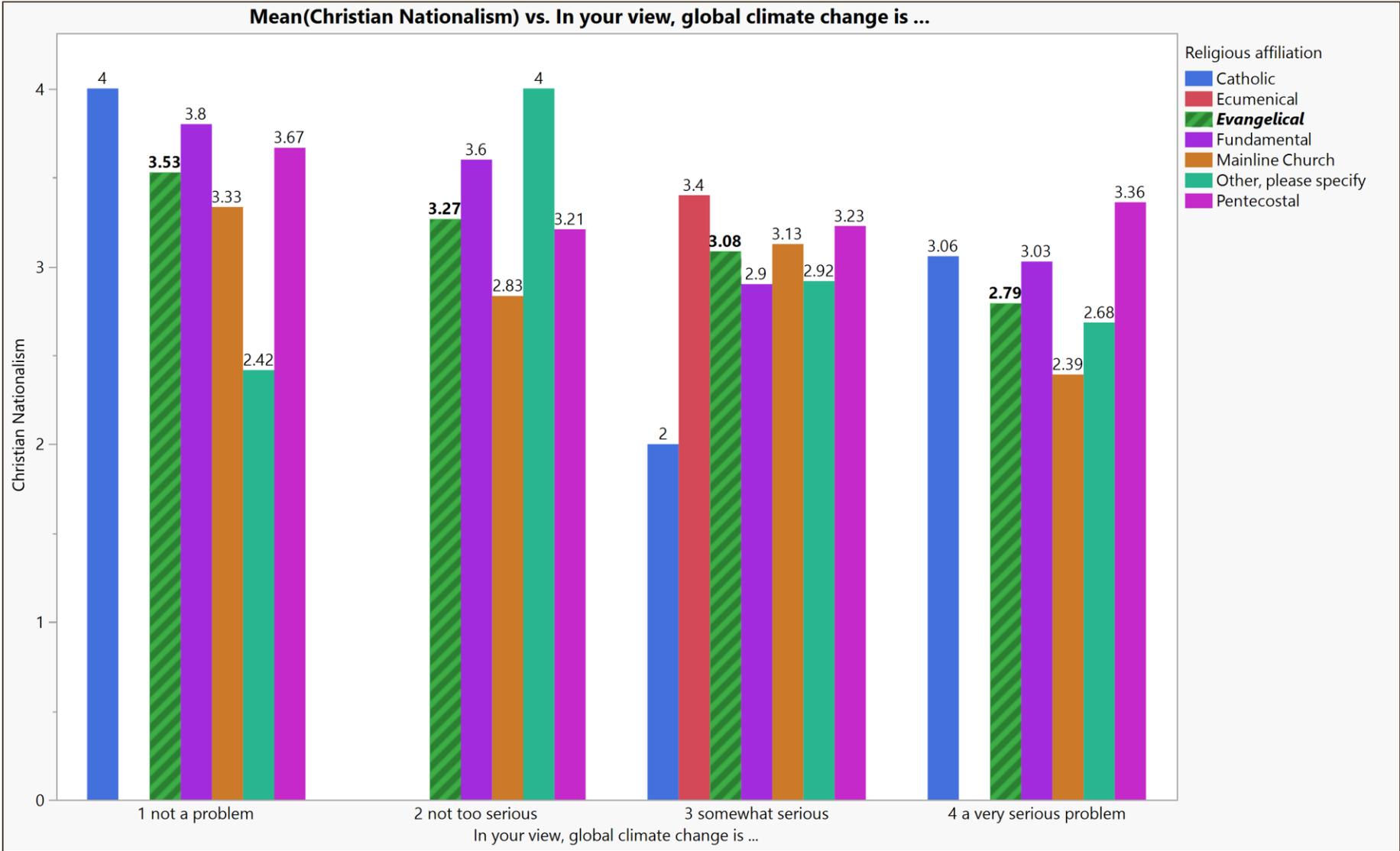
# More Christian Nationalism → less concerned with Climate change



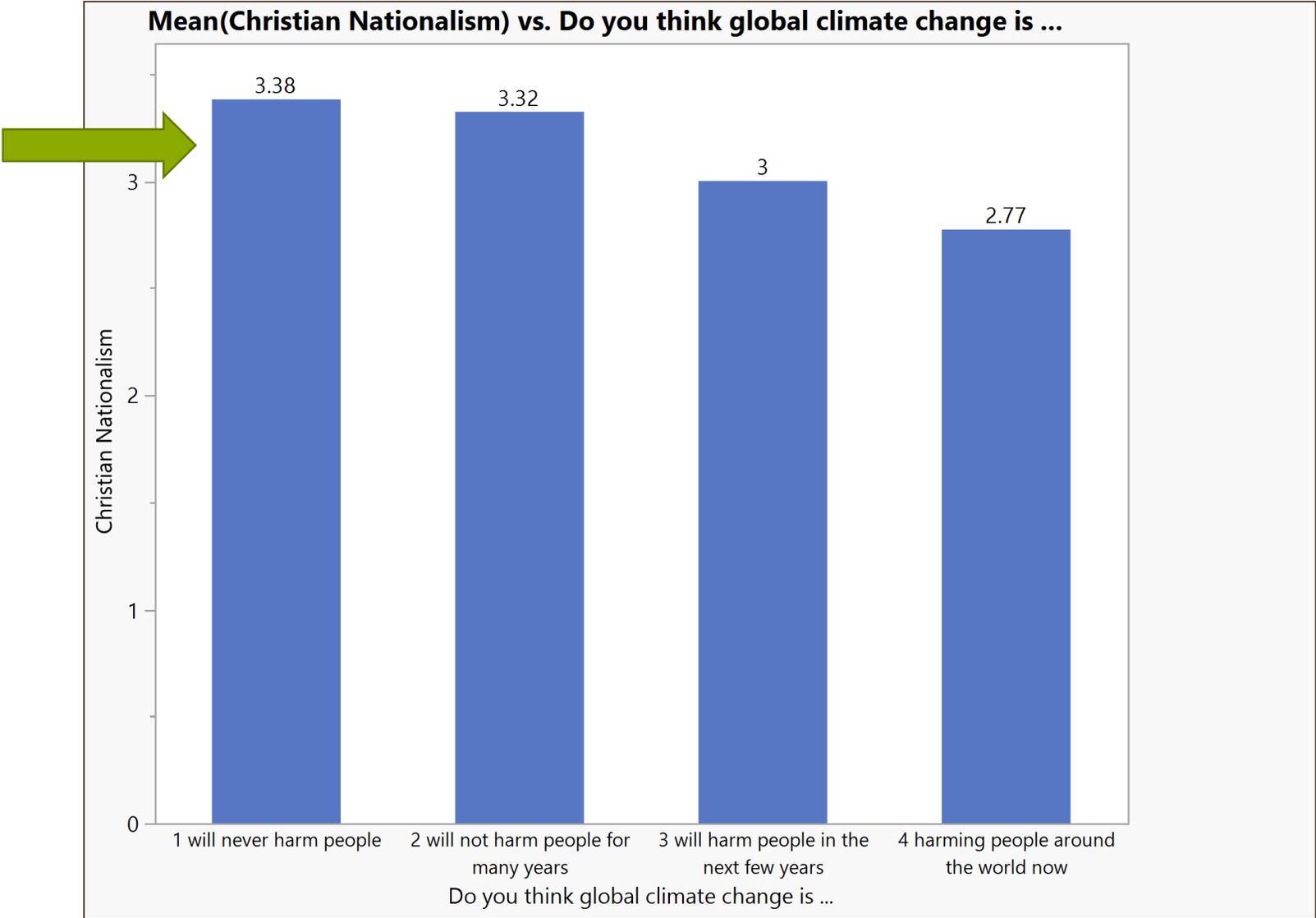
# Christian leadership is worse than lay people



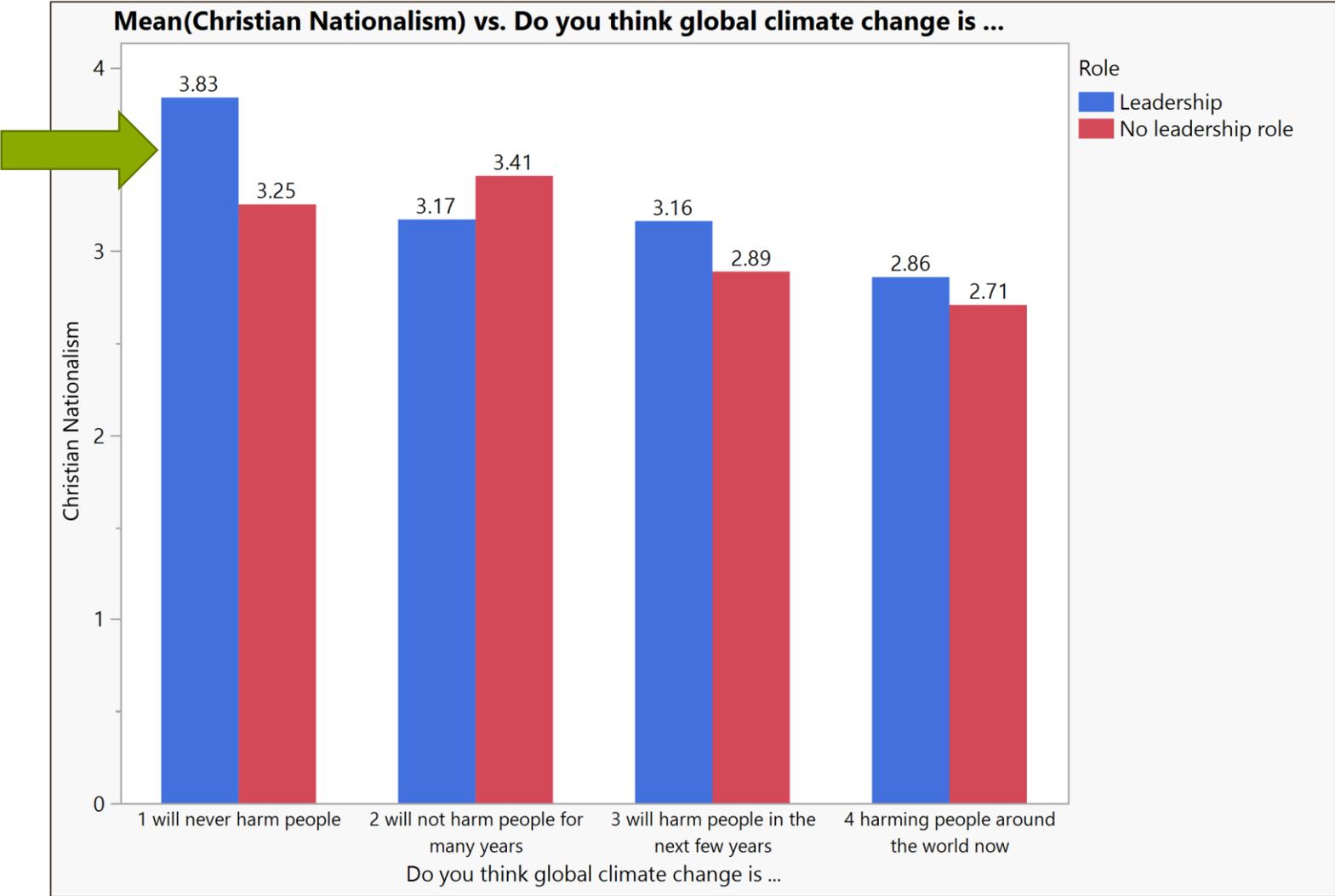
# Evangelicals



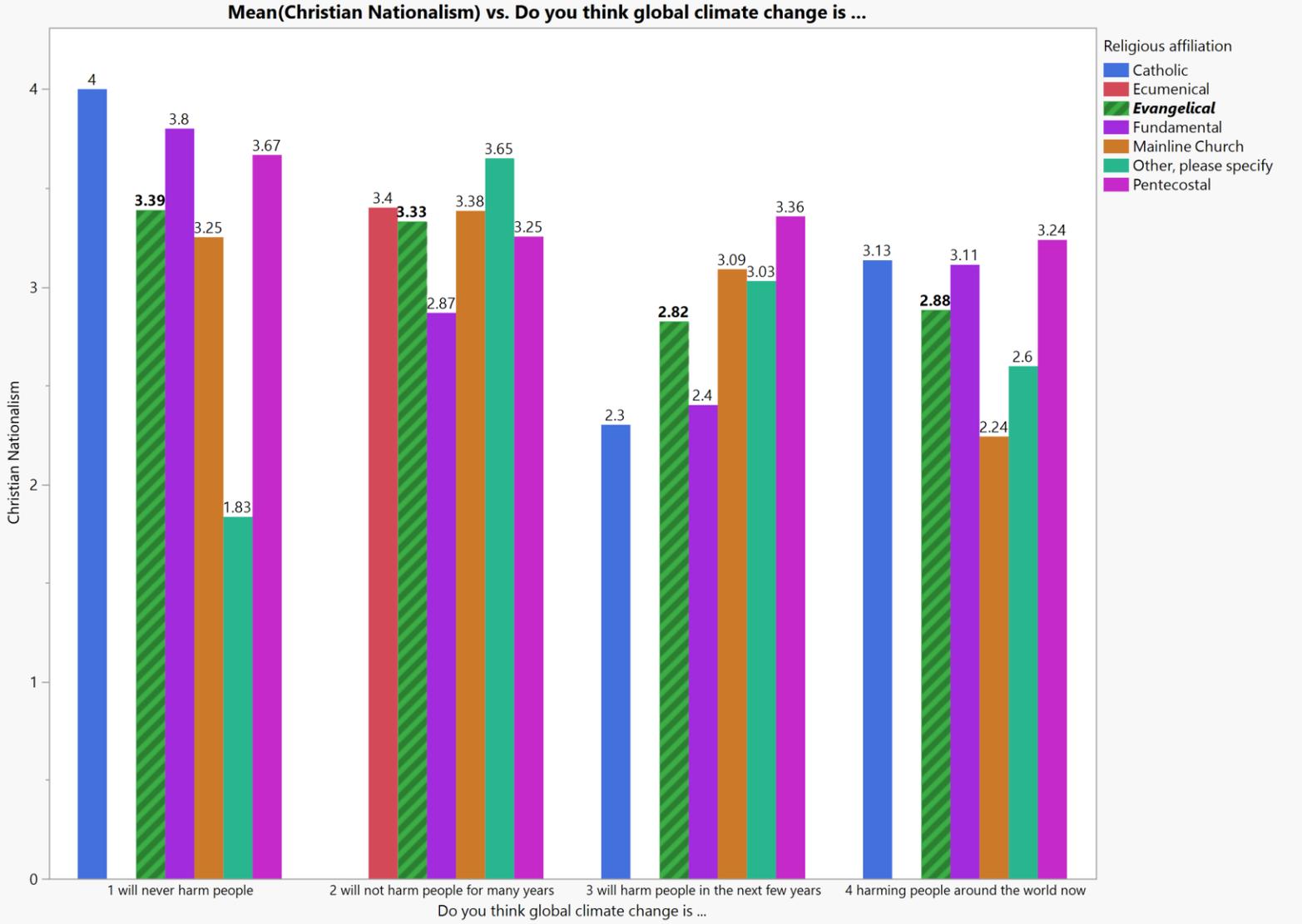
# More Christian Nationalism → Climate change will never harm people



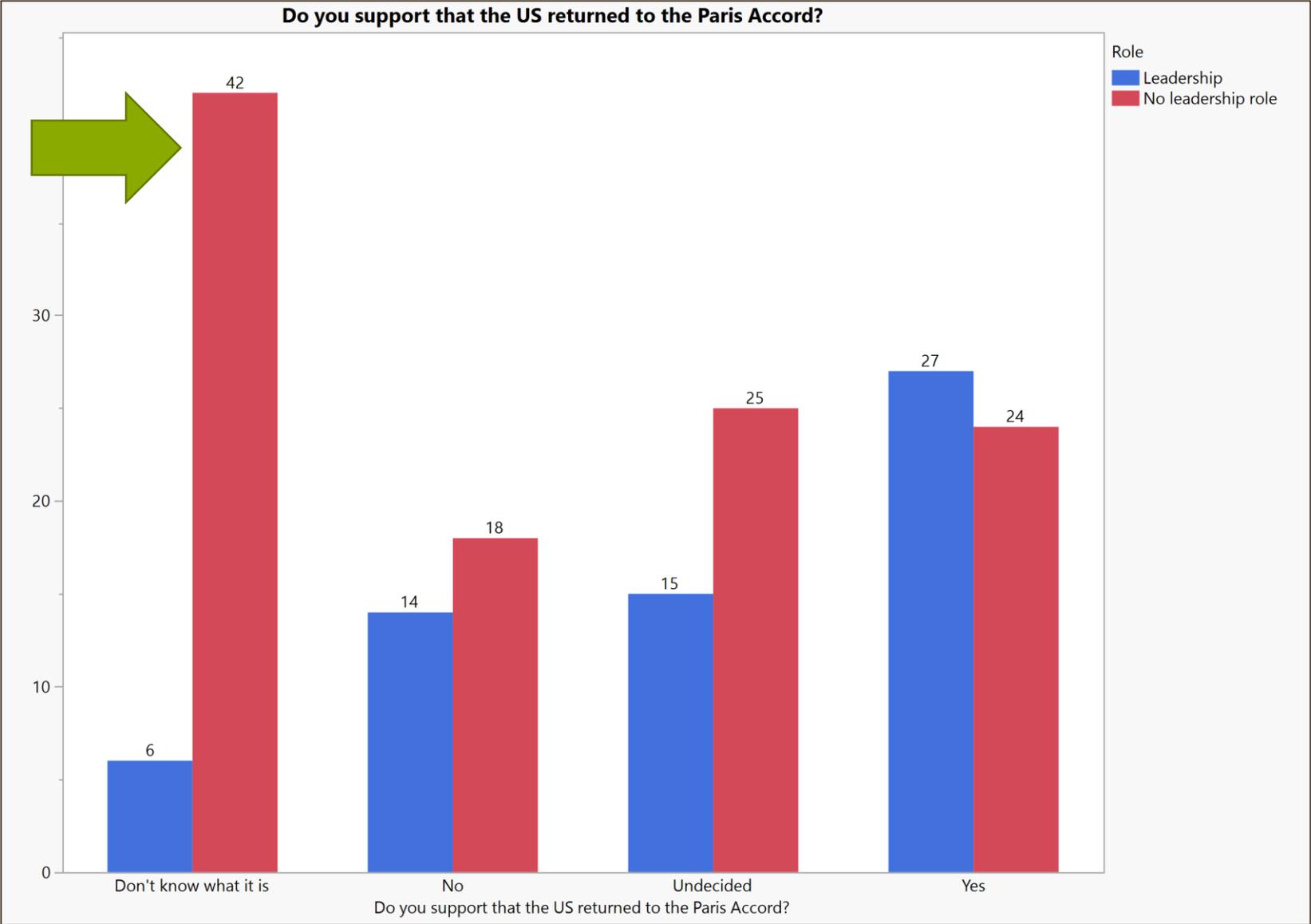
# Christian leaders are worse



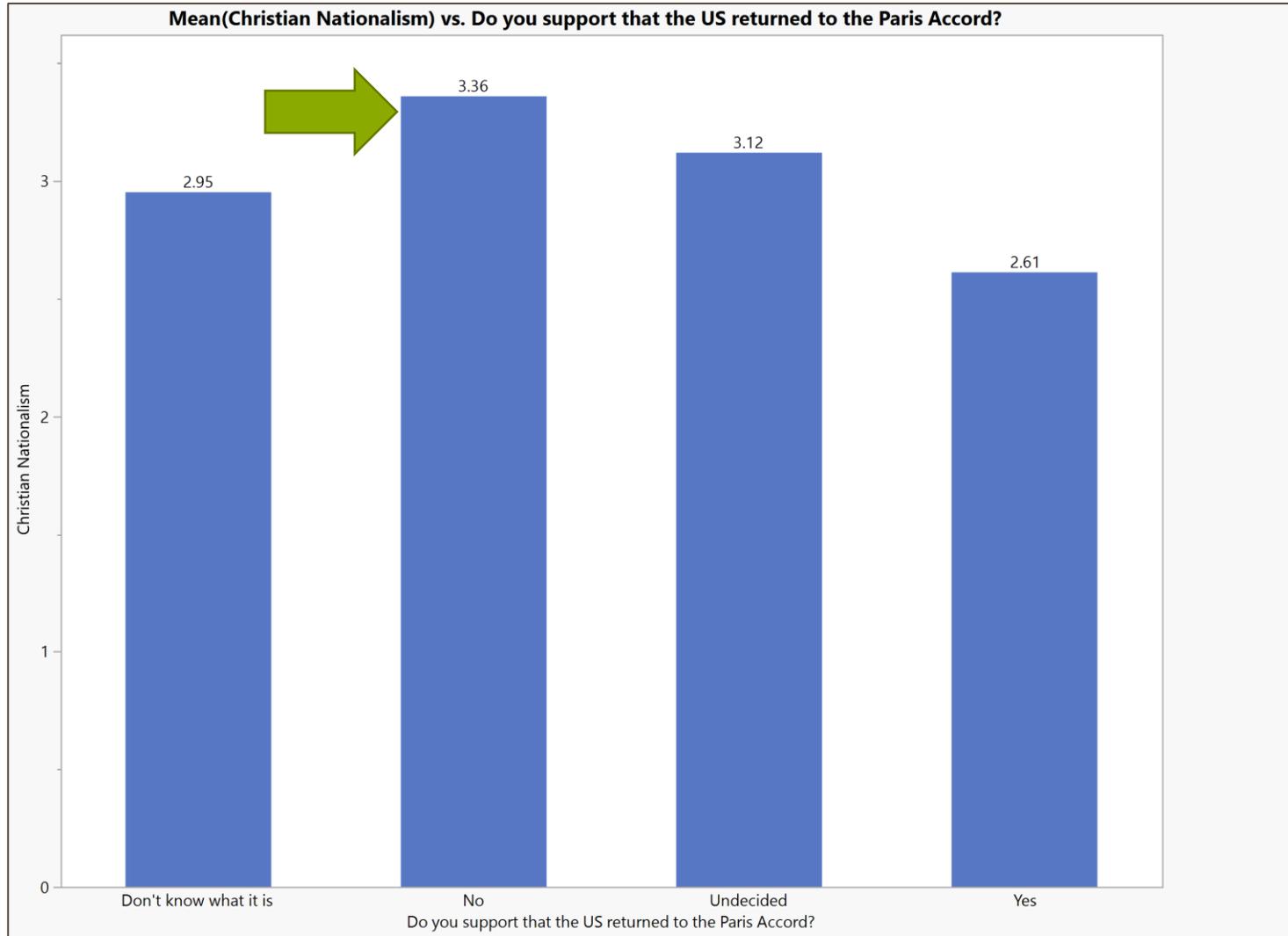
# Evangelicals



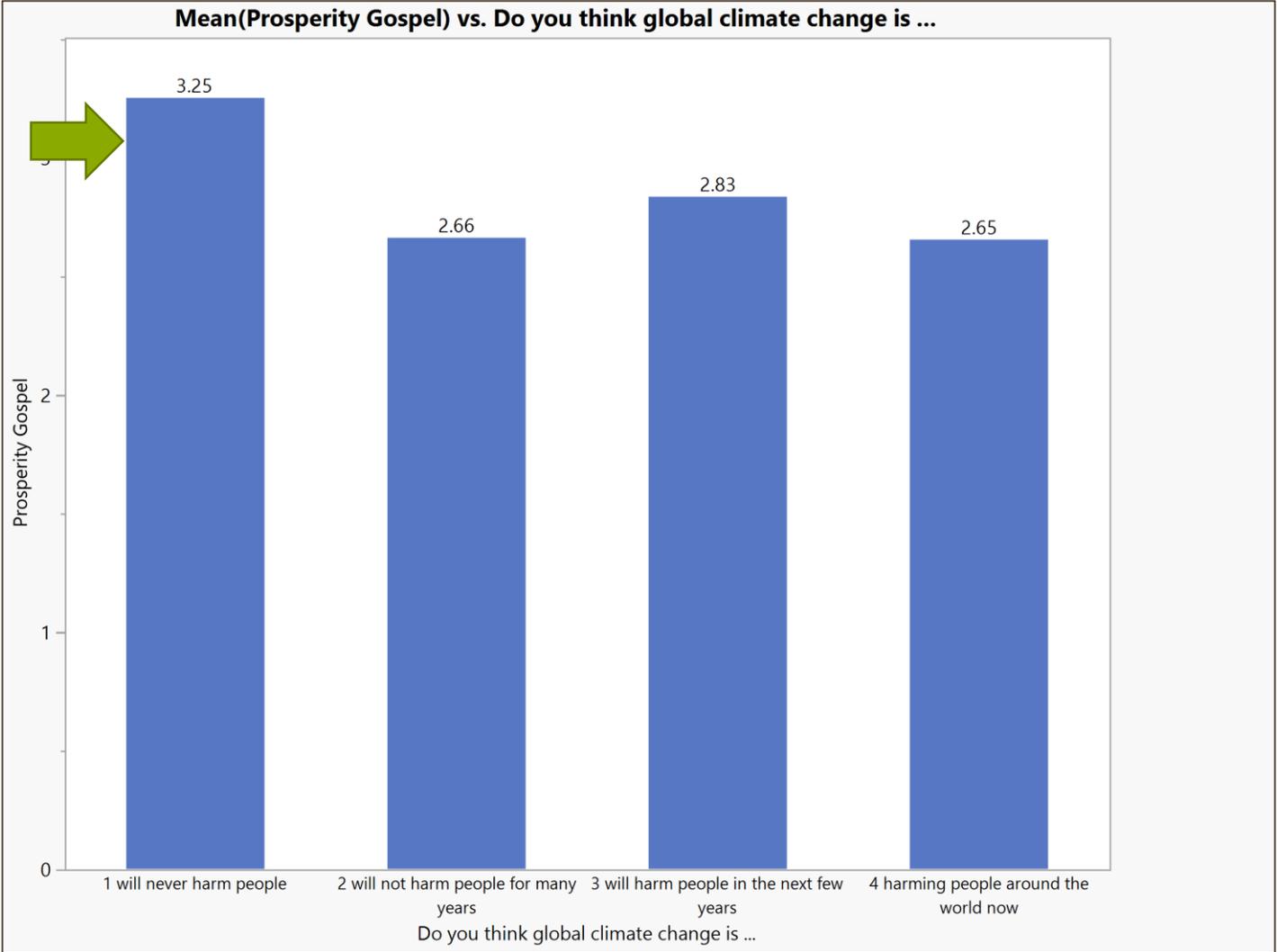
# Many lay people do not know what Paris Accord is



# More Christian Nationalism → don't support Paris Accord

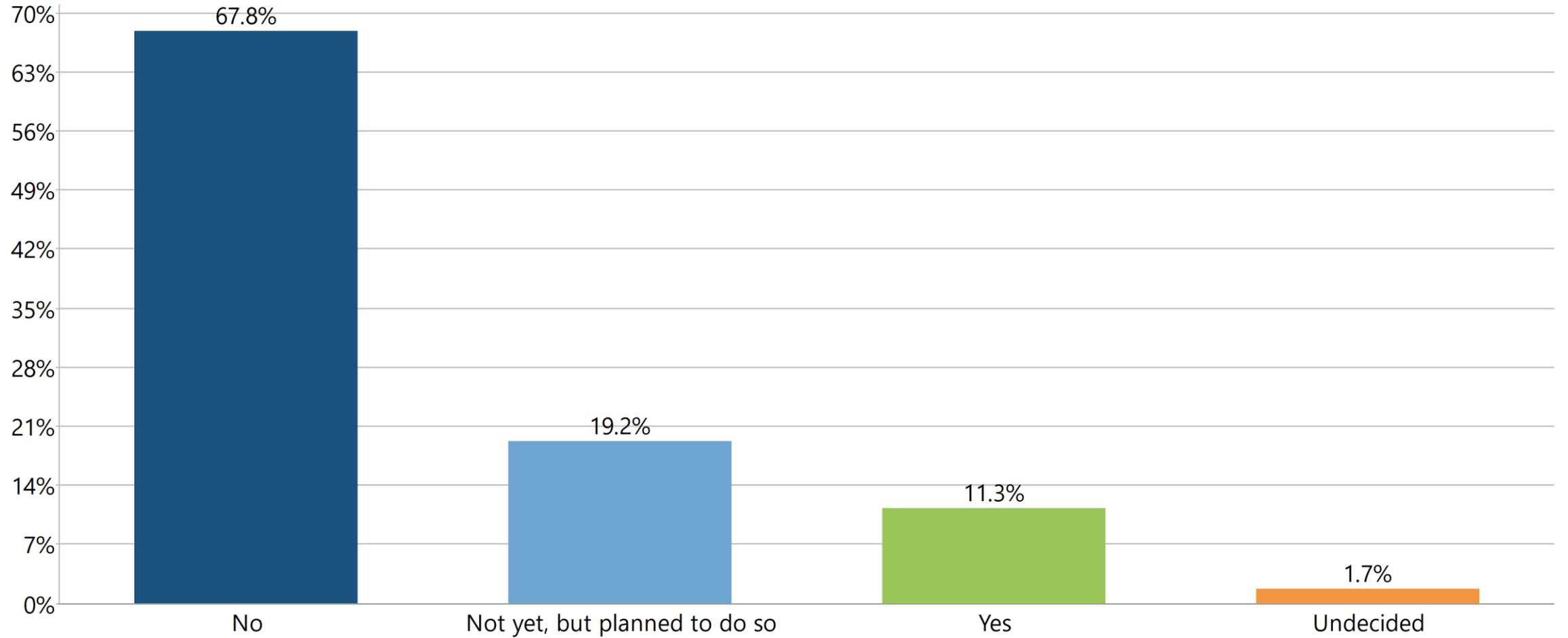


# More prosperity gospel → less concerned



- Christian nationalism and prosperity gospel are inversely related to concerns for climate change.
- Christian leaders who subscribe to the preceding theology tend to be less concerned with climate change and opposed to the Paris Accord.
- It is alarming that most laypeople do not know what the Paris Accord is.
- We need to educate both Christian leaders and laypeople.

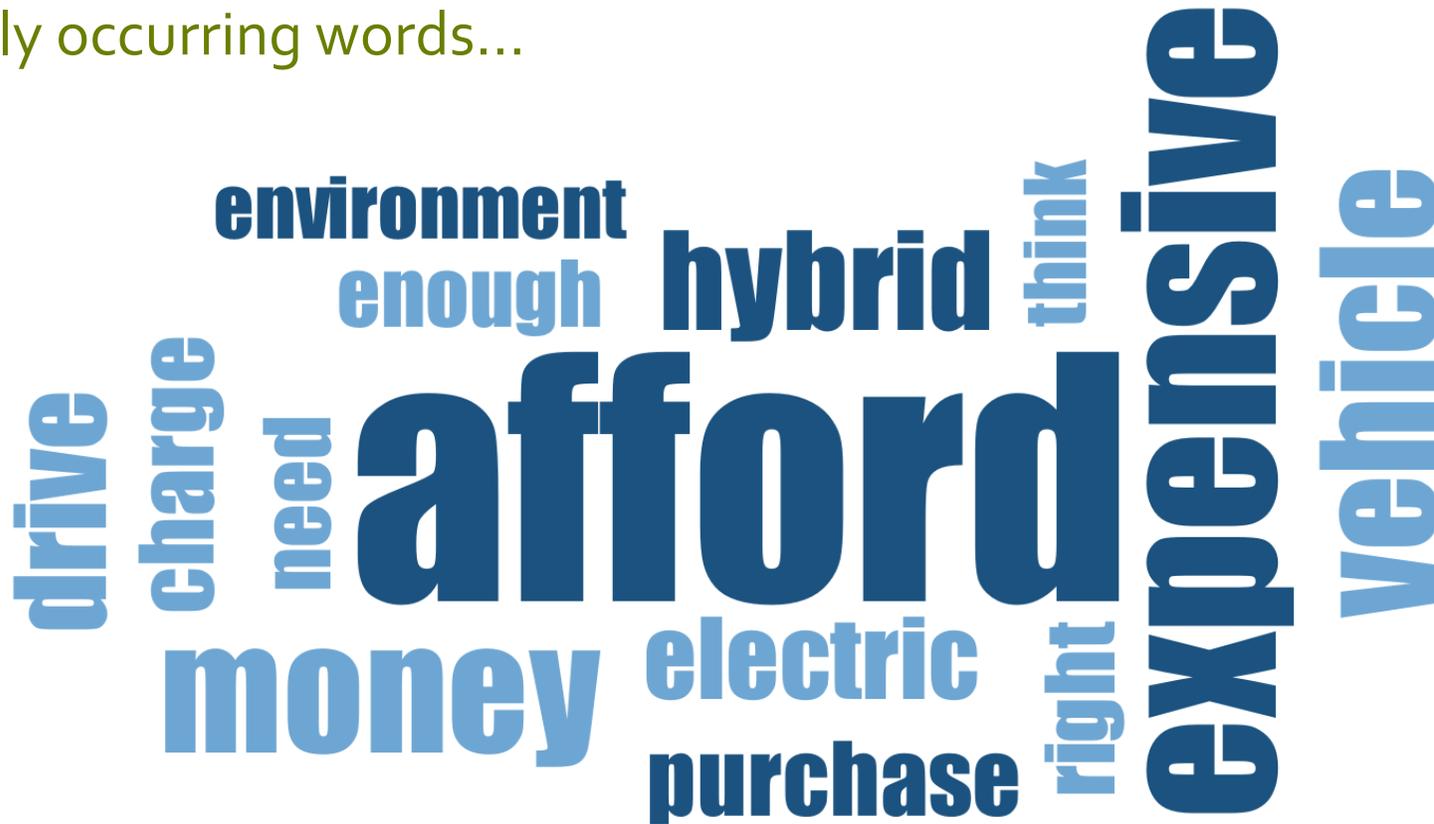
## Do you have a hybrid, electric or hydrogen-powered car?



# MAXQDA Analysis using *MAXDictio*

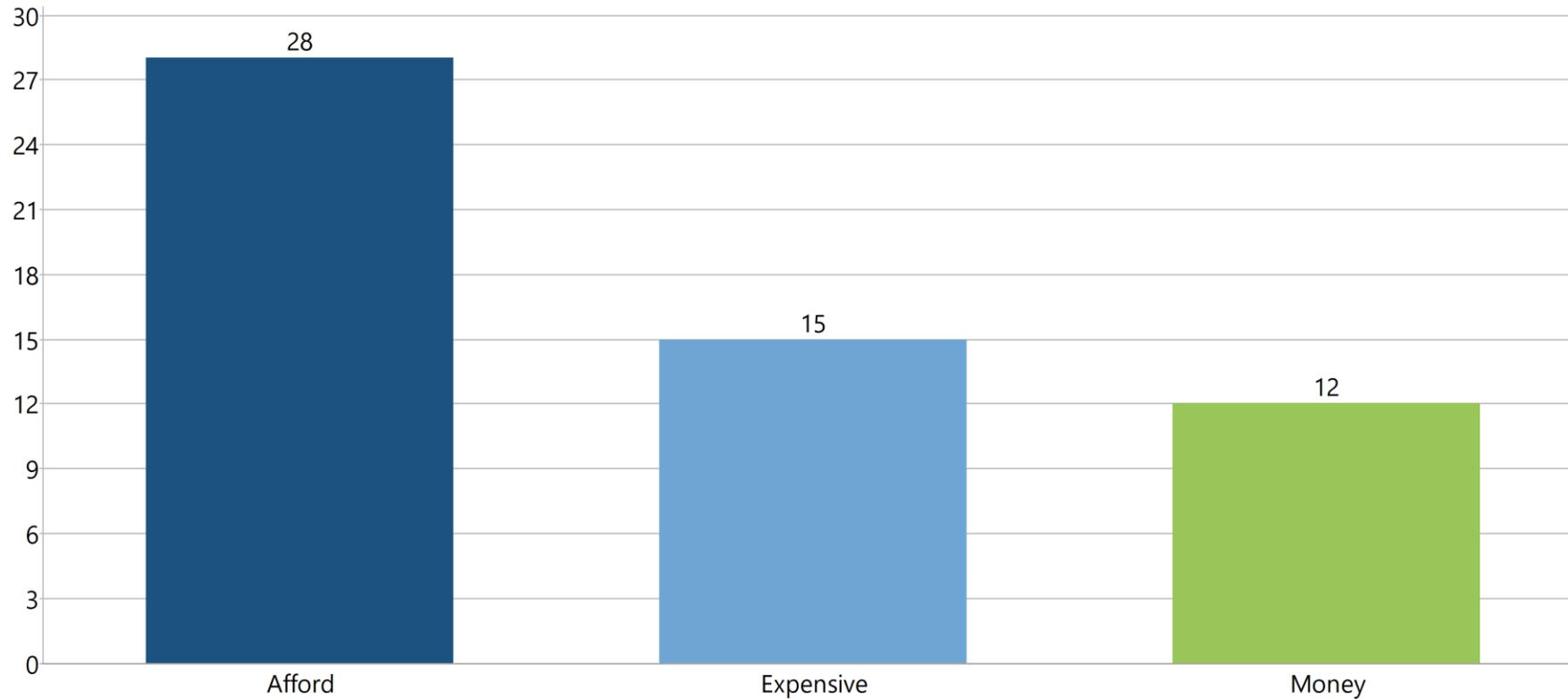
For the survey question “Do you have a hybrid, electric or hydrogen-powered car?”

Most frequently occurring words...

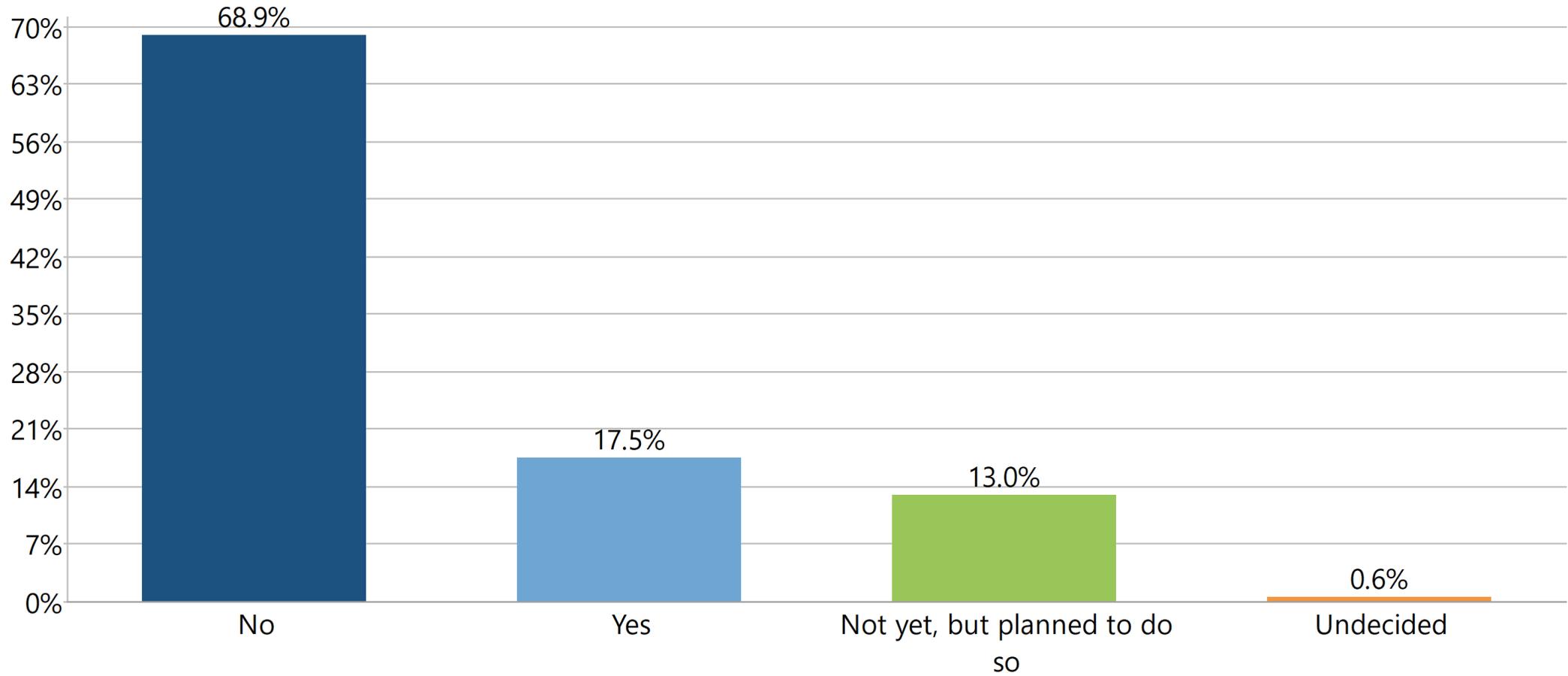


# MAXQDA Analysis using *MAXDictio*

## Code Frequencies for the Top 3 Words



## Did you install solar panel at your home?



# MAXQDA Analysis using *MAXDictio*

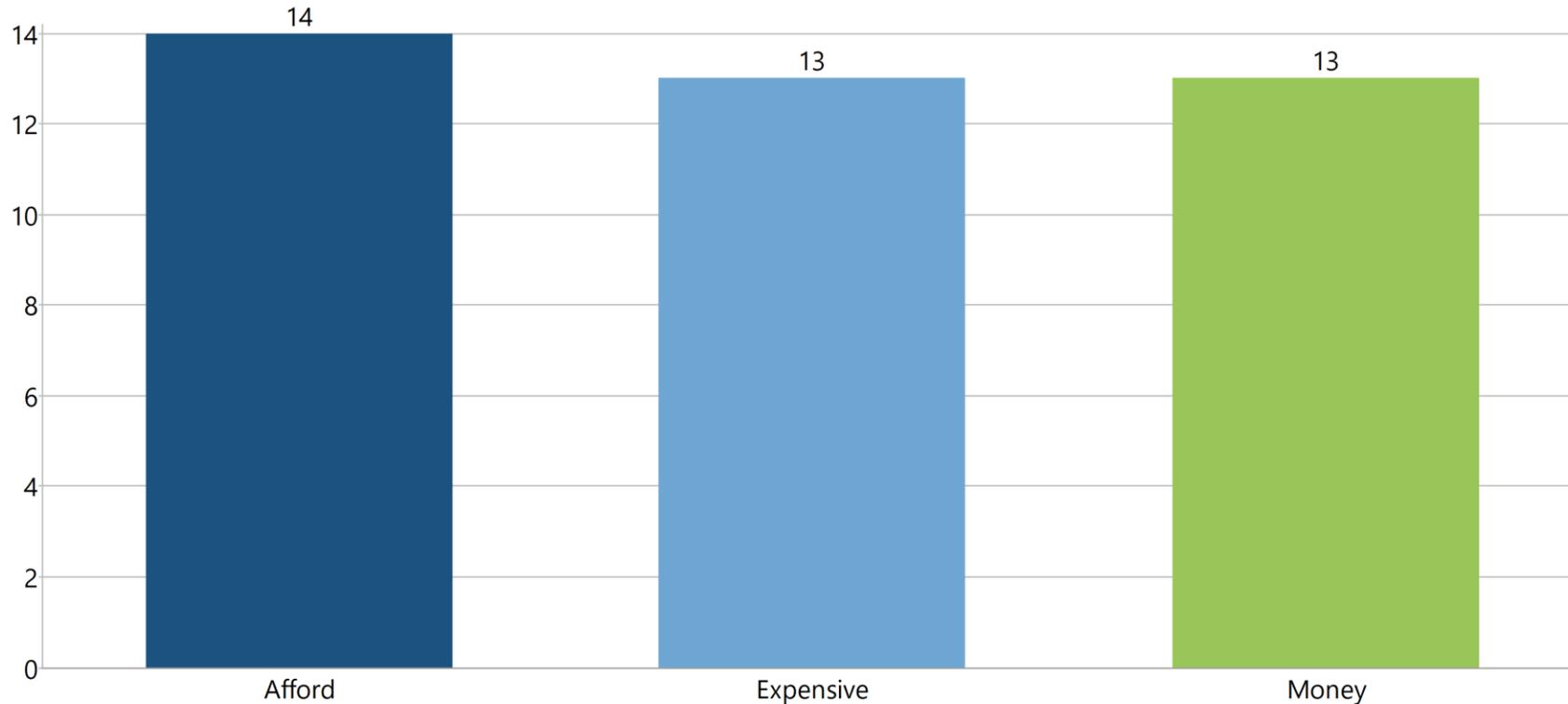
For the survey question “Did you install solar panel in your home?”

Most frequently occurring words...



# MAXQDA Analysis using *MAXDictio*

## Code Frequencies for the Top 3 Words\*



\*Excluded words from question: solar, panel, and install.

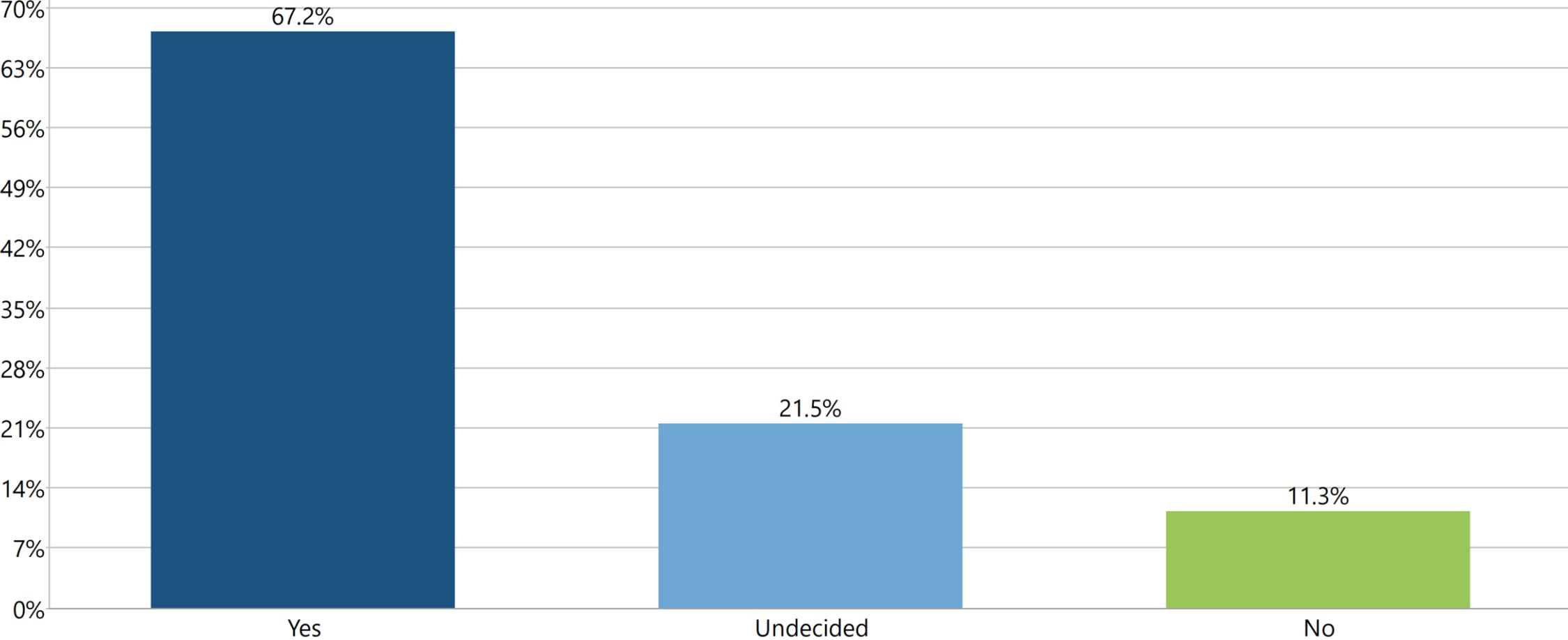
Qualitative data suggests that for those who do not have a hybrid or alternative-energy vehicle, cost seems to be a common factor

	No	Not yet, but planned to ...	Undecided	Yes
✓  Please explain your answer to "alternative energy cars".	68.2%	18.5%	1.7%	11.6%
Money	58.3%	33.3%		8.3%
Expensive	80.0%	13.3%	6.7%	
Afford	78.6%	17.9%		3.6%
# N = Documents	120 (67.8%)	34 (19.2%)	3 (1.7%)	20 (11.3%)

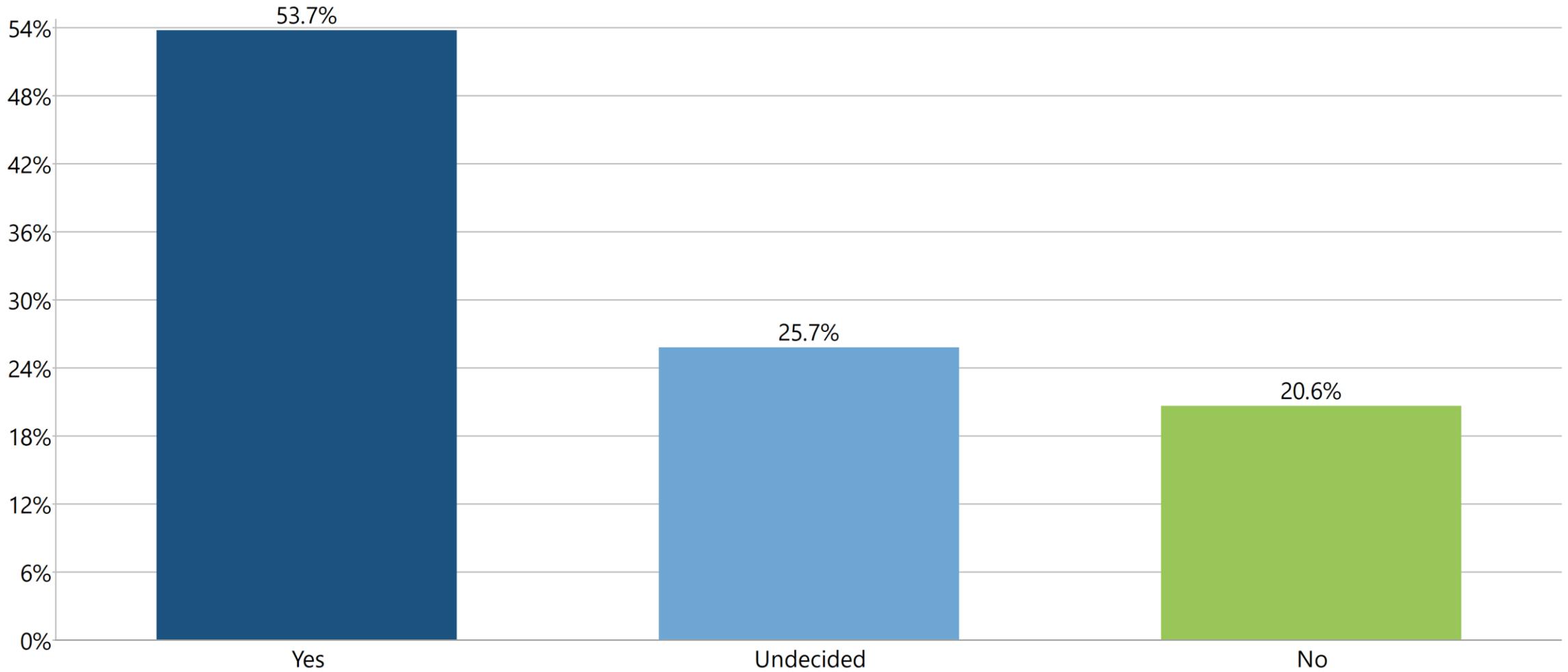
Similar for "solar panel"...

	No	Not yet, but planned to do...	Undecided	Yes
✓  Please explain your answer to "solar panel".	69.5%	12.1%	0.6%	17.8%
Money	46.2%	15.4%		38.5%
Expensive	92.3%	7.7%		
Afford	78.6%	14.3%		7.1%
# N = Documents	122 (68.9%)	23 (13.0%)	1 (0.6%)	31 (17.5%)

# Do you trust science in general?

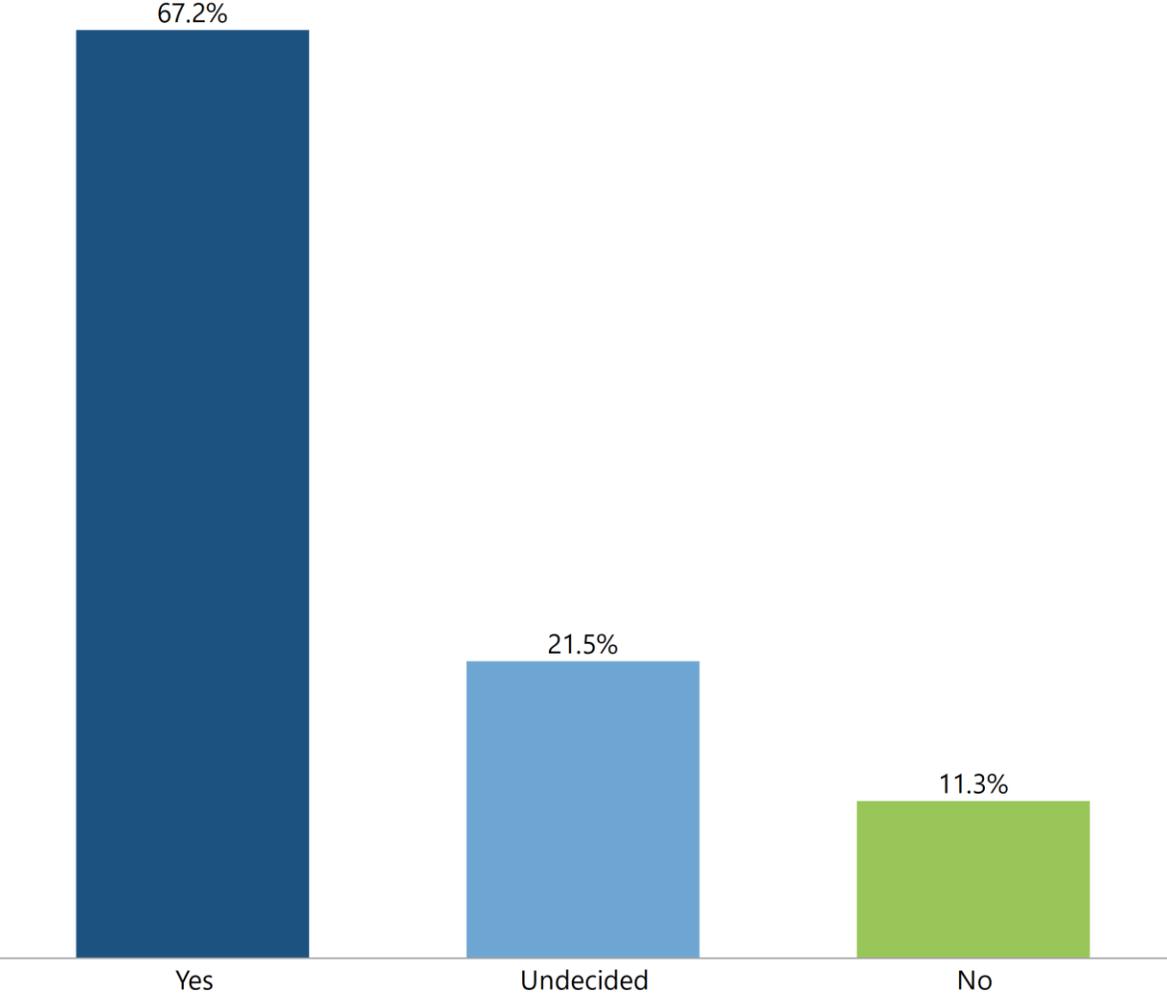


## Do you trust climate scientists in general?

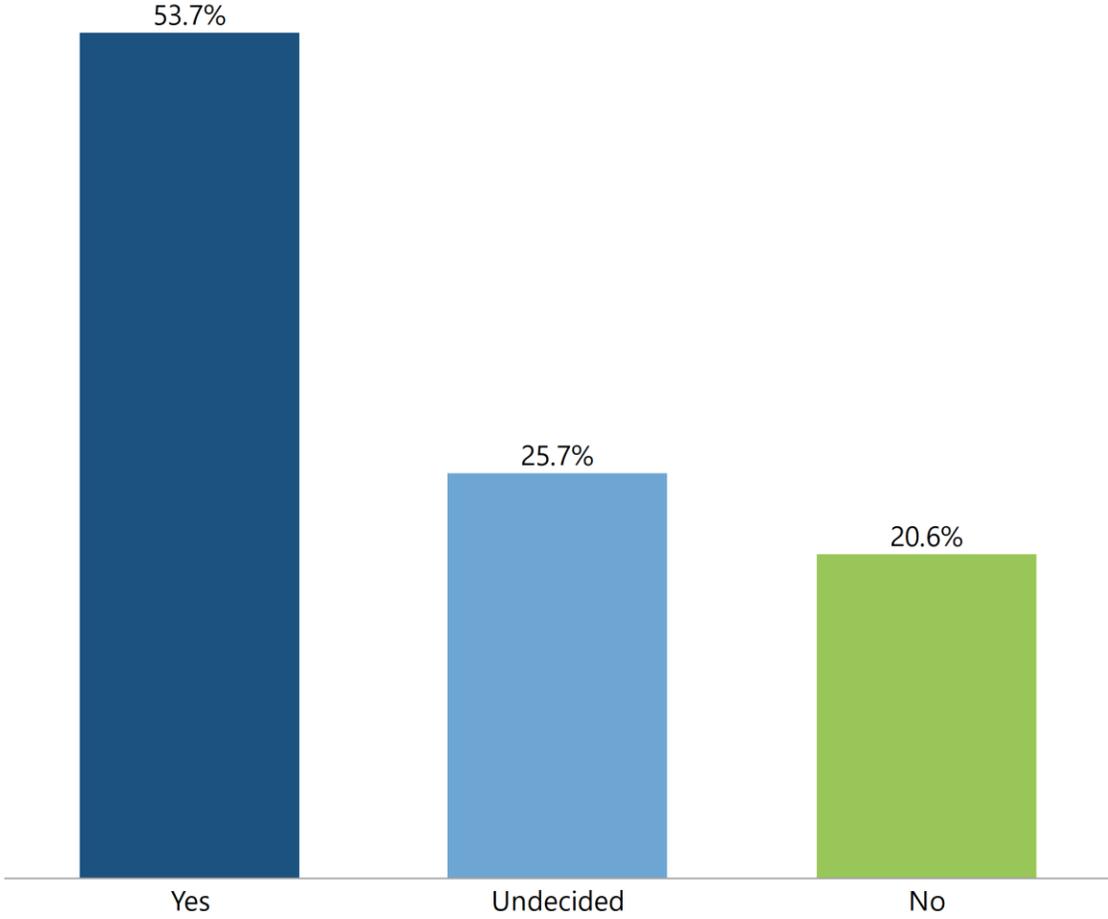


# Data suggests that respondents are treating **science** and **climate science** differently.

**Do you trust science in general?**



**Do you trust climate scientists in general?**



Quantitative data from the survey and qualitative data from open-ended questions suggest...

- 1) The majority of respondents are not yet using alternative-energy vehicles nor solar panels
- 2) The main reason appear to be cost (money, expensive, afford).
- 3) Respondents are treating **science** and **climate science** differently.

# Bibliography

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