

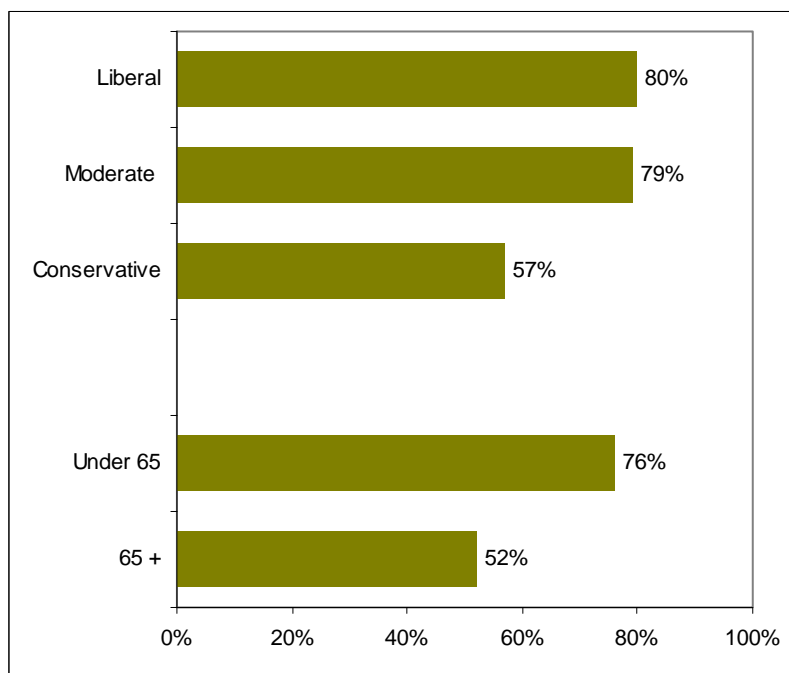


LONG ISLAND INDEX SURVEY CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY ISSUES Spring 2008

Pervasive Belief in Climate Change but Fewer See Direct Personal Consequences

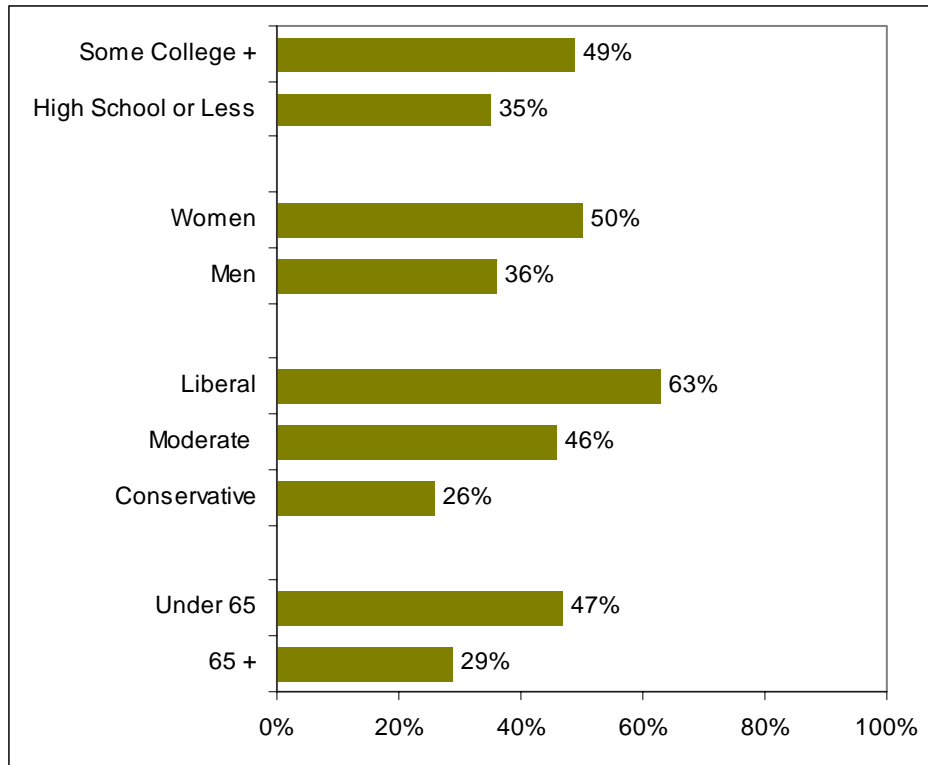
There is broad agreement among Long Islanders that global warming has already begun to happen; almost 3 in 4 local residents believe this. An additional 12% believe that global warming will happen within their lifetime. Very few residents (6%) believe that global warming will *never* happen. The belief that global warming is already happening is widespread across all age groups with the exception of seniors. A bare majority (52%) of those aged 65 and older believe this; 27% of seniors think that global warming will never happen or will not happen within their lifetime. There are few other differences in this belief by income, education level or gender. Perhaps not surprisingly acceptance of current global warming varies with political ideology; more than 3 in 4 liberals (80%) say it is happening now where as a bare majority of conservatives (57%) believe this.

Believe Global Warming/Climate Change is Happening (Q01)



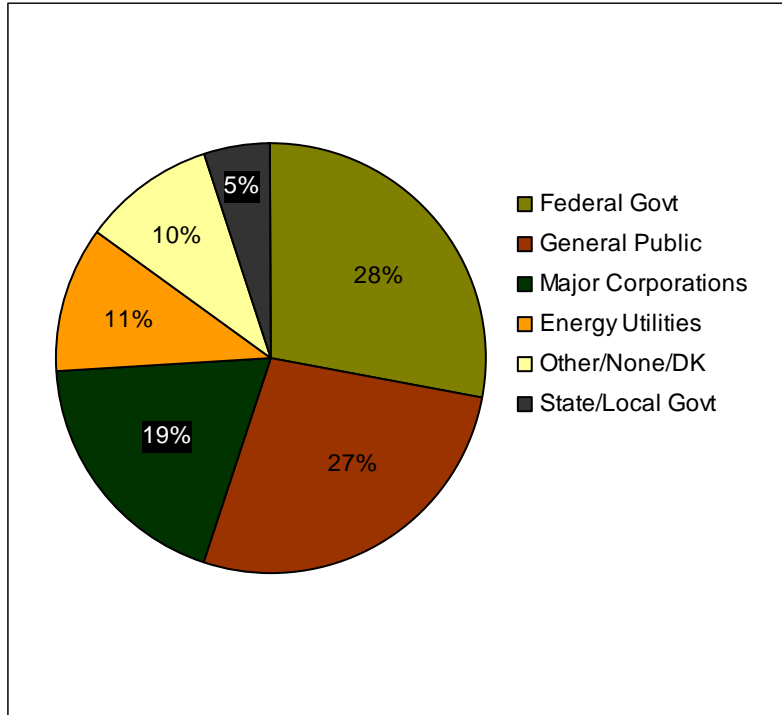
Despite the widespread sense that global warming has arrived, fewer individuals believe it will pose a threat to their way of life in their lifetime. A bare majority (51%) believe this overall. Once again, seniors are especially skeptical that they will be personally affected. Roughly 1 in 3 Long Islanders aged 65 or older think their lifestyle will be affected but 65% do not. Men are also much less likely to believe that they will be personally affected (36%) by climate change than do women (50%). In fact, a majority of women say they will be personally affected by global warming whereas a majority of men say they will remain unaffected. Less well educated individuals are also less inclined than the better educated to see any personal impact of global warming. Conservatives are especially likely to reject its personal impact.

Believe Global Warming Will Pose a Threat to Self or Lifestyle (Q02)



Who Can Affect Climate Change?

There is no clear consensus on who can do the most to affect climate change. Long Islanders spread the responsibility equally among the federal government (28%), the general public (27%), and major corporations (19%). Many fewer local residents believe state and local government (5%) or gas and electric utilities (11%) can affect climate change. Interestingly, there are few ideological differences in who is seen as capable of affecting climate change. Almost 1 in 4 conservatives believe the federal government can do the most to affect climate change; this is only slightly higher among liberals (34%).



Efforts to Conserve Energy

Electronic Equipment. Long Islanders report engaging in a number of activities designed to conserve energy use. When asked how often they turn off computers, monitors and other electronic equipment when not in use, 48% say they do this always and another 30% say they do it most of the time. A majority of local residents thus report turning on electronic equipment only when necessary. There are interesting age differences in this behavior. Among Long Islanders aged 18 to 34, only 37% say they always turn off their equipment when not in use compared to 57% of those aged 65 and older. Such behavior is also more common among members of low (under \$35,000) than high (over \$100,000) income households and in households with no children under the age of 18. Perhaps the more frequent use of electronic equipment by young adults and children results in a tendency to leave equipment on even when not in use.

Reset Thermostat. Almost all Long Islanders report that they have reset their thermostats down for the winter or up for the summer over the last several years in order to save

energy. This practice is somewhat less common among those aged between 18 and 34 (73%) and most common among those aged between 35 and 64 (90-92%). Women are somewhat more likely to have done this than men (91% vs. 81%). Renters are also somewhat less likely to have adjusted their thermostats (76%) than homeowners (89%). There are no income or education differences, however, in the tendency to alter thermostat settings.

Light Bulbs. Almost three-quarters (74%) of Long Islanders have replaced some traditional light bulbs in their home with energy efficient ones, and of those who have changed some bulbs 58% say they have changed most of the bulbs in their home. This means that almost one in four local residents (41%) have changed most of their light bulbs to those that are energy efficient. This practice was somewhat more common among those aged between 35 and 64 than younger or older residents. It was also more common among members of the most affluent households; 81% of residents in households with incomes of \$100,000 or more had changed at least some bulbs compared to 68% of those in households earning \$35,000 or less. Homeowners (76%) were more likely than renters (60%) to have changed at least some bulbs. Only 43% of those without a high school degree have changed any of their bulbs suggesting that education may increase some conservation practices.

Various Forms of Insulation. Over two-thirds of Long Islanders said they had added or replaced insulation, installed new windows, covered the water heater, or done something else to save energy in the last several years. This type of activity increased more dramatically than other energy conservation steps with household income. 50% of those in households with an income of \$35,000 or less had taken one of these steps compared to 80% of those in households earning \$100,000 or more. Similar differences were observed between individuals with less and more education; better educated residents were more likely to have taken such steps to better insulate their home. Only 36% of renters had taken such steps compared to 75% of homeowners. And attempts to better insulate their home were more common among adults with at least one child at home under the age of 18. Of those who had not done anything to improve their insulation, few (16%) had actively investigated the cost of such changes by obtaining a quote for this kind of work.

Energy Efficient Behaviors

	%
<i>Always turn off electronic equipment (Q03)</i>	48%
<i>Reset thermostat in last several years (Q04)</i>	87%
<i>Changed any light bulbs to energy efficient (Q05)</i>	74%
<i>Changed most bulbs to energy efficient (Q06)</i>	41%
<i>New insulation, windows, cover water heater (Q07)</i>	67%

Gas Usage

Just over a third (35%) of Long Islanders drive a large vehicle such as an SUV, van, minivan or truck for their personal use. A similar percentage (38%) drive a medium-sized car such as a station wagon or sedan. And roughly 20%, or 1 in 5, report driving a compact car (16%), hybrid (0.5%), or sports car (4%). When asked what type of vehicle they are considering for their next purchase, preferences are more evenly split among large, medium-size and compact or hybrid. Roughly a third of those planning to buy a car and know what they will buy pick one of these three types. This represents something of an increase in the number of residents considering the purchase of a small vehicle. There is a clear increase in the number of people contemplating the purchase of a hybrid (up from 0.5% currently to 9%). Political liberals, the most affluent, and those with a college degree are most likely to consider the future purchase of a hybrid. Still, that leaves roughly two-third of drivers preferring something other than a small, fuel-efficient automobile.

Current and Future Personal Automobile Preference (Q9 & Q10)

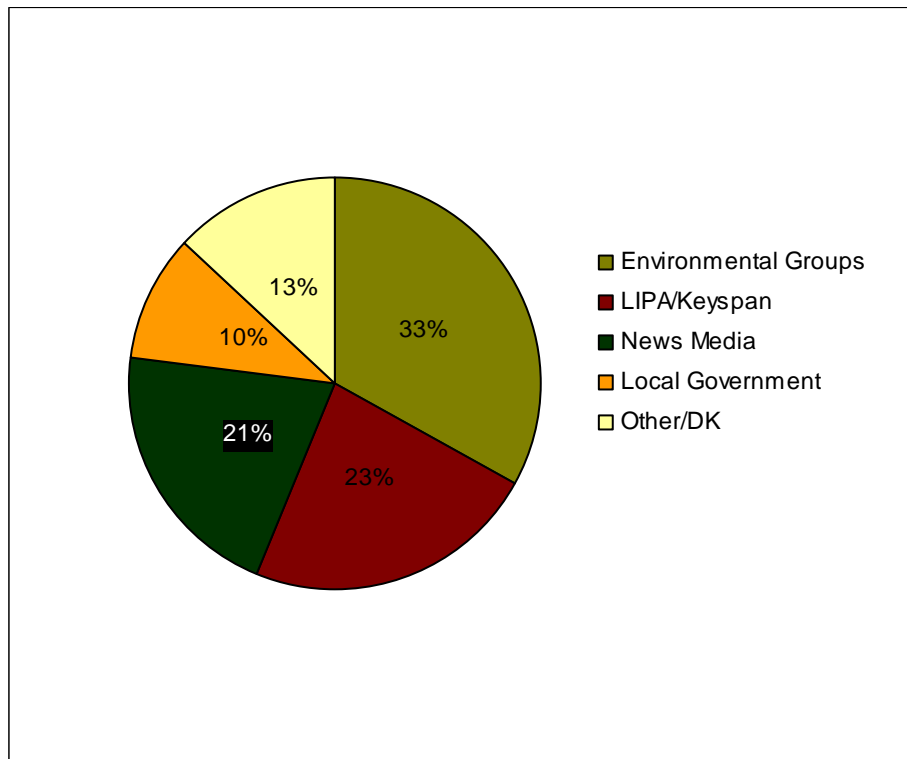
	Current (%)	Next Purchase (%)
SUV, Pick-up truck, van, mini-van	35%	25%
Sedan, station wagon	37%	24%
Compact, Hybrid, sports car	21%	25%
Don't drive, not planning to buy, don't know	7%	19%

Energy Efficient Appliances

Over 90% of Long Islanders say they would choose an energy efficient appliance over a less efficient model that costs less. This preference exists at all levels of household income and education.

Energy Utilities

Information about Personal Behavior and Climate Change. When asked to whom they would most likely turn for information about climate change, a third chose non-profit environmental groups, followed by roughly a quarter (23%) who picked LIPA or Keyspan, and 21% who picked the news media. Fewer than 10% chose local government. Reliance on different sources of information varied somewhat with age. Younger residents under the age of 35 were more likely than older individuals to turn to LIPA than to environmental groups. Members of the least affluent households, and those without a high school education were also more likely to turn to LIPA than to other sources.



A majority of Long Islanders (54%) said they had read something sent by LIPA or on the LIPA web site on how to save energy costs. Obtaining information from LIPA about how to cut energy costs was least common among those under the age of 35 (33%), renters (39%), and those without a high school degree.

Support for Local Legislation on Energy Efficient Homes. Eight in ten local residents support local legislation to require all new homes to be energy efficient. More than half (52%) support this strongly. There is somewhat less support for this legislation among members of households earning under \$35,000 (63%) compared to more affluent households (upwards of 80% for households earning over \$35,000), among young people (71%), and renters (73%) when compared to home owners (84%). Slightly lower levels of support among these groups may reflect concerns that such legislation would increase

the price of new homes. But such legislation is popular among Long Islanders overall, including among political conservatives (75%).

Willing to Pay More for Renewable Energy. Long Islanders were split over whether or not they would be willing to pay more to LIPA to develop large scale renewable energy sources that would slow down the rate of global climate change. Forty-six percent said yes compared to 47% who said no. There was a clear age preference in this difference: 56% of those under the age of 35 supported a price increase compared to 38% of those aged 65 and older. Only 32% of members of households earning less than \$35,000 supported a price increase compared to 57% of those in the most affluent households earning \$100,000 or more. A greater percentage of political liberals (57%) than conservatives (37%) would pay more to LIPA for the development of renewable energy.

When those who supported paying more to LIPA for renewable energy were asked how much they would be willing to pay, 48% chose between \$5 and \$14 per month (on a scale that ranged from under \$5 to over \$30).

Local Awareness of Global Climate Change with Room for Further Change

Long Islanders believe that global climate change is happening although fewer see it as having an impact on their own lifestyle now or in the future. And local residents have generally taken at least some steps within their home to reduce their use of energy, including resetting thermostats, changing light bulbs, and improving insulation. Long Islanders support the purchase of somewhat more expensive energy efficient appliances. There is even some willingness to pay more in local utility bills for the development of renewable energy sources (although residents are divided on this). There is still room for improvement, however, especially among younger residents who are the most likely to believe that climate change will affect them personally but often are the least likely to engage in energy saving practices. Price may also affect local residents' ability to make some changes such as improving insulation and changing light bulbs which were less common in the least affluent households. Perhaps the major problem confronting the region is vehicle preference. Despite concerns about global warming and changes in behaviors at home, a majority of Long Islanders continue to drive medium-sized and large automobiles, with no major change apparent in the near future. It is difficult to know what, if anything, will change this preference given that it persists in the face of escalating prices at the gas pump. All in all, local residents are aware of global warming, are engaged in practices at home to conserve energy at home, but continue to drive large and medium sized vehicles.

METHODOLOGY

The Stony Brook University Center for Survey Research conducted this survey by telephone between February 7 and March 2, 2008. A list-assisted method of random-digit-dialing (RDD) was used to obtain phone numbers in the sample. Within selected households, individuals 18 years and over were selected at random for participation. Up to 5 contact attempts were made at various times of the day and week for each household phone number. In order to assure a representative sample, all households and individuals who initially were not willing to participate in the survey were contacted again, and an attempt was made to persuade them to participate.

A total of 853 interviews were conducted in the general population of Long Island, with 417 completed interviews with residents of Nassau County and 436 completed interviews with residents of Suffolk County.

The results for Nassau and Suffolk Counties were tabulated both separately and jointly. Margin of error for the Long Island sample is +/- 3.4%.

The results were weighted on gender, age, educational attainment, Hispanic/Latino origin and race/ethnicity, based on the 2005 U.S. Census American Community Survey county level data. Weighting was done using an iterative process that has been developed to estimate joint weights for any number of demographic variables for which population percentages are known only individually, not jointly.

INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling from the Center for Survey Research.

We are conducting a survey of Long Island residents regarding their opinions on several important issues facing Long Islanders today. I would like to speak to the person in your household who is 18 years of age or older and who had the most recent birthday. Is that you?

This survey is funded by several Long Island based organizations, and only takes about 10 minutes to complete. We will skip over any questions you don't want to answer, and all answers will be kept confidential. You do not have to participate in this study if you do not want to.

With your permission, let's begin.

Question Q01

Do you think that the effects of global warming...

RESPONDENTS	853 %
	Nassau/Suffolk
Have already begun to happen	72
Will start happening within a few years	3
Will start happening within your lifetime	9
Will not happen within your lifetime	7
Will never happen	6
Don't know	4
Refused	0

[Note: Due to rounding, the numbers may not add up to 100%]

Question Q02

Do you think that global warming will pose a threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Yes	43
No	51
Don't know	6
Refused	0

Question Q03

Which group do you think can do the most to impact climate change?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Major corporations	19
Gas and electric utilities	11
General public	27
Federal government in Washington	28
State and Local Government	5
Other/None	6
Don't know	4
Refused	1

Question Q04

How often do you turn off your computer, monitor and other electronic appliances when they are not in use?

	Nassau/Suffolk
All of the time	48
Most of the time	30
Some of the time	13
Never, or almost never	9
Don't know	0
Refused	0

Question Q05

In the last several years, have you reset your thermostat down for the winter, or up for the summer in order to save energy?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Yes	86
No	13
Don't know	1
Refused	0

Question Q06

Have you changed any of the traditional light bulbs in your home to the new energy efficient type?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Yes	74
No	25
Don't know / Refused	0

Q06a asked only respondents who answered 'yes' to Q06.

Question Q06a

How many of your light bulbs are energy efficient? Would you say:

	Nassau/Suffolk
Most	58
Some	29
A few	14
Don't know / Refused	0

Question Q07

In the last several years, have you replaced or added insulation to your home, installed new windows, covered the water heater, or done anything else to save energy?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Yes	67
No	29
Don't own home	4
Don't know	1
Refused	0

Q08 asked only respondents who answered 'no' to Q07.

Question Q08

Have you actively looked into installing better insulation in your home, by talking to a tradesperson or obtaining quotes for this kind of work?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Yes	16
No	78
Don't know	6
Refused	1

Question Q09

Which of the following best describes the type of vehicle that you drive most often for your personal use?

	Nassau/Suffolk
SUV (sports utility vehicle)	22
Sedan	36
Sports car	4
Compact car	16
Pickup truck	3
Mini-van	8
Full sized van	2
Station wagon	1
Hybrid	1
Don't drive	7
Don't know / Refused	0

Question Q10

What type of vehicle are you considering for you next automobile purchase?

	Nassau/Suffolk
SUV (sports utility vehicle)	17
Sedan	25
Sports car	4
Compact car	14
Pickup truck	4
Mini-van	5
Full sized van	1
Station wagon	1
Hybrid	10
Don't own car / don't intend to purchase	13
Don't know	7
Refused	0

Question Q11

If you are purchasing an appliance and have a choice of models, would you choose...
 a standard model that costs less now but will have higher electric bills OR
 a more energy-efficient option that costs more now but will save you money over time?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Standard model that costs less now	5
Energy efficient model that costs more now	92
Don't know	2
Refused	1

Question Q12

From which of the following sources would you be MOST LIKELY to seek help or information to learn what you can do PERSONALLY to minimize climate change?

	Nassau/Suffolk
LIPA or Keyspan (National Grid)	23
Local government	10
Non-profit groups focusing on the environment and energy concerns	33
News media	21
Other, please specify	5
Will not seek information	1
Don't know	7
Refused	1

Question Q13

Have you read anything that LIPA has sent in the mail or gone to the LIPA web site to get information on how Long Islanders can save energy and cut their electricity bills?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Yes	54
No	46
Don't know	1
Refused	0

Question Q14

A number of local governments on Long Island have passed legislation requiring all new homes to be energy efficient. This typically increases the cost of a new home by \$2,000 to \$4,000 but makes the house 30% more energy efficient, on average. To what extent do you support or oppose this type of legislation? Do you ...

	Nassau/Suffolk
Strongly support	52
Somewhat support	30
Somewhat oppose	6
Strongly oppose	7
Don't know	4
Refused	1

Question Q15

Would you be willing to pay more each month in electricity bills if LIPA used these extra funds to develop LARGE SCALE renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power, which would slow down the rate of global climate change?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Yes	46
No	47
Don't pay electricity bills	1
Don't know	5
Refused	1

Q16a asked only respondents who answered 'yes' to Q15.

Question Q16a

How much would you be willing to pay per month?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Under \$5	16
\$5 - \$9	25
\$10 - \$14	23
\$15 - \$19	6
\$20 - \$30	20
Over \$30	7
Don't know	4
Refused	0

DEMOGRAPHICS

Now, I have some questions about your background. I want to assure you that all your responses are completely confidential and will only be used to report group averages.

Question Q21

Finally, I just have a few questions about your background. I want to assure you that all your responses are completely confidential and will only be used to report group averages.

In general, when it comes to politics, do you think of yourself as a Liberal, a Moderate, or a Conservative?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Liberal	26
Moderate	33
Conservative	28
Other	3
Don't know	7
Refused	2

Question Q22

In what year were you born?

[INTERVIEWER: Must be born BEFORE 1990]

[Open-ended question, with recoded responses]

	Nassau/Suffolk
18 to 34	25
35 to 49	31
50 to 64	27
65 +	17
Refused	0

Question Q23

Do you own the home you are currently living in, are you renting, or do you have some other arrangement, such as living in the home of a parent, in-laws, or another relative, or somewhere else?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Own	73
Rent	13
Live with parents, in-laws, other relative	11
Other	2
Don't know	0
Refused	2

Question Q24

How many children under the age of 18 are currently living in your household?

	Nassau/Suffolk
None	53
1 or more	47
Refused	1

Question Q25

What is the highest grade of school, year of college or highest degree that you have received?

	Nassau/Suffolk
No High School diploma	8
High School graduate	29
Some college	25
Bachelor's degree or higher	35
Refused	1

Question Q26

Are you currently:

	Nassau/Suffolk
Employed for wages full-time	46
Employed for wages part-time	13
Self-employed	10
Out of work for more than 1 year	1
Out of work for less than 1 year	1

Homemaker	4
Full-time student	3
Retired	18
Unable to work / permanently disabled	3
Refused	1

Question Q27

Which of the following income categories best describes the total 2007 household income of all members of your family living there before taxes. Stop me when I reach your income group.
Was it...

	Nassau/Suffolk
Less than \$35,000	12
\$35,000 to less than \$80,000	26
\$80,000 to less than \$120,000	18
\$120,000 or more	17
Don't know / Refused	26

Question Q28

Are you Hispanic or Latino/Latina?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Yes	12
No	86
Refused	2

Question Q29

Do you consider yourself White, Black, Asian or something else?

	Nassau/Suffolk
White	78
Black/African-American	9
Hispanic/Latino	4
Asian	5
Pacific Islander	0
Native American or Alaskan native	0
Black and another category	1
Refused	3

Question Q30

Are you married; not married but living with a partner; separated; divorced; widowed; or have you never been married?

	Nassau/Suffolk
Married	60
Not married, living with a partner	4
Separated	1
Divorced	7
Widowed	7
Never married	18
Refused	3

Question GENDER

Female
Male

Nassau/Suffolk
51
49