

Survey of the Climate Adaptation Work of US Regions

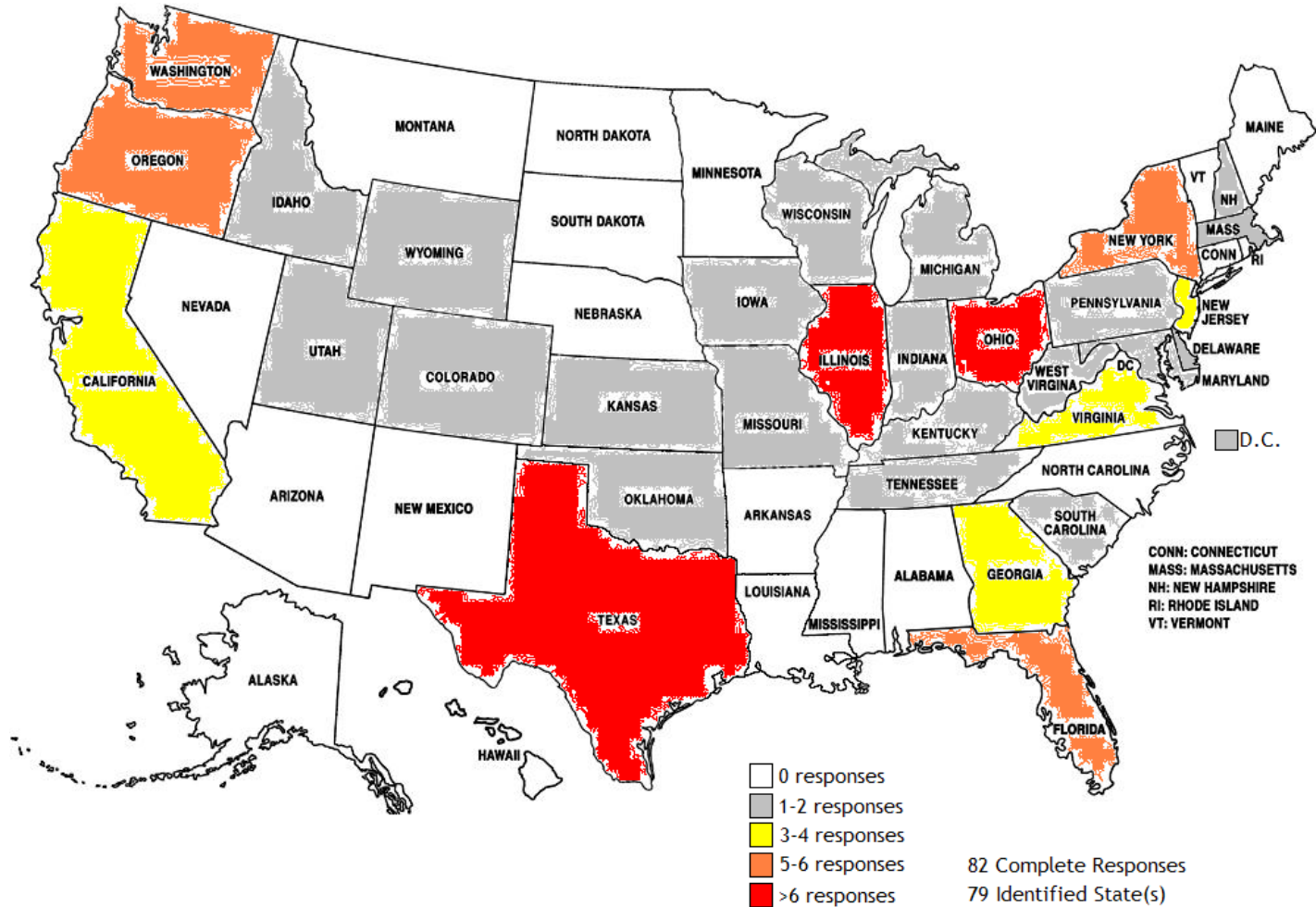
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A research project by NARC and the University of Colorado Denver
funded by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Definitions used in this survey

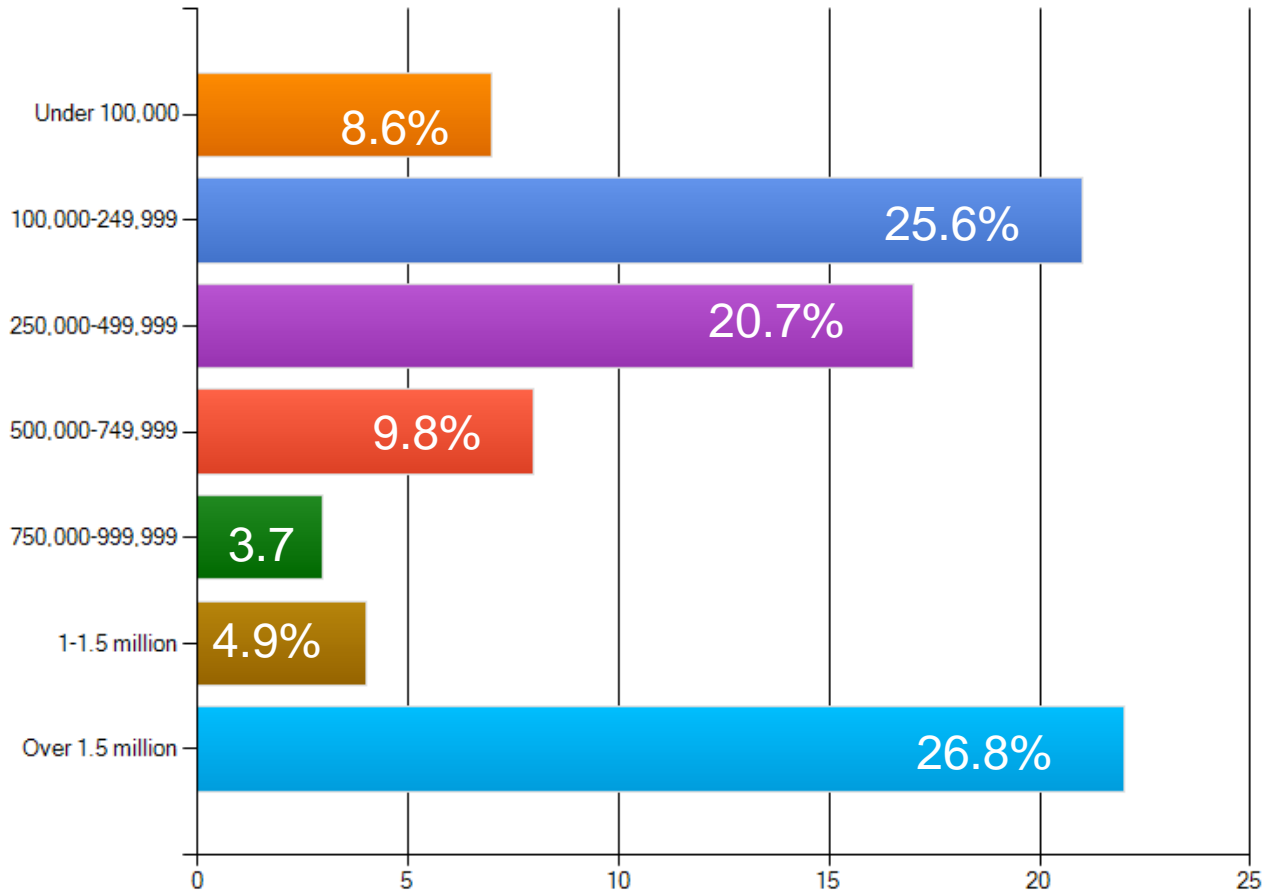
- Climate change refers to long-term changes in weather patterns, such as increased flooding, prolonged periods of drought, long periods of extreme temperature, etc.
- Climate adaptation refers to planning and the implementation of measures designed to proactively prevent the future effects of climate change. [By contrast, mitigation consists of measures designed to reduce current impacts of climate change.]
- Region refers to the jurisdiction that the responding organization serves. The jurisdiction of some regional organizations includes more than one state.

Response Rates by State



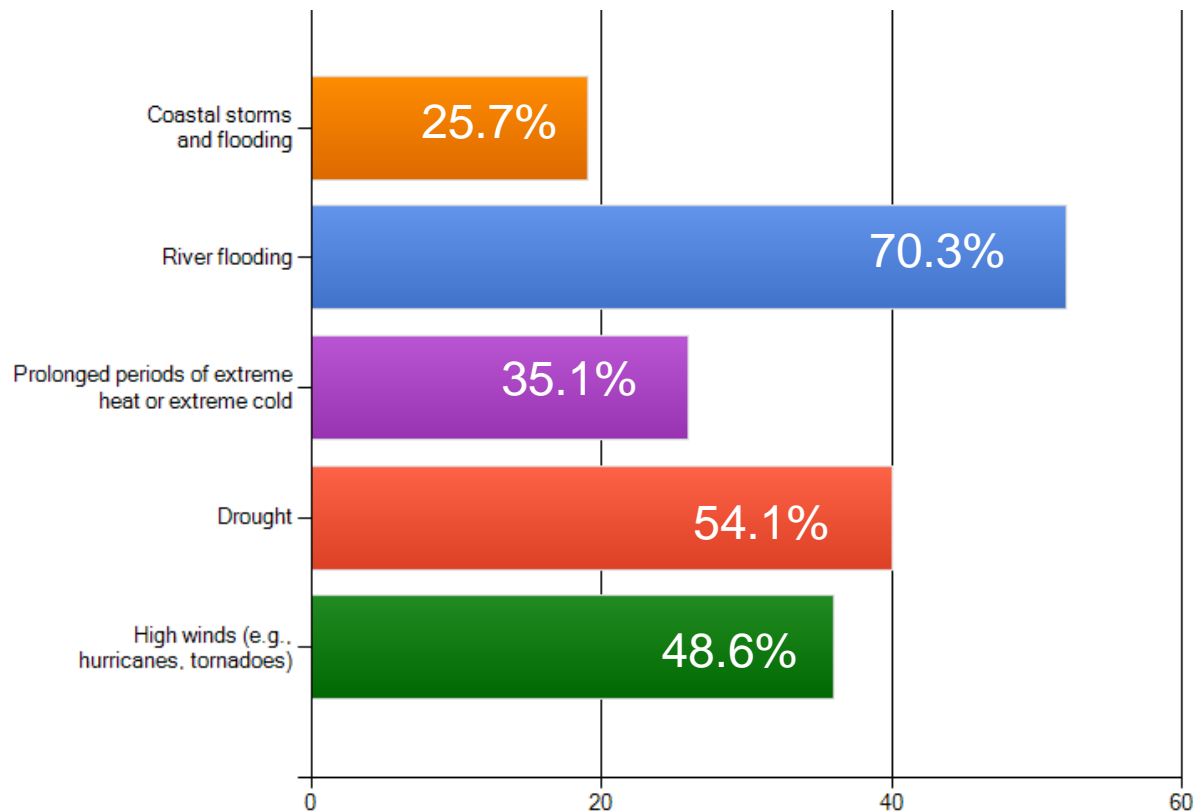
NOTE: for states operating in more than one state, every state in their jurisdiction was counted.

Population of Responding Regions



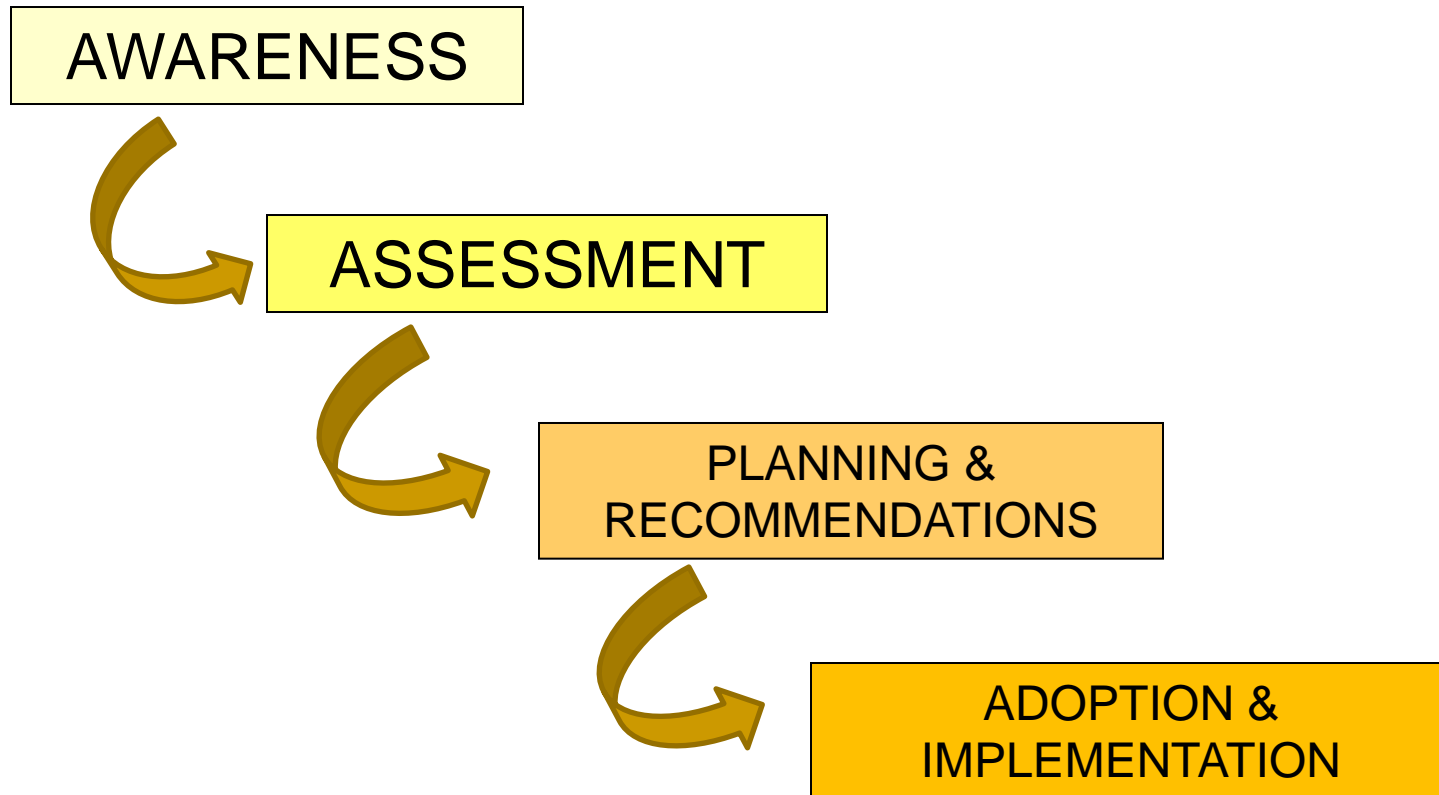
Major Natural Hazards of Responding Regions

Is your region particularly prone to any of the following natural hazards?

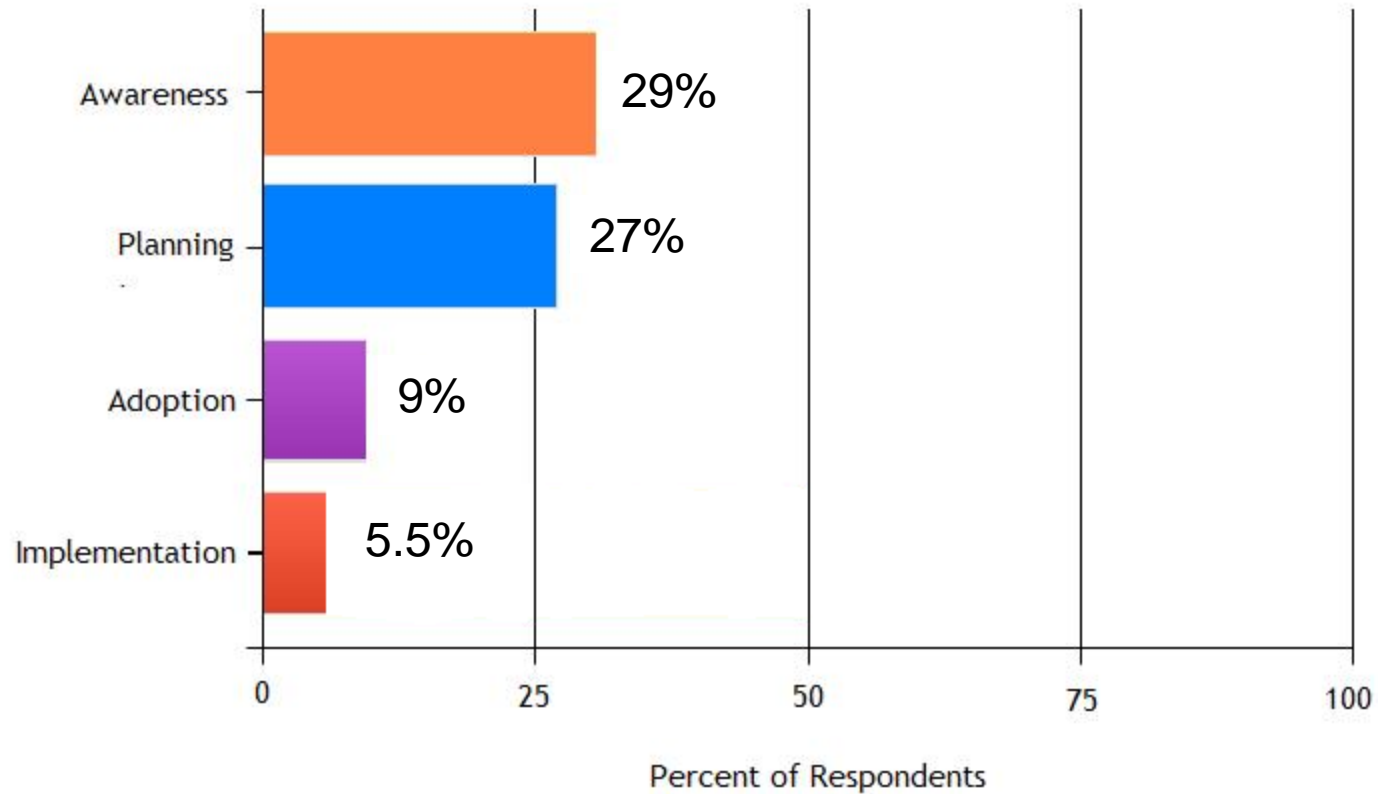


NOTE: more than one answer could be checked.

Stages of Response to the Climate Adaptation Challenge

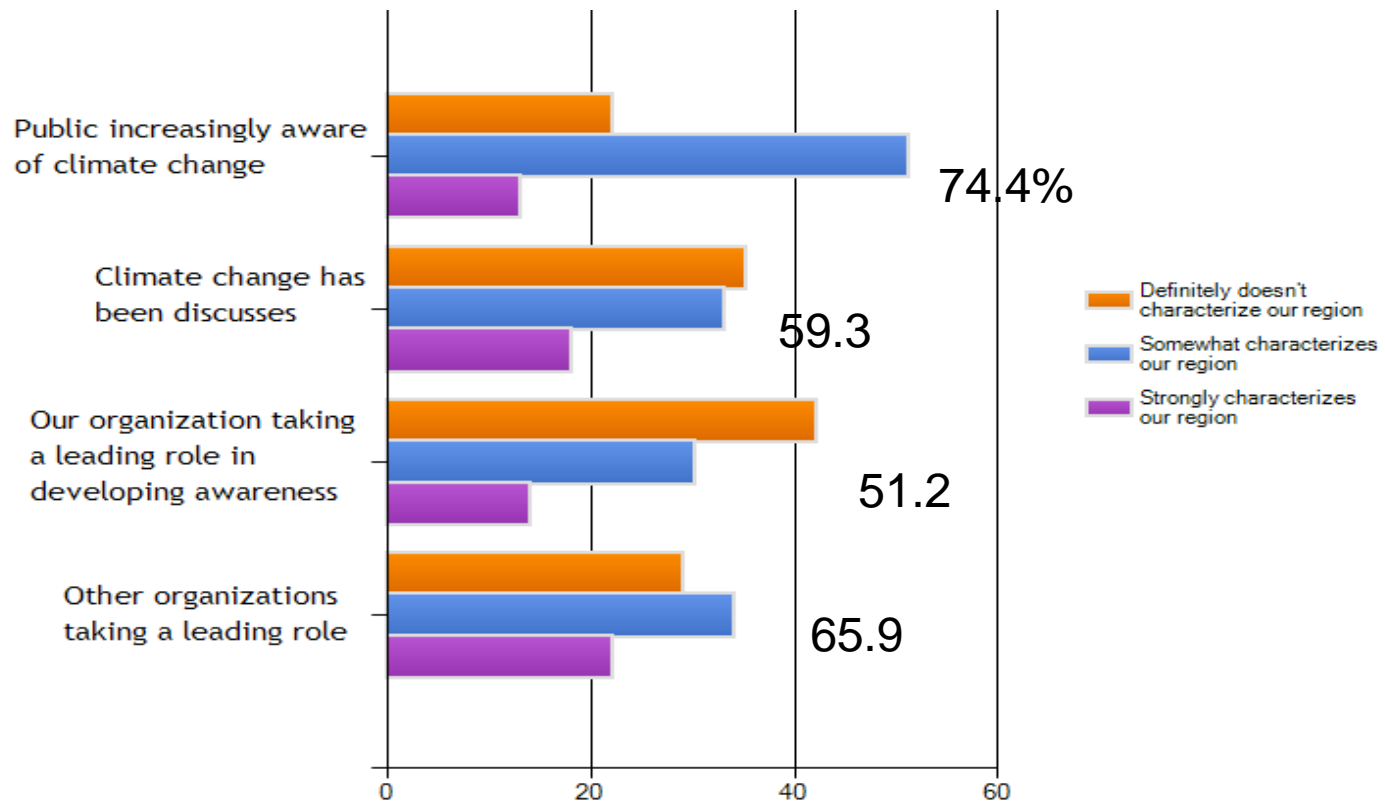


What stages are regions in?



Awareness

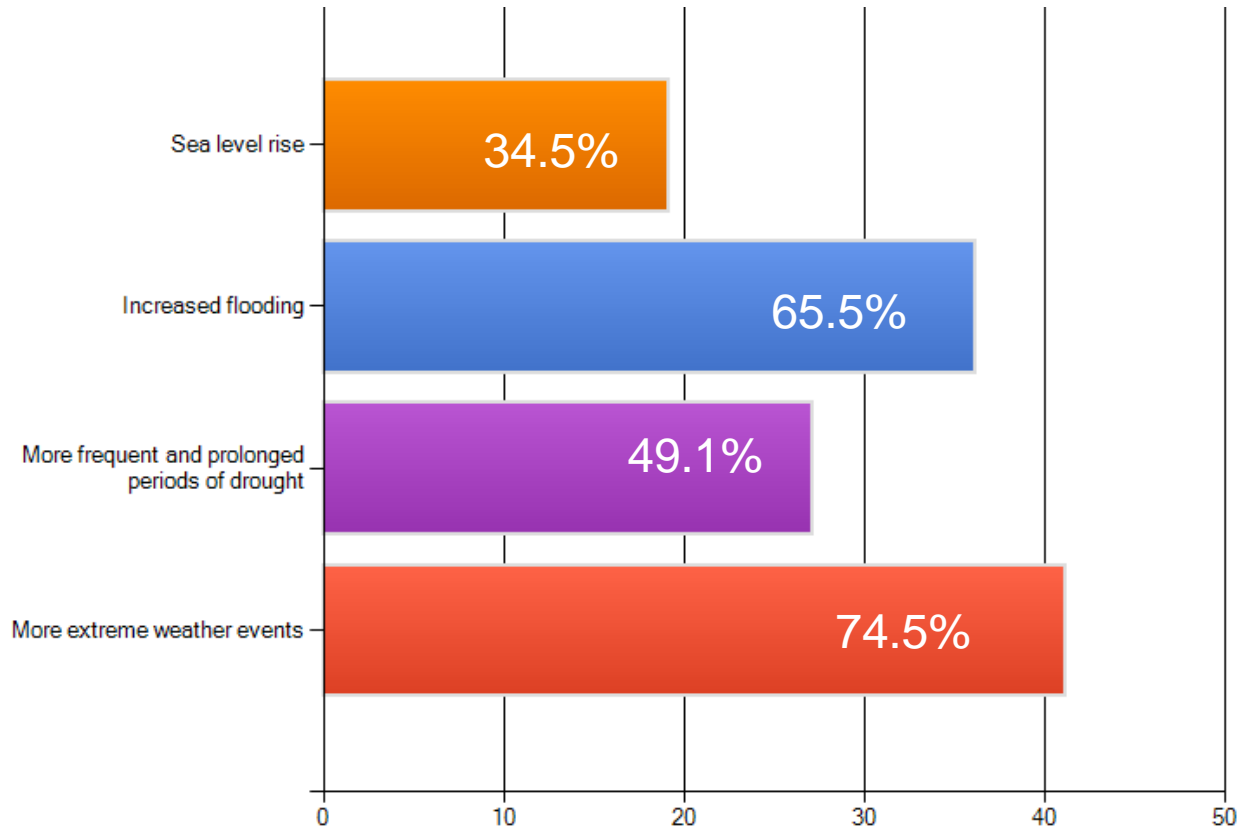
To what extent do each of the following statements characterize awareness in your region?



NOTE: percentages at the bottom of the chart are valid responses (all those completing the survey including those who skipped this question) while percentages within the chart are for those answering this specific question.

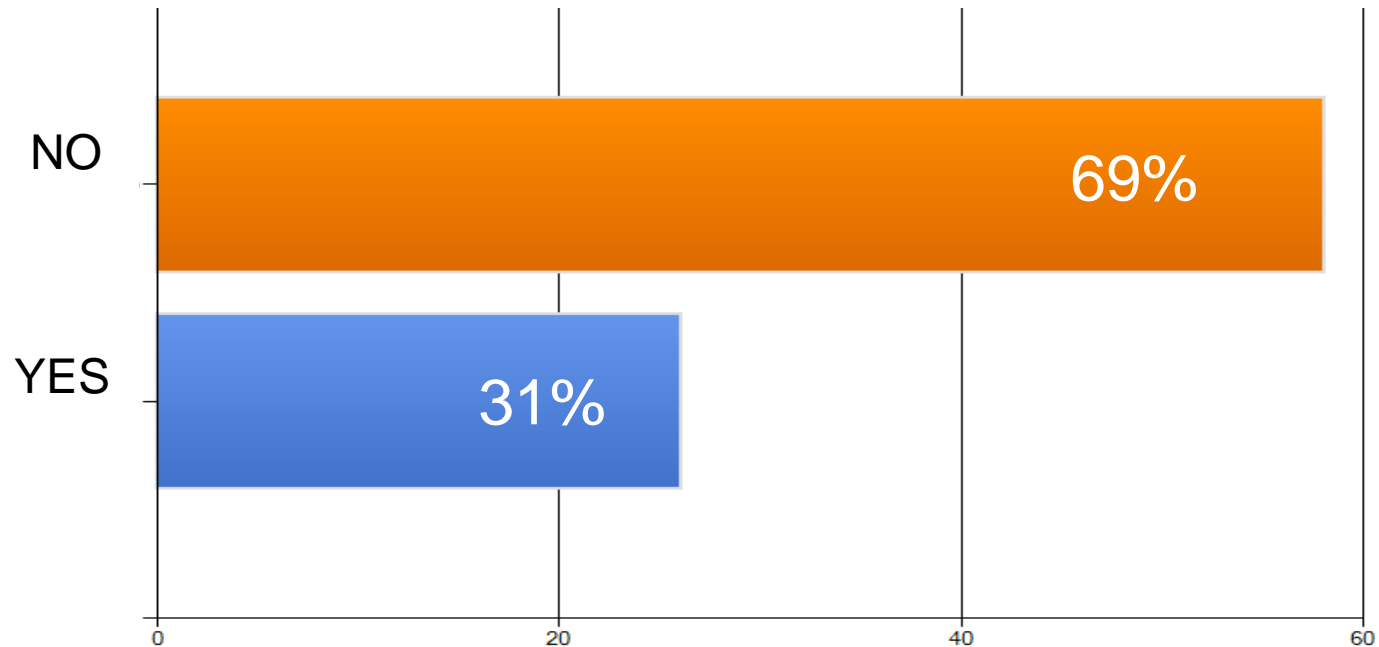
Awareness

Are there specific concerns that are triggering climate change awareness in your region?



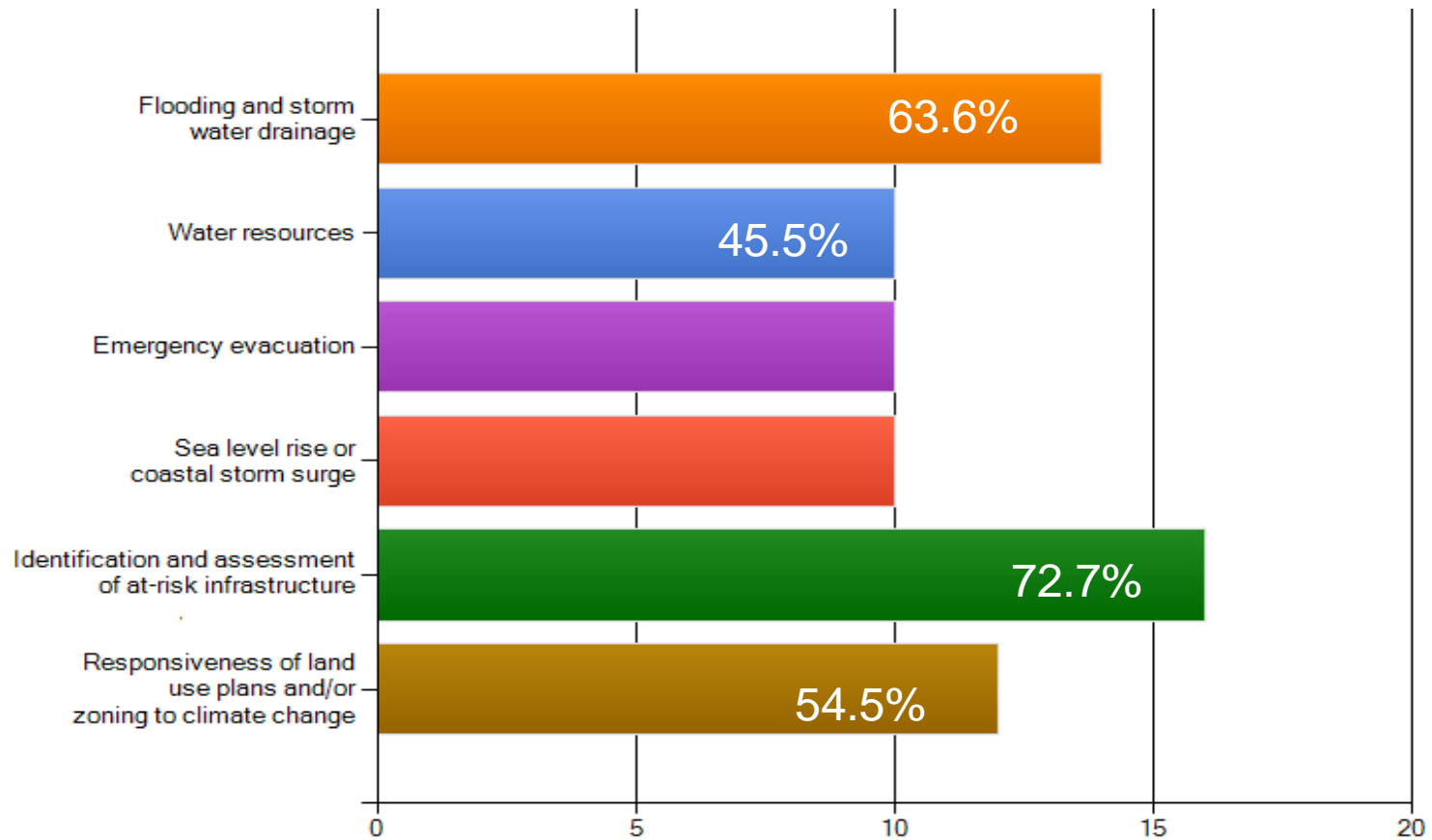
Assessment

Have staff in your organization been assigned responsibility for analyzing how climate change is affecting your region?



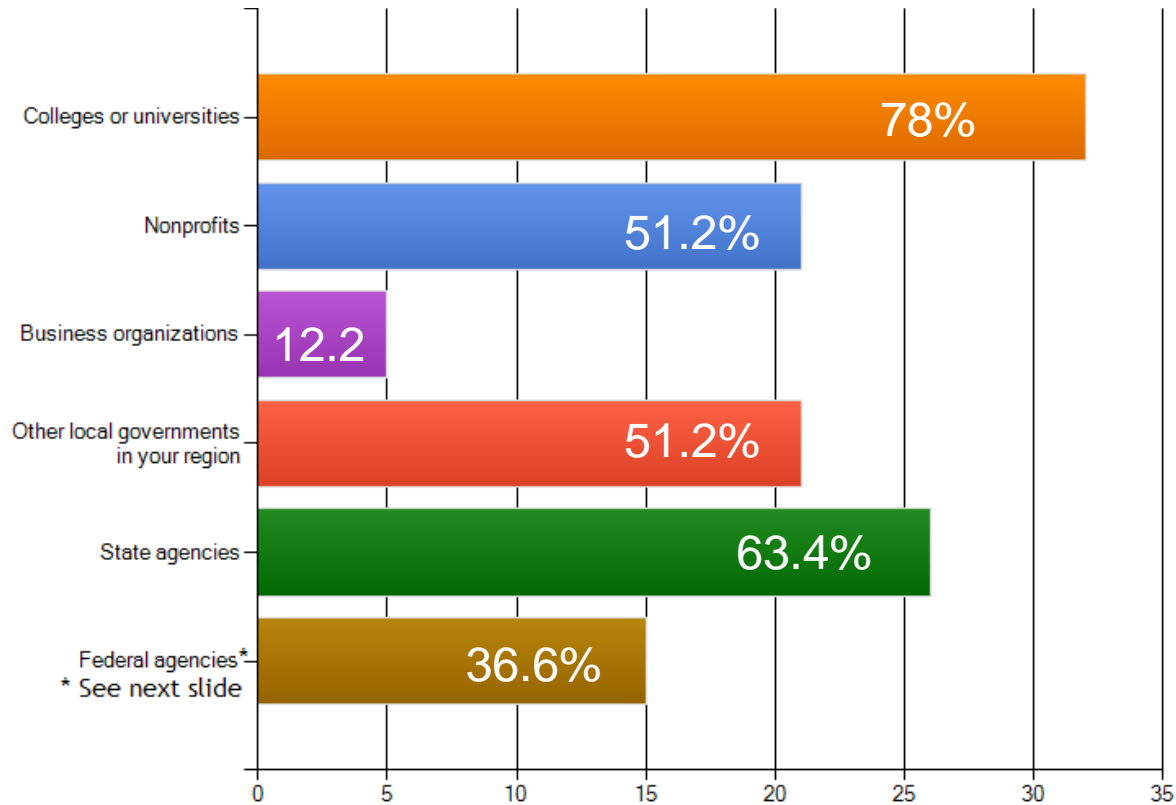
Assessment

What kinds of climate change assessments has your organization conducted (check all that apply)?



Assessment

Are there other organizations in your region doing these types of climate change assessments (check all that apply)?



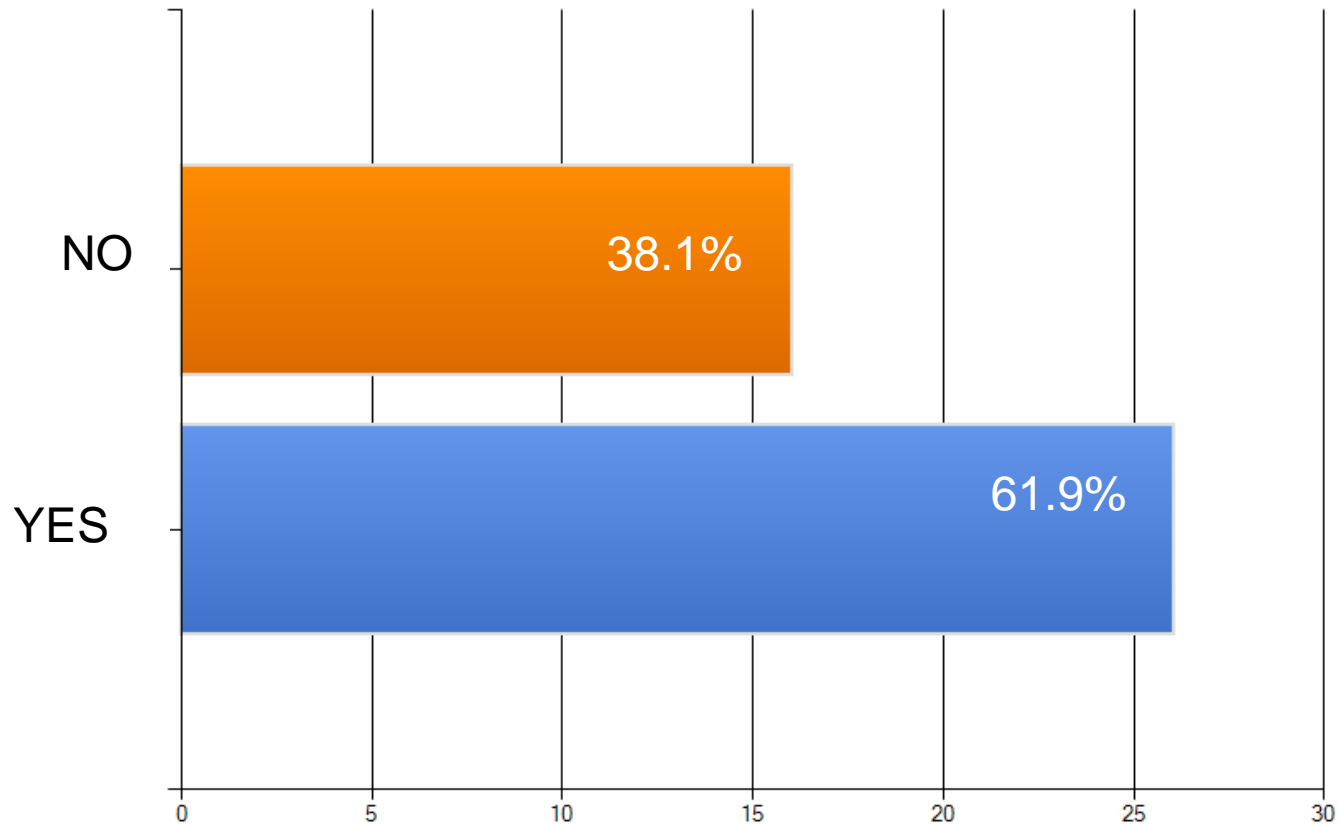
If there are federal agencies doing assessments in your region, who are they?

15 regions identified “federal agencies”

- EPA – 8
- FWHA – 5
- NOAA – 5
- FEMA – 4

Assessment

If you checked any of the above, is your organization working in partnership with these other organization in conducting assessments

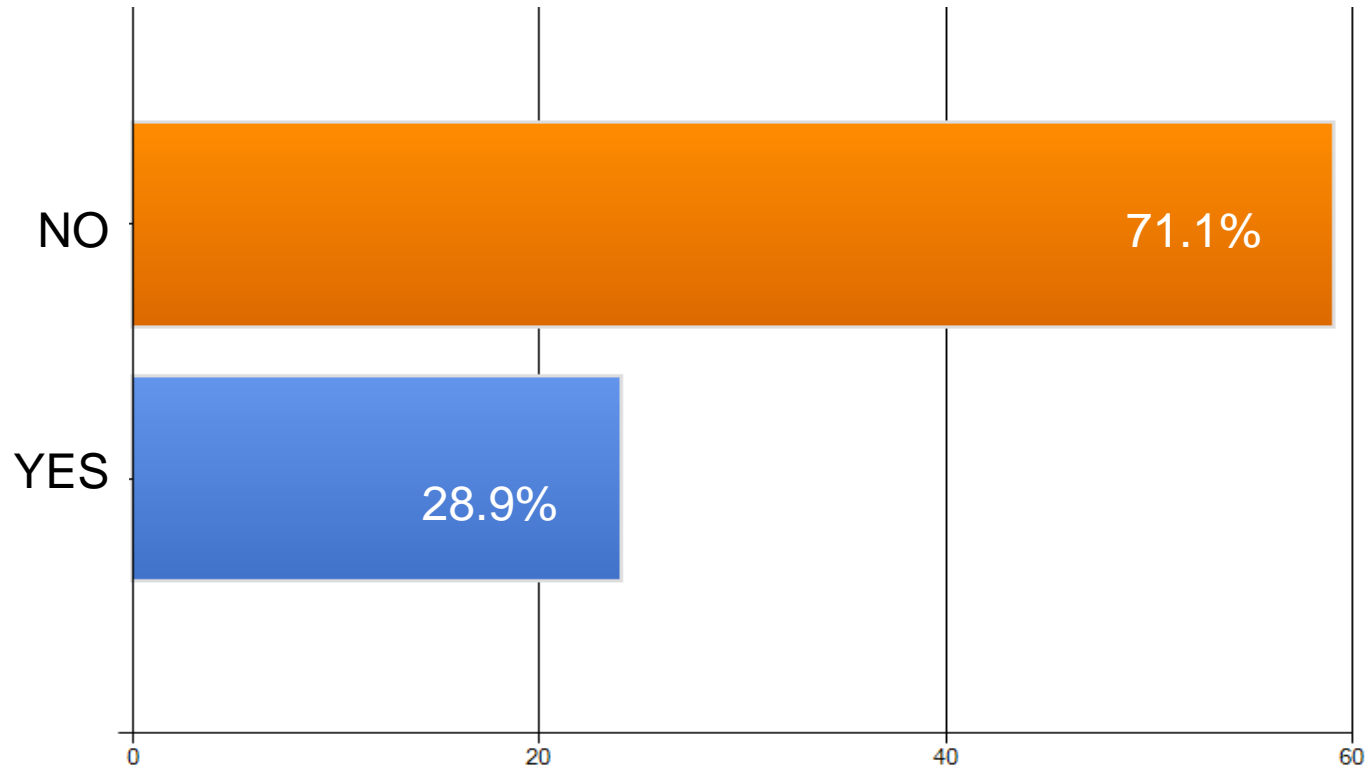


Who are regions partnering with?

- Half of those working in partnerships were working with universities.
- Over a third with state agencies.
- And a quarter with one or more federal agencies.

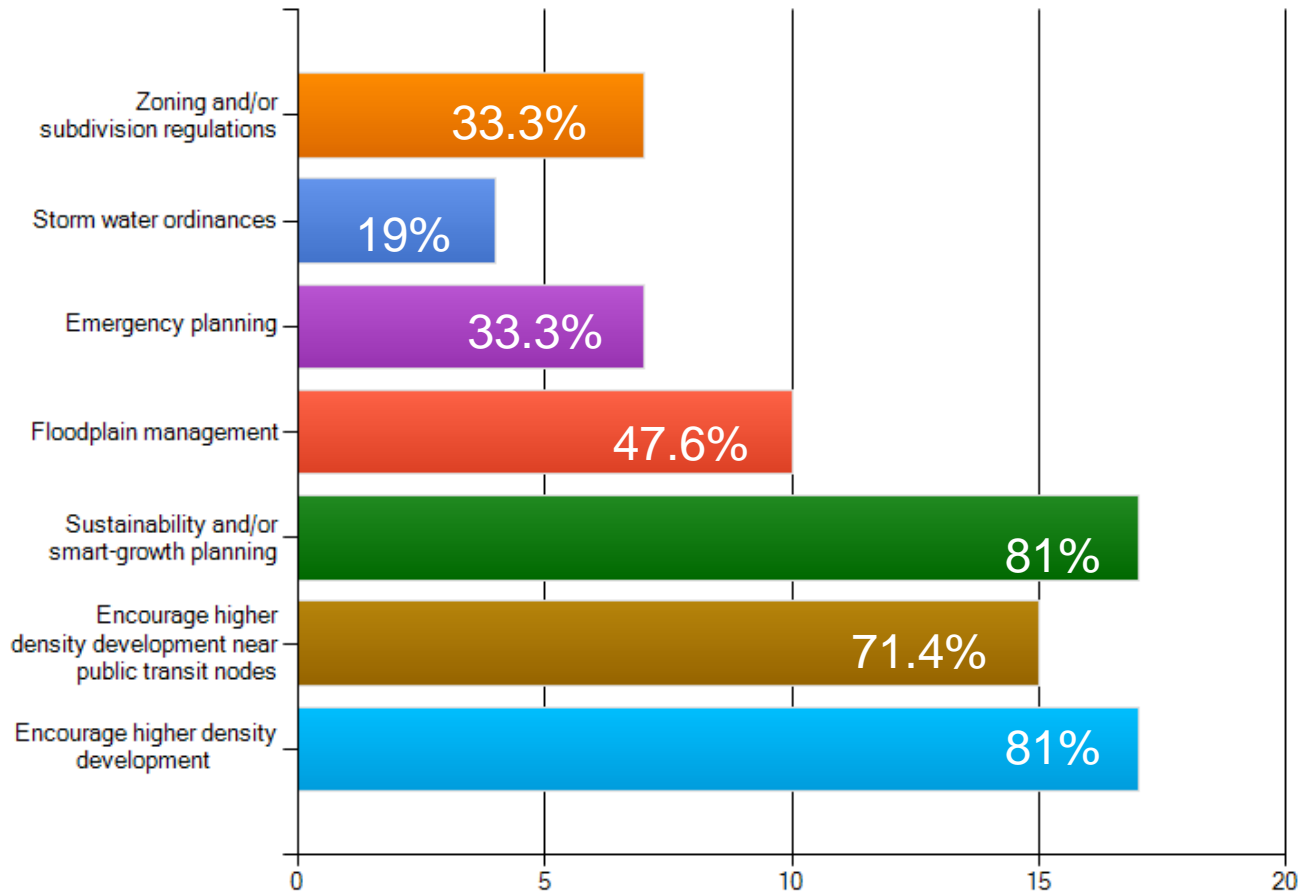
Planning

Have staff in your organization formulated adaptation planning recommendations?



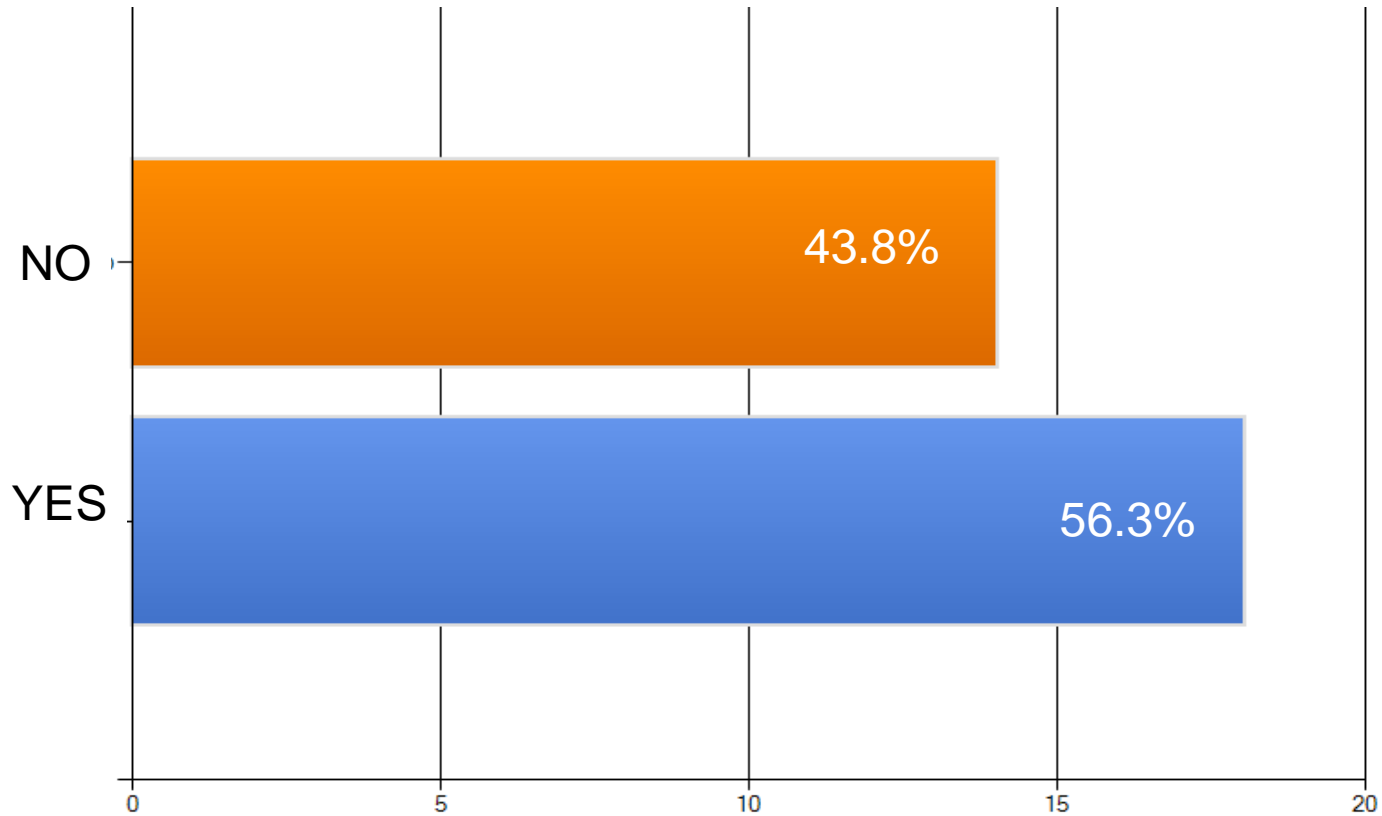
Planning

What kinds of planning recommendations have been developed (check all that apply)?



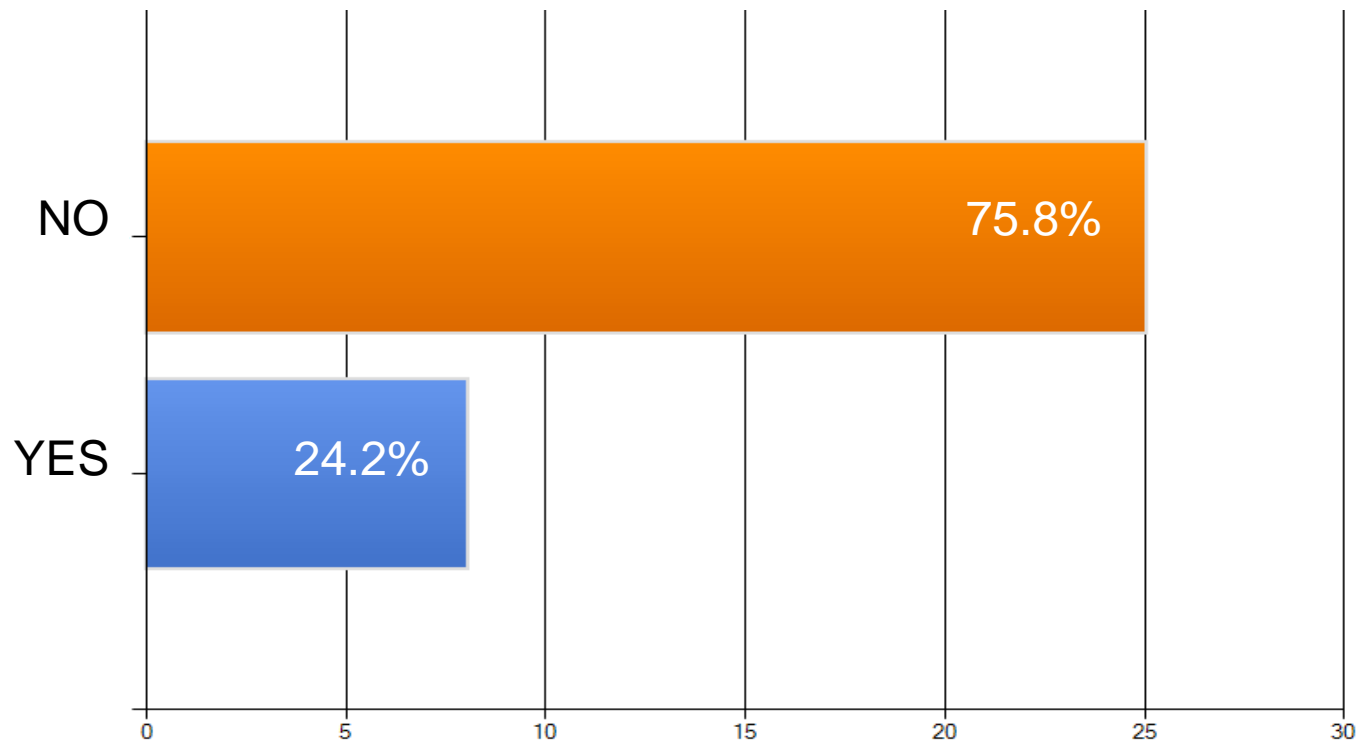
Planning

Are climate adaptation activities in your region being motivated by state and/or federal initiative (voluntary) or requirements (mandatory)?



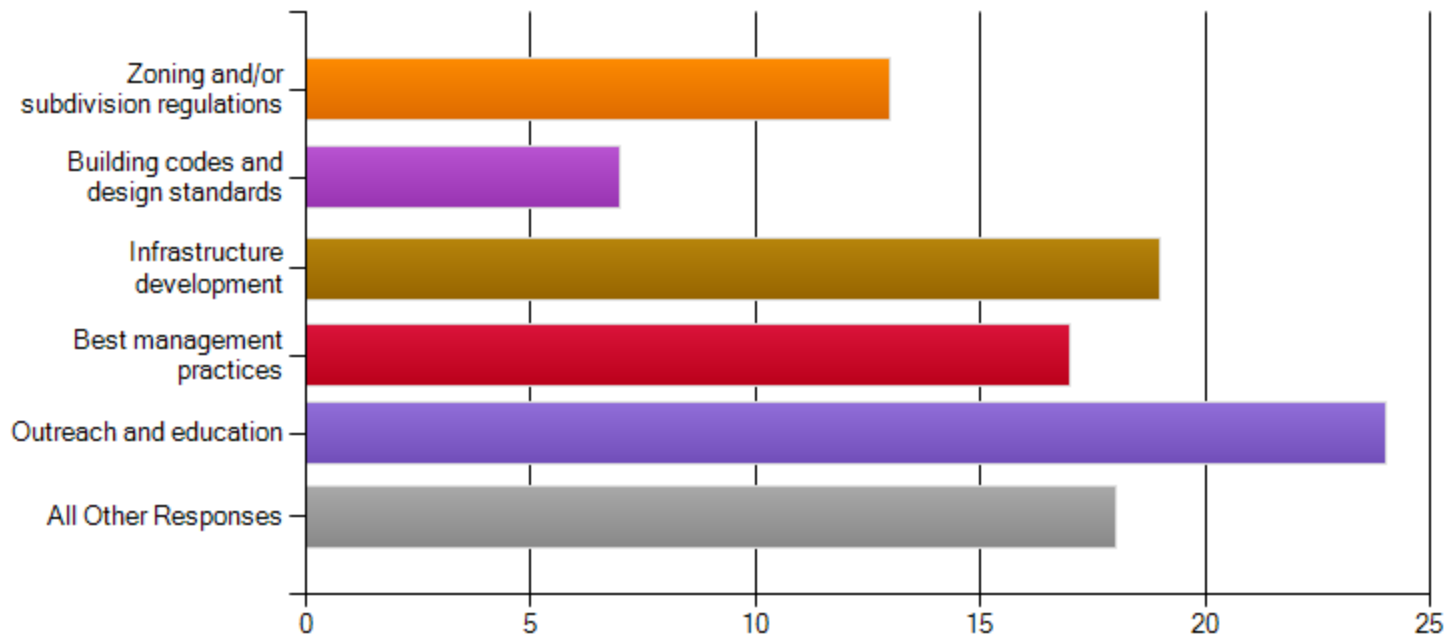
Adoption & Implementation

Has your organization formally adopted climate change adaptation elements as part of any of its regional plans?



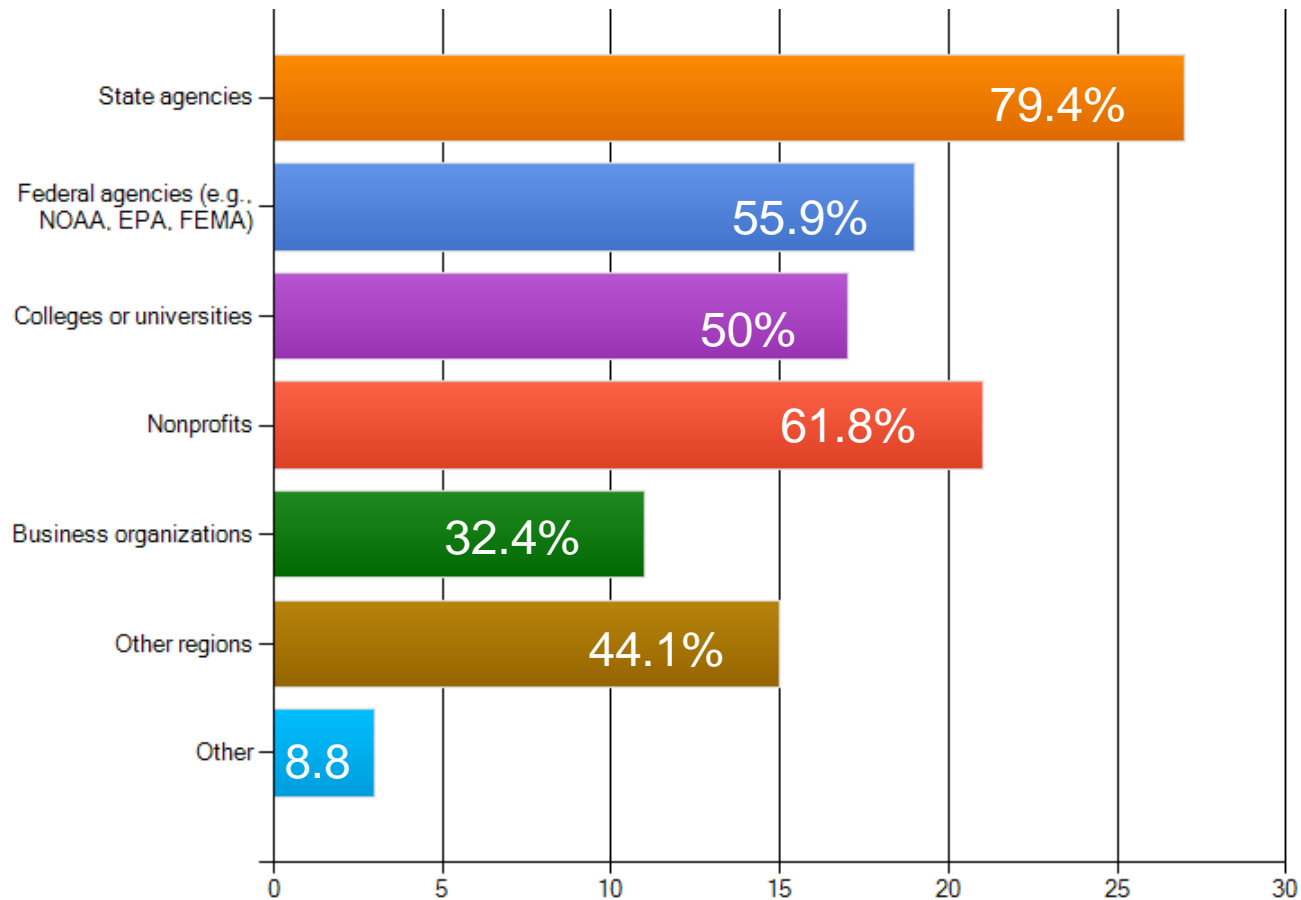
Adoption & Implementation

**What tools are you using to implement your climate adaptation policies and or plans?
Check all that apply.**



Adoption & Implementation

If your climate adaptation implementation efforts involve partners, who do you partner with?



Preliminary Conclusions

- Being in an area with strong environmental stresses can encourage regional activism.
- Such regions often have strong state as well as federal environmental requirements driving activism.
- More activists regions have more activist local government.
- Partnerships are especially important in conducting high quality assessment.