



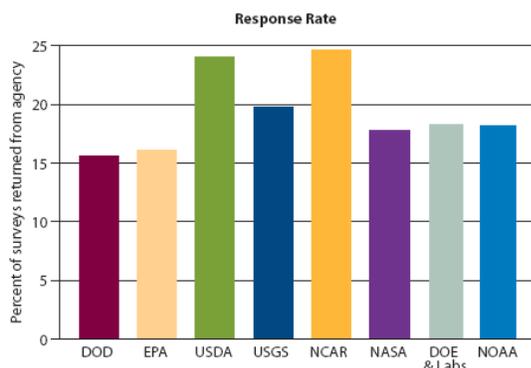
2006 UCS Survey of Federal Climate Scientists SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

In summer 2006, UCS mailed printed surveys to more than 1,600 federal climate scientists throughout the United States, asking for information about the state of climate research at federal agencies. Recipients of this survey were scientists employed by the federal agencies with the highest number of scientists undertaking climate research: the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Department of Defense. In addition, a similar survey was sent to scientists employed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), which receives federal research funding but is an independent (non-federal) agency. NCAR is shielded from government policies and restrictions and so it served as a “control” in order to quantify the magnitude of political interference at federal agencies.

The survey featured 40 questions, including 39 multiple-choice questions and one open-ended essay question. Survey questions were designed to be easy to comprehend and sought to be as neutral as possible in tone. For data collection purposes, the agency was identifiable in the survey responses but the individual was not (to ensure anonymity).

The mailing list for the federal scientist survey was compiled by gathering information from a variety of sources, as no centralized directory of federal climate scientists exists. UCS first started with a list of federal agencies involved in climate science research, and then searched for staff names through individual agency websites as well as through other government and climate science websites such as the GCRP (www.usgcrp.gov) and IPCC (www.ipcc.ch). The list also included lead authors and reviewers of climate reports and papers, as well as panel participants at scientific conferences. Several experts in the climate science field assisted us with compiling the mailing list.

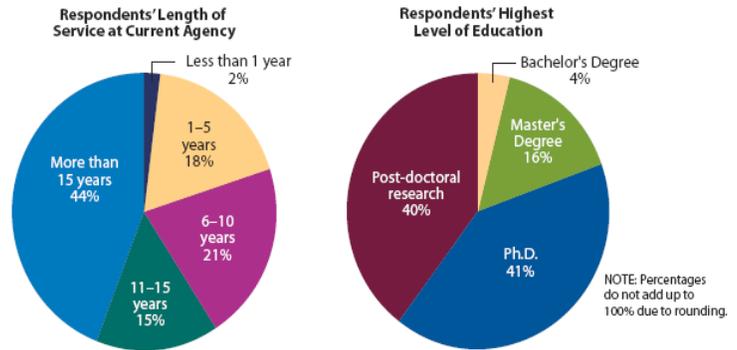
We were successful in finding email addresses for nearly all of the scientists on our mailing list. To boost the survey response rate, reminder emails were sent two to three weeks after the survey was sent. Since individuals’ names were not listed on returned surveys, the reminder was sent to all survey recipients.



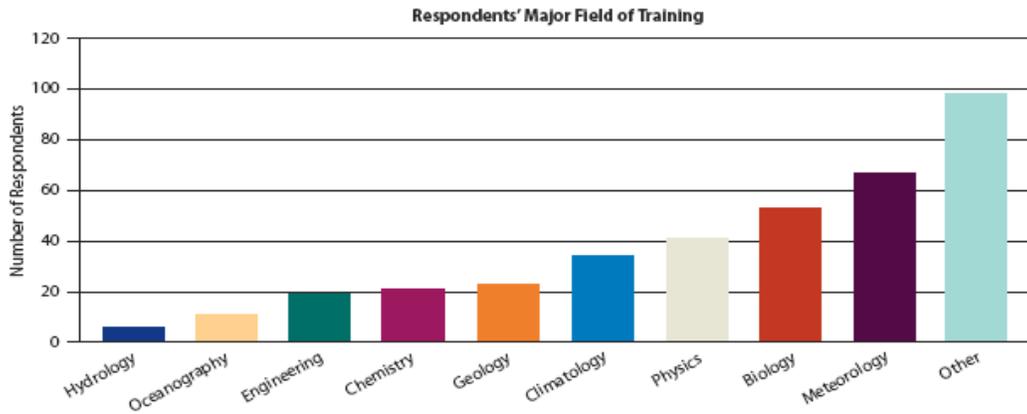
Three hundred eight surveys were completed and returned to UCS (279 from federal agencies and 29 from NCAR), for a response rate of 19 percent. The response rate within individual agencies was relatively consistent, with NCAR having the highest response rate (25 percent) and DOD having the lowest (16 percent). Responses were tabulated by Office Remedies, an independent data services company. One hundred thirty-two federal scientists and 12 NCAR scientists chose to

respond to the open-ended essay question, “The integrity of U.S. federal government climate science could best be improved by . . .”

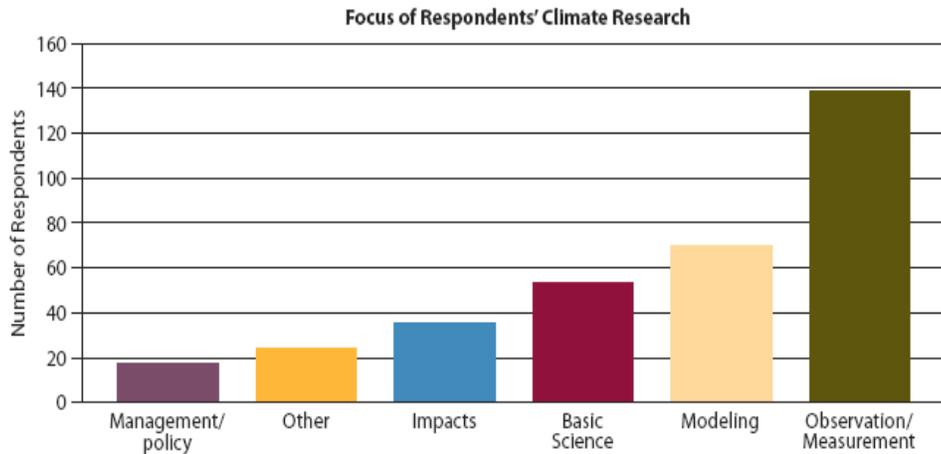
As the charts to the right and below demonstrate, most survey respondents had extensive training in their fields and many years of experience working at their agencies. More than half of respondents had more than 10 years of experience at their current agencies, and 44 percent had more than 15 years of experience. Eighty percent had earned a Ph.D. and 40 percent had post-doctoral research experience.



Respondents' field of training spanned a variety of disciplines.



Likewise, respondents' research foci spanned a variety of approaches.



For additional information and survey results, please visit www.ucsusa.org/surveys.