

בריאות הציבור בעולם משתנה

Public Health in a changing world

מרכז הכנסים של המכללה האקדמית – אשקלון

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PERCEPTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND WILLINGNESS TO TAKE PREPAREDNESS ACTION IN AN ARAB URBAN LOCALITY IN ISRAEL

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INTRODUCTION Being in a **climate hotspot**, cities in the Middle East need to assess their vulnerability and build climate resilience. Understanding the population's perceptions and willingness to act can support appropriate adaptation.

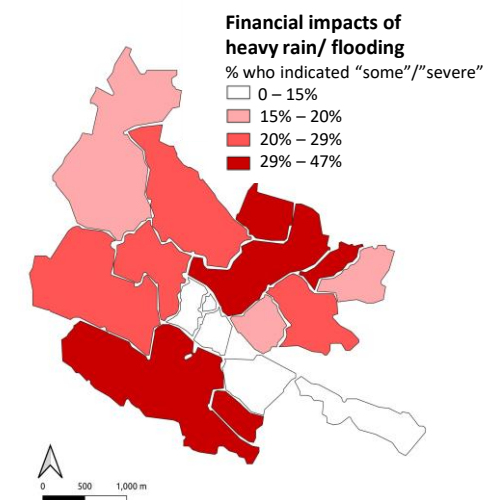
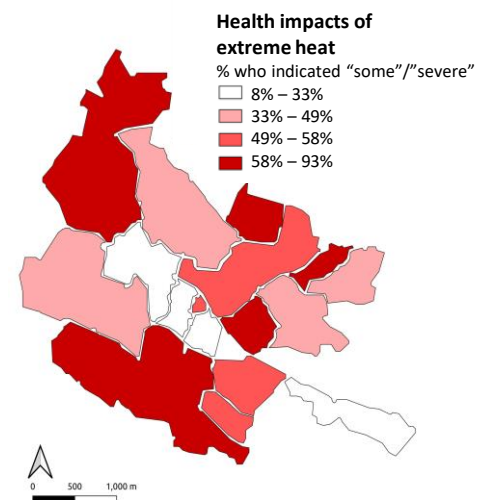
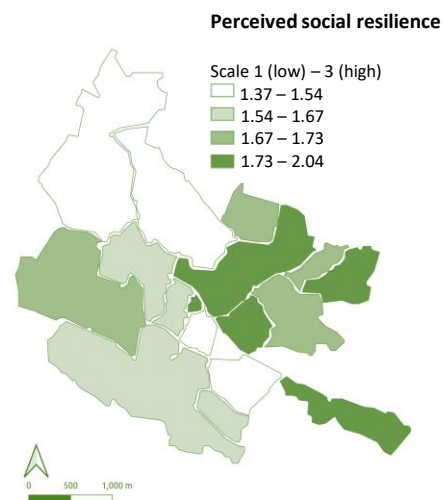
OBJECTIVES Analyze the population's (age 15+) experience and perception of climate change, social resilience, and willingness to take preparedness actions in **Shefa-'Amr** **شفاعمرو**

METHODS Online questionnaire distributed via social media & paper in summer/fall 2021

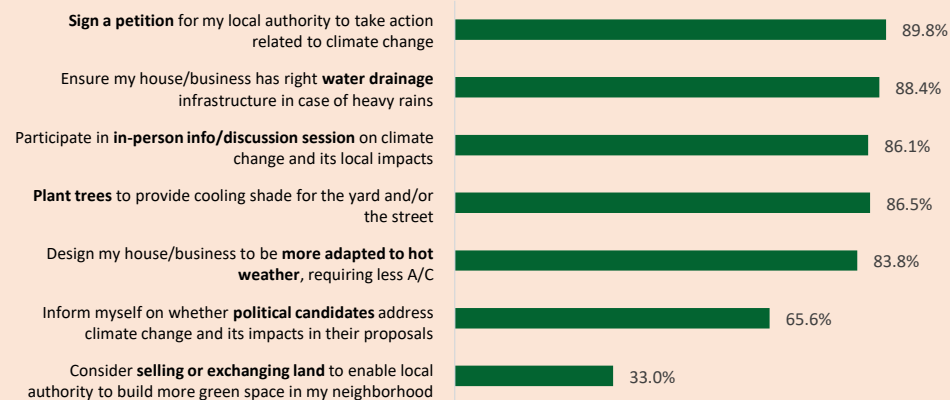
RESULTS *n* = 482

Representative of religious spread Muslim 54%, Christian 27%, Druze 11%	58.3% women	Overrepresentation of higher education
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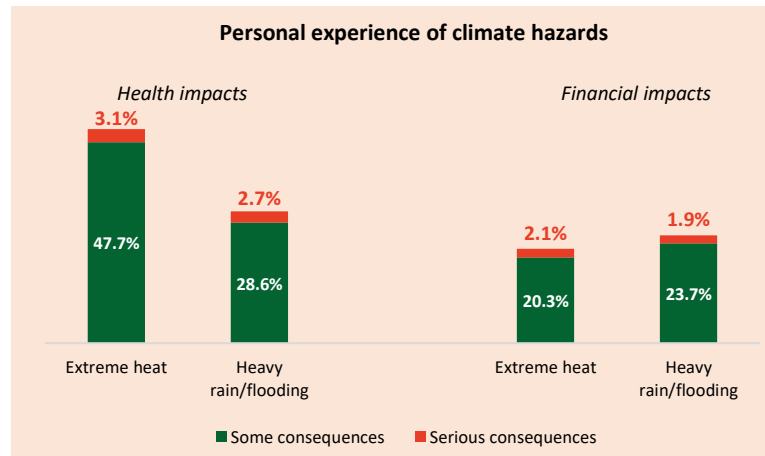
- 96.9% indicated they think climate change is happening
- 83.1% correctly answered a knowledge question about greenhouse gases
- 57.3% correctly identified 5 out of 5 global consequences associated with climate change
- 49.2% responded that climate change has already started to harm people in the Galilee



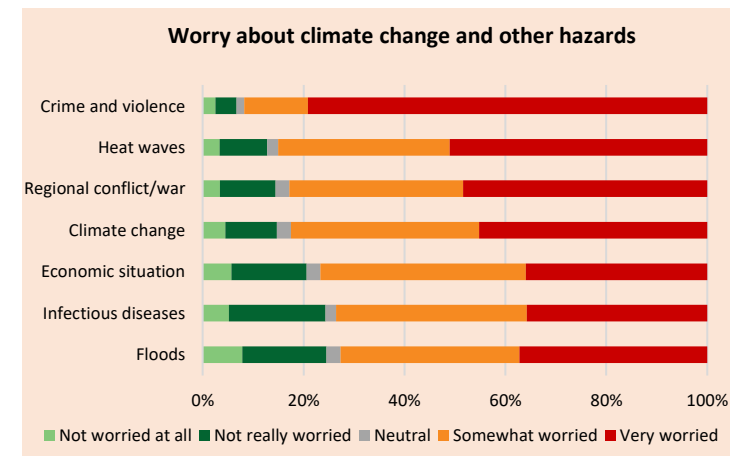
Willingness to take climate change preparedness action



Personal experience of climate hazards



Worry about climate change and other hazards



CONCLUSION Respondents showed a high level of awareness and concern regarding climate change, and willingness to take a range of actions. • While answers may indicate a certain level of social desirability bias, the clear answer differences on more controversial topics show respondent responsiveness. • These findings can serve the municipality in engaging the community in a climate adaptation plan.

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This research is part of the project "[Harnessing Professional Expertise and Localized Knowledge for Collaborative Climate Resilience in Shefa-'Amr](#)"

