

National  
Peace Corps  
Association

# NPCA'S GLOBAL ISSUES SURVEY



**National  
Peace Corps  
Association**

---



**HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY  
SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER**

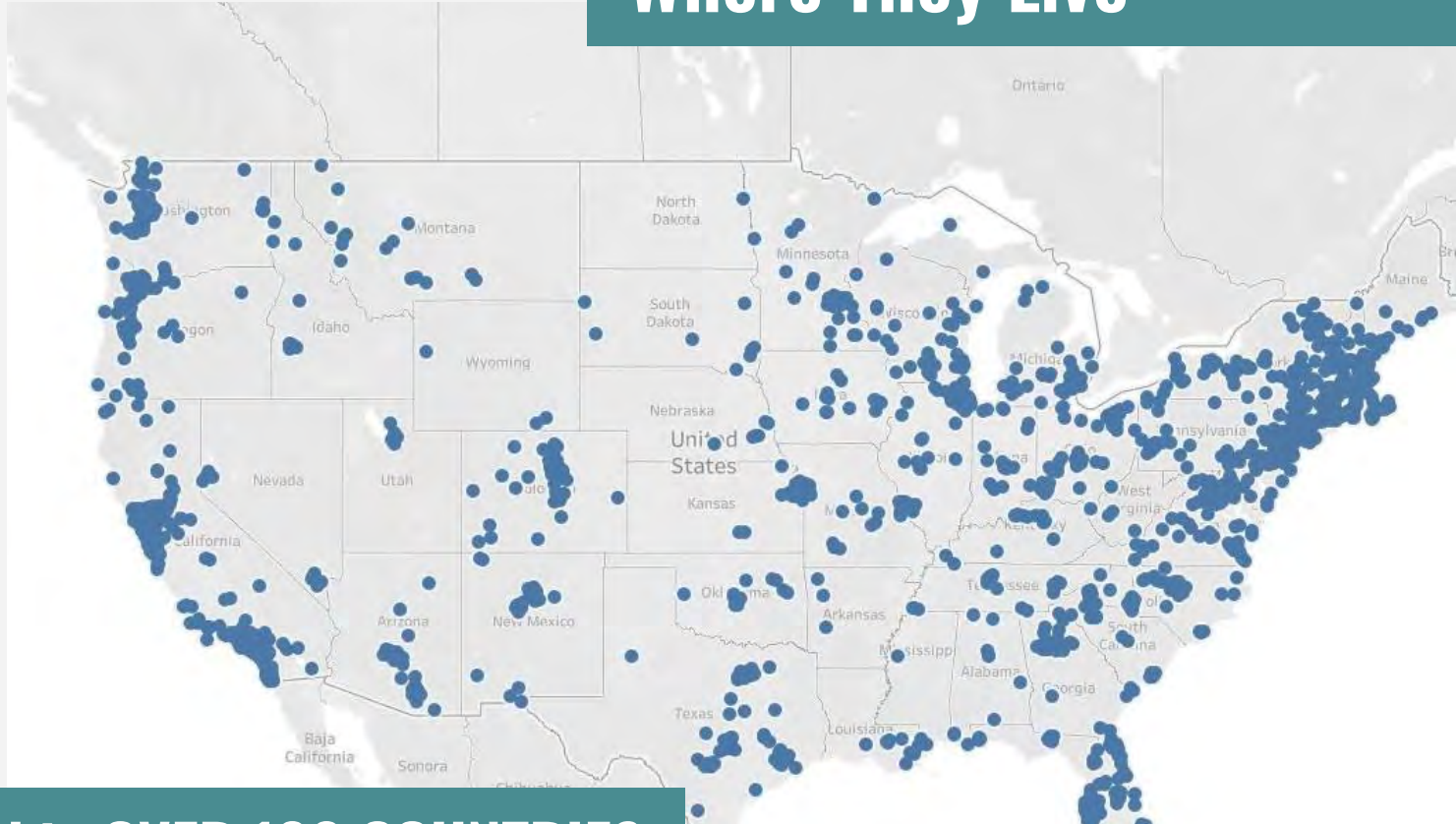
The National Peace Corps Association has partnered with High Point University Survey Research Center to conduct this national survey. The research center hosted the survey and used its sophisticated Qualtrics software platform to evaluate the results.

## Who Responded? More Than 3,000

- 96% had served as Peace Corps Volunteers
- 55% were female
- 52% were 65 or older
- 32% were between 35 and 65
- 16% were under 35
- 86% were white
- 98% had college or graduate degrees
- 53% were not members of NPCA
- 35% currently belong to an NPCA affiliate group
- 72% provided contact information for possible follow-up



# Where They Live



Served in **OVER 100 COUNTRIES**

# Respondents Are Activists

---

- 97% voted in a presidential election since 2015
- 66% had written to, called, or met a member of congress
- 64% had donated money to a candidate, campaign or political organization
- 57% had participated in a community action on a specific global issue
- 56% signed or started a petition
- 54% protested, marched or demonstrated on an issue

# The Issues Members Care About Most

- Climate Change 62%
- Access to Clean Water 28%
- Women's Empowerment/ Girl's Education 28%
- Extreme Poverty 28%
- Global Health 26%

**Climate Change**  
US Leadership in Development  
and Diplomacy  
Immigration Reform  
**Extreme Poverty**  
World Affairs  
Other  
**Clean Water**  
Women's Empowerment  
Food Security  
Global Health  
Girls Education  
World Peace  
Nuclear Disarmament  
Refugee Assistance

**Climate  
Change  
Dominates**

---

# Issues the Peace Corps Community Can Best Address

- Americans' Current Understanding of World Affairs 47%
- Women's Empowerment/ Girl's Education 45%
- Access to Clean Water 34%
- Global Health 32%
- **Climate Change 17%**



US Leadership in Development and Diplomacy  
Extreme Poverty  
Girls Education  
Other  
American Understanding of World Affairs  
Womens' Empowerment  
World Peace  
Clean Water  
Nuclear Disarmament  
Global Health  
None of These  
Refugee Assistance  
Food Security  
Climate Change  
Immigration Reform

# Climate Change DROPS

# Why Climate Change Ranks So Low

---

We asked a number of RPCVs to comment. Here are some of the most frequent answers.

- The question was confusing
- While RPCVs care deeply about climate change, they don't see a clear role for themselves in addressing the issue in their communities.
- The Peace Corps itself does not focus on climate change.
- Other issues like global health and girls' education ranked higher because volunteers worked on these issues during their Peace Corps service.

## Actions Members are Willing to Take to Address Global Issues

- 46% **very likely** to help educate themselves and others on a global issue
- 44% **very likely** to contact Congress about a global issue
- 38% **very likely** to sign or start petition about a global issue

## Least Favorite Actions to Address Global Issues

- 43% **not at all likely** to express views on social media
- 41% **not at all likely** to post lawn sign or bumper sticker

# Use of Social Media (Sharp Differences)

- 49% Do not use social media to express their views on global issues
- 33% Use social media to express their views on global issues 10-12 times a year
- 45% Use Facebook as their social media platform

# Conclusions

- Climate Change is the issue members care most about by a large margin
- Climate Change also impacts other issues that RPCVs care deeply about
- More research is needed to clarify what roles RPCVs are willing to play in their communities in educating and motivating others about the need to address Climate Change
- The current COVID-19 epidemic illustrates the need to address global threats like Climate Change before it is too late



# Possible Next Steps

---

- Consult with current affiliates and interested RPCV leaders on an action plan
- Conduct virtual focus groups/town hall meetings to explore findings further
- Enlist support from national environmental and global health groups
- Enhance the capacity of interested affiliates to address environmental and global issues



National  
Peace Corps  
Association