

Report on public opinion concerning Citizens Assemblies to tackle climate and ecological breakdown

Dr. Cameron Brick, Research Associate at the Department of Psychology, Cambridge University

Dr. Ben Kenward, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Oxford Brookes University,
Corresponding author: bkenward@brookes.ac.uk, 07857 445653

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Method

In advance of the Extinction Rebellion actions in London, April 2019, we created two separate surveys using two different polling companies, DeltaPoll and Prolific. The two surveys used slightly different methodologies (details available on request), but had a number of questions in common, one of which was:

“A Citizens Assembly is composed of about 100 randomly chosen members of the public, who are advised by experts, and given time to think, discuss, and decide action. The Citizens Assembly is similar to a big jury.

Do you agree or disagree a Citizens Assembly would do a better job than UK Governments have done in tackling climate change and ecological breakdown?”

Sample details

DeltaPoll

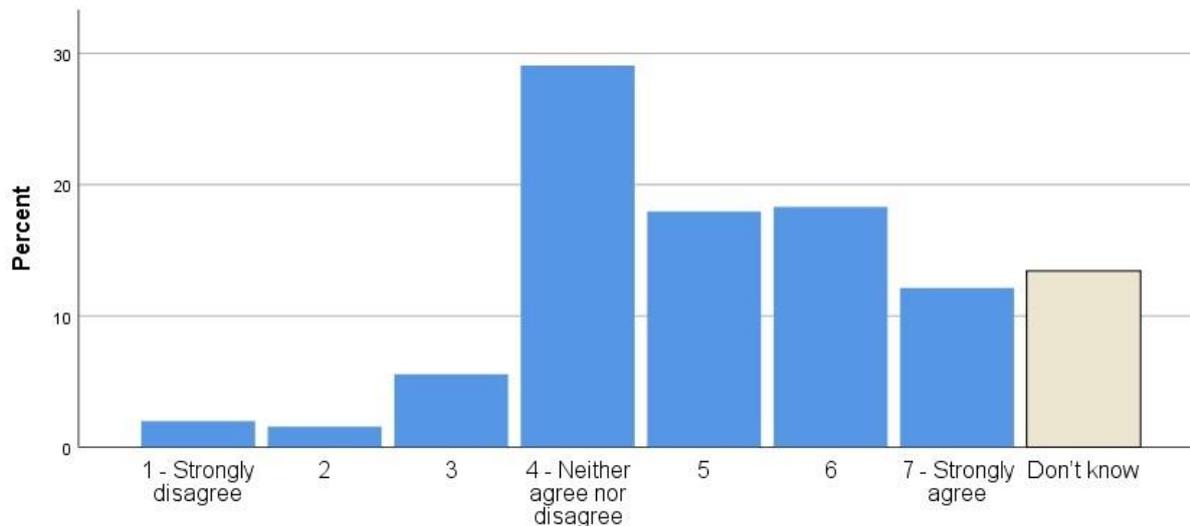
Survey participants were 850 individuals; a sample drawn using quotas for gender, age, educational attainment, work status, region and 2017 General Election vote. Data are further rim-weighted to a matrix of geo-demographic variables including gender, age, social class, region, recall of 2017 General Election Vote, recall of EU referendum and political attention. The sample was drawn between the 11th and the 14th of April 2019. This data comprises an *extremely representative sample of the GB population*.

Prolific

Survey participants were 1539 individuals recruited using the Prolific polling organisation's Representative Sample tool, balanced for age, gender and ethnicity against the UK population. Results are additionally weighted according to UK norm data (YouGov, 2017) for position on the left-right political spectrum. Participants were tested between Monday 15th April 20:21 and Tuesday 16th April 21:48 (between one and two days into the rebellion). This data comprises a *reasonably representative sample of the UK population*.

Results

DeltaPoll



Polling question: "A Citizens Assembly is composed of about 100 randomly chosen members of the public, who are advised by experts, and given time to think, discuss, and decide action. The Citizens Assembly is similar to a big jury.

Do you agree or disagree a Citizens Assembly would do a better job than UK Governments have done in tackling climate change and ecological breakdown?"

Agree	48%
Disagree	9%
Neither/Don't know	43%

Prolific

Due to urgency graphical representation currently unavailable.

Agree	61%
Disagree	19%
Neither/Don't know	20%

Conclusion

Irrespective of sample, there is at least three times more support than opposition to a Citizens Assembly to tackle climate change and ecological breakdown, when the alternative is UK Governments. The main discrepancy between the two samples is simply that the Deltapoll respondents are less likely to express an opinion. This is possibly because more highly educated people may have been oversampled in the Prolific sample.