

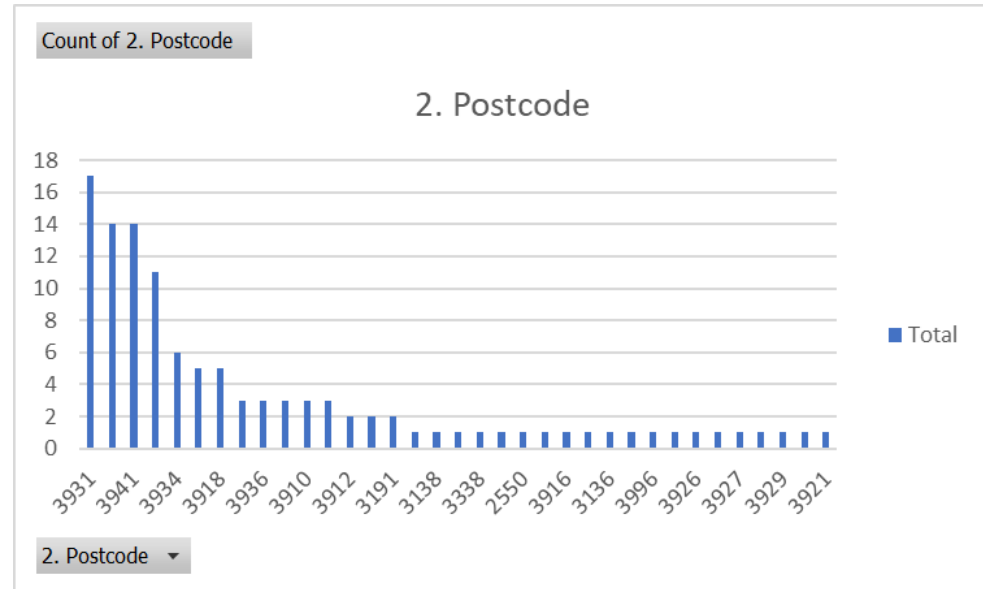
Climate Change and Health Survey – report

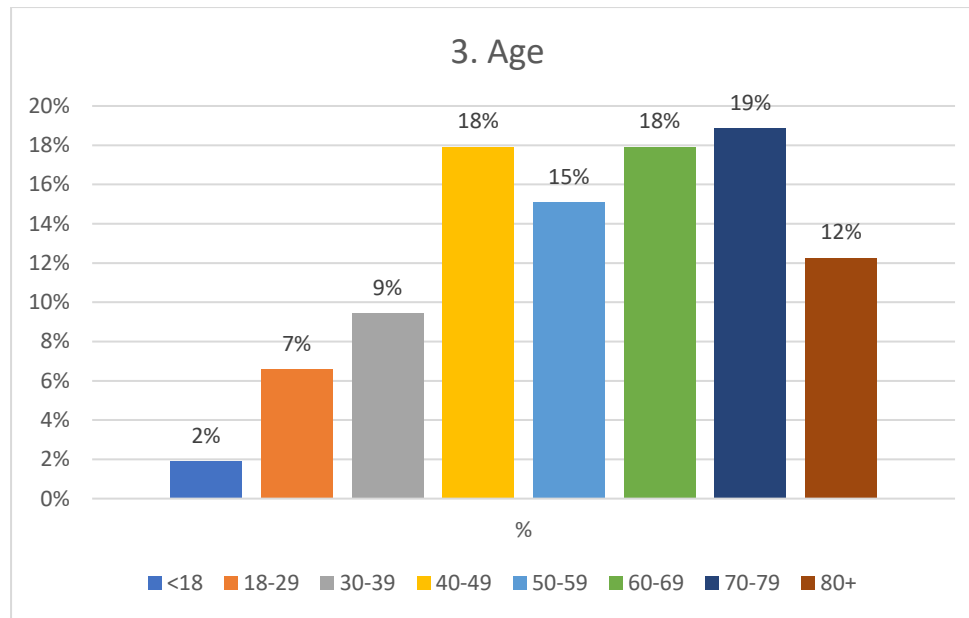
Throughout March-April 2023, Mornington Peninsula Shire conducted a survey of community members to assess their thoughts on climate change and health. The survey investigated community members' thoughts on the link between health and climate change, as well as the impacts they have experienced or expect to experience, and any preparations they have taken. The survey received 118 responses with just over half (58%) received in-person at market pop-ups, and the remainder (42%) received online. The full breakdown was as follows:

Location	Number of responses
Online	48
Rye	22
Hastings	16
Boneo	11
Mornington	19
TOTAL	118

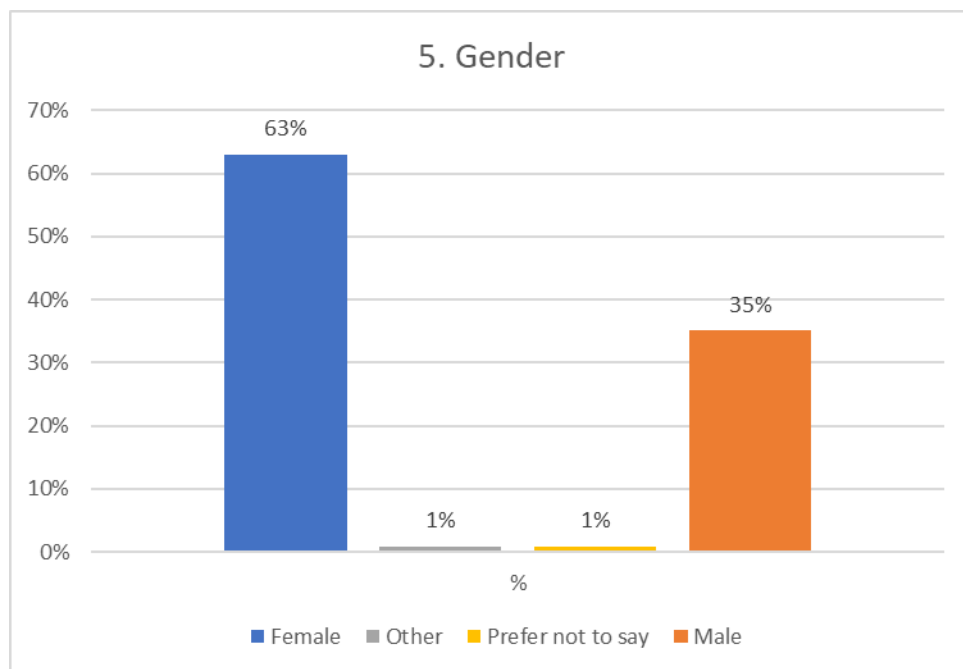
Demographics

Respondents came from a wide range of postcodes, mostly across the Peninsula, with the majority coming from Mornington (15%), followed by Rosebud (11%), Rye (11%) and Mt Martha (9%).





Respondents varied broadly in age, with the majority (82%) being 40+ years. Just 2% of respondents were under 18 years.



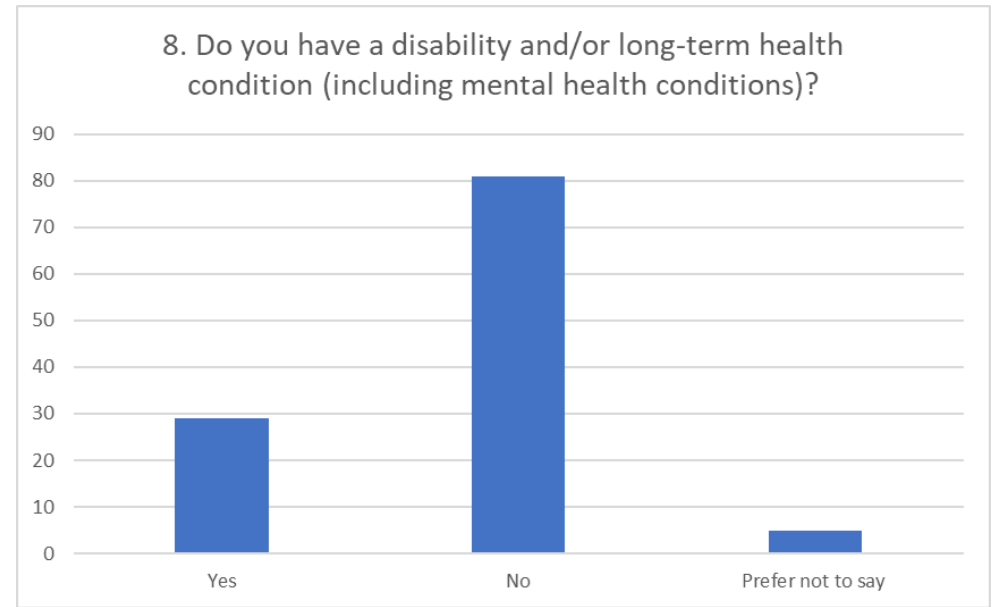
The majority of respondents (63%) identified as female, while 35% identified as male, and just 3 respondents (2%) selecting 'other/prefer not to say'.

Over 84% of respondents spoke English at home, with a small minority speaking German, French, Italian, Slovak or Greek.

No responses identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

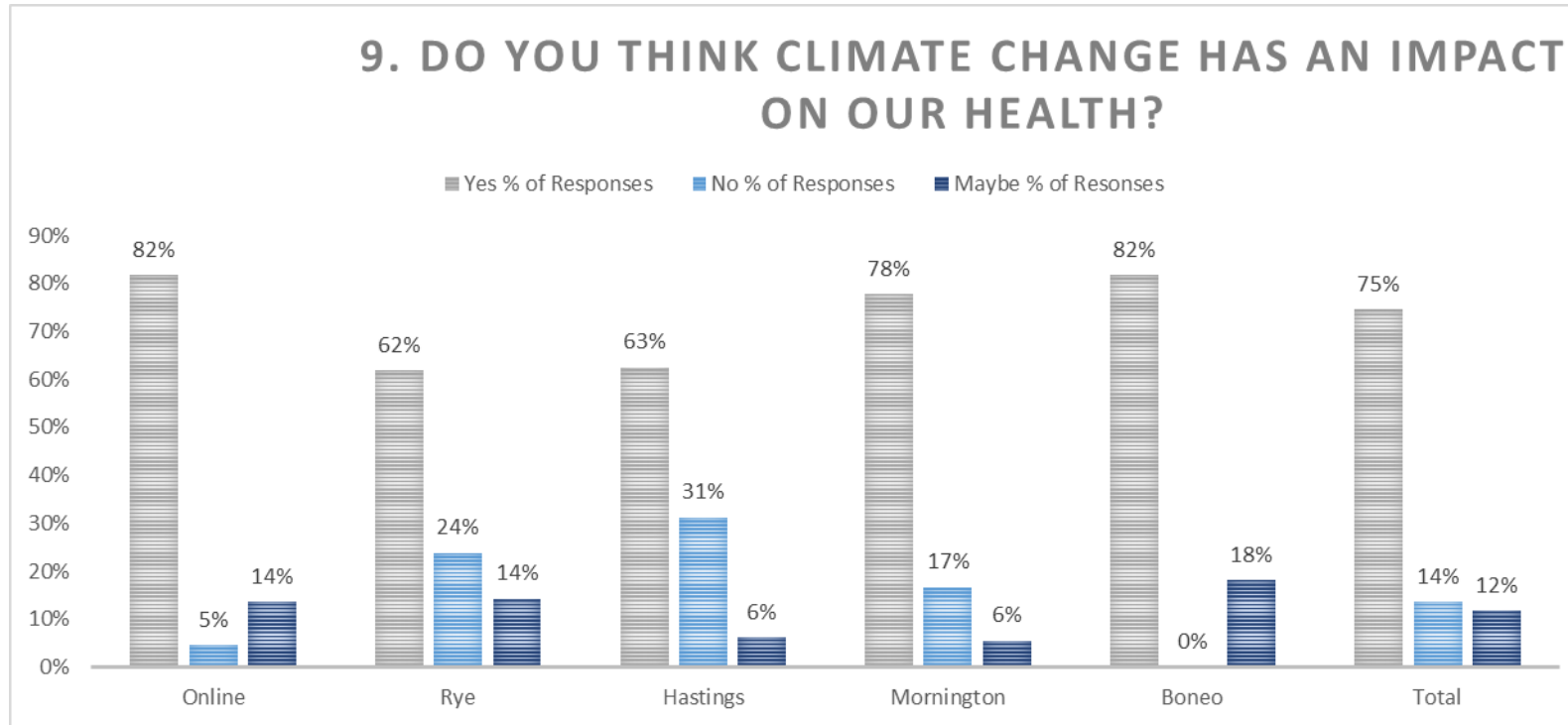


Just under a quarter of respondents identified as having a disability and/or long-term health condition (including mental health conditions), with approximately 4% selecting 'prefer not to say'.

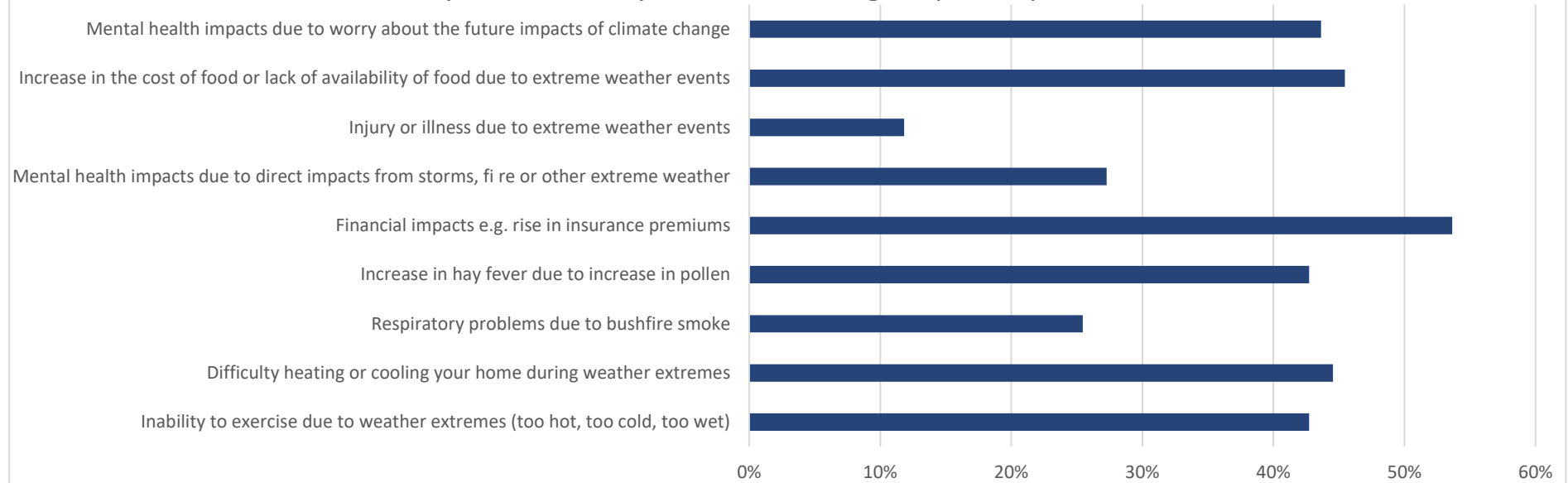


Survey questions

75% of respondents agreed that climate change has an impact on our health, with a further 12% selecting 'maybe'. Higher levels of respondents selected 'yes' in Boneo, Mornington, and online; higher levels of people selected 'no' in Rye and Hastings.

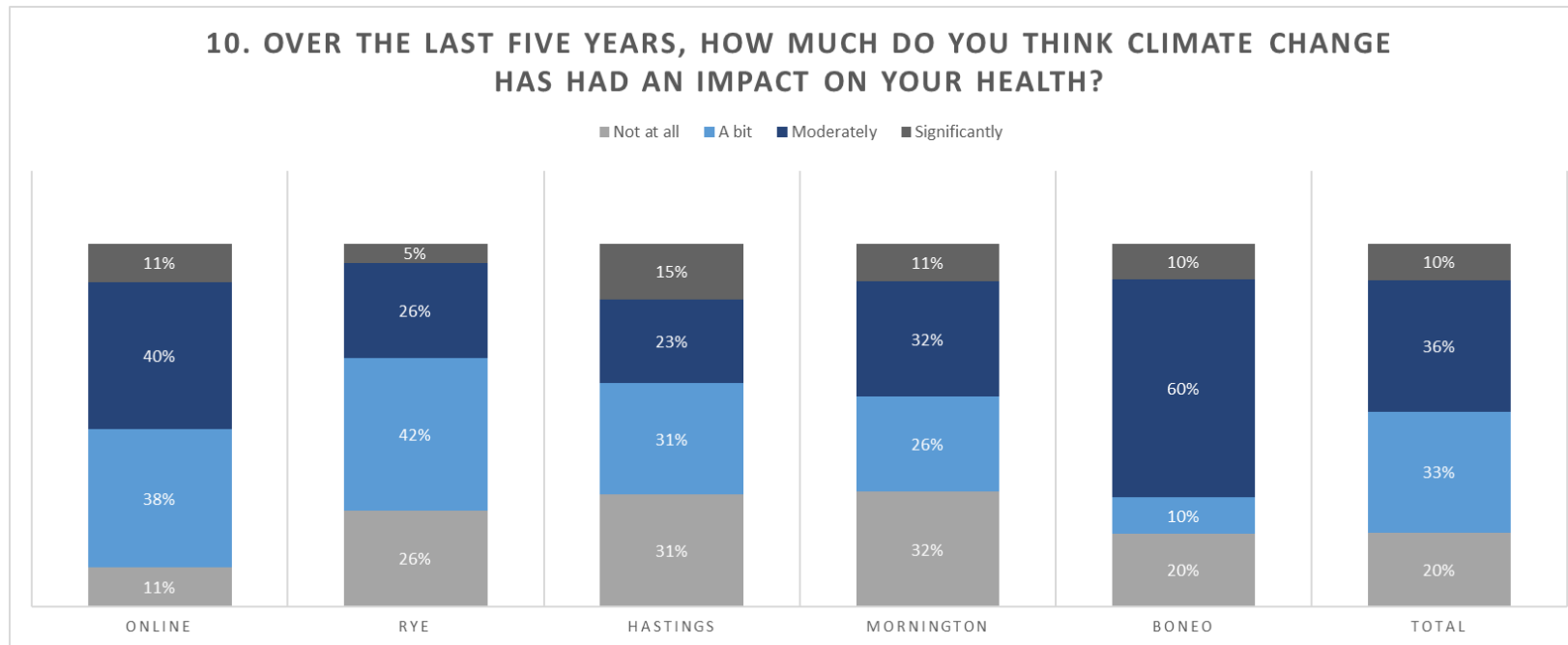


9. If yes, in what way has climate change impacted your health?

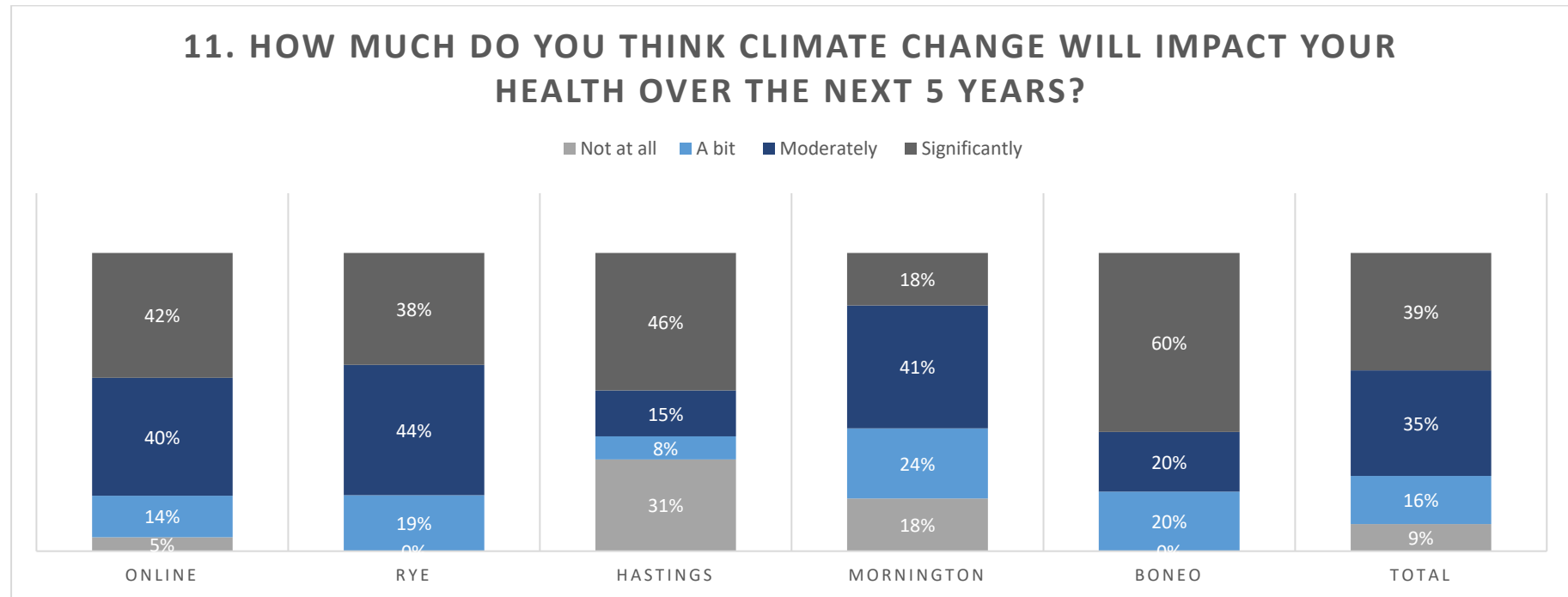


Respondents were asked to select the ways that climate change has impacted their health, with the option to select as many responses as needed. The vast majority of responses related to financial impacts e.g., rise in insurance premiums, increase in the cost of food and lack of availability of food due to extreme weather events and difficulty heating or cooling the home during weather extremes.

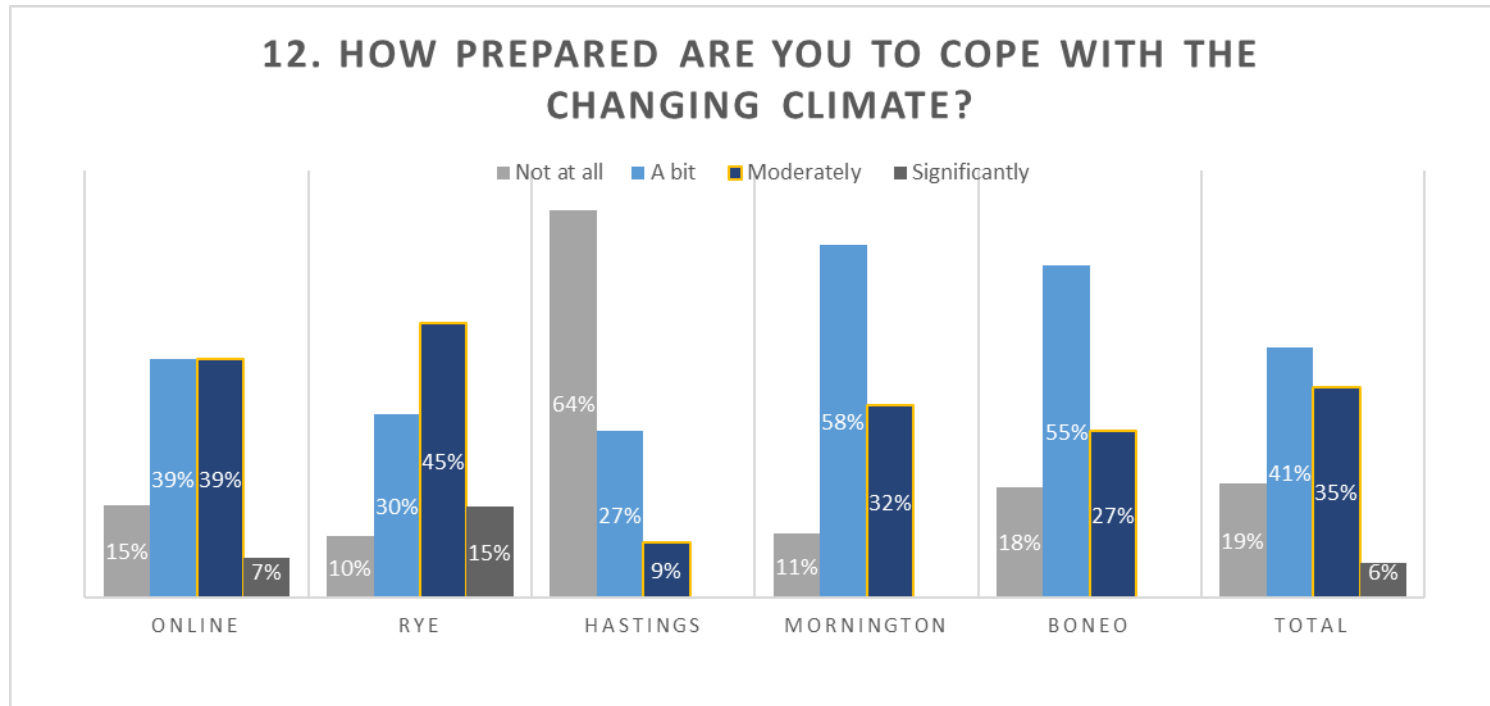
Respondents were asked to reflect on the impact of climate change on their health over the past five years. The majority of responses selected 'a bit' (33%) or 'moderately' (36%), with a further 10% selecting 'significantly'. Vastly more respondents selected 'moderately' in Boneo and more respondents selected 'not at all' in Mornington, Hastings and Rye. Overall the vast majority of respondents (79%) indicated that climate change has in fact had an impact on their health.



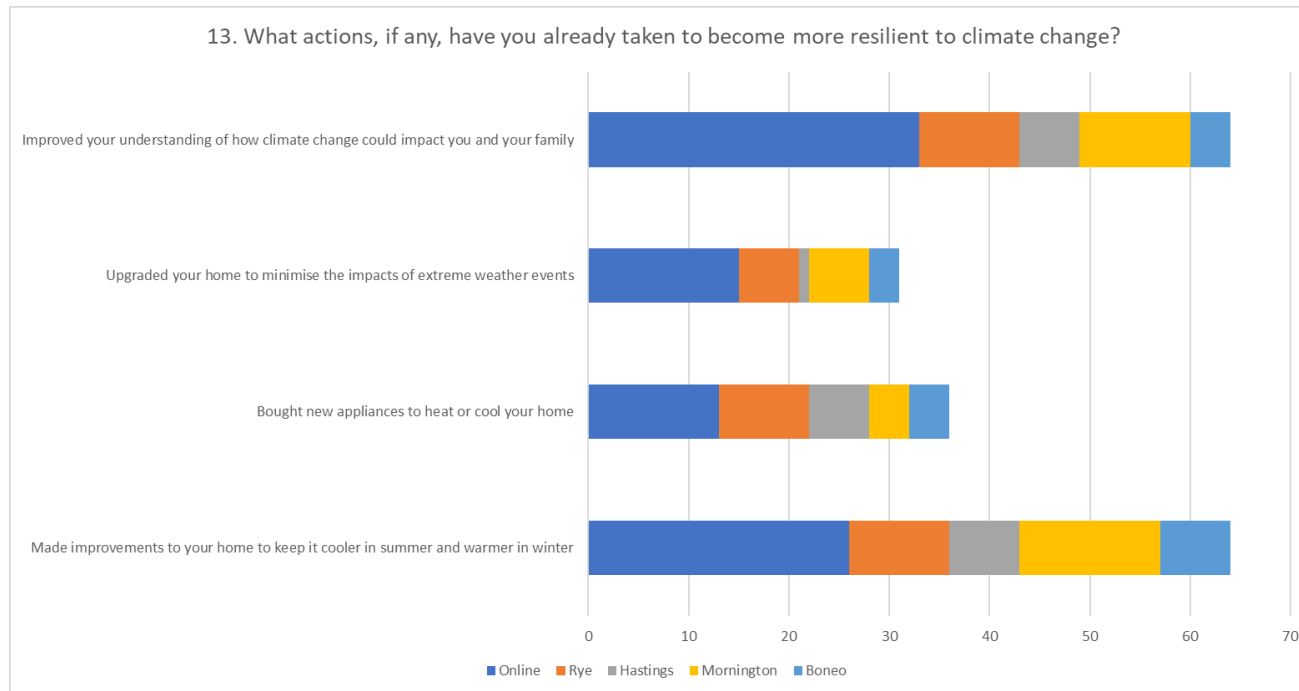
Respondents were also asked to consider the next five years and estimate the impact climate change will have on their health. A far higher proportion of respondents selected 'significantly' (39%), with 35% selecting 'moderately', 16% selecting 'a bit' and just 9% selecting 'not at all'. A vast majority (90%+) expected climate change to impact their health in the coming years.



When asked how prepared they were to cope with the changing climate, once again the majority selected 'a bit' (41%) or moderately (35%) with very few selecting 'significantly' (6%). Notably, a high majority of respondents in Hastings selected 'not at all' (64%).



Finally, respondents were asked about how they have prepared or become more resilient to climate change. A majority of respondents said that they have improved their understanding of how climate change could impact them, or that they have made improvements to their home to keep it cooler in summer and warmer in winter.



Conclusion

A strong number of respondents indicated that they realise the impact of climate change on their health, either in the past or looking ahead to the future. Interestingly, this number increased from the last five years (79%) to the coming five years (90%) – an 11% increase.

Responses varied with location surveyed, with people surveyed in Hastings being less prepared to cope with climate change and less likely to think climate change will impact their health over the next five years, while those surveyed in Boneo were more likely to see the impact of climate change on their own health. Community members surveyed in Rye were the most likely to feel prepared to cope with climate change.

Overall, the greatest impacts identified related to seasonality and extreme weather events, with actions taking mimicking this in terms of home improvements. Self-education was also a notable area of action.