

Belfast Summer Heat Events Survey - August 2021

9/16/2021

*Belfast Climate Crisis Committee &
All of Belfast Climate Dialogues project (Belfast Free Library)*

An in-person paper survey was conducted in August 2021 with the following 61 Belfast area residents:

- 14 respondents at the Senior Center at Belfast Boathouse on 8/31/2021
- 14 respondents at Belfast Area High School (both students and teachers) on 9/10/2021
- 20 respondents at Greater Belfast Area Ministerial Food Cupboard on 8/27/2021
- 12 respondents at Belfast Soup Kitchen on 8/31/2021

Survey questions and results:

We are asking people how they have gotten through the extreme heat this summer, and to hear your concerns and suggestions for the future.

Did you or someone in your family suffer medically from the heat?

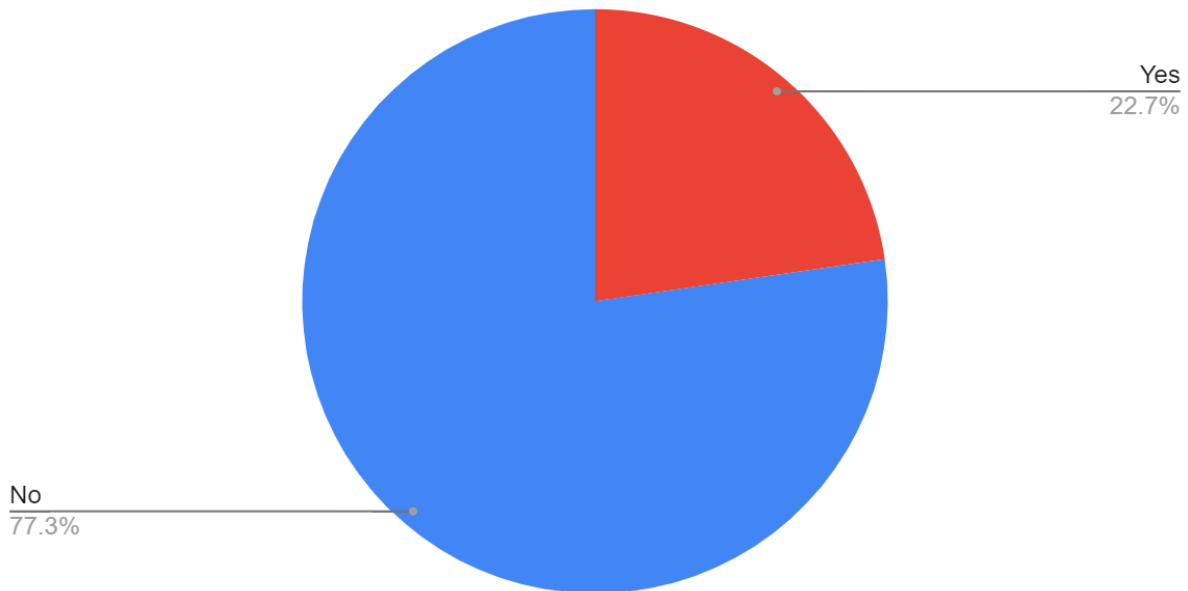
Yes 22.7%

No 77.3%

“Yes” responses included:

- Heat stroke
- Have COPD. Heat is inconvenient.
- Daughter - breathing problem worsened
- Breathing difficulty
- Asthma
- Some discomfort

Did you or someone in your family suffer medically from the heat?



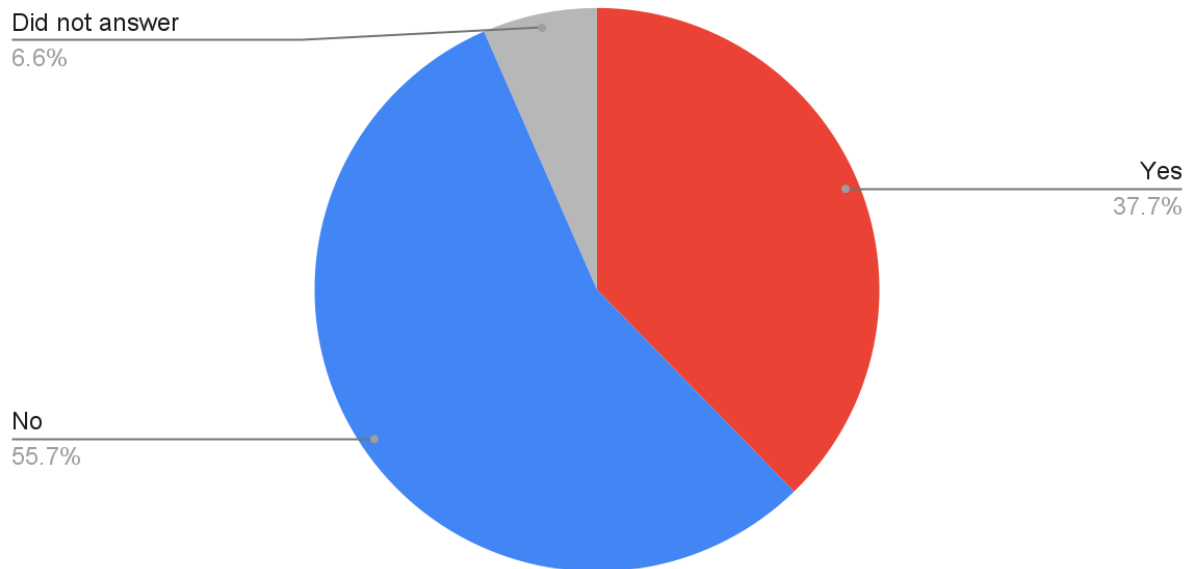
Are you concerned about a neighbor or friend during heat events?

Yes	37.7%
No	55.7%
Did not answer	6.6%

“Yes” responses included:

- Yes, my neighbor/client’s A/C unit is not going to last much longer and she won't be able to buy one for next year.
- Yes, there are two people on my road who usually have their wells run dry in summer, and with the extreme heat, this can increase the difficulty in keeping a garden/taking care of pets, and for showering and drinking needs.
- Yes those who have a big family but live in a small house that has little space for cool areas.
- I watch out for a neighbor, who had a stroke. I call as needed.
- Friend is 80 year old widow, has no AC. I keep checking in on her.
- I call my neighbor and my parents, and check on them.
- Yes - girlfriend at farm.
- I check on a couple.

Are you concerned about a neighbor or friend during heat events?



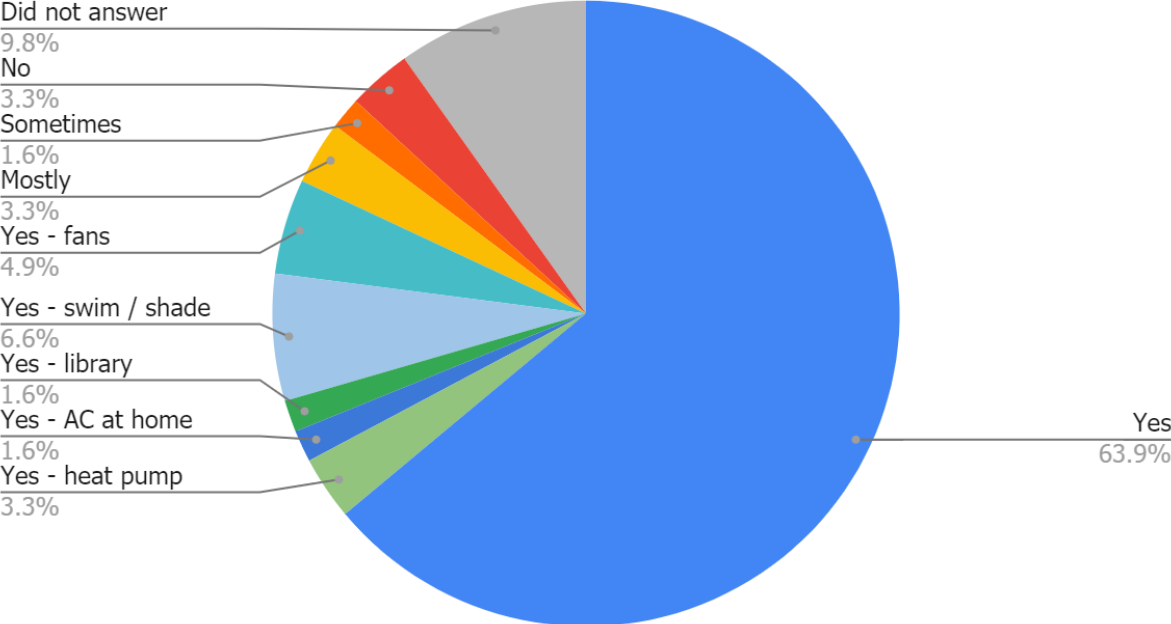
Can you get to a cool place on very hot days?

Yes	81.9%
Mostly	3.3%
Sometimes	1.6%
No	3.3%
Did not answer	9.8%

“Yes” responses were further broken down by respondents’ open-ended notes about where and how they keep cool:

Fans	4.9%
Swimming / find shade	6.6%
Library	1.6%
AC at home	1.6%
Heat pump at home	3.3%
(Yes - unspecified)	63.9%

Can you get to a cool place on very hot days?

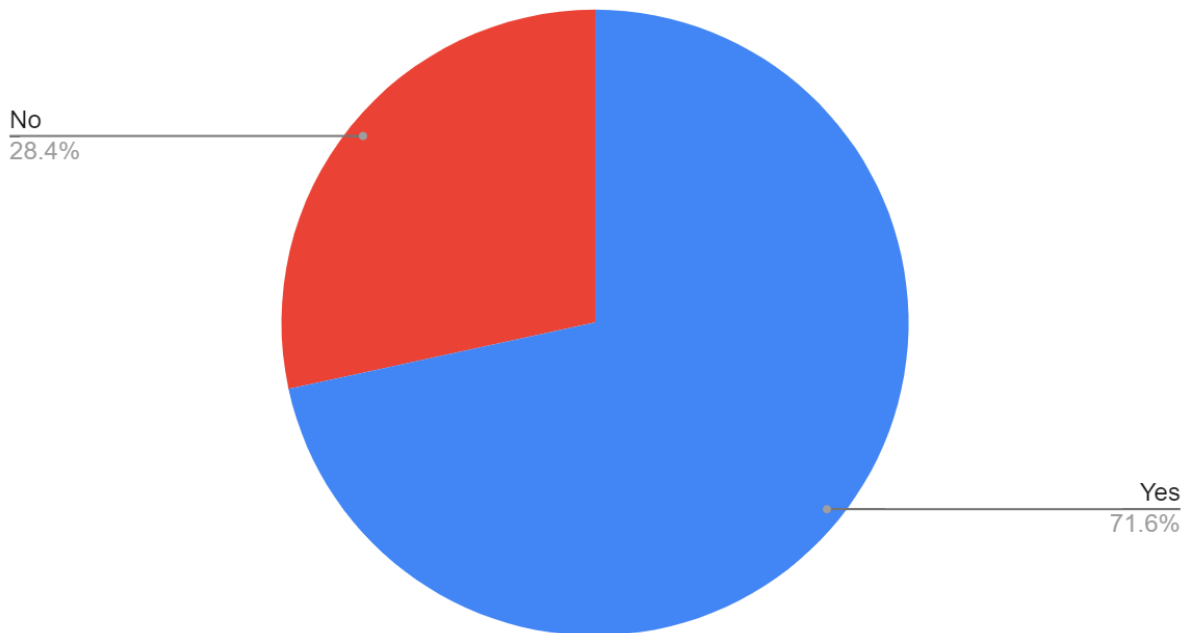


Do you have air conditioning at your home?

Yes 71.6%
 No 28.4%

Ten (10) of the “yes” respondents noted specifically that they have heat pump(s) at home.

Do you have air conditioning at your home?



Would you install air conditioning at your home if it were made available to you?

Yes	29.5%
No	23.0%
Already have	4.9%
Did not answer	42.6%

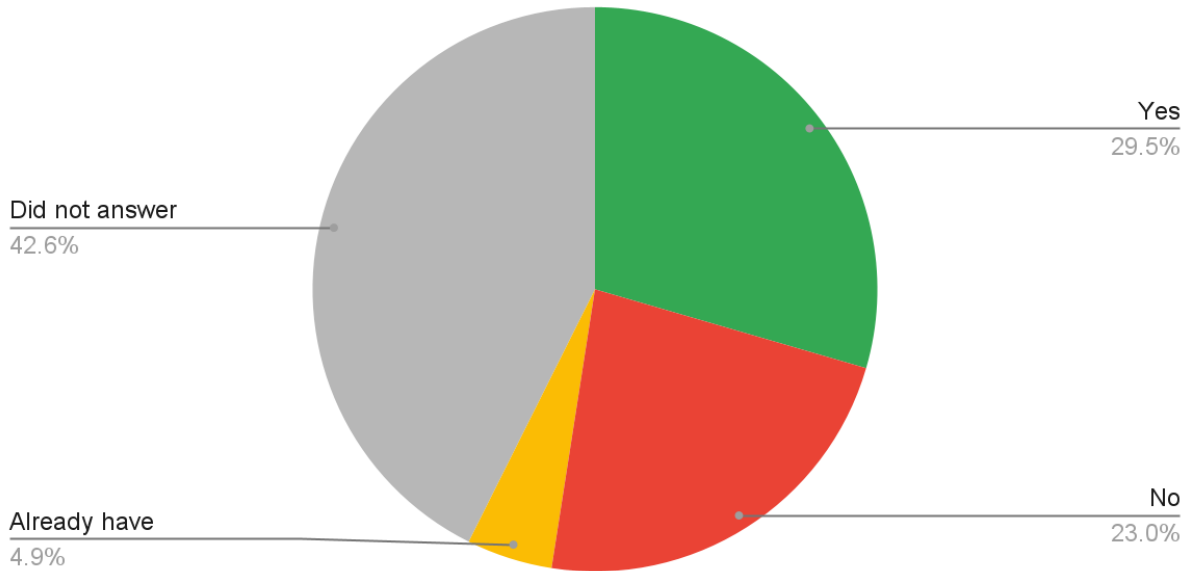
Responses coded as “No” responses included these remarks:

- No, due to concern for more climate change. A heat pump perhaps.
- Concern - electric bill?
- No - unless it is free
- No - windows

Responses coded as “Already have” included these comments:

- We were very fortunate to be able to put in heat pumps & solar panels which generate more electricity in summer than we use.
- Have a heat pump / love my heat pump as it can really help.
- Heat pump - everyone should have heat pumps.

Would you install air conditioning at your home if it were made available to you?



Do you have ideas about how the Belfast Community could prepare for the future periods of extreme heat?

All comments from this survey question are included in full below:

cooling center
Yes, rec center
Harvest Bay of Fundy
Yes
Not immediately
Get a group together concerning the heat and winter
No
Stop the Mask BS?
No
No

Random shaded areas like covered benches remember the sun moves
Fortunately we have an air conditioner in the kitchen that keeps the living room cool as well. It would be nice to have a drive for new or used A/C's for people who cannot afford one. A drive like say Toys for Tots, only A/C units.
Cultivate your lost spiritual energy and coolness will be around you.
Have it be known that there (if there) are open public places with AC
- Ensuring that there is an adequate supply of fresh water seems important, such as in towers or tanks that are covered to prevent evaporation. - Perhaps a community hotline could be in place so people can communicate issues with heat.
Provide cooling systems around the community
Heat pumps for all residents
Snow cone stands on Main Street. Park sprinklers for kids & dogs!! :)
No
A/C and make schools' pool
Free park bus rides from in town service for access to pool & ocean
no
Offer rebates on heat pumps or other methods to help
Install cooling areas around town similar to heated areas on top of skiing mountains. Basically just public places with A/C units.
Have community areas open and available with air conditioning for people
Not at this time
Get heat pumps
Have pools available. Improve building construction standards to include heat pumps, cooling, efficiency.
Have cooling centers that allow dogs. Have them accessible especially for people without cars.
Look at cooling centers in Franklin and Cumberland Counties
Cooling centers
Cooling centers
No

No
No - problem too big
no
Pools
Make it possible for the elderly to get transportation to stay cool. A lot of people do not have potable water.
Have Soup Kitchen open Mon - Fri, longer hours.
Need cooling centers. Food Pantry is great, but you have to be out by 1:00.
no
Belfast does too much already.
no
Cooling centers, water park
No
Previously, before moving here, we could not afford the heat pumps, air conditioning or solar panels. My suggestion would be for the city / county / state to provide low cost loans, grants and rebates to make it possible for more people to weatherize & install solar and heat pumps. The rebate we got was very helpful.
Lower power rates in summer
No
No
Armory - set it up with air conditioning
- An air conditioned building. - Free admission to the town pool. - Shaded areas in the parks by the water.
To have a place to go to if the electricity goes out, like in the winter.
Have a well known and available cooling center, and perhaps checks on people, or financial assistance for acquiring AC.
No

Cooling center
Yes, AC community sites for use during excessive heat & humidity surges.
Cooling center or water stations