

2015

# National Politics, Terrorism, and Florida Politics (Release Set 1 of 2)

A National Poll of Americans

Saint Leo University Polling Institute

December 2015

## **Statement of Confidentiality and Ownership**

---

All of the analyses, findings and recommendations contained within this report are the exclusive property of the Saint Leo University Polling Institute.

As required by the Code of Ethics of the National Council on Public Polls and the United States Privacy Act of 1974, the Saint Leo University Polling Institute maintains the anonymity of respondents to surveys the Institute conducts. No information will be released that might, in any way, reveal the identity of the respondent.

Moreover, no information regarding these findings will be released without the written consent of an authorized representative of the Saint Leo University Polling Institute.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## SECTION 1

Introduction ..... Page 4

## SECTION 2

Methodology ..... Page 5

## SECTION 3

Highlights..... Page 7

## SECTION 4

Summary of Findings ..... Page 11

Politics, Campaigns, Elections & Issues..... 11  
Terrorism..... 27  
Florida U.S. Senate Race..... 28  
Demographics ..... 29

## SECTION 5

Appendix..... Page 31

Survey Instrument  
Composite Aggregate Data  
Cross Tabulations of Data

# 1

## **INTRODUCTION**

---

The Saint Leo University Polling Institute is pleased to present the results of a national poll of Americans.

The poll was designed to assess public views regarding the 2016 presidential election, issues of concern, impressions of Pope Francis, views and opinions on terrorism, awareness of and views or interest in unmanned aerial mechanisms (drones).

The research study included survey responses from 1007 respondents nationally and 531 within Florida approximately proportional to state population contribution. The poll was conducted November 29 – December 3, 2015. A pre-test occurred on November 28, 2015.

The national poll included the following areas for investigation:

- Job approval rating for President Obama;
- Current issues of importance to Americans;
- Favorable ratings of presidential candidates;
- Presidential preferences for 2016;
- Views / opinions on terrorism;
- Awareness of unmanned aerial mechanisms/drones (in Release 2);
- Concerns about, and interest, in owning drones (in Release 2);
- Charitable giving (in Release 2);
- Spending level for pets on holiday gifts (in Release 2);
- Impact of Pope Francis on giving (in Release 2);
- Degree religion influences everyday decision making (in Release 2); and,
- Demographics.

Section II of this report discusses the Methodology used in the study, while Section III includes Highlights derived from an analysis of the quantitative research. Section IV is a Summary of Findings from the online survey.

Section V is an Appendix to the report containing the composite aggregate data, cross tabulations and the survey instrument employed.

# 2

## METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative research design, the Saint Leo University Polling Institute completed 1007 online surveys nationally and 531 among Florida residents.

Survey design input was provided by the membership of the Polling Institute Committee.

Survey design is a careful, deliberative process to ensure fair, objective and balanced surveys. Staff members, with years of survey design experience, edit out any bias. Further, all scales used by the Institute (either numeric, such as one through ten, or wording such as strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree) are balanced evenly. Additionally, placement of questions is carefully accomplished so that order has minimal impact.

This survey was conducted November 29 – December 3, 2015.

Respondents qualified for the survey if they were a resident of the United States and 18 years of age or older. Responses were approximately proportional to each state's population.

All facets of the study were completed by the Polling Institute's senior staff and researchers. These aspects include: survey design, pre-test, computer programming, fielding, coding, editing, verification, validation and logic checks, computer analysis, analysis, and report writing.

Statistically, a sample of 1007 completed surveys has an associated margin for error of +/- 3.0% at a 95% confidence level. A sample of 531 Florida respondents has an associated margin for error of 4.5% at a 95% confidence level.

Results throughout this report are presented for composite results – all 1007 cases. Throughout, composite results are presented side-by-side with Florida specific results. On political candidate preferences and on current issues, columns of data also hold results of just likely voters – those indicating they vote either all the time or most of the time in elections.

Readers of this report should note that any survey is analogous to a snapshot in time and results are only reflective of the time period in which the survey was undertaken. Should concerted public relations or information campaigns be undertaken during or shortly after the fielding of the survey, the results contained herein may be expected to change and should be, therefore, carefully interpreted and extrapolated.

Furthermore, it is important to note that all surveys contain some component of “sampling error”. Error that is attributable to systematic bias has been significantly reduced by utilizing strict random probability procedures. This sample was strictly random in that selection of each potential respondent was an independent event based on known probabilities.

Each qualified online panel member within the United States had an equal chance for participating in the study. Statistical random error, however, can never be eliminated but may be significantly reduced by increasing sample size.

# 3

## HIGHLIGHTS

### ON POLITICS, CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONS AND ISSUES...

President Barack Obama's job approval rating moved down slightly to 48.2% in the current polling from 50.0% in October 2015 and up slightly from 47.0% in June, 2015. Disapproval increased to 48.0% from 46.8% in October.

Jobs and the economy remained the single most important issue named by poll respondents (25.8%). Other issues of importance, in declining order, included: terrorism (16.9%), homeland security and anti-terror policy (15.1%), healthcare (9.2%) and government spending and the federal deficit (6.5%).

Importantly, terrorism overall has become the nation's leading issue (32.0%) when "terrorism" at 16.9% is combined with those naming "homeland security and anti-terror policy" at 15.1%. This combined percentage more than tripled from 10.1% just two months ago.

Other issues mentioned less frequently included: immigration, education, global climate change, gun violence, and declining U.S. status worldwide.

Leading Republican candidates Donald Trump, Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush, and Ted Cruz have gained support among likely voters since the October Saint Leo University Poll. Ben Carson's support has declined. Current leaders are: Trump (29.1%), Ben Carson (13.6%), Marco Rubio (11.4%), Jeb Bush (10.5%) and Ted Cruz (9.1%).

Among Democratic likely voters nationwide, the current leading candidates are: Hillary Clinton (58.9% - up from 54.8% in October 2015), Bernie Sanders (23.7% - up from 12.0% in October 2015) and Martin O'Malley (8.1% - up from 6.9% in October 2015). The October poll included Vice President Joe Biden who garnered 15.8%.

In a head-to-head contest among likely voters nationwide, Hillary Clinton surpasses Jeb Bush, Carly Fiorina, Ben Carson, Marco Rubio and Donald Trump as shown here.

National Composite among Likely Voters

December 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	49.1	Jeb Bush	35.3
Hillary Clinton	51.3	Carly Fiorina	31.9
Hillary Clinton	51.1	Ben Carson	38.2
Hillary Clinton	48.5	Marco Rubio	37.8
Hillary Clinton	50.7	Donald Trump	37.2
Hillary Clinton	51.7	Ted Cruz	35.8

Hillary Clinton would be in an extraordinary position to win the Presidency should Donald Trump decide to run as an independent candidate. The results of such a three-way contest among likely voters are depicted here.

National Composite among Likely Voters

December 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent	Independent Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	43.3	Jeb Bush	19.6	Donald Trump	29.5
Hillary Clinton	44.8	Carly Fiorina	14.9	Donald Trump	29.6
Hillary Clinton	44.0	Ben Carson	20.1	Donald Trump	25.7
Hillary Clinton	43.3	Marco Rubio	21.8	Donald Trump	25.9
Hillary Clinton	45.4	Ted Cruz	19.9	Donald Trump	26.1

All respondents were asked: “Despite your own preference for our next president, based on all you know or have heard, which one of the following Democratic and Republican candidates would likely mount the strongest and most effective effort against terrorists worldwide while protecting Americans at home?” The leading responses among likely voters included: Trump (24.0%), Clinton (23.2%), Sanders (8.1%), Cruz (5.9%), Carson (4.7%), Rubio (4.5%) and Bush (4.5%).

The favorable opinion of Pope Francis moved to 70.0% in the December 2015 poll – up somewhat from 66.4% recorded in October 2015.



## ON TERRORISM...

In light of recent terror attacks such as in Paris, France, respondents were presented with a number of terror-related statements and asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed.

There exists strong agreement (strongly and somewhat agreed) in a number of areas...

- ISIS terrorists are likely hiding among Syrian and other refugees in order to enter the U.S. and Europe – 78.2% agree
- I support a “pause” in accepting Syrian refugees into the U.S. until additional FBI background checks can be added to the current process – 66.9% agree
- I am concerned about terrorism when attending large public events – 61.8%

There is also significant agreement on a number of other statements...

- Russia’s President Putin is stronger on fighting terrorism than President Obama – 48.3%
- Persecuted Christians in foreign lands, living in fear, should continue to be fast-tracked for entry into the U.S. – 45.1%
- I have confidence in President Obama to protect Americans based on his record – 42.9%

Fewer respondents agreed with the following...

- The U.S. and Americans have an obligation to accept Syrian refugees – 39.0%
- I trust our federal government’s ability to accurately verify entering refugees are not terrorists – 36.4%

## ON FLORIDA ISSUES...

Leaders among Florida likely voters for the 2016 U.S. Senate Republican nomination included David Jolly (11.6%) and Carlos Lopez-Cantera (8.2%). Most were unsure (56.5%).

Republican Candidates	Florida October	Florida LV October	Florida December	Florida LV December
Ron DeSantis	6.2	6.7	6.1	6.1
David Jolly	8.5	8.6	10.4	11.6
Dr. Ilya Katz	2.3	2.5	4.9	4.1
Carlos Lopez-Cantera	4.5	4.3	7.4	8.2
Todd Wilcox	4.5	4.9	6.7	6.8
Someone else	8.5	8.6	6.7	6.8
Unsure / Don't Know	65.5	64.4	57.7	56.5
N=	177	163	163	147

Leaders among Florida Democratic likely voters for the 2016 U.S. Senate Democratic nomination included Patrick Murphy (16.9%), and Alan Grayson (7.1%). Nearly one-half, 46.9%, were unsure.

Democratic Candidates	Florida	Florida Likely Voters	Florida December	Florida LV December
Alan Grayson	12.1	14.5	16.1	7.1
Patrick Murphy	15.9	17.6	15.6	16.9
Lateresa A. Jones	5.8	6.7	5.0	6.3
Pam Keith	1.9	1.8	3.5	4.4
Someone else	11.1	10.9	8.5	7.5
Unsure / don't know	53.1	48.5	51.3	46.9
N=	207	165	199	160

# 4

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Readers are reminded that the narrative throughout this report refers to composite aggregate data – the 1007 completed surveys as well as the supplemental sample of 531 Florida respondents. Text throughout this report presents national composite results while many graphs and tables also present results among Florida respondents. On political questions such as candidate preferences or current issues of importance, the data for likely voters is also presented. The counts for composite data (national and Florida) and for likely voters (national and Florida) are presented in the following table.

National Composite	National Likely Voters (LV)	Florida Composite	Florida Likely Voters (LV)
1007	746	531	404

### POLITICS, CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONS AND ISSUES

All respondents were asked to rate the job Barack Obama has been doing as President. Just over one-half of likely voters, 50.3%, suggested strongly or somewhat approve. Results are presented within the following tables for October and December 2015. In June 2015, the President's favorable job rating was 47.0% among likely voters nationally.

President's Job Approval Rating National Results	National October 2015	National LV December 2015	National December 2015	National LV December 2015
Strongly approve	19.9	22.6	17.1	19.0
Somewhat approve	30.0	28.7	31.1	31.2
<b>Total: Strongly and somewhat approve</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>50.3</b>
Somewhat disapprove	14.0	11.8	15.1	14.1
Strongly disapprove	32.8	36.1	32.9	33.4
<b>Total: Strongly and somewhat disapprove</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>47.5</b>
Unsure	3.2	0.8	3.8	2.3

<b>President's Job Approval Rating Florida Results</b>	<b>Florida October 2015</b>	<b>Florida LV October 2015</b>	<b>Florida December 2015</b>	<b>Florida LV December 2015</b>
Strongly approve	19.1	19.8	20.9	22.0
Somewhat approve	29.5	27.4	32.8	31.2
<b>Total: Strongly and somewhat approve</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>53.2</b>
Somewhat disapprove	14.8	14.4	13.4	12.6
Strongly disapprove	34.9	37.7	30.2	32.7
<b>Total: Strongly and somewhat disapprove</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>45.3</b>
Unsure	1.7	0.7	2.6	1.5

All respondents were asked to name the most important issue facing the nation today. The most important issues were reported to be jobs and the economy, terrorism and homeland security. Together, “terrorism” and “homeland security/anti-terror policy” combined, lead the list of concerns at 32.0%. Results are presented in the following table in declining or importance based on the composite national data for December 2015.

<b>Issues Most Important National Results</b>	<b>National October 2015</b>	<b>National LV October 2015</b>	<b>National December 2015</b>	<b>National LV December 2015</b>
Jobs and the economy	32.4	30.9	25.8	27.8
Terrorism	5.6	6.7	16.9	15.5
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	4.5	4.5	15.1	15.3
Healthcare	10.3	9.7	9.2	9.0
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	15.3	17.0	6.5	6.0
Immigration	5.5	5.6	4.7	4.6
Education	4.4	4.6	4.2	4.8
Global climate change	3.3	3.9	3.0	3.2
Gun violence	4.0	3.3	2.9	2.8
Declining U.S. status worldwide	2.4	2.9	2.3	2.0
Don't know / not sure	2.8	1.7	2.0	0.9
Crime	2.2	1.4	2.0	2.1
Foreign affairs	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.1
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	3.3	3.7	1.3	1.5
Some other issues	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.4
Energy policy	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.4
International trade imbalance	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1

<b>Issues Most Important Florida Results</b>	<b>Florida October 2015</b>	<b>Florida LV October 2015</b>	<b>Florida December 2015</b>	<b>Florida LV December 2015</b>
Jobs and the economy	30.9	27.4	24.0	24.5
Terrorism	3.7	3.9	16.0	16.0
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	6.9	8.1	13.8	15.6
Healthcare	12.1	11.7	10.6	10.6
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	12.3	13.4	7.5	8.2
Immigration	7.5	8.6	5.1	5.9
Education	3.8	4.2	5.1	4.7
Gun violence	5.4	5.1	2.8	2.2
Global climate change	3.3	3.7	2.8	3.2
Crime	2.5	1.5	2.3	1.5
Some other issues	2.1	2.4	2.1	1.0
Don't know / not sure	1.7	1.2	1.9	0.7
Declining U.S. status worldwide	4.4	5.1	1.9	1.7
Foreign affairs	0.6	0.7	1.9	2.0
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	2.9	2.9	1.5	1.2
Energy policy	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.5
International trade imbalance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

The following four tables hold favorable and unfavorable ratings for the Republican and Democratic candidates. National results, national likely voter results, Florida results and Florida likely voter results for December 2015 are presented.

<b>National Results</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	29.1	47.9	23.1
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	33.7	43.4	23.0
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	31.2	50.3	18.6
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	33.9	43.7	22.5
Businessman Donald Trump	39.8	53.9	6.4
Florida Governor Jeb Bush	33.9	52.3	13.9
Ohio Governor John Kasich	22.4	41.0	36.7
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	29.8	46.7	23.6
Dr. Ben Carson	38.7	44.4	17.0
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	19.4	47.7	33.0
Former HP CEO Carly Fiorina	28.4	44.2	27.5
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	45.1	48.2	6.4
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	21.6	38.9	39.6
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	41.2	39.1	19.7

<b>National Likely Voter Results</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	31.7	51.7	16.6
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	36.4	46.7	16.9
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	34.8	53.3	11.9
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	38.5	46.3	15.0
Businessman Donald Trump	41.0	54.6	4.3
Florida Governor Jeb Bush	36.9	55.1	8.1
Ohio Governor John Kasich	26.0	44.3	29.7
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	34.1	49.4	16.5
Dr. Ben Carson	42.1	46.6	11.3
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	21.6	52.0	26.3
Former HP CEO Carly Fiorina	33.6	47.1	19.3
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	47.4	49.1	3.5
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	24.7	43.1	32.3
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	45.5	41.2	13.3

<b>Florida Results</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	31.9	45.7	22.5
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	35.1	43.0	21.9
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	36.0	45.9	18.1
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	45.7	41.5	12.8
Businessman Donald Trump	40.9	51.9	7.4
Florida Governor Jeb Bush	39.2	51.9	8.9
Ohio Governor John Kasich	22.5	40.7	36.8
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	30.0	48.1	21.9
Dr. Ben Carson	43.2	41.9	14.9
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	23.2	46.2	30.6
Former HP CEO Carly Fiorina	31.5	41.6	26.6
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	51.1	42.8	6.0
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	20.9	40.9	38.1
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	40.9	42.4	17.0

<b>Florida Likely Voter Results</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	36.4	48.6	15.1
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	38.6	45.3	16.1
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	39.9	49.3	10.9
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	50.7	44.6	4.7
Businessman Donald Trump	45.5	52.0	2.5
Florida Governor Jeb Bush	44.3	52.5	3.2
Ohio Governor John Kasich	25.2	45.3	29.5
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	34.4	51.7	14.1
Dr. Ben Carson	46.0	44.6	9.4
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	25.2	50.3	24.5
Former HP CEO Carly Fiorina	34.9	44.1	21.0
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	53.2	45.0	1.7
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	23.8	44.3	31.9
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	42.8	45.8	11.4

Republicans surveyed were asked to think about the candidates running for the Republican nomination for President in 2016. Each was asked to name the candidate they would support if the primary “was held today.” Results are presented in declining order by December national, likely voter data.

<b>Republican Candidates National Results</b>	<b>National October 2015</b>	<b>National LV October 2015</b>	<b>National December 2015</b>	<b>National LV December 2015</b>
Businessman Donald Trump	23.5	22.7	29.2	29.1
Dr. Ben Carson	20.7	22.2	14.2	13.6
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	10.0	11.1	10.8	11.4
Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush	8.0	8.4	10.4	10.5
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	4.8	4.0	9.6	9.1
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	3.2	3.6	5.4	6.4
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	2.4	2.7	4.6	4.5
Unsure / Don't Know	10.0	8.0	3.5	2.7
Ohio Governor John Kasich	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.7
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	1.6	1.3	2.7	2.7
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum	0.8	0.9	1.9	2.3
Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina	5.2	5.8	1.5	1.4

South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	0.8	0.4	1.2	1.4
Former New York Governor George Pataki	0.8	0.9	---	1.1
Someone else	2.4	2.2	1.2	0.9
New York Congressman Peter King	1.2	1.3	---	---
Former Ambassador John Bolton	1.2	1.3	---	---
Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal	1.2	0.9	---	---
Indiana Governor Mike Pence	0.0	0.0	---	---
Former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore	0.0	0.0	---	---
Former Maryland Governor Bob Ehrlich	0.0	0.0	---	---

Republican respondents were asked, in December 2015, to report their second preferred choice for their party's nominee. Results are presented in the following table.

<b>National: December 2015</b>	<b>Second Choice</b>	<b>LV Second Choice</b>
Businessman Donald Trump	18.1	17.3
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	15.4	16.8
Dr. Ben Carson	12.3	13.2
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	11.9	10.9
Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush	10.4	10.9
Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina	3.8	4.5
Unsure / Don't Know	5.8	4.5
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	5.4	4.1
Ohio Governor John Kasich	3.1	3.6
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	3.8	3.6
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	3.5	3.2
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum	2.7	3.2
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	1.9	1.8
Former New York Governor George Pataki	1.5	1.8
Someone else	0.4	0.5



Florida Republicans surveyed were asked to think about the candidates running for the Republican nomination for President in 2016. Each was asked to name the candidate they would support if the primary “was held today.” Results are presented in declining order by December likely voter data.

<b>Republican Candidates Florida Results December 2015</b>	<b>Florida October 2015</b>	<b>Florida LV October 2015</b>	<b>Florida December 2015</b>	<b>Florida LV December 2015</b>
Businessman Donald Trump	25.4	25.8	33.7	30.6
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	21.5	21.5	13.5	15.0
Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush	15.3	15.3	13.5	14.3
Dr. Ben Carson	14.1	14.7	10.4	10.9
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	4.5	4.9	9.8	10.2
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	1.7	1.8	4.9	5.4
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	0.6	0.6	3.7	4.1
Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina	6.8	5.5	2.4	2.7
Ohio Governor John Kasich	2.3	2.5	1.8	2.0
Unsure / Don't Know	6.2	5.5	1.8	1.4
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	1.1	1.2	1.8	1.4
Someone else	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.7
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.7
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0
New York Congressman Peter King	0.0	0.0	---	---
Former Ambassador John Bolton	0.0	0.0	---	---
Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal	0.6	0.6	---	---
Former New York Governor George Pataki	0.0	0.0	---	---
Indiana Governor Mike Pence	0.0	0.0	---	---
Former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore	0.0	0.0	---	---
Former Maryland Governor Bob Ehrlich	0.0	0.0	---	---

Similarly, Florida Republican respondents were asked, in December 2015, to report their second preferred choice for their party's nominee. Results are presented in the following table.

<b>Republican Candidates: Florida Results December 2015</b>	<b>Florida Second Choice</b>	<b>Florida LV Second Choice</b>
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	4.3	4.8
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	8.6	9.5
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	4.3	4.8
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	23.3	24.5
Businessman Donald Trump	19.0	19.7
Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush	13.5	14.3
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum	0.6	0.7
Ohio Governor John Kasich	1.8	1.4
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	1.8	2.0
Dr. Ben Carson	11.7	9.5
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	0.0	0.0
Former New York Governor George Pataki	1.2	1.4
Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina	4.9	4.1
Someone else	0.6	0.7
Unsure / Don't Know	4.3	2.7

Democrats surveyed were similarly asked which candidate they would vote for if the primary “was held today.” Results are presented in declining order by national likely voters.

<b>Democratic Candidates</b>	<b>National October 2015</b>	<b>National Likely Voters October 2015</b>	<b>National December 2015</b>	<b>National LV December 2015</b>
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	53.4	54.8	58.1	58.9
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	11.4	12.0	23.8	23.7
Unsure / don't know	8.8	6.9	7.9	8.1
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	2.0	1.9	5.9	5.9
Someone else	1.3	1.2	4.8	3.3
Vice President Joe Biden	16.4	15.8		
Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren	1.6	1.9	---	---
New York Governor Andrew Cuomo	1.6	1.9	---	---
Virginia Senator Mark Warner	1.3	1.5	---	---
New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	1.3	1.5	---	---
Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper	0.3	0.4	---	---
Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar	0.3	0.0	---	---
Former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick	0.3	0.0	---	---
New Jersey Senator Corey Booker	0.0	0.0	---	---
Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb	0.0	0.0	---	---
Former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee	0.0	0.0	---	---

<b>Democratic Candidates</b>	<b>National Second Choice</b>	<b>National LV Second Choice</b>
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	36.8	37.8
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	27.0	27.8
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	15.6	15.2
Unsure / don't know	12.4	12.6
Someone else	8.3	6.7

<b>Democratic Candidates</b>	<b>Florida October</b>	<b>Florida LV October</b>	<b>Florida December</b>	<b>Florida LV December</b>
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	49.5	50.9	58.3	58.8
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	13.0	13.3	27.1	26.9
Unsure / don't know	11.5	8.5	7.0	7.5
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	1.9	2.4	3.5	3.8
Someone else	1.4	18	4.0	3.1
Vice President Joe Biden	14.4	15.2	---	---
Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren	4.8	5.5	---	---
New York Governor Andrew Cuomo	0.5	0.6	---	---
Virginia Senator Mark Warner	1.0	0.6	---	---
Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb	0.5	0.6	---	---
Former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee	1.0	0.6	---	---
New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	0.0	0.0	---	---
Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper	0.0	0.0	---	---
Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar	0.5	0.0	--	---
Former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick	0.0	0.0	---	---
New Jersey Senator Corey Booker	0.0	0.0	---	---

<b>Democratic Candidates</b>	<b>Florida Second Choice</b>	<b>Florida LV Second Choice</b>
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	39.7	41.3
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	27.6	28.8
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	12.1	11.3
Someone else	11.1	10.0
Unsure / don't know	9.5	8.8

The survey held a number of Presidential election ballots. Respondents were asked to name the candidate they would most likely support. The following tables present national composite data, national likely voters, Florida composite data and Florida likely voters.

**National Composite Results**

**December 2015**

<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hillary Clinton	47.8	Jeb Bush	32.7
Hillary Clinton	49.8	Carly Fiorina	28.6
Hillary Clinton	48.6	Ben Carson	36.3
Hillary Clinton	46.6	Marco Rubio	35.7
Hillary Clinton	48.9	Donald Trump	36.0
Hillary Clinton	48.4	Ted Cruz	33.8

**October 2015**

<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hillary Clinton	42.2	Jeb Bush	31.2
Hillary Clinton	45.3	Carly Fiorina	32.0
Hillary Clinton	44.7	Ben Carson	38.0
Hillary Clinton	44.4	Marco Rubio	35.0
Hillary Clinton	45.2	Donald Trump	35.7

**National Composite among Likely Voters**

**December 2015**

<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hillary Clinton	49.1	Jeb Bush	35.3
Hillary Clinton	51.3	Carly Fiorina	31.9
Hillary Clinton	51.1	Ben Carson	38.2
Hillary Clinton	48.5	Marco Rubio	37.8
Hillary Clinton	50.7	Donald Trump	37.2
Hillary Clinton	51.7	Ted Cruz	35.8

**October 2015**

<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hillary Clinton	44.7	Jeb Bush	34.2
Hillary Clinton	47.4	Carly Fiorina	36.4
Hillary Clinton	45.8	Ben Carson	41.5
Hillary Clinton	45.8	Marco Rubio	39.1
Hillary Clinton	47.0	Donald Trump	37.9

## Florida Composite Results

### December 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	47.0	Jeb Bush	34.9
Hillary Clinton	54.9	Carly Fiorina	27.0
Hillary Clinton	50.2	Ben Carson	36.0
Hillary Clinton	49.0	Marco Rubio	37.8
Hillary Clinton	49.9	Donald Trump	37.1
Hillary Clinton	53.0	Ted Cruz	31.3

### October 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	45.6	Jeb Bush	39.4
Hillary Clinton	48.7	Carly Fiorina	33.1
Hillary Clinton	47.0	Ben Carson	38.5
Hillary Clinton	45.6	Marco Rubio	38.1
Hillary Clinton	48.3	Donald Trump	34.2

## Florida Results among Likely Voters

### December 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	47.3	Jeb Bush	37.9
Hillary Clinton	55.2	Carly Fiorina	29.7
Hillary Clinton	51.2	Ben Carson	39.1
Hillary Clinton	48.9	Marco Rubio	41.2
Hillary Clinton	48.9	Donald Trump	41.2
Hillary Clinton	53.0	Ted Cruz	34.7

### October 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	44.0	Jeb Bush	44.7
Hillary Clinton	47.4	Carly Fiorina	38.1
Hillary Clinton	44.9	Ben Carson	44.1
Hillary Clinton	44.3	Marco Rubio	44.0
Hillary Clinton	45.2	Donald Trump	38.1

All respondents were also presented with a three-way Presidential contest. Each was asked who they would most likely support in each match-up. Results, again, are presented on a national composite basis, nationally among likely voters, Florida composite basis and in Florida among likely voters.

### **National Composite Results**

#### **December 2015**

<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Independent Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hillary Clinton	41.7	Jeb Bush	18.2	Donald Trump	29.1
Hillary Clinton	42.9	Carly Fiorina	13.1	Donald Trump	29.8
Hillary Clinton	41.2	Ben Carson	20.7	Donald Trump	25.1
Hillary Clinton	41.4	Marco Rubio	19.4	Donald Trump	26.1
Hillary Clinton	43.0	Ted Cruz	18.5	Donald Trump	26.0

#### **October 2015**

<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Independent Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hillary Clinton	40.8	Jeb Bush	20.1	Donald Trump	24.0
Hillary Clinton	41.6	Carly Fiorina	20.0	Donald Trump	23.6
Hillary Clinton	41.1	Ben Carson	25.3	Donald Trump	20.0
Hillary Clinton	41.4	Marco Rubio	21.7	Donald Trump	22.6
Hillary Clinton	42.2	Ted Cruz	17.3	Donald Trump	23.3

### **National Composite among Likely Voters**

#### **December 2015**

<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Independent Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hillary Clinton	43.3	Jeb Bush	19.6	Donald Trump	29.5
Hillary Clinton	44.8	Carly Fiorina	14.9	Donald Trump	29.6
Hillary Clinton	44.0	Ben Carson	20.1	Donald Trump	25.7
Hillary Clinton	43.3	Marco Rubio	21.8	Donald Trump	25.9
Hillary Clinton	45.4	Ted Cruz	19.9	Donald Trump	26.1

#### **October 2015**

<b>Democratic Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Republican Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Independent Candidate</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hillary Clinton	42.7	Jeb Bush	22.8	Donald Trump	24.2
Hillary Clinton	43.7	Carly Fiorina	22.6	Donald Trump	23.8
Hillary Clinton	43.1	Ben Carson	27.9	Donald Trump	20.2
Hillary Clinton	43.7	Marco Rubio	24.6	Donald Trump	22.9
Hillary Clinton	44.9	Ted Cruz	18.6	Donald Trump	24.1

## Florida Composite Results

### December 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent	Independent Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	42.6	Jeb Bush	18.1	Donald Trump	30.3
Hillary Clinton	47.9	Carly Fiorina	11.5	Donald Trump	28.3
Hillary Clinton	45.3	Ben Carson	18.5	Donald Trump	26.2
Hillary Clinton	44.5	Marco Rubio	19.4	Donald Trump	25.8
Hillary Clinton	46.4	Ted Cruz	18.9	Donald Trump	24.0

### October 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent	Independent Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	43.8	Jeb Bush	22.7	Donald Trump	21.7
Hillary Clinton	44.4	Carly Fiorina	21.0	Donald Trump	22.1
Hillary Clinton	44.8	Ben Carson	24.4	Donald Trump	19.8
Hillary Clinton	43.5	Marco Rubio	24.4	Donald Trump	21.0
Hillary Clinton	45.0	Ted Cruz	18.7	Donald Trump	21.9

## Florida among Likely Voters

### December 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent	Independent Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	41.8	Jeb Bush	19.1	Donald Trump	33.4
Hillary Clinton	47.5	Carly Fiorina	12.9	Donald Trump	30.7
Hillary Clinton	45.5	Ben Carson	20.3	Donald Trump	27.7
Hillary Clinton	44.8	Marco Rubio	21.8	Donald Trump	28.2
Hillary Clinton	46.0	Ted Cruz	21.3	Donald Trump	26.0

### October 2015

Democratic Candidate	Percent	Republican Candidate	Percent	Independent Candidate	Percent
Hillary Clinton	42.3	Jeb Bush	24.7	Donald Trump	24.0
Hillary Clinton	42.3	Carly Fiorina	24.2	Donald Trump	23.5
Hillary Clinton	43.0	Ben Carson	27.6	Donald Trump	21.3
Hillary Clinton	41.8	Marco Rubio	27.9	Donald Trump	22.2
Hillary Clinton	43.0	Ted Cruz	21.5	Donald Trump	23.7



All respondents were asked: “Despite your own preference for our next president, based on all you know or have heard, which one of the following Democratic and Republican candidates would likely mount the strongest and most effective effort against terrorists worldwide while protecting Americans at home?”

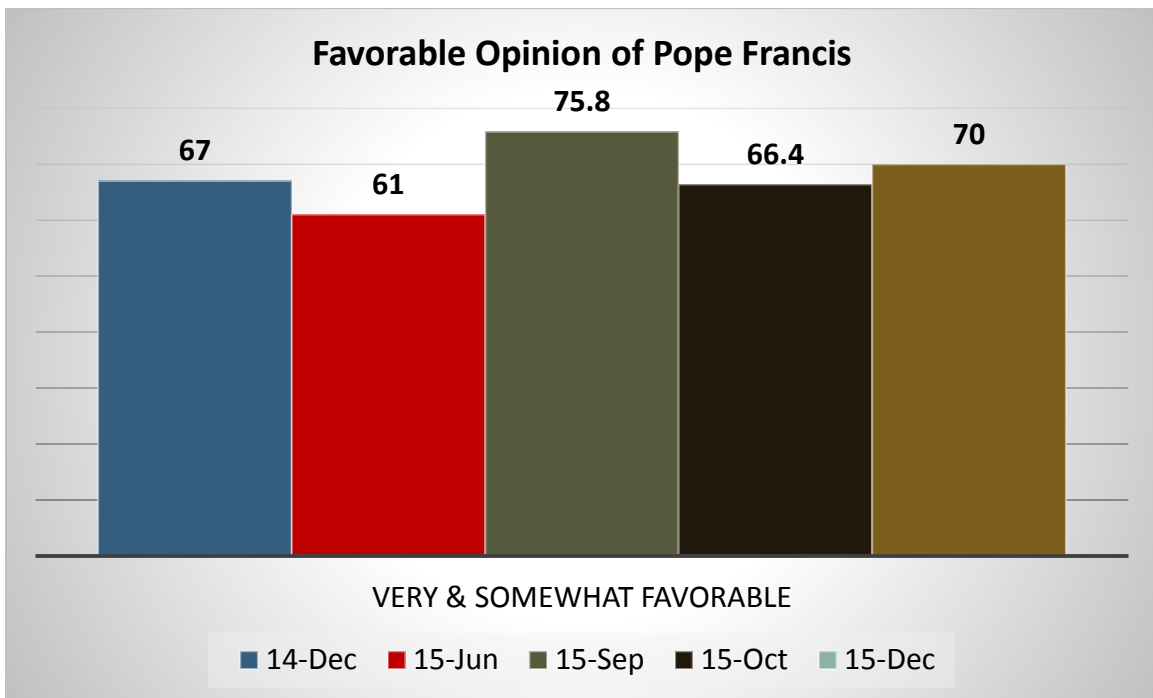
The following table presents the results as collected. Results are shown in declining order by national likely voter data. Both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump lead the other candidates.

<b>Republican and Democratic Candidates</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>National Likely Voters</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>Florida Likely Voters</b>
Businessman Donald Trump	24.1	24.0	25.8	25.2
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	20.7	23.2	20.6	22.8
Unsure / None	17.9	13.7	15.1	10.4
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	7.7	8.1	7.2	6.2
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	5.5	5.9	4.5	5.4
Dr. Ben Carson	4.4	4.7	3.6	4.2
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	3.8	4.5	4.7	5.7
Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush	4.7	4.5	8.9	9.7
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	2.3	2.6	3.0	3.7
Ohio Governor John Kasich	2.0	2.1	0.2	0.2
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	1.7	1.4	2.1	2.0
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	1.1	1.4	0.9	1.0
Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.3
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.2
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0
Former New York Governor George Pataki	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5
Former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.5

All respondents were asked if their opinion of Pope Francis was strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or not at all favorable. Results are presented here for the current and previous polls. The September 2015 poll was timed to coincide with pope's visit to the United States.

In Florida, Pope Francis currently enjoys a 67.5% favorable opinion. Among Catholics, the pope's current favorable opinion is 84.5%.

National results are presented in the following graph.



## **TERRORISM**

In light of recent terror attacks such as in Paris, France, respondents were presented with a number of terror related statements and asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The following table holds the cumulative totals for those indicating they strongly or somewhat agree. Results are presented in declining order of agreement based on national results.

Concern over “terrorism when attending large public events” has grown – up to 61.8% from 55.6% in early 2014.

<b>Statements</b>	<b>National Composite</b>	<b>Florida Composite</b>
It is likely ISIS terrorists are hiding among Syrian and other refugees in order to enter Europe and the United States	78.2	81.5
I support a pause in accepting Syrian refugees into the U.S. until additional FBI background checks and approvals are added to the current screening process	66.9	68.1
I am concerned about terrorism when attending large public events	61.8	61.3
Russia’s President Putin is stronger on fighting terrorism than President Obama	48.3	52.3
Persecuted Christians in foreign lands, living in fear for their lives, should continue to be “fast tracked” for entry into the U.S.	45.1	48.3
I have confidence in President Obama to protect Americans based on his record on fighting terrorism	42.9	44.0
The U.S. and Americans have an obligation to accept Syrian refugees	39.0	34.0
I trust our federal government’s ability to accurately verify entering refugees are not terrorists	36.4	40.9

## **FLORIDA ISSUES**

Republican respondents were asked to think for a moment about the candidates running for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate from Florida in 2016. Each was asked to report who they would support if the Republican primary for U.S. Senate was held today. Results are presented here on a composite basis and among likely voters for polls conducted in October and December 2015.

<b>Republican Candidates</b>	<b>Florida October</b>	<b>Florida LV October</b>	<b>Florida December</b>	<b>Florida LV December</b>
Ron DeSantis	6.2	6.7	6.1	6.1
David Jolly	8.5	8.6	10.4	11.6
Dr. Ilya Katz	2.3	2.5	4.9	4.1
Carlos Lopez-Cantera	4.5	4.3	7.4	8.2
Todd Wilcox	4.5	4.9	6.7	6.8
Someone else	8.5	8.6	6.7	6.8
Unsure / Don't Know	65.5	64.4	57.7	56.5
N=	177	163	163	147

Democrat respondents were similarly asked to think for a moment about the list of candidates and potential candidates running for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate from Florida in 2016. Each was asked to report who they would support if the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate was held today. Results are presented here for polls conducted in both October and December 2015.

<b>Democratic Candidates</b>	<b>Florida</b>	<b>Florida Likely Voters</b>	<b>Florida December</b>	<b>Florida LV December</b>
Alan Grayson	12.1	14.5	16.1	7.1
Patrick Murphy	15.9	17.6	15.6	16.9
Lateresa A. Jones	5.8	6.7	5.0	6.3
Pam Keith	1.9	1.8	3.5	4.4
Someone else	11.1	10.9	8.5	7.5
Unsure / don't know	53.1	48.5	51.3	46.9
N=	207	165	199	160

## NATIONAL SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Conservative/Moderate/Liberal	October 2015	December 2015
Very conservative	13.9	14.5
Somewhat conservative	22.1	22.1
Moderate	33.0	31.0
Somewhat liberal	14.3	12.0
Very liberal	8.7	10.3
Unsure	8.0	10.0

Age	October 2015	December 2015
18-25	13.7	18.3
26-35	26.2	25.2
36-45	14.4	16.7
46-55	16.7	12.7
56-65	15.6	15.8
65+	13.2	11.3

Income	October 2015	December 2015
Under \$10,000	7.0	5.8
\$10,000 to less than \$40,000	28.9	35.8
\$40,000 to less than \$75,000	29.8	27.6
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	13.1	13.5
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	11.0	8.3
\$150,000 to less than \$200,000	3.4	2.8
\$200,000 or more	2.0	1.9
Prefer not to disclose	4.9	4.3

Political Party Affiliation	October 2015	December 2015
Republican	25.0	25.9
Democratic	30.4	31.4
Unaffiliated/Independent/Undeclared	35.0	33.1
Some other party	1.4	1.5
Unsure	8.2	8.2

Gender	October 2015	December 2015
Male	48.1	49.4
Female	51.9	50.6

<b>Education</b>	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>December 2015</b>
Less than HS	8.7	11.7
High School / GED	14.2	16.5
Associate Degree	7.6	7.7
Some college / technical school	26.4	25.4
College / technical school graduate	29.9	26.7
Postgraduate or professional degree	12.8	11.0
Prefer not to disclose	---	0.9

<b>Hispanic, Latin American, Puerto Rican, Cuban or Mexican</b>	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>December 2015</b>
Yes	17.0	16.2

<b>Ethnicity (Among Non-Hispanics)</b>	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>December 2015</b>
White	62.3	65.2
Black, African-American	14.5	12.4
Asian, Pacific Islander	3.6	4.0
Aleutian, Eskimo or American Indian	0.9	1.0
Other	1.4	0.6
Native Hawaiian	0.3	---
Two or more races	---	---
Refused	---	---
Don't know/unsure	---	---

<b>Religion Followed</b>	<b>October 2015</b>	<b>December 2015</b>
Catholic	21.9	21.2
Protestant (Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Presbyterian)	17.9	19.3
Christian (non-denominational)	26.2	29.4
Greek Orthodox	1.1	0.3
Jewish	2.2	2.7
Buddhist	1.5	0.9
Muslim	0.7	0.2
Latter Day Saints / Mormon	1.7	0.9
Other	3.3	5.2
No preference	21.6	17.4
Don't know / unsure	2.2	2.4

## Appendix

# 5

### **INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS**

The computer processed data for this survey are presented in the following frequency distributions. It is important to note that the wordings of the variable labels and value labels in the computer-processed data are largely abbreviated descriptions of the Questionnaire items and available response categories.

The frequency distributions include the category or response for the question items. Responses deemed not appropriate for classification have been grouped together under the “Other” code.

The “NA” category label refers to “No Answer” or “Not Applicable.” This code is also used to classify ambiguous responses. In addition, the “DK/RF” category includes those respondents who did not know their answer to a question or declined to answer it. In many of the tables, a group of responses may be tagged as “Missing” – occasionally, certain individual’s responses may not be required to specific questions and thus are excluded. Although when this category of response is used, the computations of percentages are presented in two (2) ways in the frequency distributions: 1) with their inclusion (as a proportion of the total sample), and 2) their exclusion (as a proportion of a sample subgroup).

Each frequency distribution includes the absolute observed occurrence of each response (i.e. the total number of cases in each category). Immediately adjacent to the right of the column of absolute frequencies is the column of relative frequencies. These are the percentages of cases falling in each category response, including those cases designated as missing data. To the right of the relative frequency column is the adjusted frequency distribution column that contains the relative frequencies based on the legitimate (i.e. non-missing) cases. That is, the total base for the adjusted frequency distribution excludes the missing data. For many Questionnaire items, the relative frequencies and the adjusted frequencies will be nearly the same. However, some items that elicit a sizable number of missing data will produce quite substantial percentage differences between the two columns of frequencies. The careful analyst will cautiously consider both distributions.

The last column of data within the frequency distribution is the cumulative frequency distribution (Cum Freq.). This column is simply an adjusted frequency distribution of the sum of all previous categories of response and the current category of response. Its primary usefulness is to gauge some ordered or ranked meaning.