

2017

Politics, President Trump, Law Enforcement & Youth Football



A National Poll of Americans
Saint Leo University Polling Institute
September 2017

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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 politics, issues, Pope Francis, the new president, divisions within the nation, law enforcement, gun control and concussions in youth football. Also, among Florida poll participants – their views on potential 2018 political candidates in the state of Florida.

The research study included survey responses from 1000 respondents nationally and 500 respondents within Florida approximately proportional to state population contribution. The poll was conducted September 10 - 16, 2017. A pre-test occurred on September 10, 2017.

The national poll included the following areas for investigation:

- Job approval rating for President Trump, Vice-President Pence, U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan, and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell;
- Issues of concern;
- Job performance ratings for President Trump, overall, and in specific areas;
- Impression of Pope Francis;
- Ratings of Pope Francis on several initiatives;
- Views on polarization and divisions in the United States;
- Perceptions of law enforcement from strategies to trust and confidence;
- Views on youth playing football and risks associated with concussions;
- Views on Florida 2018 candidates;
- 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.

METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative research design, the Saint Leo University Polling Institute completed 1000 online surveys nationally and 500 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 September 10-16, 2017.

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 1000 completed surveys has an associated margin for error of +/- 3.0% at a 95% confidence level. A sample of 500 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 1000 cases. Throughout, composite results are presented side-by-side with Florida specific results.

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

ON POLITICS AND ISSUES...

The job approval rating for President Trump moved somewhat lower between March and September 2017 – from 44.1% to 42.8%.

Similarly, the overall positive job approval rating for Vice-President Mike Pence moved only slightly lower from 45.5% to 44.2%.

The approval ratings for both Republican Congressional leaders were very low. Senator Mitch McConnell's approval was recorded at 28.7% while approval of the job House Speaker Paul Ryan is doing moved significantly lower from 42.4% to 33.3%.

The issues considered to be most important to those surveyed included (in declining order): healthcare, jobs and the economy, immigration, government spending, terrorism and homeland security.

ON POPE FRANCIS...

Pope Francis continues to enjoy a strong favorable opinion rating among Americans surveyed. His current favorable opinion rating is 67.9% -- down slightly from 70.5% in March 2017 and up from 62.6% in November 2017. Among Catholics, nationally, the favorable opinion is higher at 87.9% -- up from 82.6% in March 2017.

Ratings were also collected for how well the pope is doing on issues he has focused on over time. The pope receives strong approval ratings (strongly and somewhat approve) for the job he is doing on human rights (69.5%, advancing the cause of the poor (68.8%, and environmental issues (60.3%. More moderate ratings on his job performance were recorded for marriage and family issues, immigration issues, and handling cases of sexual abuse involving Catholic clergy – 55.7%, 53.8% and 43.8%, respectively.

ON THE NEW PRESIDENT...

The SLU poll collected the opinions of Americans on President Trump's first months in office. Areas where President Trump surpasses his overall job approval rating of 42.8% included: support for the troops (61.5%), protecting the United States from terrorism (52.2%), on jobs and the economy (49.3%), and immigration decisions (43.8%).

In other areas, however, his approval ratings are lower than his overall rating including: keeping his campaign promises (41.0%), handling the opioid crisis (39.9%), revamping Obamacare (38.9%), relations with other nations (37.8%), handing the media (35.7%), addressing racial divisions (35.6%), his Twitter messages (26.1%).

ON DIVISIONS IN THE U.S....

Respondents remain disillusioned about political divisions and polarization in the nation today. Agreement (strongly and somewhat agree) was recorded for several statements about the divisiveness the country faces today...

- ✓ 82.1% agree we are more divided as a nation than ever before;
- ✓ 67.0% see democracy slipping away;
- ✓ 54.4% agree the new White House is moving the nation toward authoritarianism;
- ✓ 48.1% that despite a sense of division in their own communities, they are optimistic about reducing political discord;
- ✓ 48.1% have strong trust in the mainstream media to accurately cover politics;
- ✓ 65.6% agree on the importance of retaining Confederate history;
- ✓ 43.4% agree that Confederate symbols should be removed from public places;
- ✓ 44.3% agreed that not all speech patterns should be protected;
- ✓ 32.0% trust the statements, releases and tweets from the White House;
- ✓ 20.7% agreed that, at times, physical violence during demonstrations is justified; and
- ✓ 20.7% agreed that, at times, property damage during demonstrations is justified.

Importantly, those agreeing that "Not all free speech patterns should be protected" moved from 35.5% to 44.3% since March 2017. Further, those agreeing that, at times, physical violence is justified during demonstrations moved up to 20.7% from 17.5% while those agreeing that property damage during demonstrations is justified move up significantly from 14.3% in March 2017 to 20.7% in this current, September 2017 poll.

ON LAW ENFORCEMENT...

Over one-half of all respondents, 56.5%, provided positive ratings for their community police department. This is down from 60.7% in September 2016. One-quarter of all respondents, 24.5% provided negative ratings.

Similarly, the positive rating for police officers in their communities was recorded at 56.1% while the negative rating was 23.4%. The positive rating is down from 60.9% in September 2016 while the negative rating rose from 20.6%.

Support for the policing strategy of “Stop and Frisk” was supported (strongly or somewhat) by 53.6% while 40.2% were opposed. Support is down slightly from 54.9% in September 2016.

Three-fifths, 61.7%, reported supporting the transfer of donated, used military hardware, ammunition and equipment to community police departments. This is down slightly from 63.6% in September 2016.

Those indicating they have trust and confidence in police officers, police departments, the judicial system and in juries to do the right thing were 56.5%, 55.5%, 48.6% and 47.2%, respectively. These percentages changed only modestly from September 2016.

Those indicating little or no trust in police officers, police departments, the judicial system, and in juries to do the right thing were recorded at 23.7%, 22.5%, 25.1% and 24.4%, respectively.

There exists strong agreement for a number of statements related to police and policing...

- Police officers should be required to wear body cameras – 90.5%
- The U.S. Justice Department should continue to investigate community police after controversial incidents – 85.7%
- The killing of police officers is inflaming racial tensions – 74.5%
- We should focus on mental health supports instead of gun control – 67.5%
- I have had positive interactions with community police unrelated to law enforcement issues – 63.9%

More modest support was found for the following...

- I personally know a police officer in my community – 54.2%
- Gun violence would decrease with more controls and restrictions – 51.9%
- I support Black Lives Matter movement – 50.1%
- Law enforcement officers treat everyone, regardless of race evenly – 45.8%
- I have, or I know someone who has, experienced abuse by police officers – 38.7%

While 66.2% of respondents reported not owning a firearm, the remainder owned either hand guns (26.1%), rifles (15.1%), assault weapons (5.9%), or shotguns (12.5%).

There has been minimal movement, over the past three years, in personal positions on gun control. Some, 13.1% suggest there should be no regulations or controls while 71.8% indicated support for some limited licensing, permitting or some restrictions on certain arms such as assault weapons and 9.6% believe firearms should not be owned privately. The percentages in 2016 were 12.6%, 74.9% and 8.1%, respectively.

Given recent mass shootings, 23.0% report continuing to support gun ownership rights under the 2nd Amendment without exception while 15.9% continue to support gun ownership rights but not in arming more citizens and 45.0% indicated they support gun ownership rights but am open to more exceptions, regulations and restrictions. Others, 9.5%, continue to oppose private ownership of firearms.

Three-quarters, 73.5% (down from 76.9% in September 2016), note that increased funding and support for mental health treatment will reduce the severity and frequency of mass shootings.

On President Trump in weighing in on the issue of gun control, 24.0% suggest the frequency is “just enough” while 18.3% indicated “too much” and 29.9% note the frequency is “too little”. Others, 27.8% are unsure.

On feeling safe, 49.8% would feel safer if they had a firearm with them in public while 13.9% would feel safe if police were unarmed and 32.0% would feel safe if others around them, in public, were armed.

Concern over terrorism at large events (very and somewhat) remained consistent with results from 2016 polling – 65.3% -- up slightly from 65.1% in 2016.

A majority, 50.8%, noted they strongly or somewhat agree that students in schools and colleges would be safer if select/trained teachers or professors carried firearms.

ON YOUTH FOOTBALL AND RISKS OF CONCUSSIONS...

The topic of youth football and resulting concussions was introduced to poll participants as follows:

“Recent studies have suggested that youth, at elementary or middle school age, playing or practicing football are suffering from increased numbers of spine and neck injuries, concussions and even elevated risk for heart attacks in otherwise healthy young people. One recent study showed seven-year old’s are receiving “adult sized impacts” when playing or practicing football.”

Majorities of respondents, all parents of college graduates, college students or college-bound high school and middle school students, 52.5%, strongly or somewhat supported the elimination of youth contact football prior to High School.

A larger majority, 56.6%, support the elimination of youth contact football prior to entering middle school.

Nearly two-thirds, 61.5%, are very or somewhat likely to encourage children to wait until they reach high school before playing contact football.

Interestingly, a majority (53.0%) would recommend their own child or another child to avoid, altogether, playing contact football if they had an opportunity.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Readers are reminded that the narrative throughout this report refers to national composite aggregate data – the 1000 completed surveys as well as the supplemental sample of 500 Florida respondents. Text throughout this report presents national composite results while many graphs and tables also present results among Florida respondents.

POLITICS AND ISSUES

Respondents nationally, and within Florida, were asked to provide job approval ratings for President Trump, Vice-President Pence, House Speaker, Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell. The cumulative favorable job approval rating (strongly and somewhat approve) is displayed within the following table.

How would you rate...	National Approval March 2017	National Approval September 2017	Florida Approval March 2017	Florida Approval September 2017
The job Donald Trump is doing as President	44.1	42.8	48.7	43.1
The job Mike Pence is doing as Vice President	45.5	44.2	50.5	50.7
The job Congressman Paul Ryan is doing as Speaker of the House	42.4	33.3	47.5	40.5
The job Senator Mitch McConnell is doing as U.S. Senate Majority Leader	---	28.7	---	30.7

All respondents were asked to name the most important issue facing the nation today. The most important issues were reported to be healthcare, jobs and the economy, immigration, government spending and terrorism/homeland security. Results are presented in the following table in declining order by importance based on the composite national data for September 2017.

Issues Most Important: National Results	National June 2016	National September 2016	National November 2016	National March 2017	National September 2017
Healthcare	8.3	10.2	14.6	17.4	19.2
Jobs and the economy	31.0	25.6	29.7	26.4	19.0
Immigration	5.2	5.5	5.2	8.5	8.8
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	12.9	14.3	12.2	10.2	8.4
Terrorism	8.7	8.9	5.2	4.8	8.0
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	8.1	7.6	6.0	6.0	7.5
Foreign affairs	1.4	1.4	1.1	2.0	5.0
Education	5.1	3.6	3.9	5.7	4.4
Declining U.S. status worldwide	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.4	4.3
Global climate change	3.1	2.6	4.5	4.0	4.2
Some other issues	1.9	3.1	4.8	2.6	3.1
Don't know / not sure	2.4	3.2	2.2	3.0	2.9
Gun violence	2.7	5.4	3.0	2.5	1.4
Crime	2.9	2.8	1.5	1.7	1.4
Internet / data security	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.8
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	2.6	1.7	1.5	0.8	0.7
Energy policy	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.4
International trade imbalance	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.4

The issues most important to Florida residents are presented in the following table. The table is presented in declining order, based on issue importance, for the composite data from September 2016.

Issues Most Important: Florida Results	Florida June 2016	Florida September 2016	Florida November 2016	Florida March 2017	Florida September 2017
Jobs and the economy	29.8	26.6	33.0	27.2	19.8
Healthcare	8.6	9.8	12.8	19.9	17.8
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	9.2	11.8	8.4	6.9	10.0
Terrorism	10.4	7.4	8.2	6.7	9.4
Immigration	4.2	5.2	6.2	9.1	7.6
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	12.6	12.0	9.2	6.7	7.0
Education	4.4	3.2	3.0	3.6	4.8
Global climate change	1.8	2.0	1.4	2.6	4.6
Declining U.S. status worldwide	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.0	4.2
Crime	1.4	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.8
Don't know / not sure	2.2	2.8	3.0	1.2	2.8
Some other issues	2.0	1.8	2.2	3.6	2.6
Foreign affairs	1.2	1.0	1.0	2.4	2.6
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	3.6	3.0	2.2	1.2	1.2
Gun violence	4.6	7.0	3.8	2.6	1.0
Internet / data security / ID theft	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.4	1.0
Energy policy	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.6
International trade imbalance	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0

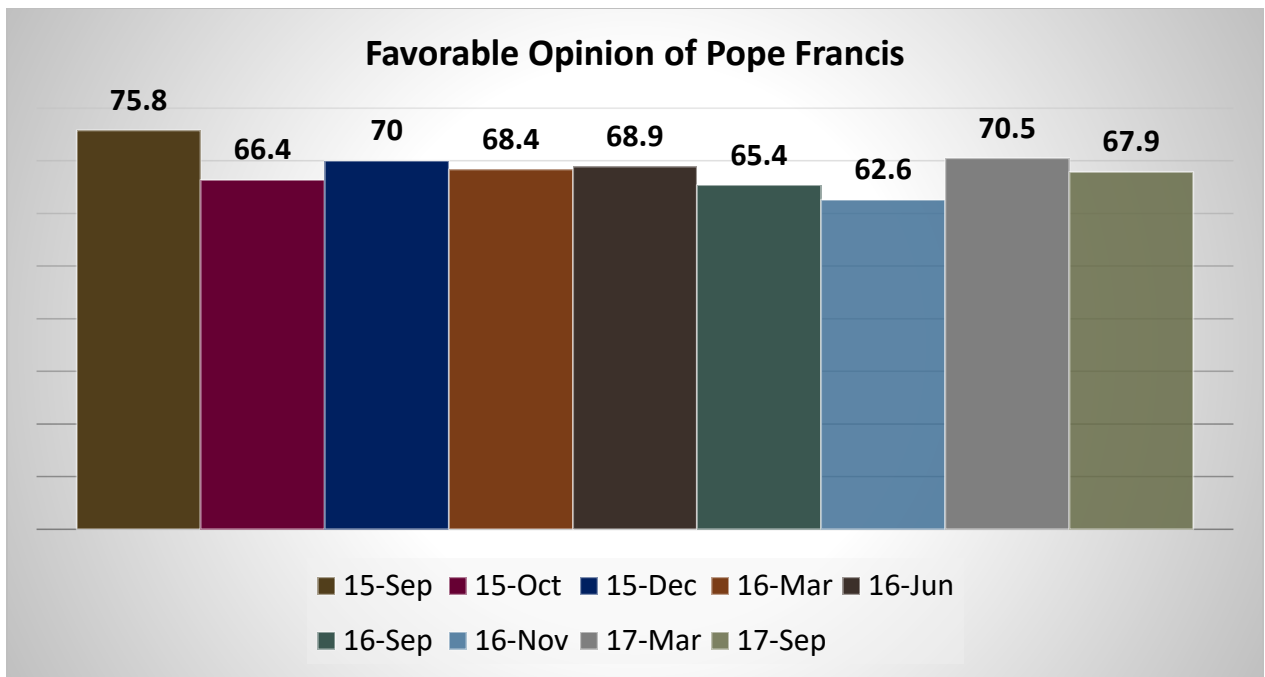
POPE FRANCIS

All September 2017 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. Current favorability is 67.9% – down slightly from 70.5% in March 2017.

In Florida, Pope Francis currently enjoys a 67.6% favorability rating (down slightly from 69.0% in March 2017).

Among Catholics nationally, the pope’s current favorable opinion is 87.9% (up from 82.6% in March 2017).

National results for those holding a very or somewhat favorable opinion of Pope Francis are presented in the following graph.



Note: The September, 2015 poll was timed to coincide with the pope’s visit to the United States.

Respondents were asked to think about several of the issues the pope is addressing and to provide their opinion on how he is doing. The following table holds the cumulative totals for strongly and somewhat approve and somewhat and strongly disapprove for both March and September 2017. Results are displayed in declining order by the approval column for September 2017.

National Results:

How would you rate the job Pope Francis is doing on...	Strongly & Somewhat Approve March 2017	Strongly & Somewhat Approve September 2017	Somewhat & Strongly Disapprove March 2017	Somewhat & Strongly Disapprove September 2017
Advancing the cause of the poor	70.8	68.8	9.4	10.7
Human rights	68.7	69.5	12.5	11.7
Family issues	62.2	---	17.1	
Environmental issues	60.0	60.3	11.6	13.6
Migration / Immigration	54.4	53.8	21.1	19.7
Marriage issues	53.9	---	21.5	---
Handling cases of sexual abuse involving Catholic clergy	---	43.8	---	30.9
Marriage and family issues	---	55.7	---	20.5

Florida Results:

How would you rate the job Pope Francis is doing on...	Strongly & Somewhat Approve	Strongly & Somewhat Approve September 2017	Somewhat & Strongly Disapprove	Somewhat & Strongly Disapprove September 2017
Advancing the cause of the poor	70.2	68.5	12.2	11.8
Human rights	68.4	70.1	13.8	12.6
Family issues	65.3	---	16.8	---
Environmental issues	60.7	59.2	12.6	15.8
Marriage	57.4	---	21.1	---
Migration / Immigration	53.8	54.6	23.2	21.8
Handling cases of sexual abuse involving Catholic clergy	---	46.4	---	30.8
Marriage and family issues	---	55.6	---	22.5

THE NEW PRESIDENT...

The SLU poll collected the opinions of Americans on the new President's first months in office. President Trump's national, overall job approval was measured at 42.8 (down somewhat from 44.1% in March 2017). The following are approval ratings in specific areas.

The cumulative totals for strongly & somewhat approve are presented here in declining order by approval nationally based on September 2017 results.

President Trump improves upon his national overall job approval rating (42.8%) in areas such as support for the military, protecting the U.S. from terrorism, jobs and the economy and immigration decisions. The table is presented in declining order of approval based on September 2017 national results.

How would you rate the job Donald Trump is doing on...	National: Strongly & Somewhat Approve March 2017	National: Strongly & Somewhat Approve September 2017	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Approve March 2017	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Approve September 2017
support for the troops and the military	64.1	61.5	69.4	69.2
protecting the United States from terrorism	54.1	52.2	57.6	60.8
jobs and the economy	53.8	49.3	59.4	57.2
immigration decisions	44.0	43.8	46.9	46.2
keeping his campaign promises	52.1	41.0	57.0	46.8
the opioid crisis in the United States	---	39.9	---	46.6
revamping Obamacare / Affordable Care Act	46.7	38.9	51.1	45.8
relations with other nations	41.8	37.8	45.4	43.4
handling of the media	35.4	35.7	40.6	41.8
handling relations with Russia	---	35.7	---	42.2
addressing racial/ethnic divisions in the nation	39.9	35.6	44.0	40.8
his Twitter messages	---	26.1	---	28.8
deciding to move ahead with the XL Pipeline	43.5	---	47.3	---
his Cabinet appointments	40.4	---	46.4	---

ON DIVISIONS IN THE U.S....

Respondents were asked to think about the political divisions in the United States today. Several statements were presented. Respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each statement.

The cumulative totals for those strongly or somewhat agreeing with each statement are shown in the following table. Findings are displayed in declining order by September 2017 national results. A fourth table column holds results among respondents from the 11 old confederate states -- Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Statements	National: Strongly & Somewhat Agree March 2017	National: Strongly & Somewhat Agree September 2017	Confederate States Strongly & Somewhat Agree September 2017
We are more divided as a nation than ever before	82.1	82.1	81.0
I see democracy slipping away in the United States	65.2	67.0	66.0
Retaining Confederate history is important	---	65.6	59.9
The new White House administration appears to be moving us toward authoritarianism	51.9	54.4	49.4
Despite the sense of division in my own community, I am very optimistic about reducing political discord	49.4	48.1	53.0
I have strong trust in the mainstream news media (such as U.S. newspapers, broadcasters, and online media such as CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, Associated Press, Washington Post, New York Times) to accurately cover politics in this nation	48.4	48.1	45.7
Not all free speech patterns should be protected	35.5	44.3	46.2
Confederate symbols such as statues, plaques or memorabilia should be removed from public places	---	43.4	42.1
I trust the statements, releases and tweets from the new White House administration	32.5	32.0	32.4
At times, physical violence during demonstrations is justified	17.5	20.7	18.5
At times, property damage during demonstrations is justified	14.3	20.7	15.0
I want to hear celebrities voice their political views	37.3	---	---

Florida Results

Statements	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Agree March 2017	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Agree September 2017
We are more divided as a nation than ever before	80.5	78.9
I see democracy slipping away in the United States	64.1	66.3
Retaining Confederate history is important	---	65.1
Despite the sense of division in my own community, I am very optimistic about reducing political discord	47.9	53.2
The new White House administration appears to be moving us toward authoritarianism	50.3	48.4
I have strong trust in the mainstream news media (such as U.S. newspapers, broadcasters, and online media such as CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, Associated Press, Washington Post, New York Times) to accurately cover politics in this nation	47.7	47.2
Confederate symbols such as statues, plaques or memorabilia should be removed from public places	---	44.0
Not all free speech patterns should be protected	41.4	42.4
I trust the statements, releases and tweets from the new White House administration	38.5	35.7
At times, physical violence during demonstrations is justified	18.7	22.5
At times, property damage during demonstrations is justified	16.0	18.9
I want to hear celebrities voice their political views	37.5	---

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Respondents rated the quality and professionalism of policing departments and police officers, in general, within their own communities. Each used a scale of one to ten where one was very good and ten was very poor.

The following table presents the cumulative totals for ratings of one through four (good) and seven through ten (poor). Results are presented for September 2017, September 2016 and October 2015 for comparison purposes.

September 2017 Results

Ratings	National Good 1-4	National Poor 7-10	Florida Good 1-4	Florida Poor 7-10
My community police department	56.5	24.5	53.3	26.4
The police officers in my community	56.1	23.4	53.7	23.8

September 2016 Results

Ratings	National Good 1-4	National Poor 7-10	Florida Good 1-4	Florida Poor 7-10
My community police department	60.7	20.5	53.3	22.6
The police officers in my community	60.9	20.6	54.1	22.0

October 2015 Results

Ratings	National Good 1-4	National Poor 7-10	Florida Good 1-4	Florida Poor 7-10
My community police department	54.3	22.2	57.4	18.7
The police officers in my community	53.6	22.4	57.2	19.4

Respondents were presented with a couple of policing strategies – “Stop and Frisk” and use of military-grade equipment locally. Each was asked to indicate if they strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each policing strategy. The following table presents the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat supporting each strategy and the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat opposing each. Results are presented for both the current poll – September 2017 as well as September 2016 and October, 2015 for comparison purposes.

September 2017 Results

Policing Strategies	National Strongly & Somewhat Support	National Strongly and Somewhat Oppose	Florida Strongly & Somewhat Support	Florida Strongly & Somewhat Oppose
“Stop and Frisk” – permitting officers to stop suspicious individuals in public areas to check for weapons without a warrant	53.6	40.2	57.1	38.0
The transfer of donated, used military hardware, ammunition, and equipment to community police departments	61.7	24.1	66.3	24.4

September 2016

Policing Strategies	National Strongly & Somewhat Support	National Strongly and Somewhat Oppose	Florida Strongly & Somewhat Support	Florida Strongly & Somewhat Oppose
“Stop and Frisk” – permitting officers to stop suspicious individuals in public areas to check for weapons without a warrant	54.9	41.0	52.2	39.4
The transfer of donated, used military hardware, ammunition, and equipment to community police departments	63.6	27.9	63.2	24.8

October 2015

Policing Strategies	National Strongly & Somewhat Support	National Strongly and Somewhat Oppose	Florida Strongly & Somewhat Support	Florida Strongly & Somewhat Oppose
“Stop and Frisk” – permitting officers to stop suspicious individuals in public areas to check for weapons without a warrant	50.7	43.8	52.3	42.6
The transfer of donated, used military hardware, ammunition, and equipment to community police departments	60.4	29.4	65.6	26.4

All respondents were asked to think for a moment about their own trust and confidence in police officers, police departments, and the judicial system. Each was asked to rate the following based on their own trust and confidence that they would be **treated in a fair, impartial and objective manner if involved with law enforcement**. Each used a scale of one to ten where one means they had strong trust and confidence and ten means they had no trust and confidence. The cumulative totals for one through four (strong trust/confidence) and seven through ten (little/no trust/confidence) are presented within the following table.

September, 2017 Results

Trust and Confidence in...	National Strong Trust 1-4	National Little/No Trust 7-10	Florida Strong Trust 1-4	Florida Little/No Trust 7-10
Trust in police officers	56.5	23.7	56.4	22.8
Trust in police departments	55.5	22.5	57.2	22.2
Trust in the judicial system including courts, prosecutors, and judges	48.6	25.1	49.6	25.6
Trust in juries to do the right thing*	47.2	24.4	49.4	24.8

September, 2016

Trust and Confidence in...	National Strong Trust 1-4	National Little/No Trust 7-10	Florida Strong Trust 1-4	Florida Little/No Trust 7-10
Trust in police officers	60.5	20.2	58.6	21.8
Trust in police departments	59.6	19.8	57.0	21.8
Trust in the judicial system including courts, prosecutors, and judges	45.1	25.0	47.2	24.2
Trust in juries to do the right thing*	46.4	22.9	45.6	24.4

*New question in 2016

October, 2015

Trust and Confidence in...	National Strong Trust 1-4	National Little/No Trust 7-10	Florida Strong Trust 1-4	Florida Little/No Trust 7-10
Trust in police officers	54.7	22.6	56.1	24.6
Trust in police departments	53.1	23.0	55.3	23.3
Trust in the judicial system including courts, prosecutors, and judges	40.3	29.8	43.2	29.7

Respondents were presented with a number of statements about police and policing. For each, respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed. Strong agreement was found for requiring body cameras on officers, and U.S. Justice Department investigations of community police departments following controversial incidents.

The cumulative totals for those strongly or somewhat agreeing with each statement are presented within the following table. The statements are presented in declining order based on support levels in September, 2017.

Statements	2015 National Strongly & Somewhat Agree	2016 National Strongly & Somewhat Agree	2017 National Strongly & Somewhat Agree
Police officers should be required to wear body cameras to better assist in reviewing difficult incidents	86.8	89.0	90.5
The U.S. Department of Justice should continue to open investigations of community police departments following controversial incidents	79.0	81.2	85.7
The killing of police officers is inflaming racial tensions nationwide	71.0	65.8	74.5
We should focus on mental health supports instead of gun controls	70.4	81.0	67.5
I have had positive interactions or conversations with community police officers unrelated to law enforcement issues	59.7	58.0	63.9
I personally know a police officer in my community	50.6	68.3	54.2
Gun violence would decrease with more controls and restrictions	46.0	46.9	51.9
I support the Black Lives Matter movement	---	38.4	50.1
Law enforcement officers treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly	---	---	45.8
I have, or I know someone who has, experienced abuse by police officers	35.7	32.0	38.7

Florida Results

Statements	2015 Florida Strongly & Somewhat Agree	2016 Florida Strongly & Somewhat Agree	2017 Florida Strongly & Somewhat Agree
Police officers should be required to wear body cameras to better assist in reviewing difficult incidents	88.1	90.2	90.8
The U.S. Department of Justice should continue to open investigations of community police departments following controversial incidents	77.3	81.8	85.0
The killing of police officers is inflaming racial tensions nationwide	73.6	65.0	75.2
We should focus on mental health supports instead of gun controls	69.6	74.4	68.8
I have had positive interactions or conversations with community police officers unrelated to law enforcement issues	58.8	45.4	66.6
I personally know a police officer in my community	47.8	57.4	54.8
Gun violence would decrease with more controls and restrictions	46.4	50.0	53.4
I support the Black Lives Matter movement	---	40.4	50.2
Law enforcement officers treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly	---	---	47.6
I have, or I know someone who has, experienced abuse by police officers	33.7	33.8	36.6

GUN CONTROL

Respondents were asked which firearms, if any, they owned. While 66.2% indicated “none”, the remainder had one or more types of firearms. Ownership of firearms, overall, appears to have increased somewhat over 2015. Multiple responses were accepted.

Firearms Owned	2015 National	2016 National	2017 National	2015 Florida	2016 Florida	2017 Florida
Hand gun(s)	23.4	25.2	26.1	23.5	25.2	28.1
Rifle(s)	17.7	18.3	15.1	13.3	13.2	13.6
Assault weapon(s)	5.6	4.0	5.9	2.9	4.4	5.2
Shotgun(s)	15.9	16.6	12.5	12.7	12.6	13.0
None	66.7	64.5	66.2	69.0	67.0	63.3
Unsure	1.6	2.1	1.9	1.7	3.8	1.8

The survey included a question designed to collect personal positions and beliefs about gun control. Nearly three-quarters, 71.8% (down somewhat from 74.9% in 2016), of all respondents could see some limited licensing, permitting or some restrictions on certain arms. Results are presented in the following table.

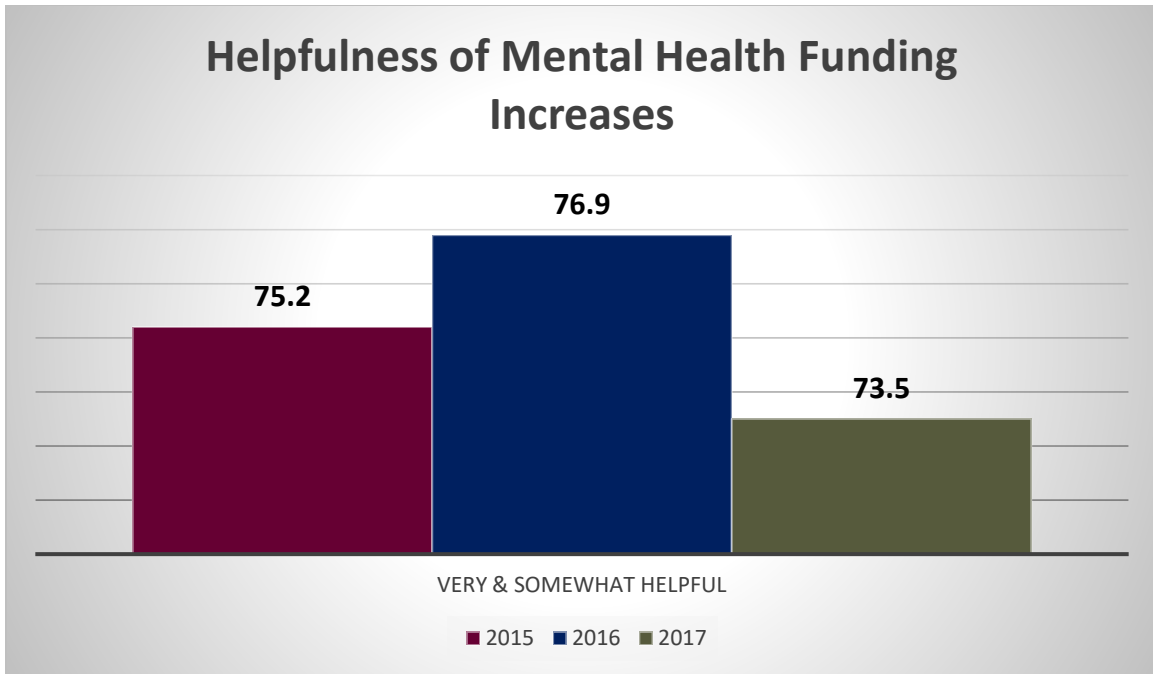
Position on Gun Control	2015 National	2016 National	2017 National	2015 Florida	2016 Florida	2017 Florida
There should be no regulations or controls on any firearms	12.8	12.6	13.1	9.8	9.6	10.2
There should be some limited licensing, permitting or some restrictions on certain arms such as assault weapons	73.2	74.9	71.8	72.4	76.2	74.2
Firearms should not be owned privately	8.5	8.1	9.6	12.5	7.8	10.6
Unsure	5.5	4.4	5.5	5.2	6.4	5.0

Respondents were asked which of several positions best reflected their own personal position toward gun ownership and gun regulation. Results are presented here.

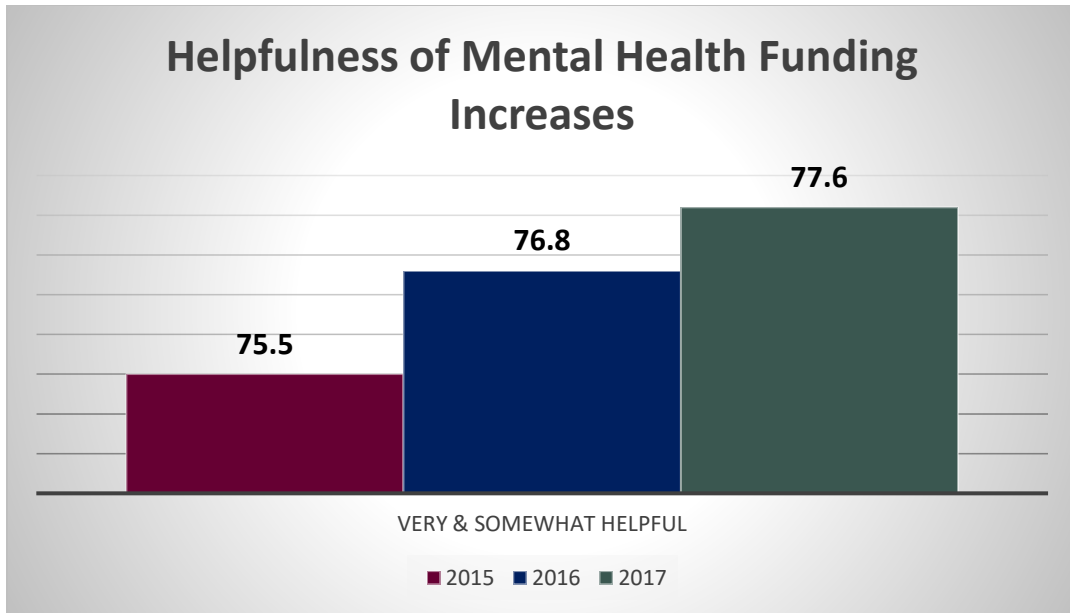
Given Recent Mass Shootings – Current Position	2015 National	2016 National	2017 National	2015 Florida	2016 Florida	2017 Florida
I continue to support gun ownership rights under the 2nd Amendment without exception and believe these mass shootings would be less frequent/horrific if more citizens were armed	26.5	27.2	23.0	21.6	25.0	26.6
I continue to support gun ownership rights under the 2nd Amendment without exception BUT don't believe in an effort to arm more citizens	15.9	16.3	15.9	18.9	13.2	16.2
I support gun ownership rights but am open to more exceptions, regulations and restrictions	40.7	42.6	45.0	41.8	47.2	40.8
I continue to oppose private ownership of firearms	9.1	7.2	9.5	12.9	8.6	11.0

The poll included the following question on funding and support for mental health treatment: “Government, on the state and federal levels, can increase funding and support for mental health treatment. How helpful would increased funding and emphasis on mental health treatment be toward reducing the severity and frequency of mass shootings? Would you say...” The cumulative totals for very and somewhat helpful and not very and not at all helpful are presented in the following graph.

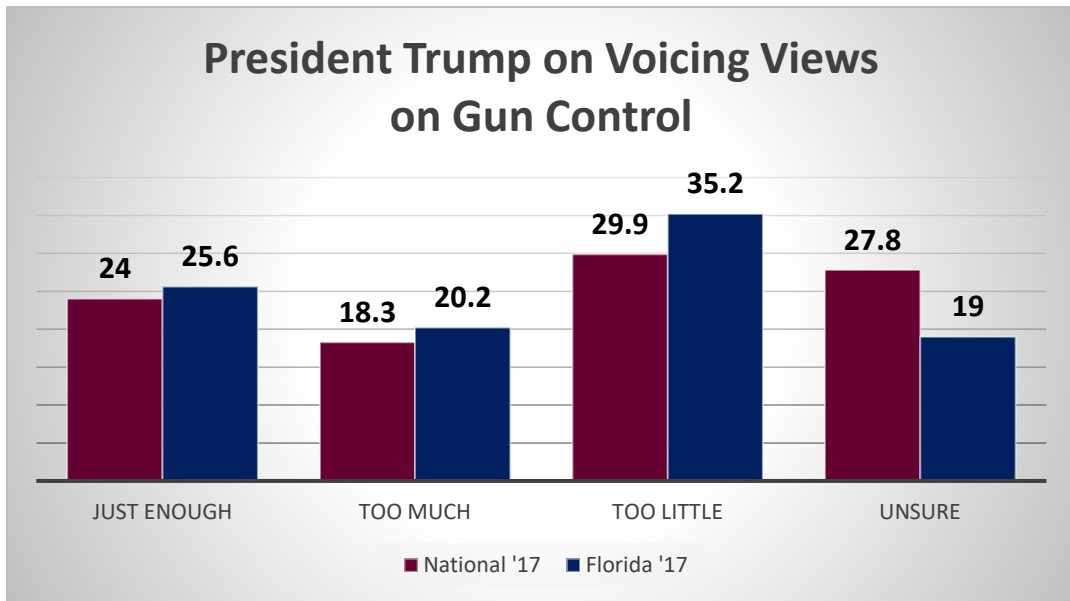
National



Florida



The survey included a question on whether President Trump has weighed in on the issue of gun control too little, too much or just enough. Results are presented here.



Respondents were asked how safe they might feel in a number of different situations. Each was asked to rate their perceived safety in each situation using a scale of one to ten where one was very safe and ten was not at all safe. The following table presents the cumulative totals for safe (ratings of 1-4) and the cumulative totals for unsafe (ratings of 7-10).

Two-thirds, 63.1%, noted they would feel unsafe if police were to be unarmed.

National

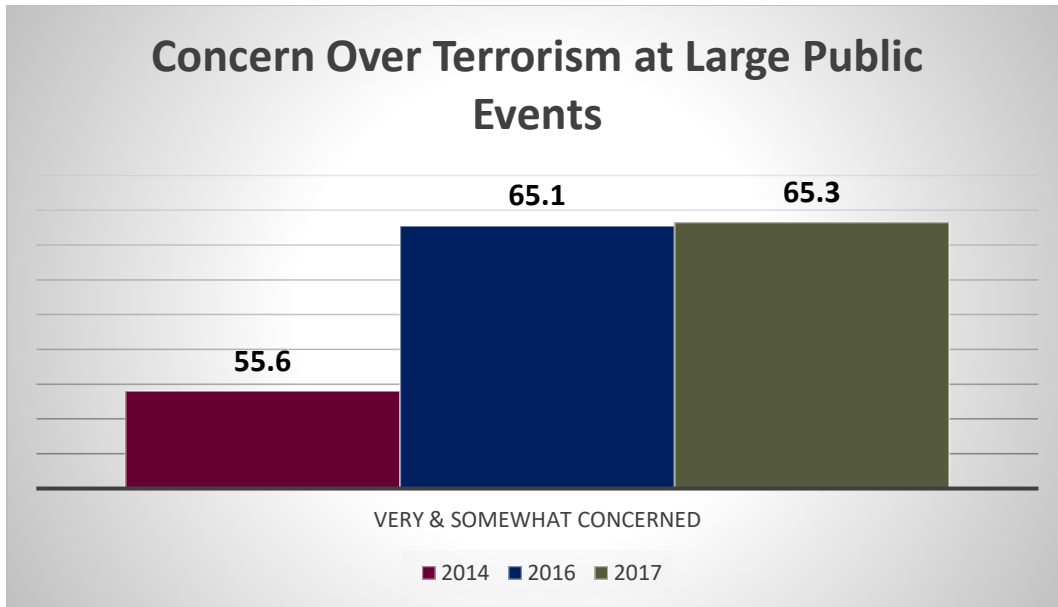
Firearm Situations	2016: US Safe (1-4)	2016: US Unsafe (7-10)	2017: US Safe (1-4)	2017: US Unsafe (7-10)
If you had a firearm with you in public	49.8	19.8	41.6	31.8
If police were not armed	13.9	72.0	18.3	63.1
If others, around you in a public place, were armed	32.0	44.1	29.7	47.1

Florida

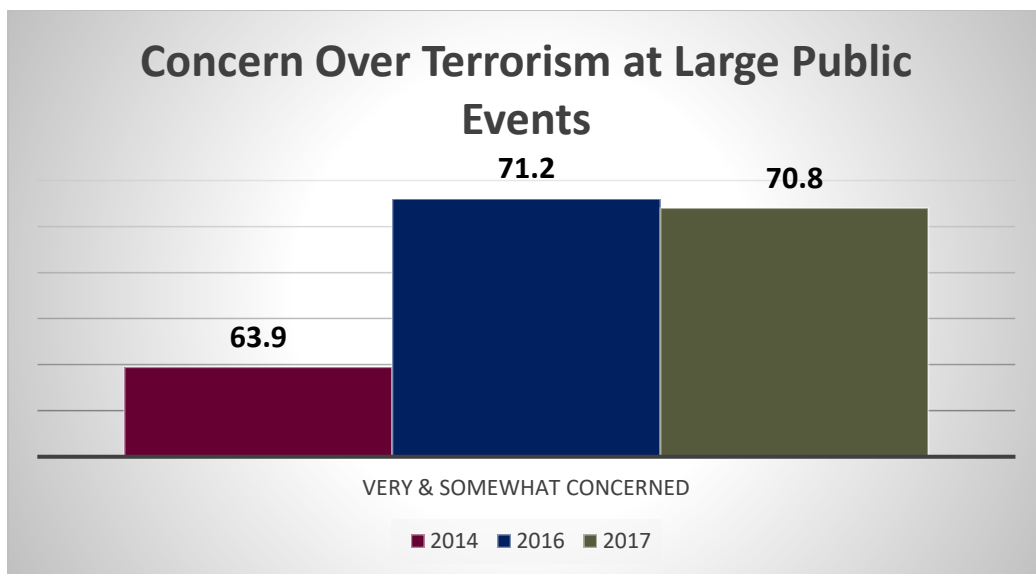
Firearm Situations	Florida Safe (1-4)	Florida Unsafe (7-10)	Florida Safe (1-4)	Florida Unsafe (7-10)
If you had a firearm with you in public	48.4	23.8	48.0	25.8
If police were not armed	15.8	69.2	26.6	59.6
If others, around you in a public place, were armed	32.8	40.0	34.6	41.8

In 2014, 2016 and again, within this 2017 poll, respondents were asked how concerned they were about terrorism when attending large public events in the United States. Concern has remained constant over the past year. Results are displayed in the following graph.

National



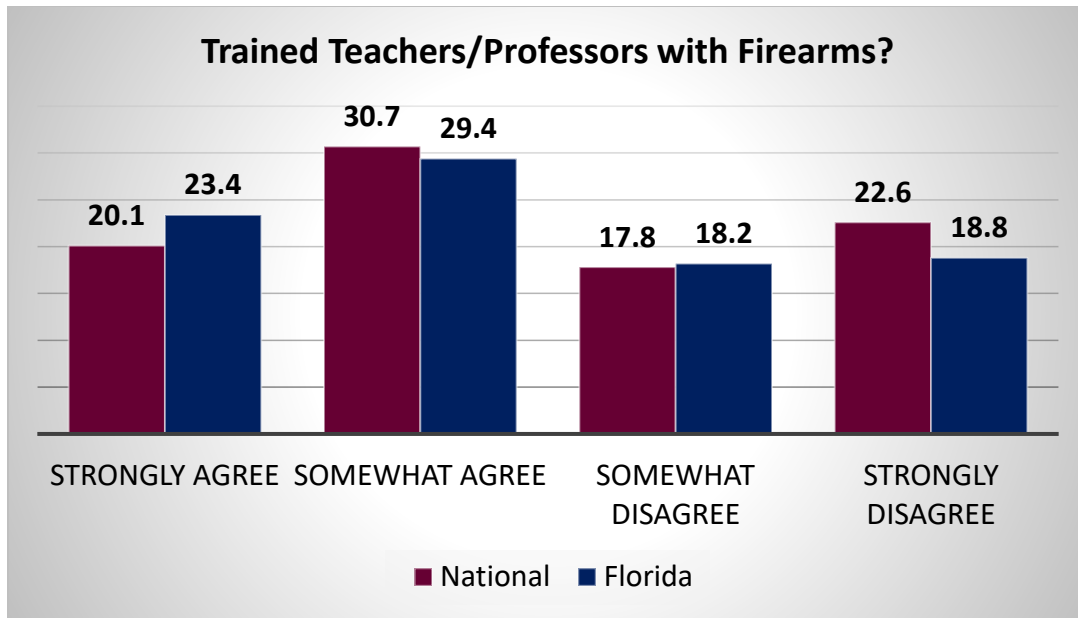
Florida



All 2017 poll respondents were presented with the following:

“Some believe students in schools and colleges would be safer if select/trained teachers or professors carried firearms while others disagree. How strongly would you agree or disagree that these students would be safer?”

Just over one-half of all national respondents, 50.8%, either strongly or somewhat agreed as depicted in the following graph.



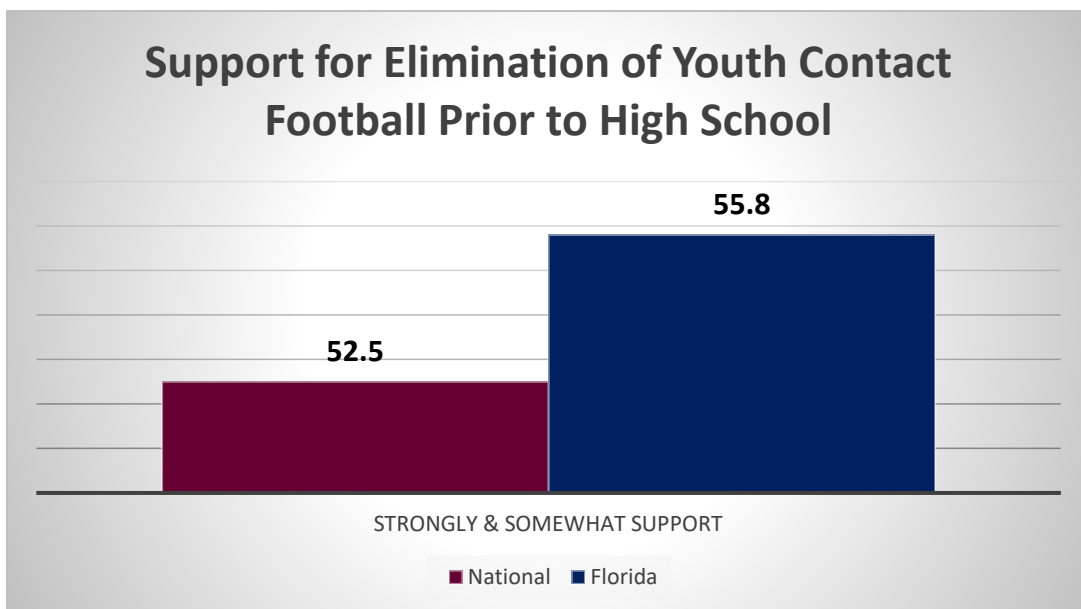
YOUTH FOOTBALL...

The topic of concussions experienced by youth playing football was introduced to poll participants as follows...

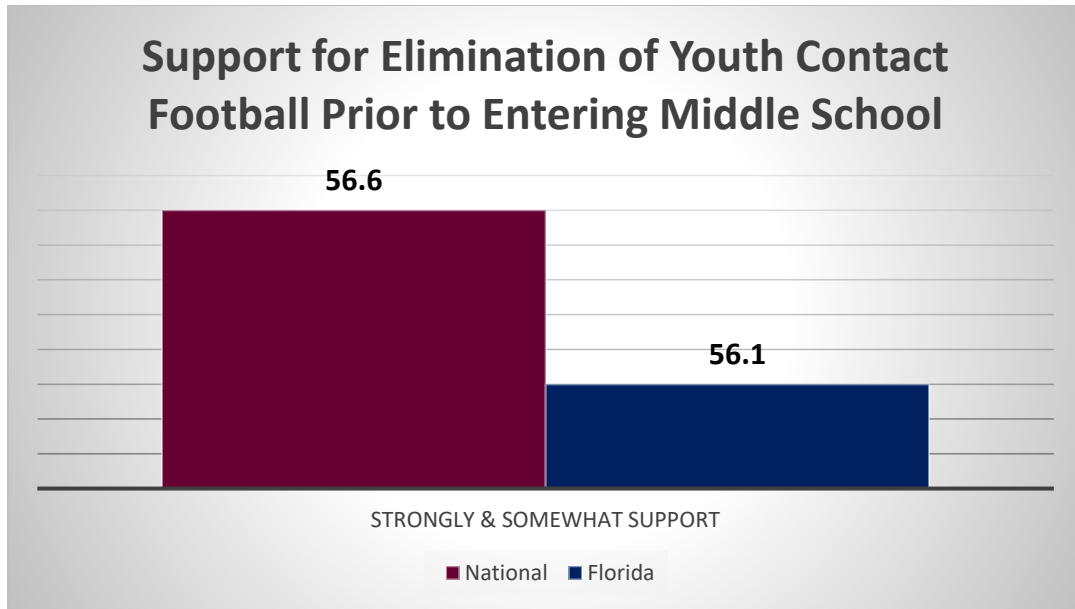
“Recent studies have suggested that youth, at elementary or middle school age, playing or practicing football are suffering from increased numbers of spine and neck injuries, concussions and even elevated risk for heart attacks in otherwise healthy young people. One recent study showed seven-year old’s are receiving “adult sized impacts” when playing or practicing football.”

All respondents were asked four questions regarding youth football and concussions. Results are presented in the following graphs.

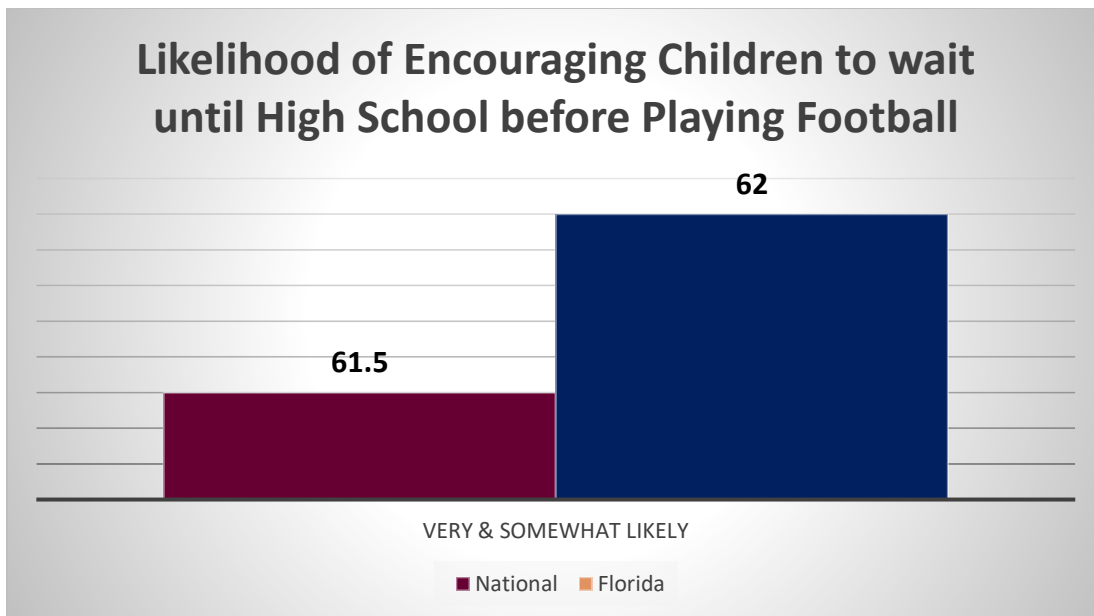
“In general, would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the elimination of youth contact football prior to entering high school?”



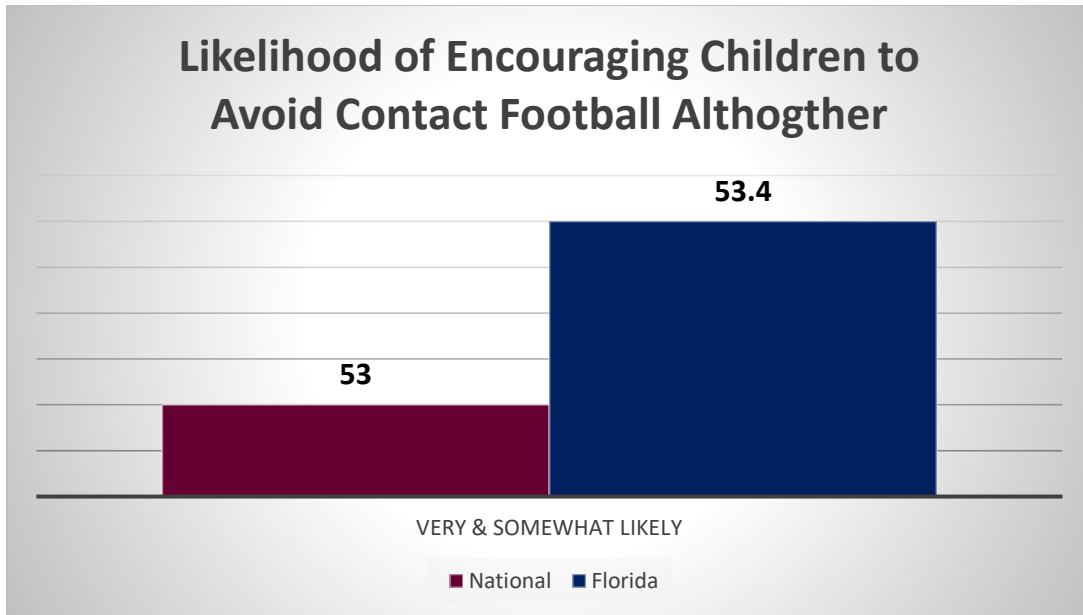
“Would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the elimination of youth contact football prior to entering middle school?”



“And, how likely would you be to encourage your own child or another child to wait until they reach high school before playing contact football if you had the opportunity? Would you say...”



“And, how likely would you be to encourage your own child or another child to avoid, altogether, playing contact football if you had the opportunity? Would you say...”



FLORIDA ISSUES

Republicans only were asked: *“Please think for a moment about the potential candidates running for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate from Florida in 2018. If the Republican primary for U.S. Senate was held today, which of the following would you support for the Republican nomination?”*

Republican Candidates	March 2017 N=175	September 2017 N=173
Rick Scott	44.6	50.9
Unsure / Don't Know	26.3	27.2
Tom Rooney	9.7	7.5
Someone else	7.4	6.4
Ron DeSantis	6.9	---
David Jolly	4.6	---
Carlos Lopez-Cantera	0.6	---
Augustus Sol Invictus	---	5.8
Marcia Roberta Thorne	---	2.3

Republicans only were asked: *“Please think for a moment about the potential candidates running for the Republican nomination for Florida governor in 2018. If the Republican primary for governor was held today, which of the following would you support for the Republican nomination?”*

Republican Candidates	March 2017 N=175	September 2017 N=173
Unsure / Don't Know	33.7	43.7
Mike Huckabee	29.7	---
Adam Putnam	12.6	19.7
Someone else	8.0	3.2
Rick Baker	6.3	---
Richard Corcoran	5.1	3.5
Jack Latvala	2.9	2.3
Usha Jain	1.7	0.0
Ron DeSantis	---	6.9
Jackie Siegel	---	2.3
Ron Bergeron	---	1.2
Bob White	---	2.3
Bruce Nathan	---	0.6
Angel Luis Rivera	---	0.6
Daniel Zutler	---	3.2

Democrats only were asked: *“Please think for a moment about the list of candidates and potential candidates running for the Democratic nomination to run for Florida governor in 2018. If the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate was held today, which of the following would you support for the Democratic nomination?”*

Democratic Candidates	March 2017 N= 203	September 2017 N=190
Unsure / don't know	39.5	43.7
Patrick Murphy	20.2	13.2
John Morgan	9.4	11.6
Buddy Dyer	5.9	---
Kathy Castor	4.9	2.6
Phil Levine	4.9	0.5
Gwen Graham	4.4	6.8
Andrew Gillum	3.9	4.7
Someone else	3.9	3.2
Bob Buckhorn	3.4	---
Jeremy Ring	2.0	---
Jack Seiler	1.5	---
Andrew Gillum	---	4.7
Gwen Graham	---	6.8
Chris King	---	4.2
Katherine Fernandez Rundle	---	4.7
Jeff Greene	---	0.5
Grant Hill	---	4.2

If the 2018 election for Florida United States Senator was held today and the candidates were Bill Nelson and Rick Scott, which would you support?

Florida U.S. Senator	March 2017	September 2017
Bill Nelson	38.7	33.3
Rick Scott	34.3	35.3
Someone else	10.3	10.8
Undecided	16.8	20.5

If the 2018 election for Florida Governor was held today and the candidates were Adam Putnam and John Morgan, which would you support?

Election for Florida Governor	March 2017	September 2017
Adam Putnam	19.5	18.0
John Morgan	25.6	24.4
Someone else	12.6	15.8
Undecided	42.2	41.8

Would you say your opinion of the job Florida Governor Rick Scott is doing is...

Favorable Rating of Governor Rick Scott	March 2017	September 2017
Very favorable	21.1	26.6
Somewhat favorable	34.7	35.2
Total: Very & Somewhat Favorable	55.8	61.8
Somewhat unfavorable	18.1	15.2
Not at all favorable	21.1	14.8
Total: Somewhat Unfavorable & Not at all Favorable	39.2	30.0
Unsure	4.9	8.2

NATIONAL SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Conservative/Moderate/Liberal	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	November 2016	March 2017	September 2017
Very conservative	8.9	14.1	13.8	11.8	12.0	12.6
Somewhat conservative	21.8	23.7	22.0	23.3	22.6	21.8
Moderate	35.2	33.9	34.8	33.5	33.4	35.4
Somewhat liberal	14.6	14.3	14.7	14.8	17.1	14.7
Very liberal	8.6	8.8	7.3	8.9	10.5	9.1
Unsure	10.9	5.3	7.4	7.7	4.5	6.4

Age	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	November 2016	March 2017
18-25	8.2	9.2	7.1	3.6	6.3
26-35	19.8	21.4	18.1	18.1	20.3
36-45	17.6	15.3	16.7	18.1	19.7
46-55	19.0	16.1	20.8	13.8	18.5
56-65	17.3	18.9	21.9	18.9	20.0
Over 65	18.0	19.2	15.4	27.5	15.2

Age	September 2017
18-44	44.0
45-64	43.1
65+	13.0

Income	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	November 2016	March 2017	September 2017
Less than \$10,000	5.5	4.0	4.0	5.0	2.6	3.6
\$10,000 to less than \$40,000	24.8	19.8	23.3	21.3	18.0	21.4
\$40,000 to less than \$75,000	28.8	26.8	29.3	23.4	25.6	25.0
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	15.5	16.8	16.0	18.7	20.5	17.1
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	13.0	19.5	17.1	20.2	19.9	18.9
\$150,000 to less than \$200,000	6.0	6.2	5.4	5.9	6.5	7.5
\$200,000 or more	4.0	6.1	3.8	3.5	5.8	5.3
Prefer not to disclose	2.4	0.9	1.2	3.5	1.0	1.3

Political Party Affiliation	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	November 2016	March 2017	September 2017
Republican	26.1	30.0	30.2	27.6	26.4	27.0
Democratic	32.7	30.5	28.7	26.6	34.8	31.0
Unaffiliated/Independent / Undeclared	32.0	36.7	37.0	39.2	35.0	36.1
Some other party	1.7	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.1
Unsure	7.5	2.5	3.5	5.7	3.0	4.8

Gender	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	November 2016	March 2017	September 2017
Male	46.0	47.8	45.6	50.4	49.1	50.0
Female	54.0	52.2	54.4	49.6	50.9	50.0

Education	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	November 2016	March 2017	September 2017
Less than High School	13.4	10.8	12.2	5.1	5.4	---
High School / GED	18.0	10.7	10.6	8.6	8.4	---
High School or less	---	---	---	---	---	15.1
Associate Degree	9.2	6.9	6.8	11.6	10.5	9.7
Some college / technical school	23.6	19.0	35.1	32.1	21.5	21.5
College / technical school graduate	22.6	29.1	23.1	28.3	34.7	33.7
Postgraduate or professional degree	13.0	23.3	12.0	13.9	19.3	20.0
Prefer not to disclose	0.2	---	0.3	0.4	---	---

Hispanic, Latin American, Puerto Rican, Cuban or Mexican	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	November 2016	March 2017	September 2017
Yes	13.1	16.8	16.1	16.3	15.8	16.3

Ethnicity (Among Non-Hispanics)	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	November 2016	March 2017	September 2017
White	68.8	64.0	69.7	63.4	65.1	64.8
Black, African-American	11.0	13.0	11.6	12.8	12.5	12.7
Asian	5.8	5.0	0.7	5.0	5.8	6.0
Aleutian, Eskimo or American Indian	1.1	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.2
Other	0.7	0.2	0.7	---	0.6	0.6
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.6	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.4	0.6
Two or more races	---	---	---	---	---	---
Refused	---	---	---	---	---	---
Don't know/other	---	---	---	---	---	0.6

Religion Followed	March 2016	June 2016	September 2016	November 2016	March 2017	September 2017
Catholic	21.4	23.2	24.3	22.6	29.9	29.7
Protestant (Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Presbyterian)	20.1	19.5	20.3	20.3	15.8	19.9
Christian (non-denominational)	24.2	23.5	25.2	20.7	22.0	18.4
Greek Orthodox	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.8
Jewish	2.6	2.9	1.8	2.4	2.9	3.2
Buddhist	1.6	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.6
Muslim	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.3
Latter Day Saints / Mormon	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.2	0.4
Other	4.1	3.8	2.6	4.5	3.9	2.7
No preference	22.3	22.6	21.4	23.9	20.0	21.5
Don't know / unsure	1.7	10.7	1.3	1.8	2.0	2.5

APPENDIX

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 sub-group).

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.

