

Saint Leo University Polling Institute: Global Climate Change/Environment

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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.

Methodology

Using a quantitative research design, the Saint Leo University Polling Institute completed 1015 online surveys nationally and 540 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 agree) are balanced evenly. Additionally, placement of questions is carefully accomplished so that order has minimal impact.

This survey was conducted March 13-17, 2016.

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 1015 completed surveys has an associated margin for error of +/- 3.0% at a 95% confidence level. A sample of 540 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 1015 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. **Figures in charts are percentages.**

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, government spending, and healthcare. Together, terrorism and homeland security held 16.6%. Results are presented in the following table in declining order by importance based on the composite national data for March, 2016.

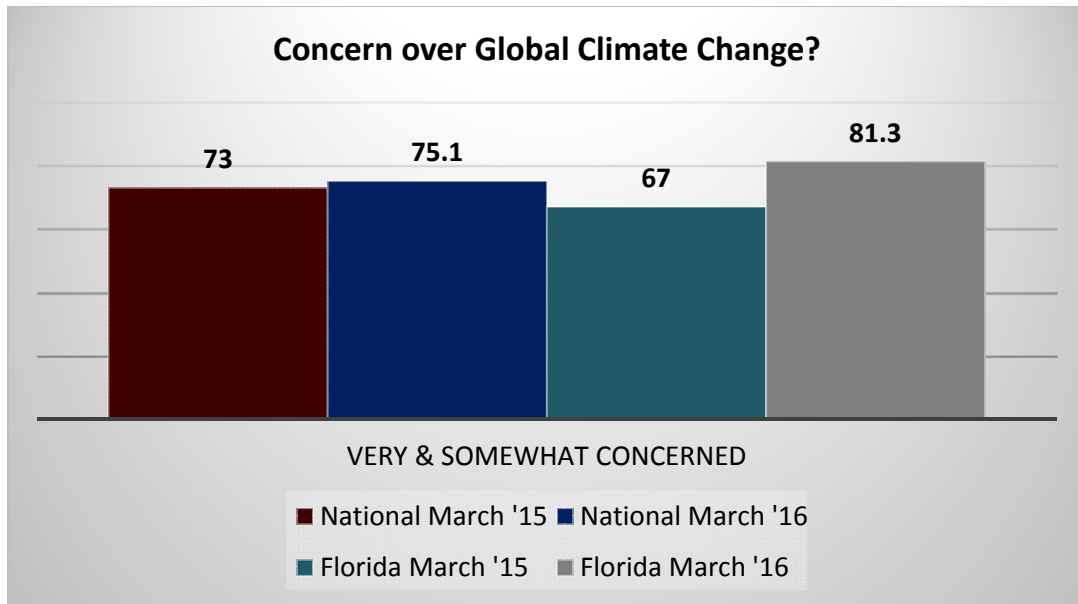
Issues Most Important National Results	National October 2015 - %	National LV October 2015	National December 2015	National LV December 2015	National March 2016	National LV March 2016
Jobs and the economy	32.4	30.9	25.8	27.8	28.8	28.3
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	15.3	17.0	6.5	6.0	13.1	13.9
Healthcare	10.3	9.7	9.2	9.0	10.2	9.9
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	4.5	4.5	15.1	15.3	8.7	9.2
Terrorism	5.6	6.7	16.9	15.5	7.9	8.2
Immigration	5.5	5.6	4.7	4.6	5.3	5.5
Global climate change	3.3	3.9	3.0	3.2	4.4	4.7
Gun violence	4.0	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.7	3.8
Education	4.4	4.6	4.2	4.8	3.4	3.3
Don't know / not sure	2.8	1.7	2.0	0.9	3.1	1.6
Some other issues	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.4	2.6	2.7
Declining U.S. status worldwide	2.4	2.9	2.3	2.0	2.5	2.6
Crime	2.2	1.4	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.3
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	3.3	3.7	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.8
Foreign affairs	1.5	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.2	1.4
International trade imbalance	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
Internet / data security	---	---	---	---	0.4	0.5
Energy policy	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.1

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

Issues Most Important Florida Results	Florida October 2015	Florida LV October 2015	Florida December 2015	Florida LV December 2015	Florida March 2016	Florida LV March 2016
Jobs and the economy	30.9	27.4	24.0	24.5	30.0	29.9
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	12.3	13.4	7.5	8.2	14.1	14.9
Healthcare	12.1	11.7	10.6	10.6	9.8	9.4
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	6.9	8.1	13.8	15.6	7.6	7.9
Terrorism	3.7	3.9	16.0	16.0	7.0	6.9
Immigration	7.5	8.6	5.1	5.9	5.7	6.3
Education	3.8	4.2	5.1	4.7	4.1	3.5
Global climate change	3.3	3.7	2.8	3.2	3.7	4.1
Gun violence	5.4	5.1	2.8	2.2	3.5	3.9
Some other issues	2.1	2.4	2.1	1.0	3.1	2.9
Declining U.S. status worldwide	4.4	5.1	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.0
Foreign affairs	0.6	0.7	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	2.9	2.9	1.5	1.2	2.0	2.0
Don't know / not sure	1.7	1.2	1.9	0.7	1.9	1.0
Crime	2.5	1.5	2.3	1.5	1.7	1.6
International trade imbalance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.8
Internet / data security / ID theft	----	---	---	---	0.7	0.6
Energy policy	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2

ENVIRONMENT

All respondents were asked a number of questions about the environment and global climate change. Each was initially asked how concerned they were about global climate change. Results are shown for results collected in March, 2015 and March, 2016. ALSO: See added breakdown in Florida sentiment at end of document.



Respondents were presented with the following question: “Some people believe global climate change is currently occurring due to human activities, while others believe global climate change is part of a natural cycle. Which of the following best reflects what you believe?”

Results are displayed in the following table.

Views on Global Climate Change	National March 2015	National March 2016	Florida March 2015	Florida March 2016
Global climate change is caused entirely by human activity	16.0	16.3	16.0	19.4
Global climate change is caused entirely by nature	14.0	9.8	14.0	8.7
Global climate change is caused by a combination of human activity and nature	61.0	64.0	57.0	62.4
I don't believe global climate change is occurring	4.0	4.1	8.0	3.7
Don't know / unsure	4.0	5.8	5.0	5.7

Each respondent was asked to indicate if they saw each of the following occurring in their state or region. Multiple responses were accepted. Results are presented in declining order based on March, 2016 national results.

Do You See Any of the Following Occurring in your State or Region?	National March 2015	National March 2016	Florida March 2015	Florida March 2016
Warmer temperatures	45.0	57.1	49.0	57.0
Unusually severe weather and/or storms	45.0	29.6	25.0	28.3
Worsened drought conditions	24.0	21.8	18.0	11.9
Stronger El Nino effects	---	20.8	---	27.8
Beach erosion	22.0	19.3	56.0	57.2
Worsened air quality	25.0	19.2	19.0	10.6
Ocean rising or seacoast flooding	15.0	11.6	23.0	33.5
Inland flooding	---	11.3	---	11.1
Loss or threatened loss of habitats	15.0	8.9	29.0	20.4
Loss or threatened loss of species	10.0	7.8	26.0	14.8
Increased polar oscillations (swings / fluctuations)	---	5.6	---	2.8

The poll included an opportunity for respondents to identify how responsible global climate change was for environmental events. For each of the following, respondents were asked if global climate change was very responsible, somewhat responsible, not very responsible or not at all responsible.

The table holds the cumulative totals for those suggesting global climate change was very or somewhat responsible for each environmental event.

Responsibility for Global Climate Change?	National March '15 Very & Somewhat Responsible	National March '16 Very & Somewhat Responsible	Florida March '15 Very & Somewhat Responsible	Florida March '16 Very & Somewhat Responsible
Warmer temperatures	69.0	72.4	68.0	77.4
Ocean rising or seacoast flooding	65.0	69.9	63.0	75.6
Worsened drought conditions	66.0	66.2	61.0	67.6
Unusually severe weather / storms	67.0	65.5	59.0	68.3
Beach erosion	62.0	62.3	60.0	67.4
Stronger El Nino effects	---	61.5	---	64.8
Inland flooding	---	61.0	---	61.1
Increased polar oscillations (swings or fluctuations)	---	58.9	---	58.3
Loss or threatened loss of habitats	57.0	55.2	54.0	59.6
Loss or threatened loss of species	46.0	54.0	44.0	59.4
Worsened air quality	54.0	52.9	51.0	53.3

Survey respondents were asked which entities, media, or individuals they considered trustworthy for information about global climate change. Multiple responses were accepted. The table includes the results as collected in declining order by March, 2016 national results.

Most Trustworthy?	National March '15	National March '16	Florida March '15	Florida March '16
Non-government scientists and educators	45.0	45.0	47.0	45.0
Mainstream media such as U.S. newspapers, broadcasters, and online media such as CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, Associated Press, New York Times	22.0	31.1	22.0	35.9
Environmental groups	33.0	30.7	35.0	38.5
Scientist and Cosmos TV series host Neil deGrasse Tyson	22.0	22.1	20.0	25.7
Don't know / not sure	14.0	18.4	12.0	17.2
Fox News	17.0	12.9	21.0	14.4
President Obama	11.0	12.2	12.0	17.2
U.S. Government	13.0	10.0	15.0	13.0
Social media	9.0	7.3	9.0	8.3
Family, friends, or co-workers	11.0	6.9	12.0	5.7
Radio commentators such as Sean Hannity and Rush Limbaugh	6.0	4.6	7.0	5.0
Utility companies	5.0	2.7	6.0	4.3
Business or industry groups	5.0	2.1	6.0	1.9
Entertainers and celebrities	3.0	1.3	3.0	1.1

Respondents were asked which **one** of several entities they believed was best able to deal with the problems associated with global climate change. Results are displayed in the following graphs in declining order based on March, 2016 national results.

Which one is most able to deal with global climate change problems?	National March 2015	National March 2016	Florida March 2015	Florida March 2016
Federal or national government	29.0	27.3	28.0	31.5
Don't know / not sure	18.0	25.5	19.0	20.9
International bodies	18.0	19.7	21.0	21.1
Private sector businesses or entrepreneurs	17.0	15.5	13.0	12.0
State Governments	12.0	6.7	12.0	9.6
Local Governments	7.0	5.3	9.0	4.8

As a follow-up, respondents were asked which of the same entities had been effective in dealing with problems attributed to global climate change. Multiple responses were accepted. Results are shown in the following table.

Which have been effective?	National March 2015	National March 2016	Florida March 2015	Florida March 2016
Don't know / not sure	39.0	51.3	36.0	47.2
Federal or national government	25.0	22.0	26.0	25.6
International bodies	13.0	16.7	19.0	20.7
State Governments	21.0	12.6	24.0	14.8
Private sector businesses or entrepreneurs	23.0	11.4	20.0	14.1
Local Governments	14.0	10.5	19.0	9.8

In addition, respondents indicated which of the same entities they believed were responsible for dealing with problems associated with global climate change. Multiple responses were allowed and presented here.

Who is responsible for dealing with the problems associated with climate change?	National March 2015	National March 2016	Florida March 2015	Florida March 2016
Federal or national government	56.0	55.7	53.0	62.2
International bodies	39.0	45.0	44.0	48.3
State Governments	43.0	42.5	43.0	44.1
Private sector businesses or entrepreneurs	40.0	37.0	36.0	39.6
Local Governments	38.0	36.4	39.0	38.9
Don't know / not sure	15.0	22.6	17.0	17.4

Americans surveyed were asked which of several activities they may have engaged in to help reduce carbon pollution. Multiple responses were accepted and are presented here in declining order by March 2016 national results.

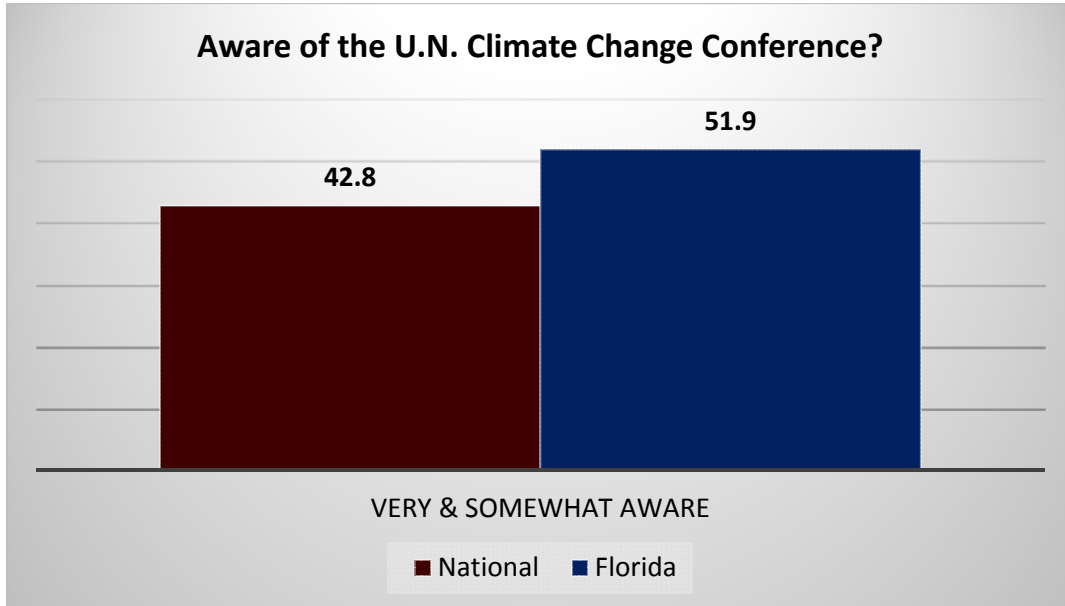
Activities undertaken to reduce carbon pollution?	National March 2015	National March 2016	Florida March 2015	Florida March 2016
Purchased higher efficiency appliances	---	48.9	---	54.6
Bought a smaller or more fuel efficient car	33.0	30.0	34.0	34.6
Planted tree(s)	---	27.5	---	32.0
Added insulation to my home	---	23.8	---	22.2
Car pool or use mass transit	22.0	20.6	24.0	15.9
None of these	28.0	17.5	27.0	16.7
Reduced or stopped eating meat	14.0	11.9	14.0	15.0
Pay higher energy taxes to fund environmental efforts	11.0	10.6	11.0	6.9
Pay higher taxes for the construction of mass transit infrastructure	8.0	9.3	12.0	4.1
Installed or purchased alternative energy sources such as solar for my home	14.0	9.0	14.0	9.8
Reduced or stopped eating dairy products	11.0	8.7	10.0	8.1
Don't know / not sure	7.0	5.5	7.0	5.9
Bought an electric car	6.0	2.5	6.0	2.4

As a follow-up, each respondent was asked which activities they would be willing to do in order to help reduce carbon pollution. Multiple responses were accepted and are presented in the following table in declining order based on March, 2016 national results.

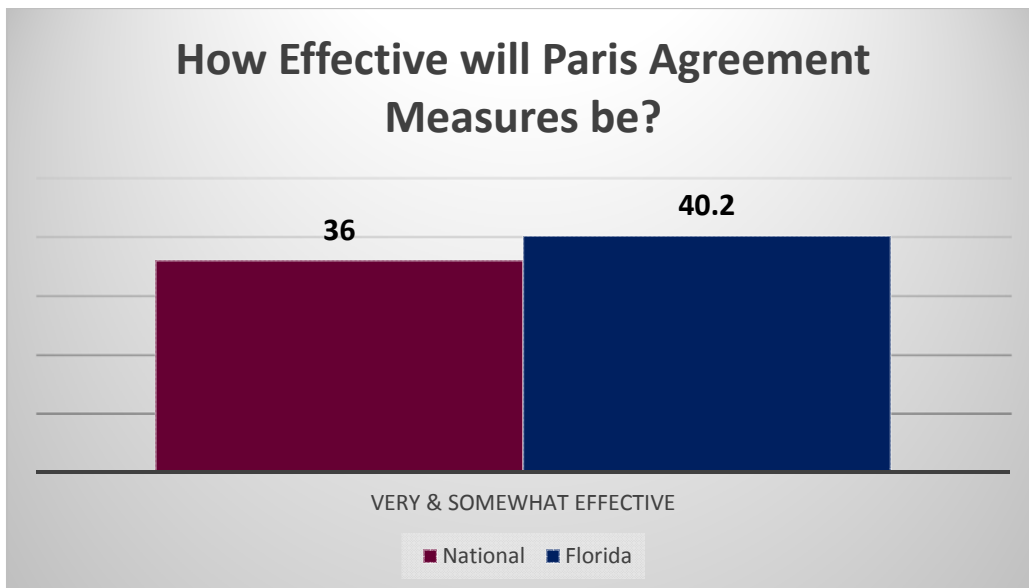
Activities undertaken to reduce carbon pollution?	National March 2015	National March 2016	Florida March 2015	Florida March 2016
Plant tree(s)	---	49.4	---	43.7
Purchase higher efficiency appliances	---	46.6	---	51.7
Add insulation to my home	---	34.7	---	30.6
Install or purchase alternative energy sources such as solar for my home	40.0	34.4	41.0	34.6
Buy a smaller or more fuel efficient car	42.0	32.1	40.0	35.6
Car pool or use mass transit	34.0	29.4	34.0	21.9
Buy an electric car	27.0	15.6	24.0	16.3
Pay higher energy taxes to fund environmental efforts	15.0	14.8	14.0	15.2
Pay higher taxes for the construction of mass transit infrastructure	13.0	11.6	15.0	13.5
Reduce or stop eating meat	16.0	11.1	15.0	15.2
Reduce or stop eating dairy products	14.0	9.1	13.0	11.3
Don't know / not sure	9.0	8.2	9.0	8.3
None of these	10.0	5.7	13.0	7.4

Survey respondents were asked if they were very aware, somewhat aware, somewhat unaware or not at all aware of the United National Climate Change Conference held in Paris, France from November 30 – December 12, 2015 and attended by 196 parties/nations.

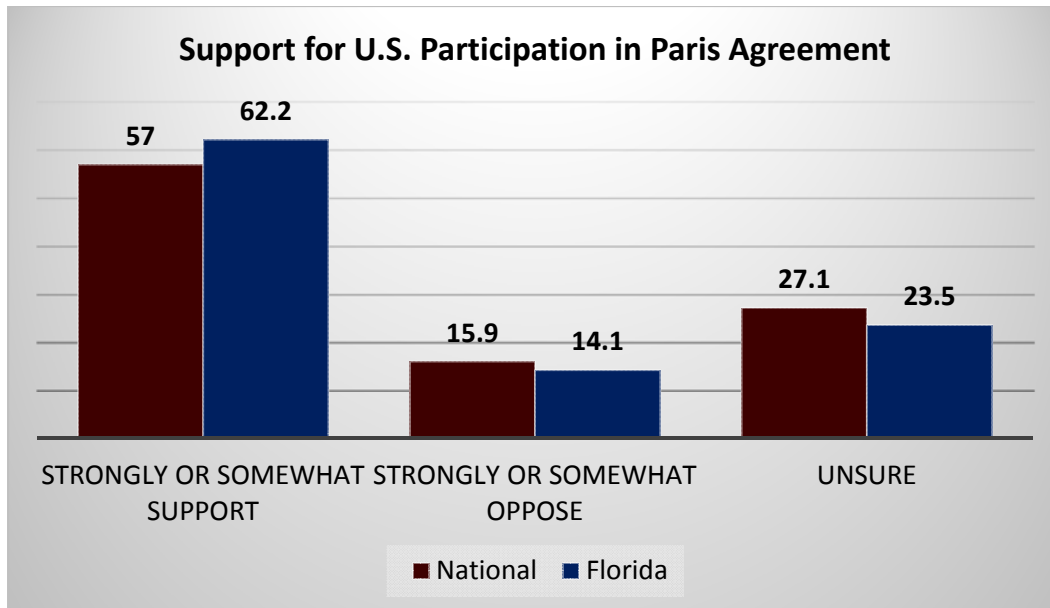
The cumulative totals for those very and somewhat aware are shown in the following graph.



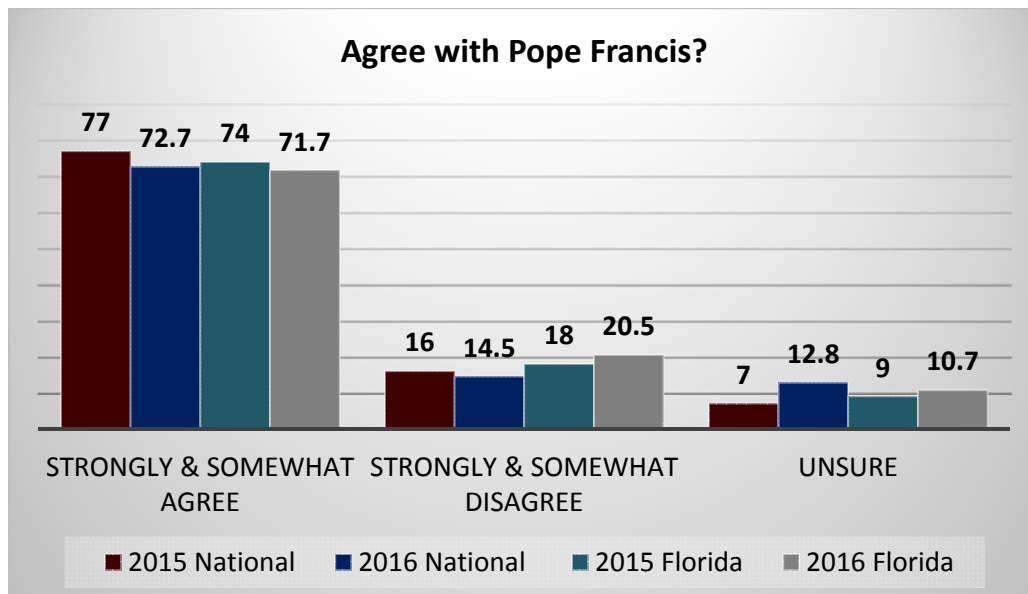
Each respondent was asked how effective they see the Paris Agreement measures being – including initial efforts to move to zero net greenhouse gas emissions and limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Just over one-third, 36.0%, suggested either very (5.1%) or somewhat effective (30.8%). Results are displayed here.



Over-one half, 57.0%, of all respondents suggested they strongly (25.0%) or somewhat supported (32.0%) United States participating and accepting the Paris Agreement. Another 15.9% were somewhat (7.5%) or strongly opposed (8.4%). Results are displayed in the following graph.



Respondents were presented with the following question: “Pope Francis maintains that protecting the environment is the responsibility of all Christians. Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with his statement?” Results are shown for 2015 and 2016 in the following graph.



ADDENDUM – DETAILED LEVELS OF CONCERN, FLORIDA, YEAR to YEAR

A paragraph in the release refers to the varying levels of concern among Florida residents as recorded in 2015 and in 2016. Here are the detailed data supporting that text.

How concerned are you about global climate change? Would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, somewhat not concerned, or not at all concerned about global climate change?

Floridians	March 2016 %	March 2015 %
Very concerned	45.9	28
Somewhat concerned	35.4	39
Somewhat not concerned	7.6	18
Not at all concerned	8.3	14
Don't know /Not sure	2.8	2