

May 2014

Final Report

Public Opinions of Immigration in Florida

Erica Odera & Dr. Alexa Lamm



Center for Public Issues Education
IN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

UFIFAS

PIE2012/13-10

Suggested Citation

Odera, E., & Lamm, A. (2014). Public Opinions of Immigration in Florida. PIE2012/13-10. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education.

About the Authors

Erica Odera – Research analyst, UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education

Alexa Lamm, Ph.D. – Associate director, UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education; Assistant professor, Department of Agricultural Education and Communication

Acknowledgments

The survey was initially developed in 2013 with the assistance of the following subject matter and methodology experts.

Joan Flocks, J.D. - Director, Social Policy Division, Center for Government Responsibility, Levin College of Law, University of Florida

Fritz Roka, Ph.D. - Extension scientist, Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida

Ken Wald, Ph.D. - Distinguished professor, Department of Political Science, University of Florida

Phil Williams, Ph.D. - Director, Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida

Current revisions and changes to this year's survey were done with the supervision and expertise of the following individuals.

Levy Odera, Ph.D. – Post-doctoral associate, UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education

Caroline Roper – Graduate assistant, UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education and Department of Agricultural Education and Communication

Laura Warner, Ph.D. – Assistant professor, Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, Department of Agricultural Education and Communication

Contents

Suggested Citation 2

About the Authors..... 2

Acknowledgments..... 2

List of Figures..... 5

List of Tables 6

Executive Summary..... 7

 Introduction..... 7

 Findings..... 7

Background..... 9

Methods..... 9

Results..... 11

 Description of Respondents..... 11

 Political values and affiliation 11

 Location of birth..... 12

 Citizenship status..... 13

 Languages spoken 13

 Relationship to an immigrant..... 14

 Importance of Immigration Issue..... 15

 Importance of the immigration issue 15

 Knowledge about Undocumented Immigration 16

 General knowledge about the issue of undocumented immigration 16

 Knowledge of industries where undocumented immigrants work..... 17

 Knowledge of amount of undocumented immigrants..... 17

 Knowledge of citizenship process through birth..... 18

 Knowledge of government benefit qualifications for undocumented immigrants 18

 Attitudes towards Undocumented Immigrants..... 19

 General attitudes towards undocumented immigrants..... 19

 Contact with immigrants with limited English skills..... 20

 Government Action and Benefits 21

 Confidence in political leaders 21

 Level of government responsible for immigration..... 21

 Government action towards undocumented immigrants..... 22

 Government benefits for undocumented immigrants..... 23

College benefits for children of undocumented immigrants25

E-Verify25

Education about Immigration Issues31

Interest in immigration related topics.....31

Preferred mode of learning31

Attitudinal Scales.....32

Color-blind Racial Attitudes Scale32

Attitudes towards Undocumented Immigrants35

References.....38

List of Figures

Figure 1: Political affiliation.....	11
Figure 2: Political ideology.....	11
Figure 3: Location of respondents' birth.....	12
Figure 4: Location of parents' birth.....	12
Figure 5: Citizenship status.....	13
Figure 6: Language ability.....	13
Figure 7: Relationship to an immigrant.....	14
Figure 8: Type of relationship with an immigrant.....	14
Figure 9: Importance of immigration issue in Florida and U.S.....	16
Figure 10: Self-perceived knowledge about undocumented immigration.....	16
Figure 11: Frequency of following news about undocumented immigration.....	17
Figure 12: Presence of undocumented immigrants.....	18
Figure 13: Children born in U.S. to non-citizens are citizens of U.S.....	18
Figure 14: Undocumented immigrants qualify for government benefits.....	19
Figure 15: Undocumented immigration and culture.....	19
Figure 16: Undocumented immigration and jobs.....	19
Figure 17: Undocumented immigration and the economy.....	20
Figure 18: Contact with immigrants who do not speak English.....	20
Figure 19: Discomfort with contact with immigrants who do not speak English.....	20
Figure 20: Confidence in political leaders.....	21
Figure 21: Level of government that should be responsible for enforcing immigration laws.....	22
Figure 22: Government action towards undocumented immigrants.....	22
Figure 23: Government assistance for undocumented immigrants.....	24
Figure 24: College benefits for children of undocumented immigrants.....	25
Figure 25: Knowledge of E-Verify.....	26
Figure 26: E-Verify at federal level.....	26
Figure 27: Support E-Verify use in Florida with positive outcomes.....	27
Figure 28: Support for E-Verify in Florida with negative outcomes.....	27
Figure 29: Support for E-Verify in Florida if produce supply changed.....	28
Figure 30: Requiring and funding E-Verify after reading Georgia experience.....	29
Figure 31: E-Verify should be federally funded.....	29
Figure 32: Florida should require non-agricultural businesses to use E-Verify.....	30
Figure 33: Florida should require agricultural businesses to use E-Verify.....	30

Figure 34: Interest in immigration-related topics.....31
Figure 35: Preferred mode of learning..... 32

List of Tables

Table 1: Florida Census Data from 2010 10
Table 2: Importance level of Florida issues..... 15
Table 3: Types of occupation amongst undocumented immigrants 17
Table 4: Difference in opinions regarding government benefits undocumented immigrants are able to and should receive..... 23
Table 5: Color-blind Racial Attitudes Scale.....33
Table 6: Attitudes towards Undocumented Immigrants Scale.....36

Executive Summary

Public Opinions of Immigration in Florida
May 2014

Introduction

Immigration, particularly undocumented immigration, is a key issue facing Florida and its agricultural and natural resource sectors. Understanding the attitudes, opinions and knowledge of the Florida public is an important piece of making better decisions about and educating on the issue of undocumented immigration. The Public Opinions of Immigration in Florida survey was taken by 503 Florida residents to examine their attitudes, opinions, and knowledge about undocumented immigration in Florida and the United States (U.S.).

Findings

- Respondents thought most undocumented immigrants in Florida work in agriculture and non-agricultural outdoor labor, instead of hospitality and indoor labor.
- While 25% of respondents believed most immigrants living in the U.S. are undocumented, 56% believed most workers in agriculture are undocumented.
- Only 60% of respondents knew that children born in the U.S. to undocumented immigrants were U.S. citizens.
- Forty-three percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that children of undocumented immigrants should be allowed to attend college in their home state at in-state tuition rates. However, 49% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that children of undocumented immigrants should be eligible to receive federal education grant funding.
- Respondents had personal relationships with immigrants; 57% of respondents knew someone who had immigrated to the U.S. and 35% of those who knew an immigrant considered this person a friend.
- Immigration only ranked ninth out of 10 key Florida issues in terms of level of importance to respondents.
- Respondents had mixed feelings as to whether or not immigration is the biggest issue facing the U.S. or Florida today.
- Respondents had mixed feelings about undocumented immigrants and the economy. While 50% thought undocumented immigrants fill jobs Americans do not want, 69% of respondents thought undocumented immigrants are a burden on the economy.
- Fifty-five percent reported they had “no confidence” in their national political leaders to do what they think is right regarding the issue of immigration.
- When given three choices on what the government should do regarding undocumented immigration, 46% percent felt undocumented immigrants should be required to leave but be allowed to return later, while 43% felt undocumented immigrants should be allowed to remain and become citizens.
- Respondents believed undocumented immigrants currently qualify for more government benefits than they would preferably allow.
- Only 28% of respondents to the survey knew what E-Verify was and 77% were unsure whether Florida had implemented E-Verify.
- Only 28% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed they would support E-Verify in Florida if unemployment increased, and only 27% agreed or strongly agreed they would support E-Verify in Florida if taxes increased.
- After being told some of the potential challenges of E-Verify for the agricultural sector, 62%, agreed or strongly agreed Florida should still require agricultural producers to use E-Verify.

- When given the Color-blind Racial Attitudes Scale (Neville et al., 2000), respondents scored near the midpoint. This scale measured level of denial of racial dynamics, with a higher score indicating higher racial blindness. Respondents could score anywhere from 20 to 120, with a midpoint of 70. The average score of respondents was 75.51 ($SD = 14.47$).
- When given the Attitudes towards Illegal Aliens Scale (altered to read undocumented immigrants instead of illegal aliens) (Ommundsen & Larsen, 1997; Ommundsen & Larsen, 1999; Veer et al., 2004), respondents scored below the midpoint. This scale measured level of favorable or unfavorable attitudes towards undocumented immigrants. Respondents could have scored from 19 to 95 with a midpoint of 57. The average respondent's score was 43.54 ($SD = 14.47$), indicating a negative overall attitude towards undocumented immigrants.

Background

Labor immigration laws and the presence of undocumented immigrants is an important issue facing the U.S. It is also an issue with unique implications for Florida and the agricultural and natural resource (ANR) sectors and has been identified as such by ANR opinion leaders in the state (Bowden, Lamm, Carter, Irani & Galindo, 2012). The UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education (PIE Center) designed the Public Opinions of Immigration in Florida survey to examine public opinions related to immigration in Florida at a specific point in time. The survey included items covering topics such as:

- How important Floridians consider the issue of undocumented immigration.
- How much knowledgeable Floridians feel they have regarding the issue of undocumented immigration.
- What roles Floridians think the government should take on this issue.
- What government benefits Floridians think undocumented immigrants can receive and should be allowed to receive.
- What attitudes Floridians hold about cultural and linguistic changes around immigration.
- What attitudes and knowledge Floridians have regarding E-Verify and its use for different employers.

Methods

In March 2013, an online survey was distributed to Florida residents using non-probability sampling. Qualtrics, a survey software company, distributed the online survey link to Florida residents, age 18 or older, resulting in 503 completed responses. To ensure the respondents were representative of the Florida population according to the 2010 U.S. Census (seen in Table 1), the data were weighted to balance their geographic location in the state, age, gender, and race/ethnicity (Kalton & Flores-Cervantes, 2003). Weighting procedures are commonly used in non-probability samples to compensate for selection, exclusion and non-participation biases (Baker et al., 2013), and as a result can yield results comparable, or in some cases better than standard probability-based samples (Abate, 1998; Twyman, 2008; Vavreck & Rivers, 2008). Public opinion research commonly utilizes non-probability samples to make population estimates (Baker et al., 2013).

For more detailed methods related to the PIE Center's public opinion surveys, please refer to our website: www.piecenter.com.

Undocumented immigrants were defined in the survey as *foreign nationals residing in the U.S. without legal immigration status. This can result from someone entering the country without permission or remaining in the U.S. after a legal visa expires.* The survey instrument was developed by Erica Odera, Dr. Alexa Lamm, and Dr. Tracy Irani. It included two previously established scales; the Color-Blind Racial Attitudes Scale (Neville et al., 2000) and the Attitudes towards Illegal Aliens Scale (Ommundsen & Larsen, 1997; Ommundsen & Larsen, 1999; Veer et al., 2004).

Table 1: Florida Census Data from 2010

Demographic Category	Percentage of Florida Residents
Gender	
Female	51.1
Male	48.9
Race and Ethnicity	
White	77.1
Hispanic	22.5
African American	17.0
Asian	3.0
Native American	0.2
Age	
19 and younger	1.3
20-29 years	12.8
30-39 years	12.2
40-49 years	14.2
50-59 years	13.5
60-69 years	11.1
70-79 years	7.4
80 and older	4.9
Rural Urban Continuum	
Metro- Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more	63.1
Metro- Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million population	25.7
Metro- Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population	4.8
Nonmetro- Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area	3.5
Nonmetro- Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area	2.6
Nonmetro- Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area	0.3

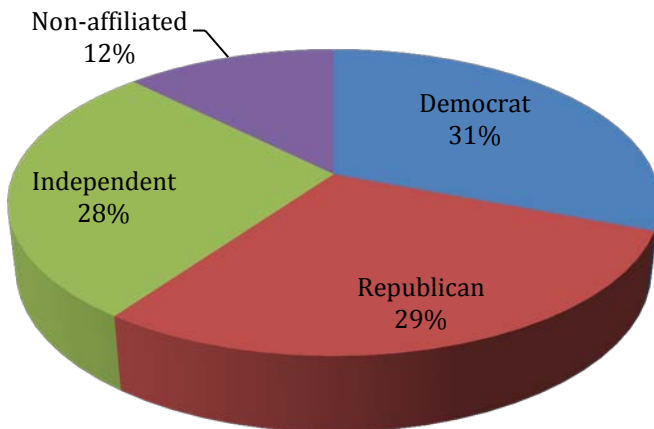
Results

Description of Respondents

Political values and affiliation

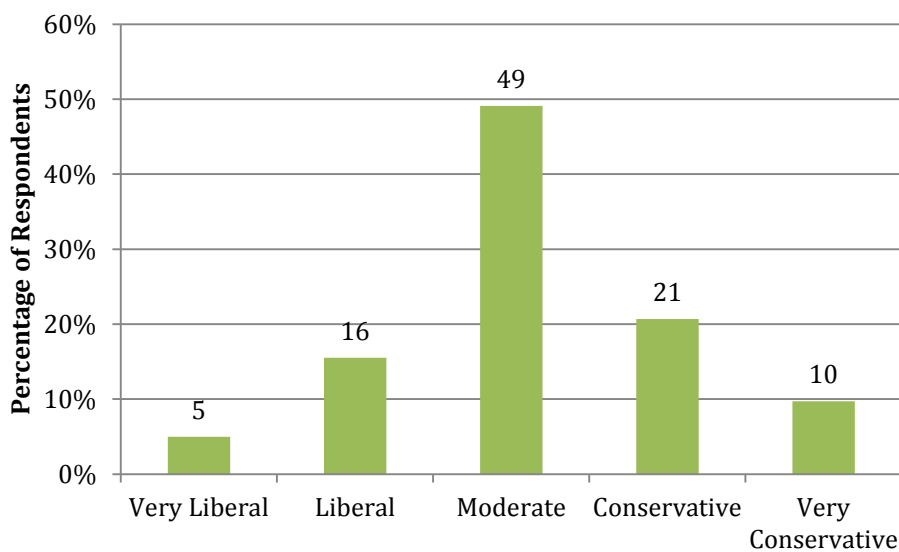
Thirty-one percent of respondents reported being registered Democrats, followed by 29% who reported being registered Republicans and 28% who reported being registered Independents (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Political affiliation



Nearly half (49%) of respondents considered themselves to be politically moderate (Figure 2). Thirty-one percent considered themselves either conservative or very conservative, and 21% considered themselves liberal or very liberal.

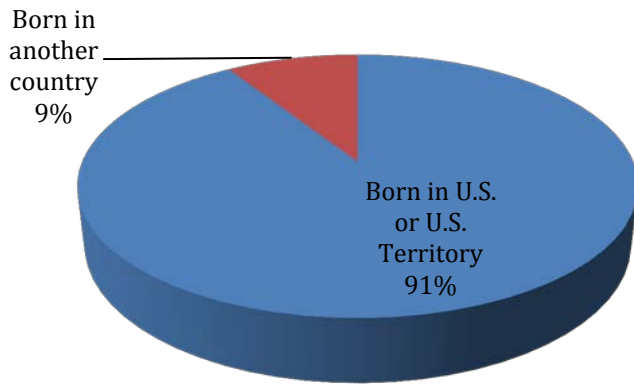
Figure 2: Political ideology



Location of birth

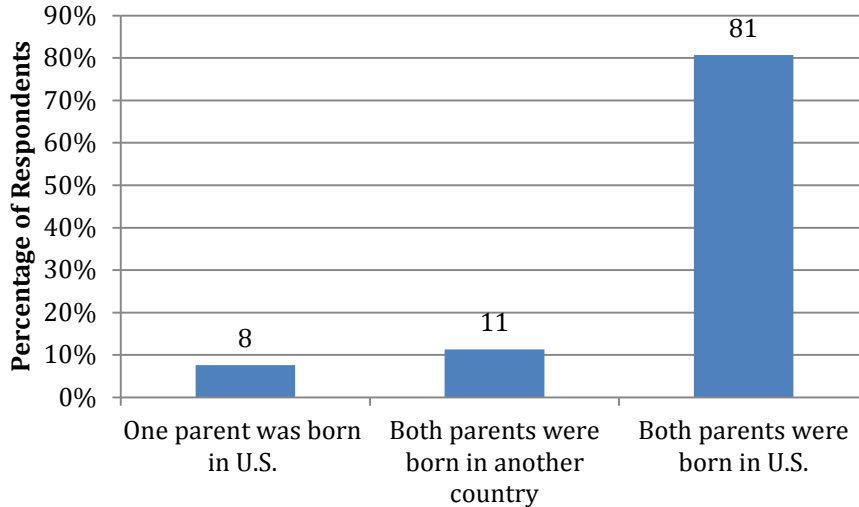
Respondents were asked whether they were born outside the U.S. or inside the U.S. (or a U.S. territory). Ninety-one percent of respondents were born in the U.S. or a U.S. territory, and 9% were born in another country (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Location of respondents' birth



Respondents were asked whether their parents were born outside the U.S. or in the U.S. (including U.S. territories). Eighty-one percent of respondents indicated both parents had been born in the U.S., 11% indicated both parents were born in another country outside the U.S., and 8% had one parent born in the U.S. and another born outside the U.S. (Figure 4).

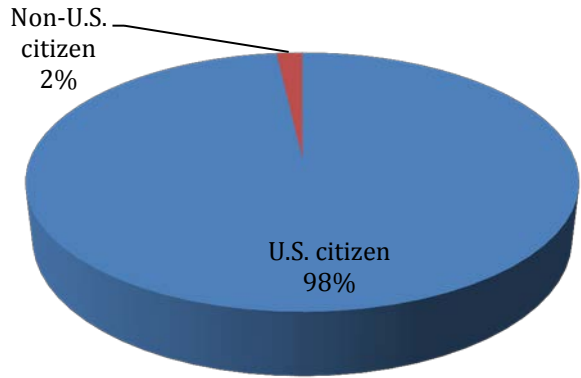
Figure 4: Location of parents' birth



Citizenship status

Ninety-eight percent of respondents were currently American citizens; only 2% of respondents indicated they were not currently United States citizens (Figure 5).

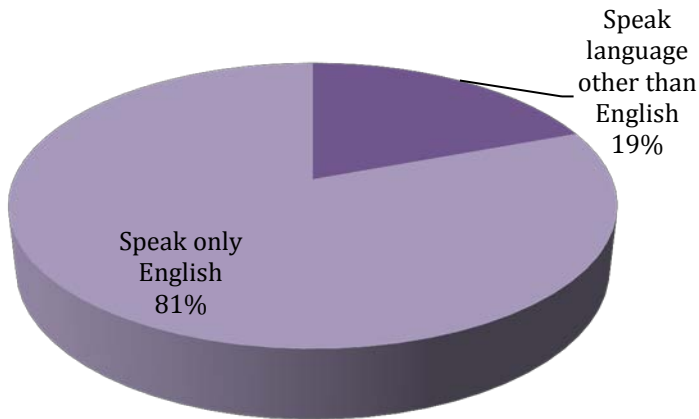
Figure 5: Citizenship status



Languages spoken

Nineteen percent of respondents reported they speak a language other than English (Figure 6).

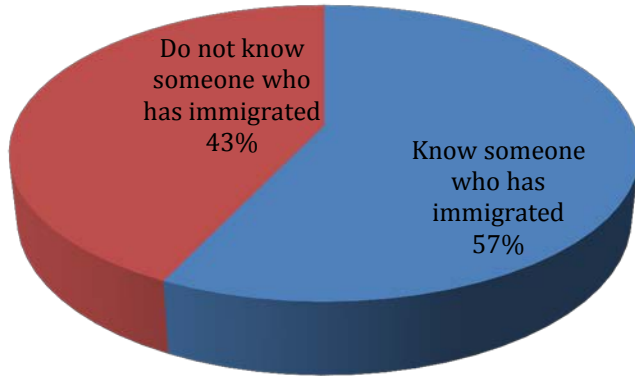
Figure 6: Language ability



Relationship to an immigrant

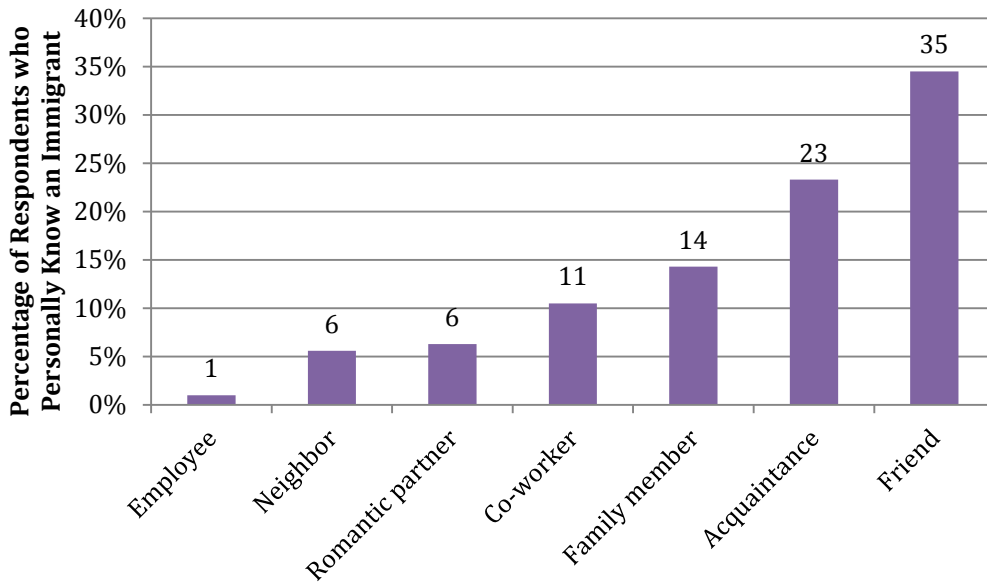
Respondents were asked whether they personally knew an immigrant to the United States. Fifty-seven percent of respondents personally knew someone who had immigrated (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Relationship to an immigrant



Those who personally knew an immigrant ($n = 287$) were asked to indicate the type of relationship they had with that person. Fifty-eight percent of respondents who knew an immigrant indicated this relationship as a friendship or acquaintance (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Type of relationship with an immigrant



Importance of Immigration Issue

Respondents were asked to indicate how important they considered 10 different Florida issues. They were asked whether they considered the issue to be a) not at all important, b) slightly important, c) fairly important, d) highly important, e) extremely important, or f) unsure. Table 2 displays the percentage of respondents who rated each issue as extremely or highly important. When ranked in order, immigration is listed as the 9th most important issue, only above climate change (Table 2).

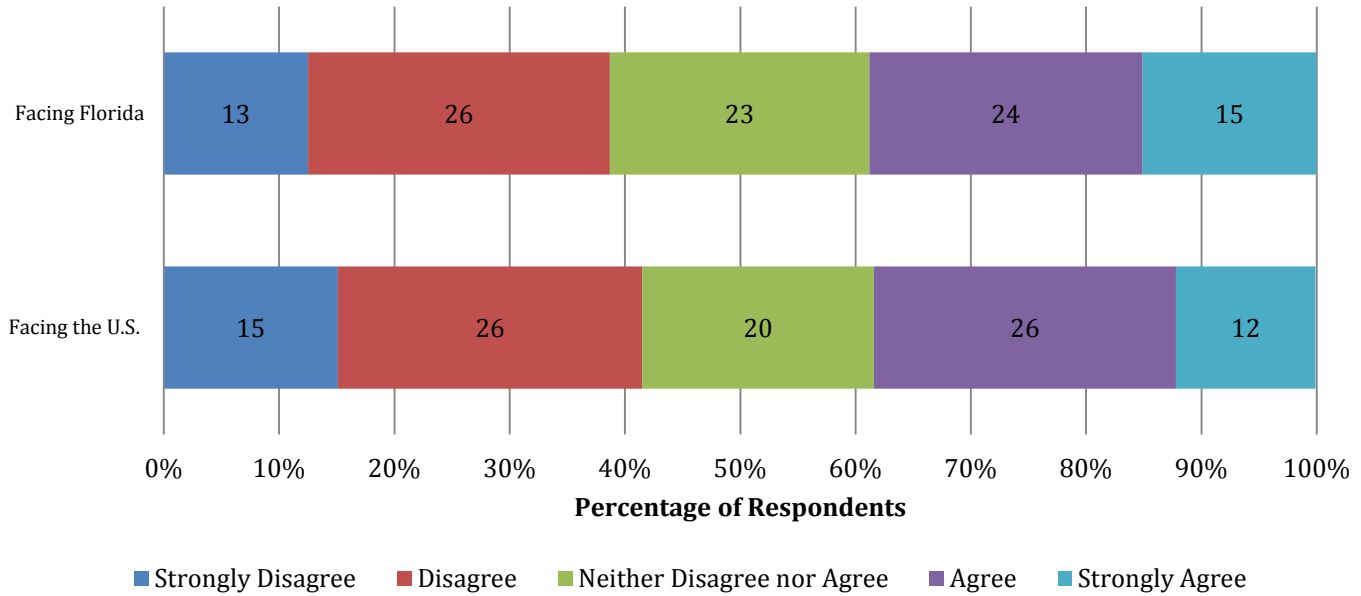
Table 2: Importance level of Florida issues

Florida Issue	% of respondents rating the issue as highly or extremely important
The economy	89.4
Health care	85.5
Water	81.7
Public education	79.7
Taxes	78.3
Environmental conservation	74.8
Food production	72.2
Housing and foreclosures	71.2
Immigration	61.6
Climate change	56.8

Importance of the immigration issue

Respondents were asked to indicate how much they agreed with the statements “undocumented immigrants working in the U.S. is the most important problem facing **Florida** today” and “undocumented immigrants working in the U.S. is the most important problem facing **the U.S.** today.” Only 39% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the issue of undocumented immigrants working in the U.S. was an important issue facing Florida and only 38% agreed or strongly agreed it was an important issue facing the U.S. (Figure 9). Roughly equal amounts of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed this was an important issue as agreed it was an important issue.

Figure 9: Importance of immigration issue in Florida and U.S.



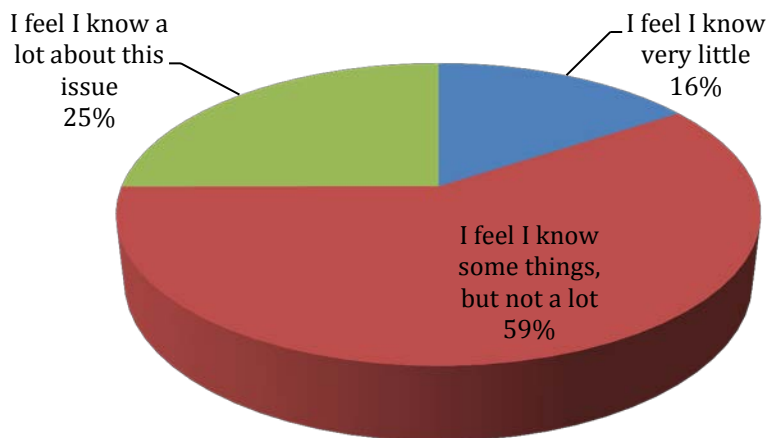
Knowledge about Undocumented Immigration

Respondents were asked a series of question related to their knowledge about undocumented immigration.

General knowledge about the issue of undocumented immigration

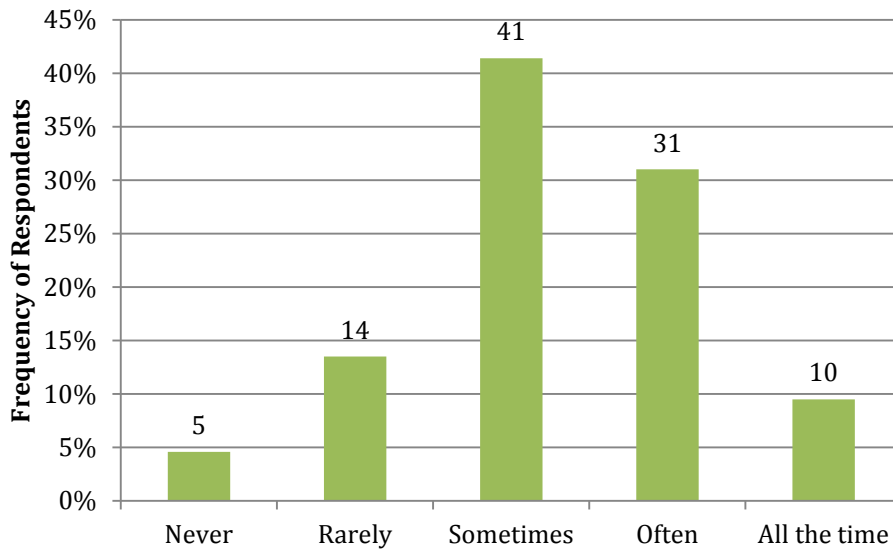
Respondents were asked to assess their level of knowledge about the issue of undocumented immigration. Fifty-nine percent felt they knew some things, but not a lot, 16% felt they knew very little, and 25% felt they knew a lot about the issue (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Self-perceived knowledge about undocumented immigration



Respondents were also asked how often they follow the news about undocumented immigration. Forty-one percent of respondents indicated they “sometimes” follow the news about his issue, while 41% indicated they follow the news about undocumented immigration “often” or “all the time” (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Frequency of following news about undocumented immigration



Knowledge of industries where undocumented immigrants work

Respondents were provided with the following four occupational categories where undocumented workers are known to work in Florida. They were then asked to rank the list with 1 = the industry with the most undocumented immigrant employees, and 4 = the industry with the least undocumented immigrant employees. The rankings were averaged with a lower total indicating a higher ranking. Respondents ranked agriculture as the most common industry to employ undocumented workers ($M = 1.56$), followed by non-agricultural outdoor labor ($M = 2.09$). The hospitality industry and indoor labor categories ranked third and fourth, respectively (Table 3).

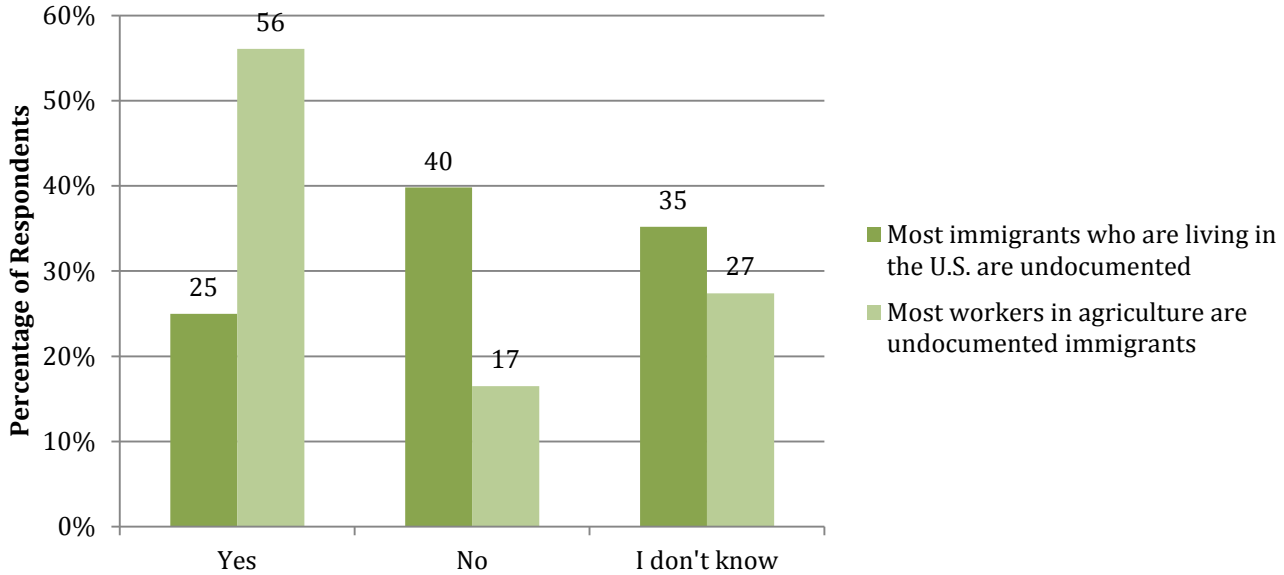
Table 3: Types of occupation amongst undocumented immigrants

Where undocumented immigrants may work	Average ranking (<i>SD</i>)
Agriculture (e.g., production of crops, livestock and animals)	1.56 (.91)
Non-agricultural outdoor labor (e.g., gardening, roofing, construction, lawn and pool services)	2.09 (.82)
Hospitality (e.g., food services, restaurant industry, housekeeping and laundry services)	3.09 (.93)
Indoor labor (e.g., childcare, in-home care, domestic servant and custodial or janitorial services)	3.25 (.83)

Knowledge of amount of undocumented immigrants

Next, respondents were asked whether they believed most immigrants in the U.S. are undocumented and whether most workers in agriculture are undocumented immigrants. While only 25% of respondents thought most immigrants living in the U.S. are undocumented, 56% of respondents believed most workers in agriculture are undocumented immigrants (Figure 12). Thirty-five percent of respondents were unsure whether most immigrants who were living in the U.S. were undocumented, and 27% of respondents were unsure whether most workers in agriculture were undocumented.

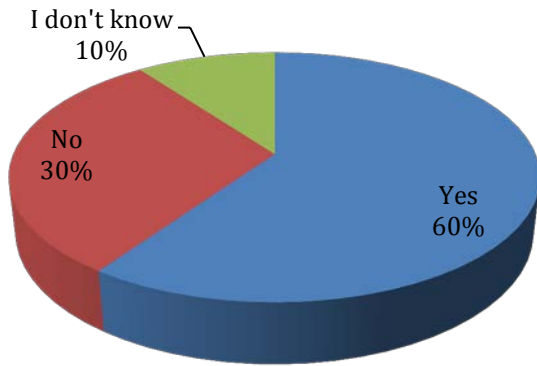
Figure 12: Presence of undocumented immigrants



Knowledge of citizenship process through birth

Respondents were asked “do you believe that children born in the United States to non-citizen, immigrant parents are citizens of the U.S.?” While 60% of respondents knew this was true, 30% thought this was not true, and 10% were unsure (Figure 13).

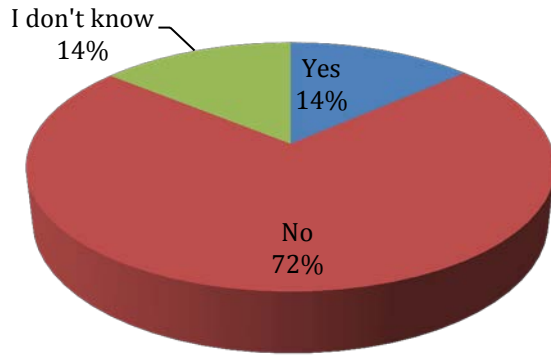
Figure 13: Children born in U.S. to non-citizens are citizens of U.S.



Knowledge of government benefit qualifications for undocumented immigrants

Respondents were also asked “do you believe that undocumented immigrants in the U.S. qualify for government benefits?” Seventy-two percent replied no, while 14% were unsure and 14% thought undocumented immigrants could qualify for government benefits (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Undocumented immigrants qualify for government benefits



Attitudes towards Undocumented Immigrants

Next respondents were asked questions around their general attitudes towards undocumented immigrants and their attitude towards contact with immigrants with limited English speaking skills.

General attitudes towards undocumented immigrants

Within each question, respondents were provided two response options and told to choose which option comes closest to their personal views, even if neither was quite right. When asked whether they felt undocumented immigrants a) increased cultural diversity or b) threaten traditional American culture, 52% of respondents chose “threaten traditional American culture” (Figure 15). An even divide occurred for the question asking whether respondents felt undocumented immigrants a) filled jobs Americans didn’t want or b) reduced good jobs for Americans (Figure 16). When asked about the economy, 69% of respondents believed undocumented immigrants were a burden on the economy while 31% thought undocumented immigrants were an asset to the economy (Figure 17).

Figure 15: Undocumented immigration and culture

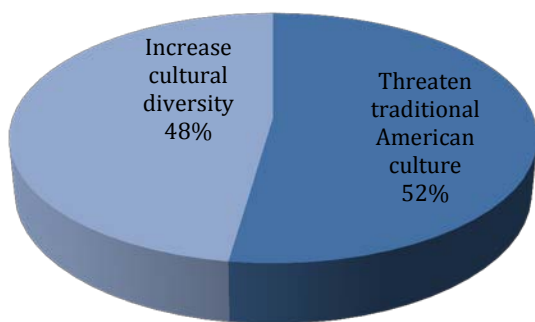


Figure 16: Undocumented immigration and jobs

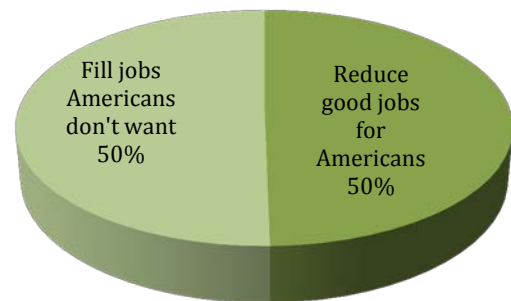
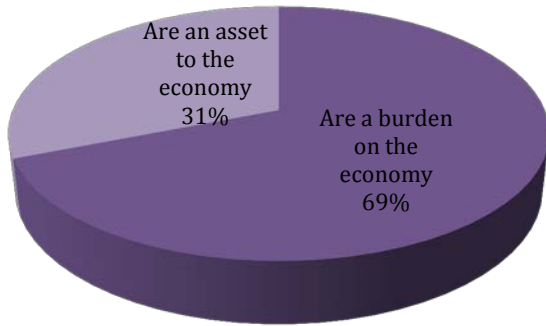


Figure 17: Undocumented immigration and the economy



Contact with immigrants with limited English skills

Sixty-seven percent of respondents indicated they have come into contact with immigrants (either legal or undocumented) who speak little or no English (Figure 18). When asked whether it bothered them when they came into contact with immigrants with limited English skills, 59% responded yes (Figure 19).

Figure 18: Contact with immigrants who do not speak English

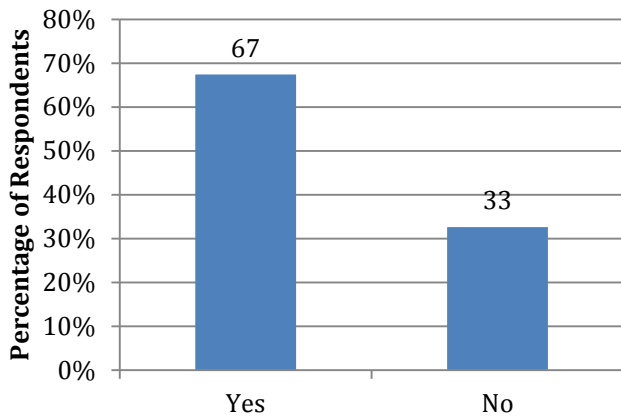
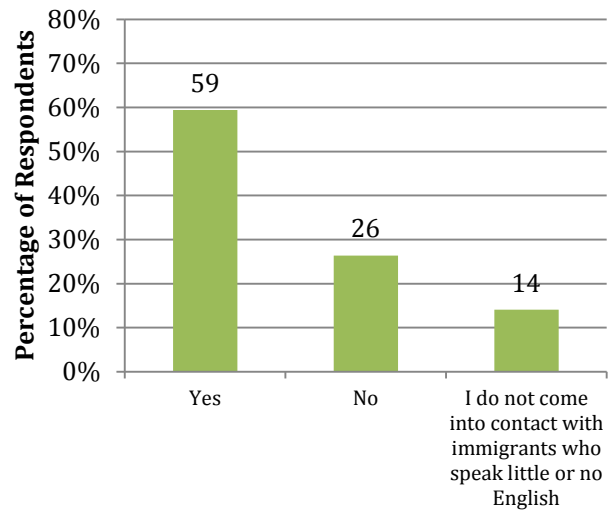


Figure 19: Discomfort with contact with immigrants who do not speak English



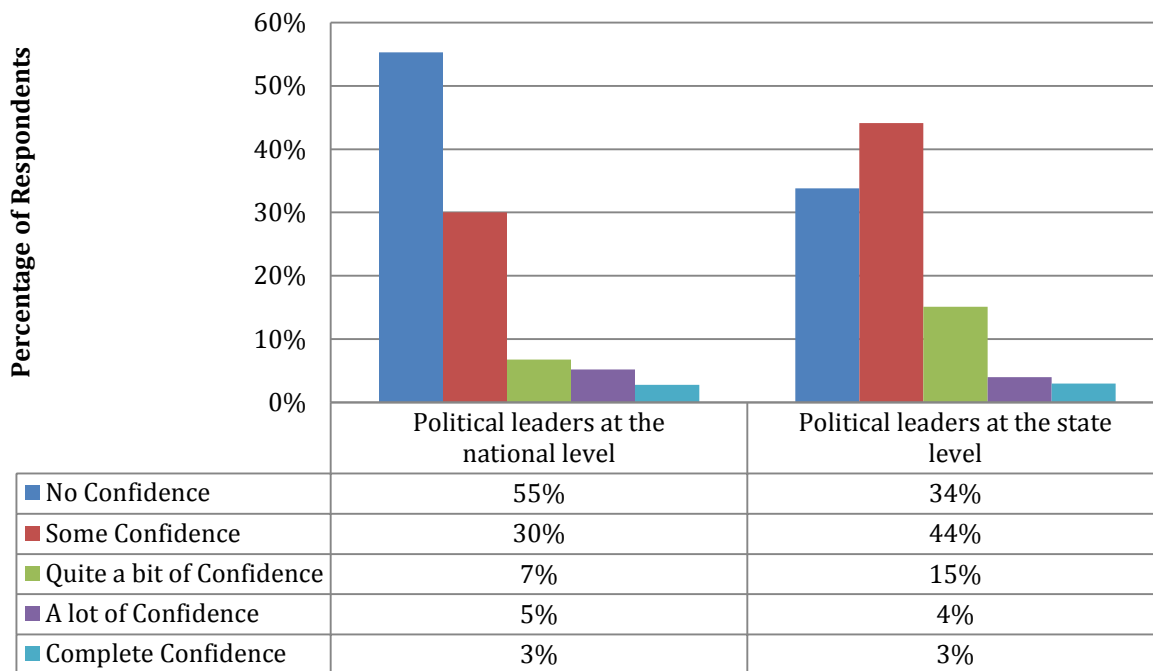
Government Action and Benefits

Respondents were then asked a series of questions exploring their confidence in political leaders, the level of government they felt should be involved in enforcing immigration law, government action that should be taken regarding undocumented immigration, government benefits for undocumented immigrants, and college-related benefits for children of undocumented immigrants.

Confidence in political leaders

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of confidence in state and national political leaders to “make decisions that fit your values of what is right regarding the issue of immigration.” Fifty-five percent of respondents had no confidence in political leaders at the national level and 34% of respondents had no confidence in political leaders at the state level (Figure 20).

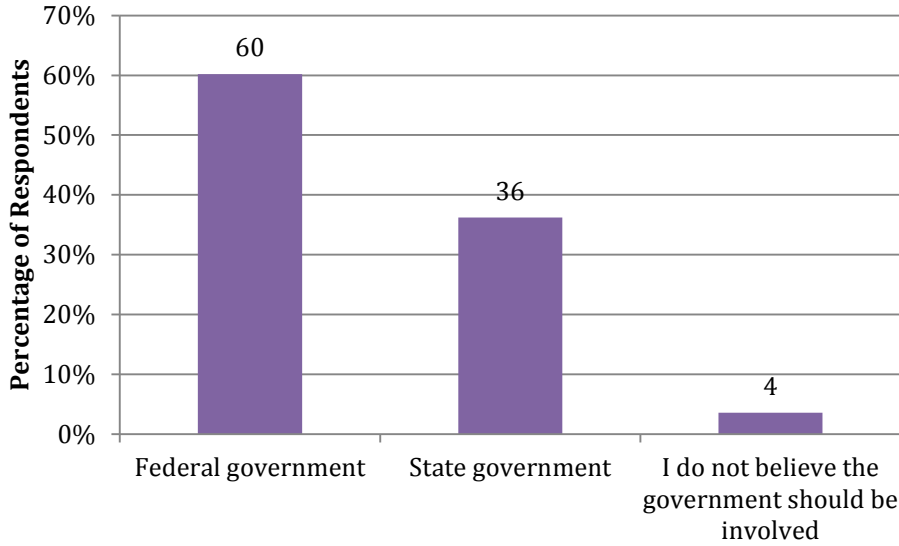
Figure 20: Confidence in political leaders



Level of government responsible for immigration

Respondents were asked which level of government they felt should be most responsible for enforcing immigration laws. Sixty-percent of respondents felt the federal government should be the most involved in enforcing immigration laws, while 36% felt it should be the state government (Figure 21).

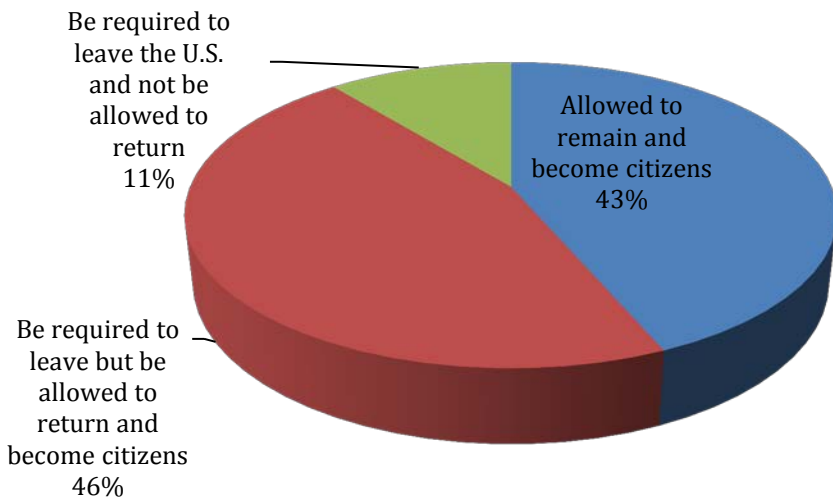
Figure 21: Level of government that should be responsible for enforcing immigration laws



Government action towards undocumented immigrants

In the next question, respondents were provided with three different options regarding government action that could be taken regarding undocumented immigration and told to choose the statement closest to their personal views, even if none of the statements captured their attitudes perfectly. These options were (a) undocumented immigrants should be allowed to remain in the U.S. and become U.S. citizens if they meet certain requirements over time, (b) undocumented immigrants should be required to leave the U.S., but should be allowed to return and become U.S. citizens if they meet certain requirements, and (c) undocumented immigrants should be required to leave the U.S. and not allowed to return. Forty-six percent of respondents felt undocumented immigrants should be required to leave but be allowed to return later, 43% felt undocumented immigrants should be allowed to remain and become citizens and 11% felt undocumented immigrants should be required to leave the U.S. and not be allowed to return (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Government action towards undocumented immigrants



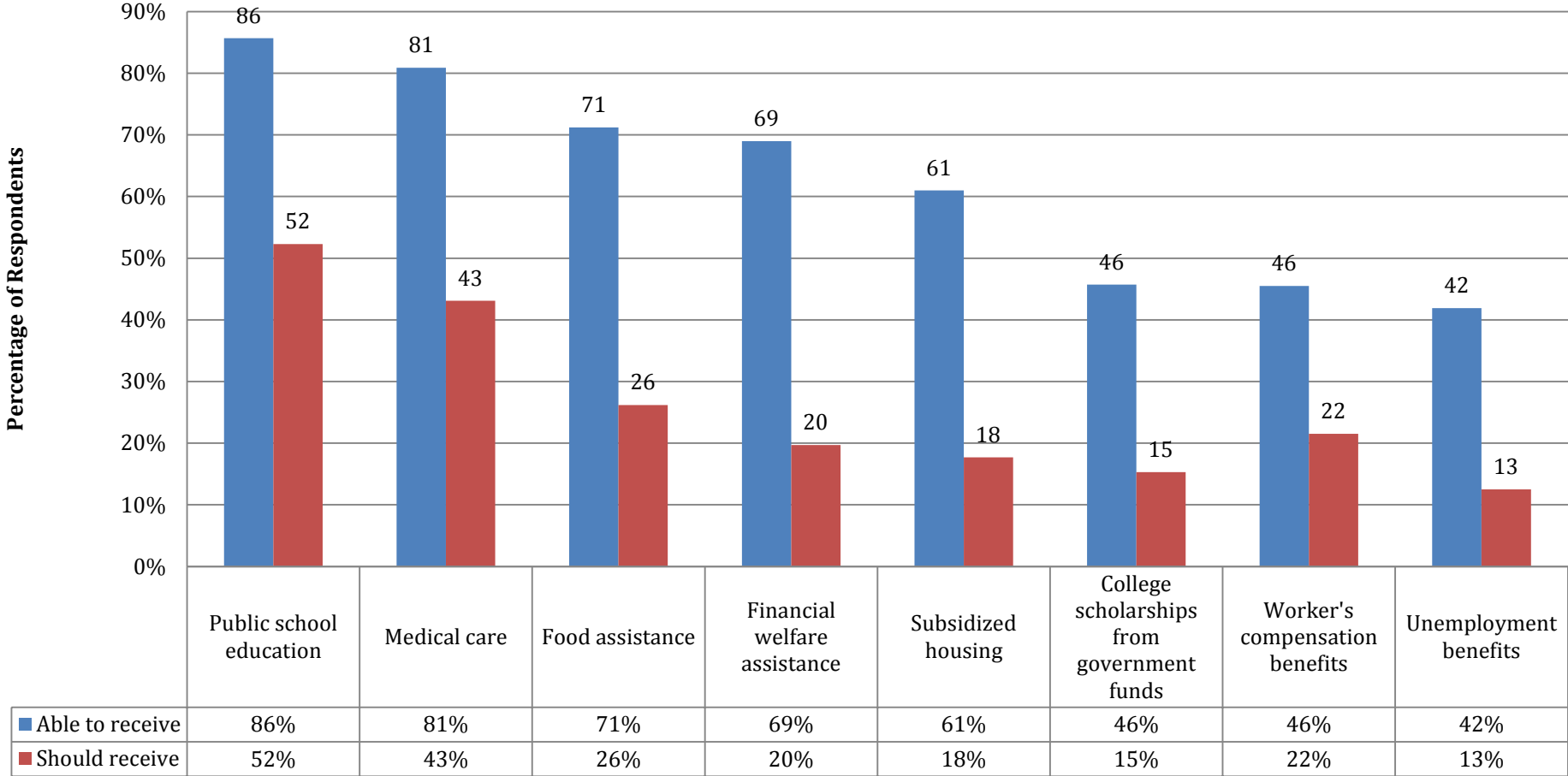
Government benefits for undocumented immigrants

Respondents were asked to indicate which government benefits they felt undocumented immigrants are currently able to qualify for, and those which they felt undocumented immigrants should be allowed to qualify for. The benefits respondents most commonly thought undocumented immigrants were able to receive were public school education and medical care. Seventy-one percent of respondents thought undocumented immigrants could qualify for food assistance and 69% thought they could qualify for financial welfare assistance (Figure 23). Regarding the question of benefits undocumented immigrants should receive, 52% of respondents believed undocumented immigrants should receive public school education and 43% believed they should receive medical care. The largest difference observed was for financial welfare assistance; there was a 49% difference between those who felt undocumented immigrants are able to receive financial welfare assistance and those who felt undocumented immigrants should be allowed to receive financial welfare assistance (Table 4).

Table 4: Difference in opinions regarding government benefits undocumented immigrants are able to and should receive

Type of government assistance	Difference in % of those who thought undocumented immigrants are <u>able</u> to receive the benefit – the % of those who think they <u>should</u> receive the benefit
Financial welfare assistance	49.3
Food assistance	45.0
Subsidized housing	43.3
Medical care	37.8
Public school education	33.4
College scholarships from government funds	30.4
Unemployment benefits	29.4
Worker's compensation benefit	24.0

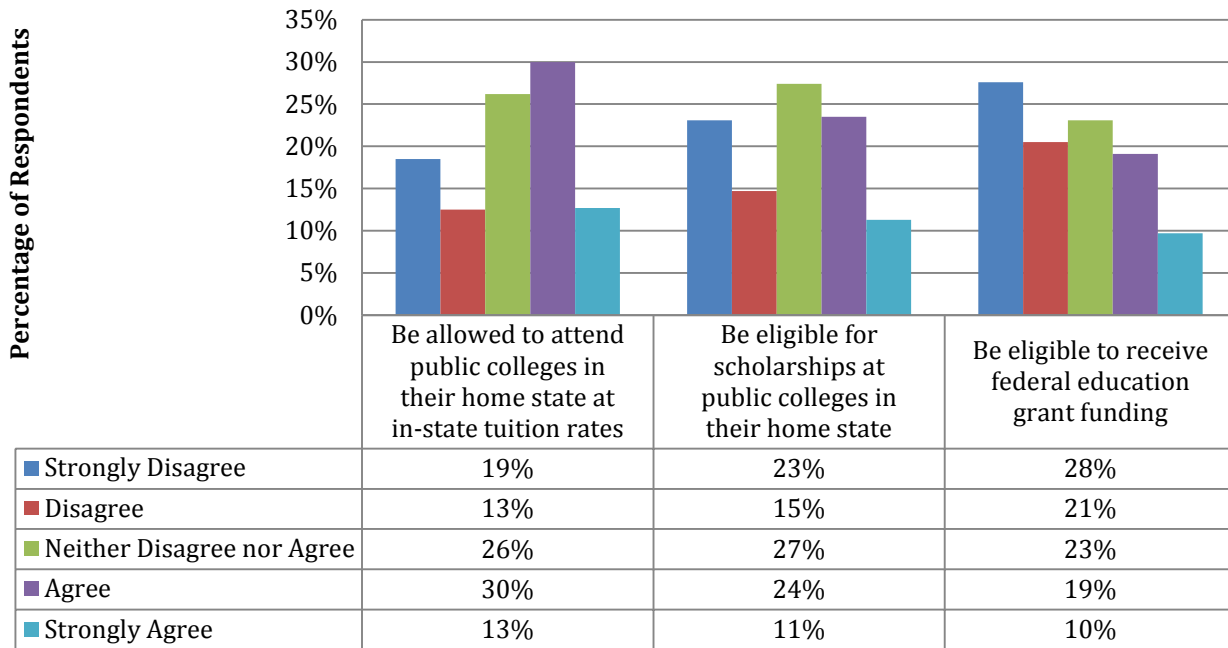
Figure 23: Government assistance for undocumented immigrants



College benefits for children of undocumented immigrants

Respondents were asked three questions related to children of undocumented immigrants receiving college related benefits. Forty-three percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that children of undocumented immigrants should be allowed to attend college in their home state at in-state tuition rates (Figure 24). However, 49% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed children of undocumented immigrants should be eligible to receive federal education grant funding.

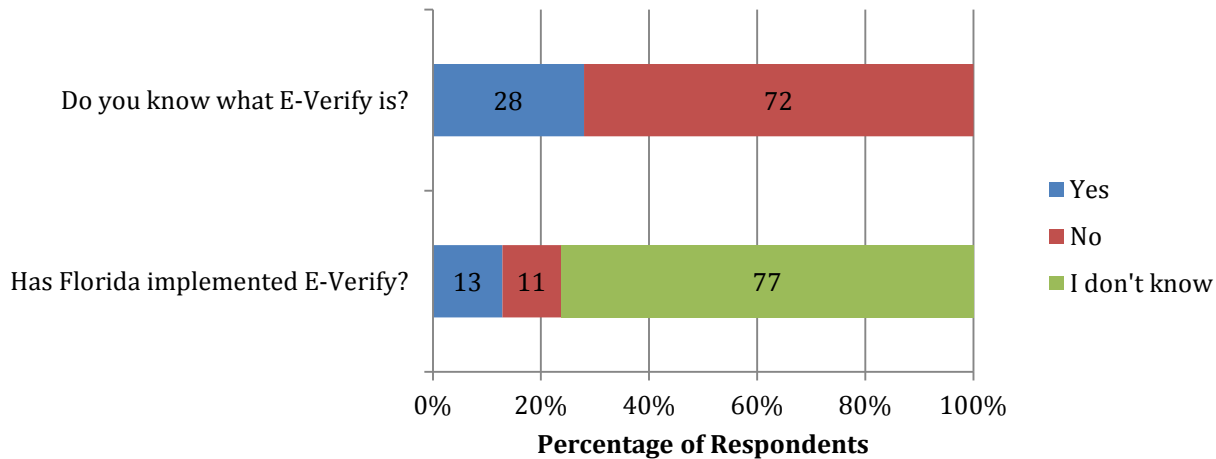
Figure 24: College benefits for children of undocumented immigrants



E-Verify

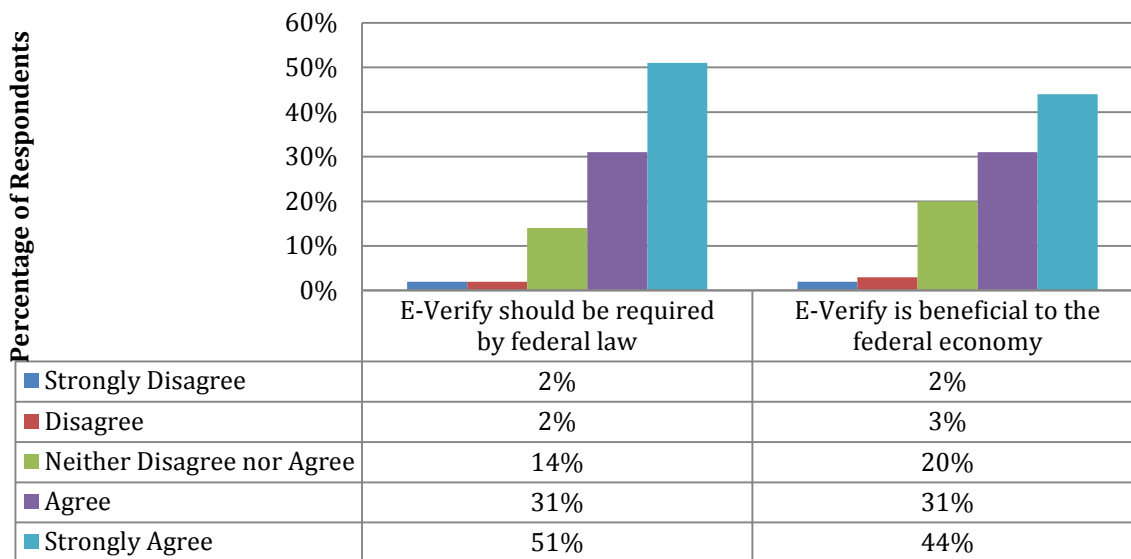
E-Verify is an Internet-based employment verification system that compares information from a person’s employment paperwork to Homeland Security and Social Security records. Only 28% of the respondents knew what E-Verify was and 77% were unsure whether Florida had implemented E-Verify (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Knowledge of E-Verify



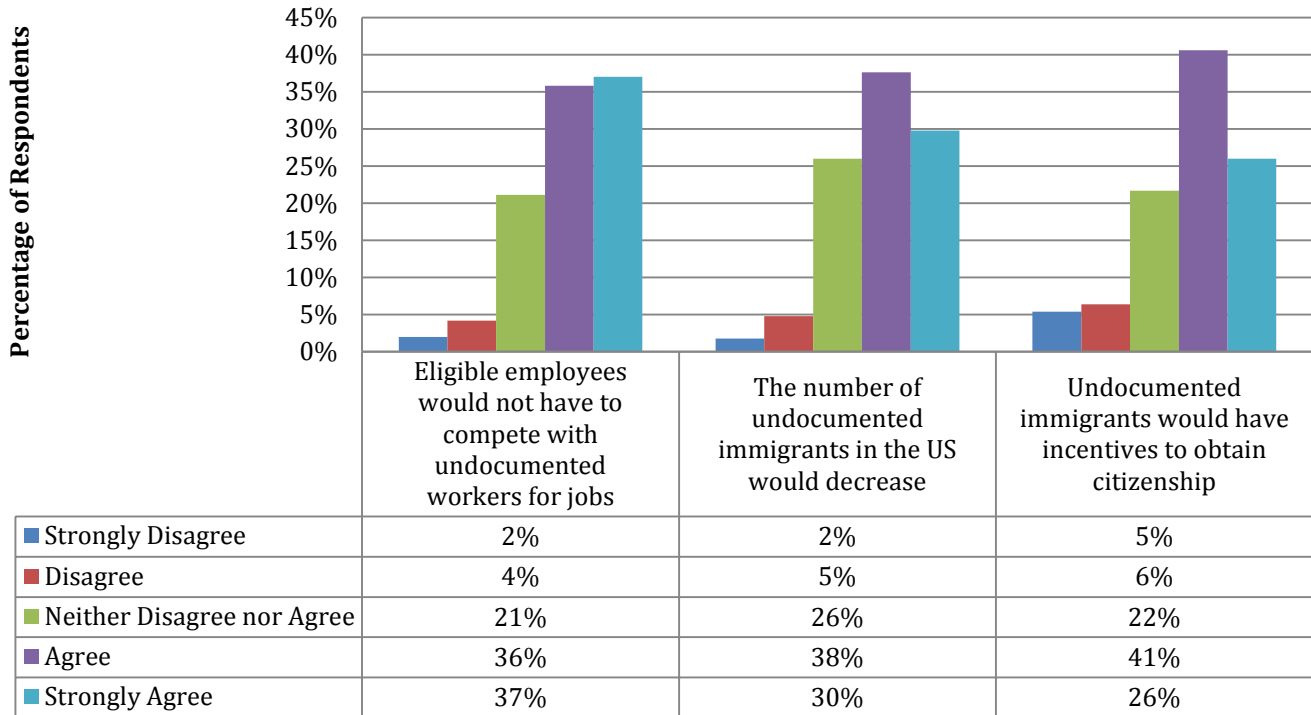
First, respondents were asked questions about E-Verify at the federal level. Eighty-two percent agreed or strongly agreed E-Verify should be required by federal law and 75% agreed or strongly agreed it is beneficial to the federal economy (Figure 26).

Figure 26: E-Verify at federal level



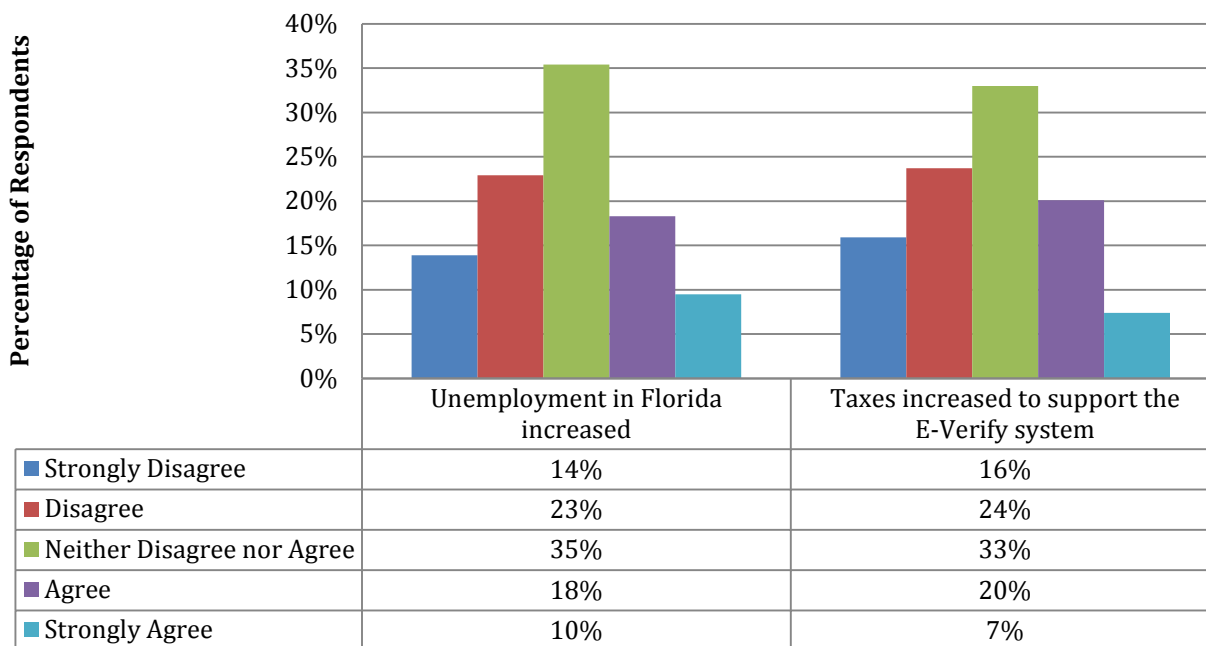
Next, respondents were asked whether they would support the use of E-Verify in Florida if potential positive outcomes would occur. Seventy-three percent agreed or strongly agreed that they would support E-Verify in Florida if eligible employees would not have to compete with undocumented workers for jobs (Figure 27). Sixty-eight percent agreed or strongly agreed they would support E-Verify in Florida if the number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. would decrease, and 67% agreed or strongly agreed they would support it if undocumented immigrants would have incentives to obtain citizenship.

Figure 27: Support E-Verify use in Florida with positive outcomes



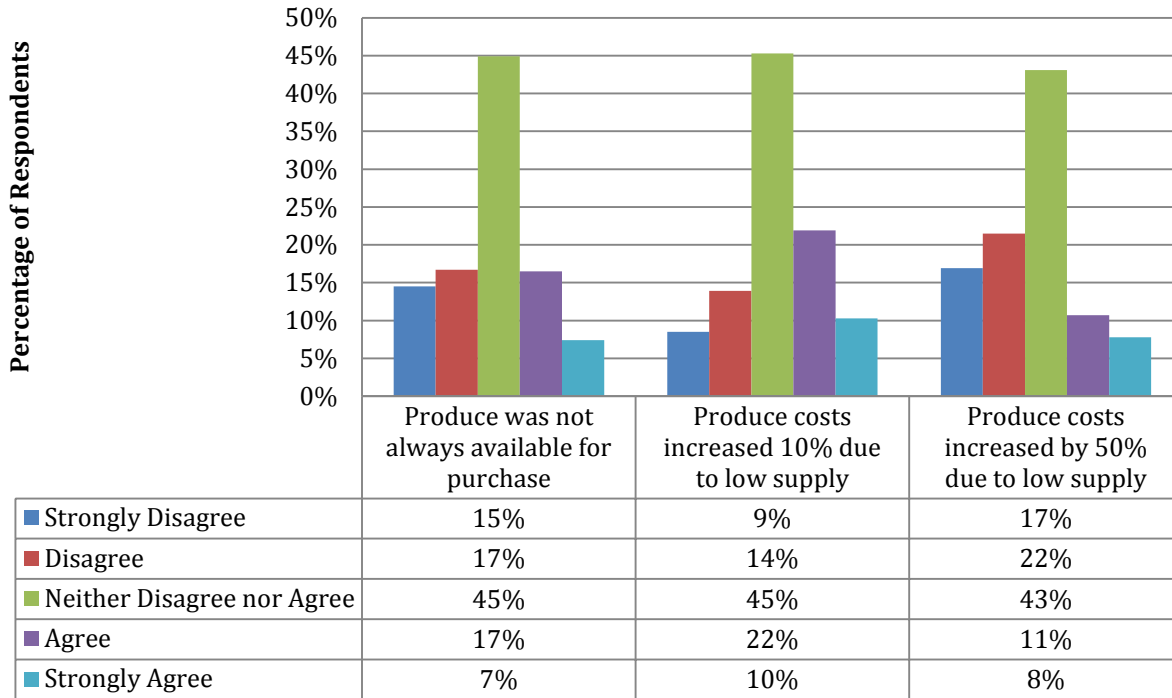
Next, respondents were asked whether they would support the use of E-Verify in Florida if potential negative outcomes would occur. Only 28% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed they would support E-Verify in Florida if unemployment increased, and only 27% agreed or strongly agreed they would support E-Verify in Florida if taxes increased (Figure 28).

Figure 28: Support for E-Verify in Florida with negative outcomes



Respondents were then asked their level of agreement towards supporting E-Verify in Florida if produce supply changed. Respondents were generally neutral about produce changes, with 45% who neither disagreed nor agreed they would support E-Verify in Florida if produce was not available for purchase or produce costs increased ten percent (Figure 29). Forty-three percent neither disagreed nor agreed they would support E-Verify in Florida if produce increased 50%.

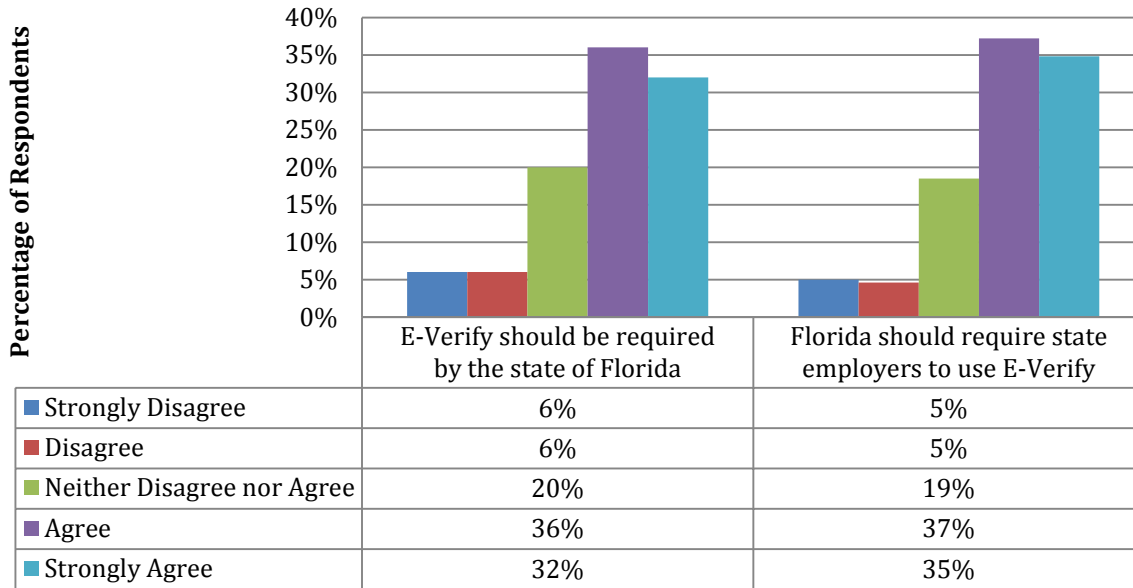
Figure 29: Support for E-Verify in Florida if produce supply changed



Next, respondents were presented with a scenario, using the state of Georgia as an example, implying the conditions in Florida’s agricultural industry may change if E-Verify were required. They were then asked whether they agreed or disagreed with statements regarding requiring E-Verify in Florida and using federal funds to require E-Verify.

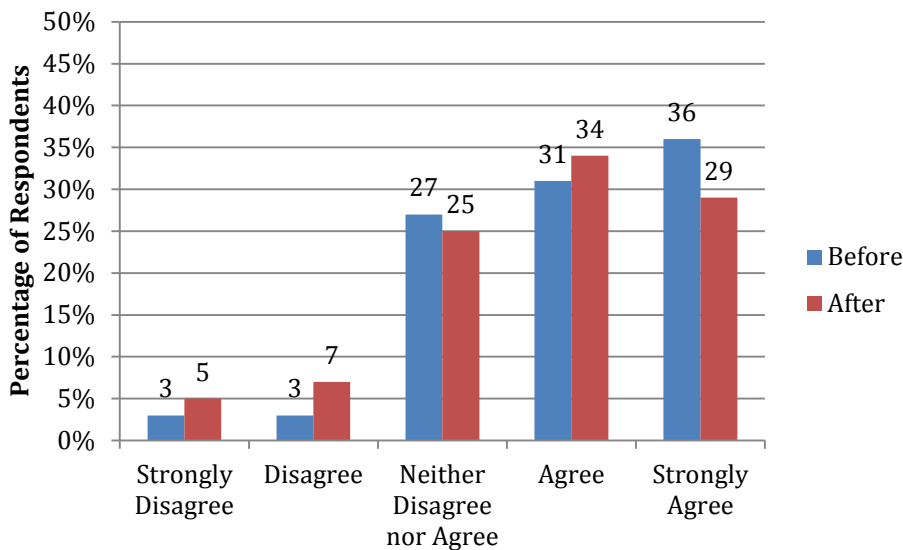
After being given this scenario, when asked whether E-Verify should be required by the state of Florida, 68% agreed or strongly agreed, while 72% agreed or strongly agreed it should be required by state employers (Figure 30).

Figure 30: Requiring and funding E-Verify after reading Georgia experience



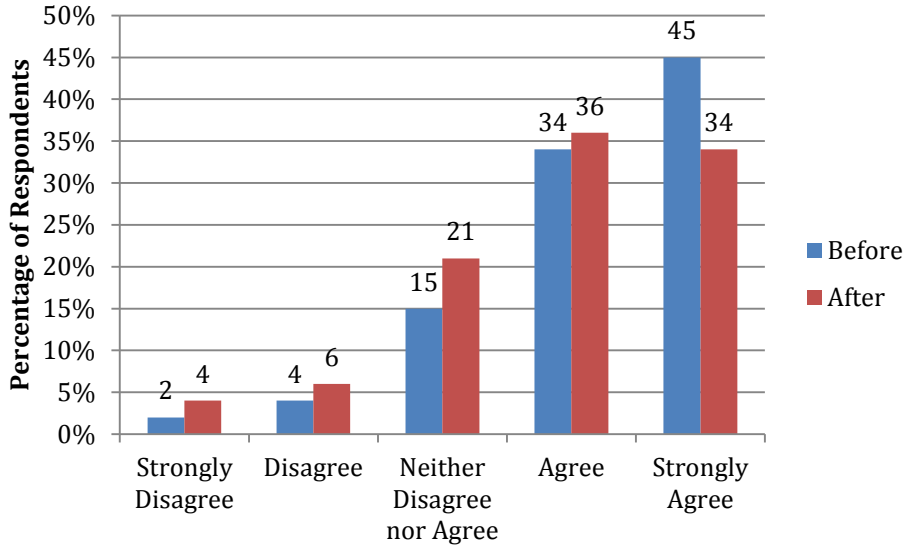
Some questions were given to respondents to answer both before they knew about the effects E-Verify had on the state of Georgia’s agricultural production, and after they had been informed. Slightly fewer respondents strongly agreed E-Verify should be federally funded after reading about the case in Georgia (7% decrease), and slightly more either disagreed or strongly disagreed (6% increase). Results can be seen in Figure 31.

Figure 31: E-Verify should be federally funded



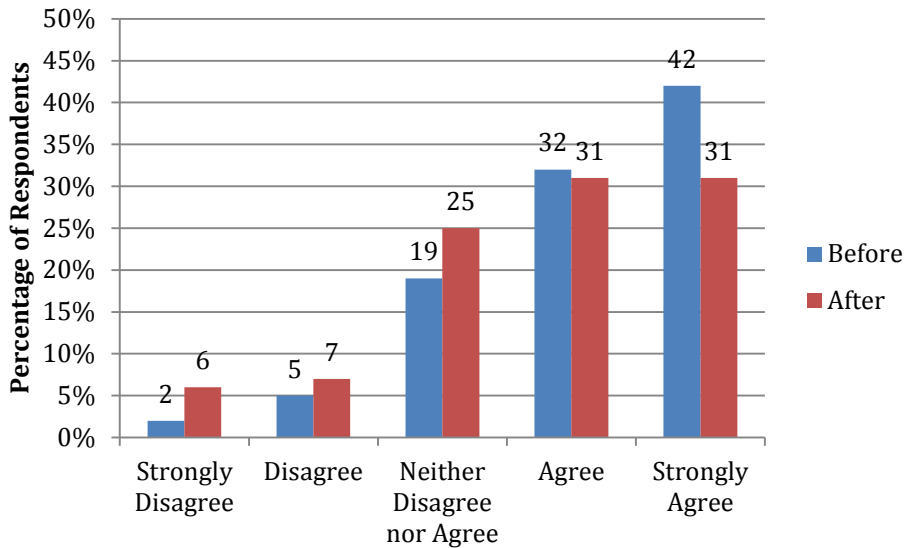
Respondents were also asked whether Florida should require non-agricultural businesses to use E-Verify. After reading the case about Georgia, there was a 9% decrease in those who strongly agreed and a 6% increase in those that neither disagreed nor agreed (Figure 32).

Figure 32: Florida should require non-agricultural businesses to use E-Verify



Finally, respondents were asked whether Florida should require agricultural businesses to use E-Verify. After reading about the case in Georgia, there was an 11% decrease in those who strongly agreed, a 6% increase in those who neither disagreed nor agreed, and a 6% increase in those that either disagreed or strongly disagreed (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Florida should require agricultural businesses to use E-Verify



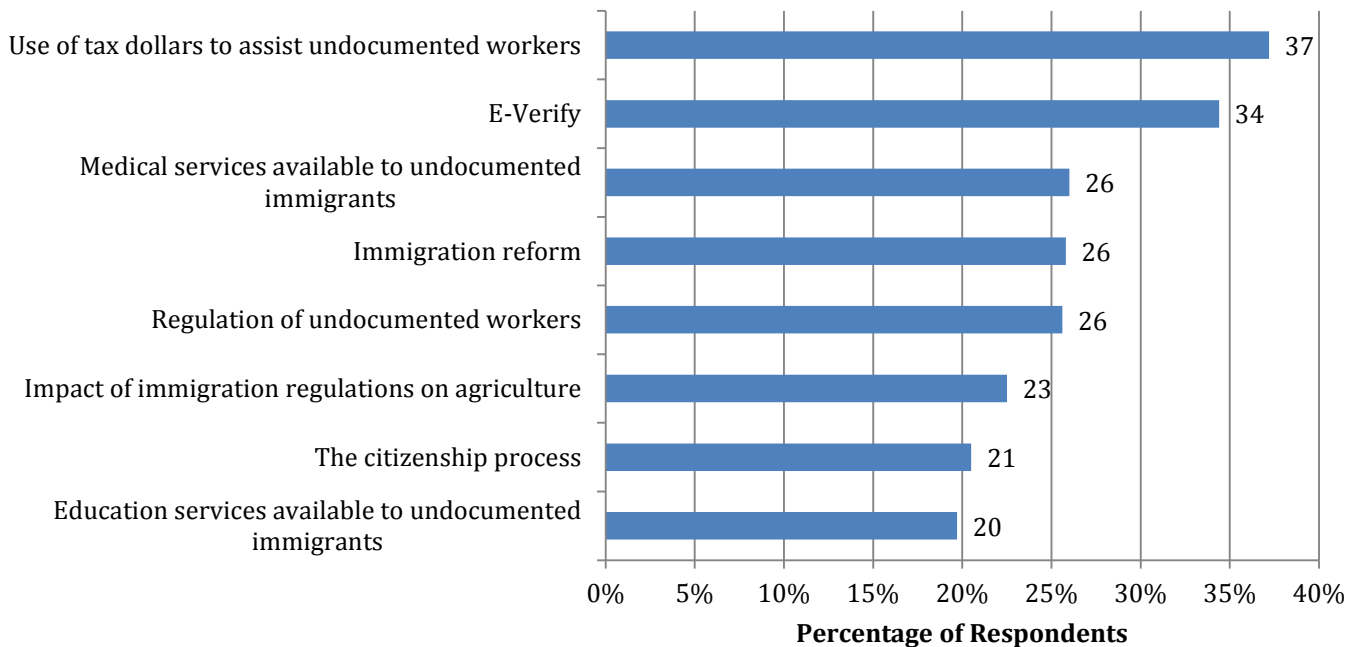
Education about Immigration Issues

The final section of the survey asked respondents about topics they would be interested in learning about related to immigration and how they prefer receiving new information.

Interest in immigration related topics

Respondents were asked to indicate topics of interest regarding immigration. Thirty-seven percent of respondents were interested in learning more about the use of tax dollars to assist undocumented workers and 34% were interested in learning more about E-Verify (Figure 34).

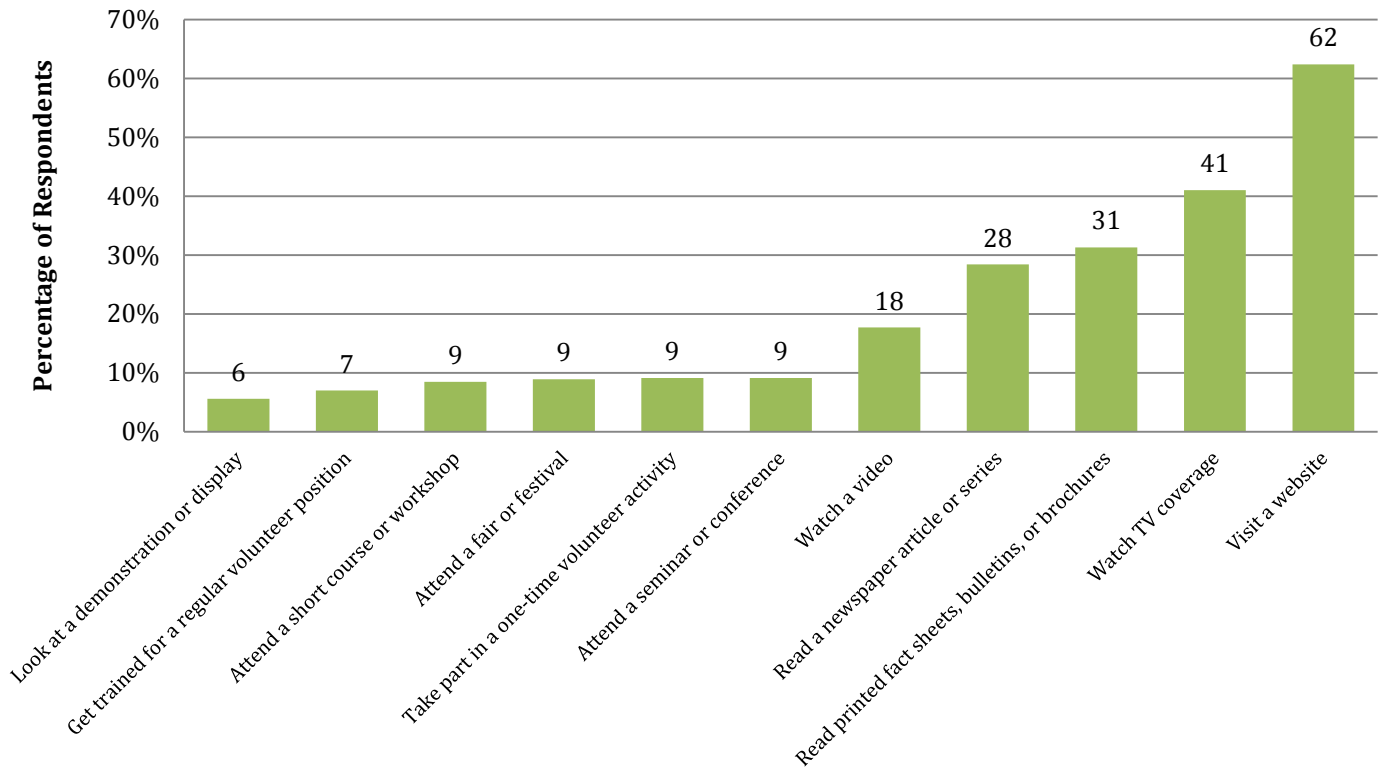
Figure 34: Interest in immigration-related topics



Preferred mode of learning

Respondents were also asked the type of learning activity they would most likely take advantage of if given the chance to learn more about immigration. The most common learning activity of interest was to visit a website and watch TV coverage (Figure 35).

Figure 35: Preferred mode of learning



Attitudinal Scales

Color-blind Racial Attitudes Scale

Color-blind Racial Attitudes Scale was developed by Neville et al (2000) and is a measure of one's level of denial of racial dynamics. The higher an individual scores on this scale, the more they are unaware of or unaccepting that racial dynamics in the U.S. create different realities and opportunities for different groups within the U.S. The scale has 20 items, measured from strongly disagree to strongly agree on a 6-point Likert-type agreement scale. There was no neutral option available for respondents and item responses were 1 = *Strongly Disagree*, 2 = *Disagree*, 3 = *Somewhat Disagree*, 4 = *Somewhat Agree*, 5 = *Agree* and 6 = *Strongly Agree*. Items marked (RC) were reverse coded when overall means were calculated for the entire scale. Respondents could score anywhere from 20 to 120, with a midpoint of 70. The average score was a 75.51 ($SD = 14.47$). Respondents were most likely to agree or strongly agree that "English should be the only official language in the U.S." and most likely to disagree or strongly disagree that "racial problems in the U.S. are rare, isolated situations." Table 5 shows frequencies for all items in the scale. Instances in which 20% or more of respondents chose a particular level of agreement to an item are displayed in bold font.

Table 5: Color-blind Racial Attitudes Scale

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean (SD)
English should be the only official language in the U.S.	3.4	4.6	6.2	11.9	16.9	57.1	5.06 (1.38)
It is important that people begin to think of themselves as American and not African-American, Mexican-American, or Italian-American	3.8	3.4	8.5	14.9	25.2	44.1	4.87 (1.35)
Immigrants should try to fit into the culture and values of the U.S.	3.2	2.2	8.3	32.0	26.4	27.8	4.60 (1.22)
It is important for public schools to teach about the history and contributions of racial and ethnic minorities (RC)	4.2	3.0	5.8	32.4	29.0	25.6	4.56 (1.25)
Everyone who works hard. No matter what race they are, has an equal chance to become rich	6.6	8.2	10.7	22.5	26.0	26.0	4.31 (1.49)
It is important for political leaders to talk about racism to help work through or solve society's problems (RC)	7.8	7.2	15.9	32.2	22.5	14.5	3.98 (1.40)
Social policies, such as affirmative action, discriminate unfairly against white people	6.2	8.9	19.9	29.6	16.5	18.9	3.98 (1.43)
Racism is a major problem in the U.S. (RC)	7.4	9.9	17.7	27.6	19.1	18.3	3.96 (1.47)
Talking about racial issues causes unnecessary tension	5.6	8.3	18.1	34.4	19.3	14.3	3.96 (1.34)
Racial and ethnic minorities in the U.S. have certain advantages because of the color of their skin	6.0	10.1	21.9	31.2	15.5	15.3	3.86 (1.38)
Race plays a major role in the type of social services (such as type of health care or day care) that people receive in the U.S. (RC)	8.7	13.9	15.9	27.6	21.1	12.7	3.77 (1.47)
White people in the U.S. are discriminated against because of the color of their skin	12.1	11.3	21.5	27.2	15.1	12.7	3.60 (1.51)
White people in the U.S. have certain advantages because of the color of their skin (RC)	19.3	10.3	17.1	30.0	14.1	9.1	3.37 (1.56)
Due to racial discrimination, programs such as affirmative action are necessary to help create equality (RC)	18.9	15.7	15.7	25.4	13.9	10.3	3.31 (1.60)
Race plays an important role in who gets sent to prison (RC)	20.9	13.5	22.5	24.9	7.8	10.5	3.17 (1.57)

Racism may have been a problem in the past, it is not an important problem today	16.3	19.3	24.3	21.1	10.1	8.9	3.16 (1.50)
Racial and ethnic minorities do not have the same opportunities as white people in the U.S. (RC)	22.7	18.1	20.7	21.1	10.7	6.8	2.99 (1.53)
Race is very important in determining who is successful and who is not (RC)	25.2	21.9	21.5	15.9	10.1	5.4	2.80 (1.50)
White people are more to blame for racial discrimination than racial and ethnic minorities (RC)	27.6	20.9	24.3	13.5	6.0	7.8	2.73 (1.52)
Racial problems in the U.S. are rare, isolated situations	20.5	25.6	27.8	16.5	5.4	4.2	2.73 (1.33)

Attitudes towards Undocumented Immigrants

The Attitudes towards Undocumented Immigrants scale was initially developed as an Attitudes towards Illegal Immigrants measure by Ommundsen & Larsen (1997) and later tested and modified by Ommundsen & Larsen (1999) as well as Veer et al. (2004). This scale measures one's attitude toward undocumented immigrants. A higher score indicates a more positive attitude and a lower score indicates a more negative attitude. The scale was modified from its original 20 items to 19 items used for this public opinion survey. The scale was scored on a 5-point Likert response with 1 = *Strongly Disagree*, 2 = *Disagree*, 3 = *Undecided*, 4 = *Agree*, and 5 = *Strongly Agree*. Items marked with (RC) were reverse coded when used to calculate the overall scale score. Respondents could have scored from 19 to 95 with a midpoint of 57. The average score was a 43.54 ($SD = 14.47$). Respondents were the most likely to agree or strongly agree that "undocumented immigrants should not benefit from my tax dollars" and the most likely to disagree or strongly disagree that "undocumented immigrants should be eligible for welfare." Instances in which 20% or more of respondents chose a particular level of agreement to an item are displayed in bold font.

Table 6: Attitudes towards Undocumented Immigrants Scale

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean (SD)
Undocumented immigrants should not benefit from my tax dollars (RC)	2.4	5.0	13.3	29.0	50.3	4.20 (1.01)
Undocumented immigrants cost the U.S. millions of dollars each year (RC)	3.0	4.8	14.1	32.6	45.5	4.13 (1.02)
Undocumented immigrants should be excluded from social welfare (RC)	4.4	7.4	13.5	30.6	44.1	4.03 (1.13)
Taking care of people from other nations is not the responsibility of the U.S. (RC)	2.6	10.1	16.3	31.4	39.6	3.95 (1.09)
Undocumented immigrants should not have the same rights as U.S. citizens (RC)	5.6	9.7	15.9	25.6	43.1	3.91 (1.22)
Access to this country is too easy (RC)	5.2	11.3	11.5	36.6	35.4	3.86 (1.17)
Undocumented immigrants should be forced to go back to their own countries (RC)	7.8	20.1	25.0	22.1	25.0	3.37 (1.27)
Undocumented immigrants have rights, too	14.1	16.5	23.3	35.8	10.3	3.12 (1.22)
Undocumented immigrants should not be discriminated against	14.5	18.1	25.2	30.4	11.7	3.07 (1.24)
There is enough room in this country for everyone	14.9	20.3	24.5	29.2	11.1	3.01 (1.24)
Undocumented immigrants are a nuisance to society (RC)	10.9	25.6	31.4	19.9	12.1	2.97 (1.17)
Undocumented immigrants provide the U.S. with a valuable human resource	17.9	22.9	30.2	24.1	5.0	2.75 (1.15)
Undocumented immigrants who give birth to children in the U.S. should be made citizens	27.8	25.0	26.4	13.3	7.4	2.47 (1.23)
Undocumented immigrants are not infringing on our country's resources	38.4	28.0	16.7	11.5	5.4	2.17 (1.21)
Our taxes should be used to help those residing without documentation in the U.S.	48.1	27.4	10.7	8.0	5.8	1.96 (1.94)
All undocumented immigrants deserve the same rights as U.S. citizens	45.9	26.8	16.9	7.2	3.2	1.95 (1.10)
There should be open international borders	48.9	24.1	17.7	7.0	2.4	1.90 (1.07)

The government should pay for care and education of undocumented immigrants	51.1	26.2	14.5	6.2	2.0	1.82 (1.03)
Undocumented immigrants should be eligible for welfare	56.7	23.9	12.1	4.8	2.6	1.73 (1.02)

References

- Abate, T. (1998). *Accuracy of online surveys may make phone polls obsolete*. The San Francisco Chronicle, D1.
- Baker, R., Brick, J. M., Bates, N. A., Battaglia, M., Couper, M. P., Denver, J. A., Gile, K. J., & Tourangeau, R. (2013). *Report of the AAPOR task force on non-probability sampling*. American Association for Public Opinion Research. Retrieved at <http://www.aapor.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Reports1&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=6055>
- Bowden, C., Lamm, A., Carter, H., Irani, T., & Galindo, S. (2012). *Reconciling immigration and agricultural labor concerns for a sustainable state economy*. (EDIS Publication WC132). Retrieved from Electronic Data Information Source website: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wc132>
- Kalton, G. & Flores-Cervantes, I. (2003). Weighting methods. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 19(2), 81-97.
- Neville, H., Lilly, R., Duran, G., Lee, R., & Browne, L. (2000). Construction and initial validation of the Color-Blind Racial Attitudes Scale (CoBRAS). *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 47(1), 59-70.
- Ommundsen, R., & Larsen, K. (1997). Attitudes towards illegal aliens: The reliability and validity of a Likert-type Scale. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 137(5), 665-667.
- Ommundsen, R., & Larsen, K. (1999). Attitudes towards illegal immigration in Scandinavia and United States. *Psychological Reports*, 84, 1331-1338.
- Twyman, J. (2008). Getting it right: Yougov and online survey research in Britain. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinions and Parties*, 18, 343-354.
- van der Veer, K., Ommundsen, R., Larsen, K., Le, H., Pernice R., Krumov, K., & Romans, G. (2004). Structure of attitudes toward illegal immigration: Development of cross-national cumulative scales. *Psychological Reports*, 9(3), 897-906.
- Vavreck, L., & Rivers, D. (2008). The 2006 cooperative congressional election study. *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, 18(4), 355-366.