

Florida's Climate Resilience:
A Quarterly Statewide Polling Initiative

PRESENTERS: **Dr. Colin Polsky** and **Jon Stonger**
cpolsky@fau.edu

BACKGROUND:

- Florida's prosperity is strongly influenced by its climate, from tourism to agriculture, and every industry in between.
- Weather patterns present Floridians with risks, such as flooding and high winds. **The prospect of climate change adds to our risk profile** in ways we are only starting to understand.
- In order to mitigate potential effects, we must first understand **how resilient Floridians are** to the climate risks we face.
- With the above in mind, the Florida Atlantic University Center for Environmental Studies (CES) in FAU's College of Science, and the Business and Economics Polling Initiative (BEPi) in FAU's College of Business conducted **the first-ever Florida Climate Resilience Survey**.
- This poll builds on previous work, such as: Climate Change in American Minds by Yale and George Mason University (2018), Florida: Public Opinion on Climate Change by Yale and UMiami (2008), Fort Lauderdale Neighbor Survey (2016).

METHODS

- Questionnaire designed using previous climate resilience literature and surveys conducted throughout the U.S.
- This survey was conducted in both English and Spanish from October 1 to October 15, 2019, with data collected using an online panel provided by Dynata.
- Sample consisted of 1,045 Floridians, 18 years of age and older, with a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percent.
- Analysis composed of Chi-Square Tests ran in SPSS.
- Responses for entire sample were weighted to adjust for gender, race, income, education and region, according to latest American Community Survey data.
- Data collection will be repeated quarterly through 2020.

RESULTS

- More than half of Floridians (56%) state that climate change is real and that it is largely caused by human activity, including 44% of Republicans, and 59% of Independents, and 70% of Democrats.**
- Younger Floridians ages 18-49 are more likely to concur with the scientific consensus on climate change and its attribution to human activities (60 percent) than those ages 50-64 and 65 and over (51 and 52 percent, respectively).
- A majority of respondents are in favor teaching climate change causes, consequences, and solutions in Florida K-12 classrooms (68%).
- Nearly 6 in 10 Floridians (59%) believe their household to be well-prepared for climate hazards, with survival supplies such as food, water, power generator, phone charger and radio.
- Most Floridians are moderately or extremely concerned about hurricanes becoming stronger or more frequent (65%), temperatures rising (61%), and rising sea levels (59%).
- A majority of respondents support future solar energy production in Florida (51%).
- Almost half of respondents are willing to pay \$10 per month to strengthen Florida's infrastructure (such as bridges, roads, stormwater systems) to weather hazards (47%).

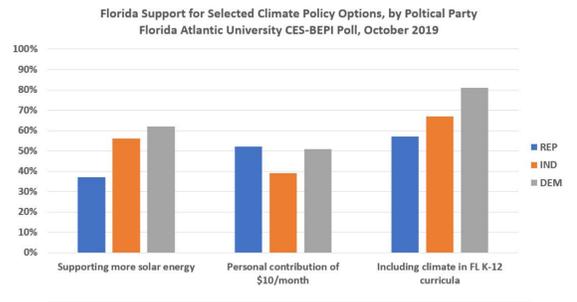
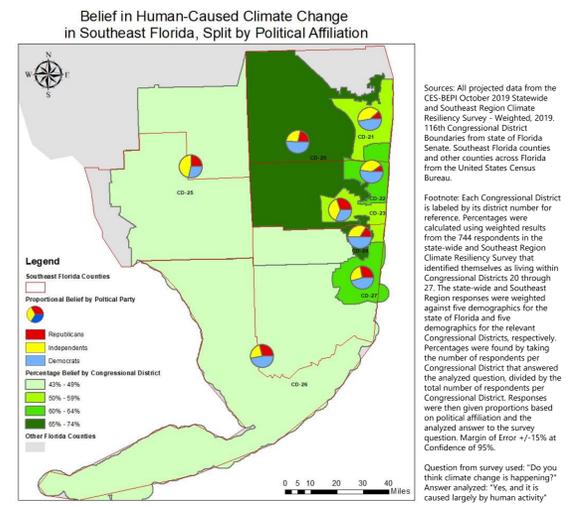
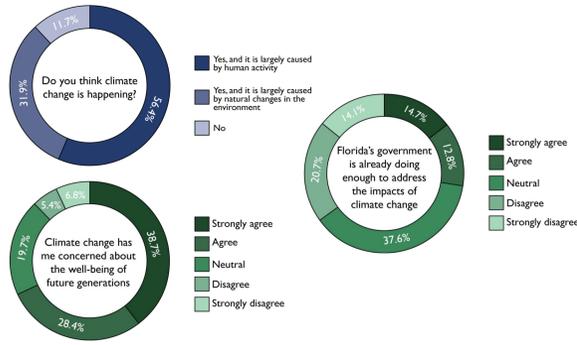
Dr. Colin Polsky, Monica Escaleras, Eric Levy, Hallee Meltzer, Glen Oglesby, Meagan Weisner



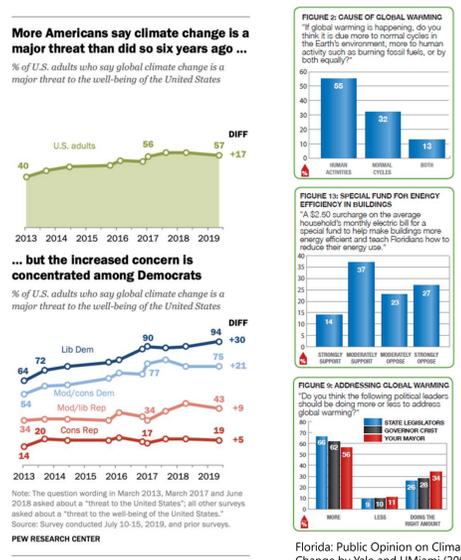
Take a picture to download more information

<http://www.ces.fau.edu/ces-bepi/oct-2019.php>

Two-thirds of Floridians are concerned about climate change and don't feel that the government is doing enough to address the problem.



Prior related research



Las Olas Blvd. on October of 2016 during King Tide.
Photo by FAU Architecture professor Jeff Huber