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Final Report

Public Opinions of Immigration in Florida

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Public Opinions of Immigration in Florida

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Executive Summary

Public Opinions of Immigration in Florida

Introduction

Given the importance of undocumented immigration issues to the agricultural and natural resource sectors, the UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education (PIE Center) initiated a study to assess Floridians' attitudes, opinions, and knowledge around the issue of immigration. The survey explored five key areas: (1) importance of the immigration issue, (2) attitude towards undocumented immigrants, (3) government actions and benefits associated with immigration status, (4) effects of undocumented immigrants on the economy, and (5) whether/how E-Verify should be used to monitor employment eligibility.

Key Findings

Main highlights from the study include:

- Immigration is not considered as important of an issue to Floridians as the economy, healthcare, water and taxes, which respondents ranked higher than immigration in terms of importance.
- Fifty-eight percent of respondents think that undocumented immigrants reduce good jobs for Americans and 42% think that undocumented immigrants fill jobs Americans don't want.
- Respondents consider immigration a more important issue at the national and state level than at the local level.
- Close to 44% of respondents know a recent immigrant and 39% report that the immigrant they know the best is someone they consider a friend.
- Seventy percent of respondents come into contact with immigrants that speak little or no English and 61% say this bothers them.
- Respondents report confusion on whether or not most immigrants in the U.S. are undocumented. Older respondents reported being less sure of documentation status of immigrants than younger respondents. Younger respondents reported believing there are more documented than undocumented immigrants in the United States.
- Respondents have low levels of confidence in political leaders to do what they consider the right thing with regards to immigration policy. Thirty-eight percent of respondents have "no confidence" in national leaders to do the right thing about immigration policy.
- Respondents have mixed feelings about what type of action the government should take regarding undocumented immigration.
 - Fifty-one percent say the U.S. should require undocumented immigrants to leave, but allow them to return and become citizens if they meet certain requirements.
 - Thirty-four percent say the government should allow undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S. and become U.S. citizens if they meet certain requirements over time.
 - Fifteen percent say the U.S. should require undocumented immigrants to leave the U.S. and not allow them to return.
- Respondents were asked how they felt their personal economic opportunity would change if immigration rates (both undocumented and documented) remained the same. Sixty percent of respondents felt they would have less or a lot less economic opportunity. Only 12% of respondents thought they would have more economic opportunity if immigration rates remained the same.

- Fifty-five percent of respondents believe that immigrant parents must be legal residents for their newborn child to be a U.S. citizen.
- The majority of respondents believe undocumented immigrants should receive a public school education and medical care over other government benefits.
- Thirty percent of respondents reported knowing what E-verify is (an electronic employment verification system), and the majority think it should be required for all employers

Public Opinions of Immigration in Florida

Introduction

In the U.S. undocumented immigration is a large issue that has been front and center in policy debates and media coverage. Much of this coverage has focused on the national implications of immigration policy change. The UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education (PIE Center) decided in December 2012 to assess the attitudes, opinions and knowledge of Florida residents on this important issue. Questions were designed to assess and understand the following issues:

- How important do Floridians consider the issue of undocumented immigration?
- What roles do Floridians think the government should take on this issue?
- How do Floridians think undocumented immigration affects the economy and their personal financial situations?
- What government benefits do Floridians think undocumented immigrants should be allowed to receive?
- What attitudes do Floridians hold about cultural and linguistic changes around immigration?
- How much knowledge and opinions do Floridians hold about E-Verify and its use for different employers?

This study is part of a larger series of public opinion surveys that the PIE Center began launching in 2013 and will be repeating each year to monitor trends in public opinion around key issues relevant to Florida's agricultural and natural resource sectors. These key issues include (1) water, (2) immigration, (3) endangered species, and (4) food security and production.

Methodology

An online survey was distributed in April 2013 via Qualtrics, an online survey design and administration tool, to a panel of Florida residents representing equal geographic, age, gender, and race/ethnicity distributions comparable to the 2010 population Census distributions in Florida. Responses were weighted to ensure proper representation during analysis. The researchers collected 507 responses from Florida residents age 18 and older, with the intention of providing an overall understanding of what residents in Florida think about the state of immigration and issues surrounding undocumented immigration. Undocumented immigration was defined in the survey as *foreign nationals residing in the U.S. without legal immigration status...resulting from someone entering the country without permission or remaining in the U.S. after a legal visa expires*. These findings represent current perceptions and opinions of respondents, including levels of factual knowledge with respect to current and proposed policy. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis purposes using SPSS.

Description of Respondents

Survey respondents represented equal geographic, age, gender, and race/ethnicity distributions as compared to the 2010 population Census data. In cases where demographics were not a perfect match, the data was weighted by multiplying the number obtained in the sample by the equivalent census data population numbers to ensure the individuals with the demographic characteristic were properly represented during data analysis.

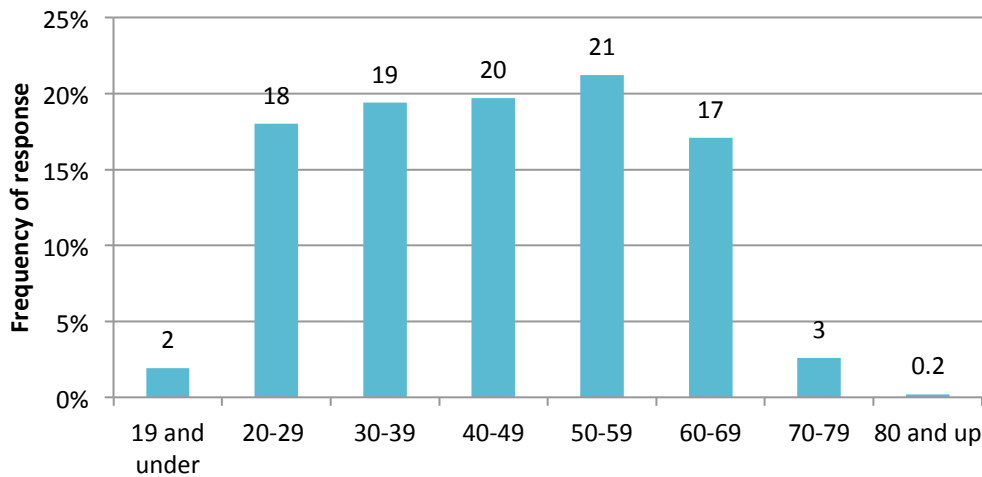
Gender

The gender representation of respondents was equal, with 50% males ($n = 253$) and 50% ($n = 254$) females responding to the survey.

Age Representation

Respondents were well distributed across age categories with similar percentages (between 17-21%) falling within the 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60-69 age range (Figure 1). Less than 3% of respondents were either between 18-19 years old or 70 years or older.

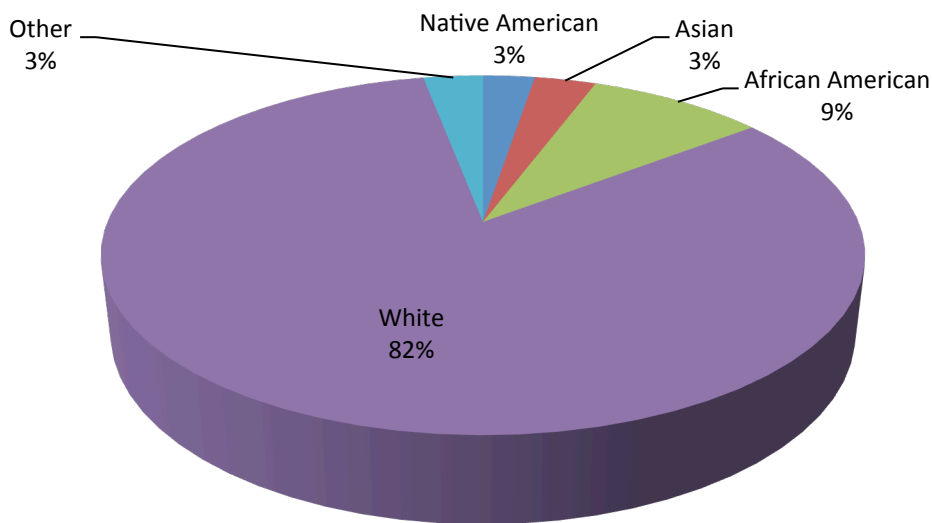
Figure 1: Age



Race/Ethnicity Representation

Most respondents (82%) were White, followed by African Americans (9%), and 3% each identifying as Asian, Native American, and Other (Figure 2). Ten percent identified themselves as being of Hispanic ethnicity.

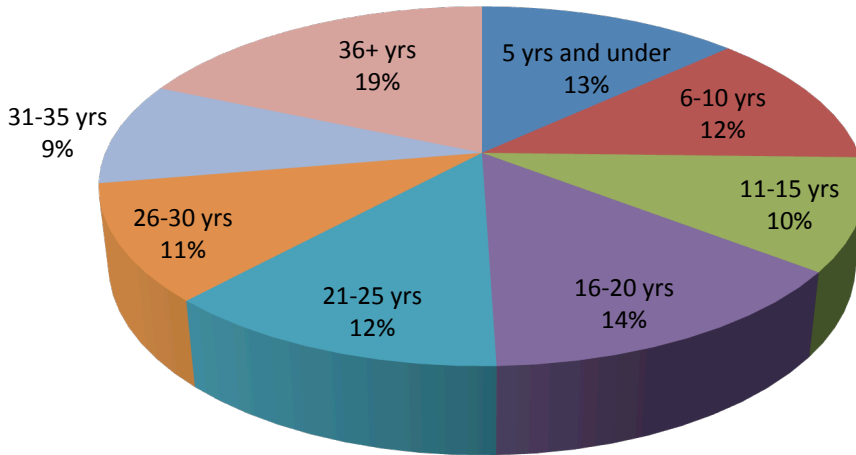
Figure 2: Race



Years Lived in the State of Florida

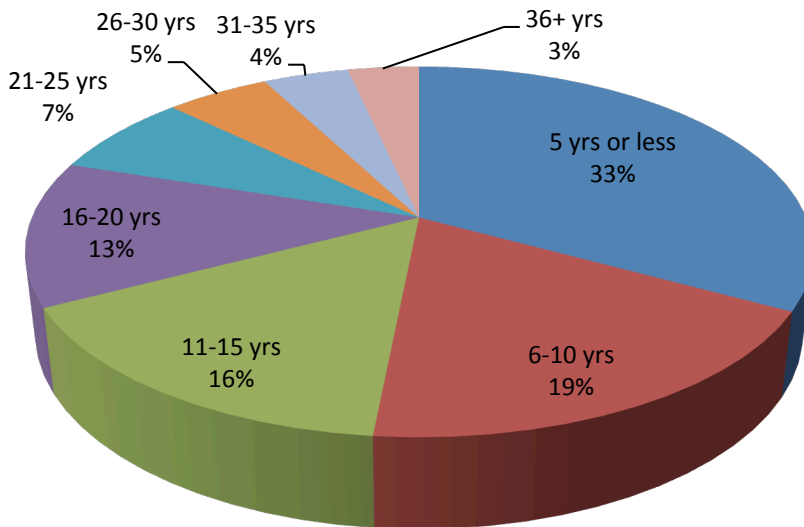
Survey respondents represented an equal distribution when asked how long they had been living in Florida (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Years of residence in the state of Florida



Thirty-three percent have lived in their current zip code for 5 years or less (Figure 4).

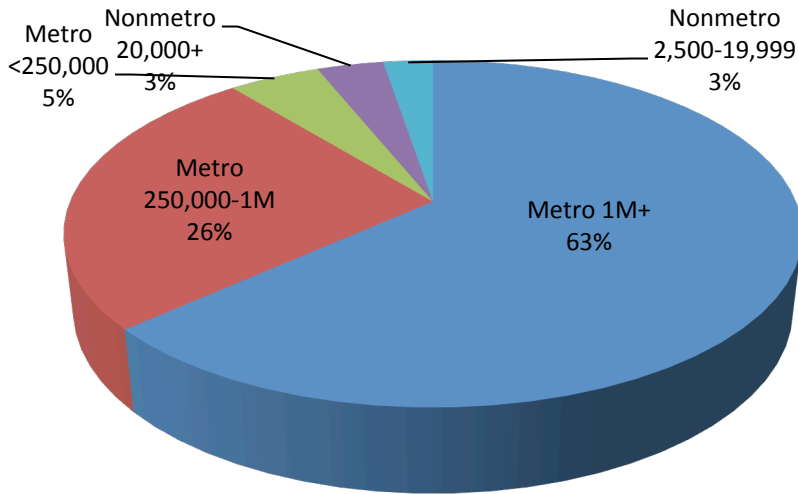
Figure 4: Years lived at current ZIP code



Metro/Non-metro Representation

Respondents' ZIP codes were compared to the national rural-urban codes assigned to that area of the state. Respondents were then classified according to their rural-urban code, which designates the area on level of metropolitan versus nonmetropolitan. The majority (63%) of survey respondents live in a metropolitan area of one million or more inhabitants (Figure 5). A total of 6% of respondents live in a non-metro area of Florida.

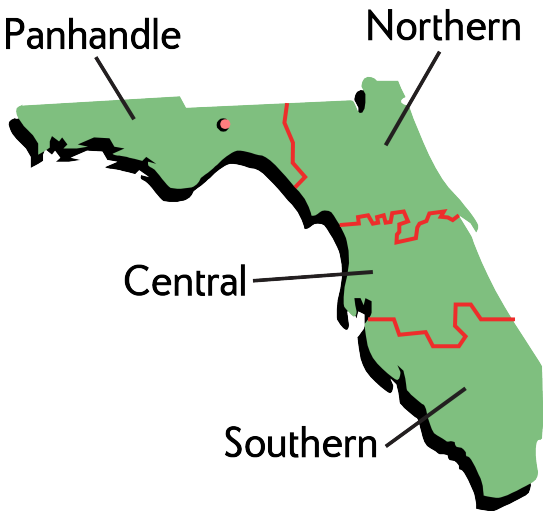
Figure 5: Rural-urban continuum



Geographic Representation in the State of Florida

The majority of respondents live in Central Florida (54.5%) followed by the Southern region of the state (27.7%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Geographic residence

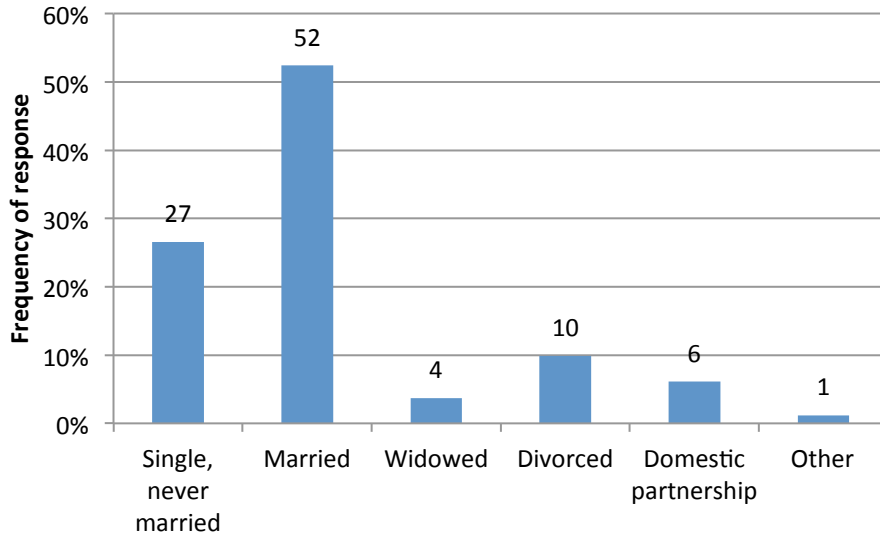


Region of Florida	% Respondents
Panhandle	4.7%
Northern	18.1%
Central	54.5%
Southern	22.7%

Marital Status

Fifty-two percent of respondents are married, and 27% are single who have never been married before (Figure 7). Ten percent are divorced, and 6% are living in a domestic partnership.

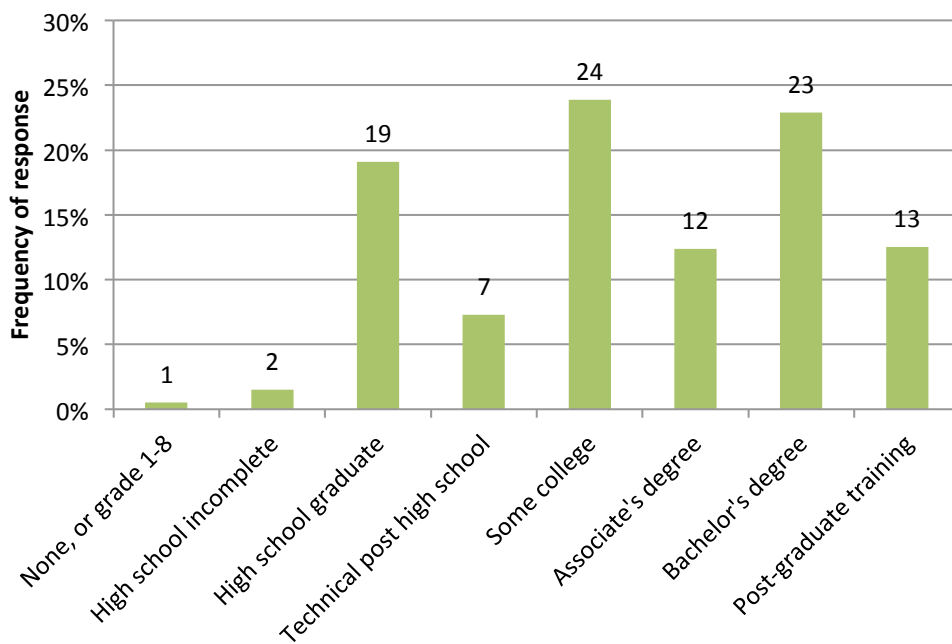
Figure 7: Marital status



Educational Status

Nineteen percent of respondents have completed high school, 24% have completed some college, and 23% have completed a bachelor's degree; 13% have some post-graduate training (Figure 8).

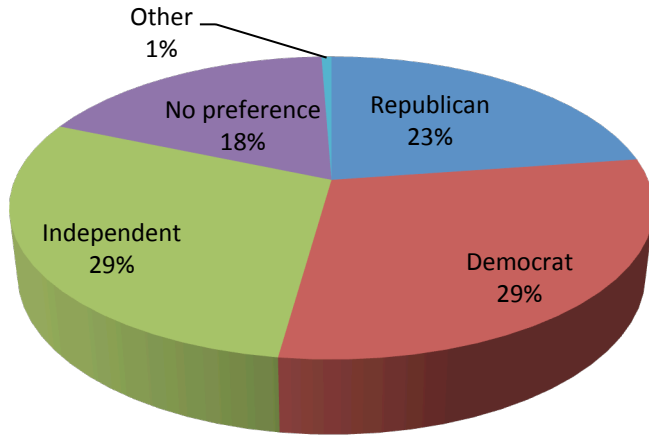
Figure 8: Educational status



Political Beliefs and Affiliation

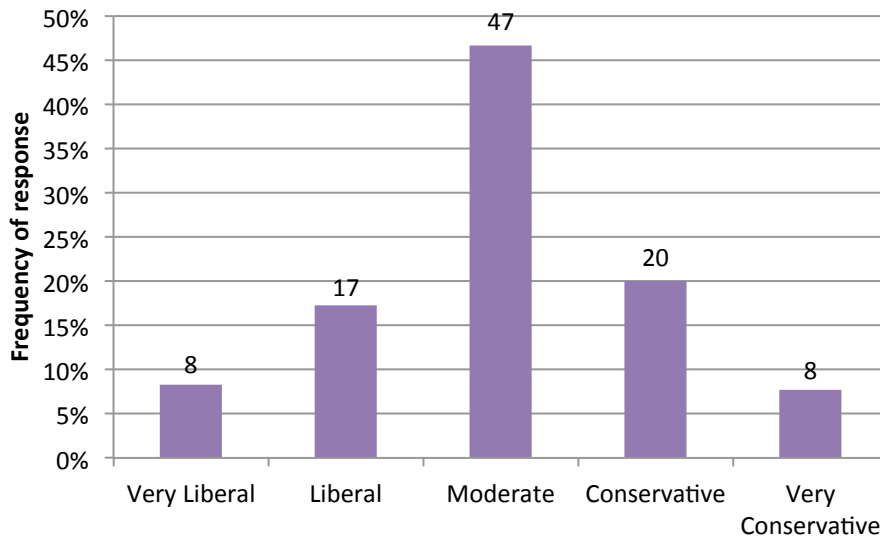
Respondents were split among political affiliation, with 23% reporting themselves as Republican, 29% as Democrat, and 29% as Independent (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Political affiliation



Forty-seven percent of respondents consider their political ideological leaning to be moderate (Figure 10).

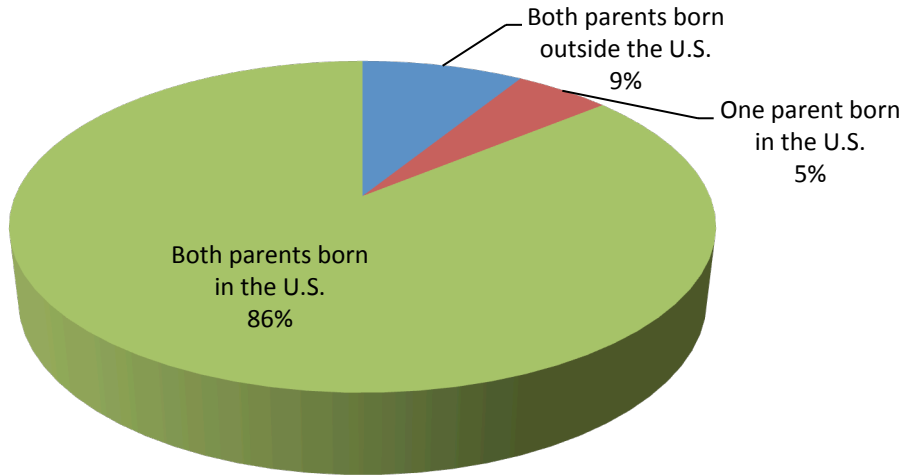
Figure 10: Political ideological leaning



Citizenship and Birth Location of Respondents and their Parents

Nearly all (98.8%) of respondents were U.S. citizens. When asked whether they were born in the U.S. or another country, 8.5% of respondents reported that they were born in another country. Fourteen percent of respondents reported that one or both of their parents were born outside of the U.S. (Figure 11).

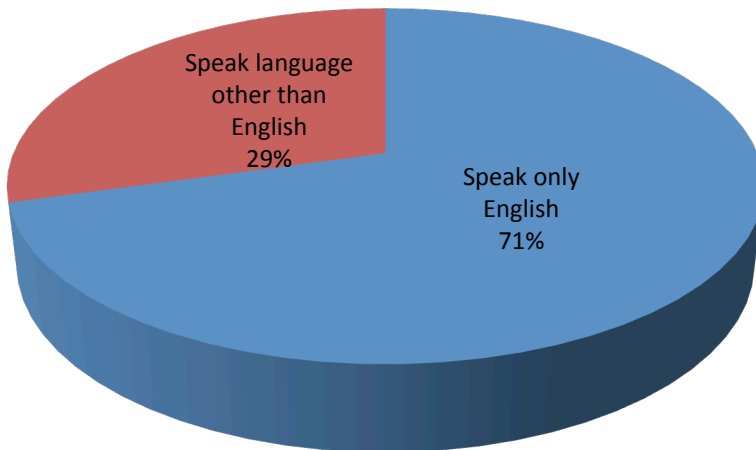
Figure 11: Birthplace of respondents' parents



Languages Spoken

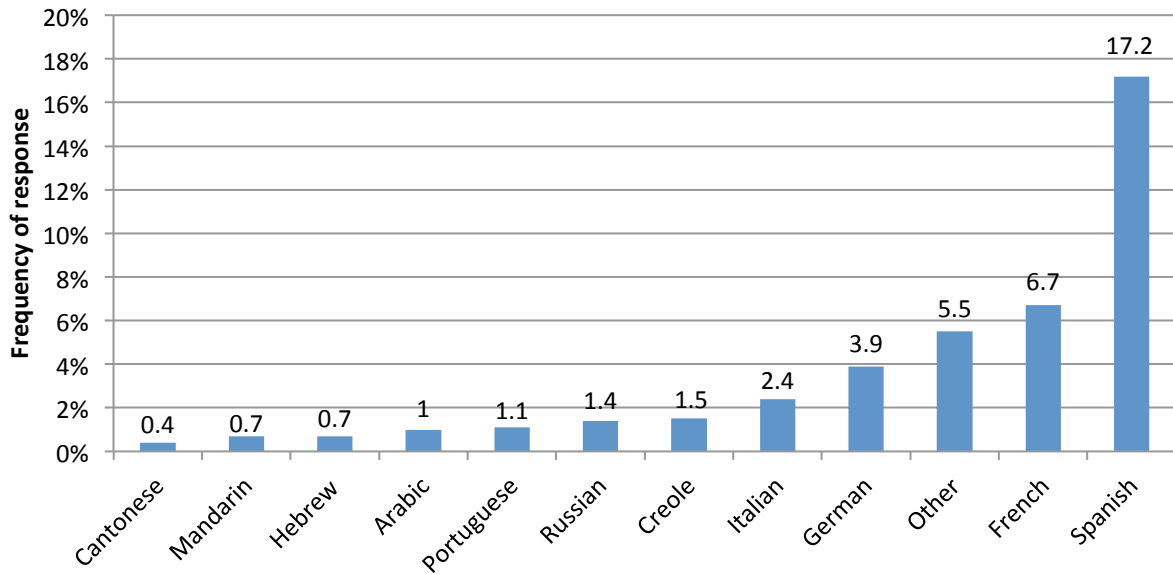
Nearly 30% of survey respondents speak a language other than English (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Language ability besides English



The most commonly spoken languages included Spanish (17.2%) and French (6.7%) (Figure 13).

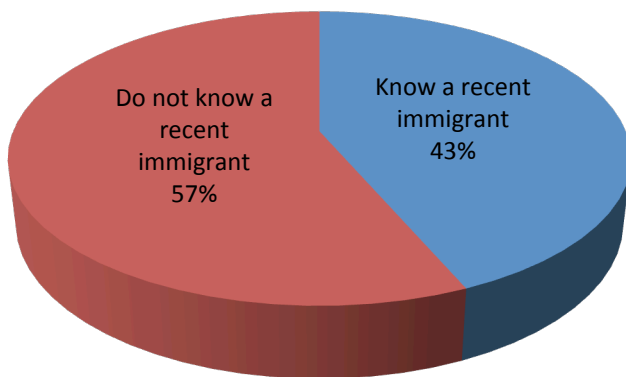
Figure 13: Languages spoken other than English



Connection to Recent Immigrants

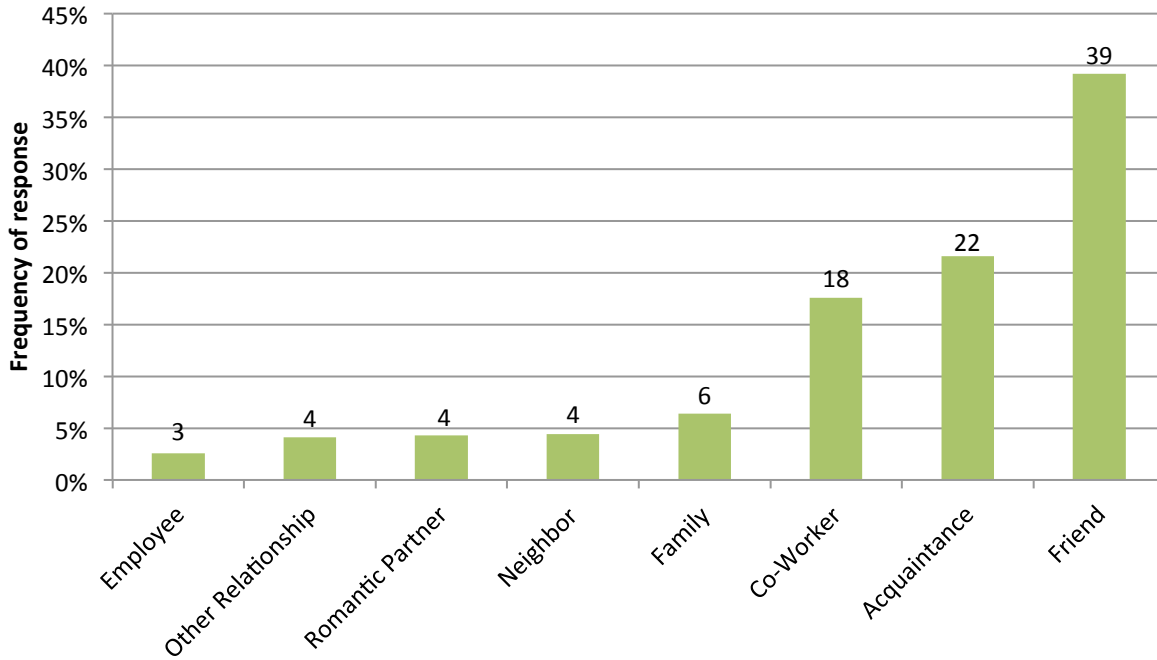
Forty-four percent of survey respondents reported they know a recent immigrant (defined as someone who has moved to the U.S. in the last 10 years), either undocumented or documented (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Personal relationship to recent immigrant



Respondents were then asked to think of the immigrant (undocumented or documented) who they know the best and report the type of relationship they have with him or her. Thirty-nine percent reported this relationship was a friendship, followed by 22% who reported their relationship as an acquaintance (Figure 15). Eighteen percent of those who know a recent immigrant work with one in their place of employment.

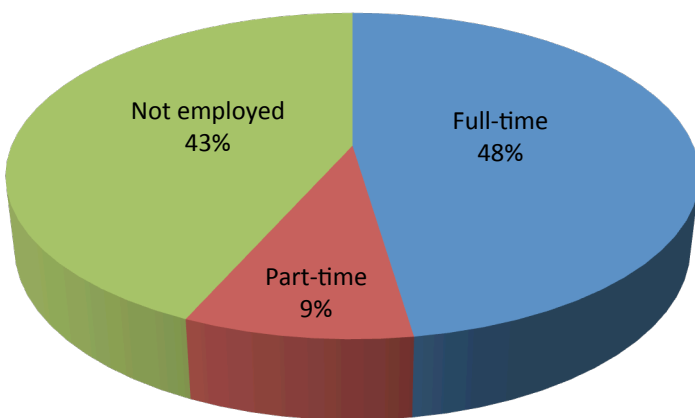
Figure 15: Type of personal relationship to a recent immigrant



Employment Status

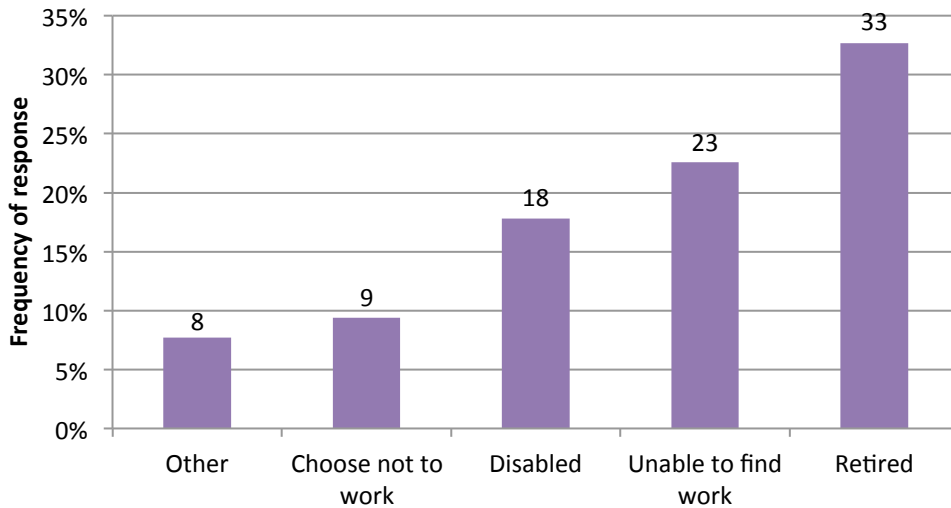
Nearly half (48%) of respondents work full-time, 9% work part-time, and 43% are not employed (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Employment status



Of those that are not employed, 33% are retired and 23% are unable to find work (Figure 17). Eighteen-percent are disabled and 9% choose not to work.

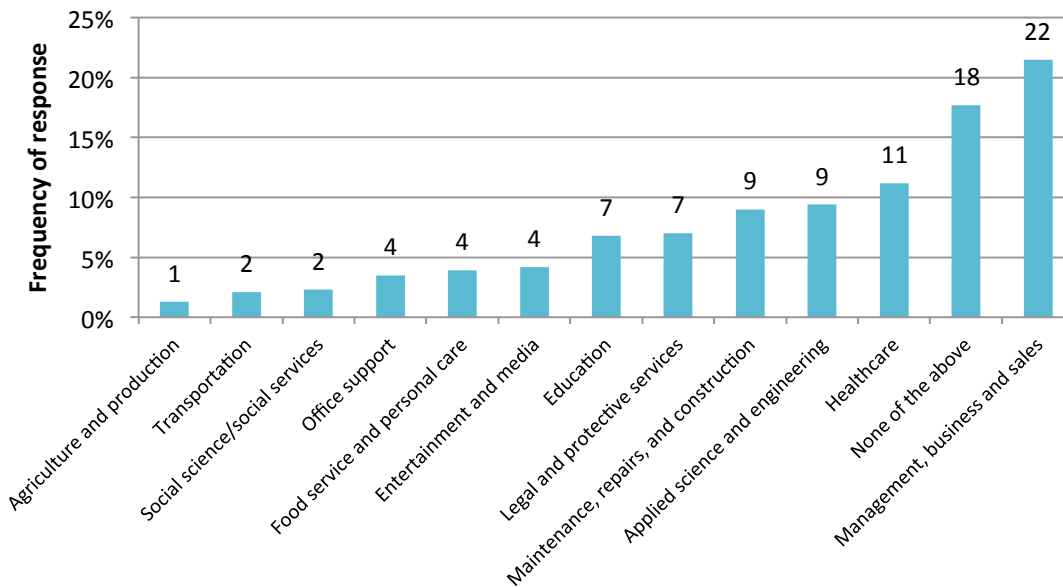
Figure 17: Reason for not working



Type of Occupation

Those who reported working full or part time were asked to indicate their type of occupation. Twenty-two percent of respondents reported that they are employed in the management, business and sales fields (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Type of occupation



Results

Importance of Immigration Issue

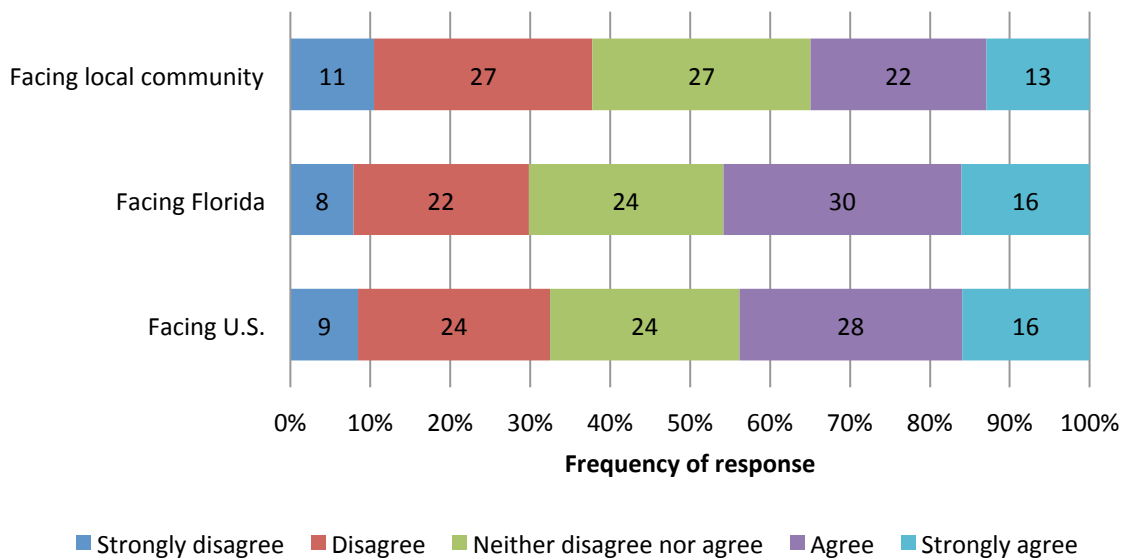
When asked to identify how important specific issues are to them, survey respondents placed the most importance on the Florida economy, with 92.1% reporting it as either extremely or highly important (Table 1). On the list offered, immigration was ranked the least important issue with only 69.7% of respondents reporting it as extremely or highly important.

Table 1: Importance level of Florida issues

Florida Issue	% of respondents rating the issue as extremely or highly important
Florida economy	92.1%
Health care	89.0%
Water	83.5%
Taxes	81.5%
Budget deficit	80.3%
Housing and foreclosures	79.4%
Public K-12 education	78.5%
Public higher education	74.4%
Immigration	69.7%

Respondents were asked to report how strongly they agreed with statements that the issue of undocumented immigration is the most important issue facing the country, the state of Florida, and their local community. More respondents reported they thought undocumented immigration is a more important issue facing the U.S. and Florida than their local communities (Figure 19).

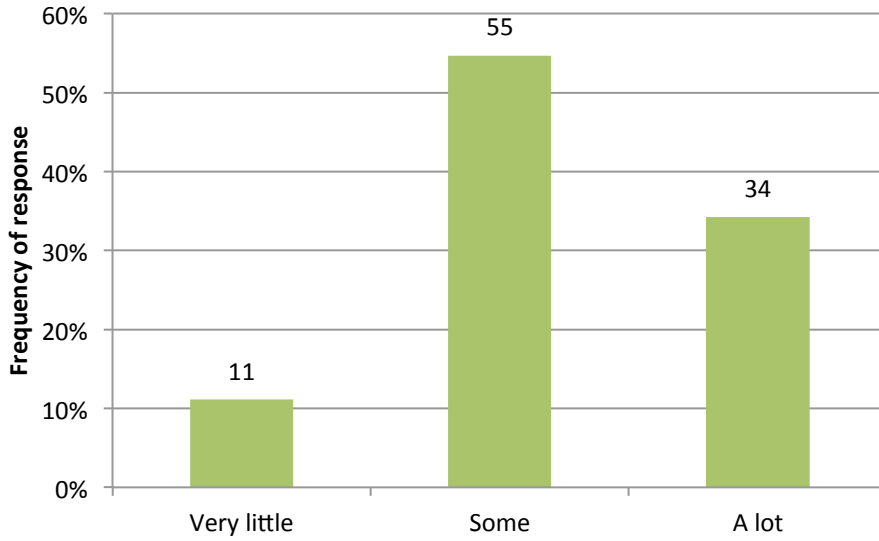
Figure 19: Undocumented immigration is most important issue facing nation, state, or local area



Knowledge about Undocumented Immigration

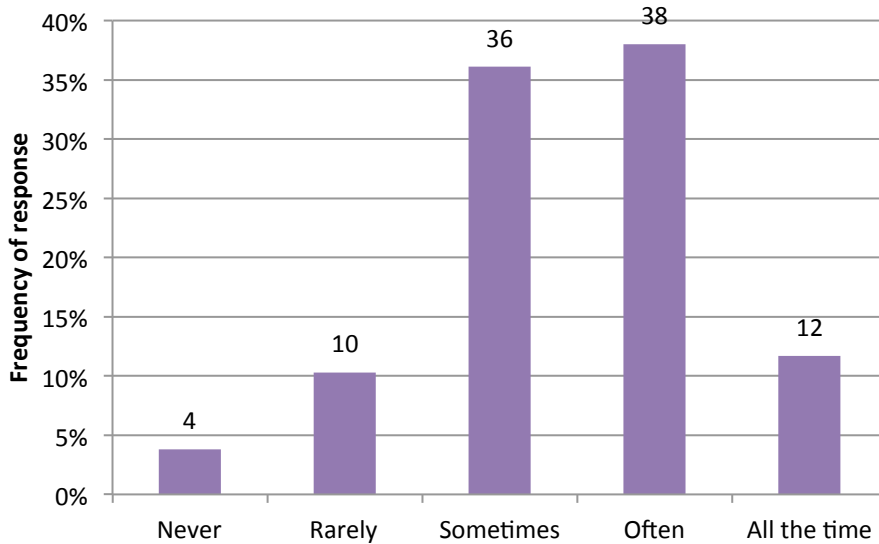
When asked how much they know about undocumented immigration, respondents reported they know “some” (54%) about undocumented immigration (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Respondents’ perception of their knowledge about undocumented immigration



When asked how often they follow the news about undocumented immigration, 74% reported that they follow news on this issue sometimes or often (Figure 21).

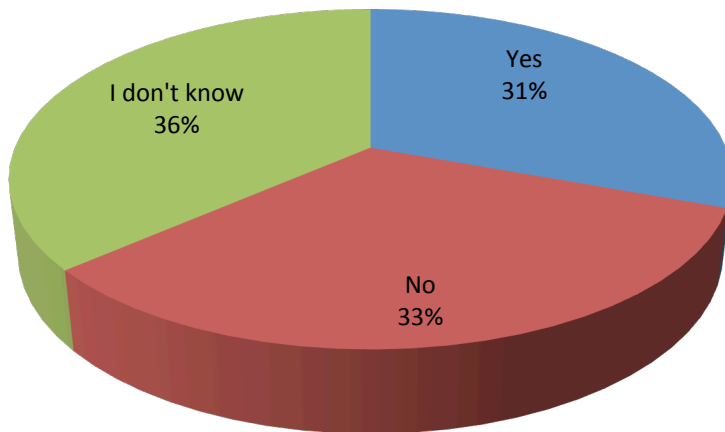
Figure 21: Frequency of following news about undocumented immigration



Amount of Immigrants who are Undocumented

When asked whether they believe most immigrants in the U.S. are undocumented immigrants, respondents reported a mix of beliefs. Thirty-six percent reported they were unsure, 31% said “yes,” and 33% reported “no” (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Belief that most immigrants are undocumented



Older respondents reported more uncertainty when asked to consider whether most immigrants living in the U.S. are undocumented (Table 2). Younger respondents were more likely to think most immigrants living in the U.S. are not undocumented

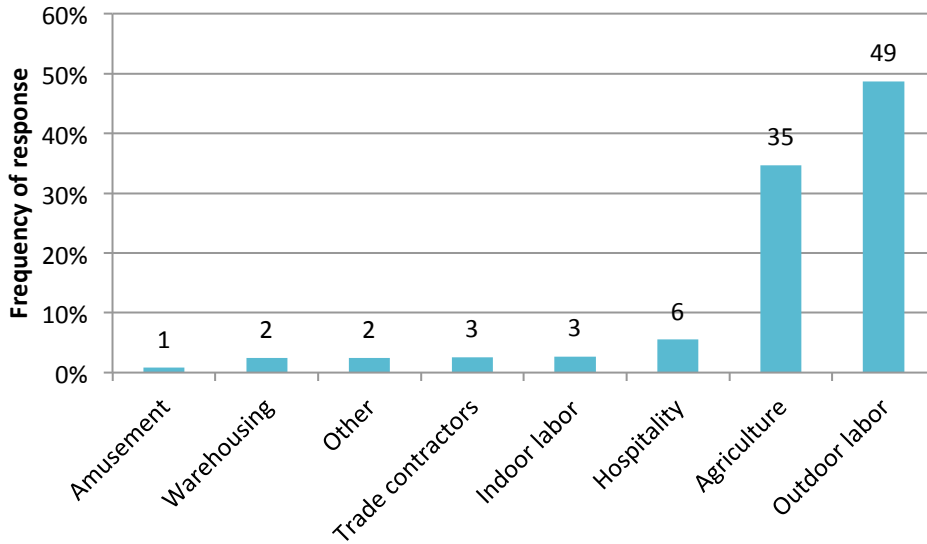
Table 2: I believe most of the immigrants living in the U.S. are undocumented, by age category

	Yes	No	I don't know
19 and under	11.1%	66.7%	22.2%
20-29	35.2%	38.5%	26.4%
30-39	27.6%	42.9%	29.6%
40-49	35.4%	29.3%	35.4%
50-59	24.5%	25.5%	50.0%
60-69	33.7%	26.7%	39.5%
70-79	23.1%	38.5%	38.5%

Belief of Where Undocumented Immigrants Work

Eight-four percent of all respondents reported that they believe most undocumented immigrants work in the agricultural and outdoor labor industries (Figure 23). Outdoor labor industries included gardening, roofing, construction, lawn, and pool services.

Figure 23: Belief of industry where most undocumented immigrants work

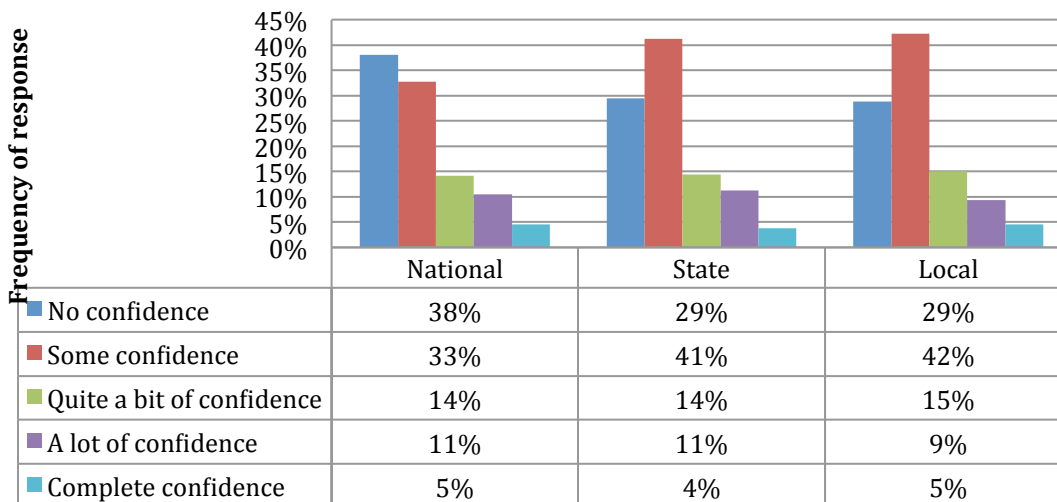


Government Involvement in Undocumented Immigration

Confidence in Political Leaders about Immigration

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of confidence in political leaders at the national, state, and local levels to “make decisions that fit your values of what is right regarding the issue of immigration.” Thirty-eight percent of respondents reported having no confidence in national leaders, and 42% reported having only some confidence in local leaders (Figure 24).

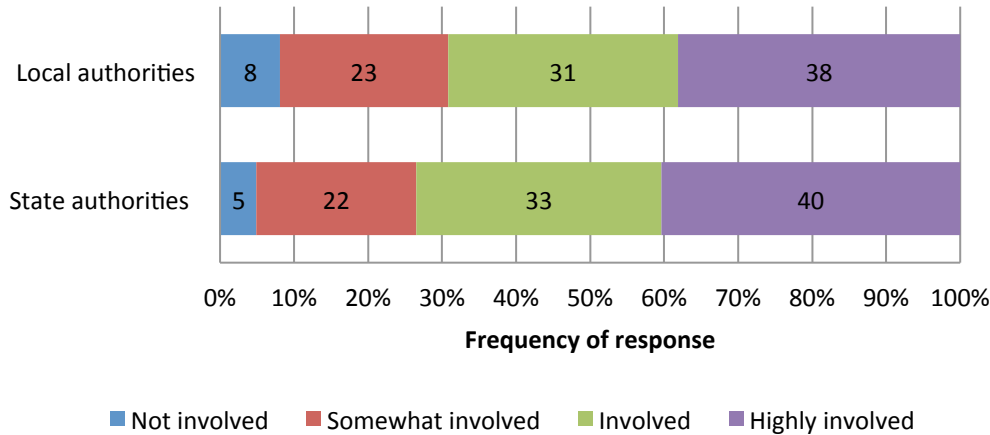
Figure 24: Confidence in political leaders in issue of undocumented immigration



Local and State Involvement in Immigration

When asked at what level state and local authorities should be involved in supporting federal law enforcement of immigration policy, about 40% of respondents reported they believe that both local and state authorities should be “highly involved” (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Level authorities should be involved in undocumented immigration



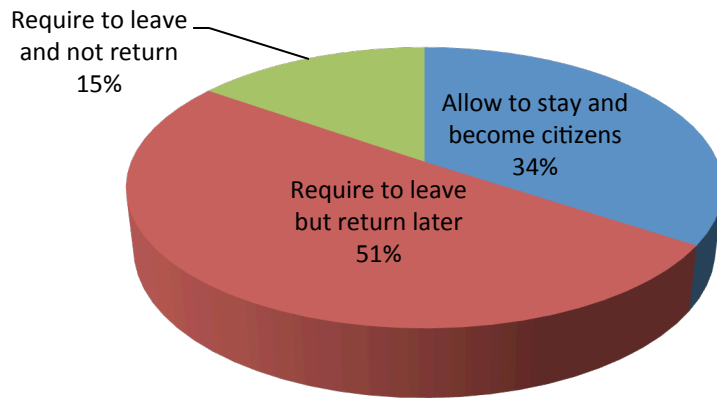
Government Action toward Immigration

Respondents were asked to identify which hypothetical government action came closest to their personal views.:

- “The government should allow undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S. and become U.S. citizens if they meet certain requirements over time.”
- “The U.S. should require undocumented immigrants to leave, but allow them to return and become citizens if they meet certain requirements.”
- “The U.S. should require undocumented immigrants to leave the U.S. and not allow them to return.”

Fifty-one percent of respondents preferred requiring undocumented immigrants to leave, but allowing them to return later and become citizens (Figure 26). Eighty-five percent of respondents agreed with some path towards citizenship.

Figure 26: Action U.S. government should take about undocumented immigration



Respondents who reported they were unemployed were more likely than employed respondents to support the position of requiring undocumented immigrants to leave and not return (Table 3).

Table 3: Government action about undocumented immigration, by employment status

	The government should allow undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S. and become U.S. citizens if they meet certain requirements over time	The U.S. should require undocumented immigrants to leave, but allow them to return and become citizens if they meet certain requirements	The U.S. should require undocumented immigrants to leave the U.S. and not allow them to return
Full-time	36.9%	49.4%	13.7%
Part-time	21.7%	73.9%	4.3%
Not employed	34.2%	47.0%	18.7%

Sixty-three percent of Republican respondents reported they supported the position of requiring undocumented immigrants to leave, but then to return later if they met certain requirements (Table 4).

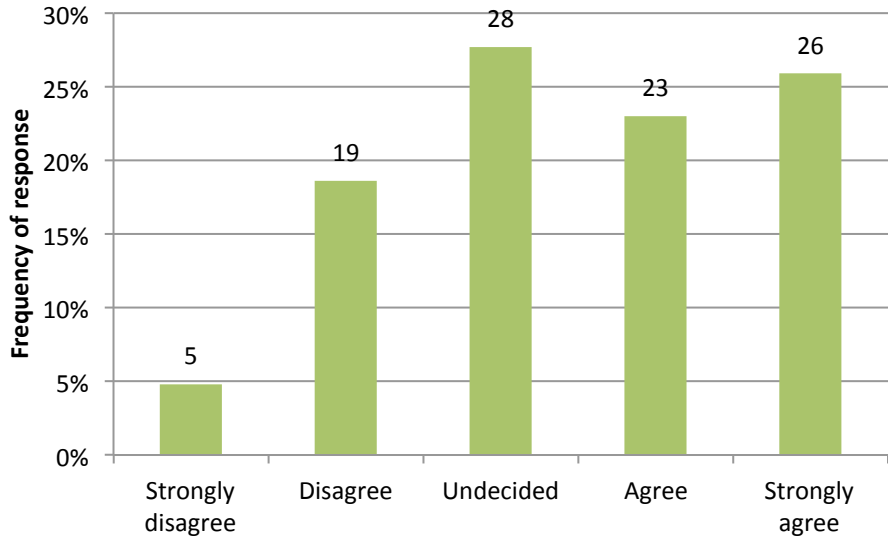
Table 4: Government action about undocumented immigration, by political affiliation

	The government should allow undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S. and become U.S. citizens if they meet certain requirements over time	The U.S. should require undocumented immigrants to leave, but allow them to return and become citizens if they meet certain requirements	The U.S. should require undocumented immigrants to leave the U.S. and not allow them to return
Republican	20.7%	63.8%	15.5%
Democrat	43.3%	45.3%	11.3%
Independent	37.8%	47.3%	14.9%
No Preference	31.9%	47.3%	20.9%

Deportation of Undocumented Immigrants

When asked whether undocumented immigrants should be forced to return to their home countries, 49% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed, while 24% disagreed or strongly disagreed (Figure 27).

Figure 27: Undocumented immigrants should be forced to return to their countries

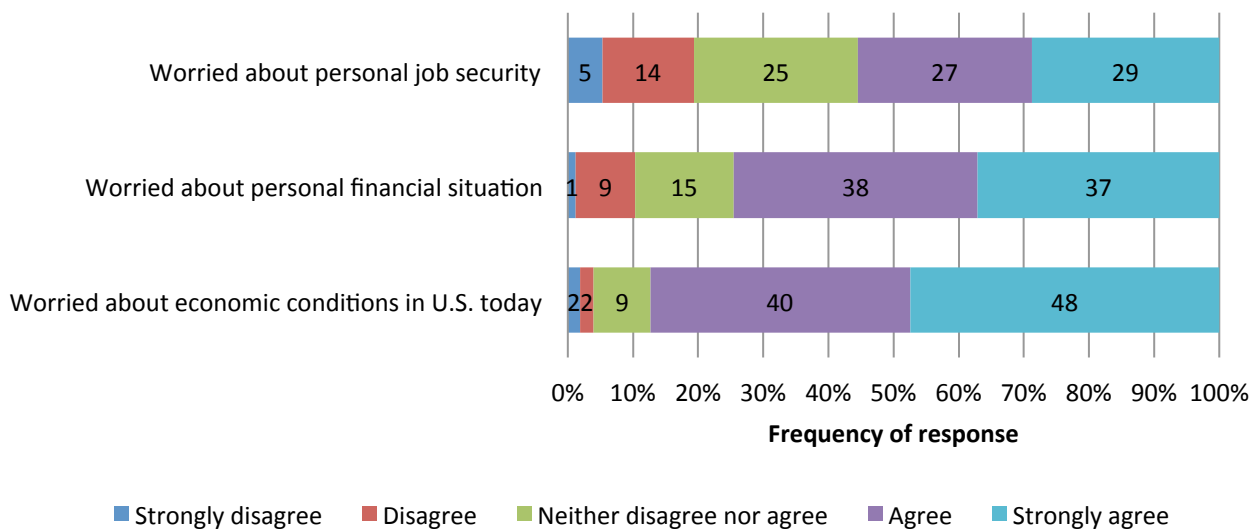


Economic Issues and Undocumented Immigration

Worry about General Economic Issues

Nearly 88% of respondents reported they strongly agree or agree with the statement “I am worried about the economic conditions in this country today” (Figure 28). Thirty-seven percent of respondents strongly agree they are worried about their personal financial situation and 28.8% strongly agree that they are worried about their job security.

Figure 28: General worry about financial and economic situations



Respondents between 20-29 years old were more likely to report they strongly agree they are worried about their job security (Table 5).

Table 5: I am worried about my job security, by age category

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
19 and under	0%	22.2%	44.4%	22.2%	11.1%
20-29	2.2%	11.0%	14.3%	30.8%	41.8%
30-39	5.2%	12.4%	20.6%	30.9%	30.9%
40-49	3.0%	7.1%	22.2%	30.3%	37.4%
50-59	4.8%	13.3%	29.5%	27.6%	24.8%
60-69	9.2%	24.1%	37.9%	14.9%	13.8%
70-79	15.4%	38.5%	30.8%	0%	15.4%

Respondents between 40-49 years old were more likely to report they strongly agree they are worried about their financial situation (Table 6).

Table 6: I am worried about my financial situation, by age category

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
19 and under	0%	0%	10.0%	80.0%	10.0%
20-29	0%	8.7%	16.3%	34.8%	40.2%
30-39	2.1%	7.2%	22.7%	32.0%	36.1%
40-49	1.0%	3.1%	9.2%	33.7%	53.1%
50-59	0.9%	8.4%	10.3%	47.7%	32.7%
60-69	2.3%	17.4%	16.3%	33.7%	30.2%
70-79	0%	23.1%	38.5%	15.4%	23.1%

Republicans were more likely to report they strongly agree that they are worried about the economic conditions of this country today than respondents of other political affiliations (Table 7).

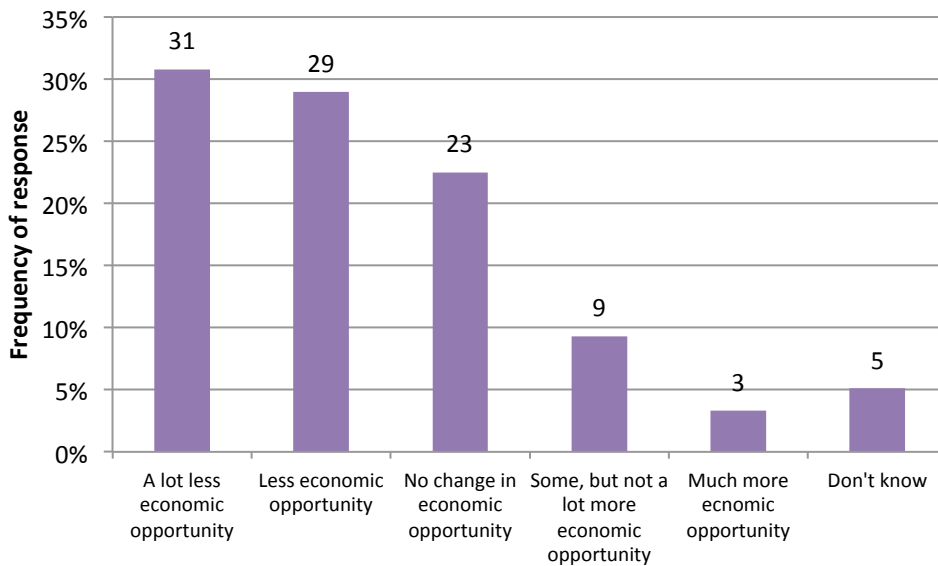
Table 7: I am worried about economic conditions in this country today, by political affiliation

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Republican	0.9%	0.9%	5.2%	30.4%	62.6%
Democrat	2.7%	3.3%	9.3%	52.7%	32.0%
Independent	2.7%	2.0%	6.1%	39.2%	50.0%
No Preference	1.1%	2.2%	15.6%	33.3%	47.8%

Change in Economic Opportunity due to Immigration

Respondents were asked how they felt their personal economic opportunity would change if immigration rates (both undocumented and documented) remained the same. Sixty percent of respondents felt they would have either less economic opportunity or a lot less economic opportunity. Only 12% of respondents thought they would have more economic opportunity (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Change in personal economic opportunity if immigration rates remain the same



Respondents in their 40s and older reported their economic opportunity would decrease if immigration rates continue at their present rates (Table 8).

Table 8: Change in economic opportunity if immigration rates remain the same, by age category

	A lot less economic opportunity	Less economic opportunity	No change in economic opportunity	Some, but not a lot more economic opportunity	Much more economic opportunity	Don't know
19 and under	22.2%	55.6%	22.2%	0%	0%	0%
20-29	24.4%	18.9%	21.1%	12.2%	11.1%	12.2%
30-39	23.7%	37.1%	28.9%	5.2%	3.1%	2.1%
40-49	42.4%	24.2%	21.2%	9.1%	1.0%	2.0%
50-59	32.4%	28.7%	20.4%	13.0%	0.9%	4.6%
60-69	31.4%	33.7%	22.1%	4.7%	2.3%	5.8%
70-79	30.8%	23.1%	15.4%	23.1%	0%	7.7%

Republicans and Independents reported feeling they would have less or a lot less economic opportunity than Democrats (Table 9). Sixty-nine percent of Republicans felt this way, compared to 51.4% of Democrats. Independents fell in between with 56.4% reporting they felt their economic opportunity would decrease if immigration rates remained the same.

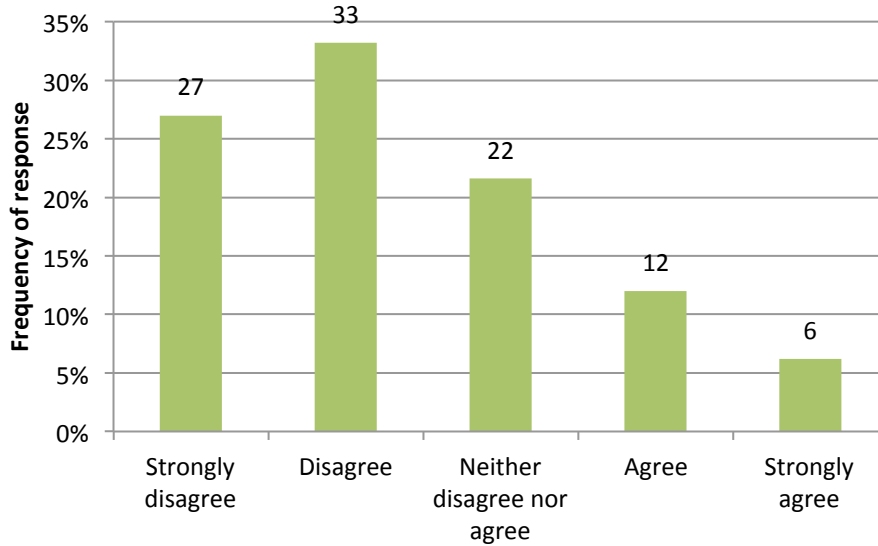
Table 9: Change in economic opportunity if immigration rates remain the same, by political affiliation

	A lot less economic opportunity	Less economic opportunity	No change in economic opportunity	Some, but not a lot more economic opportunity	Much more economic opportunity	Don't know
Republican	33.9%	34.8%	19.1%	7.0%	1.7%	3.5%
Democrat	21.2%	30.5%	27.2%	13.9%	4.6%	2.6%
Independent	33.3%	27.9%	21.1%	9.5%	4.8%	3.4%
No Preference	36.3%	23.1%	23.1%	4.4%	0%	13.2%

Job Opportunities

When asked their level of agreement with the statement “there are plenty of job opportunities where I live,” 60% of respondents either strongly disagreed or disagreed (Figure 30). Only 18% either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

Figure 30: There are plenty of job opportunities where I live



Middle-aged respondents between 40-49 and 50-59 years old were the most likely to hold strongly disagree or disagree positions (71% and 74.1%, respectively) (Table 10).

Table 10: There are plenty of job opportunities where I live, by age category

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
19 and under	0%	11.1%	44.4%	33.3%	11.1%
20-29	20.7%	21.7%	26.1%	22.8%	8.7%
30-39	22.4%	31.6%	22.4%	14.3%	9.2%
40-49	40.0%	31.0%	17.0%	7.0%	5.0%
50-59	27.8%	46.3%	15.7%	4.6%	5.6%
60-69	27.9%	33.7%	23.3%	11.6%	3.5%
70-79	23.1%	30.8%	38.5%	7.7%	0%

Those who were unemployed were more likely to strongly disagree with this statement (31.2%) than respondents who are employed full-time (25.6%) or part-time (17.4%) (Table 11).

Table 11: There are plenty of job opportunities where I live, by employment status

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Full-time	25.6%	33.1%	17.8%	14.0%	9.5%
Part-time	17.4%	50.0%	23.9%	4.3%	4.3%
Not employed	31.2%	29.8%	25.2%	11.0%	2.8%

Democrats and Independents were more likely than Republicans to agree there are plenty of job opportunities where they live. About 15% of Democrats and Independents agreed, compared to only 10% of Republicans (Table 12).

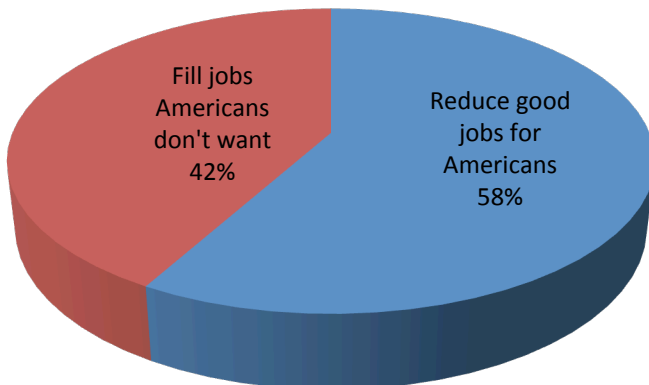
Table 12: There are plenty of job opportunities where I live, by political affiliation

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Republican	32.2%	26.1%	22.6%	10.4%	8.7%
Democrat	16.8%	37.6%	24.8%	14.8%	6.0%
Independent	27.0%	34.5%	16.9%	15.5%	6.1%
No Preference	34.8%	33.7%	23.9%	3.3%	4.3%

Job Availability and Undocumented Immigration

Respondents were asked to choose whether (1) Undocumented immigrants fill jobs Americans don't want, or (2) Undocumented immigrants reduce good jobs for Americans. Fifty-eight percent of respondents chose the response "Undocumented immigrants reduce good jobs for Americans" (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Undocumented immigrants and job opportunities for Americans



Those that were employed part-time or unemployed were more likely to think this (around 61% in each group) than those who were fully employed (56%) (Table 13).

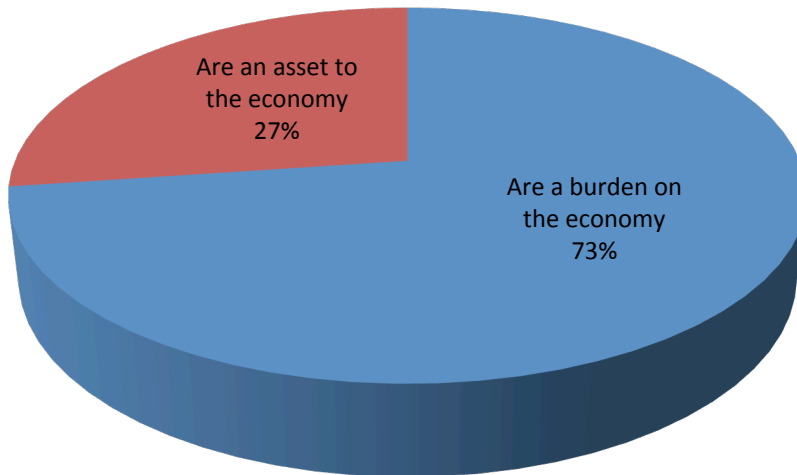
Table 13: Undocumented immigrants and job opportunities for Americans, by employment status

	Reduce good jobs for Americans	Fill jobs Americans don't want
Full-time	55.8%	44.2%
Part-time	60.9%	39.1%
Not employed	60.5%	39.5%

Undocumented Immigrants and Impact on the Economy

The majority of respondents believe that undocumented immigrants are a burden than an asset on the economy (Figure 32). Seventy-three percent of respondents think undocumented immigrants are a burden compared to 27% who think they are an asset.

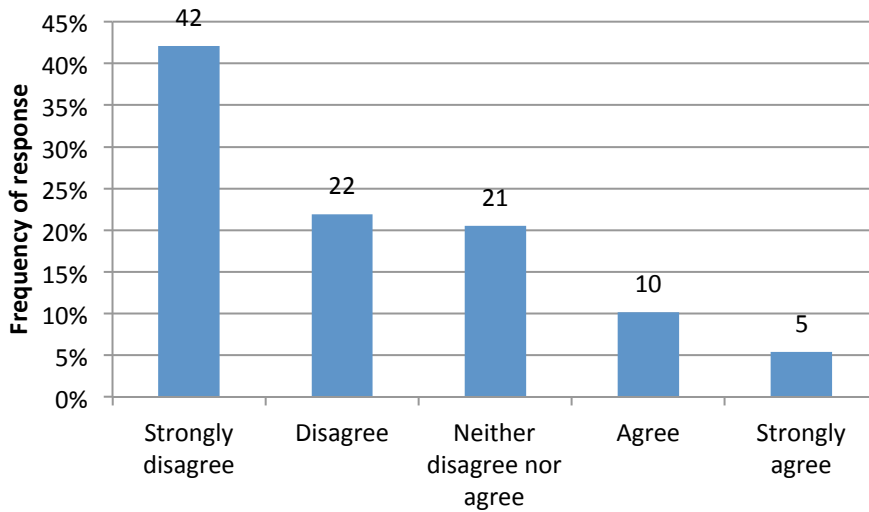
Figure 32: Undocumented immigrants and economic impacts in America



Taxes and Undocumented Immigration

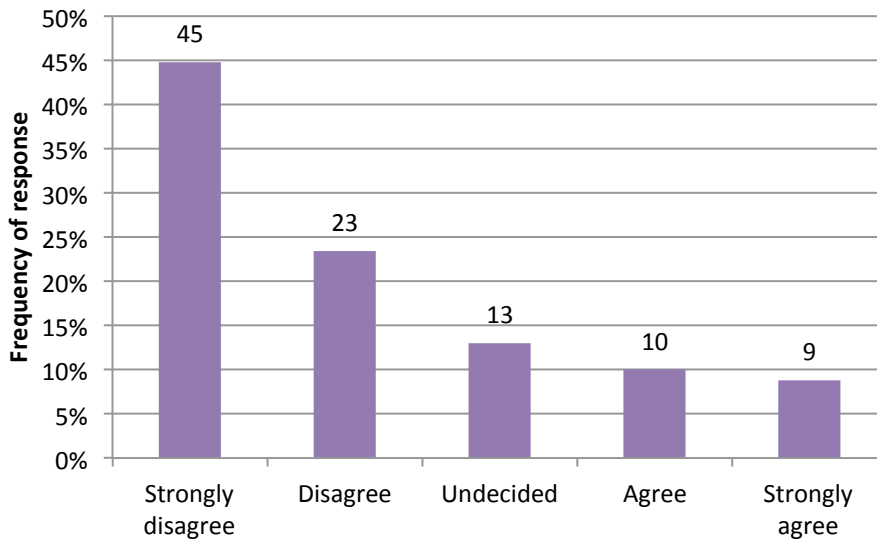
Only 15% of respondents agree or strongly agree undocumented immigrants pay their fair share of taxes (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Undocumented immigrants pay their fair share of taxes



Only 18% of respondents agree or strongly agree that U.S. tax dollars should be used to help those residing without documentation in the U.S. (Figure 34).

Figure 34: U.S. tax dollars should be spent to help undocumented immigrants

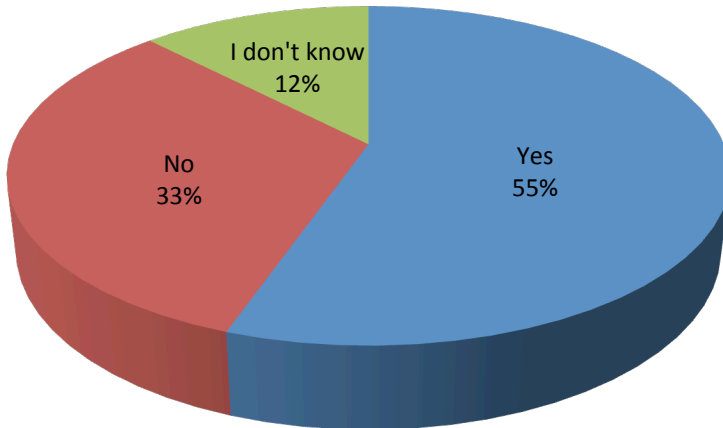


Government Benefits and Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants

Citizenship

Fifty-five percent of respondents agreed with the statement that “Immigrant parents have to be legal residents of the U.S. for their newborn child to be a citizen of the U.S.” (Figure 35).

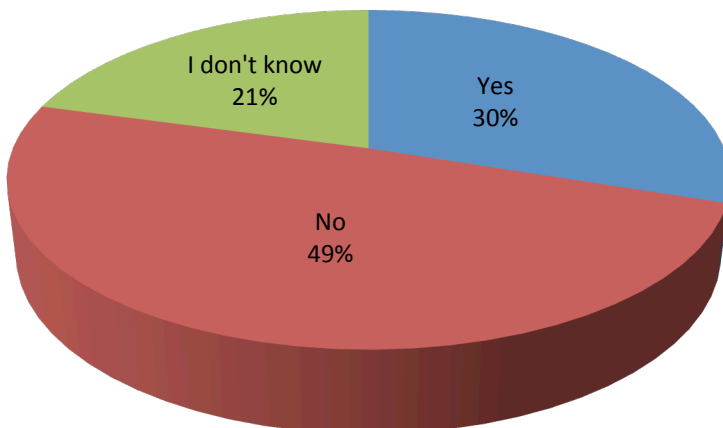
Figure 35: Immigrant parents must be legal residents for child to be U.S. citizen



Government Benefits for Undocumented Immigrants

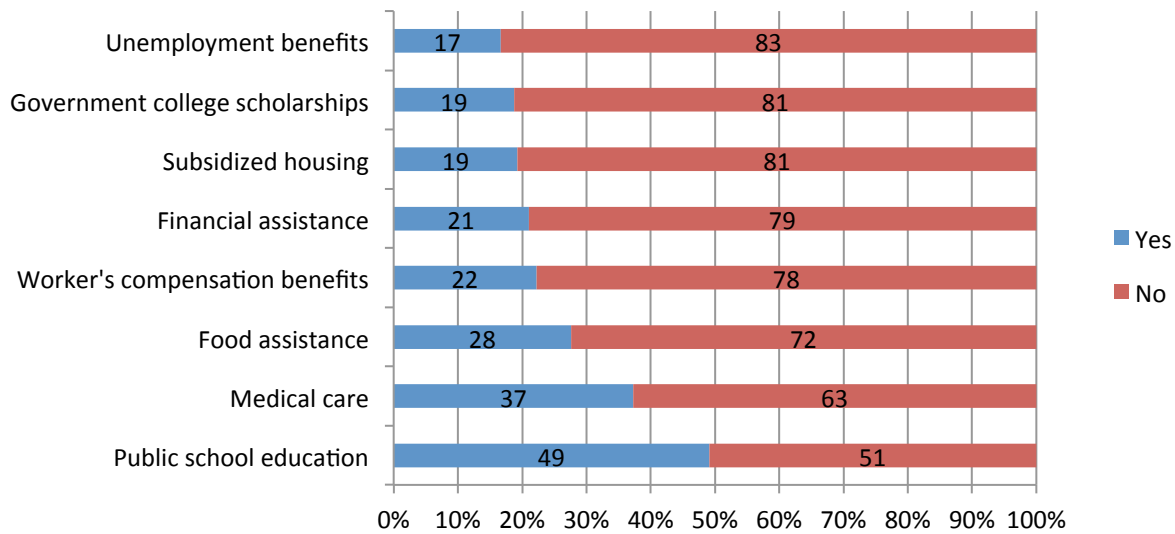
Forty-nine percent of respondents do not believe undocumented immigrants qualify for most government benefits, while 30% believe they do, and 21% don't know (Figure 36).

Figure 36: Undocumented immigrants qualify for most government benefits



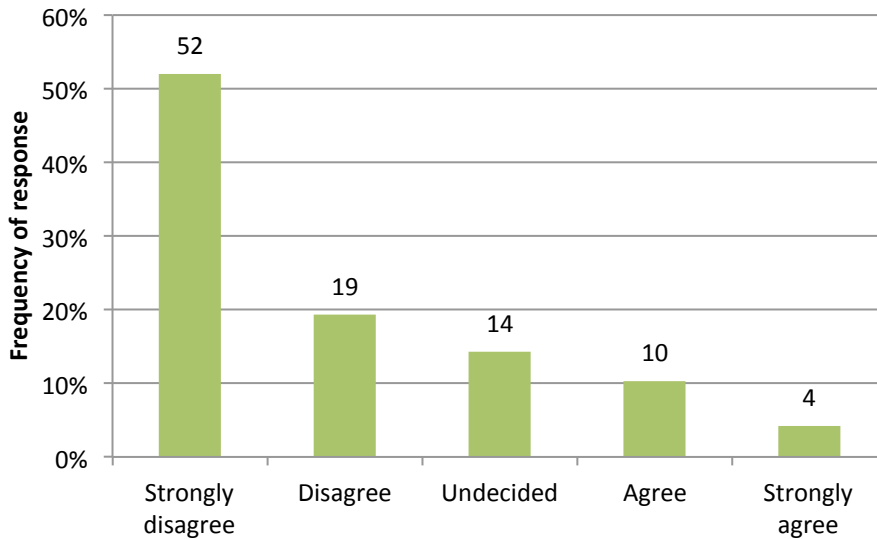
Respondents were asked to indicate which government benefits they think undocumented immigrants should be allowed to receive. The most popular was public school education (49%), followed by medical care (37.3%) (Figure 37).

Figure 37: Types of government benefits undocumented immigrants should receive



Fifty-two percent of respondents strongly disagree that undocumented immigrants should be eligible for welfare (Figure 38).

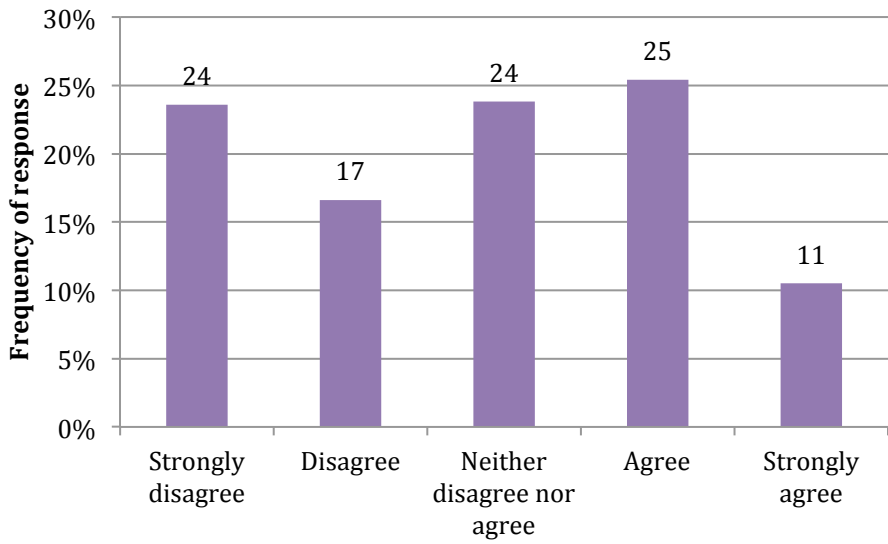
Figure 38: Undocumented immigrants should be eligible for welfare



Public Higher Education for Undocumented Immigrants’ Children

Respondents have mixed ideas as to whether “children born to undocumented immigrants should be allowed to attend public colleges in their home state at in-state tuition rates.” Thirty-six percent of respondents either agree or strongly agree, and 41% either disagree or strongly disagree (Figure 39).

Figure 39: Children born to undocumented immigrants should receive in-state college tuition rates



Twenty-four percent neither disagreed nor agreed with the statement. The highest frequency of agreement came from respondents between 20-29 years old (52.8% agree or strongly agreed) (Table 14).

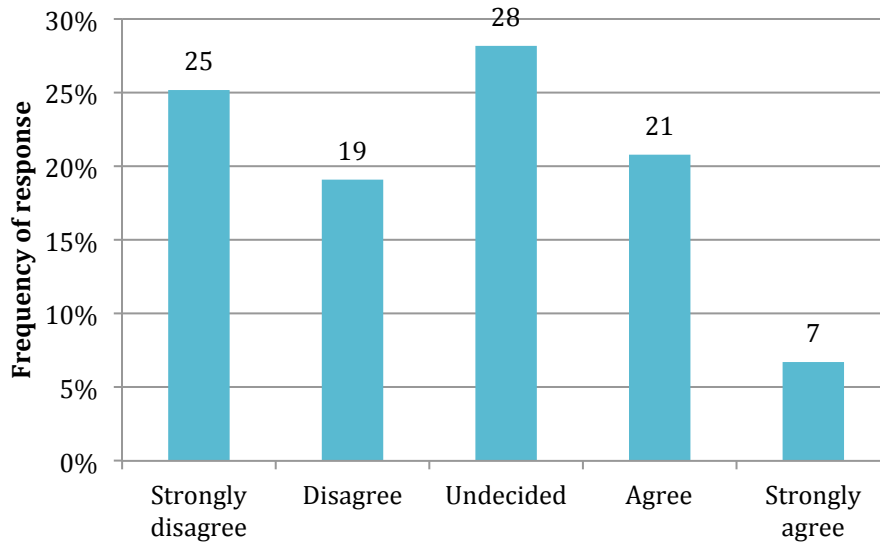
Table 14: Children born to undocumented immigrants should receive in-state college tuition rates, by age category

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
19 and under	11.1%	33.3%	11.1%	22.2%	22.2%
20-29	14.35	11.0%	22.0%	25.3%	27.5%
30-39	11.3%	44.4%	29.9%	34.0%	10.3%
40-49	33.0%	16.0%	25.0%	20.0%	6.0%
50-59	29.0%	19.6%	23.4%	19.6%	8.4%
60-69	30.6%	20.0%	18.8%	29.4%	1.2%
70-79	46.2%	15.4%	15.4%	23.1%	0%

Overall Attitudes toward Undocumented Immigrants

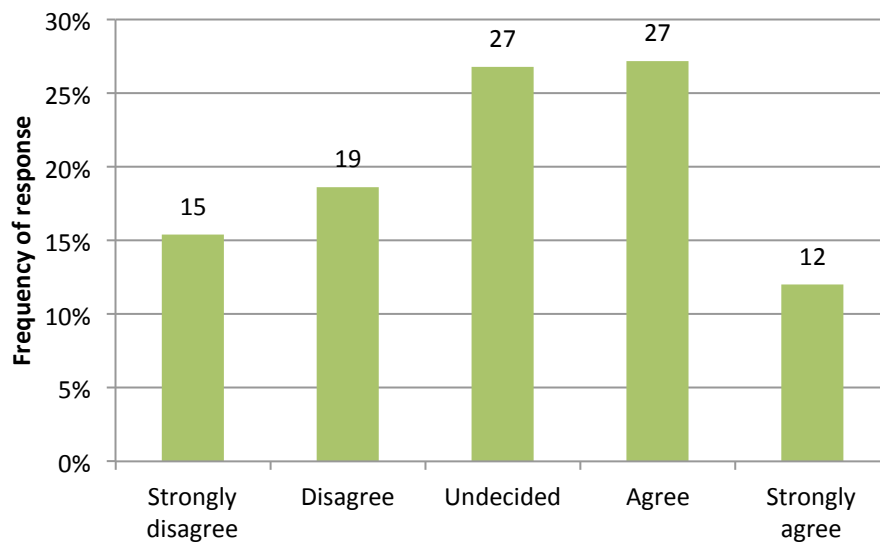
Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement to the statement “undocumented immigrants are a valuable human resource.” Twenty-eight percent either agree or strongly agree, while 44% disagree or strongly disagree and 28% remain undecided (Figure 40).

Figure 40: Undocumented immigrants are a valuable human resource



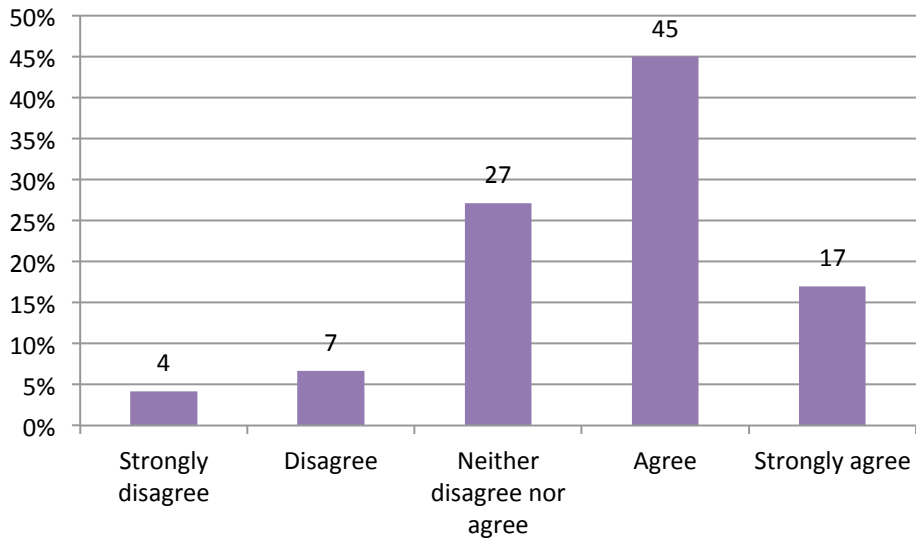
Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement to the statement “undocumented immigrants should not be discriminated against.” Thirty-nine percent either agree or strongly agree, while 34% disagree or strongly disagree, and 27% are undecided (Figure 41).

Figure 41: Undocumented immigrants should not be discriminated against



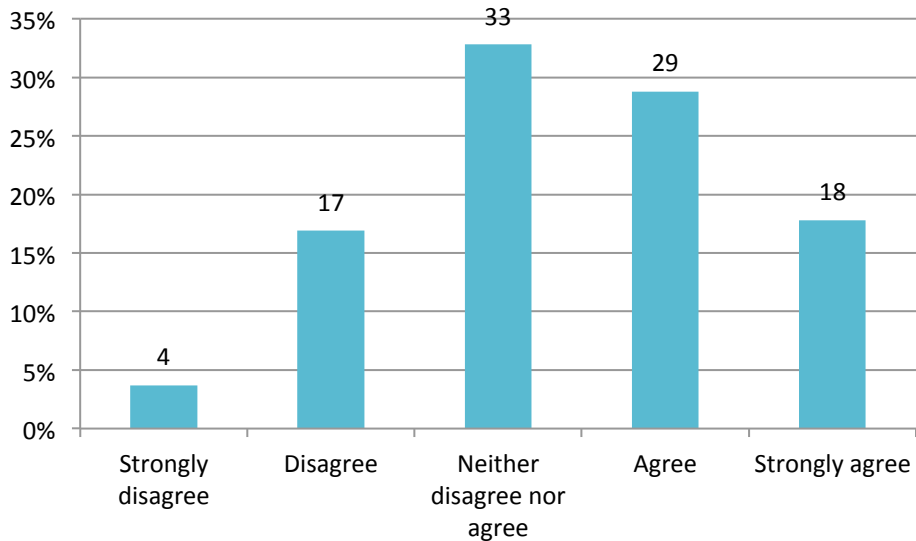
Sixty-two percent of respondents agree or strongly agree that undocumented immigrants are willing to work hard (Figure 42).

Figure 42: Undocumented immigrants are willing to work hard



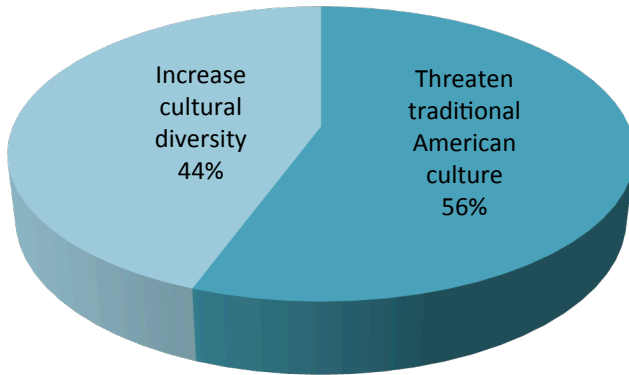
Forty-six percent of respondents agree or strongly agree that undocumented immigrants increase the crime rate (Figure 43).

Figure 43: Undocumented immigrants increase the crime rate



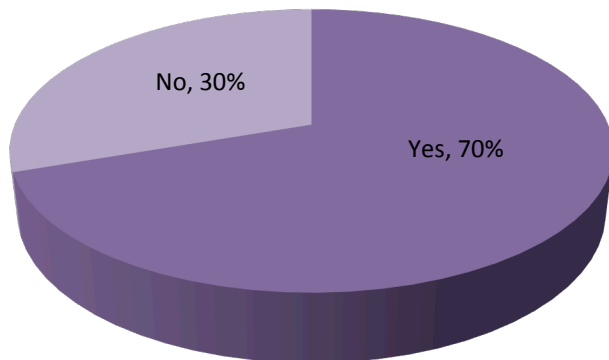
When asked whether they felt undocumented immigrants (1) increased cultural diversity or (2) threatened traditional American culture, more respondents reported that undocumented immigrants threatened traditional American culture than increased cultural diversity (Figure 44).

Figure 44: Undocumented immigrants threaten American values



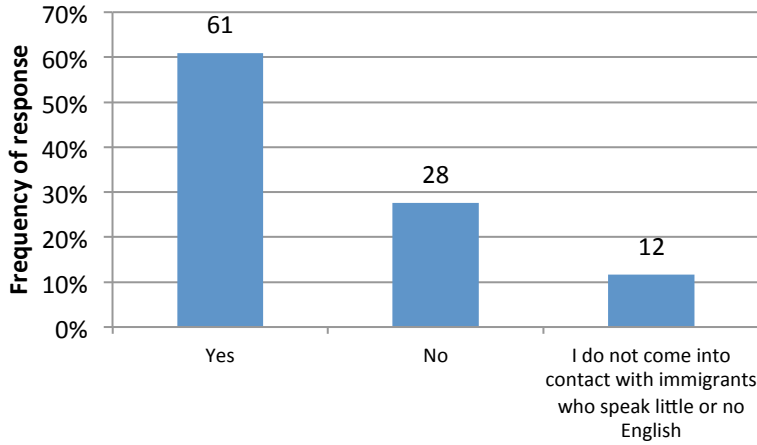
Nearly 70% of respondents reported they often come into contact with immigrants (undocumented or documented) who speak little or no English (Figure 45).

Figure 45: I often come into contact with immigrants who speak little or no English



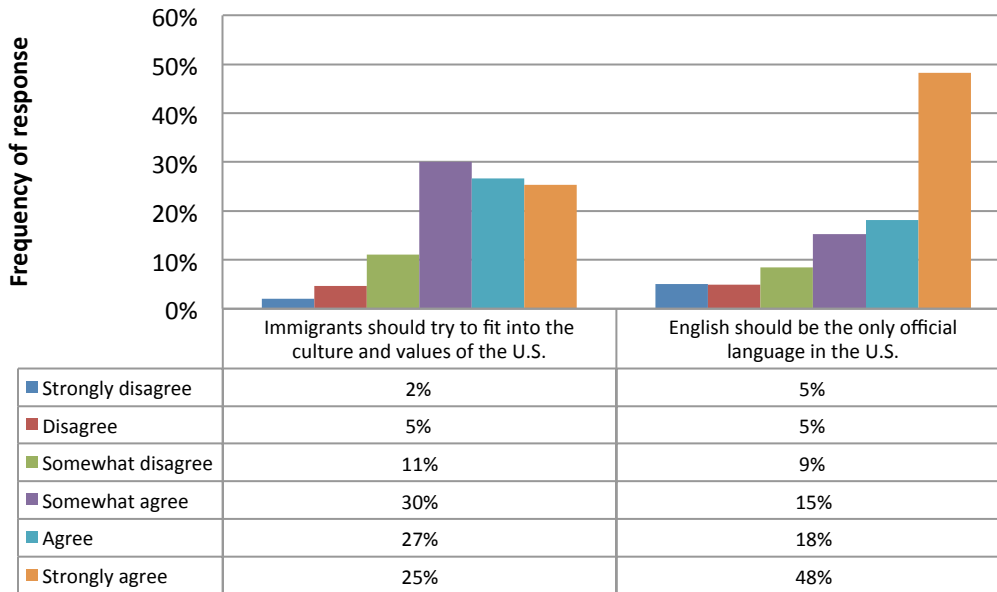
Sixty-one percent of respondents report the lack of English skills bothers them (Figure 46).

Figure 46: It bothers me when I come into contact with immigrants who speak little or no English



Thirty-percent of respondents somewhat agree that immigrants in general should try to fit into the culture and values of the U.S, and 48.2% strongly agree that English should be the only official language in the U.S. (Figure 47).

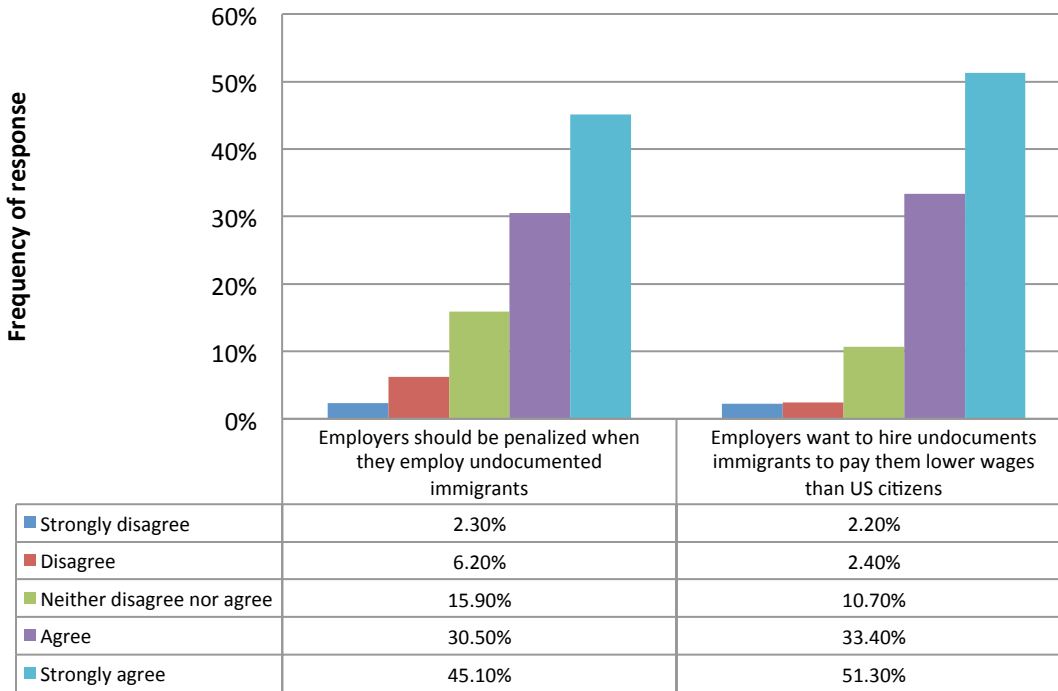
Figure 47: Assimilation and language attitudes



Business and Undocumented Immigration

Seventy-six percent of respondents agree or strongly agree that employers should be penalized when they employ undocumented immigrants (Figure 48). Eighty-five percent agree or strongly agree that employers want to hire undocumented immigrants to pay them lower wages than U.S. citizens.

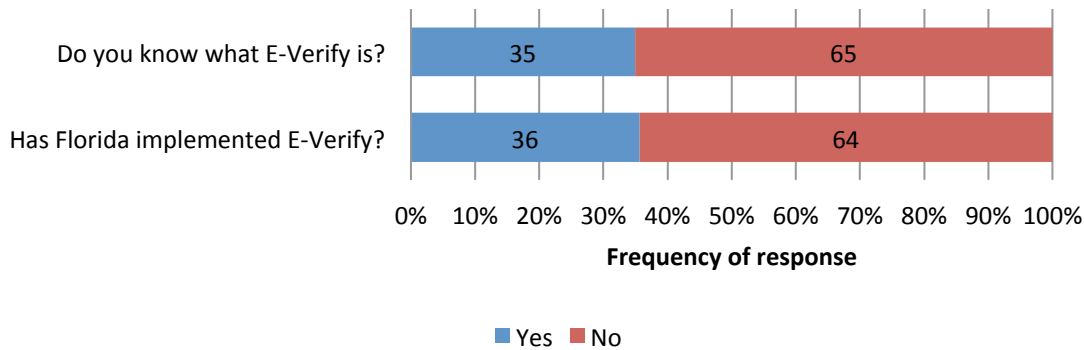
Figure 48: Attitudes towards penalizing employers and motivation for hiring undocumented immigrants



E-Verify and Undocumented Immigration

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 35% of respondents in the survey knew what E-Verify is, and 36% falsely believed that Florida has implemented E-verify (Figure 49).

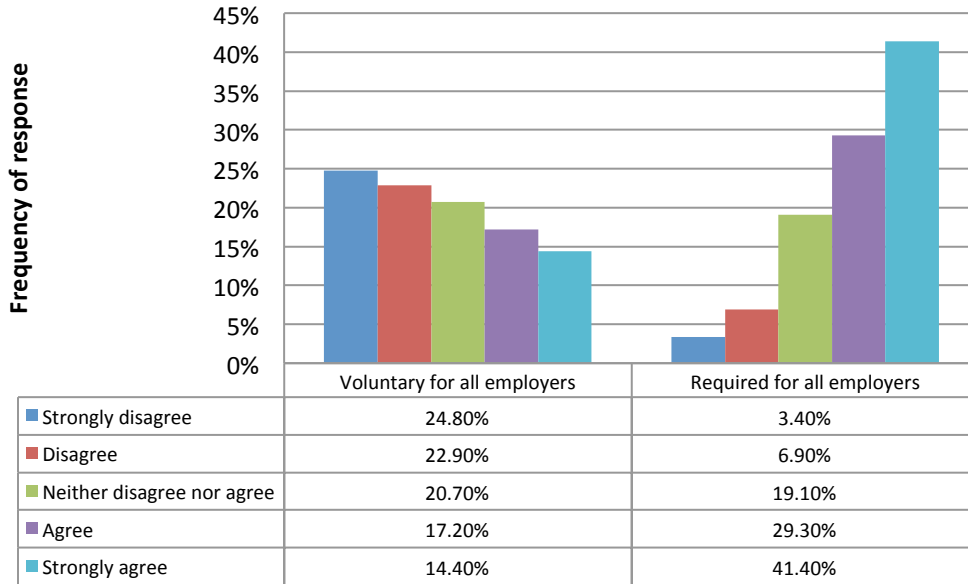
Figure 49: Knowledge of E-Verify¹



¹ The intent of this question was to assess respondents’ knowledge of whether Florida has enacted state-wide E-Verify requirements for all employers. It is possible that some respondents could have interpreted this question based on their knowledge that some employers currently use E-Verify.

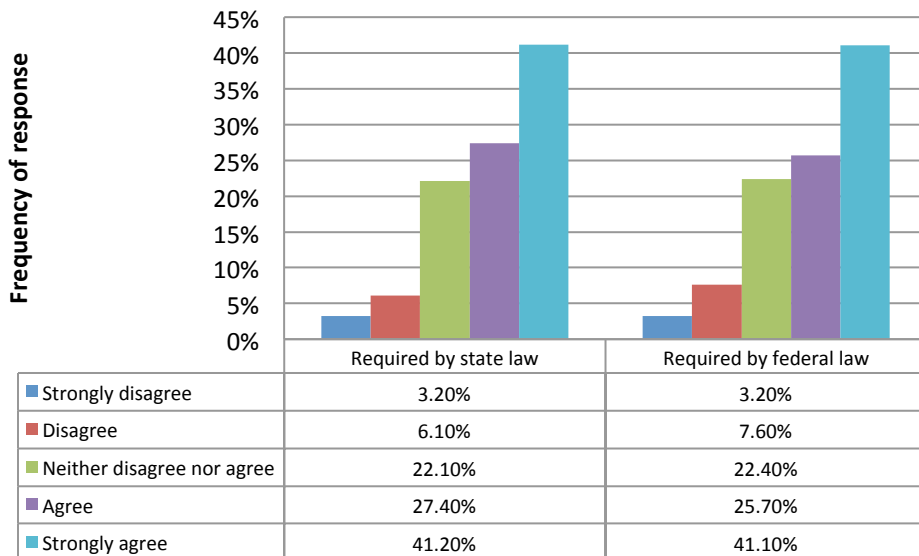
When asked whether E-Verify should be voluntary or required for all employers, respondents agreed or strongly agree (70.7%) that E-Verify should be required for all employers (Figure 50). Only 31.6% of respondents agree or strongly agree that it should be voluntary for all employers.

Figure 50: Whether E-Verify should be voluntary or required for all employers



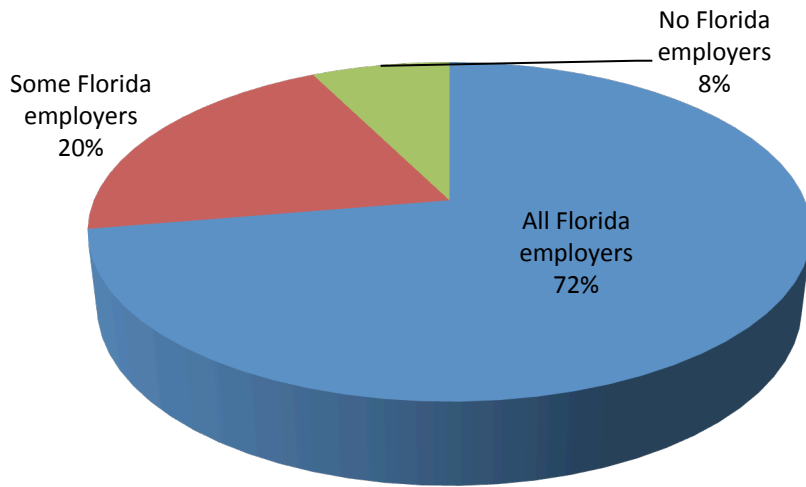
Respondents were then asked whether E-Verify should be required by state law or federal law. Respondents reported similar levels of agreement for both state and federal law requirements for E-Verify. Sixty-nine percent of respondents either agree or strongly agree that E-Verify should be required by state law and 66.8% agree or strongly agree that it should be required by federal law (Figure 51).

Figure 51: Whether E-Verify should be required through state or federal law



When asked whether all, some, or no Florida employers should be required to use E-Verify, 72% of respondents think that all Florida employers should be required to use E-Verify (Figure 52).

Figure 52: Amount of Florida employers that should be required to use E-Verify



More respondents agree or strongly agree that state employers and large-scale agricultural producers should be required to use E-Verify than small scale-agricultural producers (Table 15).

Table 15: Type of Florida employer that should be required to use E-Verify

Type of Florida employer	% of respondents rating agreeing or strongly agreeing that E-Verify should be required
State employers	78.0%
Large-scale agricultural producers	74.4%
Large non-agricultural businesses	73.9%
Small non-agricultural businesses	69.5%
Small-scale agricultural producers	67.0%