September 6, 2023
Florida Health Policy and Administration Survey

Summary: Researchers at the University of South Florida and Florida Atlantic University conducted a statewide survey of 600 adult Floridians to measure attitudes related to several health policy issues, including the use of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the Opioid crisis, COVD-19 misinformation, and medical marijuana. The survey – which was sponsored by the Florida Center for Cybersecurity – included a representative sample of 600 American adults, fielded between August 10th and 21st, 2023.   This report provides topline results from the survey, including key differences based on political affiliation. Results are reported with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error +/- 4.

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Floridians are relatively divided on the benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to American society, though most express concerns over the risks associated with rapid AI development. While 46% of respondents believe that AI will improve American society, nearly the same portion (45.6%) disagree. Moreover, 75% say that they're concerned about the risks AI poses to human security, and more than two thirds (70%) would support a temporary "pause" on AI development in the United States.

While a plurality of Floridians say that AI will improve healthcare outcomes, they are more comfortable with some proposed applications of the technology than others. A plurality of respondents (50%) believe that AI will improve patient outcomes, while just under a third (32%) disagree. When considering specific potential applications of AI, respondents expressed a range of comfort levels and concerns. The list below shows the percentage of respondents who say they are either "very" or "somewhat comfortable" with AI being used for each of the following purposes.

- To schedule patient appointments and follow-ups – **84%**
- To collect and enter patient intake data (such as symptoms and medical histories) – **61%**
- To read and interpret medical imaging (such as X-rays and radiology images) – **57%**
- To assist doctors in making a diagnosis – **50%**
- To assist doctors in conducting surgical procedures – **46%**
- To recommend medication and treatment plans for patients – **45%**
- To administer prescribed medications to patients – **34%**

Floridians are generally supportive of the legalization of both medical and recreational marijuana. Although support for medical marijuana is higher (83%), a plurality of Floridians also support legalizing recreational marijuana (60%). When considering top concerns regarding medical marijuana, respondents generally disagreed that medical marijuana was being misused. The list below shows the percentage of respondents who say they "strongly" or "somewhat" agree with these statements about medical marijuana.
- Medical marijuana is being abused – **45%**
- Medical marijuana is too easy to obtain – **39%**
- There should be harsh penalties for sharing medical marijuana – **40%**

Misinformation about the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines continues to persist after more than two years. A significant number of Floridians expressed some degree of belief in several statements classified as "False" by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The list below shows the percentage of respondents who said that each statement was either "probably" or "definitely true":

- Getting sick with COVID-19 builds better immunity than getting a vaccine – **51%**
- COVID-19 vaccines contain a "live strain" of the virus – **49%**
- COVID-19 vaccines are causing new variants of the virus to emerge – **42%**
- Vaccines can cause you to get sick with COVID-19 – **42%**
- A COVID-19 vaccine will cause you to temporarily test "positive" for the virus – **42%**
- COVID-19 vaccines alter your DNA – **26%**
- COVID-19 vaccines can cause infertility – **24%**
- COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips – **14%**

Amid a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases, attitudes toward the pandemic remain starkly divided along political lines. Democratic respondents were significantly more willing to receive ongoing vaccine boosters than their Republican counterparts (84% of Democrats vs. 53% of Republicans). Conversely, Republicans reported lower levels of trust in public health guidance and were significantly more likely to express belief in the misinformation themes noted above. (See tables below for details).

Floridians hold mixed opinions about when persons living with HIV (PLH) should be required to disclose their HIV status. The top circumstances in which participants felt that persons living with HIV (PLH) should be required to disclose their status were either before kissing (47%) or before intercourse (40%). Only 2% felt that PLH should never disclose their status. There were also mixed opinions on penalties for non-disclosure, with 31% believing non-disclosure should result in a monetary fine, 27% choosing 1-5 years in prison, and 12% choosing less than one year in prison. Most Floridians felt that they were at no risk (62%) for contracting HIV.

Floridians supported increasing public education on HIV prevention methods. The list below shows the percentage of respondents who say they are either "strongly" or "somewhat" support the following HIV prevention efforts:
- Awareness on condom use – 95%
- Awareness on HIV medications – 94%
- Making condoms easily accessible and free – 88%
- Making HIV medications easily accessible and free – 85%

Floridians had mixed opinions on harm reduction policies, expressing stronger support for syringe exchange options than Narcan administration. A majority of respondents (73.3%) felt that exchange programs should be available in all counties, with 68.3% welcoming these programs in their own communities. Regarding Narcan, a slight majority of respondents (44.3%) would either "somewhat" or "strongly" oppose limiting the number of times first responders use Narcan on the same person. A plurality of respondents (42.8%) would also be willing to administer Narcan, but only if they were trained on how to use it.

Topline Results – Artificial Intelligence

In recent years, there have been significant developments in the area of "Artificial Intelligence", which refers to the creation and programming of machines that can process information and complete tasks at a level on par with humans. In this next set of questions, we would like to better understand your opinions about Artificial Intelligence (hereafter referred to as AI).

Thinking about AI in general, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: ***Overall, I think that AI will improve American society.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	75	12.5
Somewhat Agree	201	33.5
Somewhat Disagree	165	27.5
Strongly Disagree	108	18.0
Unsure	51	8.5

(n=600) % "strongly + somewhat agree": Democrats = 48.9%; Independents = 46.1%; Republicans = 42.7%

Thinking about AI in general, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: ***I am worried that AI could pose a risk to human safety.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	195	32.5
Somewhat Agree	255	42.5
Somewhat Disagree	70	11.7
Strongly Disagree	44	7.3
Unsure	36	6.0

(n=600) % "strongly + somewhat agree": Democrats = 74.5%; Independents = 76.9%; Republicans = 74.5%

Thinking about AI in general, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: *I am worried that AI could threaten my employment in the future.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	167	27.8
Somewhat Agree	154	25.7
Somewhat Disagree	91	15.2
Strongly Disagree	139	23.2
Unsure	49	8.2

(n=600) % "strongly + somewhat agree": Democrats = 51.7%; Independents = 51.3%; Republicans = 50.0%

Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

	Frequency	Percentage
Artificial Intelligence is being developed TOO QUICKLY in the United States.	332	55.3
Artificial Intelligence is being developed at an appropriate pace in the United States.	167	27.8
Artificial Intelligence is being developed TOO SLOWLY in the United States	26	4.3
Unsure	75	12.5

(n=600) % "artificial intelligence is being developed 'TOO QUICKLY' ": Democrats = 52.8 %; Independents = 55.9%; Republicans = 58.3%

Some leaders in politics and the tech industry have suggested that the United States government should enforce a "pause" on the development and training of AI until the risks to human security can be better understood. *Would you support or oppose a temporary pause on AI development?*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	215	35.8
Somewhat Support	202	33.7
Somewhat Oppose	92	15.3
Strongly Oppose	46	7.7
Unsure	45	7.5

(n=600) % "strongly + somewhat support": Democrats = 72.8%; Independents = 63.8%; Republicans = 72.9%

Thinking about your own personal healthcare, please indicate how comfortable you would be if AI were used for each of the following tasks/purposes: *To collect and enter patient data (such as symptoms and medical histories).*

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Comfortable	131	21.8
Somewhat Comfortable	233	38.8
Not Very Comfortable	160	26.7
Not at All Comfortable	76	12.7

(n=600)

Thinking about your own personal healthcare, please indicate how comfortable you would be if AI were used for each of the following tasks/purposes: **To assist doctors in making a diagnosis.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Comfortable	77	12.8
Somewhat Comfortable	221	36.8
Not Very Comfortable	174	29.0
Not at All Comfortable	128	21.3

(n=600)

Thinking about your own personal healthcare, please indicate how comfortable you would be if AI were used for each of the following tasks/purposes: **To schedule patient appointments and follow-ups.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Comfortable	244	40.7
Somewhat Comfortable	261	43.5
Not Very Comfortable	57	9.5
Not at All Comfortable	38	6.3

(n=600)

Thinking about your own personal healthcare, please indicate how comfortable you would be if AI were used for each of the following tasks/purposes: *To predict what future medical conditions patients might develop (such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes).*

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Comfortable	96	16.0
Somewhat Comfortable	216	36.0
Not Very Comfortable	178	29.7
Not at All Comfortable	110	18.3

(n=600)

Thinking about your own personal healthcare, please indicate how comfortable you would be if AI were used for each of the following tasks/purposes: *To recommend medication and treatment plans for patients.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Comfortable	74	12.3
Somewhat Comfortable	194	32.3
Not Very Comfortable	212	35.3
Not at All Comfortable	120	20.0

(n=600)

Thinking about your own personal healthcare, please indicate how comfortable you would be if AI were used for each of the following tasks/purposes: **_To read and interpret medical imaging, such as X-rays and radiology images._**

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Comfortable	98	16.3
Somewhat Comfortable	246	41.0
Not Very Comfortable	158	26.3
Not at All Comfortable	98	16.3

(n=600)

Thinking about your own personal healthcare, please indicate how comfortable you would be if AI were used for each of the following tasks/purposes: **_To administer prescribed medications to patients._**

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Comfortable	59	9.8
Somewhat Comfortable	143	23.8
Not Very Comfortable	222	37.0
Not at All Comfortable	176	29.3

(n=600)

Thinking about your own personal healthcare, please indicate how comfortable you would be if AI were used for each of the following tasks/purposes: *To assist doctors in conducting surgical procedures (including through the use of 'surgical robots').*

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Comfortable	75	12.5
Somewhat Comfortable	202	33.7
Not Very Comfortable	179	29.8
Not at All Comfortable	144	24.0

(n=600)

Thinking about the long-term potential uses of AI in healthcare, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: *The use of AI in healthcare settings will improve patient outcomes.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	69	11.5
Somewhat Agree	232	38.7
Somewhat Disagree	121	20.2
Strongly Disagree	68	11.3

	Frequency	Percentage
Unsure	110	18.3

(n=600) % "strongly + somewhat agree": Democrats = 51.1%; Independents = 46.7%; Republicans = 50.5%

Thinking about the long-term potential uses of AI in healthcare, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: ***The use of AI in healthcare settings will reduce the frequency of medical mistakes made by health practitioners.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	69	11.5
Somewhat Agree	223	37.2
Somewhat Disagree	132	22.0
Strongly Disagree	72	12.0
Unsure	104	17.3

(n=600) % "strongly + somewhat agree": Democrats = 49.5%; Independents = 52.6%; Republicans = 44.3%

Thinking about the long-term potential uses of AI in healthcare, please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: ***The use of AI in healthcare settings will reduce inequalities in healthcare and health outcomes.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	62	10.3
Somewhat Agree	200	33.3

	Frequency	Percentage
Somewhat Disagree	135	22.5
Strongly Disagree	93	15.5
Unsure	110	18.3

(n=600) % "strongly + somewhat agree": Democrats = 50.6%; Independents = 44.1%; Republicans = 39.6%

Topline Results – Trust in Institutions

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions <u>to operate in the best interest of society</u>: ***The Federal Government.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Trust a Lot	37	6.2
Trust to a Degree	213	35.5
Don't Really Trust	178	29.7
Don't Trust at All	152	25.3
Unsure	20	3.3

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats = 57.8%; Independents = 37.5%; Republicans = 29.7%

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions <u>to operate in the best interest of society</u>: ***Your Local Government.***

	Frequency	Percentage

Trust a Lot	35	5.8
Trust to a Degree	287	47.8
Don't Really Trust	144	24.0
Don't Trust at All	110	18.3
Unsure	24	4.0

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats = 50.6%; Independents = 50.7%; Republicans = 61.9%

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions to operate in the best interest of society: *Medical Personnel (i.e. doctors and nurses)*

	Frequency	Percentage
Trust a Lot	207	34.5
Trust to a Degree	308	51.3
Don't Really Trust	47	7.8
Don't Trust at All	24	4.0
Unsure	14	2.3

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats = 91.1%; Independents = 81.6%; Republicans = 86.5%

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions to operate in the best interest of society: *Medical Research*

	Frequency	Percentage
Trust a Lot	167	27.8
Trust to a Degree	327	54.5
Don't Really Trust	66	11.0
Don't Trust at All	25	4.2
Unsure	15	2.5

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats = 91.1%; Independents = 80.3%; Republicans = 77.1%

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions to operate in the best interest of society: ***Public Health Officials.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Trust a Lot	95	15.8
Trust to a Degree	290	48.3
Don't Really Trust	118	19.7
Don't Trust at All	70	11.7
Unsure	27	4.5

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats = 81.1%; Independents = 59.2%; Republicans = 49.5%

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: ***The Federal Government.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Trust a Lot	75	12.5
Trust to a Degree	219	36.5
Don't Really Trust	141	23.5
Don't Trust at All	145	24.2
Unsure	20	3.3

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats = 68.9%; Independents = 40.8%; Republicans = 38.55%

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: ***Your Local Government.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Trust a Lot	60	10.0
Trust to a Degree	268	44.7
Don't Really Trust	145	24.2
Don't Trust at All	110	18.3
Unsure	17	2.8

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats =56.7 %; Independents = 52.6%; Republicans = 59.9%

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: ***Medical Personnel (i.e. doctors and nurses).***

	Frequency	Percentage
Trust a Lot	235	39.2
Trust to a Degree	254	42.3
Don't Really Trust	62	10.3
Don't Trust at All	37	6.2
Unsure	12	2.0

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats = 87.8%; Independents = 82.2%; Republicans = 77.6%

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions <u>to operate in the best interest of society</u>: ***Medical Research.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Trust a Lot	178	29.7
Trust to a Degree	276	46.0
Don't Really Trust	78	13.0
Don't Trust at All	50	8.3
Unsure	18	3.0

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats = 87.8%; Independents = 76.3%; Republicans = 66.7%

Please indicate the extent to which you trust the following institutions <u>to operate in the best interest of society</u>: ***Public Health Officials.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Trust a Lot	121	20.2
Trust to a Degree	261	43.5
Don't Really Trust	101	16.8
Don't Trust at All	93	15.5
Unsure	24	4.0

(n=600) % "trust a lot + trust to a degree": Democrats = 83.9%; Independents = 59.9%; Republicans = 47.9%

Topline Results – HIV/AIDS Epidemic

In this set of questions, we would like to better understand your opinion about policies aimed to prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Several states, including Florida, have laws that penalize persons living with HIV for not disclosing their HIV status to those who may be at risk of exposure. ***In your opinion, what should the penalty be for NOT disclosing an HIV status to someone who may be at risk?***

	Frequency	Percentage
No Penalty	54	9.0
Monetary Fine	188	31.3
Less than 1 Year in Prison	69	11.5
1-5 Years in Prison	159	26.5
6-10 Years in Prison	46	7.7
More than 10 Years in Prison	84	14.0

(n=600) % "1 or more years in prison, combined": Democrats = 46.7%; Independents = 45.4%; Republicans = 55.2%

Under which circumstances should individuals be required by law to disclose their HIV status to a sexual partner?

	Frequency	Percentage
Never	14	2.3
Before they kiss	282	47.0
Before intercourse	239	39.8
Only if condoms or medications to reduce infection are NOT used	25	4.2
Only if their partner tests positive for HIV	40	6.7

(n=600)

To what extend do you support or oppose each of the following steps to prevent the spread of HIV: *Increasing public awareness on condom use.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	456	76.0
Somewhat Support	114	19.0
Somewhat Oppose	7	1.2
Strongly Oppose	7	1.2
Unsure	16	2.7

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 98.3%; Independents = 92.8%; Republicans = 93.2%

To what extend do you support or oppose each of the following steps to prevent the spread of HIV: *Increasing public awareness on HIV medications.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	415	69.2
Somewhat Support	146	24.3
Somewhat Oppose	18	3.0
Strongly Oppose	9	1.5
Unsure	12	2.0

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 97.8%; Independents = 94.1%; Republicans = 91.2%

To what extend do you support or oppose each of the following steps to prevent the spread of HIV: ***Making condoms easily accessible and free.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	413	68.8
Somewhat Support	115	19.2
Somewhat Oppose	32	5.3
Strongly Oppose	20	3.3
Unsure	20	3.3

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 97.2%; Independents = 84.2%; Republicans = 80.2%

To what extend do you support or oppose each of the following steps to prevent the spread of HIV: *Making HIV medications easily accessible and free.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	363	60.5
Somewhat Support	146	24.3
Somewhat Oppose	46	7.7
Strongly Oppose	19	3.2
Unsure	26	4.3

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 95.6%; Independents = 82.9%; Republicans = 73.9%

To what extend do you support or oppose each of the following steps to prevent the spread of HIV: *Laws requiring medications for persons with HIV.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	274	45.7
Somewhat Support	157	26.2
Somewhat Oppose	61	10.2
Strongly Oppose	45	7.5
Unsure	63	10.5

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 75.0%; Independents = 63.8%; Republicans = 71.9%

To what extend do you support or oppose each of the following steps to prevent the spread of HIV: *Laws requiring medications for HIV-negative partners.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	148	24.7
Somewhat Support	133	22.2
Somewhat Oppose	91	15.2
Strongly Oppose	105	17.5
Unsure	123	20.5

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 55.0%; Independents = 42.1%; Republicans = 42.7%

How great of a risk is HIV exposure for each of the following individuals/groups? *Yourself*

	Frequency	Percentage
High Risk	21	3.5
Medium Risk	25	4.2
Low Risk	149	24.8
No Risk	372	62.0
Unsure	33	5.5

(n=600)

How great of a risk is HIV exposure for each of the following individuals/groups? *Your Family Members*

	Frequency	Percentage
High Risk	23	3.8
Medium Risk	34	5.7
Low Risk	203	33.8
No Risk	261	43.5
Unsure	79	13.2

(n=600)

How great of a risk is HIV exposure for each of the following individuals/groups? *Friends in Your 'Inner Circle'.*

	Frequency	Percentage
High Risk	22	3.7
Medium Risk	64	10.7
Low Risk	224	37.3
No Risk	169	28.2
Unsure	121	20.2

(n=600)

How great of a risk is HIV exposure for each of the following individuals/groups? *Members of Society in General.*

	Frequency	Percentage
High Risk	117	19.5
Medium Risk	225	37.5
Low Risk	132	22.0
No Risk	25	4.2
Unsure	101	16.8

(n=600)

Topline Results – Marijuana

Please indicate whether you think that marijuana should be legal or illegal for each of the following purposes. *Medical Marijuana*

	Frequency	Percentage
Legal	496	82.7
Illegal	64	10.7
Unsure	40	6.7

(n=600) % "Legal": Democrats = 87.2%; Independents = 84.2%; Republicans = 78.1%

Please indicate whether you think that marijuana should be legal or illegal for each of the following purposes. *Recreational Marijuana*

	Frequency	Percentage
Legal	360	60.0
Illegal	172	28.7
Unsure	68	11.3

(n=600) % "Legal": Democrats = 71.1%; Independents = 59.2%; Republicans = 49.5%

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: *I worry that medical marijuana is being abused.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	112	18.7
Somewhat Agree	160	26.7
Somewhat Disagree	109	18.2
Strongly Disagree	190	31.7
Unsure	29	4.8

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat agree": Democrats = 33.3%; Independents = 46.7%; Republicans = 54.2%

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: *I worry that medical marijuana is too easy to obtain.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	106	17.7
Somewhat Agree	125	20.8
Somewhat Disagree	122	20.3
Strongly Disagree	219	36.5
Unsure	28	4.7

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat agree": Democrats = 32.2%; Independents = 40.1%; Republicans = 43.8%

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: *There should be harsh penalties for sharing medical marijuana.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	117	19.5
Somewhat Agree	120	20.0
Somewhat Disagree	102	17.0
Strongly Disagree	218	35.5
Unsure	48	8.0

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat agree": Democrats = 31.1%; Independents = 35.5%; Republicans = 50.5%

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements: ***Medical marijuana should be taxed by the state.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	137	22.8
Somewhat Agree	125	20.8
Somewhat Disagree	92	15.3
Strongly Disagree	179	29.8
Unsure	67	11.2

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat agree": Democrats = 42.2%; Independents = 40.1%; Republicans = 52.1%

Topline Results – COVID-19 Vaccines

Note (not included in questionnaire): According to the CDC and other public health officials, there has been a significant amount of misinformation circulated about COVID-19 vaccines, particularly in online/digital spaces. In order to better understand how this has impacted public perceptions of vaccines and their safety/efficacy, respondents were asked to indicate whether they believed that each of the statements below were True or False. These statements were drawn from the CDC's public guidance on vaccine-related misinformation and included a mix of statements classified by the CDC as both True and False. Statements classified as "False" by the CDC are highlighted in red below. (The survey included a quality control test with these questions, which ensured that respondents were removed from the survey if they were not carefully reading each prompt.)

To the best of your knowledge, are each of the following statements True or False?	Total True	Definitely True	Probably True	Total False	Probably False	Definitely False
COVID-19 vaccines are safe	**71.0**	33.2	37.8	**29.0**	17.3	11.7
Getting sick with COVID-19 builds better immunity than getting a vaccine	**51.0**	16.5	34.5	**49.0**	29.7	19.3
COVID-19 vaccines are causing new variants of the virus to emerge	**41.5**	11.7	29.8	**58.5**	37.3	21.2
Vaccines help prevent the spread of COVID-19	**68.5**	38.5	30.0	**31.5**	17.0	14.5
COVID-19 vaccines alter your DNA	**26.2**	6.0	20.2	**73.9**	34.2	39.7

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COVID-19 vaccines contain a "live strain" of the virus	**49.0**	12.3	36.7	**51.0**	23.0	28.0
COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips	**14.1**	2.3	11.8	**85.8**	23.0	62.8
COVID-19 vaccines can cause infertility	**23.5**	4.0	19.5	**76.5**	40.7	35.8
Vaccines can cause you to get sick with COVID-19	**41.6**	11.8	29.8	**58.4**	26.7	31.7
Vaccines reduce the risk of dying from COVID-19	**76.5**	43.7	32.8	**23.5**	13.7	9.8
Getting a COVID 19 vaccine will cause you to temporarily test "positive" for the virus	**42.2**	8.0	34.2	**57.9**	38.7	19.2

(N= 600)

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Partian Differences in COVID-19 Misinformation Belief: % who say that each statement is either *"Definitely"* or *"Probably True"* (as % of Column Totals)

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Getting sick with COVID-19 builds better immunity than getting a vaccine	35.6	52.6	67.2
COVID-19 vaccines are causing new variants of the virus to emerge	30.6	43.4	47.9
COVID-19 vaccines alter your DNA	15.6	27.6	31.8
COVID-19 vaccines contain a "live strain" of the virus	36.1	48.0	57.3
COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips	12.2	15.8	13.0
COVID-19 vaccines can cause infertility	15.0	23.7	29.2
Vaccines can cause you to get sick with COVID-19	30.6	41.5	50.0
Getting a COVID 19 vaccine will cause you to temporarily test "positive" for the virus	35.6	36.2	48.4

In your opinion, how effective are COVID-19 vaccines for each of the following? *Preventing COVID-19 Infections.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Effective	180	30.0
Somewhat Effective	243	40.5
Not Very Effective	117	19.5
Not at All Effective	60	10.0

(n=600) % "very" + "somewhat effective": Democrats = 86.1%; Independents = 72.4%; Republicans = 55.7%

In your opinion, how effective are COVID-19 vaccines for each of the following? *Preventing Hospitalizations from COVID-19.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Effective	246	41.0
Somewhat Effective	228	38.0
Not Very Effective	82	13.7
Not at All Effective	44	7.3

(n=600) % "very" + "somewhat effective": Democrats = 91.7%; Independents = 80.9%; Republicans = 66.7%

In your opinion, how effective are COVID-19 vaccines for each of the following? *Preventing Death from COVID-19.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Effective	240	40.0
Somewhat Effective	229	38.2
Not Very Effective	74	12.3
Not at All Effective	57	9.5

(n=600) % "very" + "somewhat effective": Democrats = 91.1%; Independents = 80.3%; Republicans = 67.2%

How confident are you in the COVID-19 guidance provided by the CDC and other public health officials?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Confident	184	30.7
Somewhat Confident	210	35.0
Not Very Confident	110	18.3
Not at All Confident	96	16.0

(n=600) % "very" + "somewhat confident": Democrats = 88.3%; Independents = 64.5%; Republicans = 47.4%

Have you talked to your primary care physician about whether a COVID-19 vaccine is right for you?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	319	53.2
No	281	46.8

(n=600) % "yes": Democrats = 55.0%; Independents = 54.6%; Republicans = 56.8%

How likely would you be to receive regular COVID-19 booster shots (i.e. ever year) if they were recommended by public health officials?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Likely	186	41.8
Somewhat Likely	120	27.0
Somewhat Unlikely	74	16.6
Very Unlikely	65	14.6

(n=445 previously vaccinated respondents)
(n=600) % "very" + "somewhat likely": Democrats = 84.1%; Independents = 69.3%; Republicans = 53.0%

Topline Results – Harm Reduction Policies

Note: Harm reduction policies and programs are practical strategies for reducing the likelihood of overdoses, physical harm, and disease transmission. Within this section, we outline the opinions related to Narcan, an overdose reversal medication, and needle disposal programs.

Narcan, also called naloxone, is a nasal spray that can reverse the effects of a drug overdose. First responders, including firefighters and police offers, have access to this medication. In Florida, bystanders (non-medical personnel) can also administer Narcan to help someone experiencing a drug overdose.

If you saw someone experiencing a drug overdose AND you had Narcan available to you, which of the following would you be MOST likely to do?

	Frequency	Percentage
I would NOT be willing to administer Narcan to someone experiencing an overdose	32	5.3
I would call 911 and wait for first responders (even if I had Narcan available to me).	121	20.2
I would be willing to administer Narcan if I had it available to me	190	31.7
I would be willing to administer Narcan, but only if I was trained on how to use it first	257	42.8

(n=600)

Narcan can cost up to $60 per use, and first responders sometimes use it multiple times a day on the same person. ***Given the increase in overdoses in the state, would you support or oppose limiting the number of times first responders use Narcan on the same person?***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	100	16.7
Somewhat Support	131	21.8
Somewhat Oppose	96	16.0
Strongly Oppose	170	28.3
Unsure	103	17.2

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 41.7%; Independents = 33.6%; Republicans = 42.7%

Next, we will ask you some questions about syringe exchange programs. Syringe exchange programs are intended to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases like HIV by allowing individuals to safely dispose of used needles and by providing sterile needles. They also provide access to health services such as testing, vaccines, substance use treatment, and Narcan.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: ***Exchange programs should be available in all counties in Florida.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	276	46.0
Somewhat Agree	164	27.3
Somewhat Disagree	47	7.8
Strongly Disagree	57	9.5
Unsure	56	9.3

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat agree": Democrats = 84.5%; Independents = 73.7%; Republicans = 60.9%

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: ***I would welcome exchange programs in my own community.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	252	42.0
Somewhat Agree	158	26.3
Somewhat Disagree	52	8.7
Strongly Disagree	82	13.7
Unsure	56	9.3

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat agree": Democrats = 80.6%; Independents = 66.5%; Republicans = 56.8%

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: ***Exchange programs will get dirty needles off the street.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	222	37.0
Somewhat Agree	193	32.2
Somewhat Disagree	57	9.5
Strongly Disagree	60	10.0
Unsure	68	11.3

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat agree": Democrats = 81.7%; Independents = 65.1%; Republicans = 61.5%

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: ***Exchange programs will increase drug use.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	74	12.3
Somewhat Agree	129	21.5
Somewhat Disagree	155	25.8
Strongly Disagree	137	22.8
Unsure	105	17.5

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat agree": Democrats = 27.2%; Independents = 32.24%; Republicans = 43.2%

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements: ***Exchange programs will increase crime.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	60	10.0
Somewhat Agree	103	17.2
Somewhat Disagree	150	25.0
Strongly Disagree	173	28.8
Unsure	114	19.0

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat agree": Democrats = 20.0%; Independents = 25.0%; Republicans = 37.5%

Some states provide access to 'sharps disposal containers' like the one pictured below (picture omitted) in restrooms to prevent the risk of needle sticks for visitors or employees attending to the bathroom.

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of following: **Sharps disposal containers in restrooms.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	246	41.0
Somewhat Support	180	30.0
Somewhat Oppose	64	10.7
Strongly Oppose	62	10.3
Unsure	48	8.0

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 75.6%; Independents = 69.7%; Republicans = 68.2%

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of following: **Sharps disposal containers in parks and recreational facilities.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	204	34.0
Somewhat Support	173	28.8
Somewhat Oppose	80	13.3
Strongly Oppose	98	16.3
Unsure	45	7.5

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 70.0%; Independents = 56.6%; Republicans = 63.0%

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of following: ***Additional taxes to pay for the regular upkeep of sharps disposal containers in restrooms.***

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	121	20.2
Somewhat Support	159	26.5
Somewhat Oppose	129	21.5
Strongly Oppose	129	21.5
Unsure	62	10.3

(n=600) % "strongly" + "somewhat support": Democrats = 61.7%; Independents = 41.5%; Republicans = 38.0%

Survey Information

600 adult Floridians were surveyed via an online web-panel. The survey was fielded from August 10th through August 21st 2023, and the results are reported with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of +/- 4. Respondents were selected via stratified, quota sampling to ensure a representative sample. Balanced quotas for gender, age, race/ethnicity, education and party affiliation were determined based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Florida's Department of State, and Florida's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR). Quotas were stratified by region of the state for geographical representativeness.

Sample Comparison

	USF/FAU Survey Sample	Florida Demographics*
Gender		
Female	51.0%	51.1%
Male	48.7%	48.9%
Non-Binary/Other	0.3%	-
Age		
18-24	10.7%	10.8%
25-44	32.2%	31.2%
45-64	31.8%	32.4%
65+	25.3%	25.6%
Race		
Black/African American	17.2%	16.9%
White/Caucasian	71.8%	77.3%
Other	11.0%	5.8%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	29.0%	26.4%
Non-Hispanic	71.0%	73.6%
Education		
Less than 4 Year Degree	67.2%	69.5%
4 Year Degree (or higher)	32.8%	30.5%
Political Affiliation (registered voters only, n=524)		
Democrat	34.4%	36.2%
Independent / Other	29.0%	28.1%
Republican	36.6%	35.7%
Region		
Panhandle	7.2%	7.2%
Northeast Florida	13.8%	12.4%
Central Florida	25.2%	25.5%
West Coast	23.0%	21.9%
Southeast Florida	30.8%	32.9%

*Gender, race, ethnicity, and region quotas based on U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (PEP): https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/FL Age quotas based on Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR): http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/population-demographics/data/index-floridaproducts.cfm Political Affiliation quotas based on Florida Division of Elections https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/data-statistics/voter-registration-statistics/voter-registration-reportsxlsx/voter-registration-by-party-affiliation/

About our Research Team

Kaila Witkowski (PhD, Florida International University, 2022) is an Assistant Professor of Sustainability and Emergency Management in the School of Public Administration at Florida Atlantic University. Her areas of specialization include public health emergencies, emergency management, and visual methodologies like PhotoVoice and network analysis. Her research has been published in multiple fields, including public administration, public health, and social work, and she has worked with national and local funders to conduct engaged research. For additional information, please visit her **FAU faculty page**. Dr. Witkowski can be contacted by email at kwitkowski@fau.edu.

Stephen Neely (PhD, North Carolina State University, 2013) is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of South Florida. He is coordinator of the School's undergraduate program in *Leadership and Public Service.* His areas of specialization include survey research, quantitative data analysis, and public policy. He is a faculty researcher on the Sunshine State Survey project and has conducted survey research on behalf of local governments in the Tampa Bay region. For additional information please visit his **USF faculty page**. Dr. Neely can be contacted by email at srneely@usf.edu

About the University of South Florida

The University of South Florida is a high-impact global research university dedicated to student success. Over the past 10 years, no other public university in the country has risen faster in U.S. News and World Report's national university rankings than USF. Serving more than 50,000 students on campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee, USF is designated as a Preeminent State Research University by the Florida Board of Governors, placing it in the most elite category among the state's 12 public universities. USF has earned widespread national recognition for its success graduating under-represented minority and limited-income students at rates equal to or higher than white and higher income students. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference. Learn more at www.usf.edu.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students across six campuses located along the southeast Florida coast. In recent years, the University has doubled its research expenditures and outpaced its peers in student achievement rates. Through the coexistence of access and excellence, FAU embodies an innovative model where traditional achievement gaps vanish. FAU is designated a Hispanic-serving institution, ranked as a top public university by U.S. News & World Report and a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.

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