





# 2017 USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey Data Release 3

## Detailed Analysis of Guns, Safety, and Assistance to Mentally-Disabled


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NOTE:  indicates question first asked on this year’s survey

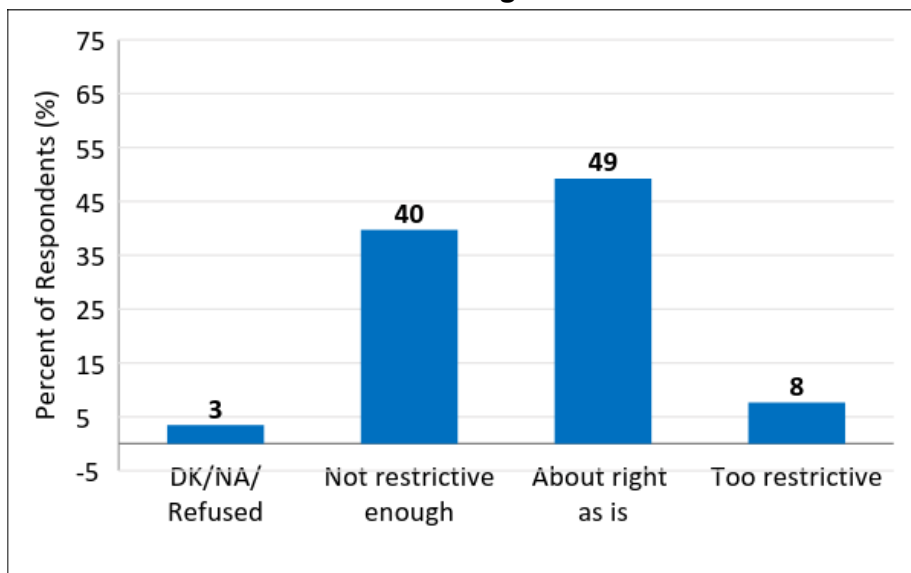
 indicates question has historical trend data

## Detailed Analysis

### Gun Laws: Too Strict or Not Enough?

- About half of Floridians (49%) say that the state's current gun laws are about right as they are. Four-in-ten (40%) say that Florida's gun laws are not restrictive enough, while 8% say that they are too restrictive.
- Citizen approval of Florida's current gun laws is higher than it was in 2015, the last time the question was asked on the USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey (2015: 42%; 2017: 49%). There was a corresponding dip in the share saying that the state's gun laws are not restrictive enough (2015: 48%; 2017: 40%).
- About half of Floridian women (47%) say that the state's current gun laws are not restrictive enough, while slightly more than half of men (54%) say that the state's current gun laws are about right. Men are also significantly more likely to say that the state's current gun laws are too restrictive (11% vs. 4%).
- A majority of African Americans (57%) say that the state's current gun laws are not restrictive enough, compared with 41% of Hispanics and 35% of whites. Similar shares of whites and Hispanics say that the state's current gun laws are about right (53% each). Whites are most likely to say that Florida gun laws are too restrictive – 10%, compared with 5% of African Americans and 4% of Hispanics.
- Older Floridians are more likely to say that Florida's gun laws are not restrictive enough, while younger Floridians are more likely to say that they are about right as is.
- Regionally, half or more of residents in Miami/Ft. Lauderdale (52%) and Palm Beach (56%) say that the state's current gun laws are not restrictive enough. Half or more of residents of Tampa Bay (52%), North Florida (56%), and Orlando (57%) say that Florida gun laws are about right as is. Relatively high shares of residents of North Florida (11%) and Naples (17%) say that current gun laws are too restrictive.
- See Significant Factors tables, below, for more information on demographic differences.

**About half of Floridians see the state’s current gun laws as being “about right”;  
More see as “not restrictive enough” than as “too restrictive”**

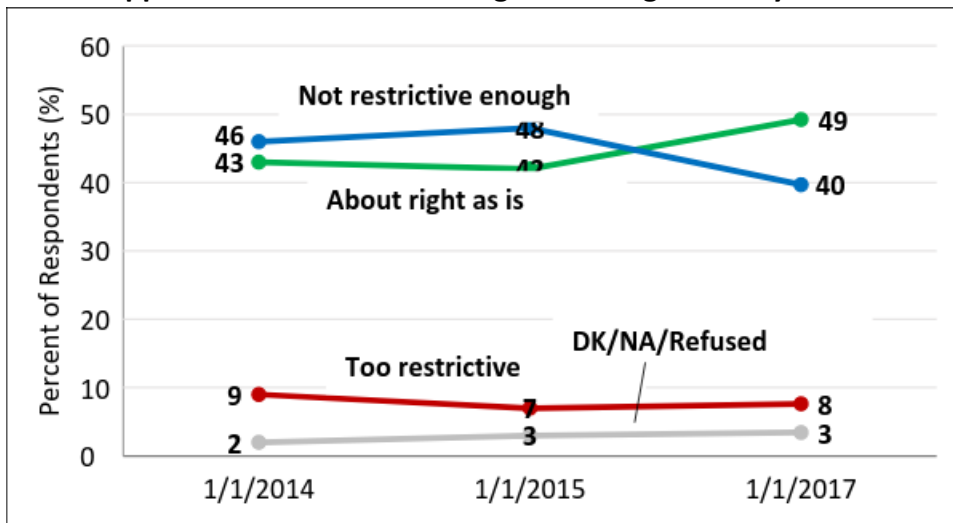


Question wording: “In thinking about Florida’s current gun laws, do you think they are not restrictive enough, too restrictive, or about right as is?”

Source: Telephone survey of a random sample of 1,215 Floridians ages 18 and older conducted July 24-August 14, 2017. Margin of error ± 2.8%.

**2017 USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey**

**Citizen approval of Florida’s current gun laws higher today than in 2015**



Question wording: “In thinking about Florida’s current gun laws, do you think they are not restrictive enough, too restrictive, or about right as is?”

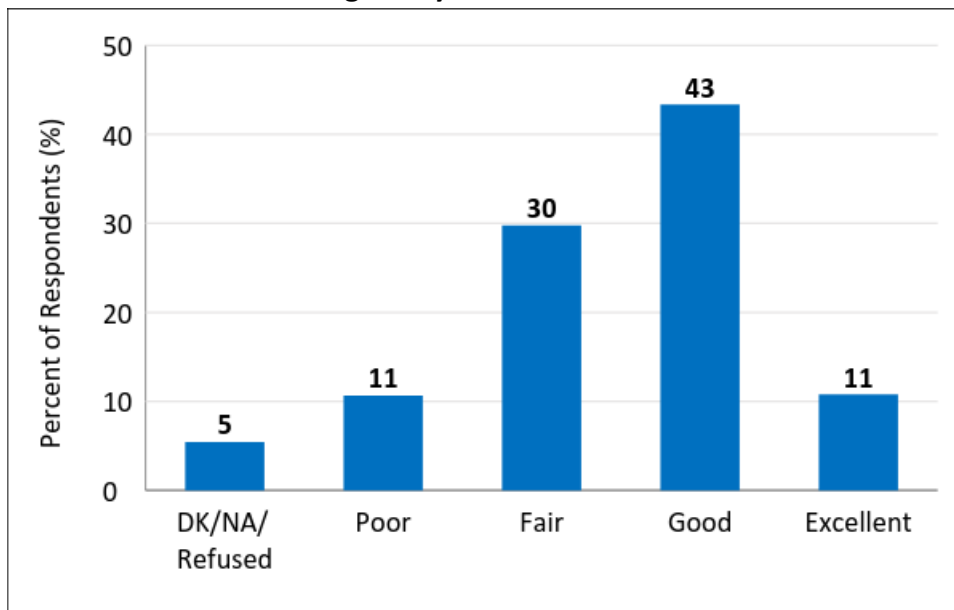
Source: Annual USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Surveys.

**2017 USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey**

### State Government Performance Ratings – Securing the Safety of Children in Schools

- A narrow majority of Floridians, 54%, say that the state does either a good (43%) or excellent (11%) job of securing the safety of children in schools. Still, 41% rate the state’s performance in this area more negatively—either fair (30%) or poor (11%).
- The share of Floridians that rate the state’s performance securing the safety of children at school positively fell five percentage points between 2016 and 2017 (from 59% to 54%). The share saying that the state does a fair job of ensuring the safety of children at school rose over the same period, while the proportion rating the state’s efforts poorly stayed about the same.
- Men are more likely than women to rate the state’s performance securing the safety of children at school positively (56% vs. 52%).
- Also more likely to rate the state’s efforts to secure the safety of children at school positively are 55- to 64-year-olds, those not in the workforce, residents living in a household earning at least \$35,000 but less than \$75,000, and those with a college degree or more.
- Regionally, residents of North Florida, and Tampa Bay rate the state’s performance securing the safety of children at school most positively, while residents of Palm Beach, and Miami/Ft. Lauderdale give the most negative ratings.
- See Significant Factors tables, below, for more information on demographic differences.

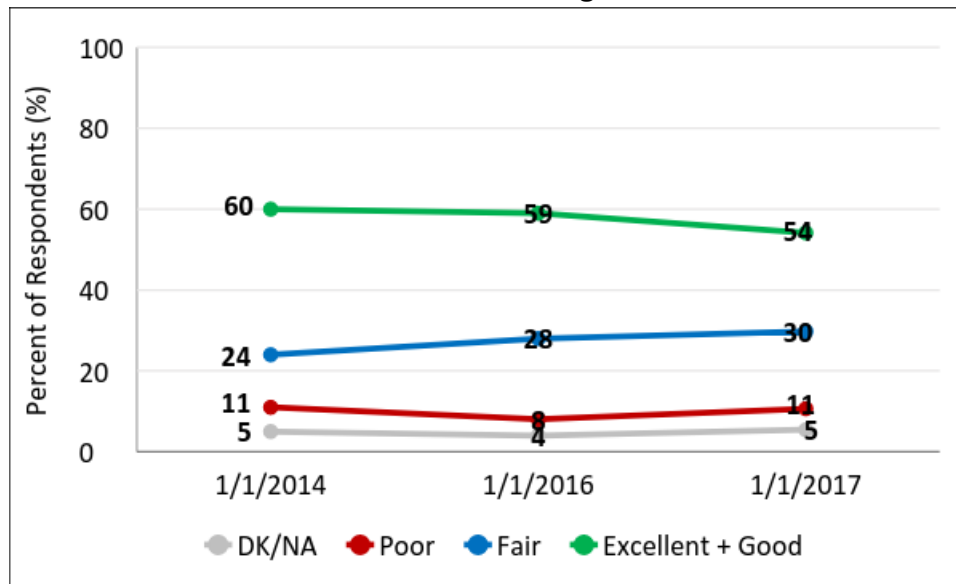
**Slight majority of Floridians give state positive marks for securing safety of children at school**



Question wording: “How good a job does the state do securing the safety of children at school? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?”

Source: Telephone survey of a random sample of 1,215 Floridians ages 18 and older conducted July 24-August 14, 2017. Margin of error ± 2.8%.

**Positive ratings of the state’s performance securing the safety of children at school falling since 2016**



Question wording: “How good a job does the state do securing the safety of children at school? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?”

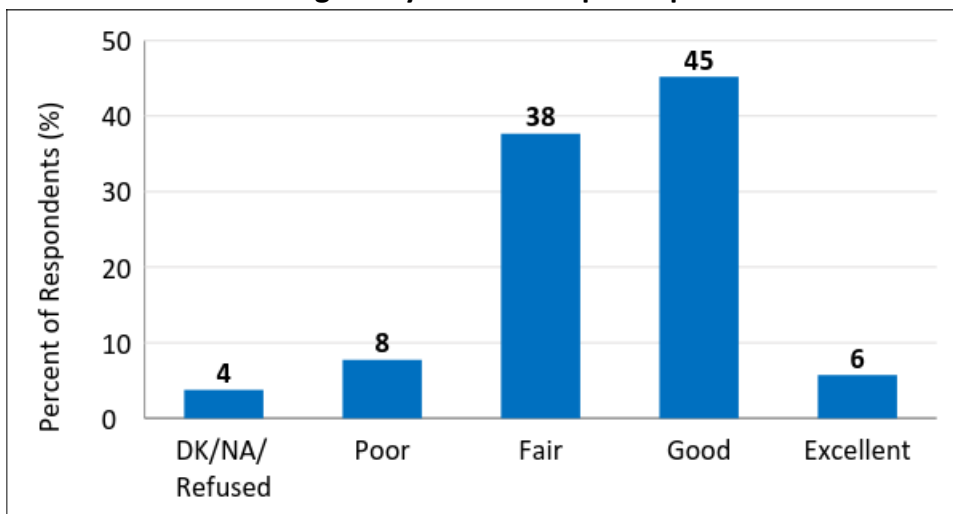
Source: Telephone survey of a random sample of 1,215 Floridians ages 18 and older conducted July 24-August 14, 2017. Margin of error ± 2.8%.

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**State Government Performance Ratings – Securing the Safety of Adults in Public Places**

- The State of Florida receives relatively positive performance ratings for securing the safety of adults in public places, with 45% rating the state’s efforts as good and 6% as excellent. Thirty-eight percent say the state does a fair job on this area, while 8% say it does a poor job.
- There have been few notable changes since 2014 in rankings of the state’s performance securing the safety of adults in public places.
- The state receives higher shares of good or excellent ratings for securing the safety of adults in public places from men, older Floridians, whites, part-time workers, and residents living in households earning \$75,000 or more.
- Regionally, the state receives a higher proportion of positive ratings for its efforts securing the safety of adults in public places from residents of North Florida, and Tampa Bay, while residents of Naples, and Miami/Ft. Lauderdale offer more negative (fair or poor) responses.
- See Significant Factors tables, below, for more information on demographic differences.

**State gets good but mixed marks from Floridians for securing safety of adults in public places**



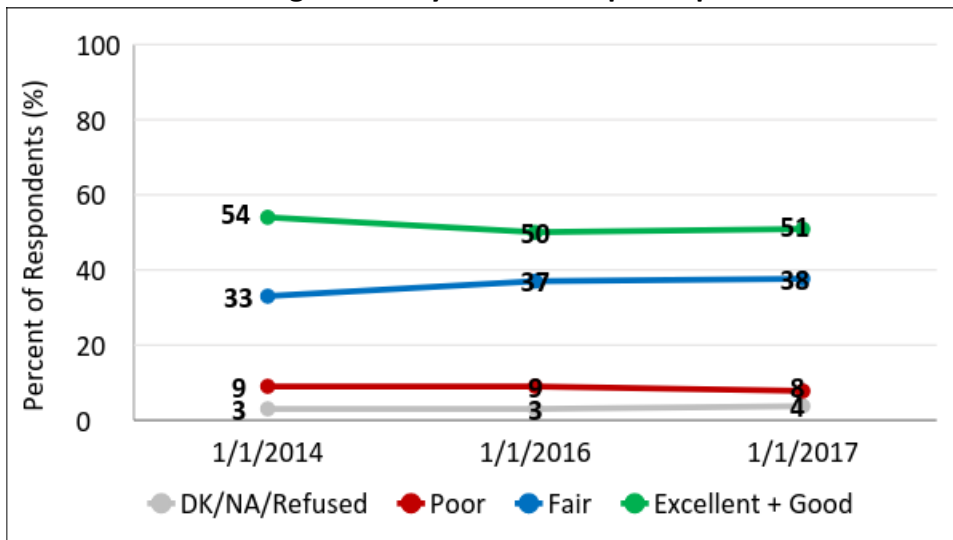
Question wording: “How good a job does the state do securing the safety of adults in public places? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?”

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Telephone survey of a random sample of 1,215 Floridians ages 18 and older conducted July 24-August 14, 2017. Margin of error ± 2.8%.

**2017 USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey**

**Little change since 2014 in ratings of state performance securing the safety of adults in public places**



Question wording: “How good a job does the state do securing the safety of adults in public places? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?”

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

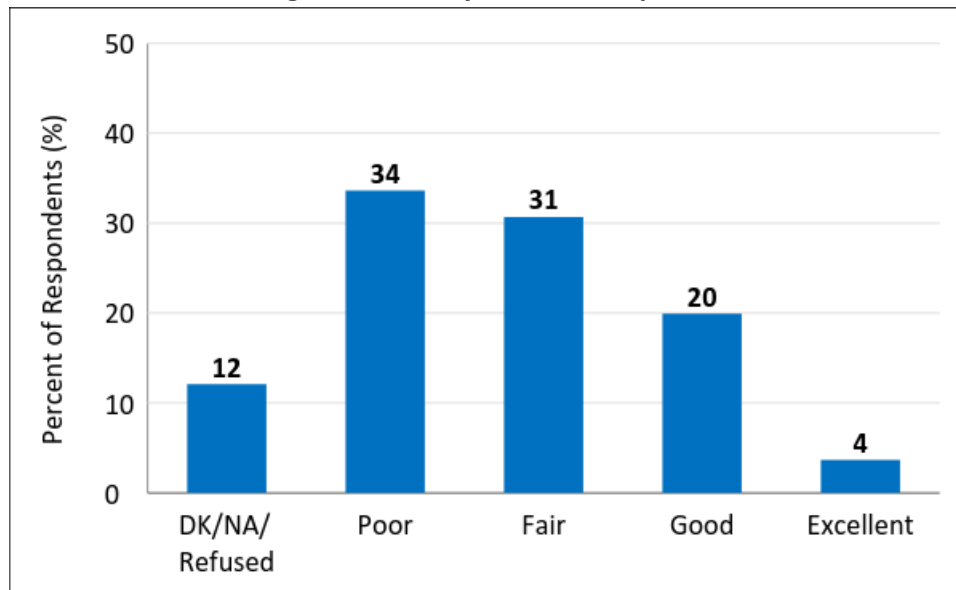
Source: Annual USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Surveys.

**2017 USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey**

### State Government Performance Ratings – Assisting the Mentally Disabled

- More than six-in-ten Floridians (65%) rate the state’s performance assisting the mentally disabled as poor or fair. Only about a quarter (24%) give the state positive ratings for its assistance to the mentally disabled.
- The state receives the most positive ratings for assisting the mentally disabled from younger Floridians, those with a child under age 18 living in their home, part-time workers, and those with only a high school education or less.
- Regionally, residents of Palm Beach and North Florida are most likely to say that the state does a good or excellent job assisting the mentally disabled. Residents of Naples, Miami/Ft. Lauderdale and Orlando give lower shares of positive ratings for the state’s performance.
- See Significant Factors tables, below, for more information on demographic differences.

**More than six-in-ten Floridians rate the state’s performance assisting the mentally disabled as poor or fair**



Question wording: “How good a job does the state do assisting the mentally disabled? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?”

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Telephone survey of a random sample of 1,215 Floridians ages 18 and older conducted July 24-August 14, 2017. Margin of error ± 2.8%.

**2017 USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey**

## Crosstabulation Analysis

This section provides analysis of all statistically significant differences among several demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic groups. *If results by a certain group are not shown, then any differences cannot be reliably attributed to actual differences between the groups.*

### Gun Laws: Too Strict or Not Enough?

**Significant Factors: Gun Laws: Too Strict or Not Enough?**

Respondent Characteristics		In thinking about Florida’s current gun laws, do you think they are not restrictive enough, too restrictive, or about right as is?			
		DK/NA/Refused	Not Restrictive Enough	About Right as Is	Too Restrictive
		%	%	%	%
<b>All Floridians</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Gender ***</b>	<b>Male</b>	2	32	54	11
	<b>Female</b>	5	47	44	4
<b>Age Group *</b>	<b>18-34</b>	2	37	51	9
	<b>35-54</b>	4	38	51	7
	<b>55-64</b>	2	41	46	11
	<b>65-79</b>	7	41	46	5
	<b>80 and older</b>	2	48	46	4
<b>Race/Ethnicity ***</b>	<b>White</b>	2	35	53	10
	<b>African-American</b>	7	57	31	5
	<b>Hispanic</b>	3	41	53	4
	<b>Other</b>	5	40	45	10
<b>Employment Status ***</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	3	34	54	9
	<b>Part Time</b>	1	48	45	6
	<b>Not in Work Force</b>	4	50	46	1
	<b>Unemployed</b>	4	34	48	14
	<b>Retired</b>	5	42	47	6
<b>Education **</b>	<b>High School or less</b>	5	45	45	5
	<b>Some College</b>	2	34	55	9
	<b>College Grad</b>	4	43	46	7

Note: See full notes at end of table.



**Significant Factors: Gun Laws: Too Strict or Not Enough?**

Respondent Characteristics		In thinking about Florida’s current gun laws, do you think they are not restrictive enough, too restrictive, or about right as is?			
		DK/NA/Refused	Not Restrictive Enough	About Right as Is	Too Restrictive
		%	%	%	%
<b>All Floridians</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Region ***</b>	<b>Tampa Bay</b>	2	37	52	9
	<b>Miami/Ft. Lauderdale</b>	5	52	40	3
	<b>Orlando</b>	4	32	57	7
	<b>Palm Beach</b>	0	56	38	5
	<b>North Florida</b>	3	30	56	11
	<b>Naples</b>	6	28	49	17

Significance levels: \* 0.05; \*\* 0.01; \*\*\* 0.001

Question wording: “In thinking about Florida’s current gun laws, do you think they are not restrictive enough, too restrictive, or about right as is?”

Note: Rows sum to total. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Results for Naples based on a small number of responses and should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Telephone survey of a random sample of 1,215 Floridians ages 18 and older conducted July 24-August 14, 2017.

Margin of error differs between various groups depending on sample size.

**2017 USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey**

**State Government Performance Ratings – Securing the Safety of Children at School**

**Significant Factors: State Government Performance Ratings –  
Securing the Safety of Children at School**

Respondent Characteristics		State government performance ratings – Securing the safety of children at school				
		DK/NA/ Refused	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
		%	%	%	%	%
<b>All Floridians</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Gender ***</b>	<b>Male</b>	3	13	28	44	12
	<b>Female</b>	7	9	32	43	9
<b>Age Group ***</b>	<b>18-34</b>	3	14	26	43	14
	<b>35-54</b>	5	10	35	41	10
	<b>55-64</b>	6	9	28	50	7
	<b>65-79</b>	8	13	30	44	5
	<b>80 and older</b>	11	3	20	43	22
<b>Child at Home **</b>	<b>Yes</b>	2	11	31	44	12
	<b>No</b>	7	10	29	43	10
<b>Employment Status **</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	4	13	29	43	10
	<b>Part Time</b>	2	9	34	45	9
	<b>Not in Work Force</b>	1	5	30	52	12
	<b>Unemployed</b>	8	12	34	31	14
	<b>Retired</b>	9	10	27	44	11
<b>Household Income ***</b>	<b>&lt;\$35,000</b>	4	10	33	38	15
	<b>\$35,000-\$74,999</b>	5	13	26	50	6
	<b>\$75,000+</b>	5	8	31	46	10
	<b>DK/NA/Refused</b>	10	14	30	34	13
<b>Education **</b>	<b>High School or less</b>	6	9	30	38	17
	<b>Some College</b>	6	10	32	41	12
	<b>College Grad</b>	5	12	28	47	8
<b>Child Enrolled in School *</b>	<b>Child in School</b>	2	11	32	44	11
	<b>No Child in School</b>	7	11	29	43	10

Note: See full notes at end of table.

**Significant Factors: State Government Performance Ratings –  
Securing the Safety of Children at School, cont.**

Respondent Characteristics		State government performance ratings – Securing the safety of children at school				
		DK/NA/ Refused	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
		%	%	%	%	%
<b>All Floridians</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Region ***</b>	<b>Tampa Bay</b>	4	12	25	46	13
	<b>Miami/Ft. Lauderdale</b>	8	11	34	38	10
	<b>Orlando</b>	6	14	30	43	7
	<b>Palm Beach</b>	7	10	39	37	8
	<b>North Florida</b>	2	5	25	52	16
	<b>Naples</b>	6	11	31	44	7

Significance levels: \* 0.05; \*\* 0.01; \*\*\* 0.001

Question wording: “How good a job does the state do securing the safety of children at school? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?”

Note: Rows sum to total. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Results for Naples based on a small number of responses and should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Telephone survey of a random sample of 1,215 Floridians ages 18 and older conducted July 24-August 14, 2017.

Margin of error differs between various groups depending on sample size.

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**State Government Performance Ratings – Securing the Safety of Adults in Public Places**

**Significant Factors: State Government Performance Ratings –  
Securing the Safety of Adults in Public Places**

Respondent Characteristics		State government performance ratings – Securing the safety of adults in public places				
		DK/NA/ Refused	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
		%	%	%	%	%
<b>All Floridians</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Gender **</b>	<b>Male</b>	3	7	38	45	8
	<b>Female</b>	4	9	38	45	4
<b>Age Group ***</b>	<b>18-34</b>	<1	6	44	42	8
	<b>35-54</b>	4	11	37	45	3
	<b>55-64</b>	3	6	32	51	8
	<b>65-79</b>	6	8	35	48	3
	<b>80 and older</b>	9	3	33	42	13
<b>Race/Ethnicity ***</b>	<b>White</b>	3	7	33	51	7
	<b>African-American</b>	4	11	56	26	2
	<b>Hispanic</b>	4	8	37	46	5
	<b>Other</b>	6	10	44	35	5
<b>Employment Status **</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	3	7	39	47	4
	<b>Part Time</b>	2	6	38	49	4
	<b>Not in Work Force</b>	2	15	32	42	9
	<b>Unemployed</b>	2	13	44	33	8
	<b>Retired</b>	6	7	35	46	7
<b>Household Income ***</b>	<b>&lt;\$35,000</b>	6	9	38	38	9
	<b>\$35,000-\$74,999</b>	3	6	38	47	5
	<b>\$75,000+</b>	1	5	34	56	5
	<b>DK/NA/Refused</b>	7	15	44	30	4
<b>Region *</b>	<b>Tampa Bay</b>	5	5	37	43	9
	<b>Miami/Ft. Lauderdale</b>	4	12	38	43	3
	<b>Orlando</b>	4	6	41	44	4
	<b>Palm Beach</b>	3	10	35	44	7
	<b>North Florida</b>	3	4	33	53	7
	<b>Naples</b>	2	12	39	45	2

Significance levels: \* 0.05; \*\* 0.01; \*\*\* 0.001

Question wording: “How good a job does the state do securing the safety of adults in public places? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?”

Note: Rows sum to total. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Results for Naples based on a small number of responses and should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Telephone survey of a random sample of 1,215 Floridians ages 18 and older conducted July 24-August 14, 2017.

Margin of error differs between various groups depending on sample size.

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**State Government Performance Ratings – Assisting the Mentally Disabled**

**Significant Factors: State Government Performance Ratings – Assisting the Mentally Disabled**

Respondent Characteristics		State Government Performance Ratings – Assisting the Mentally Disabled				
		DK/NA/Refuse	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
		%	%	%	%	%
<b>All Floridians</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Age Group ***</b>	<b>18-34</b>	7	29	32	25	7
	<b>35-54</b>	13	35	30	20	2
	<b>55-64</b>	10	39	30	16	5
	<b>65-79</b>	16	37	32	13	1
	<b>80 and older</b>	23	25	23	23	5
<b>Child at Home **</b>	<b>Yes</b>	9	30	37	22	3
	<b>No</b>	13	35	28	19	4
<b>Employment Status ***</b>	<b>Full Time</b>	10	35	31	21	3
	<b>Part Time</b>	7	25	33	32	3
	<b>Not in Work Force</b>	13	34	28	22	3
	<b>Unemployed</b>	15	31	33	13	8
	<b>Retired</b>	16	36	29	16	3
<b>Education ***</b>	<b>High School or less</b>	14	27	24	27	9
	<b>Some College</b>	13	30	32	22	3
	<b>College Grad</b>	11	39	32	16	2
<b>Child Enrolled in School *</b>	<b>Child in School</b>	9	30	37	20	3
	<b>No Child in School</b>	13	35	28	20	4
<b>Region *</b>	<b>Tampa Bay</b>	14	26	36	20	4
	<b>Miami/Ft. Lauderdale</b>	15	36	28	17	4
	<b>Orlando</b>	13	35	29	18	5
	<b>Palm Beach</b>	8	36	28	25	3
	<b>North Florida</b>	6	38	29	24	3
	<b>Naples</b>	15	33	33	19	0

Significance levels: \* 0.05; \*\* 0.01; \*\*\* 0.001

Question wording: “How good a job does the state do assisting the mentally disabled? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?”

Note: Rows sum to total. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Results for Naples based on a small number of responses and should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Telephone survey of a random sample of 1,215 Floridians ages 18 and older conducted July 24-August 14, 2017. Margin of error differs between various groups depending on sample size.

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– END –