



University of Central Florida

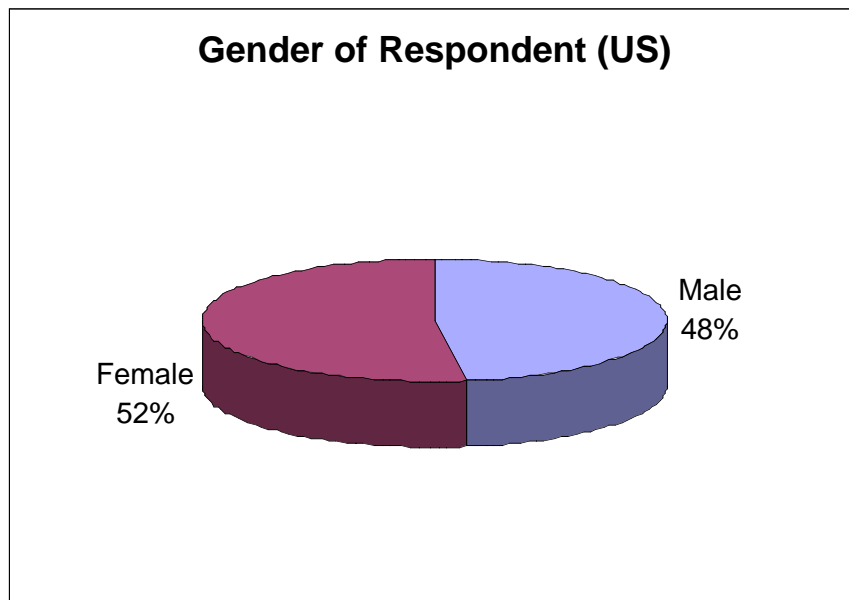
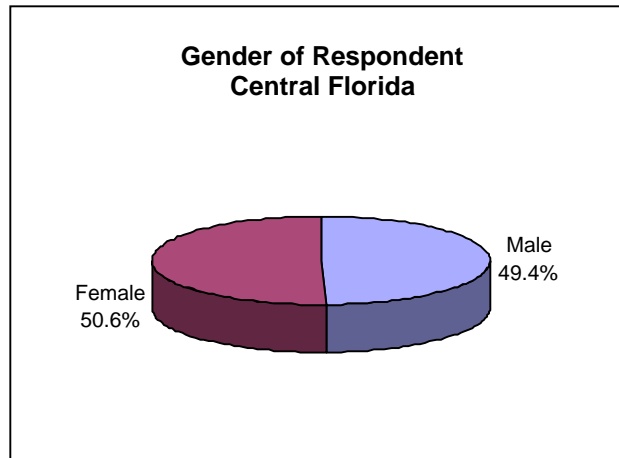
Institute for Social and Behavioral Science
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Orlando, FL 32816-1360

The Ties that Bind
The Central Florida Social Capital Survey
A Snapshot of Survey Respondents
Fall, 2005

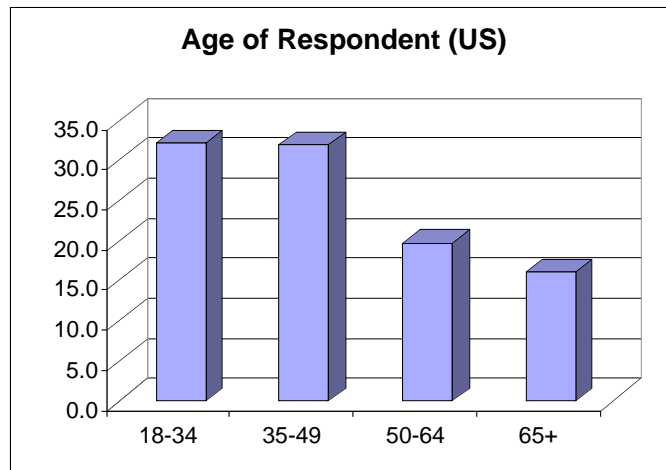
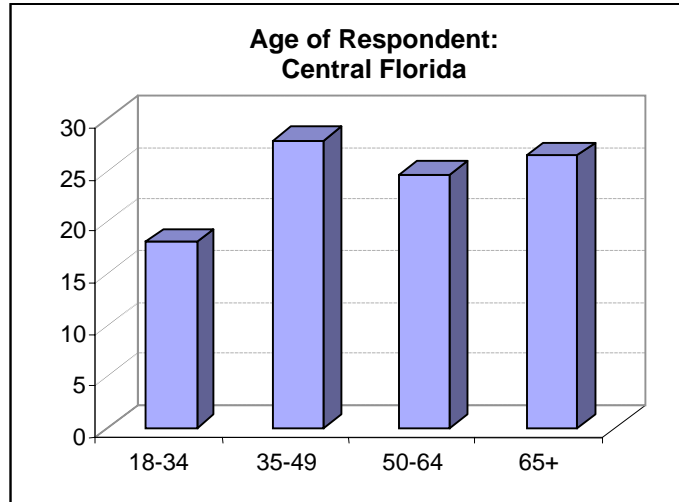
By

James D. Wright and Jana L. Jasinski

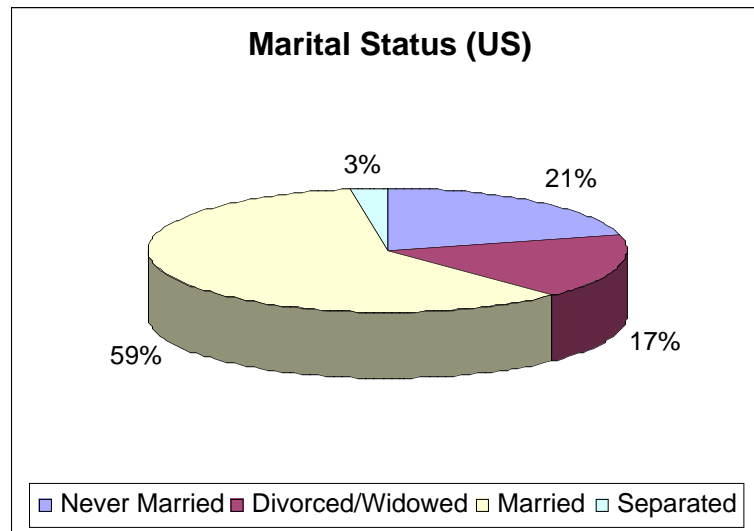
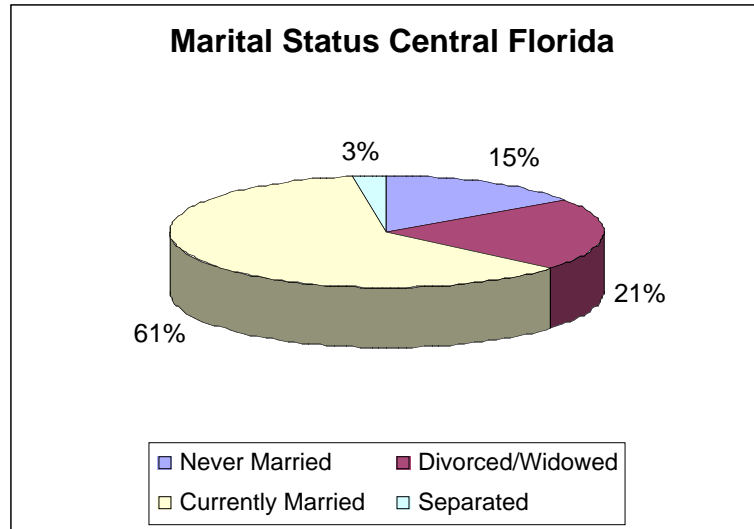
This report provides a snapshot of the Central Florida community as represented by respondents to the Central Florida Social Capital Survey. Where possible, comparable data from the National Social Capital Survey are also presented. All Central Florida data reported here are derived from the weighted sample. The gender distribution for Central Florida exactly matches the corresponding Census distribution because of how the sample data were weighted. But note that the weighted data are also a very close match to the national data, a common refrain throughout the following analysis.



The median age of Central Florida survey respondents is 52 years, with 13% under 30 and 28% 65 and older. Compared to the 2000 Census and to the National Social Capital Survey, older respondents are over-represented in our survey.

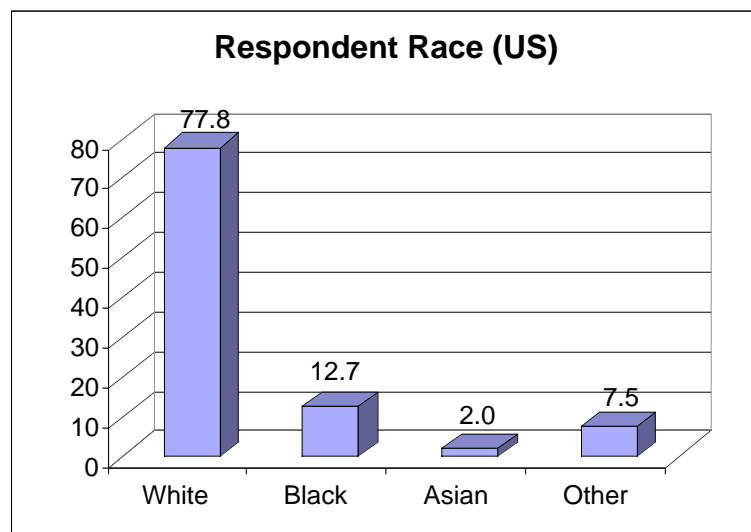
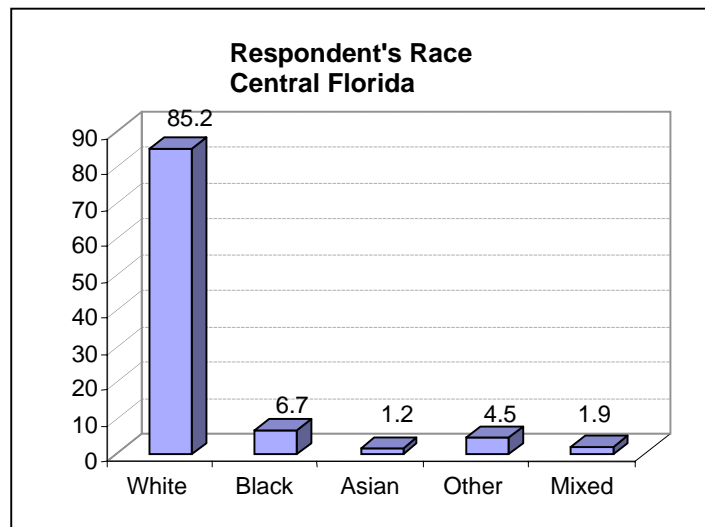


Three-fifths of Central Floridians (61%) are currently married, a sixth (15%) have never married, a tenth are widows and widowers, and the remainder are separated or divorced, all very close to comparable US figures. Almost one in five (19%) of those not currently married are living with a partner. Two thirds of our respondents live in households with no children; 79% live in households with two or more adult members.

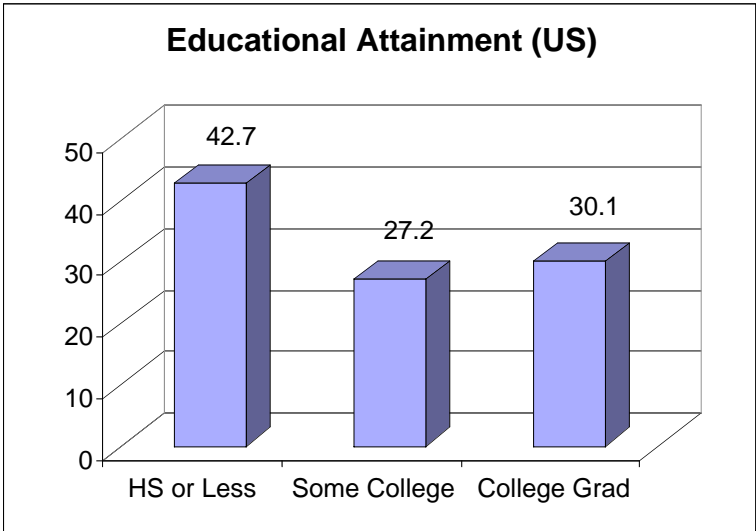
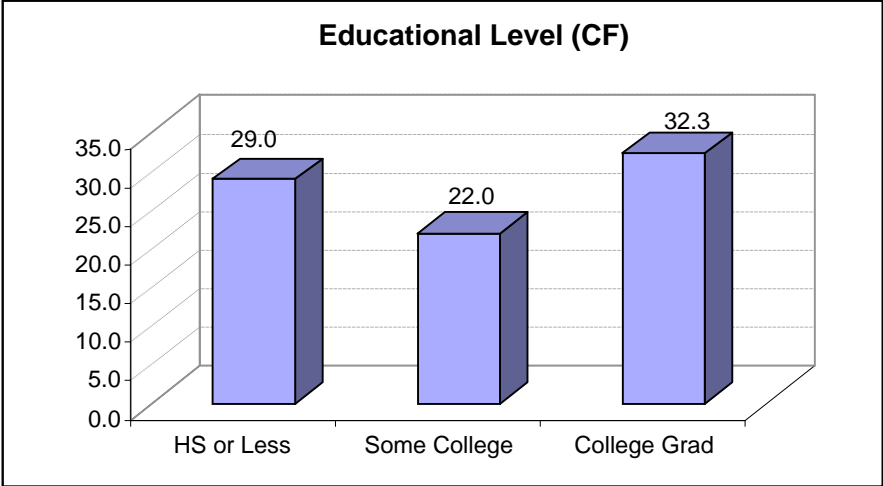


85% of Central Florida's survey respondents consider themselves to be white, with the remainder claiming other ethnic heritages. Seven percent of the sample is black or African American; 8% of the sample claim Hispanic or Latino origins. Among Hispanics, just over half are Puerto Rican, 10% are Mexican, 8% are Cuban, and 30% are from elsewhere in the Caribbean or Central or South America. County by county, the ethnicities of survey respondents match up fairly well with the corresponding Census values. Just over 97% of all respondents claim US citizenship.

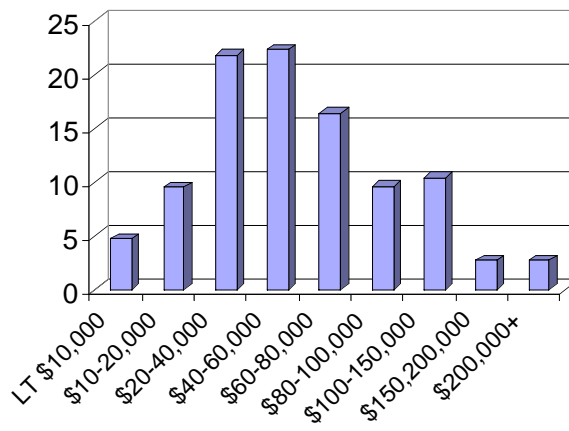
Compared to national data, Central Florida contains proportionally more whites and fewer African Americans, but the differences are not large.



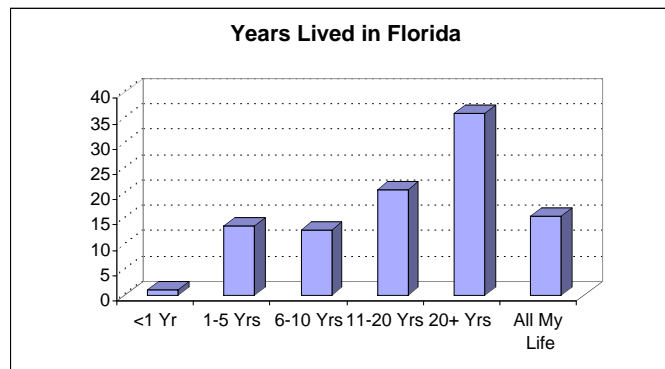
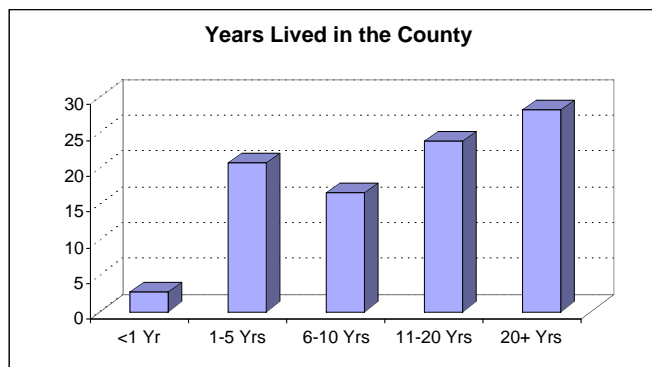
Educationally, 29% of our respondents have a high school degree or less, 39% have some college or a two-year degree, and the remaining 32% have a college diploma or more. Nearly a tenth have graduate or professional degrees. Educational levels in the Central Florida data are generally higher than in the national data. Just over a third of our survey households (36%) have annual incomes of \$40,000 or less; 39% are between \$40,000 and \$80,000, and the remaining quarter have incomes exceeding \$80,000 per year. (Data from the national survey on income are not comparable and are therefore not presented.)



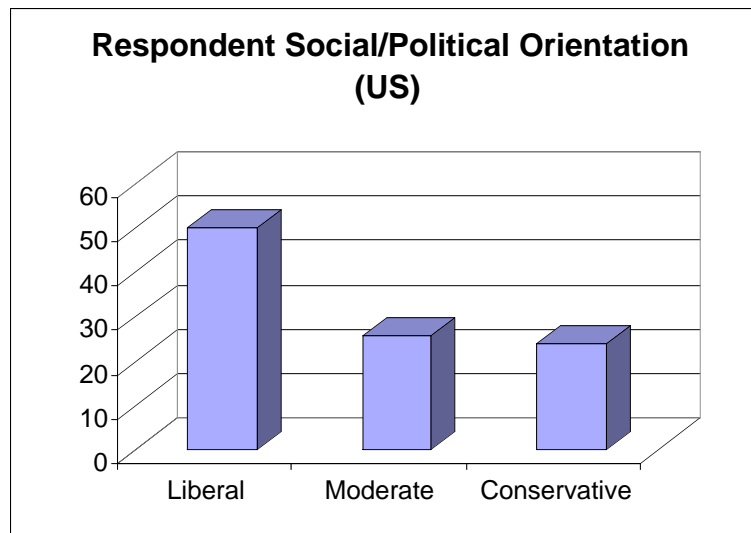
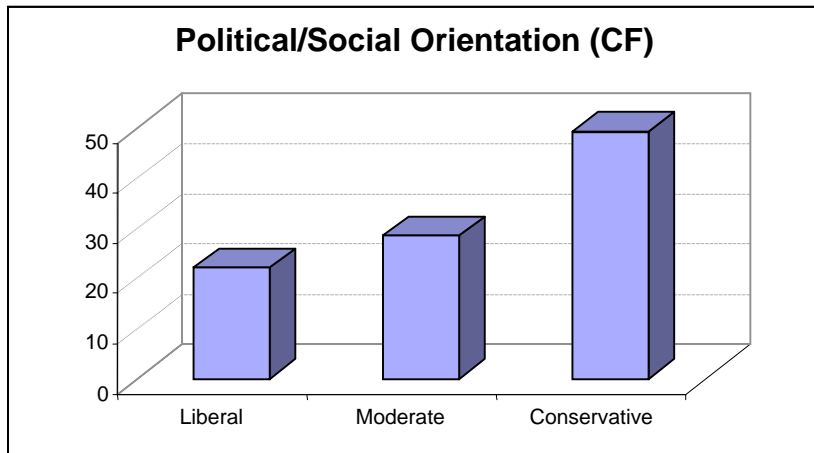
HH Income of Respondents: CF



Homeowners comprise 84% of the sample; renters and “others” the remainder. 15% of the sample has lived in Florida for five or fewer years; just over half (52%) have lived here more than 20 years. Corresponding percentages for current county of residence are 26% and 36% (less than five, more than twenty, respectively). Exactly one-third of respondents have had just one address in the previous ten years; 31% have had two addresses; the remaining 36% have had three addresses or more. Nearly four in five respondents expect to be living in the same county five years from now. And all but 2% are year round residents of the state. Compared to regional demographics, longer-term and more “stable” residents are somewhat over-represented. (The national data do not ask about years in state or county, only in the “local community.”)

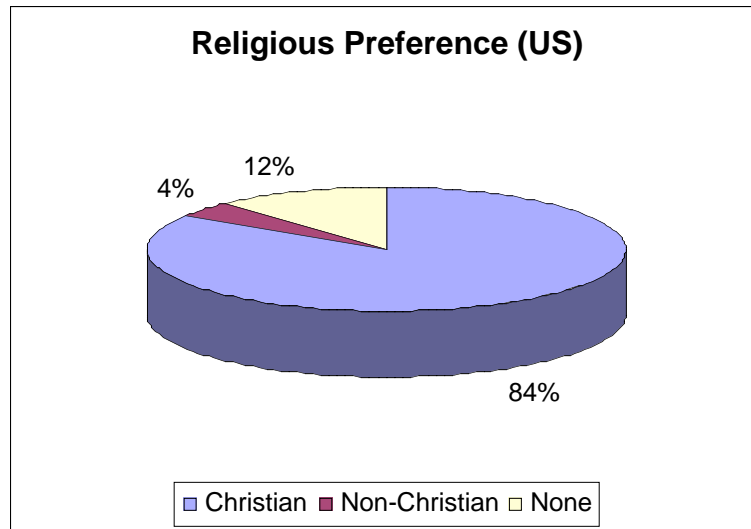
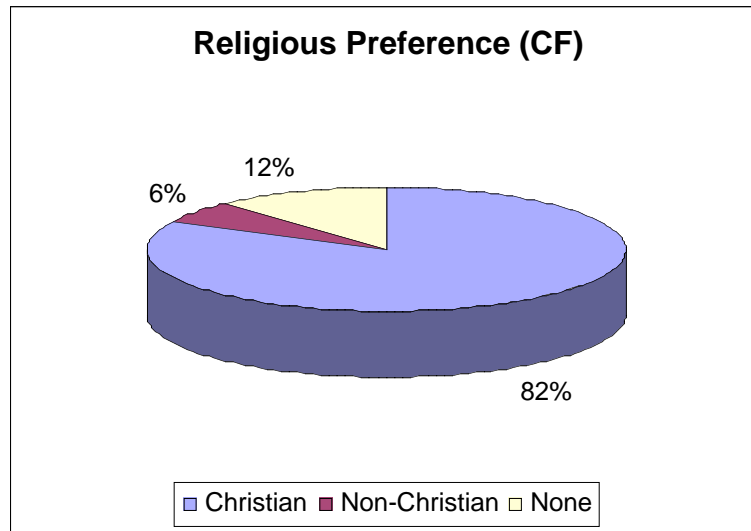


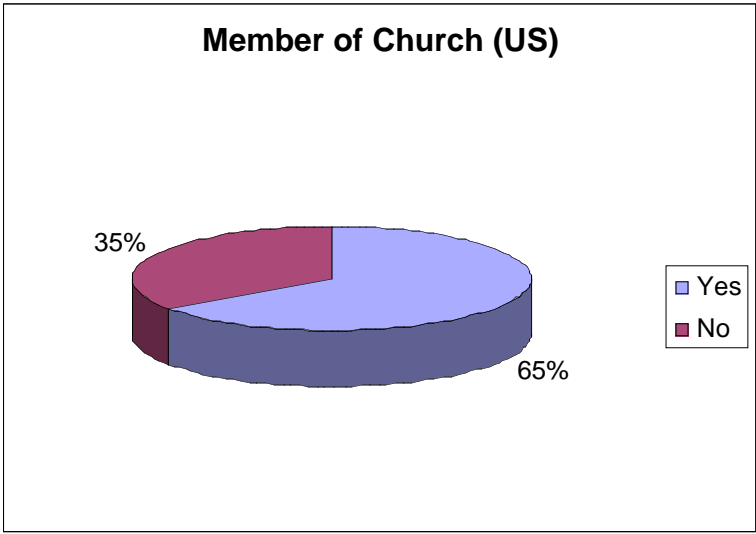
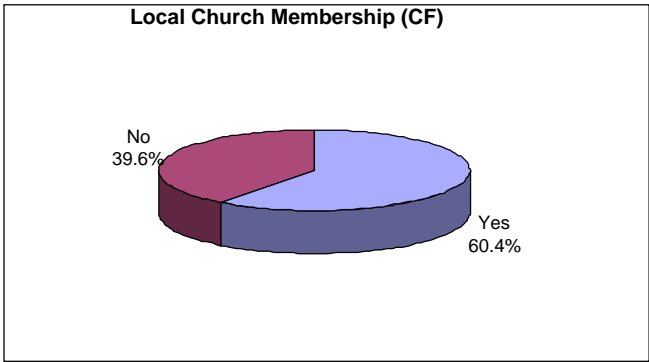
Slightly fewer than half the Central Florida respondents (49%) describe themselves as conservative, 29% are "middle of the road," and 22% describe themselves as liberal. The region is distinctively more conservative than the nation as a whole. About 88% say they are registered to vote (almost certainly reflecting a "social desirability" bias in the answers); of those, 43% are registered as Republicans, 37% as Democrats, 17% as "No Party Preference," and 3% are registered as something else (e.g., Green Party, Libertarian Party, etc.) Despite the large majority saying they are registered to vote (88%) and saying they are very or somewhat interested in politics and national affairs (76%), fewer than one in seven could correctly name both United States Senators from Florida.



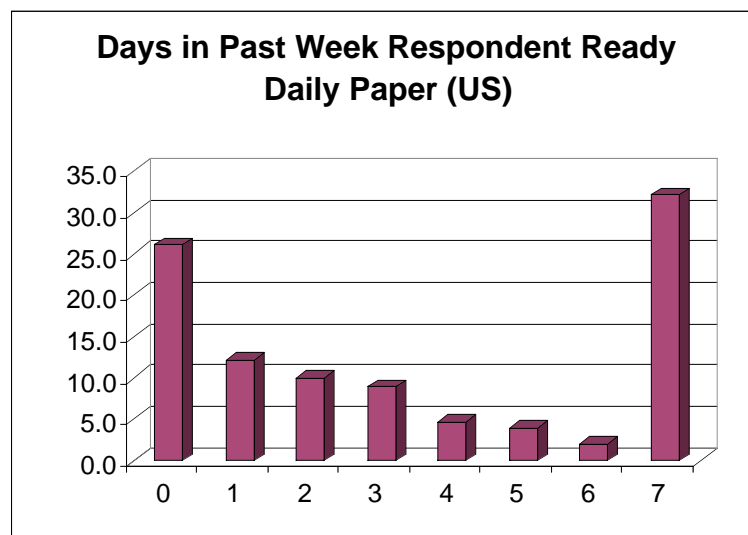
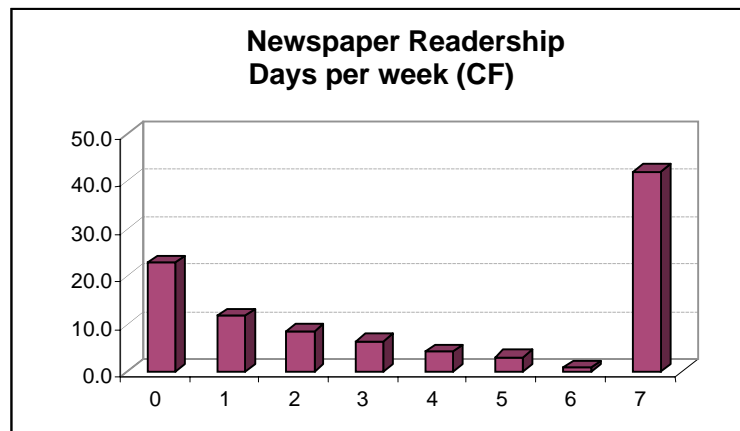
The large plurality (49%) of Central Floridians are Protestants, followed by Catholics (22%), other Christian (12%), and those who claim no religious preference (also 12%). Jews comprise just over 1%, Muslims about half that. About half (52%) of those who acknowledge a religious preference say they have been "born again." The overall distribution of religious preference in the Central Florida data is highly similar to the US overall.

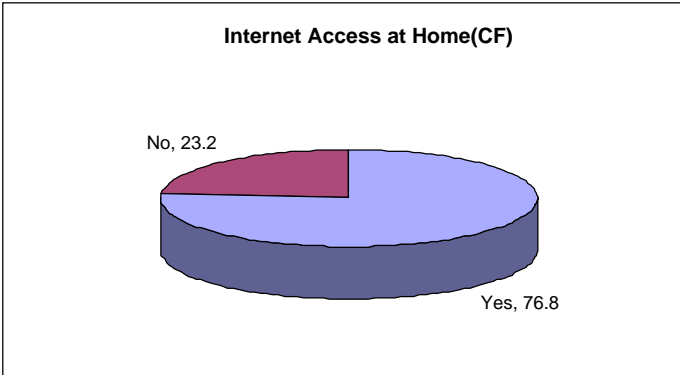
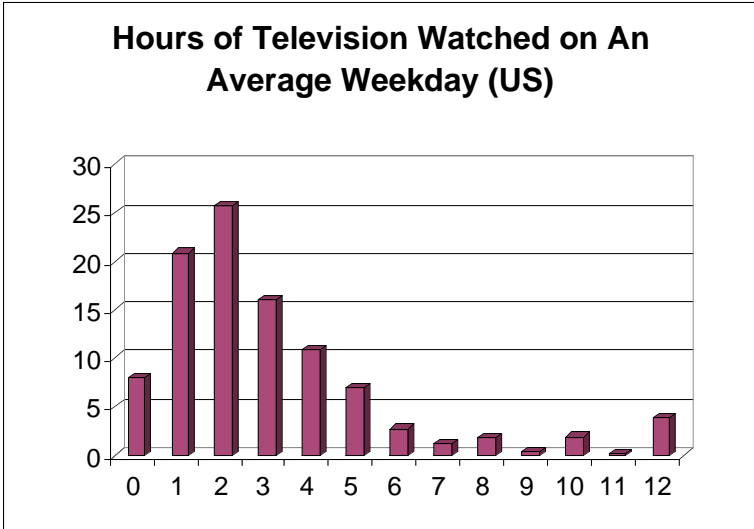
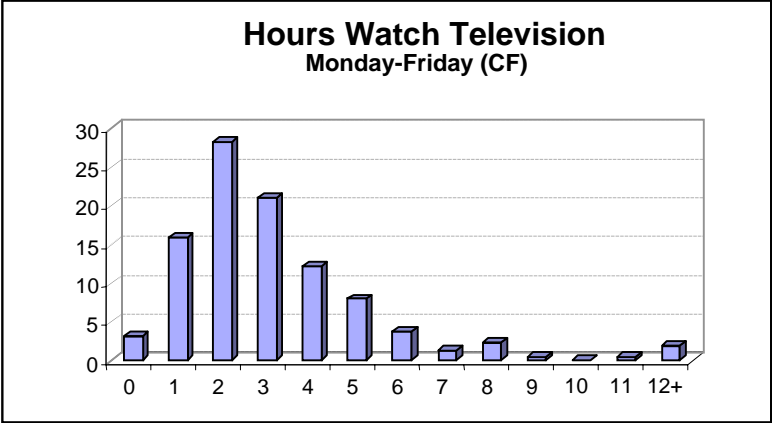
Somewhat surprisingly given that 88% acknowledge a religious preference, only 60% claim to be a member of a local church, synagogue, or other religious or spiritual community (slightly lower than the US average). Even fewer (46%) attend religious services every week or nearly every week. Fully a quarter attend services "a few times a year" or less. And yet, 60% agree strongly and an additional 21% agree that "religion is very important in my life."

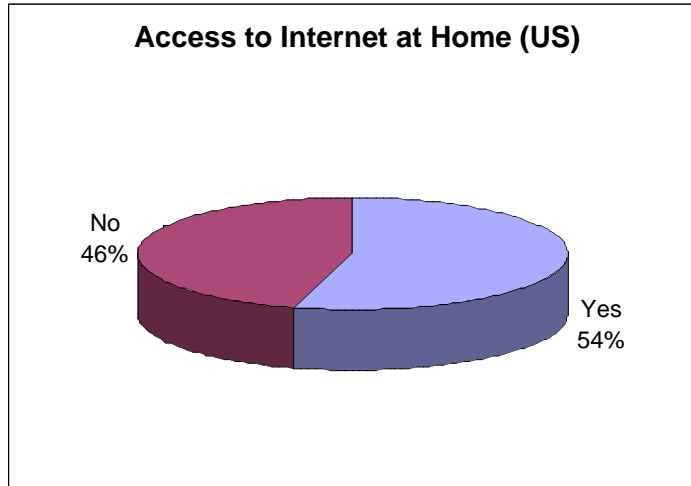




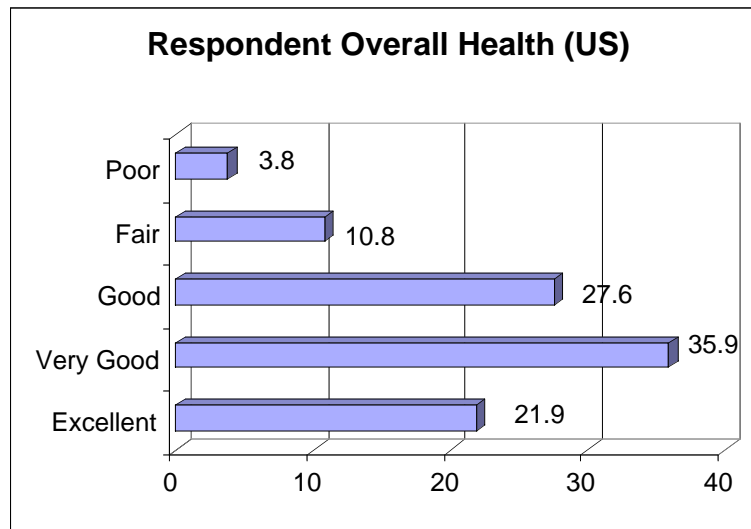
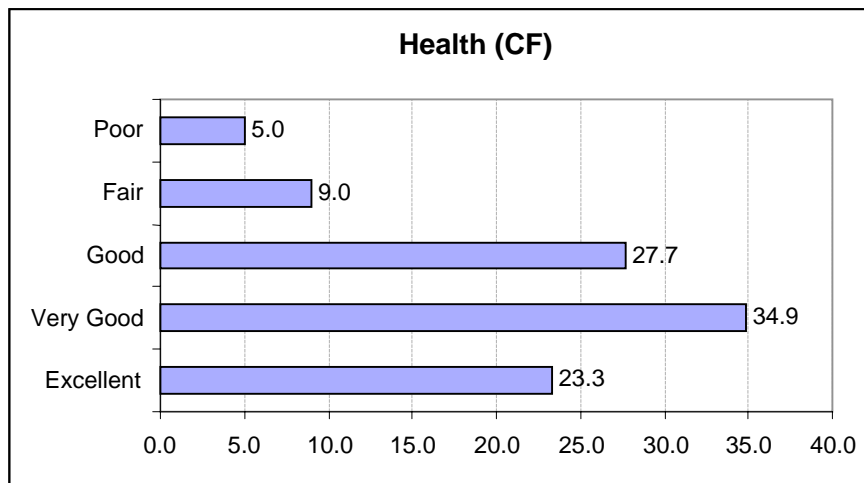
The plurality (42%) of Central Florida respondents say they read a newspaper every day; about one in four (23%) never do. National data are comparable. Two-fifths (39%) agree strongly or somewhat that “television is my primary form of entertainment.” On average, respondents watch 3.3 hours of television per day, about average for Americans in general (who, according to A.C. Nielson, average 3 hours and 46 minutes of TV per day). Note the close similarity of the national and Central Florida distributions of hours of TV consumed per day. More than three-quarters (77%) of Central Floridians have Internet access at home, and the median hours spent per day at home (not including work) using the internet or emailing is a bit more than two. In the national data, the corresponding Internet access is 54% but those data are five years older and the national percentage has increased sharply in those five years.



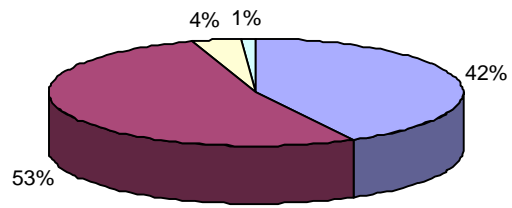




Finally, our respondents (as well as the national respondents) are generally well and happy. 86% describe their health as good, very good, or excellent; 95% are happy or very happy.

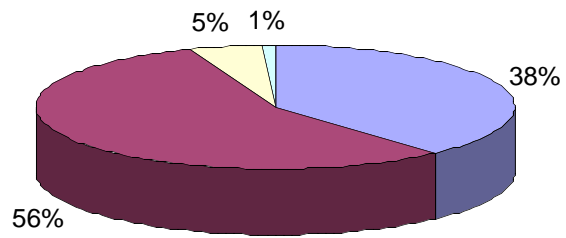


Happiness (CF)



Very Happy Happy Not Very Happy Not Happy at All

Respondent Overall Happiness (US)



Very Happy Happy Not Very Happy Not Happy