
Attitudes Toward Personal Injury Lawsuits:

A Survey of Florida Residents

*Survey Conducted by Braun Research and
Commissioned by
Florida Stop Lawsuit Abuse
(FSLA)*

February 2006



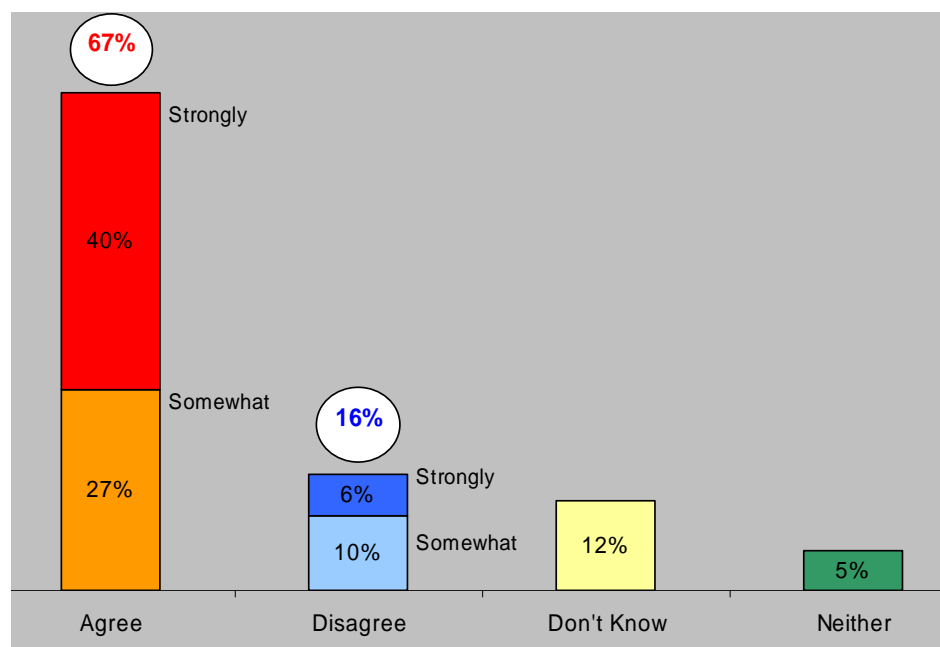
SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

- A majority of Florida residents surveyed are concerned that lawsuits are harming Florida's economy.
- Most Floridians are concerned that frivolous lawsuits and the threat of liability increases the cost of goods and services for working families.
- More than 3-in-4 Floridians believe that personal injury lawyer advertising encourages people to sue even if they have not been injured.
- More than 2-in-3 Floridians believe most people file lawsuits to win big money rather than to punish wrong-doers or bring justice to the injured.
- An overwhelming majority of Floridians believe a person should only be responsible for paying the damages that he or she actually caused, and should not be held responsible for damages caused by another.
- More than 4-in-5 Floridians would favor legislation to change current Florida law and establish that a person can only be made to pay for his fair share of a loss—not for the damages caused by another.

DETAILED FINDINGS

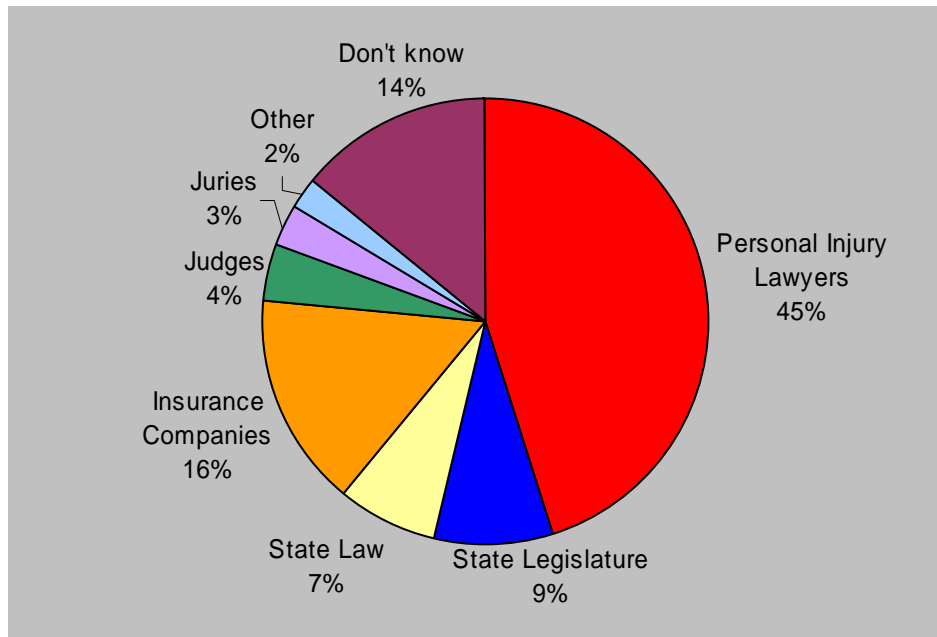
CONCERNS ABOUT NUMBER OF LAWSUITS

A majority (67%) of Florida residents agree that there are too many lawsuits in Florida. Moreover, 40% of Floridians "strongly agree" with this statement.



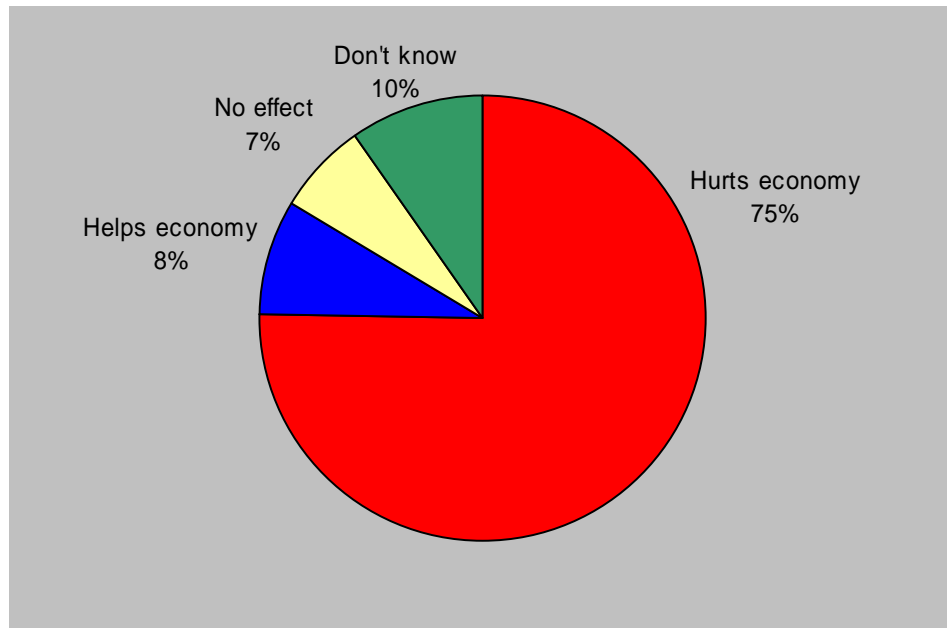
VIEWS ON WHO IS TO BLAME FOR LAWSUITS

Nearly 1-in-2 Floridians (45%) believe that personal injury lawyers are most to blame for frivolous lawsuits in Florida.



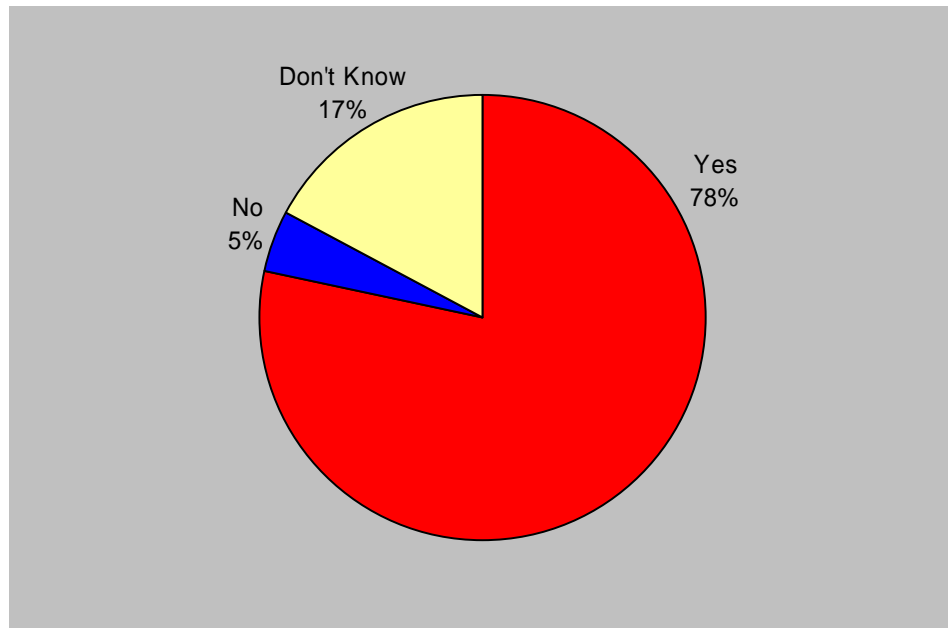
OPINIONS ON IMPACT OF LAWSUITS ON FLORIDA'S ECONOMY

A majority of Floridians (75%) feel that lawsuits are harming Florida's economy.



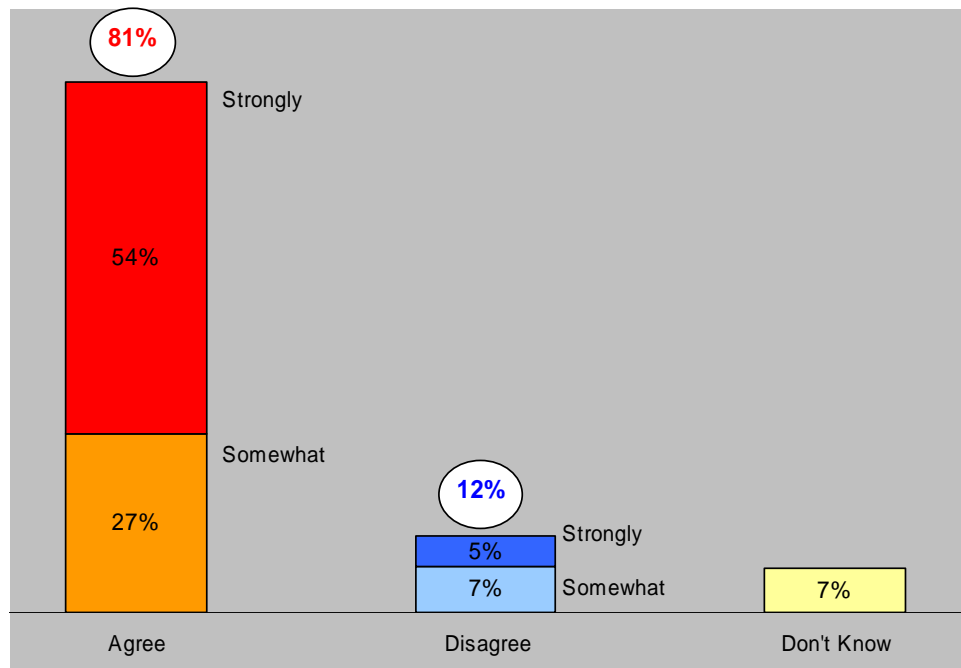
CONCERNS ABOUT PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER ADVERTISING

More than 3-in-4 (78%) Florida residents believe that personal injury lawyer advertising encourages people to sue even if they have not been injured.

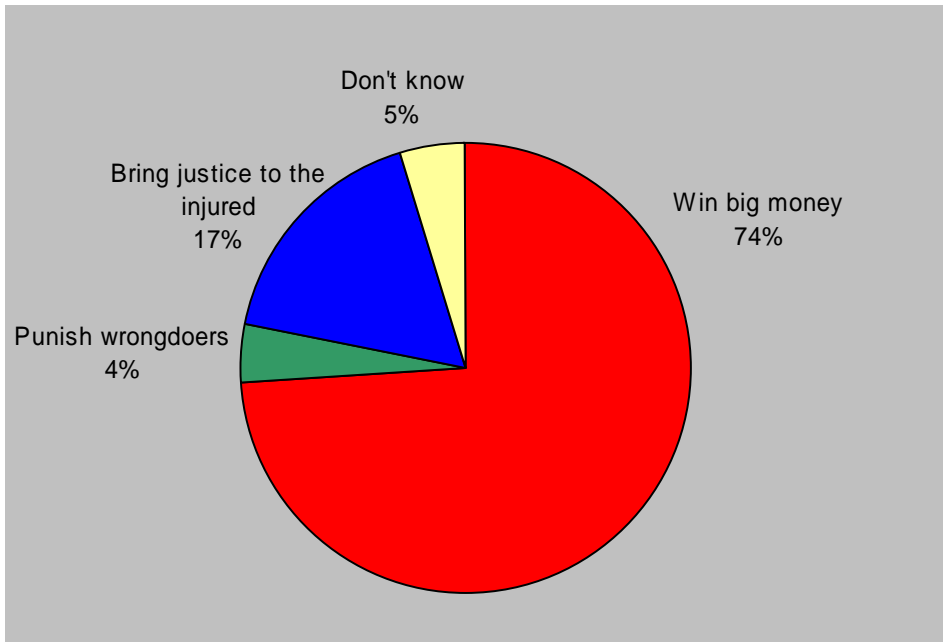


OPINIONS ON MOTIVES IN FILING LAWSUITS

A strong majority (81%) of Floridians believe that personal injury lawyers who file lawsuits are more interested in making money than helping their clients.

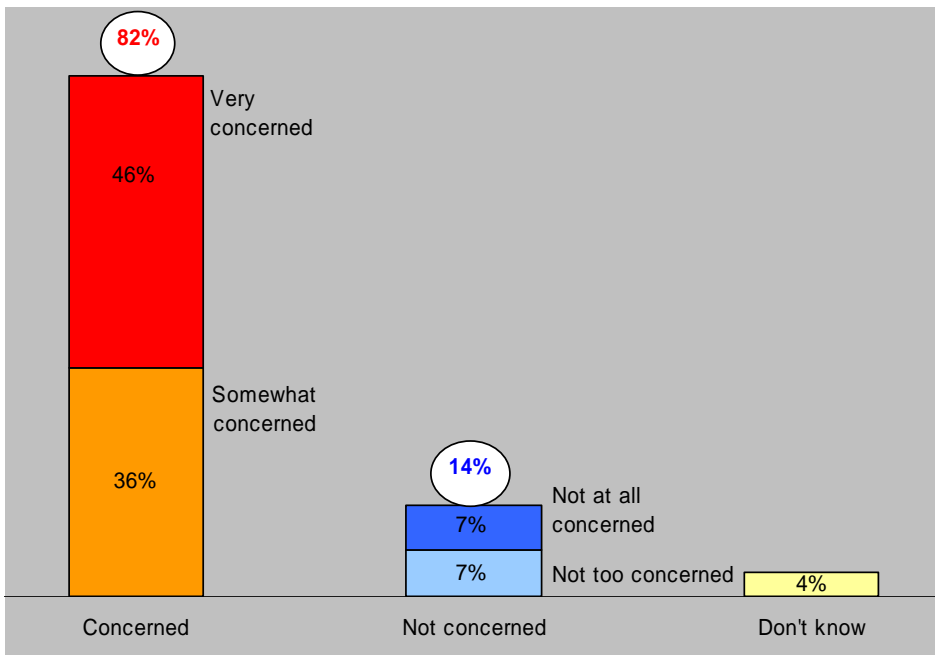


More than 2-in-3 (74%) Floridians believe that most people file lawsuits to win big money rather than to punish companies or other wrongdoers (4%) or bring justice to those who were injured or wrong (17%).



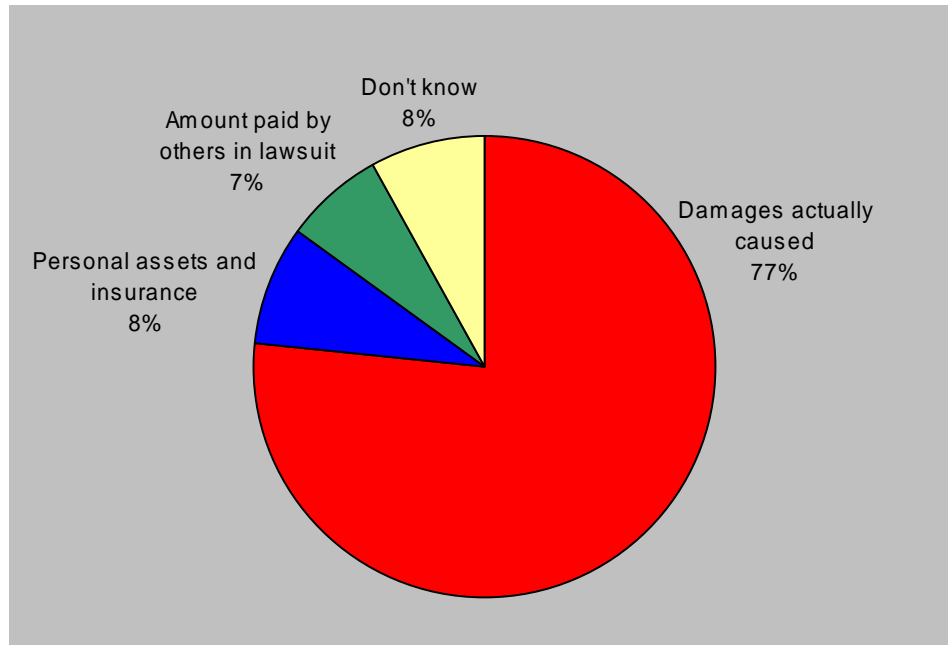
OPINIONS ON IMPACT OF LAWSUIT ABUSE ON WORKING FAMILIES

More than 8-in-10 (82%) Floridians are concerned that frivolous lawsuits and the threat of liability increases the cost of goods and services for working families. Additionally, almost half (46%) of those concerned described themselves as “very concerned.”

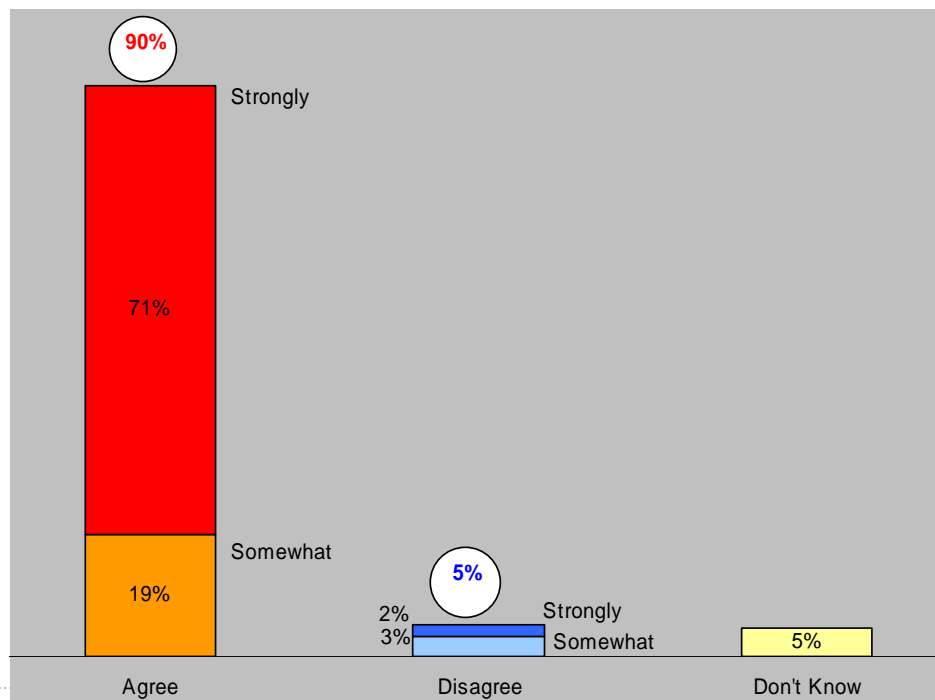


OPINIONS ON RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY DAMAGES IN A LAWSUIT

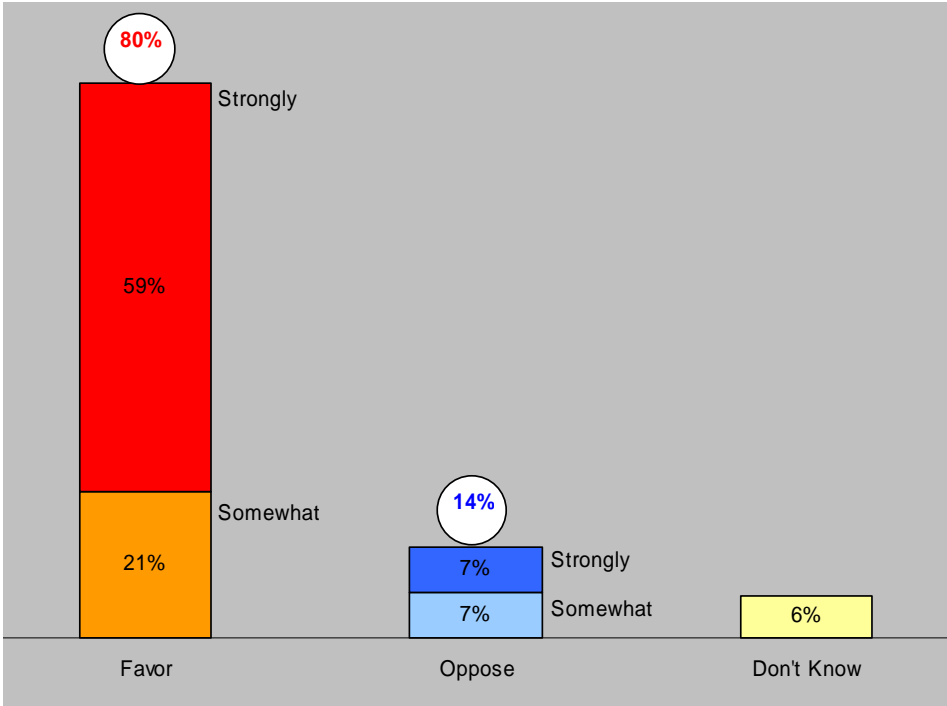
More than 3-in-4 (77%) Floridians believe that a person's obligation to pay damages should be based on the damages that person actually caused, rather than on how much money or insurance the person has (8%), or the amount of money being paid by others involved in the lawsuit (7%).



More than 4-in-5 (90%) Florida residents agree a person should pay only those damages he or she actually caused and not the damages caused by another. More than 2-in-3 (71%) Florida residents "strongly" agree.



Of Floridians surveyed, 4-in-5 (80%) support legislation to establish that a person can only be made to pay for his fair share of a loss—not for the damages caused by another. More than half (59%) would “strongly” support it.



METHODOLOGY

The findings reported in this release are from a telephone survey conducted by the opinion research firm, Braun Research. The survey was sponsored by Florida Stop Lawsuit Abuse. Braun Research completed 508 interviews with adults 18 or older in the state of Florida. The interviews were conducted between February 9 and February 13, 2006. The margin of error for this study is ± 4.35 percentage points. Interviews were monitored at random.

Sampling for this study was conducted using a national probability sample of all exchanges and area codes across the state of Florida. All interviews were conducted using a computer assisted telephone interviewing system. Statistical weights were designed from United States Census Bureau statistics.