

STATEWIDE SURVEY REPORT

Introduction

A statewide public opinion survey was conducted by Beacon Research for Florida's Trauma Care Alliance. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain knowledge about and opinions toward trauma care in Florida. A random sample of 400 residents of Florida was conducted during January 2004. A sample of this size has an approximate error rate of plus or minus 5% at the 95% level of confidence. This means if we had interviewed all residents, we are 95% sure we would have found within plus or minus 5% of what the sample found. The demographic description of the sample is displayed in Appendix A. Appendix B contains a frequency distribution for each question.

Results

Of those expressing an opinion:

- 99% said it was either very important (92%) or somewhat important (7%) to have emergency care available in their community;
- About one-third (31%) could describe a trauma center;
- When a trauma center was described to those who did not know what it was, and individuals who did know what a trauma center is were included, 95% said it was either very important (76%) or somewhat important (19%) to have the level of care provided by a trauma center in their community;
- 87% would be either very likely (66%) or somewhat likely (21%) to support increasing DUI/DWI fines to support a trauma center;
- 78% would be either very likely (51%) or somewhat likely (27%) to support increasing other fines, e.g., speeding or running stoplights, to support a trauma center;
- 79% would be either very supportive (42%) or somewhat supportive (37%) of using increases in fines to pay for physicians staffing a trauma center;
- 30% would be willing to write a letter to the editor to support increasing fines to support a trauma center, and another 16% said they might be willing to write a letter of support;
- 41% would consider contacting a legislator to urge him or her to support a law to increase fines for this reason, and another 14% said they might be willing to write a letter of support.

Statistical tests were conducted to see if age, gender or political party affiliation were related to the issues reported above. These tests indicate:

- individuals in the 35-54 and 55-64 age groups were more likely to be able to describe the qualifications for a facility to be considered a trauma center;
- individuals in the 65+ age group were more likely to support increasing fines for speeding, etc., to support a trauma center;
- individuals in the 18-34 age group were more likely to be willing to write a letter to the editor supporting fine increases;
- democrats were more likely to say it is very important for a community to have a trauma center, but when very important and somewhat important are combined, there is no difference in support based on party affiliation;
- females were more likely to say it is very important to have trauma care available in a community, but when very important and somewhat important are combined, there is no difference of opinion based on gender;
- females were more likely to support using money from increasing fines for speeding and running stoplights to support trauma centers;
- for all other comparisons based on age, gender or party affiliation, no differences were found.

Results of this study indicate strong support for trauma-level care. Respondents expressed high levels of support for both emergency care and trauma care for their communities. They indicate a willingness to support increasing fines for both major and minor traffic violations, and using this increase to support trauma care. About 8 in 10 also would support using money from increased fines to pay physicians who staff trauma centers. About one-third said they would be willing to write a letter to the editor to support increasing fines, and 40% would be willing to call a legislator to seek support. For the most part, support exists regardless of age, gender or party affiliation.



APPENDIX A

DEMOGRAPHICS

<u>Descriptor</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Age	
18-34	15
35-54	31
55-64	21
65+	32
REFUSED	1
Gender	
Male	39
Female	61
Party Affiliation	
Democrat	34
Republican	30
Independent	13
Some other party	2
Not registered	12
REFUSED	9



APPENDIX B

Frequency Tables

Q1 How important is it to you to have emergency medical care available in your community?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Very Important	364	91.0	91.7	91.7
	2 Somewhat Important	27	6.8	6.8	98.5
	3 Not Very Important	2	.5	.5	99.0
	4 Not At All Important	4	1.0	1.0	100.0
	Total	397	99.3	100.0	
Missing	9 DK	3	.8		
Total		400	100.0		

Q2 Can you tell me the difference between an emergency room in a hospital and a trauma center?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Yes	125	31.3	31.3	31.3
	2 Described something else.	138	34.5	34.5	65.8
	3 Does not know difference	137	34.3	34.3	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Q3 How important is it to you for your community to have this type of trauma center care?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Very Important	298	74.5	75.6	75.6
	2 Somewhat Important	76	19.0	19.3	94.9
	3 Not Very Important	12	3.0	3.0	98.0
	4 Not At All Important	8	2.0	2.0	100.0
	Total	394	98.5	100.0	
Missing	9 DK	6	1.5		
Total		400	100.0		

Q4 How likely would you be to support increased fine (DUI / DWI)..if money were to support trauma centers?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Very Likely	251	62.8	65.9	65.9
	2 Somewhat Likely	81	20.3	21.3	87.1
	3 Not Very Likely	14	3.5	3.7	90.8
	4 Not At All Likely	35	8.8	9.2	100.0
	Total	381	95.3	100.0	
Missing	9 DK	19	4.8		
Total		400	100.0		



Q5 How likely would you be to support increased fine (Speeding/Running Stoplights)...if money were to support trauma centers?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Very Likely	193	48.3	50.8	50.8
	2 Somewhat Likely	103	25.8	27.1	77.9
	3 Not Very Likely	32	8.0	8.4	86.3
	4 Not At All Likely	52	13.0	13.7	100.0
	Total	380	95.0	100.0	
Missing	9 DK	20	5.0		
Total		400	100.0		

Q6 How supportive...if fines used to help pay for physicians?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Very Supportive	161	40.3	42.3	42.3
	2 Somewhat Supportive	142	35.5	37.3	79.5
	3 Not Very Supportive	36	9.0	9.4	89.0
	4 Not At All Supportive	42	10.5	11.0	100.0
	Total	381	95.3	100.0	
Missing	9 DK	19	4.8		
Total		400	100.0		

Q7 Would you be willing to write a letter to the editor supporting this proposal?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Yes	117	29.3	29.8	29.8
	2 No	214	53.5	54.5	84.2
	3 Maybe	62	15.5	15.8	100.0
	Total	393	98.3	100.0	
Missing	9	7	1.8		
Total		400	100.0		

Q8 Would you be willing to call your legislator and express your support for this type of proposal?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1 Yes	161	40.3	41.1	41.1
	2 No	178	44.5	45.4	86.5
	3 Maybe	53	13.3	13.5	100.0
	Total	392	98.0	100.0	
Missing	9	8	2.0		
Total		400	100.0		

