

What Kentuckians Think about The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati
and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky



After much debate in Congress about healthcare reform, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law in early 2010. Some provisions of the law took effect immediately, and some will be phased in through 2014.

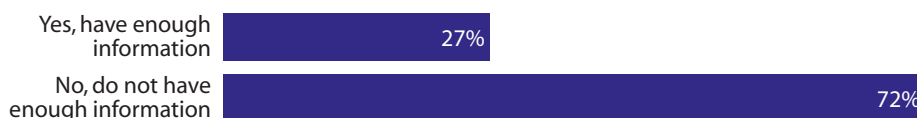
As the provisions of the law are phased in, elected officials continue to discuss healthcare reform. To find out what Kentuckians think, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati included questions about the ACA and its components on the most recent *Kentucky Health Issues Poll*.

Kentuckians Need More Information about the ACA

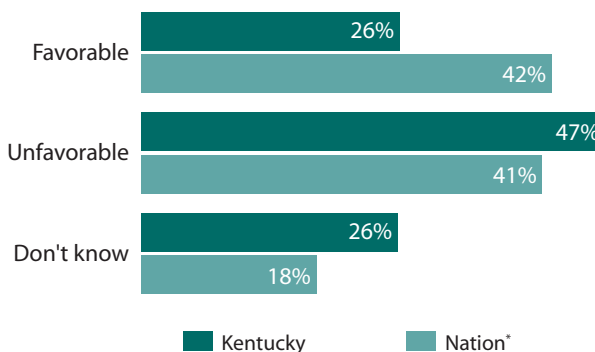
Only 1 in 4 Kentucky adults (27%) felt they had enough information about the ACA to understand how it would affect them personally. Therefore, 3 in 4 adults (72%) needed more information to understand how the law would affect them. The need for additional information was consistently high regardless of age, education, or political affiliation.

Despite the need for more information about how it would affect them, more than 1 in 4 Kentucky adults reported having a generally favorable opinion of the ACA (26%), while nearly

Do you feel you have enough information about the health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not? (Percentages will not add to 100% because the percent responding "don't know" are not included.)



Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?



* National data are from the December 2010 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll.

1 in 2 adults had a generally unfavorable opinion of it (47%). Another 1 in 4 Kentucky adults (26%) expressed no opinion about the law. A recent national poll found that 42% of adults in the U.S. had a favorable view of the law and 41% of adults had an unfavorable view of it.¹

Political affiliation made a difference in who favored the law. Only 1 in 10 (11%) Republican

respondents reported a generally favorable opinion of the ACA, compared to 4 in 10 Democratic respondents (38%) and 1 in 4 Independents (26%).

Bipartisan Support of Components of the Law

The majority of Kentuckians—regardless of political affiliation—said that the inclusion of certain elements in the law made them more favorable toward the law. Respondents felt most favorably

¹ National polling results come from the December 2010 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, available at: www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/8127-T.pdf

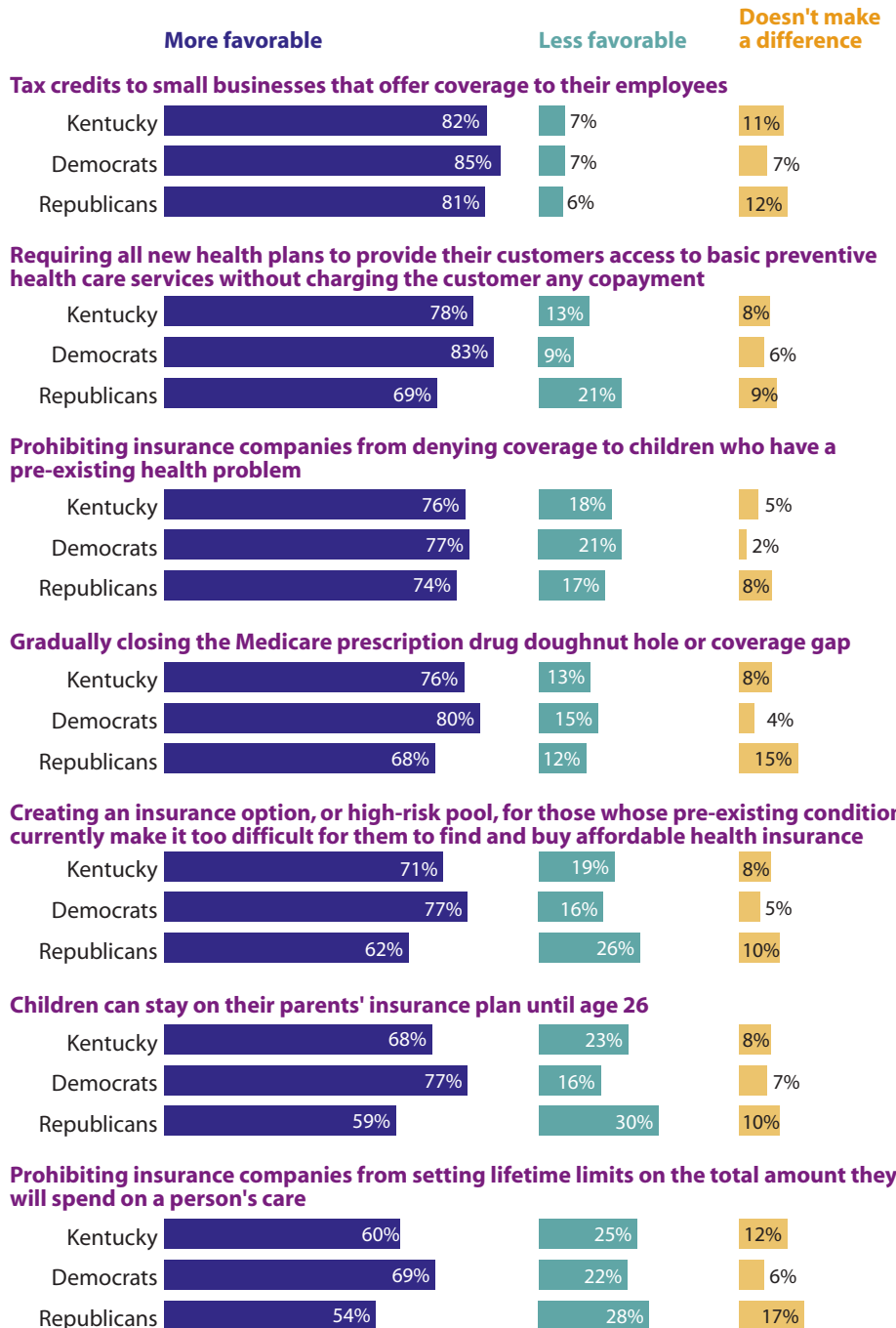
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toward the law because of these elements:

- small business tax credits (82%)
- access to preventive services without co-payment (78%)
- prohibiting denying coverage for children with preexisting conditions (76%)
- closing the Medicare donut hole over time (76%)

Kentuckians who feel more or less favorable toward the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) because it includes the following elements

(Percentages may not add to 100 because those responding "don't know" are not included.)



What Kentuckians Think about *Using Cell Phones while Driving*



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati
and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky



In 2009, over 5,500 people died on American roadways due to distracted driving,¹ with over 200 deaths occurring on Kentucky roadways.² On January 1, 2011, a new state law took effect in Kentucky that bans texting for all drivers and all cell phone use for drivers under age 18.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT), distracted driving is “any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing.”³

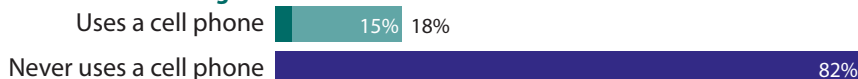
Many things can distract a driver, and cell phone use is just one of them. However, it is a serious one: The US DOT identifies texting as the most alarming road distraction. But drivers just talking on their cell phones are also distracted. Research has shown that drivers who are talking on a cell phone

How often do you use your cell phone while driving?

To talk



To write text messages or e-mails



■ Every time or almost every time
■ Occasionally or almost never

perform similarly to drivers who are legally drunk.⁴

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that 9% of drivers in 2009 used some type of phone while driving.⁵ In order to understand how Kentucky adults use their cell phones while driving, the *Kentucky Health Issues Poll* asked a number of questions related to this issue.

Most Kentucky Adults Have Cell Phones

Over 8 in 10 Kentucky adults (81%) have a cell phone, according to the *Poll*. The percentage of people reporting that they have a cell phone increases with income and education level. While 86% of Kentucky adults ages 18–64 have a cell phone, only 59% of adults ages 65 and older have one.

3 in 4 Kentuckians Talk While Driving

Only about 1 in 4 Kentucky adults (28%) reported they never use their cell phone to talk while driving. Over half (56%) reported they talk on their phone occasionally or almost never, and 16% reported they talk on their phone every time or almost every time they drive.

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¹ U. S. Department of Transportation [US DOT]. *Statistics and Facts about Distracted Driving*. Retrieved from www.distraction.gov/stats-and-facts/index.html.

² Governor Steve Beshear's Communications Office, Commonwealth of Kentucky (2010, April 15). Gov. Beshear signs law banning texting while driving [Press Release]. Retrieved from www.governor.ky.gov/media/pressreleases/pressreleases_archived.htm.

³ US DOT. *Statistics and Facts about Distracted Driving*. Retrieved from www.distraction.gov/stats-and-facts/index.html.

⁴ Strayer, D.L.; Drews, F.A., & Crouch, D.J. *A Comparison of the Cell Phone Driver and the Drunk Driver*. *Human Factors*. Vol. 48, No. 2, Summer 2006, pp.381-391. Retrieved from www.distraction.gov/research/PDF-Files/Comparison-of-CellPhone-Driver-Drunk-Driver.pdf.

⁵ US DOT, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (September 2010). *Driver Electronic Device Use in 2009*. *Traffic Safety Facts*. Retrieved from www.distraction.gov/research/PDF-Files/Driver-Electronic-Device-Use-2009.pdf.

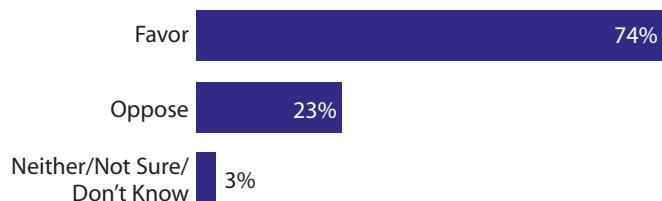
The Majority of Kentucky Adults Do Not Text While Driving

Over 8 in 10 Kentucky adults (82%) reported that they never use their cell phone to write text messages or e-mail while driving. About 1 in 7 adults (15%) reported using their cell phone to text or write e-mail messages occasionally or almost never while driving, and a small minority (2%) reported texting or e-mailing every time or almost every time they drive.

Majority of Kentucky Adults Favor Law to Prevent Cell Phone Use while Driving

Almost 3 in 4 Kentucky adults (74%) favor a law making it illegal to use a cell phone while driving.⁶ About 1 in 4 adults (23%) opposed the law, and the remaining 3% were not sure. The majority of adults in all demographic categories tracked by the *Poll* support a law to prevent cell phone use while driving.

Do you favor or oppose a law making it illegal to use a cell phone while driving?



⁶ Please note that the Poll asked these questions after the state law passed but before it was enacted.

Kentuckians' Experiences with Civic Engagement



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky



Between September 2009 and September 2010, 1 in 4 Americans ages 16 and older (26%) did some sort of volunteer work. On average, these Americans spent 52 hours a year—or 1 hour a week—volunteering.¹

Much has been written about the public and personal benefits of community involvement.² The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati believe that communities are strengthened when their residents donate their time and talents and actively participate.

To find out how involved Kentuckians are in their communities, the *Kentucky Health Issues Poll* (KHIP) asked about civic engagement activities such as community service and being involved in the political process.

Most Kentuckians Volunteer in Their Communities

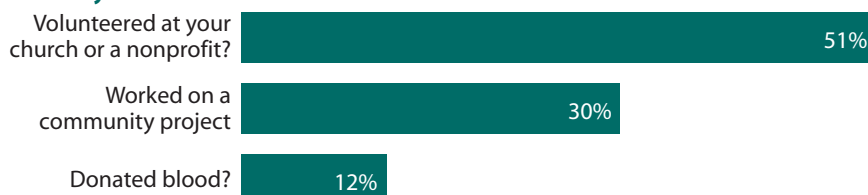
More Kentucky adults give back to their communities than participate

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics (2011). Volunteering in the United States. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.toc.htm.

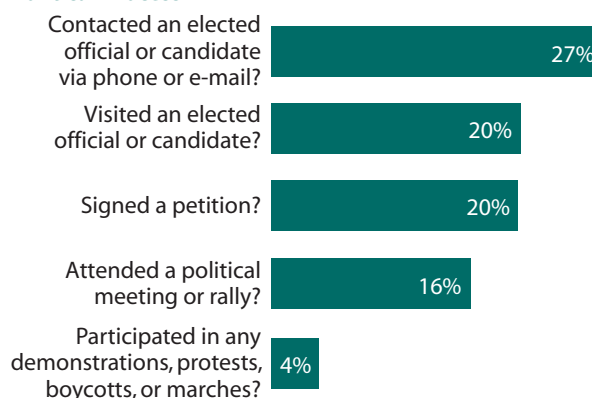
² Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Research and Policy Development (2007). The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from www.nationalcivic.org/pdf/07_0506_hbr.pdf.

In the past 12 months, have you... (Graph presents percentage of Kentucky adults who answered "yes" they had done the specified activity.)

Community Service



Political Process



in political activities. Half of Kentucky adults (51%) reported that they had volunteered at their place of worship or a local non-profit in the past year. Nearly 1 in 3 adults (30%) had worked on a community project and 1 in 8 adults (12%) had donated blood in the previous year.

1 in 4 Kentuckians Engaged in Political Process

As policymakers across the Commonwealth and the nation are considering decisions that will affect the lives and health of

Kentuckians, we are reminded that our democratic system works best when elected officials know what their constituents think about the issues.

Fewer Kentuckians reported participating in parts of the political process compared to community service activities. About 1 in 4 adults (27%) had contacted an elected official or a candidate for office by phone or e-mail, and 1 in 5 adults (20%) had visited an elected official or candidate in the past year.

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Other advocacy activities were less commonly reported. Of those surveyed, 1 in 5 adults (20%) had signed a petition; 1 in 6 adults (16%) had attended a political meeting or rally; and 1 in 25 adults (4%) had participated in a demonstration, protest, boycott, or march.

There are about 3.3 million people in Kentucky ages 18 and over,³ and 2.9 million⁴—or 88% of them—are registered to vote. Registered voters were much more likely than adults not registered to vote to report participating in the political activities listed on KHIP.

³ U.S. Census Bureau. *State and County QuickFacts*. Available at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/21000.html>.

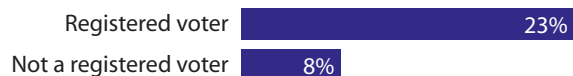
⁴ Kentucky State Board of Elections. *Voter Registration Statistics*. Retrieved March 25, 2011 from <http://elect.ky.gov/stats/regstat.htm>.

In the past 12 months, have you... (Graph presents percentage of Kentucky adults who answered “yes” they had done the specified activity.)

Contacted an elected official or candidate via phone or email?



Visited an elected official or candidate?



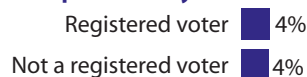
Signed a petition?



Attended a political meeting or rally?



Participated in any demonstrations, protests, boycotts, or marches?



Kentuckians' Experiences with Buying Healthy Foods



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky



The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food security as having “access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.” In Kentucky, nearly 1 in 7 households (13%) lack food security.¹

To learn more about Kentuckians' ability to get healthy foods for their families, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati included questions about food access on the most recent *Kentucky Health Issues Poll*.

Healthy Foods are Difficult for Many to Get

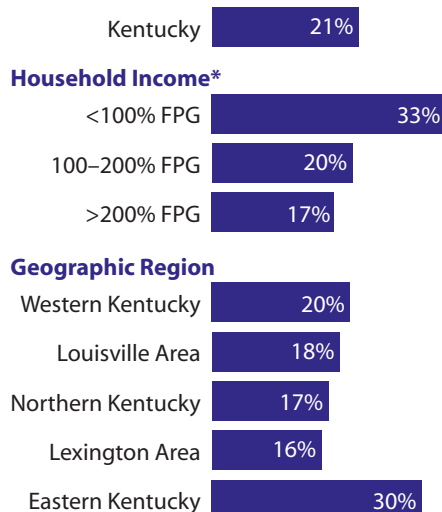
While the majority of Kentuckians have access to fresh produce in their communities, 1 in 5 Kentucky adults (21%) said it is not easy to get affordable fresh fruits and vegetables where they live. Adults living in households earning less than 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG; 33%)² and adults living in Eastern Kentucky (30%) had more difficulty getting fresh produce than other demographic groups.

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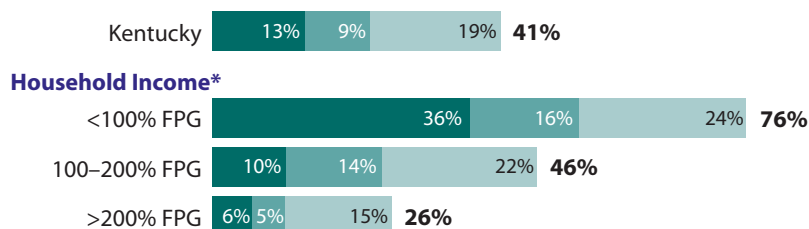
¹ Nord, Mark, Alisha Coleman-Jensen, Margaret Andrews, and Steven Carlson. *Household Food Security in the United States, 2009*. ERR-108, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Econ. Res. Serv. November 2010. Available at: www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err108/.

² In 2009, 100% FPG was an annual income of \$22,050 for a family of 4.

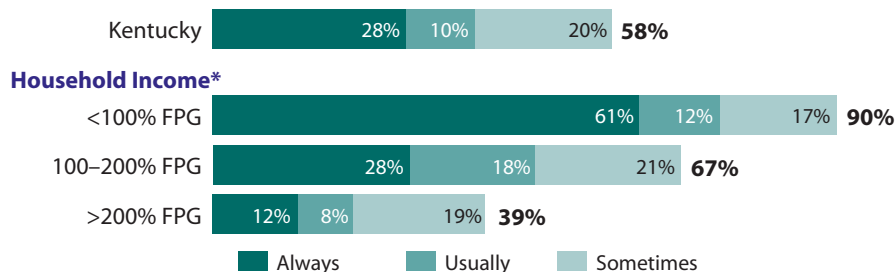
Kentuckians reporting it is not easy to get affordable fresh fruits and vegetables in the city or area where they live



How often in the last 12 months would you say you were worried or stressed about having enough money to buy nutritious meals? (Graph presents only the percentage of respondents who said they were “always,” “usually,” or “sometimes” stressed.)



How often in the last 12 months would you say you were worried or stressed about having enough money to pay your rent or mortgage? (Graph presents only the percentage of respondents who said they were “always,” “usually,” or “sometimes” stressed.)



* In 2009, 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) was an annual income of \$22,050 and 200% FPG was an annual income of \$44,100, both for a family of 4.

These findings unless otherwise noted are from the 2010 Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted December 3–22 and 27–28, 2010, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,677 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,469 landline interviews and 208 cell phone interviews with people who did not have a landline telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to $\pm 2.4\%$. In addition to sampling error, there are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias. For more information about the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, please visit www.healthy-ky.org or www.healthfoundation.org/khip.html.

Affording Nutritious Meals is a Source of Stress for Kentuckians

The economic downturn has forced many Kentucky families to cut back. Many worry about meeting their family's most basic needs, like shelter and food.

While not as frequent a source of stress as paying one's rent or mortgage, having enough money to buy nutritious meals worried many Kentuckians. About 4 in 10 Kentuckians (41%) indicated they were sometimes, usually, or always stressed about having enough money to buy nutritious meals. Household income again related to stress, with 3 in 4 adults living below 100% FPG (76%) reporting being stressed

about having enough money to buy nutritious meals. This is compared to about 1 in 2 adults living between 100–200% FPG (46%) and 1 in 4 adults living above 200% FPG (26%).

Nearly 6 in 10 Kentucky adults (58%) reported being sometimes, usually, or always stressed about having enough money to pay their rent or mortgage. Concern was strongly related to household income, with 9 in 10 Kentucky adults living below 100% FPG (90%) reporting being sometimes, usually, or always stressed. This is compared to 2 in 3 Kentucky adults living between 100–200% FPG (67%) and 4 in 10 Kentucky adults living above 200% FPG (39%).

What Kentuckians Think Are The Most Important Health Issues Facing Kentucky's Men, Women, and Children



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati
and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky



Improving the health of residents in Kentucky is critical to the missions of both the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. As part of the most recent *Kentucky Health Issues Poll* (KHIP), Kentucky adults were asked what they thought was the most important health issue for men, women, and children in the Commonwealth.

Cancer Leading Concern, Heart Disease Leading Cause of Death for Men

Just over 1 in 3 Kentucky adults (36%) identified cancer as the most important health issue for men, followed by heart disease (31%), and obesity (8%). Another 7% of Kentucky adults listed other health issues, and 9% said they didn't know what the most important health issue was.

In 2009, heart disease was the leading cause of death for men in Kentucky, followed closely by cancer and injuries.¹

¹ The data on the leading causes of death in Kentucky for 2009 is still considered preliminary. Source: Sands, H. Hollie. Sands@ky.gov (2011, March 1). *Leading Causes of Death KY and ADD 2009* [personal email]

"What would you say is the most important healthcare issue facing men, women, and children in Kentucky?"

Men	Women	Children**
1. Cancer	1. Cancer*	1. Obesity
2. Heart Disease*	2. Heart Disease	2. Diabetes
3. Obesity	3. Obesity	3. Cancer

*Actual leading cause of death

**Injuries are the actual leading cause of death for children (ages 1-17)

Cancer Leading Concern and Leading Cause of Death for Women

About 6 in 10 Kentucky adults (61%) said that cancer in general was the most important health issue facing women, with 5 in 10 (52%) specifying breast cancer as the most important issue. These were followed by heart disease (9%), and obesity (6%). Another 8% of Kentucky adults listed other health issues, and 9% said they didn't know what the most important health issue was.

In 2009, cancer was the leading cause of death for Kentucky women², nearly tied by second-

² More than twice as many women die from lung cancer as breast cancer. In 2007, 1410 KY women died from lung cancer and 613 KY women died from breast cancer.

ranked heart disease, and followed by chronic lung diseases.

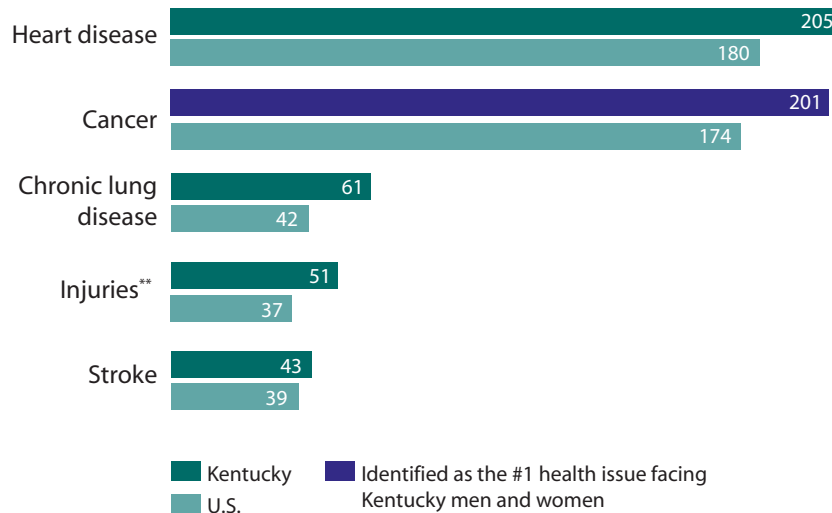
Obesity Leading Concern, Injuries Leading Cause of Death for Children

Kentucky adults identified obesity (29%), diabetes (9%), and cancer (8%) as the most important health care issues facing children. Another 14% of Kentucky adults listed other health issues, and 15% said they didn't know what the most important health issue was.

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Source: Kentucky Cancer Registry. (2007). *Age-Adjusted Cancer Mortality Rates in Kentucky, Female Lung and Bronchus, 2007 and Female Breast, 2007*. Available at <http://www.kcr.uky.edu/>

Number of deaths per 100,000 people who died from these specific causes, adjusted for age*



* The age-adjusted death rate allows for comparison across geographic area, by controlling for the effect of different population age distributions in different geographic areas.

** Injuries include all unintentional injuries, including all transportation accidents, falls, accidental discharge of firearms, and poisoning, among other things.

Sources: U.S.: Data for the number of deaths are from the National Vital Statistics Report for 2009.⁵ Kentucky: Preliminary State Data. Data for the most important health issue are from the 2010 KHIP.

It is important to consider the lifelong health implications of children's health issues, because childhood mortality is relatively rare.

In 2005, 180 children ages 1–17 died in Kentucky.³ Nearly half of those deaths were caused by unintentional injuries, followed by causes in the “other” category and cancer.

Kentuckians are Dying from Heart Disease, Cancer at Higher Rates than all Americans

The health awareness of people in the Commonwealth is important because Kentuckians have a lower life expectancy than Americans in general: at birth, Kentuckians

can expect to live an average of 75.5 years, compared to 78 years for Americans.⁴

In 2009, the leading causes of death for Kentuckians were heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, injuries, and stroke. A larger proportion of Kentuckians were dying from these diseases than Americans in general.⁵ With the exception of injuries, these causes of death are chronic conditions which can be reduced.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), avoiding tobacco, being physically active, and eating well greatly reduce a person's risk for

developing chronic conditions.⁶ Kentucky still has a lot of room for improvement, as it has some of the highest rates of smoking and obesity in the country.

³ Department of Public Health. (2005). *Vital Statistics Reports, Leading Cause of Resident Deaths by Age Group Number and Age-Specific Rate: Kentucky, 2005 Table 2-I*. Retrieved from: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/vital/2005+Vital+Statistics+Reports.htm>

⁴ The Measure of America (2009). *American Human Development Report 2008-2009*, available at: www.measureofamerica.org

⁵ Kochanek KD, Xu JQ, Murphy SL, Miniño AM, Kung HC. *Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2009*. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 59 no 4.

Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2011. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr59/nvsr59_04.pdf

⁶ Kentucky: Burden of Chronic Diseases. (2008). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/states/pdf/kentucky.pdf>

Kentuckians' Experiences with Having Health Insurance Coverage



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky



Having health insurance is an important factor in being able to get needed healthcare. The *Kentucky Health Issues Poll* (KHIP) includes a number of questions about health insurance coverage to provide a picture of the insurance status of Kentucky adults. Since nearly all Kentuckians over age 65 (94%) are insured, this summary focuses on Kentuckians ages 18–64.

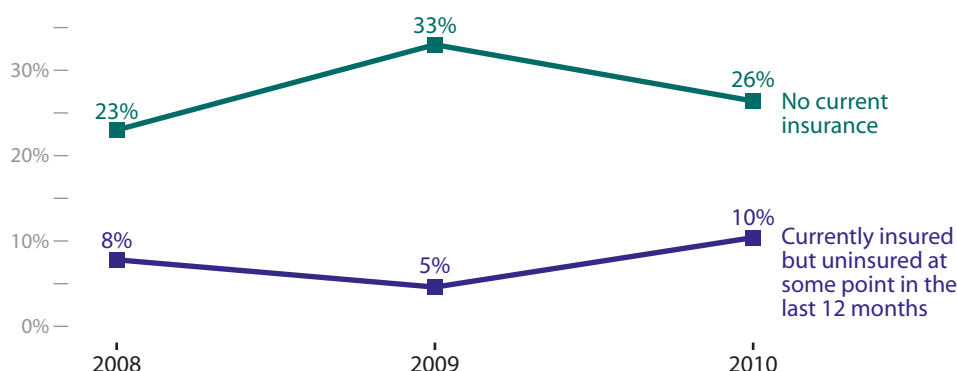
1 in 4 Kentucky Adults Ages 18–64 Are Currently Uninsured

About 1 in 4 Kentucky adults ages 18–64 (26%) are currently uninsured. This is down from 1 in 3 (33%) in 2009 but consistent with the 2008 KHIP. In general as age, education level, and income increased, the percentage of Kentucky adults who were currently uninsured decreased, consistent with previous KHIPs.

1 in 3 Adults Ages 18–64 Were Uninsured at Some Point in the Last Year

Having stable insurance is an important factor in being able to get healthcare services. One measure of this is whether a person has been covered continuously for the past 12 months. The majority of insured Kentuckians had stable insurance coverage over the past year.

% of Kentucky adults ages 18–64 who were uninsured at any time in the last 12 months, including currently



However, 1 in 10 insured Kentuckians ages 18–64 (10%) had been uninsured at some point in the past 12 months. Therefore, 1 in 3 Kentucky adults ages 18–64 (36%) had been uninsured at some point in the last 12 months, including currently.

Lower Income = Higher Uninsurance Rates

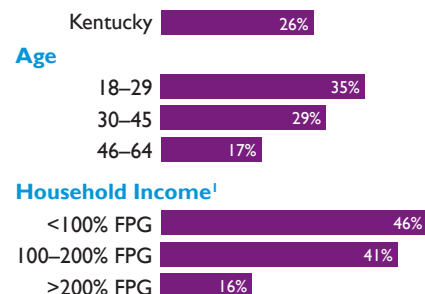
Kentucky adults with lower household incomes reported much higher rates of being currently uninsured. Nearly half (46%) of adults living in households with an income below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG)¹ reported being currently uninsured, compared to 16% of those living above 200% FPG.

¹ In 2009, 100% FPG was an annual income of \$22,050 and 200% FPG was an annual income of \$44,100, both for a family of 4.

Young Adults More Likely to Be Uninsured

Over one third (35%) of adults ages 18–29 reported not having health insurance, twice the rate of adults ages 46–64 (17%) who reported not having insurance. The rate of uninsured young adults is down from 2009 (47%), but consistent with 2008 (35%).

Kentucky adults ages 18–64 who reported they were currently uninsured



These findings unless otherwise noted are from the 2010 *Kentucky Health Issues Poll* (KHIP), funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. KHIP was conducted December 3–22 and 27–28, 2010, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,677 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,469 landline interviews and 208 cell phone interviews with people who did not have a landline telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to $\pm 2.4\%$. In addition to sampling error, there are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias. For more information about KHIP, please visit www.healthy-ky.org or www.healthfoundation.org/khip.html.

What Kentuckians Think about Smoke-Free Policies



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati
and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky

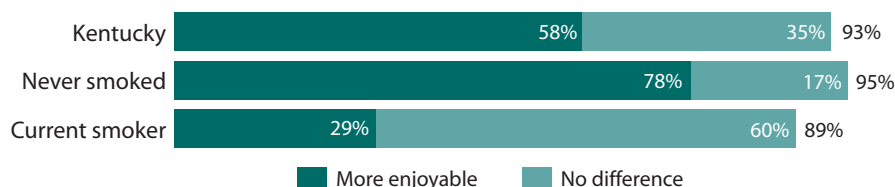


While 18% of U.S. adults are current smokers,¹ the Kentucky Health Issues Poll found that 35% of Kentucky adults are current smokers.² Kentucky has one of the highest smoking rates in the country.

Smoking is costly, not only to the health of those exposed to cigarette smoke, but also to the community. In 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that the total economic cost was \$5.07 for each pack of cigarettes sold in Kentucky. This includes direct medical costs of \$2.09 per pack and lost productivity costs of \$2.98 per pack.³

Because of the significant health risks of smoking, the Kentucky legislature is considering a law, the Smokefree Kentucky Act, which will prohibit smoking in all public places and places of employment. While Kentucky adults are split on a statewide smoke-free law, the majority supports smoke-

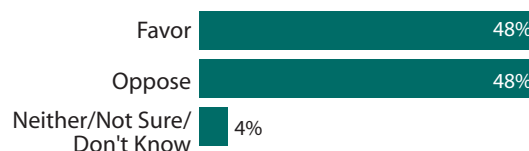
Do you think eating in a smoke-free restaurant makes your experience more enjoyable, less enjoyable, or that it doesn't make much difference? (Graph presents only the percentage of respondents who indicated it make their experience more enjoyable or made no difference.)



Do you favor or oppose schools adopting smoke-free campus policies in your community? (Graph presents only the percentage of respondents who indicated they favored this.)



Do you favor or oppose a statewide, smoke-free law in Kentucky?



free schools and says smoke-free restaurants are more enjoyable.

that smoke-free policies made their restaurant experience more enjoyable.

Majority Says Smoke-Free Restaurants Are More Enjoyable; Smokers Say it Doesn't Make Much Difference

Almost 6 out of 10 Kentucky adults (58%) reported that eating in a smoke-free restaurant is more enjoyable. The majority of Kentuckians in all demographic groups tracked by the Poll reported

Almost 8 out of 10 Kentucky adults who have never smoked (78%) said that smoke-free restaurants are more enjoyable, compared to only 3 out of 10 Kentucky adults who are current smokers (29%).

While only 1 out of 10 current smokers (11%) said that smoke-

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¹ National data are from the 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), available at www.cdc.gov/brfss/.

² The BRFSS estimate of adult smokers in Kentucky in 2009 was 26%, lower than what the Kentucky Health Issues Poll found.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sustaining State Programs for Tobacco Control: Data Highlights 2006, available at: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/state_data/data_highlights/2006/.

free restaurants are less enjoyable, the majority of smokers (60%) said that smoke-free restaurants do not make a difference in how much they enjoy their experience.

Strong Support for Smoke-Free Schools

Over 8 out of 10 of all Kentucky adults (86%) favored schools adopting smoke-free campus policies.⁴ These policies prohibit the use of tobacco by students, staff, parents, or guests while on school property or at school-sponsored events.

Large majorities of Kentucky adults in all groups tracked by the *Poll* favored schools adopting smoke-free campus policies, including 3 out of 4 Kentucky adults who smoke.

Kentuckians Split on Statewide Smoke-Free Law in Kentucky

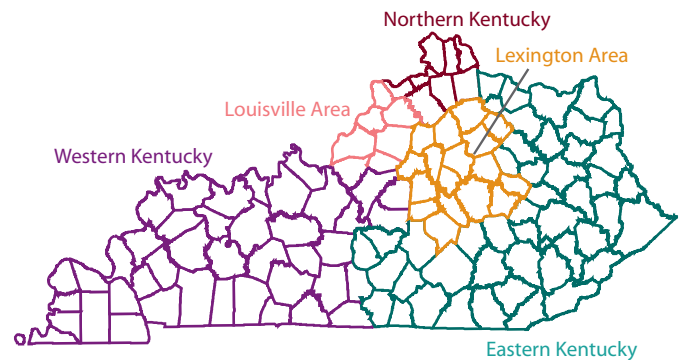
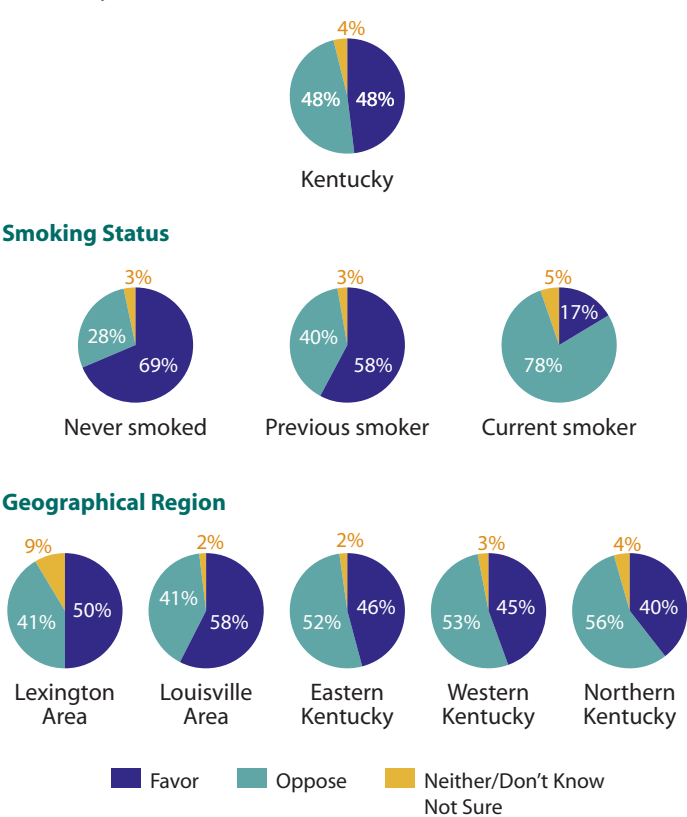
Kentucky adults are split on a statewide smoke-free law, with 48% favoring it and 48% opposing it.⁵ As education level and income increase, so does support for a law.

About 7 out of 10 adults who have never smoked (69%) supported a law, compared to less than 2 out of 10 current smokers (17%). There was some geographical variation, with a majority of adults in the Louisville (58%) and Lexington (50%) areas supporting a smoke-free law. Less than half of adults in Eastern Kentucky (46%), Western Kentucky (45%), and Northern Kentucky (40%) supported a smoke-free law.

⁴ Before respondents were asked if they favored that schools adopt smoke-free campus policies, they were told: “Research indicates that the younger a person is when they first try tobacco, the more susceptible they are to becoming addicted. To help keep kids from smoking, some school systems are adopting smoke-free campus policies that would prohibit the use of tobacco by students, staff, parents or guests while they are on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, such as field trips and sporting events.”

⁵ The remaining 4% responded that they didn’t have an opinion or weren’t sure or didn’t know whether they favored or opposed a smoke-free law.

Do you favor or oppose a statewide, smoke-free law in Kentucky? (Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.)



What Kentuckians Think about *Treatment vs. Incarceration for People with Substance Use Disorders*



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati
and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky



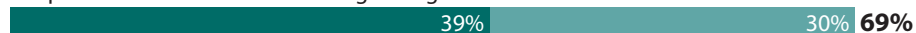
Since 2000, Kentucky's prison population has been one of the fastest growing in the nation. The Commonwealth's inmate population is 45% larger than it was in 2000, despite a decline in population over the last 3 years. In comparison, the U.S. state prison system as a whole grew by only 13% since 2000.¹

There are several factors behind the growth in Kentucky's prison population, including a rise in the percentage of inmates who were drug offenders. In 2000, 30% of Kentucky inmates were drug offenders. This rose to 38% by 2009.²

On a positive note, Kentucky's recidivism rate—or the rate of people who return to prison after being released—is at a 10-year low.³ However, if the percentage of drug offenders continues to climb, the recidivism rate may also increase, as people incarcerated for

Would you favor or oppose replacing prison sentences with mandatory drug treatment and probation for... (Graph presents only those who said they strongly or somewhat favor replacing prison sentences with treatment.)

People convicted of nonviolent illegal drug use*



People convicted of committing nonviolent crimes under the influence of alcohol



■ Strongly favor

■ Somewhat favor

* This refers to people who were convicted of using illegal drugs, not people who committed other crimes—including violent crimes—while under the influence of or to get money to pay for illegal drugs.

alcohol and illegal drug violations are more likely to have been arrested previously. A study by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA) found that people incarcerated for a drug law violation had been arrested an average of 4.6 times previously, and people convicted of an alcohol law violation had been arrested an average of 5.4 times previously.⁴

The study by CASA also found that only 11% of inmates with an alcohol or other drug use disorder had received professional treatment for their substance use while in prison. For many people convicted of illegal drug or alcohol violations, community-based treatment can be more effective

than prison for addressing their needs and preventing repeat run-ins with the law. Community-based treatment can also be more cost-effective than prison, and offenders can be diverted to court-mandated treatment rather than to prison or jail.⁵

Majority of Kentuckians Favor Treatment over Incarceration for Nonviolent Offenders

Almost 7 in 10 Kentucky adults (69%) favor replacing prison sentences with mandatory treatment and probation for people convicted of nonviolent illegal drug use.⁶

(continued on back)

¹ Pew Center on the States (2010). *Kentucky: A Data-Driven Effort to Protect Public Safety and Control Corrections Spending*. Retrieved from www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Kentucky_brief_updated.pdf.

² Ibid.

³ Kentucky Department of Corrections. (2011, January 4). *Kentucky's Recidivism Rate At 10-Year Low; Felon Population Also Declining* [Press release]. Retrieved from <http://corrections.ky.gov/news/Kentucky's+Recidivism+Rate+At+10-Year+Low-Felon+Population+Also+Declining.htm>.

⁴ The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (2010). *Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and American's Prison Population*. Available at: www.casacolumbia.org/articlefiles/575-report2010behindbars2.pdf.

⁵ Collins, T. (2009). *The State of Corrections Today*. Available at: www.occaonline.org/pdf/home/State_Of_Corrections_Today.pdf.

⁶ This refers to people who were convicted of using illegal drugs, not people who committed other crimes—including violent crimes—while under the influence of or to get money to pay for illegal drugs.

Responses were similar for people convicted of nonviolent crimes while under the influence of alcohol, with 71% of Kentuckians favoring replacing prison sentences with mandatory treatment and probation for people convicted of committing nonviolent crimes under the influence of alcohol.

The majority of Kentucky adults regardless of age, sex, race, education, income, or political party favored treatment over incarceration for nonviolent illegal drug use or nonviolent crimes committed under the influence of alcohol.

Kentuckians' Experiences with Walkable Communities



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky



Where we live affects our health in many ways. Some communities make it easier for residents to be physically active by providing safe spaces for recreation and encouraging alternative means of transportation, such as walking or bicycling rather than driving cars.

Walkable communities have healthier residents, less pollution, and higher property values than more sprawling areas.¹ To learn more about how walkable Kentucky adults think their communities are, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati included questions about walkable communities on the most recent *Kentucky Health Issues Poll*.

Few Kentuckians Live in Walkable Communities

Residents of walkable communities have places to go within an easy distance of their home, and can often make quick trips or run errands without using a car or public transportation. Only 1 in 3 Kentucky adults (32%) felt there were many destinations to go within an easy walking distance from their home.

¹ Walk Score. *Walkable Neighborhoods*. Retrieved from www.walkscore.com/walkable-neighborhoods.shtml.

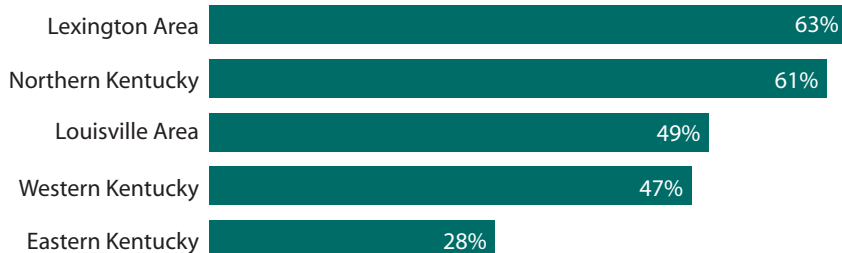
Kentucky adults who agree there are many destinations to go within easy walking distance from their homes (Graph presents the combined percentage of Kentucky adults who said they "strongly agreed" or "somewhat agreed" with the statement.)

Kentucky 32%

Kentucky adults who agree there are sidewalks or shoulders on streets that allow for safe walking, jogging, or biking in their community (Graph presents the combined percentage of Kentucky adults who said they "strongly agreed" or "somewhat agreed" with the statement.)

Kentucky 47%

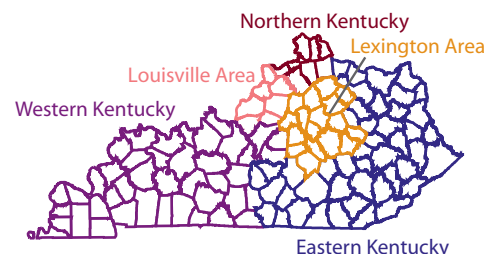
Geographical Region



Most Kentuckians Lack Safe Places for Walking, Cycling in their Community

Walkable communities aren't just safe for walkers, but cyclists, joggers, and those engaging in other forms of recreation as well. Less than half of Kentucky adults (47%) live in communities with sidewalks or shoulders on streets that allow for safe walking, jogging, or biking.

These results varied regionally, with 6 in 10 residents of Northern



Kentucky (60%) and the Lexington area (63%) reporting safe places for walkers and cyclists. Eastern Kentucky respondents reported the least access, with just under 3 in 10 adults (28%) living in communities with sidewalks and shoulders that allow for safe walking, jogging, or biking.