



# What Kentuckians Think About

*the State of the State and Policy Priorities*

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



About 8 in 10 Kentuckians rate Kentucky as an excellent (38%) or good (43%) place to live, according to the 2008 *Kentucky Health Issues Poll*. Another 15% give it a mark of fair. Kentuckians ages 65 and over were highest in their praise: 52% rated Kentucky an excellent place to live and another 39% rated it good. Young adults were less favorable, with 35% giving an excellent rating and 38% good.

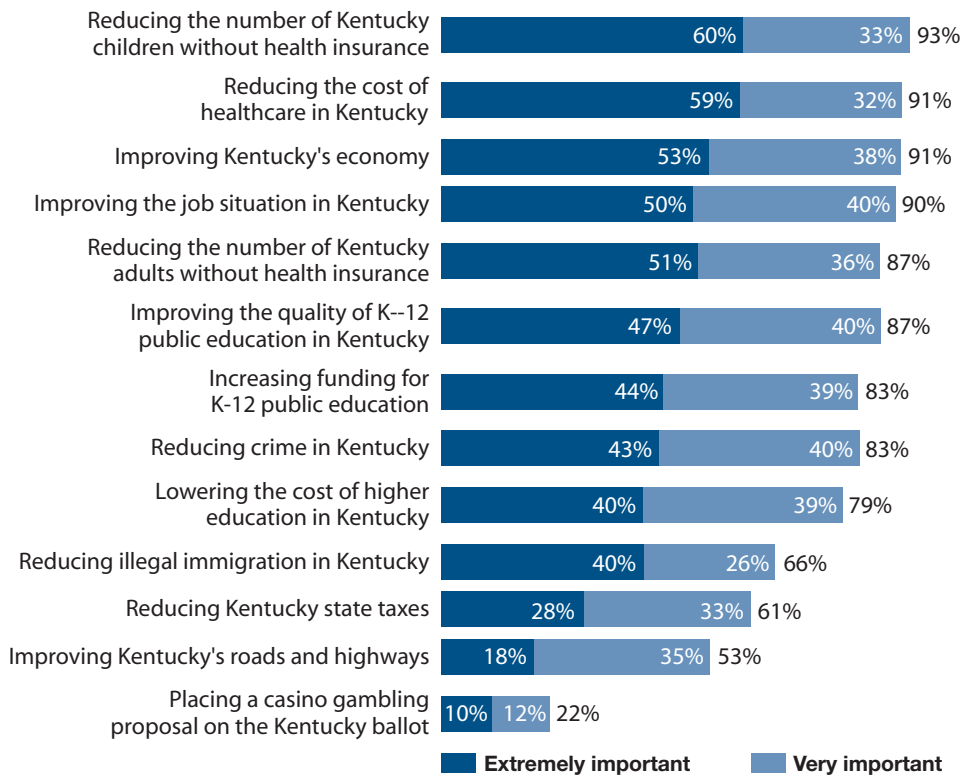
The 2008 *Poll* also asked respondents, "How important is it to you that Governor Beshear and the Kentucky Legislature work on each of the following issues in the next year?" Kentuckians placed greatest importance on:

- Reducing the number of children without insurance
- Reducing the cost of healthcare
- Improving Kentucky's economy
- Improving Kentucky's job situation

There was geographic variation on the importance of issues:

- "Reducing the number of children without health insurance" was the only item considered extremely or very important to address by 90% or more of respondents in all five regions of the state.
- "Reducing the costs of healthcare" and "Improving the state's economy" were considered extremely or very important to address by 90%

## How important is it to you that Governor Beshear and the Kentucky Legislature work on each of the following issues in the next year?



or more of respondents in four of the five regions.

- In the Appalachian Area Development Districts (ADDs), quality and funding of K-12 education and "Reducing the number of adults without health insurance" were deemed very or extremely important by 90% or more of respondents.

The *Poll* also found:

- African American respondents gave greatest importance to

"Reducing Crime" (100%) and "Reducing the number of children without health insurance" (100%).

- As education level increased, the percentage of people considering topics extremely or very important to address decreased. For those with some college education, only two areas drew 90% or more: "Improving the economy" and "Reducing the cost of healthcare."

These findings are from the *Kentucky Health Issues Poll*, funded by The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. The *Kentucky Health Issues Poll* was conducted January 16-February 11, 2008, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,632 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ±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.healthyky.org](http://www.healthyky.org) or [www.healthfoundation.org/khip.html](http://www.healthfoundation.org/khip.html).