



What Kentuckians Think About

Why Healthcare Costs Are out of Control

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



The 2008 Kentucky Health Issues Poll asked Kentuckians why they thought healthcare costs were out of control. Specifically, respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed that the reason healthcare costs are out of control is that:

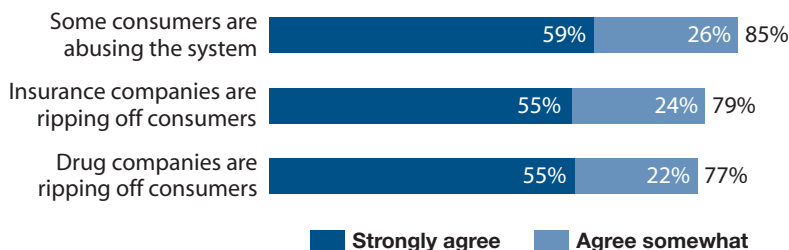
- insurance companies are ripping off consumers
- drug companies are ripping off consumers
- some consumers are abusing the system

Respondents were asked about the three reasons separately; they were not asked which one reason they felt was most responsible for costs being out of control.

About 85% of Kentuckians agreed strongly or somewhat that healthcare costs are out of control because some consumers are abusing the system. Just under 8 in 10 Kentuckians agreed strongly or somewhat that healthcare costs are out of control because insurance companies (79%) or drug companies (77%) are ripping off consumers.

In general, as income and education level increased, Kentuckians were less likely to **strongly agree** that healthcare costs were out of control for any of the three reasons but slightly more likely to **agree somewhat** that healthcare costs were out of control for any of the three reasons.

The reason that healthcare costs are out of control is that...



Kentuckians who Agreed that Some Consumers Are Abusing the System

Kentuckians who **strongly agreed** that the reason healthcare costs are out of control is that some consumers are abusing the system included those:

- living below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines¹ (FPG; 70%)
- with less than a high school education (65%)
- living in Western Kentucky (65%)
- who are uninsured (64%)

Kentuckians who Agreed that Insurance Companies Are Ripping off Consumers

Kentuckians who **strongly agreed** that the reason healthcare costs

are out of control is that insurance companies are ripping off consumers included those:

- living below 100% FPG (70%)
- who are uninsured (64%)
- with less than a high school education (65%)
- who are African American (62%)

Kentuckians who Agreed that Drug Companies Are Ripping off Consumers

Kentuckians who **strongly agreed** that the reason healthcare costs are out of control is that drug companies are ripping off consumers included those:

- ages 65 and older (73%)
- living below 100% FPG (67%)
- ages 46–64 (63%)
- living between 100–200% FPG (61%)
- with less than a high school education (60%)

¹ 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2007 was an annual income of \$20,650 for a family of 4.