



What Kentuckians Think about *Providing Access to Healthcare for All Americans*

November 2009



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



Healthcare reform is in the national news. However, the range of public opinion is not always being heard. To find out what Kentuckians think, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati included specific questions about healthcare reform on the 2009 *Kentucky Health Issues Poll*.

To determine how the views of Kentuckians have changed as the national healthcare reform discussion has played out, the 2009 *Poll* repeated some questions previously asked in 2008. When looking at these results, it is important to note that the 2008 *Poll* results are from January and February 2008—before national healthcare reform efforts started—while the 2009 *Poll* results are from October and November 2009—when pro- and anti-reform efforts were in full swing.

Kentuckians Favor Access to Healthcare for All Americans

A solid majority of Kentuckians (81%) continued to favor providing access for all, despite the drop in support over the last year and a half. The decline in support was most dramatic among those who currently have the strongest health insurance safety net: Kentuckians over age 65 and those who currently have health insurance.

Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans? (Graph presents the percentage who said they favored this.)



Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans, even if it means raising taxes? (Asked only of those who favor providing access to healthcare for all Americans. Graph presents only those who said they favored providing access to healthcare for all Americans even if it means raising taxes.)



Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans, even if it means a major role for the federal government? (Asked only of those who favor providing access to healthcare for all Americans. Graph presents only those who said they favored providing access to healthcare for all Americans even if it means a major role for the federal government.)



Kentuckians Favor Access for All Americans, Even if Taxes Increase

One major concern about the healthcare reform proposals currently before Congress is how to pay for them. The majority of Kentuckians who support providing access to healthcare for all Americans are also willing to accept the costs associated with that. Of those who favor providing access to healthcare for all Americans, nearly 2 out of 3 adults (64%) still favor providing that access even if it means raising taxes. This is down from 72% in early 2008.

Kentuckians Favor Access for All Americans, Even if the Government Has a Major Role

The majority of Kentuckians who support providing access to healthcare for all Americans are also willing to accept increased government involvement to do so. Of those who favor providing access to healthcare for all Americans, 6 in 10 (60%) still favor providing that access even if it means a major role for the federal government. This is down from 70% in early 2008. The decline in support for government involvement was most dramatic among Republicans, African Americans, and Kentuckians with less than a high school diploma.