

# Support strong in Kentucky for 100% tobacco-free schools

Only 28% of Kentucky's school districts have protected students, staff members, teachers and guests from second-hand smoke by enacting 100% tobacco-free school policies.<sup>1</sup> Kentucky ranks 50th, the worst, in the percentage of secondary school campuses that prohibit tobacco use in all locations at all times.<sup>2</sup> Nationally, 65% of schools have such a policy.<sup>3</sup>

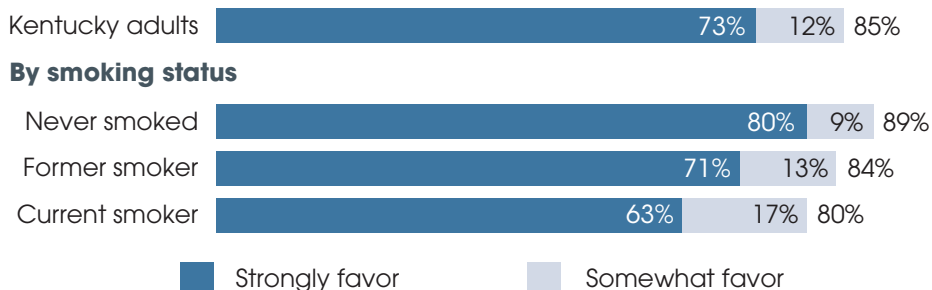
To learn Kentucky adults' opinions about this topic, the **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked, "Research indicates that the younger a person is when they first try tobacco, the more susceptible they are to becoming addicted. To help keep kids from smoking, some school systems are adopting tobacco-free campus policies that would prohibit the use of tobacco by students, staff, parents or guests while they are on school grounds or

<sup>1</sup> Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Department for Public Health, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program, Kentucky's 100% Tobacco Free School Districts, Dec. 2015. Retrieved from: <http://bit.ly/1WXlynG>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, School Health Profiles 2014: Characteristics of Health Programs Among Secondary Schools, 2015. Retrieved from: <http://1.usa.gov/1jQZOkp>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, School Health Policies and Practices: Trends over time 2000-2014. Retrieved from: <http://1.usa.gov/1TWaa00>.

## Percentage of Kentucky adults who favor tobacco-free campus policies



at school-sponsored activities, such as field trips and sporting events. Would you favor or oppose schools adopting tobacco-free campus policies in your community?"

## Most support 100% tobacco-free schools

More than 8 in 10 Kentucky adults (85%) favored schools in their communities adopting tobacco-free campus policies. This is similar to 2013 when KHIP found that 84% of Kentucky adults favored such a policy.

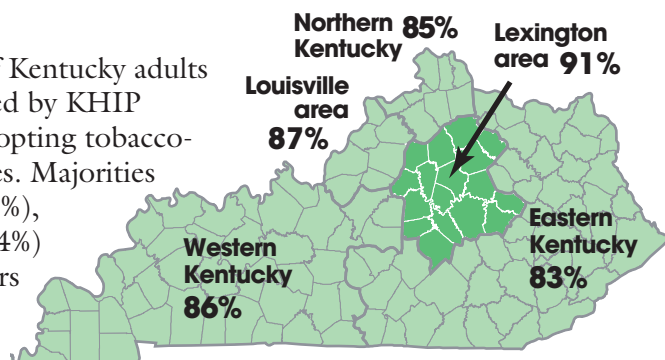
Large majorities of Kentucky adults in all groups tracked by KHIP favored schools adopting tobacco-free campus policies. Majorities of nonsmokers (89%), former smokers (84%) and current smokers (80%) favored such a policy.

Likewise, more than 8 in 10 Independents (88%), Republicans (87%) and Democrats (83%) favored schools in their own communities adopting tobacco-free policies.

## Support strong in all regions of Kentucky

In all regions, large majorities of adults supported tobacco-free policies on school campuses.

## Percentage of adults who favor tobacco-free campus policies



These findings unless otherwise noted are from the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and Interact for Health. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Sept. 17-Oct. 7, 2015, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,608 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 986 landline interviews and 622 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ±2.4%. 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](http://www.healthy-ky.org) or [www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll](http://www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll).