



# Most Kentucky adults say childhood obesity is a serious problem

According to the 2016 National Survey of Children’s Health, about 1 in 3 Kentucky children ages 10 to 17 (34%) are overweight or obese. Nationally, 31% of children in this age group are overweight or obese.<sup>1</sup> Both across the United States and in Kentucky, the percentage of children who are overweight or obese has remained stable over the past decade.

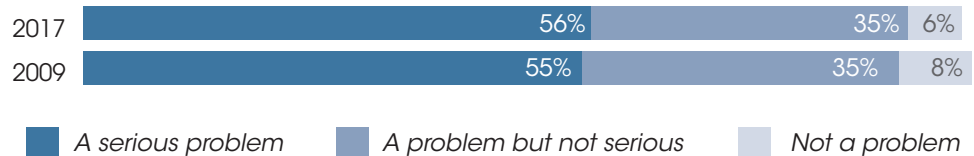
To understand Kentucky adults’ perception of childhood obesity, the **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked, “First, some people say childhood obesity is a problem in Kentucky, while others do not. What about you, would you say childhood obesity in Kentucky is a serious problem, a problem but not serious, or not a problem?” This question was previously included on KHIP in 2009. KHIP is sponsored by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

## MOST SAY CHILDHOOD OBESITY IS A PROBLEM

In 2017, more than half of Kentucky adults said childhood obesity was a

<sup>1</sup> Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health. 2016 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) data query. Accessed Feb. 9, 2018 from [www.childhealthdata.org](http://www.childhealthdata.org). CAHMI: [www.cahmi.org](http://www.cahmi.org).

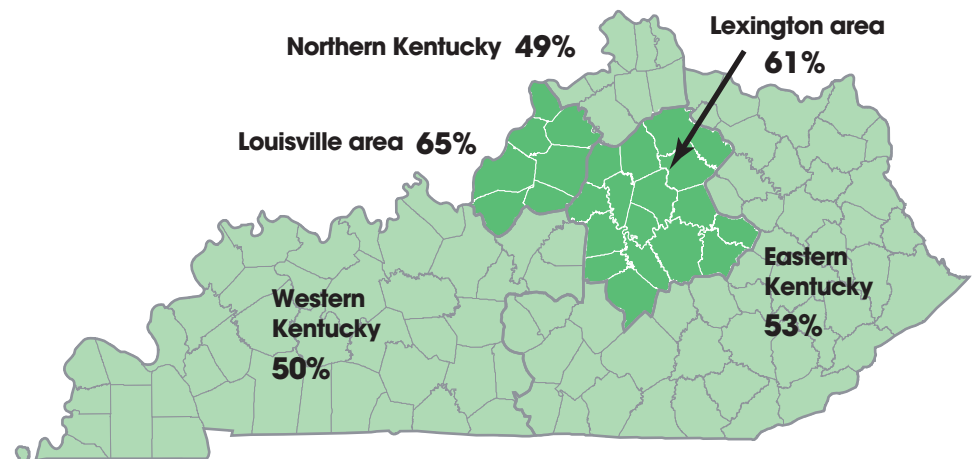
**Would you say childhood obesity in Kentucky is ...** (Percentages do not add to 100% because the response “don’t know” is not included.)



SOURCE: 2017 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released March 2018)



## Percentage of Kentucky adults who say childhood obesity in Kentucky is a serious problem, by region



SOURCE: 2017 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released March 2018)



serious problem in Kentucky (56%). More than 1 in 3 said childhood obesity in Kentucky was a problem but not serious (35%). Less than 1 in 10 said it was not a problem (6%). The 2017 responses were nearly identical to responses in 2009.

## OPINIONS VARY BY REGION

Adults in the Louisville and Lexington areas were more likely than adults in other regions of the state to name childhood obesity in Kentucky as a serious problem.

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 Oct. 24-Dec. 2, 2017, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,692 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 861 landline interviews and 831 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 nonresponse, 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).