1 in 4 Kentucky adults 18-64 concerned about losing their health insurance

Since 2008 the Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP), sponsored by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, has asked Kentucky adults about their health insurance coverage and their opinions on a variety of health topics.

This summary focuses on Kentucky adults ages 18 to 64 only. Nearly all Kentucky adults ages 65 and older are insured (96%).

**EMPLOYER-SPONSORED INSURANCE DECLINES**

Employer-sponsored health insurance declined from 45% in 2016 to 39% in 2017. Since KHIP started tracking health insurance in 2008, the lowest reports of employer-based health insurance were in 2017 and 2012 (37%).

**PUBLIC INSURANCE COVERAGE INCREASES**

From 2014 to 2017, about 3 in 10 Kentucky adults received some type of public insurance. Public insurance coverage increased from 29% in 2016 to 35% in 2017. Public insurance includes Medicare, Medicaid and military benefits. In 2014, Kentucky expanded Medicaid eligibility for Kentuckians earning up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). In 2016, 138% FPG was a maximum of $33,534 for a family of four.

About 1 in 10 Kentucky adults in 2017 reported getting health insurance from other sources (11%). These sources included coverage on a parent’s health plan or buying individual coverage.

**UNINSURED AND UNSTABLE INSURANCE CONSISTENT**

Reports of uninsured Kentucky adults and those with unstable health insurance coverage were consistent from 2015 to 2017. In total, 2 in 10 Kentucky adults (21%)

> 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 or www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll.
had unstable health insurance in 2017. This includes more than 1 in 10 Kentucky adults who did not have health insurance at the time of the poll (15%), and fewer than 1 in 10 Kentucky adults (6%) who were insured at the time of KHIP but had been uninsured at some time in the prior 12 months. Nationally, 13% of adults ages 18 to 64 were uninsured in 2017.1

KHIP also found that 1 in 4 insured Kentucky adults ages 18 to 64 (24%) reported being concerned about losing coverage within the next year.


Are you concerned that you may lose your (health insurance) coverage within the next 12 months? (Percentages do not add to 100% because the response “don’t know” is not included.)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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SOURCE: 2017 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released February 2018)