In the United States, life expectancy has decreased in recent years.\(^1\) In Kentucky, death rates for cancer, chronic respiratory disease, accidents, kidney disease, diabetes, blood poisoning, heart disease and drug overdose are among the nation’s highest.\(^2\)

The \textit{Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)} asked Kentucky adults how they would rate their own health. Studies show that this general self-rated health status is associated with actual health conditions and risk of dying.\(^3\) KHIP is jointly funded by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

KHIP asked, “Would you say that, in general, your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?” Overall, the percentage of Kentucky adults reporting excellent or very good health has dropped from almost half in 2008 (49%) to 4 in 10 in 2018 (40%).

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{health_status_changes.png}
\caption{Kentucky adults reporting excellent or very good health}
\end{figure}

Higher-income adults’ health status declines

In 2008, more than 6 in 10 Kentucky adults (66%) who lived in households with income more than 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)\(^4\) said their health was excellent or very good. In 2018 only 5 in 10 of these Kentucky adults (49%) said this. Since 2008 about 3 in 10 Kentucky adults who lived in households with income of 200% FPG or less have consistently reported excellent or very good health.

Overall, adults with lower household incomes were less likely than adults with higher household incomes to report excellent or very good health. Research has identified economic stability as one of the key social factors influencing the health of a community.\(^5\)

\begin{itemize}
\item \begin{itemize}
\item \textit{The question “Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?” was not asked by KHIP in 2009.}
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\item \textit{In 2017, 200% FPG was $49,200 for a family of four. The value is set yearly.}
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