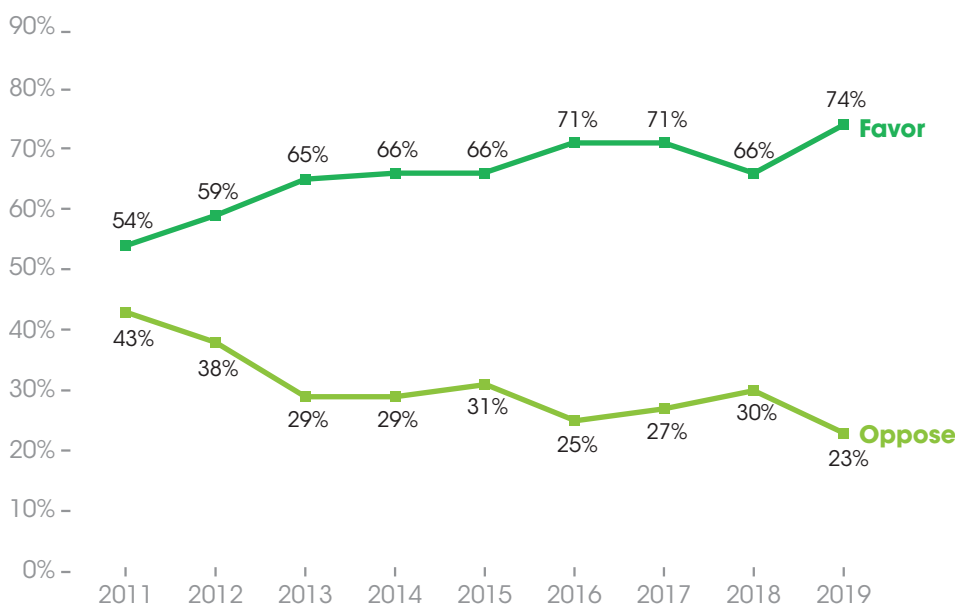


3 in 4 Kentucky adults say they support a statewide smoke-free law

The U.S. Surgeon General recommends comprehensive tobacco-free policies and increasing prices on cigarettes and other tobacco products as proven strategies to reduce smoking rates and protect nonsmokers.¹ Currently, only 36% of Kentuckians are covered by local smoke-free laws that include all indoor workplaces and public places.² Kentucky is one of 13 states without any type of statewide smoke-free indoor air law.³ Only 15 states have cigarette excise taxes lower than Kentucky's tax, which was raised to \$1.10 per pack in 2018.⁴ The current average tax for

Would you favor or oppose a state law in Kentucky that would prohibit smoking in most public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars? (Percentages do not add to 100% because the response "don't know" is not included.)



¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). Let's Make the Next Generation Tobacco-Free: Your Guide to the 50th Anniversary Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2weDZal>

² Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy. (2020). Kentucky Smoke-free Ordinance Database. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2TmHa7V>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3cfoMA>. States without a statewide law are Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

⁴ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. (2020). State Cigarette Excise Tax Rates & Rankings. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3a9BzZu>. States with an excise tax on cigarettes less than \$1.10 per pack include Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming.

SOURCE: 2019 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released March 2020)



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all states and Washington, D.C., is \$1.81 per pack (see Footnote 4). The most recent national data show that Kentucky has among the highest percentages of both current adult e-cigarette users and current adult cigarette users.⁵

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data [online]. 2017 and 2018. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2T8hWeQ>

The 2019 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll** asked Kentucky adults their opinions about smoke-free policies and exposure to tobacco smoke at work. KHIP is sponsored by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

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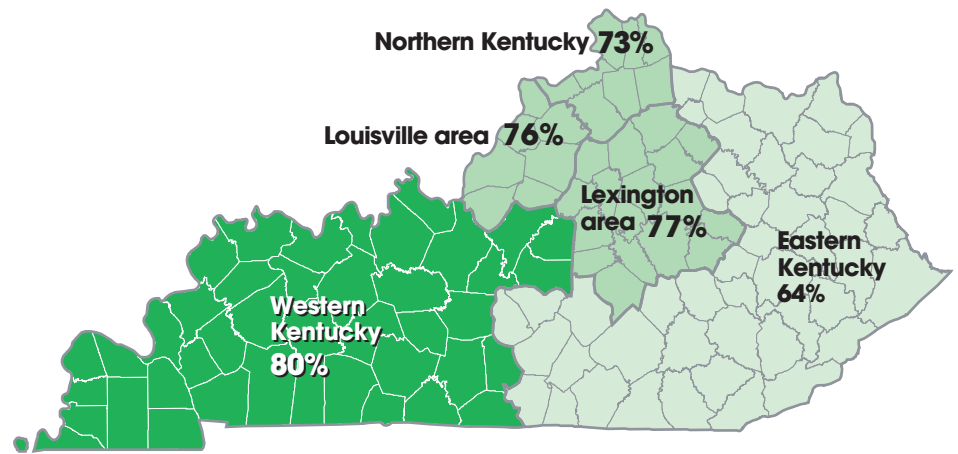
These findings, unless otherwise noted, are from the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and Interact for Health. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Oct. 16-Dec. 6, 2019, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,559 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 468 landline interviews and 1,091 interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to $\pm 2.5\%$. 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/about-khip/.

Large majority supports a statewide smoke-free law

KHIP asked, "Would you favor or oppose a state law in Kentucky that would prohibit smoking in most public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars?" Three in 4 Kentucky adults (74%) reported they would favor such a law. This is the highest level of support since KHIP began asking this question in 2011, and an increase from 2018.

Support for a statewide smoke-free law was strong regardless of political party affiliation or region. Majorities of Democrats (80%), Republicans (73%) and Independents (65%) favored such a law. Likewise majorities in areas across the state favored a smoke-free law (Western Kentucky, 80%; Lexington area, 77%; Louisville area, 76%; Northern Kentucky, 73%; and Eastern Kentucky, 64%).

Percentage of adults who favor a comprehensive smoke-free law, by region



SOURCE: 2019 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released March 2020)



Secondhand smoke in the workplace

One in 4 Kentucky adults (25%) reported recent exposure to tobacco smoke in their workplace.⁶

⁶ KHIP asked, "During the past seven days, on how many days did you breathe the smoke at your workplace from someone other than you who was smoking tobacco?"

Support for a statewide smoke-free law did not vary by smoke exposure. Nearly 8 in 10 Kentucky adults who **were** exposed to smoke in their workplace (77%) favored such a law. About 7 in 10 Kentucky adults who **were not** exposed to smoke in their workplace (74%) favored such a law.