



# Kentuckians' Experiences with Having a Medical Home

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Results From the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



Having a usual clinic, health center, doctor's office, or other place you go if you are sick or need medical advice is known as having a medical home. People who do not have a medical home are less likely to seek appropriate and timely healthcare when they need it.

According to the 2009 *Kentucky Health Issues Poll*, 82% of Kentuckians have a medical home. The *Poll* is conducted by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati.

## One-Third of Uninsured, Young Adult, or African American Kentuckians Do Not Have Medical Home

About 1 in 5 Kentucky adults (18%) reported that they did not have a medical home. However, 1 in 3 uninsured Kentuckians (34%), young adults ages 18–29 (32%), and African Americans (31%) reported that they did not have a medical home. These groups typically report higher rates of not having a medical home in national and regional surveys.

## Three-Fourths of Kentuckians Have Appropriate Medical Home

Having a usual place to get healthcare and medical advice is only part of the issue. The type

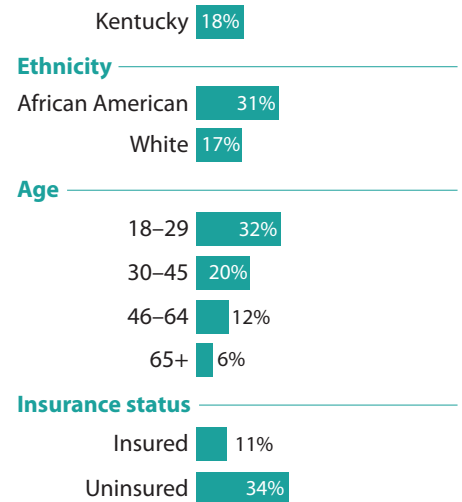
of medical home a person has is also important. An appropriate medical home is a place where the staff know your health history and provide regular and preventive care to help catch minor problems before they become serious.

Appropriate medical homes include private doctor's offices, public health clinics or community-based health centers, or hospital outpatient departments. About three-quarters of Kentucky adults (76%) reported they had an appropriate medical home.

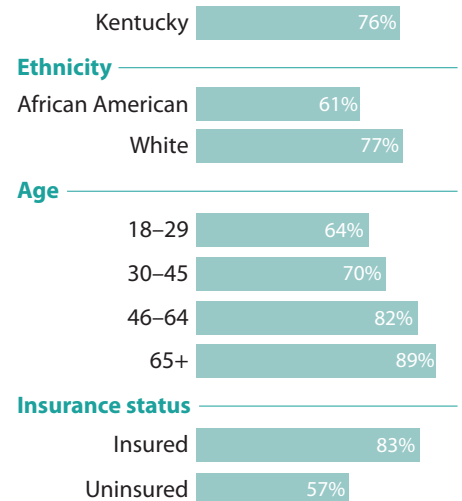
A hospital emergency room (ER) or urgent care center is not an appropriate medical home. About 5% of Kentuckians reported their medical home was an ER or urgent care center. This rate was slightly higher for Kentuckians with low incomes, the uninsured, and African Americans.

Staff at an ER or urgent care center are less likely to know an individual's health history. Primary care delivered in an ER or urgent care center is much more costly than care through an appropriate medical home. It also clogs the system, making it more difficult to provide care to those truly in need of emergency services.

**Is there one particular clinic, health center, doctor's office, or other place that you usually go to if you are sick or need advice about your health?** (Graph presents only those respondents who said "no")



**Kentuckians reporting an appropriate medical home, such as a private doctor's office, public health clinic or community-based health center, or hospital outpatient department**



These findings unless otherwise noted are from the 2009 Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted October 8–November 6, 2009, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,669 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,464 landline interviews and 205 cell phone interviews with people who did not have a landline telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ±2.4%. In addition to sampling error, 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.healthfoundation.org/khip.html](http://www.healthfoundation.org/khip.html).