



# What Kentuckians Think about Integrating Mental and Physical Health Care

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



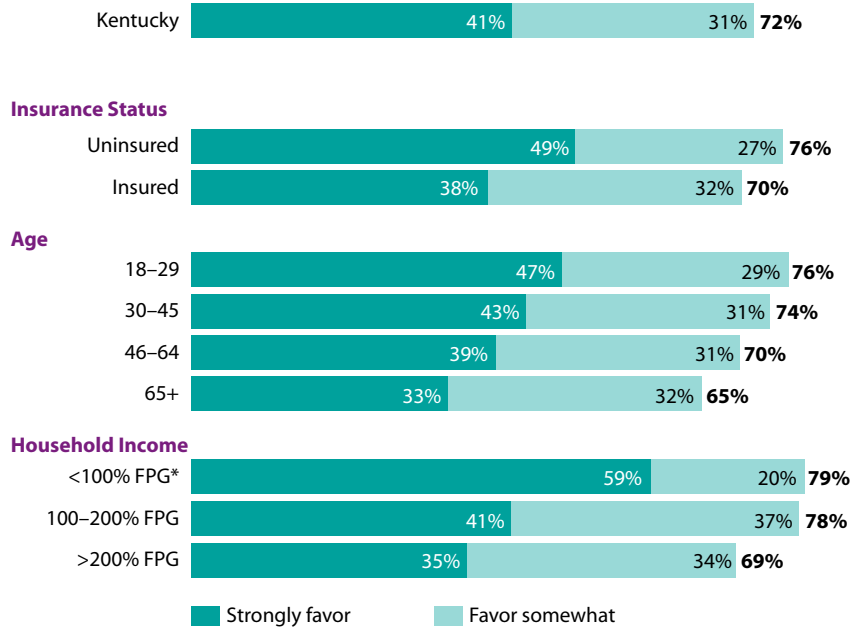
The current U.S. healthcare system separates treatment for physical and mental illnesses. Physical and mental health care are offered in different locations and by different healthcare providers. There are also different levels of insurance benefits for physical and mental health care. This can mean that people delay getting or don't get needed services because it is too difficult to go to more than one place or because of cost.

The current model—where physical health care is offered in primary care settings and mental health care is offered in mental health settings—assumes that:

- people have the resources and ability to get to and coordinate care in two places,
- the providers have the ability and resources to coordinate care across the systems, and
- people feel comfortable, safe, and respected in each place.

To find out what Kentuckians think about offering mental and physical health care in the same place, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati asked about the integration of care during the 2009 *Kentucky Health Issues Poll*.

**Do you favor the integration of physical and mental health care, that is, having both types of services available in the same place?** (Graph reflects the percentage answering "strongly favor" or "somewhat favor.")



\* 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2008 was a household income of \$21,200 for a family of 4.

## Seven in Ten Kentuckians Favor Integrating Physical and Mental Health Services

The majority of Kentuckians strongly (41%) or somewhat (31%) favored offering physical and mental health services in the same location. Although there were differences among subgroups in how strongly they favored integration, the majority of Kentuckians strongly or somewhat favor integrating care.

## Strongest Support for Integration among Young Adults, Poor, and Uninsured

The survey responses suggest that the current model of care may present more significant challenges for people with limited resources: the strongest support for integration was among young adults, the uninsured, and low-income Kentuckians.

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).