

# What Kentuckians Think about The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act



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



After much debate in Congress about healthcare reform, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law in early 2010. Some provisions of the law took effect immediately, and some will be phased in through 2014.

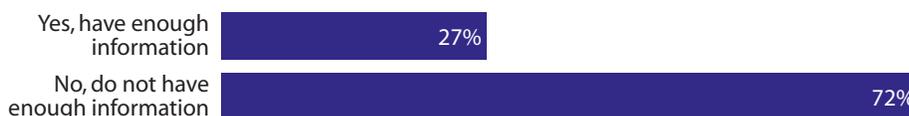
As the provisions of the law are phased in, elected officials continue to discuss healthcare reform. To find out what Kentuckians think, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati included questions about the ACA and its components on the most recent *Kentucky Health Issues Poll*.

## Kentuckians Need More Information about the ACA

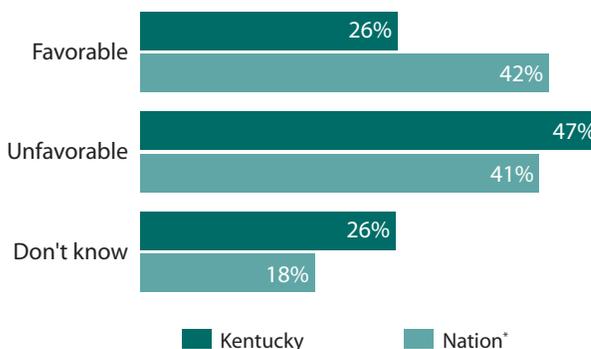
Only 1 in 4 Kentucky adults (27%) felt they had enough information about the ACA to understand how it would affect them personally. Therefore, 3 in 4 adults (72%) needed more information to understand how the law would affect them. The need for additional information was consistently high regardless of age, education, or political affiliation.

Despite the need for more information about how it would affect them, more than 1 in 4 Kentucky adults reported having a generally favorable opinion of the ACA (26%), while nearly

**Do you feel you have enough information about the health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?** (Percentages will not add to 100% because the percent responding "don't know" are not included.)



**Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?**



\* National data are from the December 2010 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll.

1 in 2 adults had a generally unfavorable opinion of it (47%). Another 1 in 4 Kentucky adults (26%) expressed no opinion about the law. A recent national poll found that 42% of adults in the U.S. had a favorable view of the law and 41% of adults had an unfavorable view of it.<sup>1</sup>

Political affiliation made a difference in who favored the law. Only 1 in 10 (11%) Republican

respondents reported a generally favorable opinion of the ACA, compared to 4 in 10 Democratic respondents (38%) and 1 in 4 Independents (26%).

## Bipartisan Support of Components of the Law

The majority of Kentuckians—regardless of political affiliation—said that the inclusion of certain elements in the law made them more favorable toward the law. Respondents felt most favorably

<sup>1</sup> National polling results come from the December 2010 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, available at: [www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/8127-T.pdf](http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/8127-T.pdf)

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These findings unless otherwise noted are from the 2010 *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 December 3–22 and 27–28, 2010, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,677 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,469 landline interviews and 208 cell phone interviews with people who did not have a landline telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to  $\pm 2.4\%$ . 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).

toward the law because of these elements:

- small business tax credits (82%)
- access to preventive services without co-payment (78%)
- prohibiting denying coverage for children with preexisting conditions (76%)
- closing the Medicare donut hole over time (76%)

### Kentuckians who feel more or less favorable toward the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) because it includes the following elements

(Percentages may not add to 100 because those responding "don't know" are not included.)

