

# Kentuckians' opinions on the Affordable Care Act

Since it was enacted in March 2010, various parts of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) have taken effect. Other parts of the law will be phased in through 2014.

The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati asked Kentuckians about the law on the most recent **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)**.

## Majority of Kentuckians support healthcare for all

Nearly 9 in 10 Kentuckians (89%) favor providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans. Previous KHIPs have found similarly high levels of support. Despite this high level of support for affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans, a large minority of Kentucky adults does not support the ACA.

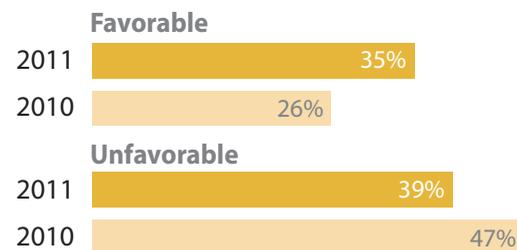
## One-third of Kentuckians favor ACA; support growing

About 1 in 3 Kentucky adults (35%) reported having a generally favorable opinion of the ACA. This

**Regardless of whether you favor or oppose the new healthcare reform law, generally speaking, do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans? (Graph shows percentage who favor access.)**



**Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it? (Percentages do not add to 100% because the response "don't know" is not included.)**



is an increase from 2010, when just 1 in 4 (26%) reported favorable views.

While the percentage of Kentuckians who support the ACA is comparable to national polling results<sup>2</sup>, fewer Kentucky adults oppose the law.

<sup>1</sup> In 2009, KHIP asked "Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans?"

About 4 in 10 Kentucky adults (39%) reported having generally unfavorable views of the ACA, compared with more than half (51%) nationally. Another 1 in 4 Kentucky adults (27%) expressed no opinion about the law.

Political affiliation made a difference in who favored the law. Fewer than 2 in 10 Republican respondents (18%) reported a generally favorable view of the ACA, compared with nearly half of Democratic respondents (47%) and 4 in 10 Independents (38%).

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<sup>2</sup> The national Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, conducted at the same time as KHIP, found 34% favorable, 51% unfavorable, 15% don't know. Results available at: <http://tinyurl.com/63eytaw>.

These findings unless otherwise noted are from the 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 Sept. 27-Oct. 27, 2011, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,621 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,313 landline interviews and 308 cell phone interviews. 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 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).

## Most components of the law increase support

The majority of Kentuckians said that elements of the law that were recently phased in made them feel more favorable toward the law. Nearly 8 in 10 (79%) felt more favorable because of free preventive services for seniors. About 2 in 3 felt more favorable because of increased accountability for insurance companies (69%) and grants to support workplace wellness programs (63%).

Views were mixed regarding a part of the ACA that will require chain restaurants to post calorie and nutritional information for menu items. About 4 in 10 felt more favorable because of this (41%), but nearly half (47%) said it doesn't make a difference.

## Individual mandate decreases support

The ACA requires that nearly all Americans obtain health insurance by 2014 or else pay a fine. Just 1 in 5 respondents (20%) favored this part of the law, known as the individual mandate, while 3 in 4 opposed it (77%).

### Percentage of Kentuckians who feel **more favorable** toward the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) because it includes the following elements:

Free preventive and screening services, such as mammograms and colonoscopies, and annual wellness check-ups for Medicare recipients

79%

Requiring insurance companies to spend between 80 and 85 cents of every healthcare dollar collected on patient care instead of administrative expenses, salaries and marketing

69%

Providing funding to small employers that establish wellness programs in the workplace

63%

Requiring chain restaurants to post calorie and nutritional information for their standard menu items

41%

### Percentage of Kentuckians who **favor** the part of the health reform law that will require nearly all Americans to have health insurance:

20%