

What Kentuckians think should be state's priorities

Every day, Kentucky's elected officials grapple with many important issues. With limited resources, they often have to make difficult decisions. To learn which issues Kentuckians think are important, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati asked about policy priorities in the most recent **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)**.

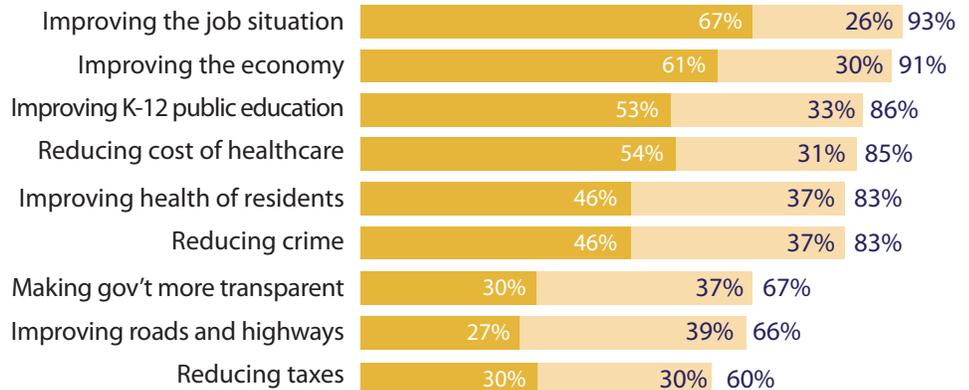
Jobs, economy are the top priorities

KHIP asked, "How important is it to you that the Governor and the Kentucky Legislature work on each of the following issues in the next year?" Kentuckians place the greatest importance on priorities that would grow Kentucky's economy. More than 9 in 10 respondents think it is extremely or very important for policymakers to work on improving Kentucky's job situation (93%) and improving its economy (91%).

Education, health and crime are high priorities

More than 8 in 10 Kentuckians said it is extremely or very

How important is it to you that the Governor and the Kentucky Legislature work on each of the following issues in the next year?



■ Extremely important ■ Very important

important for policymakers to work on improving K-12 public education (86%), reducing the cost of healthcare (85%), improving the health of Kentucky residents (83%) and reducing crime in Kentucky (83%).

Other important issues

The majority of those surveyed reported that other issues were also important. Kentucky adults said it was important for policymakers to work on making

government more transparent (67%), improving Kentucky's roads and highways (66%) and reducing state taxes (60%).

Kentuckians agree on priorities

Regardless of political party, Kentuckians agreed on the relative importance of these policy priorities. Jobs and the economy were rated the most important priorities for the state by both Democrats and Republicans.

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 or www.healthfoundation.org/khip.html.