

Next generation seen as worse off, less healthy

The American Dream is the belief that every American has the opportunity to achieve success through hard work. More broadly defined, it is the belief that if we work hard, we will get ahead and life will be better for the next generation. To learn what Kentucky adults think about the American Dream, the 2012 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked Kentuckians to compare their health and economic situation with past and future generations.

Most think their parents were better off, their children will be worse off economically

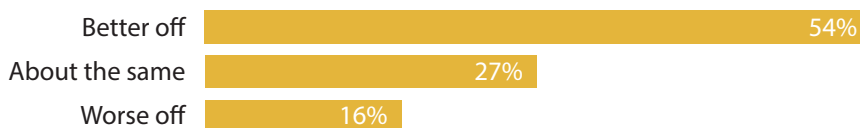
More than half of Kentucky adults (54%) think their parents' generation was better off economically. Almost 3 in 10 (27%) think the current generation of working adults is about the same economically as their parents' generation. Only 1 in 6 (16%) say their parents' generation was worse off.

Kentucky adults were also asked about the next generation of American workers – those who are children today. Only 1 in 7

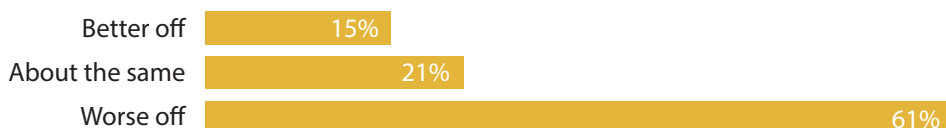
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How Kentucky adults think their economic situation compares with other generations (Percentages do not add to 100 because the response "don't know" is not included.)

Parents' generation was ... ¹



Next generation will be ... ²



How Kentucky adults think their health compares with other generations (Percentages may not add to 100 because the response "don't know" is not included.)

Parents' generation was ... ³



Next generation will be ... ⁴



¹ KHIP asked, "Thinking about your parents' generation, do you think economically they were better off, worse off or about the same as the current generation of working adults?"

² KHIP asked, "Thinking about the next generation of American workers who are children today, do you think economically they will be better off, worse off or about the same as the current generation of working adults?"

³ KHIP asked, "Thinking about your parents' generation, do you think they were healthier, less healthy or about the same as the current generation of adults?"

⁴ KHIP asked, "Thinking about the next generation of Americans who are children today, do you think they will be healthier, less healthy or about the same as the current generation of adults?"

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. 20-Oct. 14, 2012, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,680 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,360 landline interviews and 320 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. 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/kentucky-health-issues-poll.

(15%) think the next generation will be better off than the current generation of working adults, while 1 in 5 (21%) think the next generation will fare about the same economically. The majority of Kentucky adults (61%) said the next generation will be worse off.

Many think their parents were healthier, their children will be less healthy

More than 4 in 10 Kentucky adults (42%) think their parents' generation was healthier than the

current generation, while 3 in 10 (27%) think it was less healthy. About 3 in 10 adults (31%) think their parents' generation was about as healthy as the current generation.

When asked about the next generation, fewer than 1 in 3 Kentucky adults (27%) said they thought it would be healthier than the current generation. Three in 10 adults (30%) think the next generation will be about as healthy while 4 in 10 (40%) believe it will be less healthy.