



# Smoke-free law gains support in Kentucky

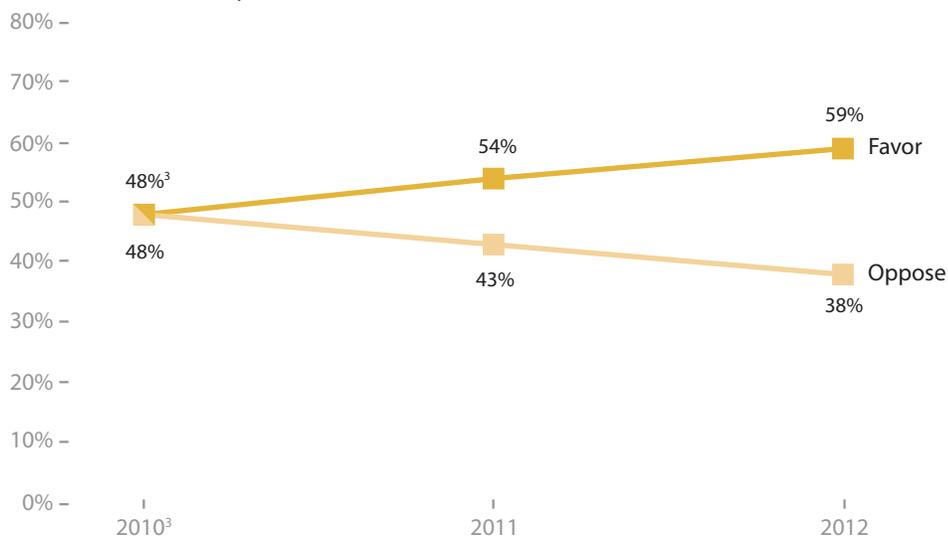
Secondhand smoke poses serious health risks. Smoke-free environments are the only way to fully protect nonsmokers from these hazards.<sup>1</sup> To reduce these risks, many states and communities have adopted smoke-free policies. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 26 states and the District of Columbia have adopted comprehensive smoke-free laws.<sup>2</sup> That means the law covers all workplaces, including bars and restaurants. The Kentucky legislature is considering a statewide law banning smoking in all indoor public places.

Since 2010, the **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** has asked Kentucky adults about their support for smoke-free policies in all public places.

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2006) *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health.

<sup>2</sup>Tynan M, Babb S, MacNeil A, Griffin M (2011). State Smoke-Free Laws for Worksites, Restaurants, and Bars – United States, 2000-2010. *MMWR* 60(15): 472-475. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6015a2.htm>

**Would you favor or oppose a state law in Kentucky that would prohibit smoking in most public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars? (Percentages do not add to 100% because the response "don't know" is not included.)**



<sup>3</sup>In 2010, KHIP asked "Would you favor or oppose a statewide smoke-free law in Kentucky?"

## Majority supports smoke-free law

Nearly 6 in 10 Kentucky adults (59%) favored a statewide smoke-free law, while about 1 in 3 (38%) opposed a law and 4% had no opinion. Support for the law has increased since 2010.

Support for the law increases as age and income increase. Support was higher among African Americans (71%) than whites (57%).

## Support greater among registered voters

Among respondents who were registered to vote, more than 6 in 10 favored a statewide smoke-free law (62%), while 36% opposed a law and 3% had no opinion. Support among registered voters was significantly higher than among nonvoters. Just 50% of nonvoters favored a law.

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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](http://www.healthy-ky.org) or [www.healthfoundation.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll](http://www.healthfoundation.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll).

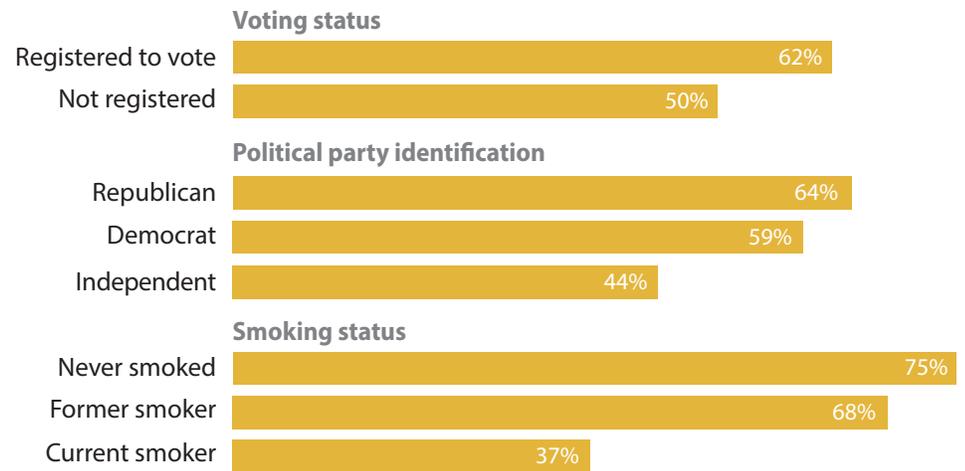
Republicans (64%) and Democrats (59%) both reported higher levels of support for a statewide smoke-free law than Independents (44%).

## Highest support among nonsmokers

There is a clear relationship between support for a statewide smoke-free law and whether one smokes. Of those who had never smoked, 3 in 4 (75%) favored a smoke-free law, while 2 of 3 former smokers (68%) also supported a law.

Nearly 4 in 10 KHIP respondents said they were a current smoker (38%). Of these, nearly 4 in 10 (37%) favored a statewide smoke-free law.<sup>4</sup>

**Would you favor or oppose a state law in Kentucky that would prohibit smoking in most public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars?** (Graph presents only those who favor a state law.)



<sup>4</sup>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) 2011 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System estimate of adult smokers in Kentucky was 29%, which was lower than the percentage of adult smokers that KHIP found (38%). Retrieved from [www.cdc.gov/BRFSS/](http://www.cdc.gov/BRFSS/).