



# Impact and views of Affordable Care Act among Kentuckians

In 2010 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) became law. Since then the **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** has asked Kentucky adults their opinions about and experiences with the healthcare reform law.

Under the ACA, Kentuckians can compare and enroll in insurance plans via kynect, Kentucky's online marketplace for health insurance. They can also use kynect to apply for Kentucky's expanded Medicaid program and the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP).

In the first year of kynect, 413,410 Kentuckians enrolled in new health insurance coverage.<sup>1</sup> The third enrollment period on kynect.ky.gov ends Dec. 15, 2015.

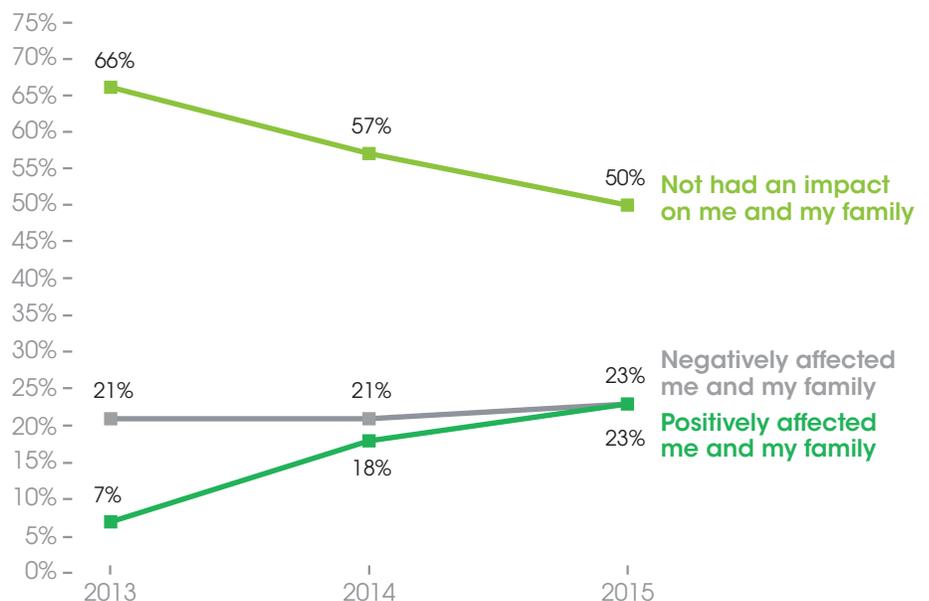
## Half report no personal impact from law

Five in 10 Kentucky adults (50%) reported that the ACA had not had an effect on their family. This is down from 66% in 2013.

The percentage of Kentucky adults who reported that the law had a

<sup>1</sup> kyhealthnow: Advancing Our State of Wellness Report, November 2015. Retrieved Nov. 17, 2015 from <http://governor.ky.gov/SiteCollectionDocuments/kyhealthnowAR.pdf>.

**Overall, which of the following statements would you say best describes the impact of the health reform law on you and your family personally? The health reform law has ...**



\* Percentages do not add to 100% because the responses "don't know" and "both positive and negative" are not included.

positive impact has risen. In 2015, more than 2 in 10 adults (23%) reported that the law had a positive effect. This compares with fewer than 1 in 10 adults (7%) in 2013. The percentage of adults who reported a negative impact from the law (23%) has remained stable.

Nearly 4 in 10 Kentucky adults living at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level<sup>2</sup> (FPL)

<sup>2</sup> In 2014, 138% of the Federal Poverty Level was \$32,913 for a family of four.

(37%) reported a positive impact from the ACA. This compares with nearly 3 in 10 adults living between 138% and 200% FPL (27%) and about 1 in 10 adults living above 200% FPL (12%).

## 4 in 10 adults view the law favorably

About 4 in 10 Kentucky adults (41%) reported favorable views of the ACA. More than 4 in 10 adults

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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 Interact for Health. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Sept. 17-Oct. 7, 2015, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,608 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 986 landline interviews and 622 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to  $\pm 2.4\%$ . 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.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll](http://www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll).

(46%) reported unfavorable views of the law. About 1 in 10 (14%) reported that they didn't know. The percentage of respondents who view the law favorably has increased since 2010. The percentage of respondents who view the law unfavorably is similar to 2010.

In 2015, a majority of Democrats (61%) had favorable views of the law, while a majority of Republicans (66%) had unfavorable views. Among Independents 42% reported unfavorable views and 43% reported favorable views.

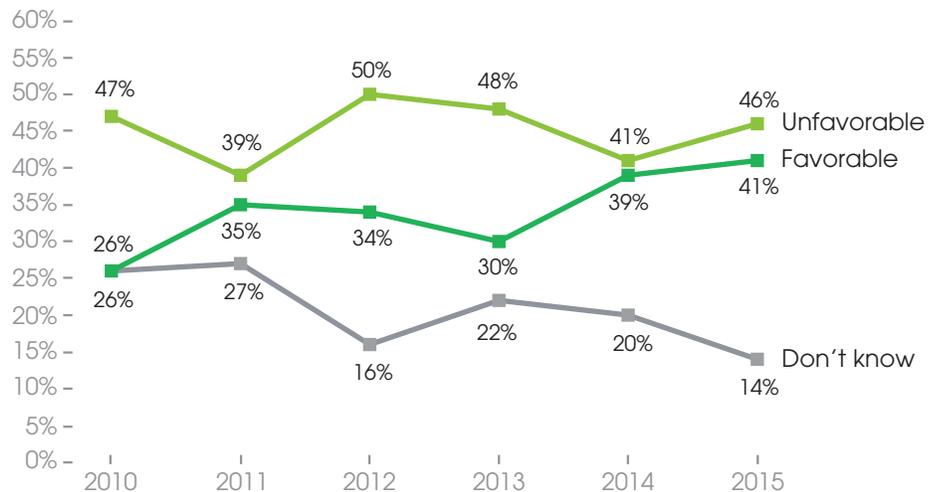
The views in Kentucky in 2015 were similar to national views of the healthcare law. The September 2015 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll reported that 45% had unfavorable views, 41% had favorable views and 14% did not know/refused.<sup>3</sup>

## 5 in 10 did not have enough information about the ACA

Five in 10 Kentucky adults (51%) reported not having enough

<sup>3</sup> Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, September 2015. Retrieved Nov. 17, 2015 from <http://kff.org/health-reform/poll-finding/kaiser-health-tracking-poll-september-2015/>.

**Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?** (Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.)



information to understand how the ACA will affect them.<sup>4</sup> This percentage has declined since 2010 when 7 in 10 adults (72%) reported not having enough information.

The percentage of adults who felt they did not have enough information was the same across political affiliations. Among Republicans, Democrats and Independents, 52% of each group

<sup>4</sup> KHIP asked: "As you may know, a health reform bill called the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010. Do you feel you have enough information about the health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?"

reported they did not have enough information.

Responses varied when Kentucky adults were asked how much they had heard about kynect.<sup>5</sup> Nearly 4 in 10 Kentucky adults (35%) reported hearing a lot about kynect. About 2 in 10 had heard some (22%), and 4 in 10 had heard only a little or nothing at all (43%).

<sup>5</sup> KHIP asked: "As you may know, the healthcare law creates health insurance exchanges or marketplaces where people who don't get coverage through their employers can shop for insurance and compare prices and benefits. How much, if anything, have you heard about this new health insurance marketplace, also known as kynect, or Kentucky's Healthcare Connection in your state?"