

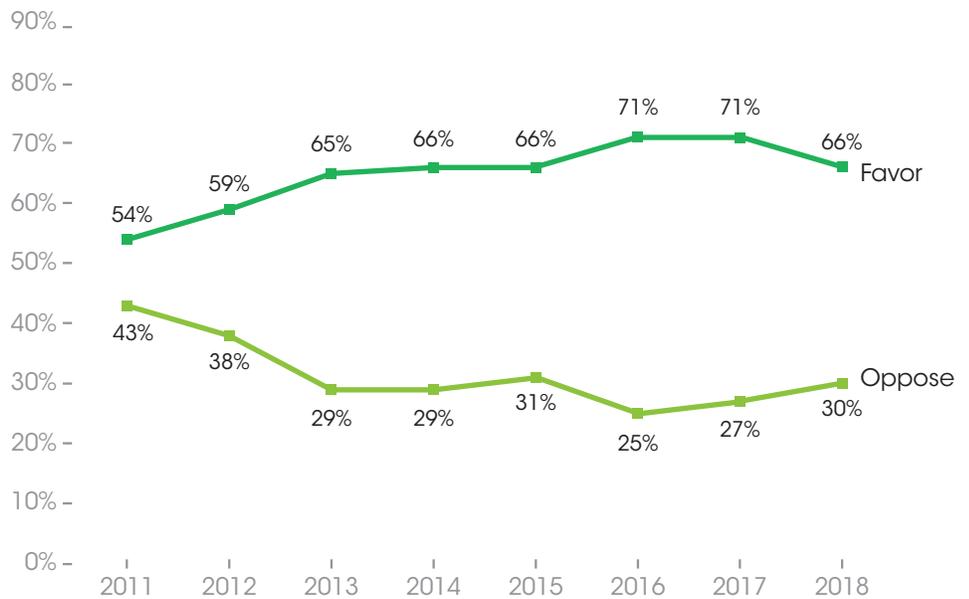


Support for statewide tobacco policies remains steady in Kentucky

The 2018 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked Kentucky adults whether they favored or opposed two tobacco control policies: a statewide smoke-free law and raising the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21. KHIP is sponsored jointly by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

The primary purpose of smoke-free legislation is to protect nonsmokers, particularly workers, from the dangers of secondhand smoke.¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, secondhand smoke is defined as the smoke that comes from the burning of a cigarette as well as that which is exhaled by smokers. Secondhand smoke exposure has been linked to several tobacco-related health issues in nonsmoking adults and children, including cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and asthma.² As of 2018, people living in 28 states³ and the District of Columbia are protected by

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.)



SOURCE: 2018 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released January 2019)



comprehensive smoke-free laws designed to reduce the burden of secondhand smoke. Kentucky does not have a comprehensive statewide smoke-free law.⁴

7 in 10 favor statewide smoke-free law

KHIP asked, "Would you favor or oppose a statewide law in Kentucky that would prohibit smoking in public places, including

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¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). *Smokefree Policies Reduce Smoking*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2i0ubKD>.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). *Health Effects of Secondhand Smoke*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2seDmrA>.

³ Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

⁴ American Lung Association. (2018). *Smokefree Air Laws*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2VQBunc>.

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 Aug. 26-Oct. 21, 2018, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,569 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 697 landline interviews and 872 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 nonresponse, 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.interactforhealth.org/about-khip/.

workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars?” About 7 in 10 Kentucky adults (66%) responded that they would favor this policy. Support for a statewide smoke-free law has remained about the same since 2013.

Nearly half of smokers favor smoke-free law

Seventy-five percent of Kentucky adults who have never smoked cigarettes support a statewide smoke-free law. This is higher than support among Kentucky adults who are former smokers (67%). Nearly half of current smokers in Kentucky (46%) support a statewide smoke-free law.

A majority of Kentucky adults favor a statewide smoke-free law regardless of political party. Kentucky Democrats (77%) were

Percentage of Kentucky adults who favor a statewide smoke-free law



SOURCE: 2018 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released January 2019)



most likely to favor a statewide smoke-free law, followed by Republicans (62%) and Independents (55%).

6 in 10 favor raising minimum legal age to buy tobacco to 21

KHIP also asked, “Do you favor or oppose increasing the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco

products from 18 years of age to 21 years of age?” Six in 10 Kentucky adults (56%) reported they would favor this policy. Support for this policy has not changed since 2015 when KHIP began asking this question. Majorities of Kentucky Democrats (61%), Republicans (55%) and Independents (52%) were in favor of raising the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products.