



# Support for smoke-free law in Kentucky remains steady

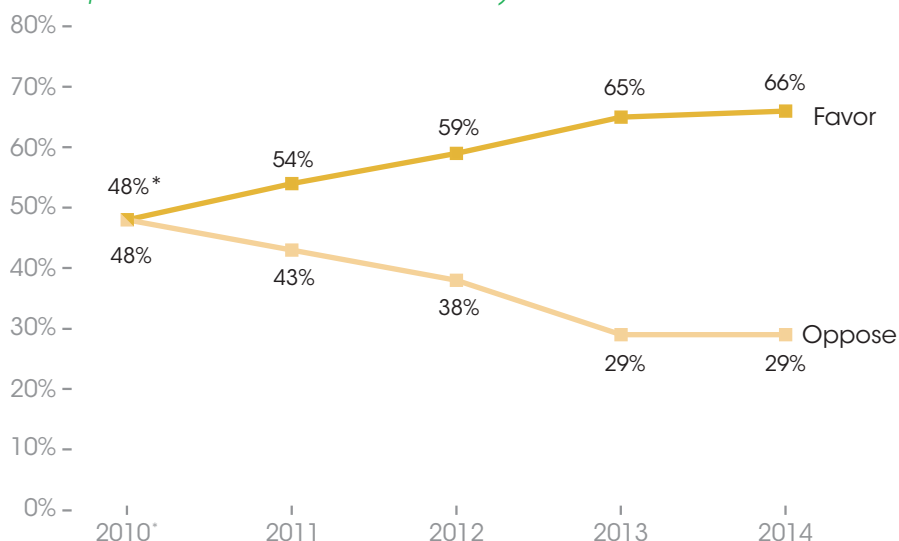
Since 2010, the **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)**, sponsored by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, has reported Kentucky adults' views about a statewide, smoke-free law. Laws that provide for smoke-free indoor air in workplaces, restaurants and bars are called comprehensive laws. In the United States, 26 states and the District of Columbia have such laws<sup>1</sup>; Kentucky does not.

In 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General's Report documented the health risks of secondhand smoke, such as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), heart disease and lung cancer. The report recommended eliminating all exposure to secondhand smoke.<sup>2</sup> Last year, the U.S. Surgeon General's Report, titled *The Health Consequences*

<sup>1</sup>As of Sept. 30, 2014, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *State Smoke-free Indoor Air Fact Sheet*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014. Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/state-system/default/Publications.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2006.

**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.)



\* In 2010, KHIP asked "Would you favor or oppose a statewide smoke-free law in Kentucky?"

*of Smoking—50 Years of Progress*, offered evidence that smoke-free indoor air policies are effective in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke.<sup>3</sup>

## Majority supports smoke-free law

Support for a state law in Kentucky that would prohibit smoking in

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014.

most public places remains steady. In 2014, nearly 7 in 10 Kentucky adults (66%) favored this type of law, while nearly 3 in 10 opposed the law (29%).

## Majorities of Democrats, Republicans and Independents favor statewide law

A majority of Democrats (68%), Republicans (67%) and Independents (64%) reported

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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 Oct. 8-Nov. 6, 2014, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,597 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,086 landline interviews and 511 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.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll](http://www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll).

support for a statewide smoke-free law.

## Highest support among nonsmokers and healthiest

Support for a smoke-free law is related to smoking status. Among Kentucky adults who have never smoked, 8 in 10 (80%) favored a smoke-free law, while 7 in 10 former smokers (71%) also supported a law. Four in 10 Kentucky adults who were current smokers<sup>4</sup> (40%) favored a smoke-free law.

In addition, Kentucky adults who reported better health status were more likely to favor a statewide smoke-free law in Kentucky. More than 7 in 10 Kentucky adults (75%) who reported excellent or very good health favored such a law. More than 6 in 10 adults (65%) with good health and only 5 in 10 adults (55%) with fair or poor health favored the law.

## Highest support in Lexington, Louisville

The highest levels of support for a statewide law were in two areas of Kentucky that have had long-standing local smoke-free ordinances. More than 7 in 10 Kentucky adults in the Lexington (75%) and Louisville (74%) areas favored the law. Majorities in Western (65%), Northern (63%) and Eastern (54%) Kentucky also favored a statewide smoke-free law.

<sup>4</sup> On KHIP 2014, 29% of Kentucky adults reported being current smokers.

**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.)

### By political party identification



### By smoking status



### By general health status\*



### By region



\*KHIP asks "Would you say that, in general, your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?"