

3 in 4 Kentucky adults say they support a statewide smoke-free law

The U.S. Surgeon General recommends comprehensive tobacco-free policies and increasing prices on cigarettes and other tobacco products as proven strategies to reduce smoking rates and protect nonsmokers.¹ Currently, only 36% of Kentuckians are covered by local smoke-free laws that include all indoor workplaces and public places.² Kentucky is one of 13 states without any type of statewide smoke-free indoor air law.³ Only 15 states have cigarette excise taxes lower than Kentucky's tax, which was raised to \$1.10 per pack in 2018.⁴ The current average tax for

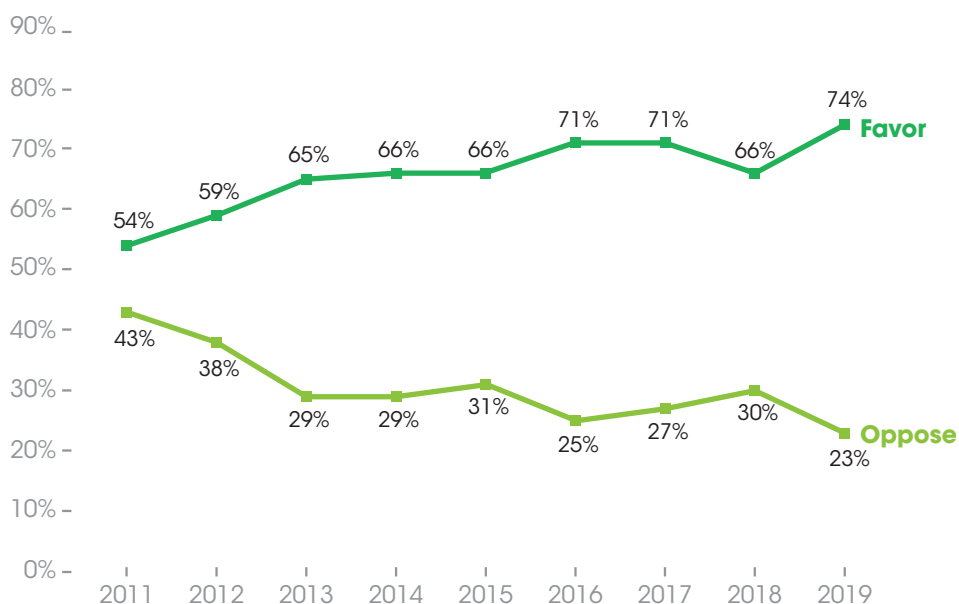
¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2015). Let's Make the Next Generation Tobacco-Free: Your Guide to the 50th Anniversary Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2weDZal>

² Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy. (2020). Kentucky Smoke-free Ordinance Database. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2TmHa7V>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3cfoMA>. States without a statewide law are Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

⁴ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. (2020). State Cigarette Excise Tax Rates & Rankings. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3a9BzZu>. States with an excise tax on cigarettes less than \$1.10 per pack include Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming.

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: 2019 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released June 2020)



all states and Washington, D.C., is \$1.81 per pack (see Footnote 4). The most recent national data show that Kentucky has among the highest percentages of both current adult e-cigarette users and current adult cigarette users.⁵

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data [online]. 2017 and 2018. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2T8hWeQ>

The 2019 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll** asked Kentucky adults their opinions about smoke-free policies and exposure to tobacco smoke at work. KHIP is sponsored by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

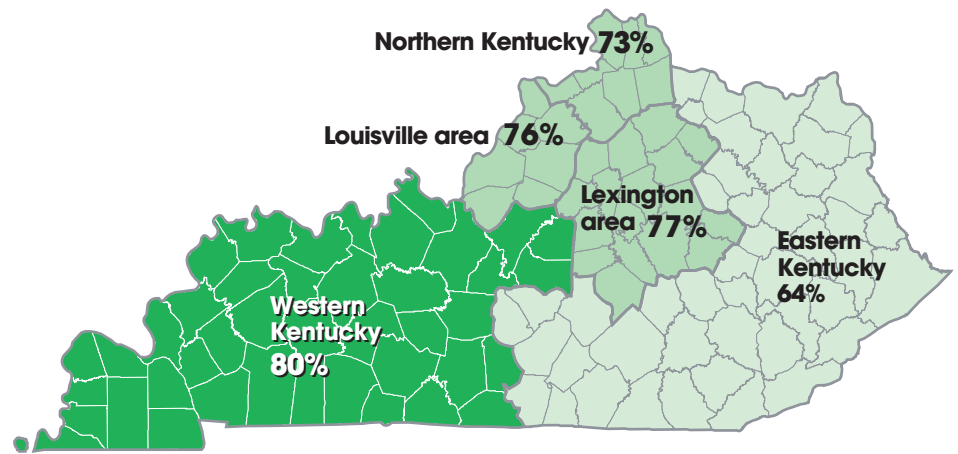
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Large majority supports a statewide smoke-free law

KHIP asked, "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?" Three in 4 Kentucky adults (74%) reported they would favor such a law. This is the highest level of support since KHIP began asking this question in 2011, and an increase from 2018.

Support for a statewide smoke-free law was strong regardless of political party affiliation or region. Majorities of Democrats (80%), Republicans (73%) and Independents (65%) favored such a law. Likewise majorities in areas across the state favored a smoke-free law (Western Kentucky, 80%; Lexington area, 77%; Louisville area, 76%; Northern Kentucky, 73%; and Eastern Kentucky, 64%).

Percentage of adults who favor a comprehensive smoke-free law, by region



SOURCE: 2019 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released June 2020)



Secondhand smoke in the workplace

One in 4 Kentucky adults (25%) reported recent exposure to tobacco smoke in their workplace.⁶

⁶ KHIP asked, "During the past seven days, on how many days did you breathe the smoke at your workplace from someone other than you who was smoking tobacco?"

Support for a statewide smoke-free law did not vary by smoke exposure. Nearly 8 in 10 Kentucky adults who **were** exposed to smoke in their workplace (77%) favored such a law. About 7 in 10 Kentucky adults who **were not** exposed to smoke in their workplace (74%) favored such a law.