

# Most Kentucky adults favor raising minimum age to buy tobacco to 21

The **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)**, sponsored by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, asked Kentucky adults their opinions about raising the minimum legal age to buy tobacco to 21. Policies limiting access to tobacco products can deter young people from starting to use tobacco. In the long term, these policies will reduce the incidence of tobacco-related health problems and overall smoking rates.<sup>1</sup> In 2016, KHIP found that 21% of Kentucky adults reported being current cigarette smokers.

California and Hawaii have raised the minimum legal age to buy tobacco products to 21.<sup>2</sup>

## Most Kentucky adults favor raising age to 21

Nearly 6 in 10 Kentucky adults (58%) favored raising the legal age to buy tobacco to 21. This

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products, March 2015. Accessed Dec. 21, 2016, from <http://bit.ly/29rpH98>.

<sup>2</sup> Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Increasing the Minimum Legal Sale Age for Tobacco Products to 21, Dec 2016. Accessed Dec. 21, 2016, from <http://bit.ly/2389F6N>.

## Percentage of Kentucky adults who favor raising the minimum legal age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21\*



\* KHIP asked, "Some people favor increasing the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 years of age to 21 years of age while others do not. What about you? Do you favor or oppose increasing the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products from 18 years of age to 21 years of age?"

was similar to 2015 (60%).

## Support across political parties

Majorities of Independents (65%), Democrats (59%) and Republicans (59%) all favored raising the minimum legal age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21.

## Support varies across Kentucky

About 6 in 10 Kentucky adults in Western (61%) and Eastern Kentucky (60%) and in the Louisville area (59%) favored raising

the legal age to buy tobacco to 21. About half of adults in the Lexington area (53%) and Northern Kentucky (51%) favored raising the age to 21.

## Percentage of Kentucky adults who favor raising the minimum legal age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21, by region

