



# Kentuckians' views on integrating healthcare

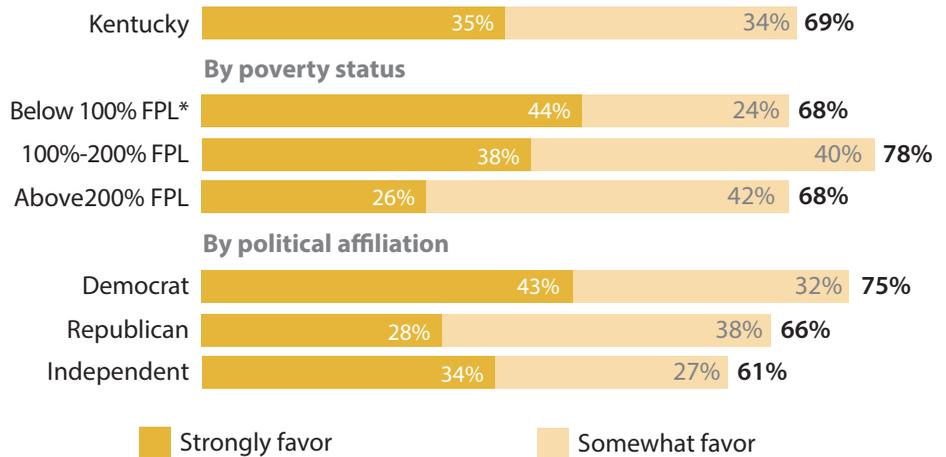
The current U.S. healthcare system separates treatment for physical and mental illnesses. Physical and mental healthcare are offered in different places by different providers. Insurance benefits are paid at different rates for physical and mental healthcare. This can mean people may delay or may not get needed care because it's too hard to go to more than one place or because the cost is too high.

More and more, Kentucky healthcare providers are talking about and working toward an integrated system of care. Integrated care means that people's physical health and mental or behavioral health are treated in a coordinated, convenient and respectful way, often in the same place. Integrated care is an important tool in achieving the "Triple Aim"<sup>1</sup> of improving people's quality of care, improving the health of the population and reducing costs.

To find out what Kentuckians think about integrated care, the 2012 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked about offering mental and physical healthcare in the same place.

<sup>1</sup> Berwick DM, Nolan TW, Whittington J (2008). The Triple Aim: Care, Health, and Cost. *Health Affairs* 27(3): 759-769.

**The current U.S. healthcare system separates treatment, meaning that people have to coordinate getting services in different places, at different times and with different providers, for physical and mental illnesses. Would you favor or oppose integration of physical and mental health care, that is, having both types of services available in one place?** (Graph shows only those who "strongly favor" or "somewhat favor" integrated care; totals reflect rounding.)



\* In 2011, 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) was an annual household income of \$22,350 and 200% FPL was \$44,700, both for a family of four.

## Majority favors integrated care

About 7 in 10 Kentucky adults (69%) strongly (35%) or somewhat (34%) favored offering physical and mental health services in the same place.

The percentage of Kentuckians who supported integrated care declined slightly from the 2009 KHIP. That year, 72% strongly or somewhat favored offering physical

and mental health in the same place. This difference is not statistically significant.

## Low-income adults, Democrats show strongest support

Overall, the majority of all subgroups favored integrated care. However, there were some differences in how strongly the

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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 The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Sept. 20-Oct. 14, 2012, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,680 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,360 landline interviews and 320 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.healthfoundation.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll](http://www.healthfoundation.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll).

subgroups favored integration. Kentucky adults earning less than 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL)<sup>2</sup> were more likely than those with higher incomes to strongly favor integrated care (44%).

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<sup>2</sup>In 2011, 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) was an annual household income of \$22,350 and 200% FPL was \$44,700, both for a family of four.

The current model of care may be more challenging for people with low incomes. Scheduling visits to several doctors may cause transportation or child-care problems. Hourly workers may lose wages or risk losing their jobs by taking time off for multiple appointments.

Democrats (43%) were more likely to strongly favor integrated care than Republicans (28%) or Independents (34%). While integrated care is not a partisan issue, views about any changes to the healthcare system may be influenced by the current political climate.