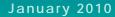








What Kentuckians Think about The Role of Schools in Children's Health













Results From the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



Health Foundation

The overall health and well-being of students affect their academic achievement. In turn, students' academic achievement affects their health status in the future.1 Schools, then, may be one place to help children be healthier.

To find out what Kentuckians think about the role of schools in children's health, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati included questions on the 2009 Kentucky Health Issues Poll about health education in schools and if schools should help families get healthcare.

Almost All Kentuckians Favor Health Education in Schools

Almost all Kentucky adults (98%) favored teaching health education topics—specifically nutrition, safety, and dental health—in schools, with more than 8 in 10 (85%) strongly favoring this. Support was similarly high among all subgroups surveyed by the Poll.

13% **98%**

23% 75%

Do you favor or oppose schools taking a more active role in helping families get healthcare services for their children? (Graph presents only those who said they strongly favor or somewhat favor this.)



Kentuckians Favor **Schools Taking a More Active Role in Helping** Children Get Healthcare

Three in four Kentucky adults (75%) favored schools taking a more active role in helping families get healthcare services for their children.

The subgroups more likely to favor schools taking a more active role in helping families get healthcare services for children included subgroups who typically have more difficulty getting healthcare services in general, including:

 Kentucky adults living below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG)2 (91% favored schools taking a more

- active role in helping families get healthcare services for children);
- Kentucky adults living in Eastern Kentucky, a rural, mostly Appalachian region of the state (86% favored schools taking a more active role); and
- Kentucky adults with less than a high school education (83% favored schools taking a more active role).

Finding affordable, quality healthcare is more of a challenge for some Kentucky families, and the Poll results indicate that these families might turn to schools to help them get healthcare services for their children.

These findings unless otherwise noted are from the 2009 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 October 8-November 6, 2009, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,669 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 1,464 landline interviews and 205 cell phone interviews with people who did not have a landline telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ±2.4%. In addition to sampling error, 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 or www.healthfoundation.org/khip.html.

Do you favor or oppose teaching health education topics specifically nutrition, safety, and dental health—in schools? (Graph presents only those who said they strongly favor or somewhat favor this.)

¹ Cutler DM and Alleras-Muney. (2006) Education and Health: Evaluating Theories and Evidence. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

² 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2008 was a household income of \$21,200 for a family of 4.