

# University of Kentucky Public Opinion Poll on Tobacco Issues

Summary Report\*  
March 2002

## Overview

Kentuckians' views on tobacco issues were addressed via telephone surveys by the UK Survey Research Center from February 21 until March 22, 2002. The UK College of Nursing placed tobacco-related questions on the Kentucky Survey. The purpose of the survey was to learn about public views on social, political and economic issues affecting Kentucky residents. Households were selected using random-digit dialing, a procedure giving every residential telephone line in Kentucky an equal probability of being called. Respondents are representative of state demographics, with an over-representation of women. The margin of error is approximately  $\pm 3.00$  percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

## How Interested are Smokers in Quitting?

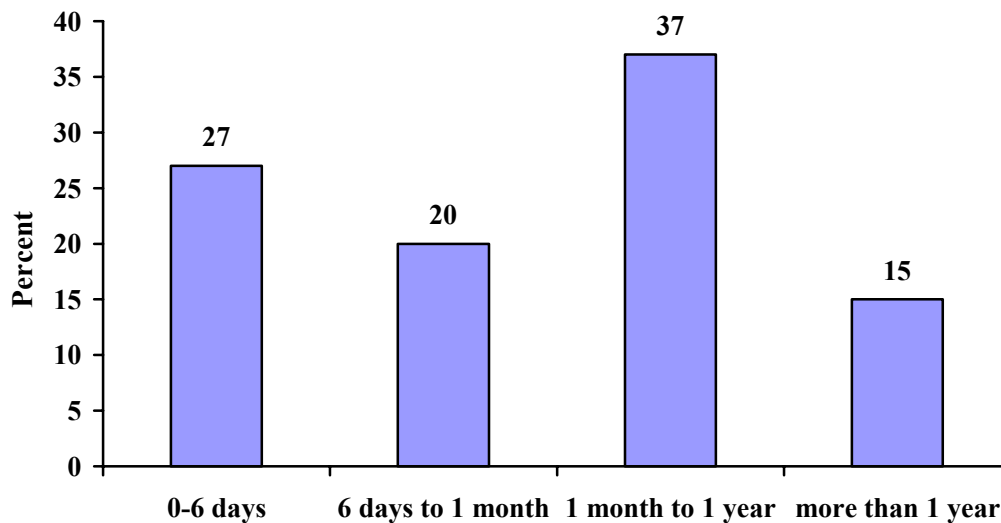
*Have you ever tried to quit smoking?*

- 77% have tried to quit smoking

*During the past 12 months, did you ever try to quit smoking cigarettes?*

- 48% have tried to quit smoking in the past 12 months

*When you last tried to quit, how long did you stay off cigarettes?*



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• Information compiled by Drs. Ellen Hahn and Mary Kay Rayens, University of Kentucky College of Nursing

## **Smoking in the Workplace**

*Are employees permitted to smoke inside your place of work?*

- 69% said that smoking was banned inside their workplace, compared to 71% in 2000 and 70% in August 1999. Healthy Kentuckians 2010 aims for 100% smoke-free workplaces.

## **Smoking in the Home**

*In the past 30 days, has anyone, including yourself, smoked cigarettes, cigars, or pipes anywhere INSIDE YOUR HOME?*

- 41% reported exposure to secondhand smoke from cigarettes, cigars or pipes inside their home during the past 30 days, compared to 38% in 2001.

## **Health Care Provider Advice on Tobacco Use**

*During the past 12 months, did your doctor or any other health care provider advise you to stop using tobacco products?*

- Of the 319 smokers who visited a health care provider in the past 12 months, 44% stated that they were advised to stop using tobacco products, compared to 50% in 2000.

*During the past 12 months, did your doctor or any other health care provider ask you if anyone smoked cigarettes, cigars, or pipes anywhere INSIDE YOUR HOME?*

- Of those who visited a health care provider in the past 12 months, 24% said they were asked about smoking inside the home, compared to 16% in 2000.

*During the past 12 months, did your doctor or any other health care provider advise you to ban smoking INSIDE YOUR HOME?*

- Of those who visited a health care provider in the past 12 months, only 10% said they were advised to ban smoking inside the home, showing no change from 2000. A few (4%) said they already banned smoking inside their home.

## **Beliefs about Tobacco Use and the Tobacco Industry**

*How do most of your family members feel about cigarette smoking among adults?*

- 45% disapprove, 37% do not mind, and 13% have no opinion

*Do you think that in the past two years tobacco companies have become more responsible, less responsible, or have not changed in the way they sell tobacco products?*

- 57% thought tobacco companies had become more responsible
- 38% thought there had been no change
- 6% thought the companies have become less responsible

## **Sample Characteristics**

- ✓ 1,037 interviews completed (response rate = 40.1%)
- ✓ Non-institutionalized Kentuckians 18 years of age or older
- ✓ 93% Caucasian
- ✓ 49% some education post-high school
- ✓ 69% earned at least \$25,000 household income per year
- ✓ 84% registered voters
- ✓ 29% smoked cigarettes in the past 30 days
- ✓ 8% used smokeless tobacco, cigars, or pipes in the past 30 days
- ✓ 8% owned tobacco allotment