



Executive Summary

In July 2024, The Asclepius Initiative (TAI) launched its second bi-annual Health Care Coverage Survey to assess Kentuckians' attitudes and beliefs about the U.S. health care system, current coverage options, and their willingness to entertain alternative payment models. TAI contracted with Qualtrics, an online survey platform, to recruit Kentuckians to respond to the survey, prioritizing a diverse sample that matched state demographics with respect to gender, race and ethnicity, health care coverage status and type, and metro vs. non-metro residence. The survey response period closed in September 2024 with 1,001 responses. This report describes key highlights from the 2024 survey and includes selected comparisons of results from the 2022 survey. Below are some findings of note:

- The percentage of respondents who believe healthcare is a basic human right increased from 75% in 2022 to 78% in 2024. Among these respondents, 72% identified as Republican, 89% as Democrat, and 80% as Independent.
- 74% of Kentuckians surveyed “favored” or “somewhat favored” a national health care coverage program.
- Overall, 57% of respondents reported having to go without medical care or medications secondary to cost. Rural populations (61%) were more likely to forgo medical care or medications than those living in urban areas (53%).
- Fewer Kentuckians are uninsured in 2024 (5%) compared to 2022 (8%). There were increases in both the commercially insured (2022: 38%; 2024: 41%) and the Medicaid insured (2022: 22%; 2024: 29%) populations.
- Among those who reported not having health insurance, the majority reasons given were being currently unemployed (42%), followed by “other” (15%), and their current employer not offering health insurance (9%).
- Nearly a quarter of respondents had had at least some difficulty with their insurers' pre-authorization policies.
- Republicans were far less likely (37%) to support paying higher taxes to ensure better health care compared to Democrats (60%). Independents were in the middle at 48%. However, Republicans were slightly more likely to have gone without medications or medical care secondary to cost (53%) than Democrats (51%).
- When it comes to choosing a plan, the majority (36%) picked the one that they had before, followed by selecting a plan with the best benefits that they could afford/wished to pay (31%).

- Only 8% of Kentuckians felt that they should lose their health care coverage if they changed jobs.
- When asked what factors most influenced their support or opposition of a national health care program, the most common reason given was *“Health care is a right and this would make sure everyone was covered.”*
- In 2024, 47% of respondents said they would make life changes if they did not have to worry about health care coverage, compared to 41% in 2022. Life changes included switching jobs or starting a new career (16%), going back to school (11%), retiring (13%), or leaving their current domestic situation (6%).

Next Steps

Overall, the majority of Kentuckians who responded to this survey believe that healthcare is a human right and supported the idea of a national healthcare coverage program. While there were fewer respondents who reported not having any health insurance in 2024 compared to 2022, respondents reported several barriers to receiving care, including challenges with their insurer’s pre-authorization processes, finding a plan to meet their needs and/or their family’s needs, and difficulties affording the cost of their insurance premiums. In 2024, more people agreed that health insurance should not be tied to their job (50%) compared to 2022 (39%).

This survey identified an increased interest among Kentuckians in moving towards national health care coverage. While opinions varied on *how* to move forward, there was clear agreement that we *should* move forward to ensure that all Americans are able to meet their healthcare needs.

TAI plans to repeat this survey again in 2026. Until that time, we will continue to work with community partners and advocates to educate Kentuckians and build awareness and support for a universal healthcare program that will cover everyone from birth until death.

The Asclepius Initiative (TAI) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health and economic stability of Kentuckians, and ultimately everyone residing in the United States, by educating, inspiring, and mobilizing the public to advocate for a universally accessible, affordable, equitable and high-quality healthcare delivery system.