



# Health of Appalachians in Greater Cincinnati



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# Introduction

The idea of “Appalachia” as a distinct region did not develop until the 19th century. In the 1890s, William Frost, the president of Berea College at that time, and geologist C. Willard Hayes outlined a region across eight states that they termed “Appalachian America.” This defined area was based not only on geography, but also on economic divisions and Civil War loyalties. Frost and Hayes’ Appalachia included parts of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Piedmont Plateau, and the Tennessee Valley.

Subsequent attempts to define Appalachia featured the Appalachian mountain system’s Great Valley. In 1965, Congress “created” Appalachia consisting of 360 counties in Alabama, the Carolinas, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Congress also formed the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to increase economic development and quality of life in the Appalachian region. The federal government has expanded Appalachia several times. Today’s Appalachia, as defined by the federal government, consists of 420 counties (see map).

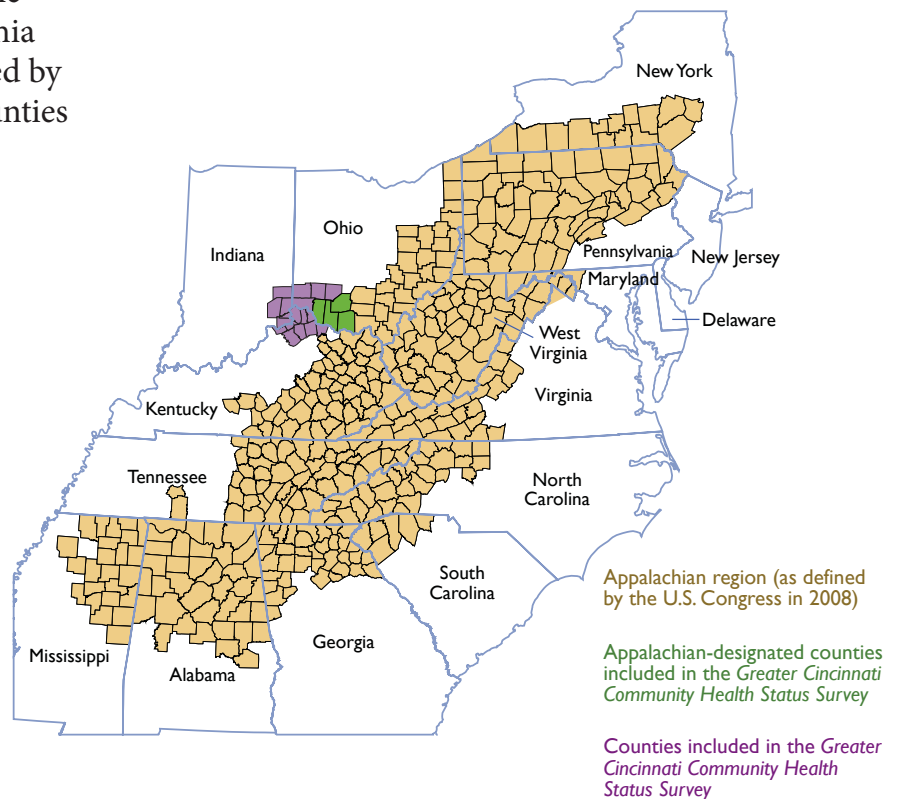
## Defining the Appalachian Population for this Survey

The data presented in this chart book compare the responses from adults designated as white Appalachian to adults who are white but not Appalachian. Not all Appalachians are white. However, because the geographic region for the *Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey* is 85% white, the total number of non-white Appalachian adults who responded to the *Survey* was very small. As a result, we decided to focus on the white Appalachian

community for this analysis. When this report uses the terms “Appalachian” and “non-Appalachian,” it means adults who are white and are designated Appalachian or non-Appalachian.

For the 2005 and 2010 *Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Surveys*, white Appalachians were defined as people who were white and were:

- 1st generation Appalachians, meaning they were born in one of the Appalachian-designated counties in the U.S. (see map), or
- 2nd generation Appalachians, meaning they had at least one parent who was born in one of the Appalachian-designated counties in the U.S.



The *Survey* was conducted in 1996, 1999, and 2002, but only tracked 1st generation Appalachians. Therefore, this report shows the trends between 2005 and 2010. Also, please note that Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2008 added 10 counties to the Appalachian region, including three in Northeastern Ohio. People who were born in these additional counties were designated as Appalachian in the 2010 *Survey*, but would not have been in the 2005 *Survey*.

For more information about the 2010 *Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey*, including additional reports from the survey and a link to the full dataset, please visit our web site at <http://www.healthfoundation.org/gcchss.html>.

## Limitations in Interpreting the Data in this Report

Throughout this chart book, we report and compare responses of first and second generation Appalachians and of non-Appalachians. Many health-related issues, however, are strongly influenced by demographics such as age, income, or area in which a person lives. For example, most cancers affect older people. General health also typically decreases with age. People in low-income families may not have proper

nutrition or regular dental care, and these can lead to other health problems. According to the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association, exposure to air pollution can contribute to heart disease, stroke, asthma, and lung cancer.

The results of the *Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey* have not been adjusted to control for these influences. This should be kept in mind while reviewing and analyzing the results presented in this report.

## About the Appalachians in this Survey

When compared to the white non-Appalachian adults, the white Appalachian adults who responded to this *Survey* were more likely to be older; disabled or retired; living in households with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG); and living in Adams, Brown, Clermont, and Highland Counties, all of which are designated Appalachian counties. Appalachian adults were less likely to have graduated from high school or college than non-Appalachian adults.

For more about the demographics of the Appalachian and non-Appalachian adults, please see the Appendix on page 35.

# Key Findings



The list below highlights some key findings on the health of white Appalachians compared to white non-Appalachians. Details about these findings can be found in this report on the pages indicated below.

- **Health status** (page 7): Appalachian adults were less likely than non-Appalachian adults to report being in “excellent” or “very good” health. Between 2005 and 2010, the percentage of non-Appalachian adults who reported being in “excellent” or “very good” health remained the same, while the percentage of Appalachian adults who reported being in “excellent” or “very good” decreased.
- **Eyesight** (page 9): Appalachian adults were less likely than non-Appalachian adults to report their eyesight was “very good.”
- **Health of mouth and teeth** (page 10): In 2005, Appalachians and non-Appalachians reported similar percentages of having their mouth and teeth in “very good” condition mouth and teeth. Between 2005 and 2010, the percentage for non-Appalachians stayed consistent, while the percentage for Appalachians decreased.
- **Chronic cardiovascular conditions** (page 11): Appalachians were more likely than non-Appalachians to report they had high blood pressure and high cholesterol. These percentages stayed consistent for both groups between 2005 and 2010.
- **Obesity** (page 15): Appalachians were more likely to be obese than non-Appalachians. The percentage of adults who were obese increased for both groups between 2005 and 2010.
- **Physical activity** (page 19): In 2005, Appalachians and non-Appalachians reported similar percentages of meeting recommendations for physical activity.

Between 2005 and 2010, the percentage for non-Appalachians stayed consistent, while the percentage for Appalachians decreased.

- **Appropriate usual source of primary care** (page 26): In 2005, Appalachians and non-Appalachians were equally likely to report having an appropriate usual source of primary care, such as a private doctor's office, community health center, or hospital outpatient clinic. Between 2005 and 2010, the percentage of Appalachians with an appropriate usual source of primary care increased, while the percentage for non-Appalachians stayed consistent.

- **Going without needed doctor's care** (page 29): In 2005, Appalachians and non-Appalachians were equally likely to report that someone in their household had gone without needed doctor's care because the household needed the money to pay for food, clothing, or housing. The percentages for both groups nearly tripled between 2005 and 2010.

# General Health

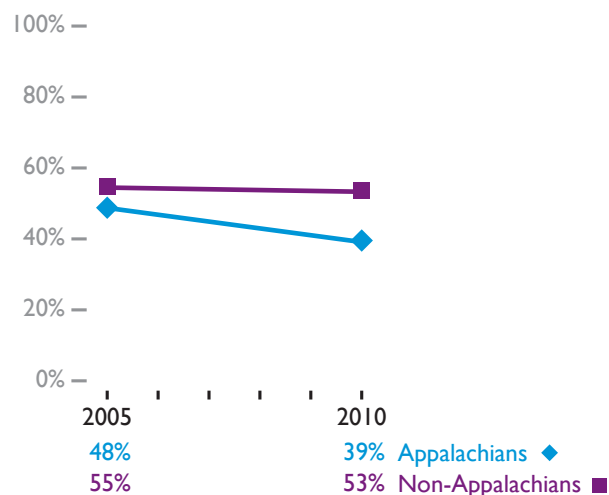


Overall health affects people's lives in many ways. If they feel healthy, they can work, exercise, enjoy hobbies, and do other activities. Poor health can interfere with daily life and make it more difficult to do what people normally do.

## Health Status

Just under half of white Appalachian adults (48%) reported being in "excellent" or "very good" health in 2005, compared to just over half of white non-Appalachian adults (55%). However, while the percentage for non-Appalachian adults stayed the same between 2005 and 2010, the percentage of Appalachian adults who reported being in "excellent" or "very good" health decreased.

**White adults reporting that, in general, their health is "excellent" or "very good"**

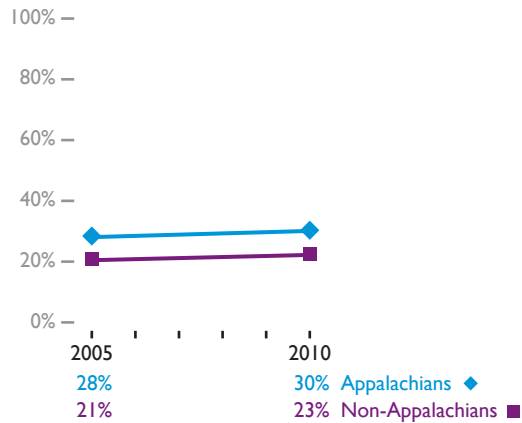


## Unhealthy Days

Just over 4 in 10 Appalachian and non-Appalachian adults reported that they had no days in the last month where their physical or mental health was not good (*not shown*). These percentages remained consistent between 2005 and 2010 for both groups.

In 2010, 3 in 10 Appalachian adults (30%) and just over 2 in 10 non-Appalachian adults (23%) reported that their physical or mental health was not good for 14 or more days in the last 30 days, or more than half of the previous month. These percentages also remained consistent between 2005 and 2010 for both groups.

White adults who reported that their physical or mental health was not good for 14 or more days in the past 30 days

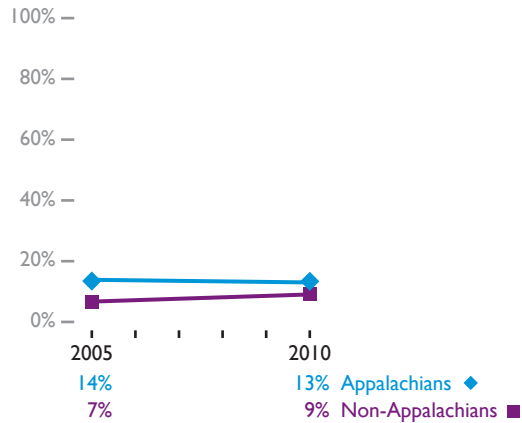


## Days when Health Limited Activity

About 3 in 4 Appalachian and non-Appalachian adults reported that their physical or mental health did not interfere with their usual activities in the past 30 days (*not shown*). These percentages remained consistent between 2005 and 2010 for both groups.

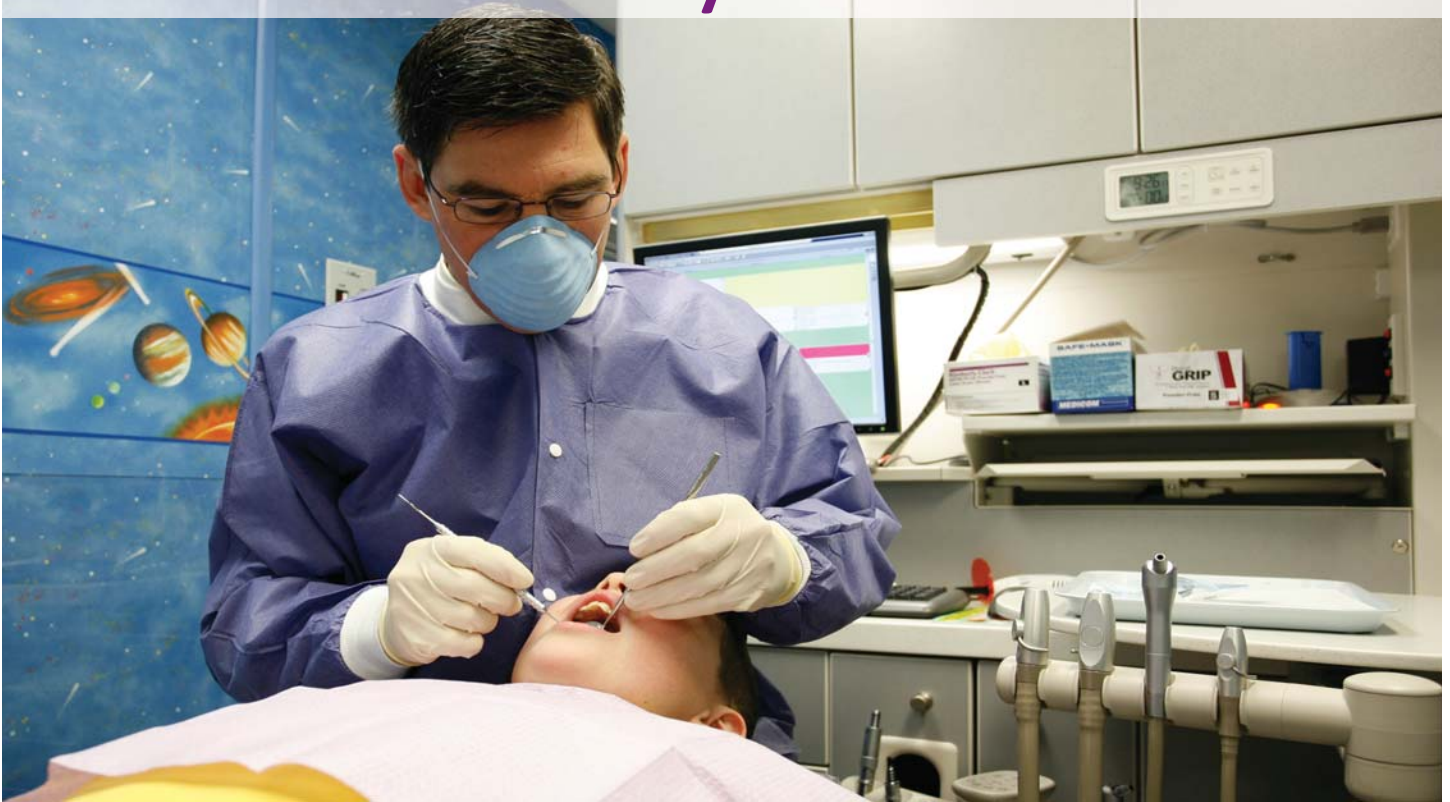
About 1 in 10 Appalachian (13%) and non-Appalachian adults (9%) reported that their physical or mental health limited their usual activities for 14 or more days in the last 30 days, or more than half of the previous month. These percentages also remained consistent between 2005 and 2010 for both groups.

White adults who reported that their health limited their usual activities for 14 or more days in the past 30 days





# Health of the Eyes and Teeth



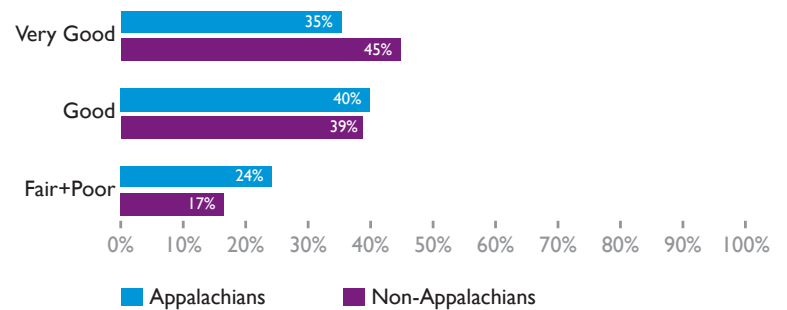
Regular care of eyes and teeth is important for overall health. This includes getting regular check-ups, eating a proper diet, and daily care.

## Eye Health

About 1 in 3 white Appalachian adults (35%) reported that their eyesight was very good, lower than for white non-Appalachian adults (45%). About 1 in 4 Appalachian adults (24%) reported fair or poor eyesight, compared to 1 in 6 non-Appalachian adults (17%).

Getting a regular, comprehensive eye exam is important for keeping the eyes healthy. This exam can help find diseases and problems before vision loss occurs. It is recommended that adults have a comprehensive eye exam every 2 years.

**At the present time, would you say your eyesight, with glasses or contacts if you wear them, is...very good, good, fair, or poor?** (Graph shows percentage of white adults; 2010 data only)



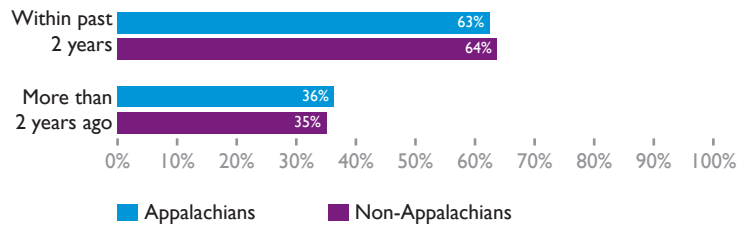
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

About 2 in 3 Appalachian adults (63%) and non-Appalachian adults (64%) reported that they had had an eye exam in which their pupils were dilated within the past two years.

## Oral Health

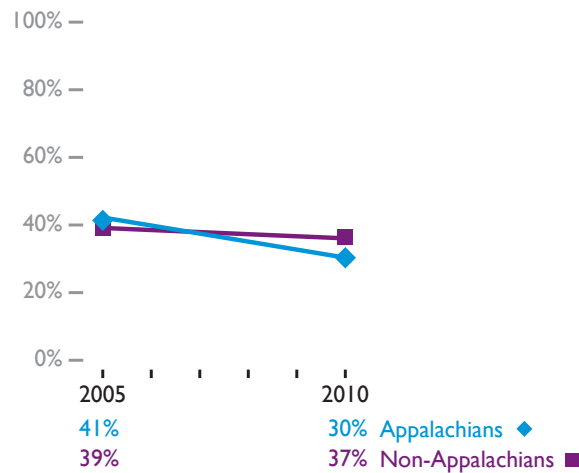
In 2010, 3 in 10 Appalachian adults (30%) and almost 4 in 10 non-Appalachian adults (37%) reported that their mouth and teeth were in very good condition. This percentage stayed consistent for the non-Appalachian adults but decreased among Appalachian adults between 2005 and 2010.

### When was the last time you had an eye exam in which the pupils were dilated? (Graph shows percentage of white adults; 2010 data only)



Percentages may not add to 100% because the percentage of adults who responded “don’t know” are not included.

### White adults reporting that the condition of their mouth and teeth, including false teeth or dentures, is “very good”



# Chronic Conditions



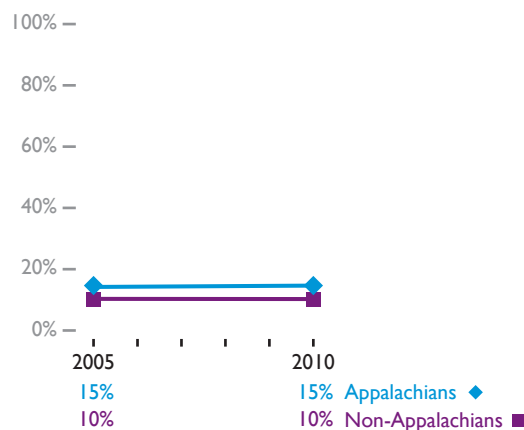
Some health problems are temporary, like a cold or sore throat. Some are longer lasting and require constant monitoring and treatment, like asthma, diabetes, or high blood pressure. These “chronic conditions” can last a lifetime.

## Chronic Cardiovascular Conditions

Heart trouble, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and stroke are conditions related to the cardiovascular system.

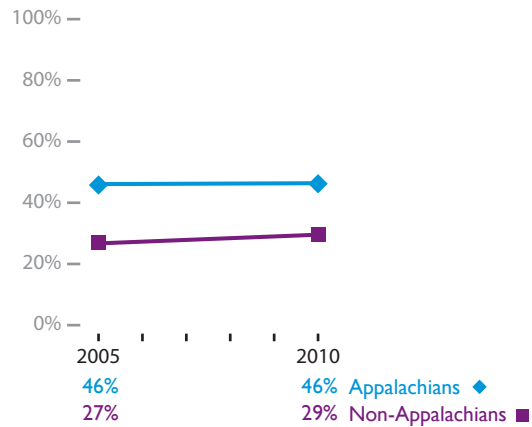
White Appalachian adults reported similar percentages of having heart trouble or angina and of having a stroke as white non-Appalachian adults. However, Appalachian adults reported higher percentages of having high blood pressure or hypertension and of high

**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had heart trouble or angina?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)

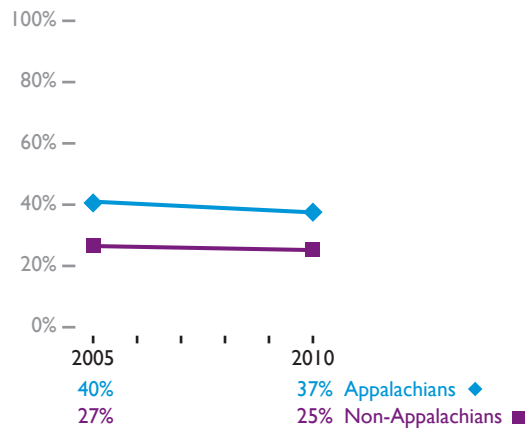


cholesterol and triglycerides than non-Appalachian adults. These percentages remained consistent between 2005 and 2010 for both groups.

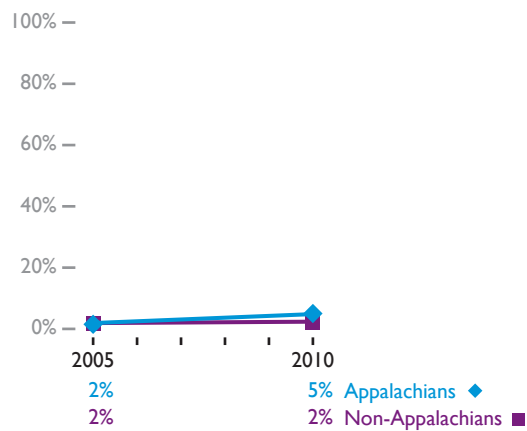
**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had high blood pressure or hypertension?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)



**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had high cholesterol or triglycerides?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)



**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had had a stroke?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)



## Chronic Respiratory Conditions

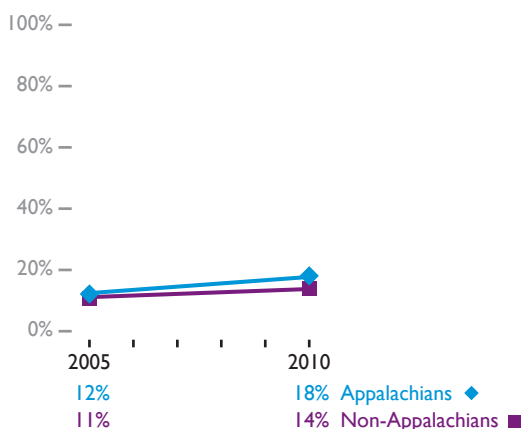
Chronic respiratory conditions, such as asthma and chronic lung disease, can be aggravated by environmental and personal factors. Air quality, allergens, and cigarette smoke, for example, can make it difficult for people with chronic respiratory conditions to manage these conditions.

Appalachian and non-Appalachian adults reported similar percentages of having asthma and chronic lung disease, two chronic conditions affecting the respiratory system.

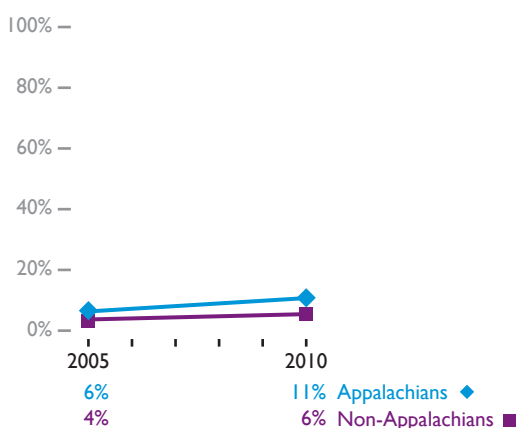
## Other Chronic Conditions

Appalachian adults reported similar percentages of having other chronic conditions such as cancer, depression, and severe allergies as non-Appalachian adults. Percentages of diabetes were twice as high among Appalachian adults as among non-Appalachian adults.

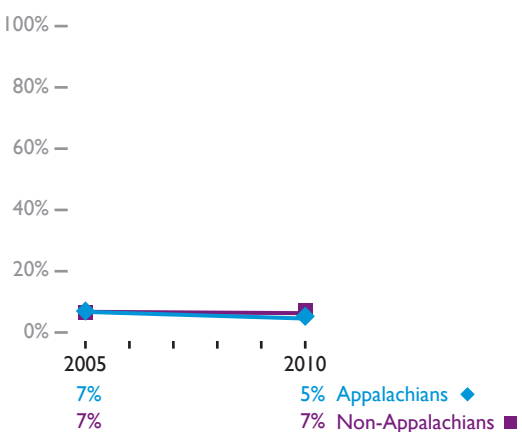
**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had asthma?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)



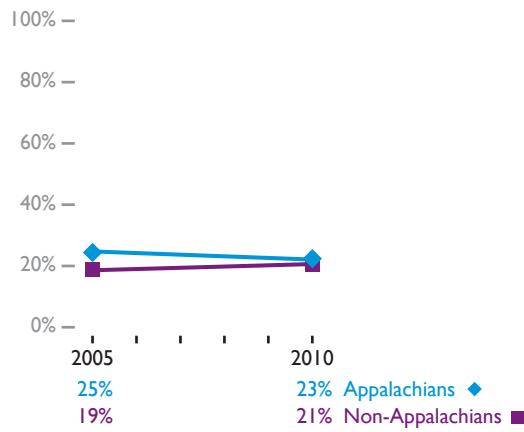
**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had chronic lung disease?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)



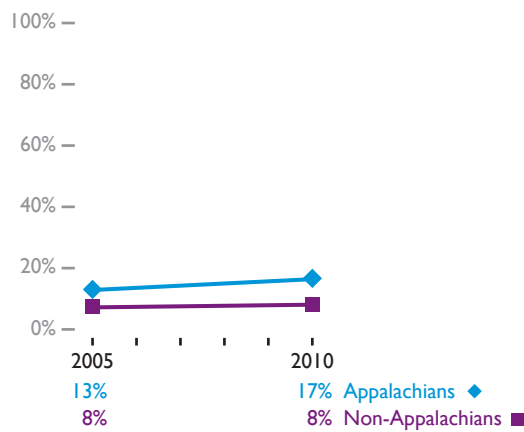
**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had cancer?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)



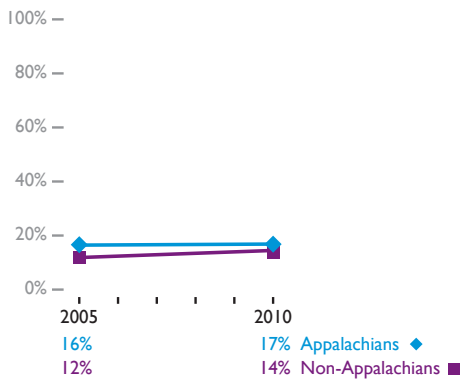
**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had depression?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)



**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had diabetes?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)



**Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you had severe allergies?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded “yes.”)



# Obesity



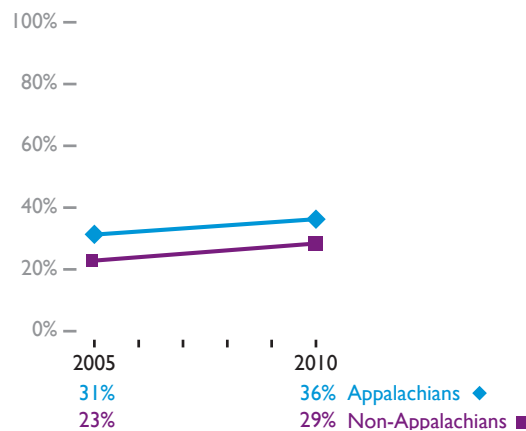
Obesity is a chronic condition which causes many health problems. Being obese increases the risk of heart disease, certain cancers, diabetes, and other problems. People can reduce these risks through diet and exercise.

Obesity is measured using the Body Mass Index (BMI).<sup>1</sup> According to the BMI, a person who is 5'4" would be considered overweight at 150 pounds and obese at 180 pounds. A person who is 6'0" would be considered overweight at 190 pounds and obese at 220 pounds.

Based on BMI, over 1 in 3 white Appalachian adults (36%) and almost

<sup>1</sup> BMI is calculated by dividing a person's weight in pounds by their height in inches squared, and then multiplying that result by 703. Overweight is defined as a BMI of 25–29.9. Obesity is defined as a BMI of over 30.0. The GCCHSS asked for height and weight during the survey, and BMI was calculated for each respondent.

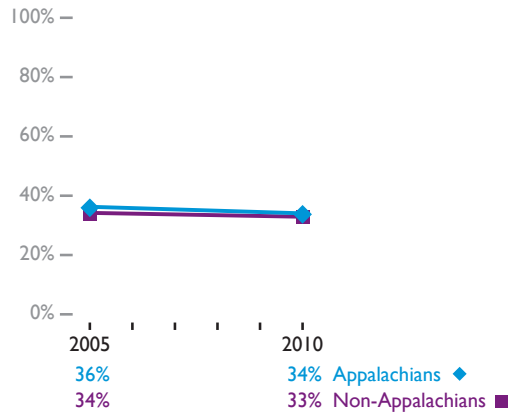
**White adults who are obese (BMI ≥ 30.0)**



3 in 10 white non-Appalachian adults (29%) are obese. These percentages increased for both groups between 2005 and 2010.

Another 1 in 3 Appalachian adults (34%) and non-Appalachian adults (33%) are overweight but not obese. These percentages stayed consistent for both groups between 2005 and 2010.

**White adults who are overweight (BMI = 25.0–29.9)**



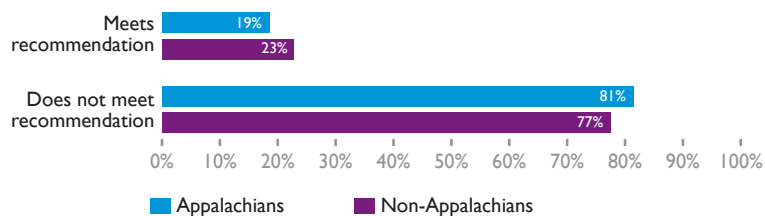


# Diet



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), unhealthy eating contributes to obesity and several chronic diseases. A healthy diet consists of balanced amounts of protein, carbohydrates, and fats, with plenty of fruits and vegetables and limited amounts of fat and salt.

**White adults meeting the recommendation of eating at least 2 servings of fruits and 3 servings of vegetables per day (2010 data only)**



## Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010*, a joint project of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS), recommends that Americans make half their plate fruits and vegetables at every meal. This would be at least 2 servings of fruit AND 3 servings of vegetables per day.<sup>2</sup>

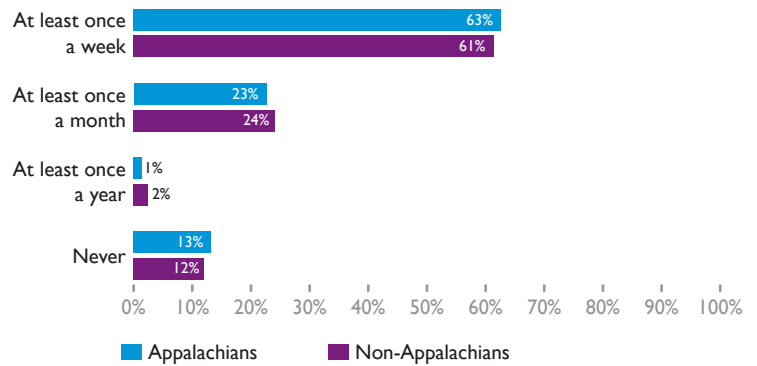
<sup>2</sup> For more information on the Dietary Guidelines, please visit: <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines>

Only 1 in 5 white Appalachian adults (19%) and 1 in 4 white non-Appalachian adults (23%) met the recommendation for fruits and vegetables. The majority of white adults in both groups met neither recommendation. Due to changes in dietary recommendations, we can not compare the data from the 2010 *Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey* to data collected in previous years of the *Survey*.

## Fast Food Consumption

Part of a healthy diet is limiting salt intake. Too much salt can lead to high blood pressure, heart problems, or strokes. According to the CDC, the majority of sodium that we consume is in processed and restaurant foods.<sup>3</sup> Over 6 in 10 Appalachian adults (63%) and non-Appalachian adults (61%) reported that they eat fast food at least once a week.

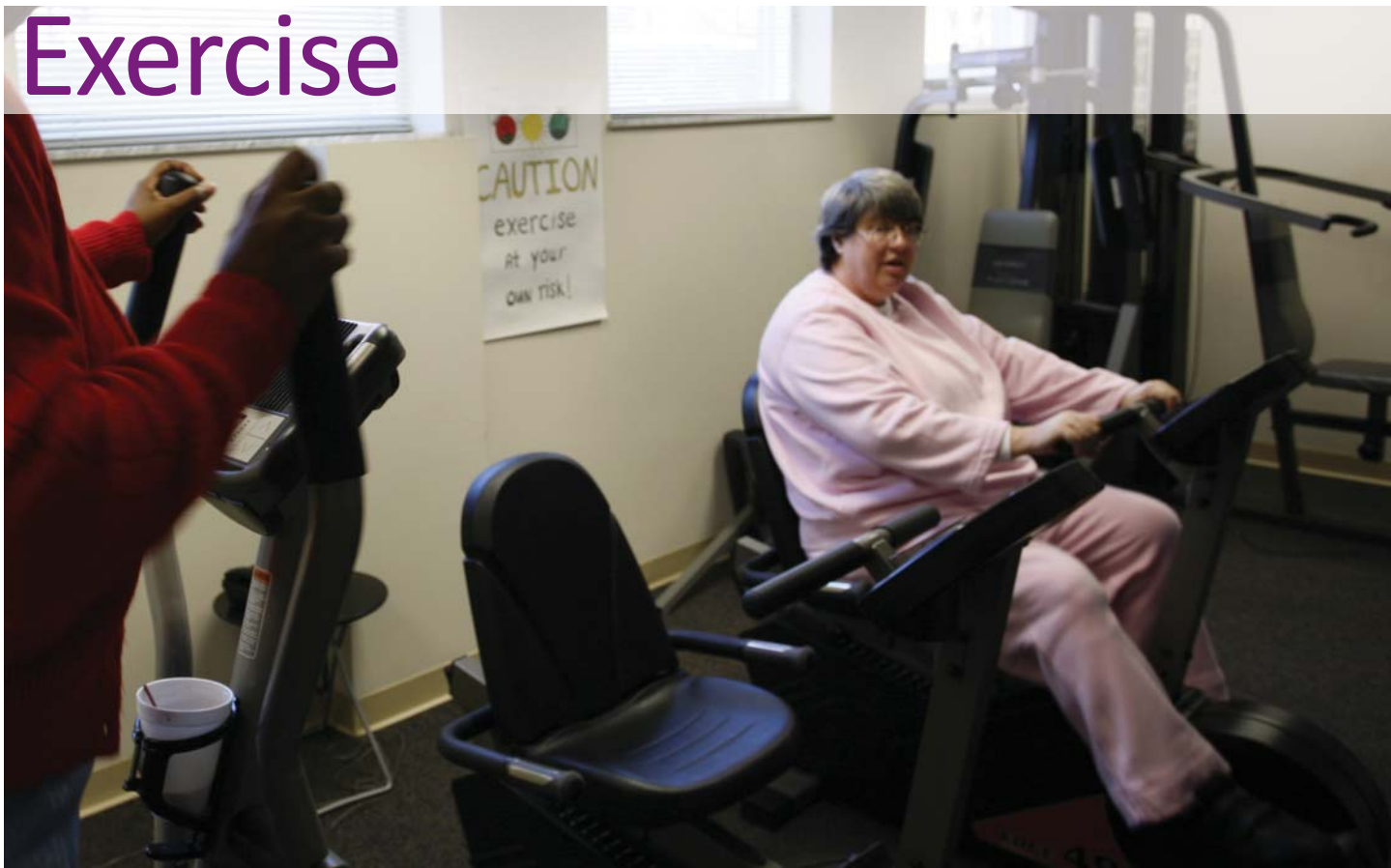
**How often do you eat fast food?** (Graph shows percentage of white adults; 2010 data only)



Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (no date). Salt. Accessed at [www.cdc.gov/salt/](http://www.cdc.gov/salt/) on June 22, 2011.

# Exercise

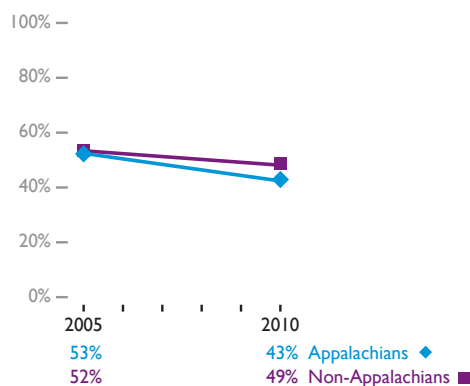


According to the CDC, physical activity reduces the risk of many chronic conditions, including type 2 diabetes and its complications, obesity, heart disease, colon cancer, and stroke.<sup>4</sup>

The CDC's recommended guidelines for physical activity are at least 30 minutes, 5 days per week of moderate activity, or at least 20 minutes, 3 days per week of vigorous activity.<sup>5</sup>

In 2010, less than half of white Appalachian and white non-

**White adults who met recommendations for moderate and/or vigorous activity**



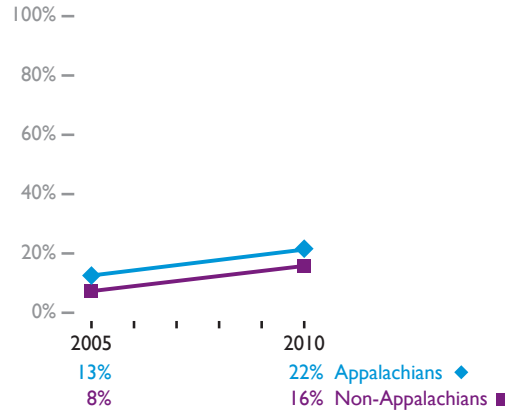
<sup>4</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Obesity, Diabetes Estimates by County, 2007*. Available at [www.cdc.gov/Features/dsObesityDiabetes/](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/dsObesityDiabetes/).

<sup>5</sup> Moderate activity is defined as brisk walking, bicycling, vacuuming, gardening, or anything that causes some increase in breathing or heart rate. Vigorous activity is defined as running, aerobics, heavy yard work, or anything that causes large increases in breathing or heart rate.

Appalachian adults reported meeting the recommendations for exercise. This percentage decreased for both groups between 2005 and 2010, but the decrease was greater among Appalachian adults.

In 2010, about 1 in 5 Appalachian adults (22%) and 1 in 6 non-Appalachian adults (16%) reported that they participated in no moderate or vigorous activity. These percentages nearly doubled for both groups between 2005 and 2010. This does not mean the adults were not active at all. It just means the activity they participated in did not meet the definitions of moderate or vigorous activity.

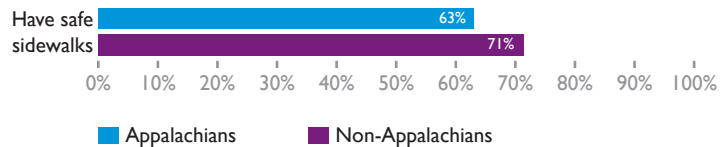
**White adults who reported no moderate or vigorous activity**



## Safe Sidewalks

Walking, jogging, and biking are good forms of exercise, but they are only effective if people have a safe place to enjoy these activities. Just over 6 in 10 Appalachian adults (63%) agreed that sidewalks or shoulders on streets in their community allowed for safe walking, jogging, or biking, compared to 7 in 10 non-Appalachian adults (71%).

**There are sidewalks or shoulders on streets in my community that allow for safe walking, jogging, or biking...do you agree or disagree?**  
 (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that agreed; 2010 data only)



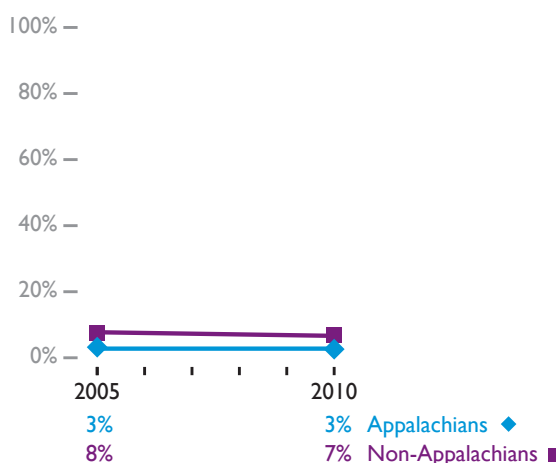
# Alcohol Use



Drinking in moderation—or having no more than one alcoholic drink a day for women and no more than two alcoholic drinks a day for men—poses no or low risks for most adults.<sup>6</sup>

Having more than that increases the risk of health problems such as liver and kidney disease, some cancers, memory and cognitive problems, and many others. It can also impair decision-making, which can lead to motor vehicle accidents, other accidents and injuries, aggressive behavior, and being the victim of such behavior.<sup>7</sup>

**White adults who reported heavy drinking in the last 30 days, or more than an average of one drink per day for a woman and two drinks per day for a man**



<sup>6</sup> For more on low-risk drinking, visit [www.lowriskdrinking.com](http://www.lowriskdrinking.com) or the NIAAA's site at <http://rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov>.

<sup>7</sup> For more information about the health effects and risks of drinking, please see [www.cdc.gov/alcohol/faqs.htm#healthProb](http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/faqs.htm#healthProb) or <http://rethinkingdrinking.niaaa.nih.gov/WhatsTheHarm/WhatAreTheRisks.asp>

One standard alcoholic drink is 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of spirits or liquor.<sup>8</sup> Many cocktails and mixed drinks therefore contain more than one standard drink of alcohol.

## Heavy Drinking

Heavy drinking is defined as having more than an average of one drink per day for a woman and two drinks per day for a man.<sup>9</sup> About 3% of white Appalachian adults and 7% of white non-Appalachian adults drank heavily in the past 30 days. These percentages stayed the same for both groups between 2005 and 2010.

## Binge Drinking

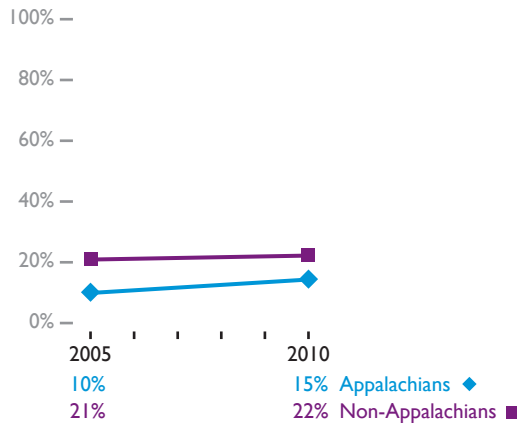
Binge drinking is defined as having four or more drinks on one occasion for women and five or more drinks on one occasion for men. People who binge drink are not necessarily heavy drinkers. About 1 in 6 Appalachian adults (15%) and 1 in 5 non-Appalachian adults (22%) reported that they binge drank in the last 30 days.

Although this percentage slightly increased for Appalachians since 2005, the definition of binge drinking changed during that time. Prior to 2006, binge drinking was defined as having 5 or more drinks on one occasion for both men and women. In 2006, the standard was revised to include separate drinking amounts for men and women.

<sup>8</sup> For more information on standard alcoholic drinks, please see [www.cdc.gov/alcohol/faqs.htm#standDrink](http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/faqs.htm#standDrink).

<sup>9</sup> For more information about heavy drinking, see [www.cdc.gov/alcohol/faqs.htm#heavyDrinking](http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/faqs.htm#heavyDrinking)

White adults who reported binge drinking in the last 30 days\*



\*Prior to 2006, the standard for binge drinking was having 5 or more drinks on one occasion for both men and women. Since 2006, the standard has been revised to 5 or more drinks on one occasion for men and 4 or more drinks for women. These data reflect the definitions of binge drinking that were in place at the time of the surveys.

# Tobacco & Other Drug Use



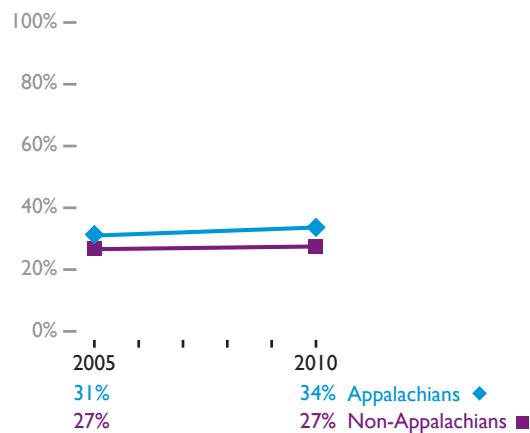
Tobacco, prescription drugs, and over-the-counter medications are legal drugs, but that doesn't mean they are harmless. Smoking and misuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs can cause many health problems.

## Smoking Rates

Studies have shown that any smoking is harmful to your health.<sup>10</sup> It can cause lung disease, cancer, and other health problems.

About 1 in 3 white Appalachian adults (34%) and 1 in 4 white non-Appalachian adults (27%) are current smokers. These percentages have been relatively consistent for both groups since 2005.

White adults who are current smokers



<sup>10</sup> For more information, see: <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/aug/20/news/la-heb-smoking-20100820>

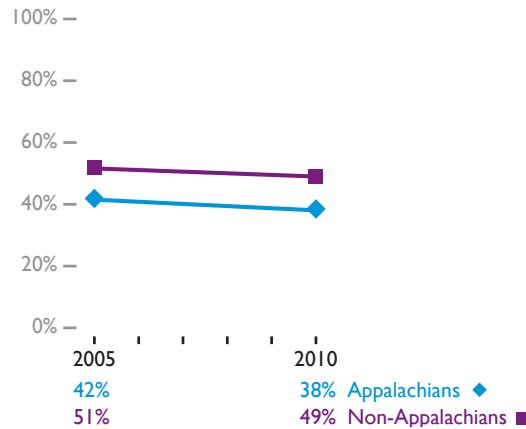
About half of non-Appalachian adults (49%) have never smoked. This is higher than the percentage of Appalachian adults (38%) who have never smoked.

## Misuse of Prescription, Over-the-Counter Drugs

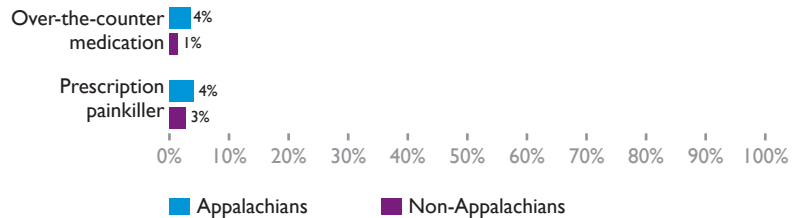
While prescription and over-the-counter drugs are safe when used as directed, misuse of any medication—whether the medication is taken incorrectly or by someone other than the prescribed patient—can have serious adverse health effects. According to the Drug Abuse Warning Network, emergency room visits related to nonmedical use of prescription and over-the-counter medicines increased 60% between 2004 and 2007.<sup>11</sup>

About 4% of Appalachian adults and 1% of non-Appalachian adults reported that they had used an over-the-counter drug like cold medicine, sleeping pills, or stay-awake pills when they didn't need it, but just to feel good. About 4% of Appalachians and 3% of non-Appalachians reported that they had used a prescription painkiller like Vicodin®, OxyContin®, or Percocet® when they didn't need it, but just to feel good.

White adults who have never smoked



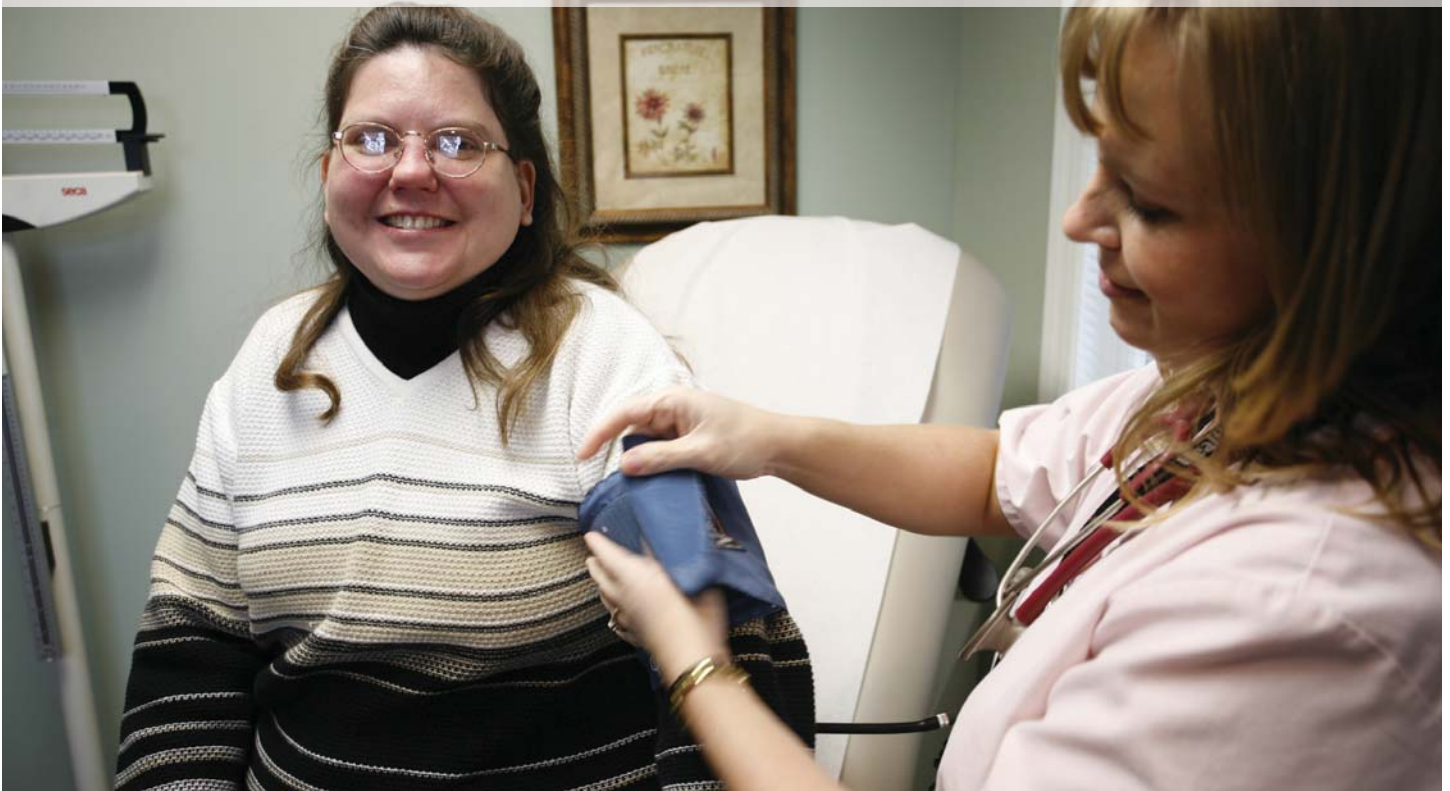
Have you ever used an over-the-counter drug or prescription painkiller when you didn't need it, but just to feel good? (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded "yes;" 2010 data only)



<sup>11</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2007: National Estimates of Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits. Rockville, MD, 2010. Available at <https://dawninfo.samhsa.gov/files/ED2007/DAWN2k7ED.pdf>.



# Usual Source of Healthcare

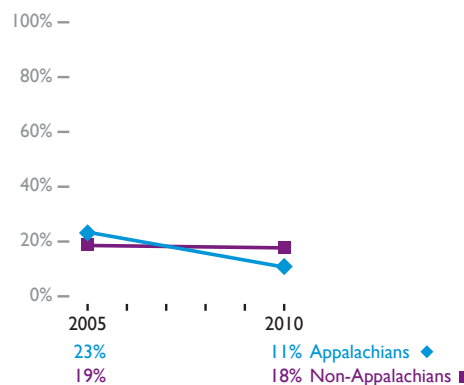


When they are sick or need medical advice, most people have a usual source of care: a doctor's office, health center, clinic, or other place they usually go. People who do not have a usual place to go for care are less likely to seek appropriate and timely healthcare when they need it.

In 2010, about 1 in 10 white Appalachian adults (11%) reported they did not have a usual place to go for care, compared to almost 2 in 10 white non-Appalachian adults (18%). This means that when they are sick or need medical advice, they either do not go anywhere, or they go to a different place each time.

The percentage for Appalachians decreased between 2005 and 2010, meaning more people found a usual source of care, while the percentage for non-Appalachians stayed the same.

**White adults who have no usual source of primary health care where they go if they are sick or need medical advice**



## Appropriate Sources of Primary Care

The type of facility a person uses as his or her usual source of care is important. An appropriate source of care is more than just a regular place to go. It is a place where the patient and his or her health history are known. The staff provide regular and preventive care and help catch minor problems before they become serious.

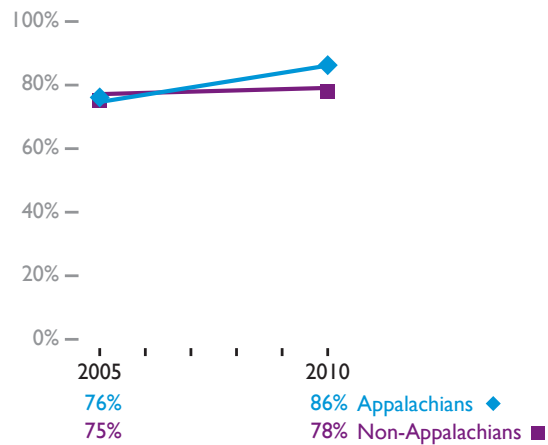
The majority of Appalachian (86%) and non-Appalachian (78%) adults have an appropriate source or primary care. This percentage increased between 2005 and 2010 for Appalachians, but stayed the same for non-Appalachians.

## Inappropriate Sources of Primary Care

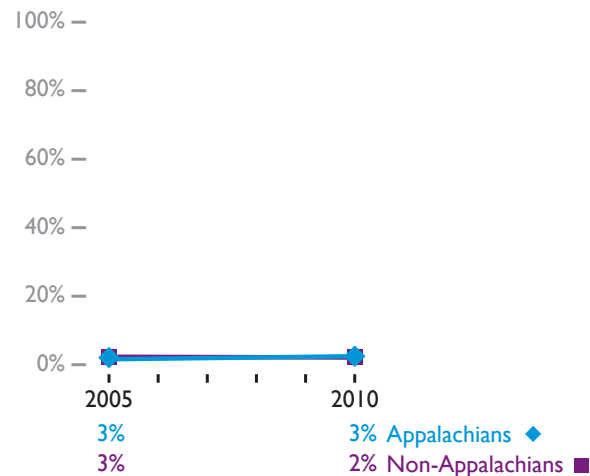
An urgent care center or hospital emergency department is not an appropriate usual source of care. Primary care delivered here is much more costly than care through a doctor's office, health center, clinic, or other primary care setting. It also clogs the system with non-emergency cases, making it more difficult to provide care to those truly in need of emergency services.

Only 3% of Appalachian and 2% of non-Appalachian adults reported that they used an inappropriate source of primary care as the usual place they go when they are sick or need advice about their health. These percentages stayed consistent between 2005 and 2010.

**White adults who usually go to a private doctor's office, public health clinic, community health center, hospital outpatient department, or other appropriate source of primary health care if they are sick or need medical advice**



**White adults who usually go to a hospital emergency room, urgent care center, or other inappropriate source of primary health care if they are sick or need medical advice**



# Paying for & Getting to Care

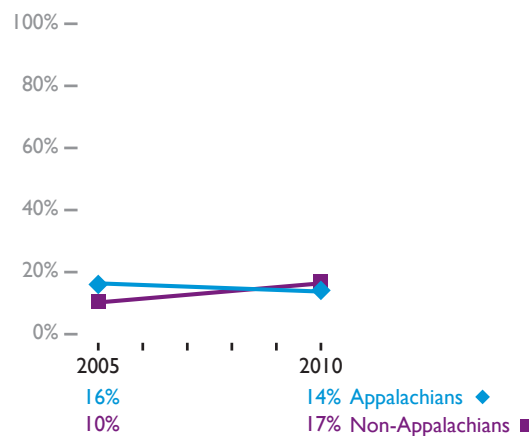


Having health insurance is a main factor in whether someone seeks healthcare in a timely manner. Those without insurance are less likely to get care when they need it.

About 1 in 7 white Appalachian adults (14%) and 1 in 6 white non-Appalachian adults (17%) were currently uninsured. This percentage stayed consistent for Appalachian adults between 2005 and 2010, but increased for non-Appalachian adults.

While having current insurance is a factor for getting healthcare, having stable insurance is also important. About 1 in 20 insured Appalachian adults (5%) and insured non-Appalachian adults (5%) were without insurance

**White adults who are currently uninsured**



at some point in the past year. This percentage stayed consistent between 2005 and 2010 for non-Appalachian adults, but decreased for Appalachian adults.

## Reliable Transportation

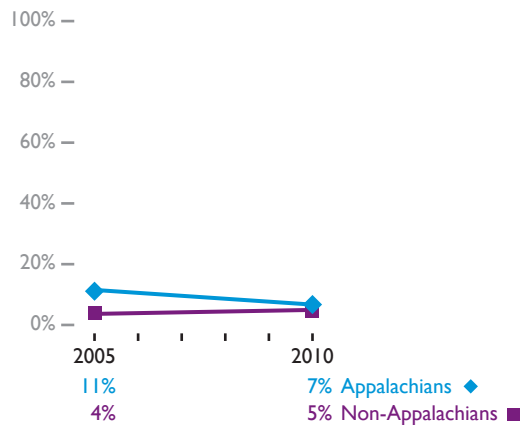
Even if people have insurance and a source of care, they can't get healthcare services unless they have reliable transportation, such as a personal car, shuttle service, taxi, or public transportation. Nearly all Appalachian and non-Appalachian adults said they had reliable transportation to get to the doctor or pharmacy.

## Routine Checkups

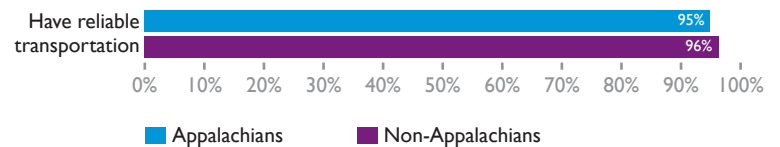
People who don't have insurance, a usual source of care, or reliable transportation are less likely to get a routine checkup. Depending on age, adults should have a routine checkup once every 1–2 years. These checkups help identify minor problems and start treatment before they get more serious.

Almost 9 in 10 Appalachian (88%) and non-Appalachian (86%) adults have had a routine checkup in the last 2 years. This percentage for both groups stayed consistent between 2005 and 2010.

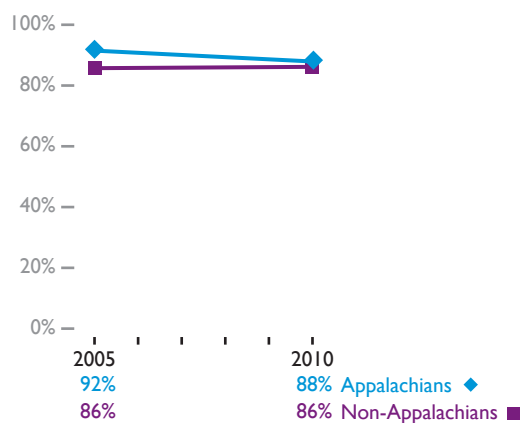
**White adults who are currently insured but who were uninsured at some point in the last 12 months**



**Do you have some form of reliable transportation if you or a loved one need to go to the doctor or pharmacy?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded "yes," 2010 data only)



**White adults who have personally visited a healthcare professional for a routine checkup in the past 2 years**



# Going without Care

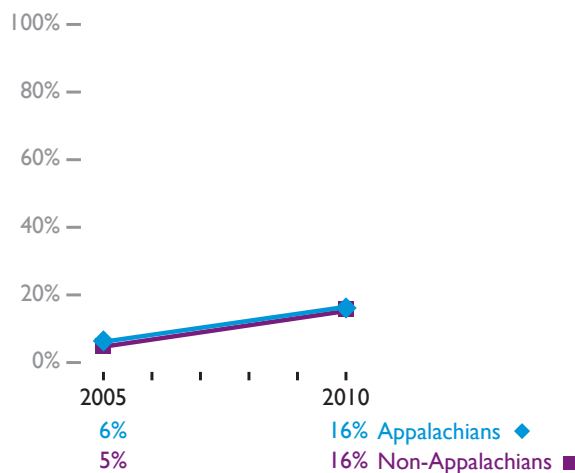


Even with insurance, healthcare can be expensive. People with insurance pay premiums each month. Then, they pay a part of their care or prescription costs. If people don't have insurance, they pay all of their costs. Sometimes, families need to make tough decisions about getting healthcare services or using that money to buy food or clothing or to pay for housing.

## Going without a Doctor's Care

In 2010, 1 in 6 white Appalachian adults (16%) and white non-Appalachian adults (16%) said someone in their household went without a doctor's care because the family needed the money to buy food or clothing or pay for housing. These percentages have nearly tripled for both groups since 2005.

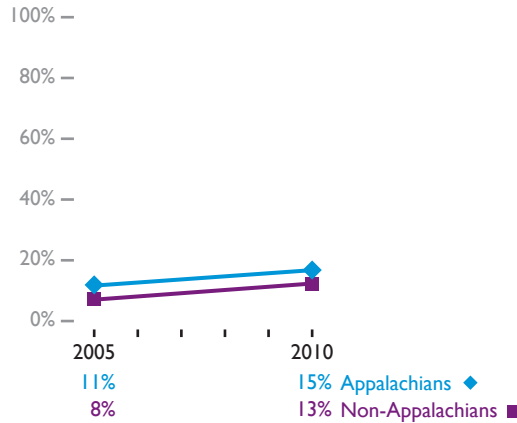
**During the last year, did any household member not receive a doctor's care because the household needed money to buy food or clothing or pay for housing?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded "yes.")



## Going without Prescription Medication

In 2010, 1 in 7 Appalachian (15%) and 1 in 8 non-Appalachian (13%) adults said someone in their household went without a doctor's care because the family needed the money to buy food or clothing or pay for housing. These percentages slightly increased for both groups between 2005 and 2010.

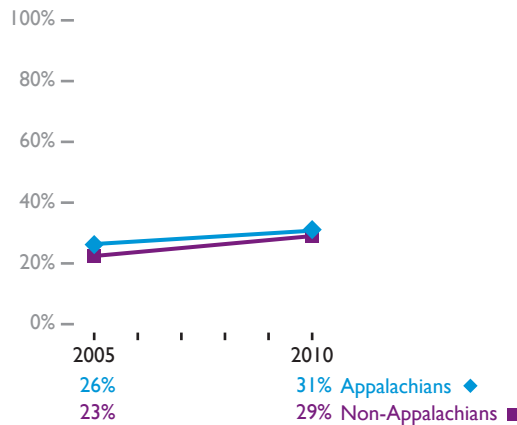
**During the last year, did any household member not receive a prescription medication because the household needed money to buy food or clothing or pay for housing?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded "yes.")



## Going without Dental Care

Dental care is not covered under most health insurance plans. People can buy dental insurance separately, but have to pay premiums and copays. About 3 in 10 Appalachian (31%) and non-Appalachian (29%) adults went without or delayed getting dental care they thought they needed. Although the *Survey* did not ask for the reason for not getting or delaying care, cost played a part in at least some people's decision. These percentages are up slightly for both groups since 2005.

**In the past 12 months, was there a time when you thought that you needed dental care but did not get it, or delayed getting it?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded "yes.")

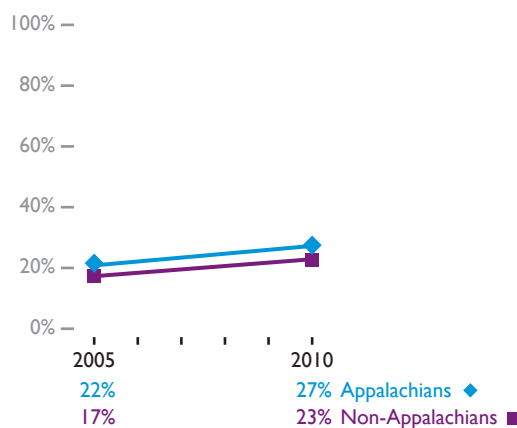


## Problems Paying Medical Bills

Premiums, copays, and other healthcare costs can add up for people who are insured, especially if there is an unexpected illness or injury. For the uninsured, even basic primary care can be expensive.

About 1 in 4 Appalachian (27%) and non-Appalachian (23%) adults reported that there were times in the last 12 months when they had problems paying or were unable to pay medical bills. These percentages are up slightly for both groups since 2005.

**During the last 12 months, were there times when you had problems paying or were unable to pay for medical bills?** (Graph presents only the percentage of white adults that responded "yes.")



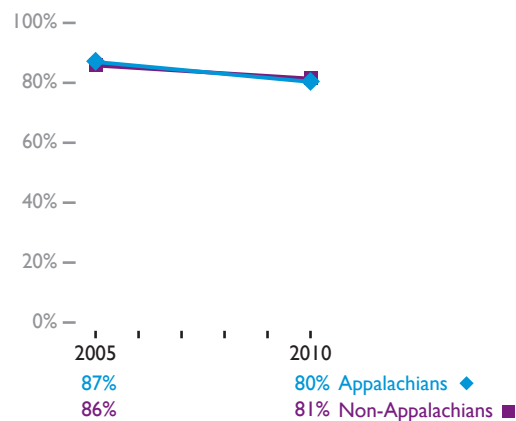
# Community Support



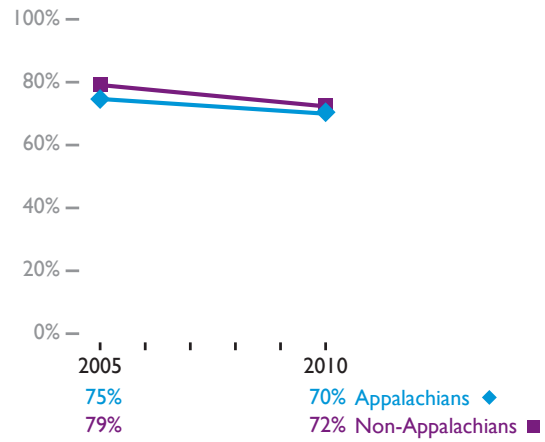
How people feel about their community—if they can depend on others, if they feel safe, if community members help each other—can be a protective factor for their health status. People who feel more positively about their community receive health-related information faster, are more likely to adopt health behaviors, and exert social control over health-related behaviors.

In general, the majority of white Appalachian and non-Appalachian adults feel positively about their communities. They agree that the community makes them feel secure, that people can get help from each other if they are in trouble, and that they can depend on each other. In 2010, though, Appalachian and non-Appalachian adults felt slightly less positively about their communities on all three measures than they did in 2005.

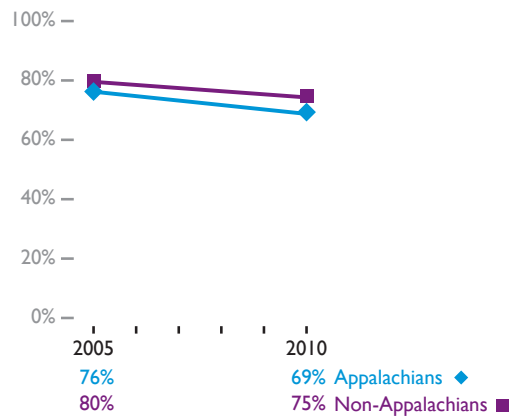
**White adults who agree that “living in my community gives me a secure feeling”**



**White adults who agree that “people can depend on each other in my community”**



**White adults who agree that “people in the community know they can get help from the community if they are in trouble”**





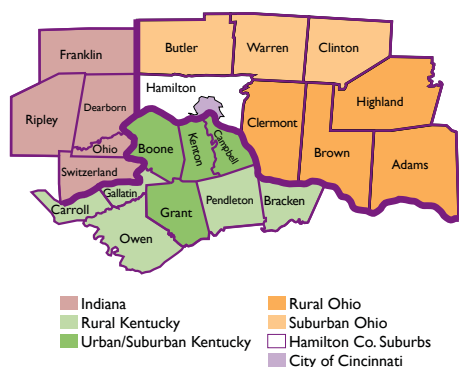
# About the Survey

The data for this report come from the 2010 *Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey*. Conducted since 1996, the *Survey* gives an in-depth look at the self-reported health of tri-state residents. The *Survey* lets us see how our region stacks up to the rest of the country. We can also see how our region's health changes over time. The results give organizations and agencies, policy makers, and residents the local data they need as they work to improve the overall health of the Greater Cincinnati area. To see survey results for the whole region, please visit our website at [www.healthfoundation.org/gcchss.html](http://www.healthfoundation.org/gcchss.html).

The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati sponsors, analyzes, and shares the *Survey*. The Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati collects the data. For the complete survey dataset, visit [www.oasisdataarchive.org](http://www.oasisdataarchive.org).

## How We Collect the Data

The *Survey* is a telephone survey of randomly selected adults. The Institute for Policy Research called 2,246 adults residing in a 22-county area (see map) between August 14 and September 27, 2010. This included 2,042 landline interviews and 204 cell phone interviews with people who did not have a landline telephone.



For the region-wide results, the sampling error is  $\pm 2.1\%$ . This means that the actual percentages may in reality be 2.1% higher or 2.1% lower than what we report. For the results for just the white Appalachians in our region, the sampling error is  $\pm 4.4\%$ .

## About The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati

Since 1997, The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati has invested over \$120 million to address health needs in the 20-county region surrounding Cincinnati. The majority of our work falls within our four focus areas:

- Community Primary Care
- School-Aged Children's Healthcare
- Substance Use Disorders
- Severe Mental Illness

We help create enduring projects that will improve health, and grantee sustainability is vital to our mission. We help grantees move toward sustainability by offering workshops, staff consultations, and other technical assistance. We also help grantees find other funders who might be interested in their work.

For more information about the Health Foundation and our grantmaking interests, capacity building programs for nonprofits, and publications, please contact us at 513-458-6600, toll-free at 888-310-4904, or visit our web site at [www.healthfoundation.org](http://www.healthfoundation.org).

## Thanks to Our Community Partners

The Health Foundation gives special thanks to Bob Ludke, Ph.D., and Ann McCracken, Ph.D., members of the Urban Appalachian Council's Research Committee, for their valuable feedback and contributions to the report.

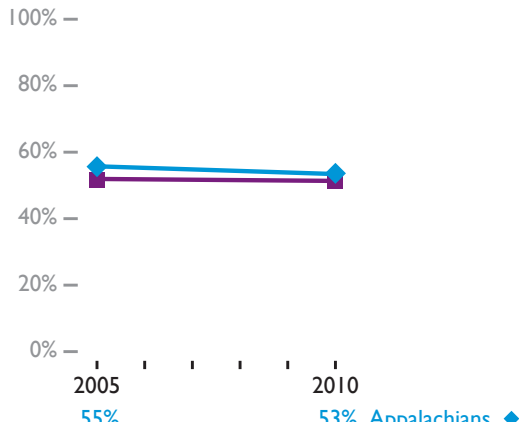
The Health Foundation would also like to thank the following organizations for their input on the *Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey*:

- Academy of Medicine
- ASAP Center
- Butler County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board
- Butler County Mental Health Board
- Butler County United Way
- Center for Closing the Health Gap
- Child Policy Research Center
- City of Cincinnati Health Department
- Council on Aging
- Employers Health Coalition of Ohio
- Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
- Health Improvement Collaborative
- Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO)
- Northern Kentucky Health Department
- TriHealth
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- University of Cincinnati Department of Public Health Science
- University of Cincinnati Institute for Policy Research
- University of Cincinnati Planning Department
- Urban Appalachian Council
- Vision 2015
- Xavier University

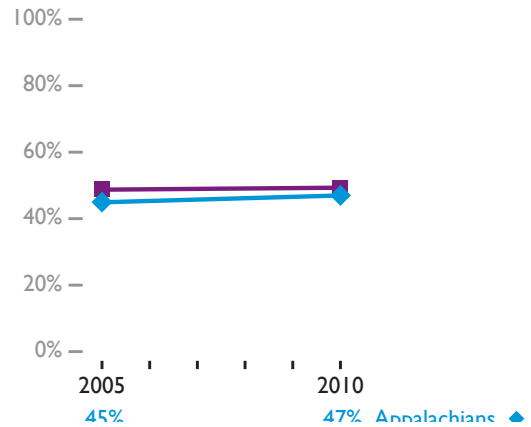
# Appendix: Demographics

## Sex

**White female adults**

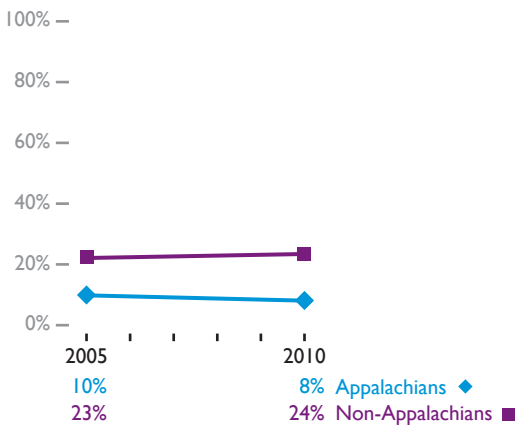


**White male adults**

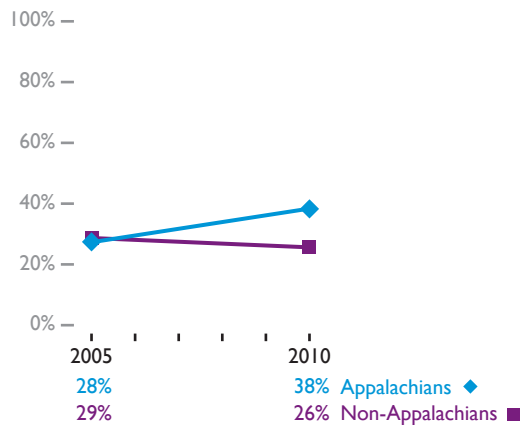


## Age

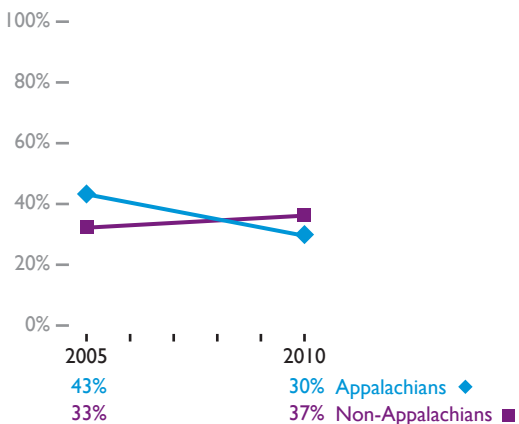
**White adults ages 18–29 living in Greater Cincinnati**



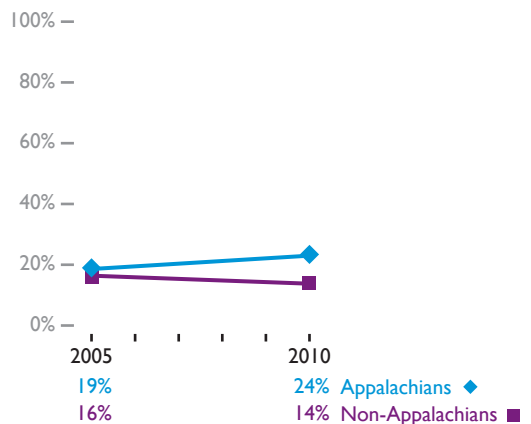
**White adults ages 46–64 living in Greater Cincinnati**



**White adults ages 30–45 living in Greater Cincinnati**

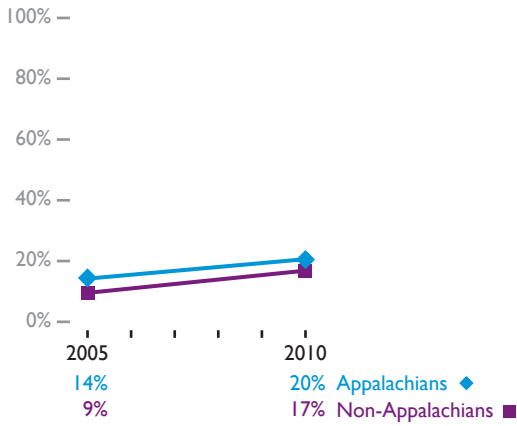


**White adults ages 65+ living in Greater Cincinnati**

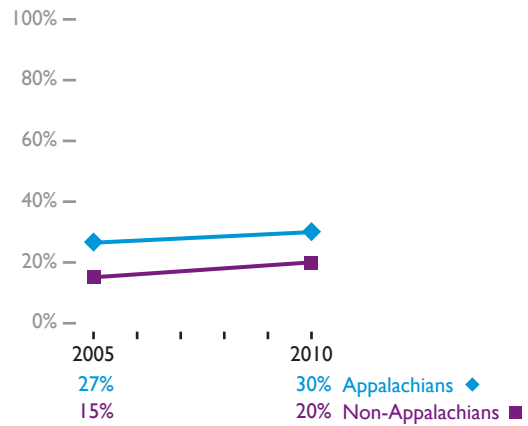


# Household Income

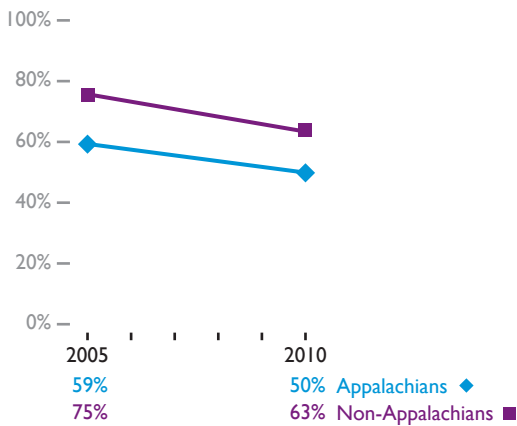
**White adults living below 100% FPG\***



**White adults living between 100–200% FPG\***



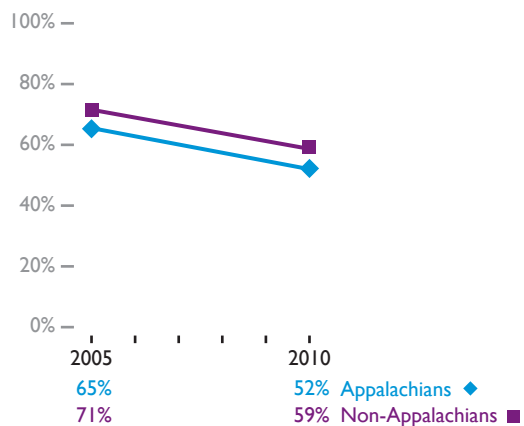
**White adults living above 200% FPG\***



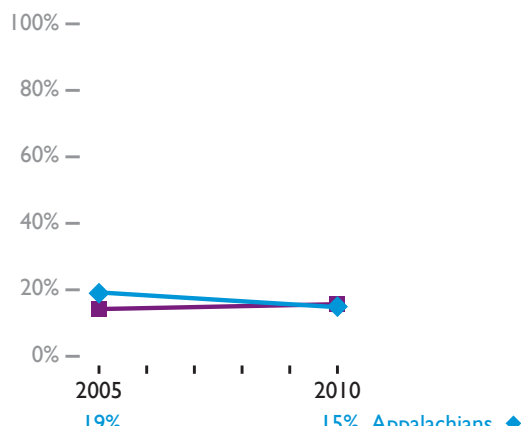
\*The Survey asks for household income from the previous calendar year, and uses the corresponding federal poverty guidelines (FPG). The 2005 Survey used 2004 FPG definitions, where 100% FPG was a household income of \$18,850 and 200% FPG was \$37,700, both for a family of 4. The 2010 Survey used 2009 FPG definitions, where 100% FPG was a household income of \$22,050 and 200% FPG was \$44,100, both for a family of 4.

## Employment Status

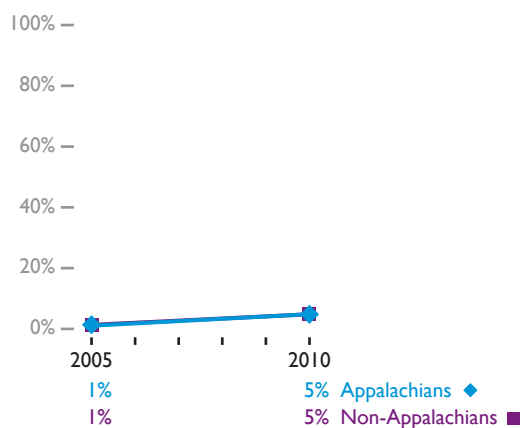
**White adults who are employed** (Graph presents the percentage of adults that reported they were employed full-time or part-time, or were employed but not currently working.)



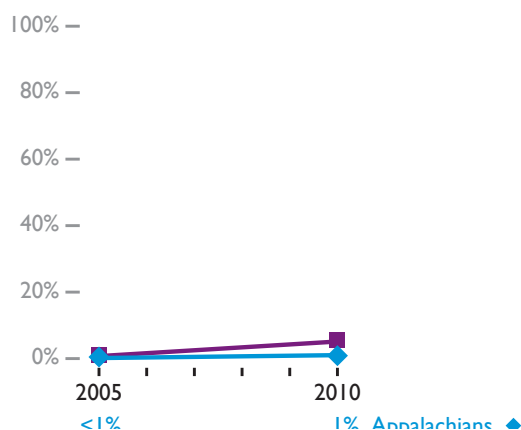
**White adults who are keeping house**



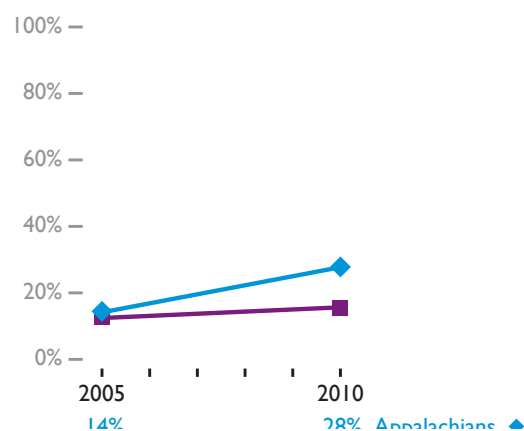
**White adults who are unemployed** (Graph presents the percentage of adults that reported they were unemployed or laid off.)



**White adults who are in school**

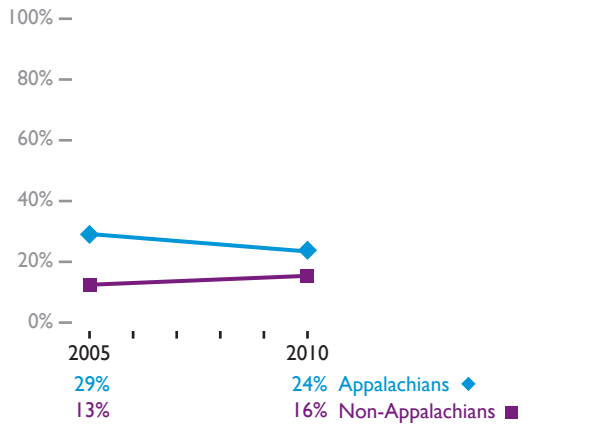


**White adults who are disabled or retired**

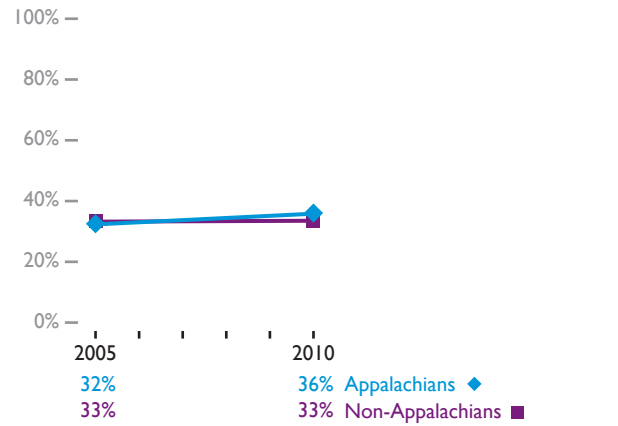


## Highest Level of Education Attained

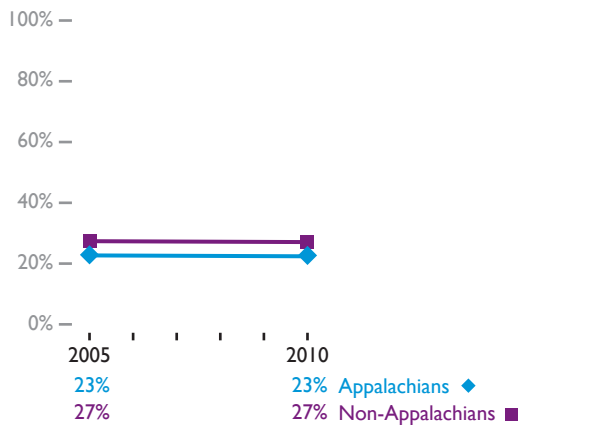
**White adults whose highest level of education attained is less than a high school diploma**



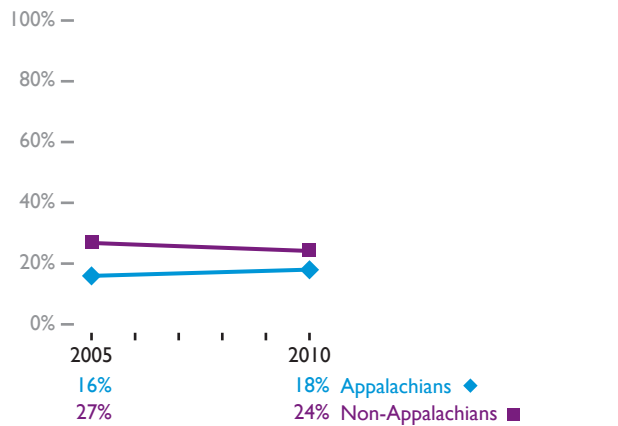
**White adults whose highest level of education attained is a high school diploma or equivalent**



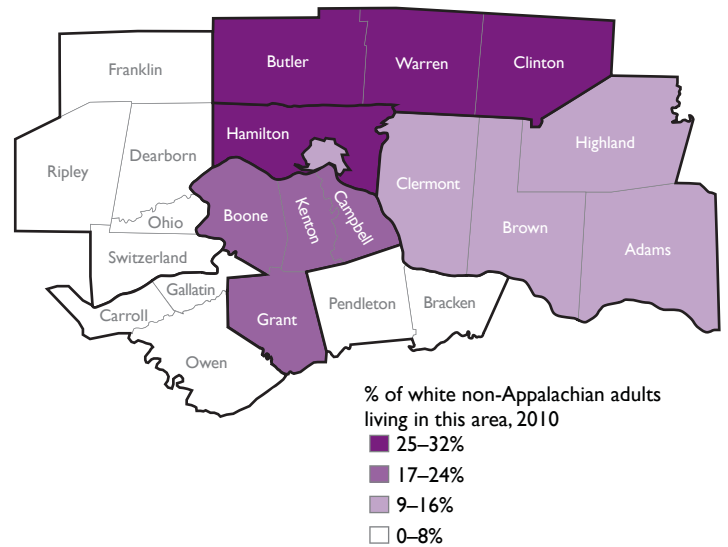
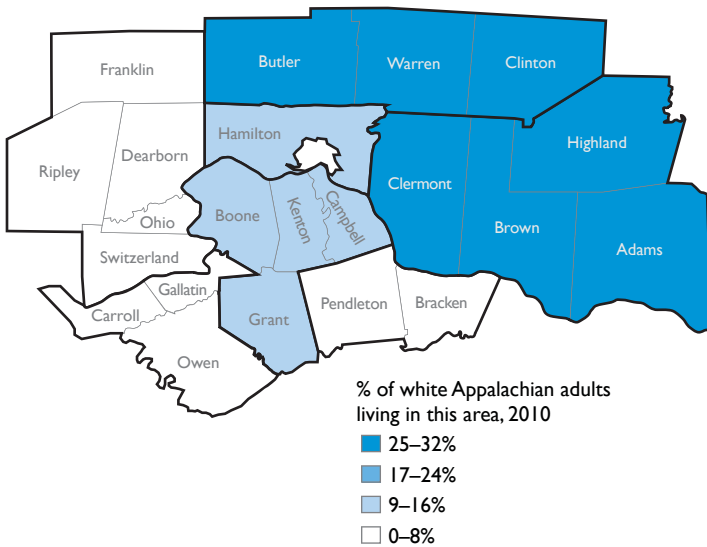
**White adults whose highest level of education attained is some college but not a college degree**



**White adults whose highest level of education attained is a college degree**



## County of Residence



**% of white Appalachian population living in the area**

| Area  | 2005 | 2010 |
|---|------|------|
| Hamilton County suburbs   | 17%  | 16%  |
| City of Cincinnati  | 6%   | 7%   |
| Butler, Clinton, Warren Counties  | 26%  | 29%  |
| Adams, Brown, Clermont, Highland Counties ( <i>designated Appalachian</i> ) | 30%  | 31%  |
| Boone, Campbell, Grant, Kenton Counties                                     | 16%  | 12%  |
| Bracken, Carroll, Gallatin, Owen, Pendleton Counties                        | 2%   | 2%   |
| Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland Counties                      | 2%   | 4%   |

**% of white non-Appalachian population living in the area**

| Area  | 2005 | 2010 |
|---|------|------|
| Hamilton County suburbs   | 27%  | 26%  |
| City of Cincinnati  | 11%  | 11%  |
| Butler, Clinton, Warren Counties  | 27%  | 25%  |
| Adams, Brown, Clermont, Highland Counties ( <i>designated Appalachian</i> ) | 9%   | 9%   |
| Boone, Campbell, Grant, Kenton Counties                                     | 17%  | 19%  |
| Bracken, Carroll, Gallatin, Owen, Pendleton Counties                        | 3%   | 3%   |
| Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley, Switzerland Counties                      | 7%   | 6%   |

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