



# Ohioans' Experiences with *Changes in the Economy since September 2008*

September 2009



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



In September 2008, Ohioans were experiencing serious problems paying for gas, getting a good-paying job, and paying for healthcare and health insurance, according to the Fall 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*. Nine months later, the 2009 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* revisited the topic of problems Ohioans are facing due to changes in the economy. *The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll*<sup>1</sup> asked adults across the nation similar questions at the same time.

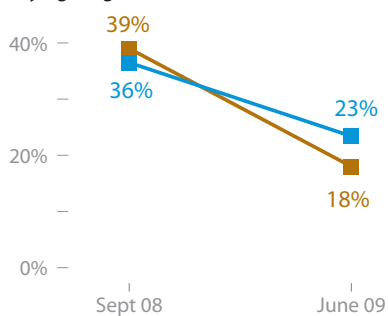
The percentage of Ohio adults reporting *any* serious problem or serious problems getting a good paying job, paying their rent or mortgage, or paying credit card or other personal debt remained about the same between September '08 and June '09.

## Fewer Reported Serious Problems Paying for Gas, Healthcare, and Food

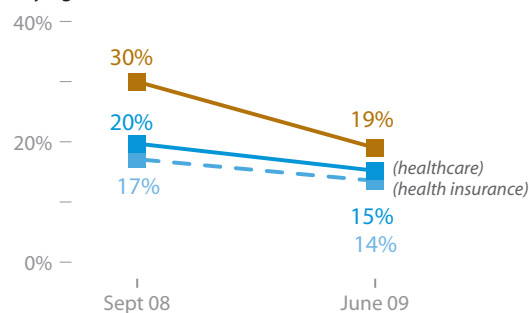
Fewer Ohio adults and adults across the nation reported serious problems with paying for gas in June '09 than September '08. Gas prices also fell during that time, from a U.S. average of \$3.65 per gallon the week ending September 8, 2008, to

**As a result of recent changes in the economy, have you or your family experienced any of the following problems, or not? Was this a serious problem, or not? (% reporting serious problems)**

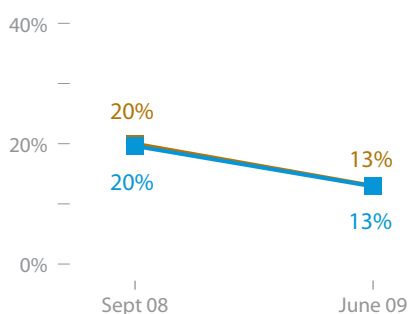
Paying for gas



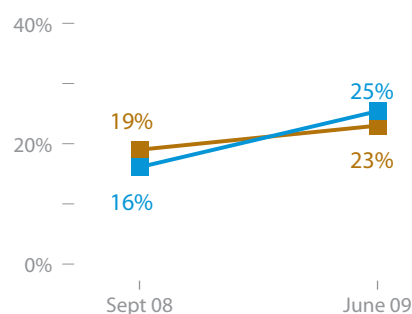
Paying for healthcare or health insurance\*



Paying for food



Losing money in the stock market



—■ Ohio  
(Ohio Health Issues Poll)

—■ Nation  
(Kaiser Health Tracking Poll)

\*The Ohio Health Issues Poll had "problems paying for healthcare" and "problems paying for health insurance" as two separate choices, while the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll had them as one choice.

\$2.62 per gallon the week ending June 8, 2009.<sup>2</sup>

Fewer Ohio adults and adults across the nation also reported serious problems paying for healthcare or health insurance and paying for food between September '08 and June '09.

## More Reported Serious Problems Losing Money in the Stock Market

More Ohio adults and adults across the nation reported serious problems with losing money in the stock market. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 11,510.74 on September 8, 2008, and at 8,764.49 on June 8, 2009.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Data from the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll can be found at <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/trackingpoll.cfm>.

<sup>2</sup> Gas price data from the Energy Information Administration can be found at [http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/hist/mg\\_rt\\_usw.htm](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/hist/mg_rt_usw.htm).

<sup>3</sup> Dow Jones closing data can be found at CNN Money at <http://money.cnn.com/quote/historical/historical.html?symb=INDU>.