AUG'08 OHIO HEALTH ISSUES POLL





Ohioans' Experiences with

aving a Medical Home

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Having a usual clinic, health center, doctor's office, or other place you go if you are sick or need medical advice is known as having a medical home. People who do not have a medical home are less likely to seek appropriate and timely healthcare when they need it.

About 84% of Ohio adults indicated that they have a usual place of care, on par with the Healthy People 2010 goal of 85% of people having a usual primary care provider.

Type of Medical Home

Having a usual primary care provider is only part of the issue. The type of medical home a person has is also important. An appropriate medical home is a place where the staff know you and your health history. The staff provide regular and preventive care and can help catch minor problems before they become serious. Three-fourths of Ohio adults (75%) had an appropriate medical home, such as a private doctor's office, a public health clinic or community health center, or hospital outpatient department.

A hospital emergency room (ER) or urgent care center is not an appropriate medical home. The staff at an ER or urgent care center are less likely to know an

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Inappropriate No medical medical home home Appropriate medical home 8% Ohio¹ Sex 10% Male 6% Female Race 26% African American White 6% Age 18-29 16% 57% 30-45 46-64 6% 65+ 5% **Highest education level achieved** Less than high school 20% 4% High school graduate Some college 4% College graduate Household Income² 25% < 100% FPG 100-200% FPG 4% > 200% FPG **Insurance status** 5% Insured Uninsured **Geographical region** Northeast 82% Northwest 2% Central Southeast Southwest **County type** Urban 11% 4% Suburban 17% 7% Rural **Health status** 6% Excellent or very good Good

¹ People reporting they had an "other" place of care are not included, so percentages will not add to 100%. ² 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2007 was an annual income of \$20,650 for a family of 4.

These findings unless otherwise noted are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll, part of the Ohio Poll conducted April 11–24, 2008, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 821 adults from throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to $\pm 3.4\%$. 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 Ohio Health Issues Poll, please visit www.healthfoundation.org/ohip.html.

Fair or poor 10%

Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati

Health

individual's health history. Primary care delivered in an ER or urgent care center is much more costly than care through a community health center, clinic, doctor's office, 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.

Ohioans Using the ER or Urgent Care as a Medical Home

Almost 1 in 10 Ohio adults (8%) reported an inappropriate medical home, such as an ER or urgent care center. For certain demographic groups, however, that rate was three times as high:

- 26% of uninsured Ohioans reported an ER or urgent care center as their usual source of care when they are sick or need advice about their health, compared to 5% of the insured. In addition, 28% of the uninsured reported having no medical home, compared to 14% of the insured.
- 26% of African Americans reported an inappropriate medical home, compared to 6% of whites.
- 25% of Ohioans living below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines¹ (FPG) reported an ER or urgent care center as their usual place for care, compared to 11% of people living between 100–200% FPG and 4% of people living above 200% FPG.

People living in Central Ohio were least likely to report having an inappropriate medical home: only 2% of adults living in Central Ohio reported having an ER or urgent care as their usual source of care. At the same time, however, 23% of adults in Central Ohio reported having no medical home.

¹ 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2007 was an annual income of \$20,650 for a family of 4.