

What Ohioans Think Is in the New Healthcare Reform Legislation



The
Health
Foundation
of Greater Cincinnati

In early 2010, Congress passed two pieces of federal legislation that have the potential to profoundly change healthcare in this country. Before it was passed, the legislation was revised numerous times. To see if Ohioans know what is in the law, the 2010 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohioans whether they thought certain elements were included in the final legislation.

Many Ohioans Do Not Know What Is Included in the Legislation

Despite the fact that 61% of Ohio adults said that they were following the discussions about healthcare reform in Washington very closely (23%) or somewhat closely (38%), many did not know that certain elements are in the final legislation. And, Ohio adults knew less about the legislation than adults nationally.¹

The majority of Ohio adults knew that the new legislation will:

- give financial help to purchase coverage to low and moderate income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs (69%).

¹ National data are from the Kaiser Family Foundation's June 2010 Health Tracking Poll, available at: www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8082.cfm.

Adults who correctly identified that the health reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the President would...

...Provide financial help to low and moderate income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage



...Provide tax credits to small businesses that offer coverage to their employees



...Prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history or health condition



...Gradually close the Medicare prescription drug "doughnut hole" or "coverage gap" so seniors will no longer be required to pay the full cost of their medications when they reach the gap



Adults who correctly identified that the health reform bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the President would NOT...

...Provide health insurance coverage for every American citizen



Sources: Ohio data are from the 2010 Ohio Health Issues Poll. National data are from the June 2010 Health Tracking Poll, available at www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8082.cfm.

- provide tax credits to small businesses that offer coverage to their employees (60%).
- prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage because of a person's medical history or health condition (59%).

However, only half of Ohio adults knew that the law will:

- not provide health insurance coverage for every American citizen (50%).
- gradually close the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap, or "doughnut hole" (49%).

These findings unless otherwise noted are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's *Ohio Health Issues Poll*, part of the *Ohio Poll* conducted May 11–20, 2010, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 898 adults from throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. This included 818 landline interviews and 80 cell phone interviews with people who did not have a landline telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to $\pm 3.3\%$. 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.