

What Ohioans Think about...

Current Health Insurance Coverage Compared to 1999

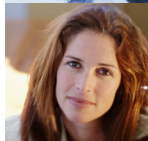
Results from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll 2006



With the changes to the U.S. economy since 1999, a number of employers have decreased employee health insurance benefits or have eliminated them altogether. Public insurance plans have changed eligibility rules and coverage since 1999, as well. The 2006 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohioans to compare their current health insurance to their coverage in 1999 to get an idea of how things changed.

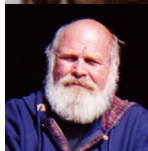


Half of Ohioans (50.9%) think their insurance coverage now is the about same as it was in 1999. One-third of Ohioans (33.5%) think their current insurance is worse than it was in 1999, and 14.9% think it is better.



Coverage is the same as in 1999

There were minor differences between men and women, between African Americans and whites, and among income levels reporting their current coverage is the same as it was in 1999. Ohioans ages 18–29 and 65 and over, those with less than a high school diploma, and those who were currently insured were more likely than others in their demographic



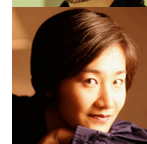
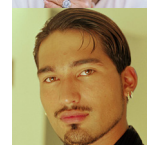
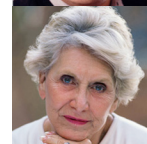
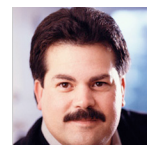
categories to report that their current coverage was about the same as in 1999. One-third of uninsured Ohioans reported that their current coverage was the same as it was in 1999, implying that they also were uninsured then.

Coverage is worse now than it was in 1999

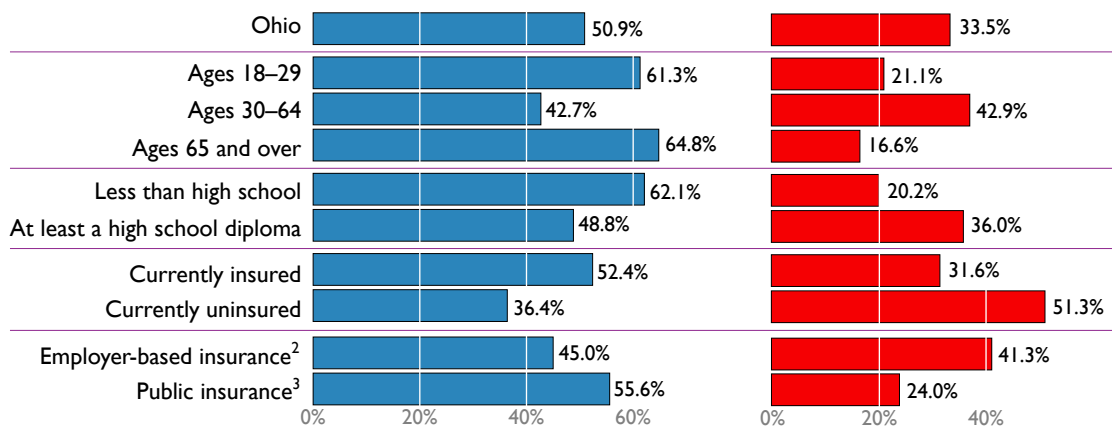
There were minor differences between men and women, between African Americans and whites, and among income levels reporting their current coverage is worse than it was in 1999. Ohioans ages 30–64, those with at least a high school diploma, those who were currently uninsured, and those with employer-based insurance were more likely than others in their demographic categories to report that their current coverage was worse than in 1999.

Coverage is better now than it was in 1999

There were minor differences among people within different demographic categories reporting that their coverage was better now than it was in 1999.



% of Ohioans who report that their health insurance coverage is the same as or worse than it was in 1999¹



¹ Percent of respondents reporting "better than" and "don't know" are not included in these charts.

² "Employer-based insurance" indicates Ohioans who reported their health insurance came through their own or their spouse's employers.

³ "Public insurance" indicates Ohioans who reported their health insurance came through Medicare or Medicaid.

These findings are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll, part of the Ohio Poll conducted May 9–21, 2006, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 841 adults from throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the 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.