



# What Ohioans Think about *What Will Improve the Healthcare System*

October 2009



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



The healthcare reform debate continues to make national news. However, the opinions of the public are not always heard among the noise. To find out what Ohioans think, The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati conducted a Fall 2009 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* focused entirely on healthcare reform.

The *Poll* repeated two questions asked of Ohio adults in June, among other questions. Despite well-publicized, rowdy town hall meetings in August and on-going anti-healthcare reform campaigns, a large majority of Ohioans still think that a public health plan and changes to payment structures for primary care would improve our current system.

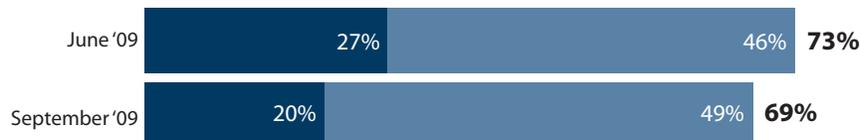
## Ohioans Consistently State that a Public Option Would Improve System

Some healthcare reform proposals include a public health insurance option, or an insurance plan offered by the federal government rather than a private insurance company.

Almost 7 in 10 Ohio adults (69%) stated in September that the option of an affordable public health plan that any American can opt into would improve our

**Do you think the following elements would significantly improve, improve, make worse, or make significantly worse our current healthcare system?** (Graph presents the percentage reporting it would significantly improve or improve the system only.)

The option of an affordable public health insurance plan that any American can opt into



Changes in payment structure so that your main doctor is paid more to prevent and manage chronic illness rather than paid for every test or procedure



■ Significantly improve the system

■ Improve the system

current system. This is consistent with the June results, when just over 7 in 10 (73%) Ohioans thought a public plan would improve the system.

Even larger majorities of Ohioans who are African American (92%), uninsured (88%), ages 18-29 (85%), and living below 200% FPG<sup>1</sup> (80%) thought that a public health plan would improve our current healthcare system.

<sup>1</sup> 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2008 was an annual income of \$42,400 for a family of 4.

## Ohioans Consistently State that Paying for Prevention, Illness Management Would Improve System

Many healthcare reform proposals include systematic changes so that doctors are paid for management and prevention of illness rather than paid per test or procedure. Over 6 in 10 Ohio adults (65%) said that changes in payment structure so that your main doctor is paid more to prevent and manage chronic illness rather than paid for every test or procedure would improve our current healthcare system. This is also consistent with what Ohioans said in June.