



What Ohioans Think About

Healthcare Issues for the President and Congress to Work on



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



There is much attention currently being paid to the 2008 Presidential election, especially around healthcare and healthcare reform. According to the June 2007 *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008*, the two top issues Americans want to hear the candidates talk about are Iraq and healthcare.

But Ohioans also want the current President and Congress to focus on healthcare over the next 12 months. When asked which healthcare issue they would pick for the President and Congress to work on over the next year, Ohioans chose expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured (32%) and reducing healthcare costs (28%).

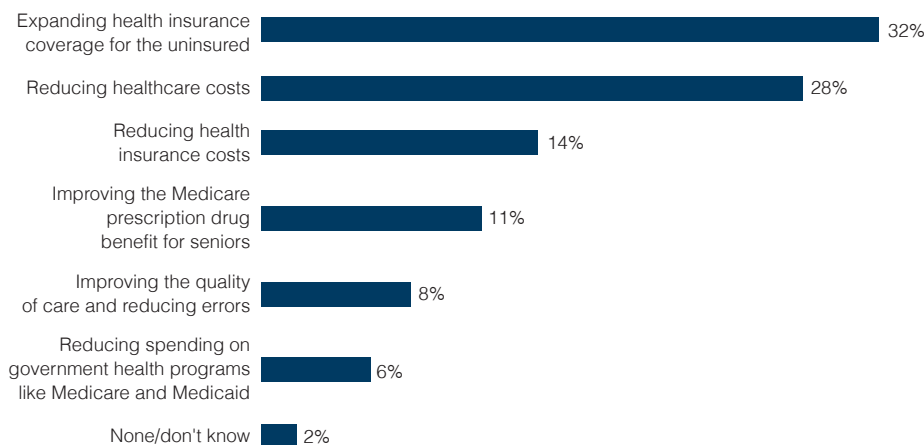
Expanding Coverage for the Uninsured

The 2007 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* found that about 15% of Ohioans are uninsured currently, and that 26% of Ohioans had been uninsured at some point in the last 12 months (including currently).

Ohioans more likely to choose expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured as the **one** issue they wanted the President and Congress to work on over the next 12 months included:

- Democrats (43%)
- The uninsured (42%)

If you had to pick ONE of the following healthcare issues for the President and Congress to work on during the 12 months, which would it be?



- Ohioans living below 200% FPG¹ (39%)
- Ohioans with less than a high school education (36%)
- African Americans (35%)
- Ohioans ages 46–64 (35%)
- Men (34%)

Reducing Healthcare Costs

Three-fourths of Ohioans are either very worried (38%) or somewhat worried (37%) that the amount they pay for healthcare services will increase substantially over the next 12 months, according to the 2007 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*. The *Poll* also found that just over half of Ohioans are either very worried

(27%) or somewhat worried (29%) that they might not be able to get the healthcare services they need over the next 12 months because of cost.

Ohioans more likely to choose reducing healthcare costs as the **one** issue they wanted the President and Congress to work on over the next 12 months included:

- Ohioans living above 200% FPG¹ (33%)
- Republicans (32%)
- Independents (32%)
- Men (31%)
- Whites (30%)
- Ohioans ages 18–29 (30%)
- Ohioans with some college education but not a college degree (30%)

¹ For 2006, 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) was an annual income of \$40,000 for a family of 4.