



What Ohioans Think About

The Presidential Candidate Who Is Best on Healthcare Issues



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati

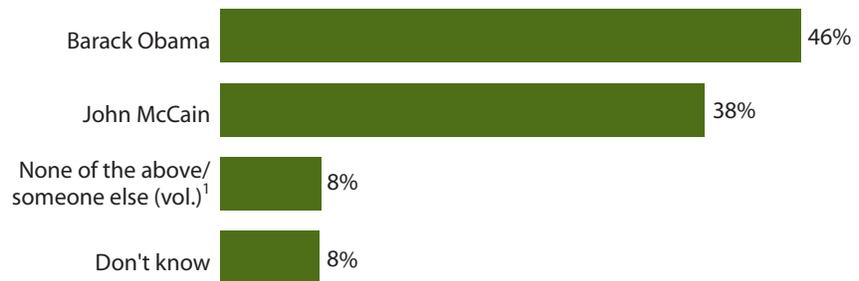


Three-quarters of Ohio adults (76%) would describe the U.S. healthcare system as being in a state of crisis (19%) or as having major problems (57%), according to the Fall 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*. This is down slightly from the Spring 2008 *Poll*, when 82% of Ohioans described the system as being in a state of crisis (22%) or as having major problems (60%).

Given how Ohioans feel about the state of the healthcare system, who do they think will do the best job on healthcare issues as president? The Fall 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohio adults which of the two presidential candidates they thought would do the best job on healthcare issues. The two candidates Ohioans could choose from were (in alphabetical order) Senator John McCain and Senator Barack Obama.

About 46% of Ohio adults said Senator Obama would do the best job on healthcare issues as president, while 38% of Ohio adults said Senator McCain would do the best job. Another 8% of Ohio adults said they didn't know, 6% said neither candidate would do the best job, and 2% volunteered someone besides the two major-party candidates.

Which 2008 presidential candidate do you think would do the best job on healthcare issues as president...John McCain or Barack Obama?



¹ This category includes people who voluntarily stated "none of the above" or provided the name of a candidate other than the two choices given.

Among respondents, those more likely to say Senator Obama would do the best job on healthcare issues included Ohioans who:

- are African American (93%)
- identify themselves as Democrat (75%)
- are ages 18–29 (57%)
- describe the U.S. healthcare system as in a state of crisis or has major problems (52%)

Among respondents, those more likely to say Senator McCain would do the best job on healthcare issues included Ohioans who:

- identify themselves as Republican (69%)
- describe the U.S. healthcare system as having minor problems (59%)
- are ages 65 and over (45%)



Ohioans' Experiences with Problems Due to Recent Changes in the Economy



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



Recent changes in the economy have affected people across the country. In September 2008, about one-third of American adults reported that they have had serious problems paying for gas, getting a good-paying job or raise in pay, or paying for healthcare or health insurance as a result of changes in the economy, according to the September 2008 *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008*.¹

Ohio adults report similar serious problems, although to a slightly lesser extent. While about one-third of Ohio adults reported serious problems paying for gas or getting a good-paying job, about one-fifth said they had serious problems paying for healthcare or for health insurance.

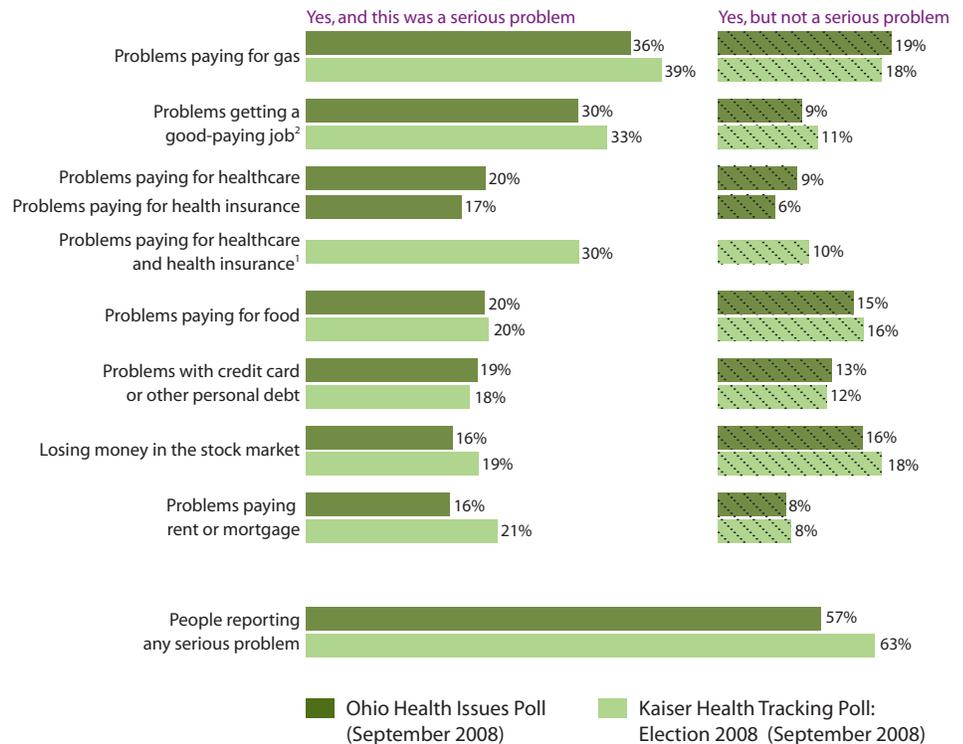
In general for Ohio adults, as age and education level increased, the percentage of adults reporting serious problems decreased. The one exception was losing money in the stock market, where the percentage reporting problems increased with age and education.

People More Likely to Have Serious Problems Paying for Healthcare

Although 20% of Ohio adults reported serious problems paying for healthcare, some groups

¹ Data from the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll can be found at <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/elections2008.cfm>

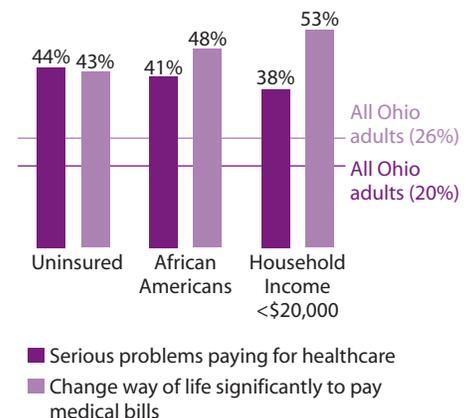
As a result of recent changes in the economy, have you or your family experienced any of the following problems, or not? Was this a serious problem, or not?



¹ The Ohio Health Issues Poll had "problems paying for healthcare" and "problems paying for health insurance" as two separate choices, while the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008 had them as one choice.

² The Ohio Health Issues Poll asked if the respondent had "problems getting a good-paying job", while the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008 asked if the respondent had "problems getting a good-paying job or a raise in pay."

reported even higher rates: uninsured Ohio adults, African Americans, and Ohioans with household incomes less than \$20,000 a year. These same groups were also more likely to report they had to change their way of life significantly over the last 12 months to pay medical bills.





What Ohioans Think About Issues that Will Decide their Vote for President



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



The 2007 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* found that the war in Iraq (32%) was the most important issue in Ohioans' votes for President if the election were held then. The second most important issue overall and the top domestic issue was healthcare (15%), followed by the economy (9%) and jobs (8%).

About 18 months later—and only weeks before the election—Ohioans have very different thoughts on what is important for their vote. According to the Fall 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*, Ohioans' top issues are:

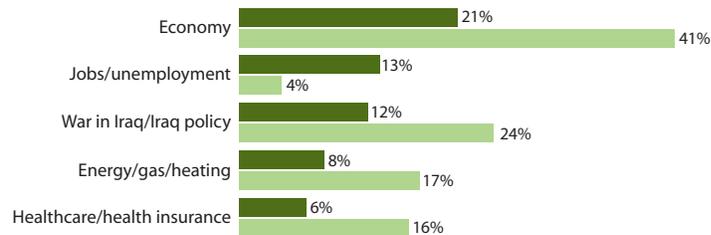
- the economy (21%)
- jobs/unemployment (13%)
- the war in Iraq (12%)
- energy, gas, and heating (8%)
- healthcare and health insurance (6%)

Ohioans' top five differ slightly from the nation's top five. The August 2008 *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008*¹ found that the most important issues were:

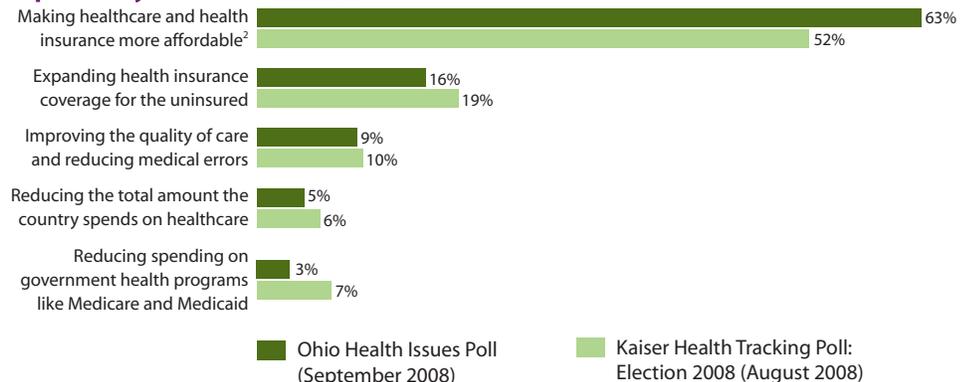
- the economy (41%)
- the war in Iraq (24%)
- energy and gas issues (17%)
- health care and health insurance (16%)
- personal characteristics of the candidates (6%), tied

¹ Data from the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll can be found at <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/elections2008.cfm>

Suppose the 2008 election for President was held today. If the presidential election were held today, what do you think would be the MOST important issue in deciding your vote for President? (Only the top five responses from the Ohio Health Issues Poll are shown here.)¹



Now thinking specifically about healthcare, which one of the following health care issues is MOST important in your vote for President?



¹ The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll allowed respondents to choose more than one issue, while the Ohio Health Issues Poll only allowed respondents to choose one issue. Therefore, the percentages from the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll do not add to 100%.

² The Ohio Health Issues Poll had "making healthcare more affordable" and "making health insurance more affordable" as two separate choices, while the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008 had them as one choice. We combined Ohio responses here for the sake of comparison to the national data. As separate items, "making healthcare more affordable" was chosen by 37% of Ohioans, and "making health insurance more affordable" was chosen by 26% of Ohioans.

with terrorism and national security (6%)²

When looking specifically at healthcare issues, there were

² The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll allowed respondents to choose more than one issue, while the Ohio Health Issues Poll only allowed respondents to choose one issue. Therefore, the percentages from the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll do not add to 100%.

minor differences between Ohioans' and national opinions. By a wide margin, the most important healthcare issue in the vote for President among Ohioans and people across the country is making healthcare and health insurance more affordable.



What Ohioans Think About Their Ability to Pay Medical Expenses When They Retire



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



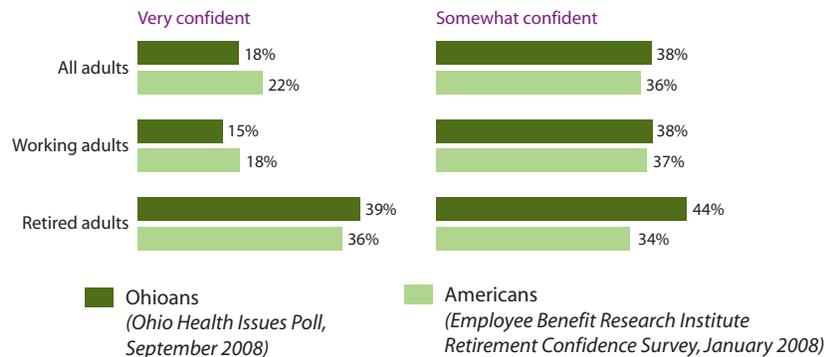
Medical expenses can weigh heavily on a household's budget. It can be worse in retirement, when income is often lower but healthcare expenses are higher. To gauge concern about Ohioans' ability to pay for medical care in retirement, the Fall 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohio adults, "How confident are you that you will have enough money to take care of your medical expenses when you retire?"

According to the *Poll*, 56% of respondents were either very confident or somewhat confident in their ability to pay for medical expenses once they retire. This is similar to the Employee Benefit Research Institute's 2008 poll which found that 58% of Americans were either very or somewhat confident in their ability to pay for medical expenses once they retire.¹

In general, as education and family income levels increased, Ohioans' level of confidence in their ability to afford health-related expenses during retirement also increased. Ohio men were more confident than women, with 65% of men and 46% of women reporting they

¹ Data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute Retirement Confidence Survey can be found at: <http://www.ebri.org/surveys/rcs/2008/>

How confident are you that you will have enough money to take care of your medical expenses when you retire? (Only people who responded "very confident" or "somewhat confident" are reported here.)



were very or somewhat confident. Ohioans who are white were more confident than Ohioans who are African Americans, with 58% and 40% reporting they were very or somewhat confident, respectively. Two in five Ohio adults who are uninsured (40%) said they were not at all confident in their ability to pay for medical expenses after retirement, compared to 19% of insured Ohio adults.

Retirees Are More Confident than Working Adults

Working adults in Ohio and across the country were less confident in their ability to pay for medical care in retirement than adults who have already retired.² About half of working

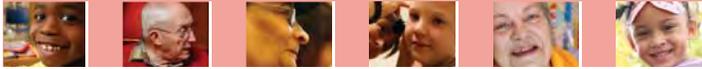
² Working adults includes people who reported they were employed part- or full-time.

Ohioans (53%) and working Americans (55%) reported they were very or somewhat confident in their ability to pay for medical expenses after they retire. In comparison, 83% of retired Ohioans and 70% of retired Americans reported being very or somewhat confident in their ability to pay medical expenses.

There were also differences in confidence based on a person's age until retirement. About half of working adults who have over 20 years before typical retirement age—or those ages 25–44—were very or somewhat confident in their ability to pay for medical care in retirement. This was true for both Ohio and the nation. However, only about 1/3 of Ohio's working adults ages 45–54 were very confident or somewhat confident in their ability to pay for medical care in retirement.



What Ohioans Think About Their Own Health Status



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati 

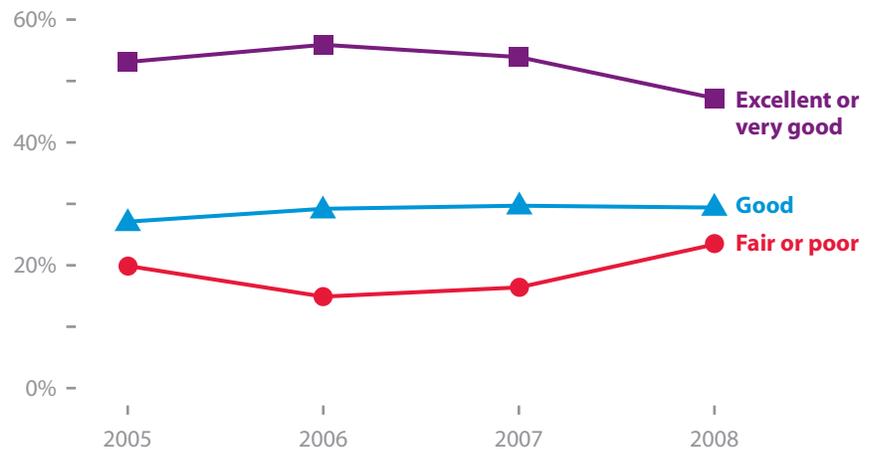
The 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohioans if they would say their own health was excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor. Just under half of all respondents rated their own health as excellent (16%) or very good (31%). Another 23% of Ohio adults rated their own health as fair (18%) or poor (5%).

Since 2005, Ohioans' self-reported health status has decreased, as a higher percentage of Ohioans have reported fair or poor health status and a lower percentage have reported excellent or very good health status. The percentage reporting good health status has stayed relatively consistent.

As education level and income increased, the percentage who rated their health as excellent or very good increased. With one notable exception (see below), as age increased, the percentage of people rating their health as excellent or very good decreased.

In the 2005–2007 *Ohio Health Issues Polls*, Ohioans ages 18–29 were most likely of any age group to report excellent or very good health status. In 2008, however, this group was one of the least likely to report excellent or very good health status.

Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?



Ohioans **more** and **less** likely within demographic groups to rate their own health as excellent or very good

Demographic Group	% who rate health as excellent or very good
Ohio	47%
Ethnicity	
White	48%
African American	40%
Age	
30 to 45	60%
18 to 29	38%
65 and over	37%
Education	
College graduate	73%
Less than high school	24%
Family Income¹	
Above 200% FPG	60%
Below 100% FPG	21%

Demographic Group	% who rate health as excellent or very good
Ohio	47%
Health Insurance	
Insured	50%
Uninsured	33%
Geographic Region	
Southwest Ohio	54%
Central Ohio	41%
Type of County	
Suburban	54%
Rural	44%

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



What Ohioans Think About The Presidential Candidates and Healthcare Issues



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati

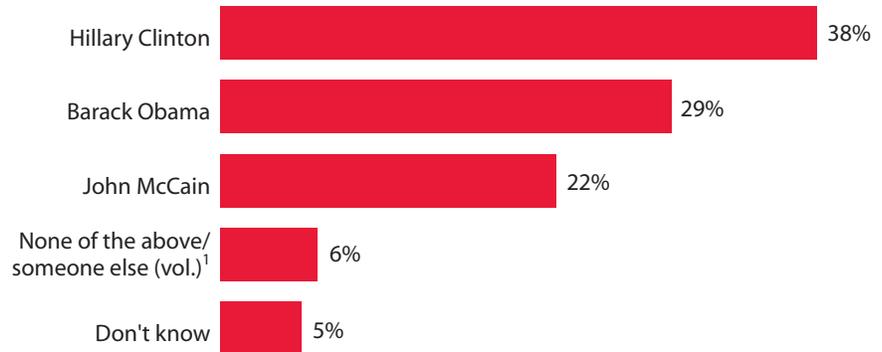


Over 80% of Ohioans would describe the U.S. healthcare system as being in a state of crisis (22%) or as having major problems (60%), according to the 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*. This is up from 2006, when 72% of Ohioans described the system as being in a state of crisis (19%) or as having major problems (53%). Also in 2008, 17% of Ohio adults would describe the U.S. healthcare system as having minor or no problems, down from 28% in 2006.

Given that healthcare is one of the more popular topics in the 2008 campaigns for U.S. President, the *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohio adults which of three presidential candidates they thought would do the best job on healthcare issues as president, regardless of how they intend to vote. The three candidates Ohioans could choose from were (in alphabetical order): Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator John McCain, and Senator Barack Obama.

Almost 40% of Ohio adults said Senator Clinton (38%) would do the best job on healthcare issues as president, 29% said Senator Obama would do the best job, and 22% said Senator McCain would do the best job. Another 11% of Ohio adults volunteered someone else or none of the three or didn't know who they would choose.

Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, which 2008 presidential candidate do you think would do the best job on healthcare issues as president...Hillary Clinton, John McCain, or Barack Obama?



¹ This category includes people who voluntarily stated "none of the above" or provided the name of a candidate other than the three choices given.

Ohioans more likely to report Senator Clinton would do the best job on healthcare issues as president, regardless of how they intend to vote, included Ohioans:

- who would describe the U.S. healthcare system as being in a state of crisis or as having major problems (84%)
- who identified themselves as Democrat (54%)
- living between 100–200% of the federal poverty guidelines¹ (FPG; 53%)
- with less than a high school education (53%)
- living below 100% FPG (47%)

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

Ohioans more likely to report Senator Obama would do the best job on healthcare issues as president, regardless of how they intend to vote, included Ohioans:

- who are African American (63%)
- who are uninsured (46%)
- ages 18–29 (45%)

Ohioans more likely to report Senator McCain would do the best job on healthcare issues as president, regardless of how they intend to vote, included Ohioans:

- who would describe the U.S. healthcare system as having no problems or minor problems (82%)
- who identified themselves as Republican (56%)



Ohioans' Experiences with Not Having Health Insurance Coverage



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



The *Ohio Health Issues Poll* includes a number of questions about health insurance coverage to provide a picture of the insurance status of Ohio adults and their family members.

As nearly all Ohioans ages 65 and over (98%) are insured, this publication focuses on Ohioans ages 18–64 unless otherwise noted.

Currently Uninsured

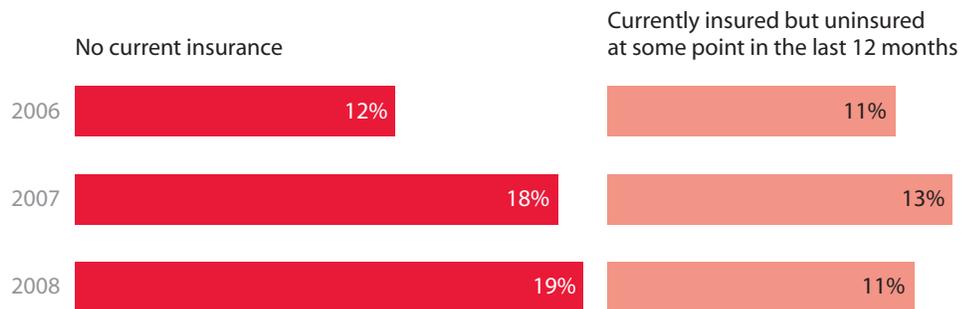
Having health insurance is an important factor in being able to get needed healthcare. Almost 1 in 5 Ohioans (19%) ages 18–64 did not have health insurance at the time of the 2008 *Poll*, up from 12% in 2006.

Ohio adults ages 18–64 more likely to be uninsured at the time of the 2008 *Poll* included those:

- living below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines¹ (FPG; 51%)
- ages 18–29 (43%)
- who were African American (42%)
- with less than a high school education (40%)
- living between 100–200% FPG (29%)
- who were male (27%)

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

% of Ohio adults ages 18–64 who were uninsured at any time in the last 12 months, including currently



Uninsured at Some Point in the Last 12 Months

Another important factor in being able to get healthcare is how stable a person's health insurance coverage is. One measure of that is whether a person has been covered continuously over the past 12 months. About 1 in 10 Ohioans ages 18–64 (11%) were insured at the time of the *Poll* but had been uninsured at some point in the past 12 months.

Ohio adults ages 18–64 more likely to have been insured at the time of the 2008 *Poll* but uninsured at some point in the last 12 months included those:

- living in Southeast Ohio (27%)
- living between 100–200% FPG (21%)

Health Status of Uninsured Ohioans

Uninsured Ohioans were more likely to self-report poorer health status than Ohioans with insurance, according to the *Poll*. Just under half of currently uninsured Ohio adults ages 18–64 (45%) reported their health as being fair or poor, compared to 17% of currently insured Ohio adults ages 18–64.

Uninsured Household Members

Almost 1 in 5 Ohio adults of all ages (18%) reported that a member of their household, besides themselves, was currently uninsured. This is up from 12% in 2006.

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In 2008, Ohio adults more likely to have a household member besides themselves who was uninsured included those:

- living below 100% FPG (47%)
- who were themselves uninsured (46%)
- who were African American (33%)
- ages 18–29 (31%)
- living in Central Ohio (28%)

Uninsured Family Members

Almost 4 in 10 of Ohio adults of all ages (39%) reported that they had an immediate or extended family member who did not live in their household who was currently uninsured at the time of the 2008 *Poll*. This is up from 28% in 2006.

In 2008, Ohio adults more likely to have an immediate or extended family member not living in their household who was uninsured included those:

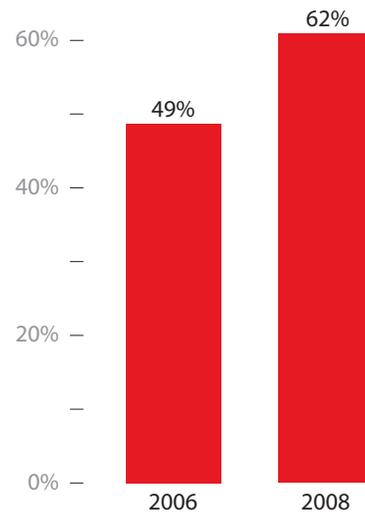
- who were themselves uninsured (72%)
- living below 100% FPG (70%)
- who were African American (60%)
- living between 100–200% FPG (48%)
- ages 18–29 (46%)

Ohioans' Experience with Being Uninsured

In 2008, 62% of Ohio adults of all ages had some experience with being uninsured, either through their own experience or through the experience of a household or family member. This is up from 2006, when 49% of Ohio adults had some experience with being uninsured.

These are unduplicated counts of all Ohio adults, ages 18 and over, who responded to the questions about insurance status of themselves and their household and family members. This means that if a person answered “yes” to more than one of these questions, we only counted them in one category and not again.

% of all Ohio adults who have experience with being uninsured, either personally or through a household or family member (composite of four questions; unduplicated counts)



% of all Ohio adults ages 18 and over who were...	2006	2008
currently uninsured	10%	15%
currently insured but were uninsured at some point in the last 12 months	10%	12%
currently insured but have a household member who is currently uninsured	8%	12%
currently insured and insured continually over the last 12 months and who have no uninsured household members but who have an immediate or extended family member not in the household who is currently uninsured	21%	23%



Ohioans' Experiences with Paying Medical Bills



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



With the decline of the housing and stock markets and the increasing cost of gasoline and food, many households are having to make tough decisions about what they spend their money on. According to the April 2008 installment of the *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008*¹, 42% of Americans had problems paying for healthcare or health insurance as a result of changes in the economy².

Being Unable to Pay Medical Bills

One-third of Ohio's adults (34%) reported that there were times in the last 12 months that they had problems paying or were unable to pay for medical bills. In general, as age, income, or education level increased, the percentage who reported problems paying medical bills decreased.

¹Results of the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll can be found online at www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/elections2008.cfm.

² Kaiser Health Tracking Poll data are provided for context but are not from the same questions as Ohio Health Issues Poll data. Results from the Commonwealth Fund's 2007 Biennial Health Insurance Survey, which asks similar questions as the Ohio Health Issues Poll, will not be available until Fall 2008, at which time we will update this data highlight to reflect the national comparisons.

Making Life Changes to Pay Medical Bills

One in four Ohio adults (25%) reported that they had to change their way of life significantly over the last 12 months in order to pay medical bills. Ohio adults more likely to report changes in their way of life to pay medical bills included those:

- living in Southeast Ohio (46%)
- living below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines³ (FPG; 45%)
- living between 100–200% FPG (41%)
- with some college education but not a college degree (33%)
- living in a rural county (32%)

Income and Problems with Medical Bills

Ohioans with lower incomes were more affected by problems with medical bills. Almost 60% of Ohioans living below 200% FPG (57%) had problems paying or were unable to pay medical bills, compared to 23% of Ohioans living above 200% FPG. Similarly, 43% of Ohioans living below 200% FPG had to change their way of life significantly in order to pay medical bills, compared to 14% of Ohioans living above 200% FPG.

³ 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2007 was an annual income of \$20,650 for a family of 4.

Ohio adults *more* and *less* likely within demographic groups to have problems paying or to be unable to pay medical bills

Demographic	% who had problems paying or were unable to pay medical bills
Ohio	34%
Ethnicity	
African American	50%
White	32%
Age	
18 to 29	42%
65 and over	20%
Education	
Less than high school	43%
College graduate	17%
Family Income¹	
Below 200% FPG	57%
Above 200% FPG	23%
Insurance Status	
Uninsured	65%
Insured	28%
Geographic Region	
Southeast Ohio	45%
Northwest	22%

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



Ohioans' Experiences with Having a Medical Home



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



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.

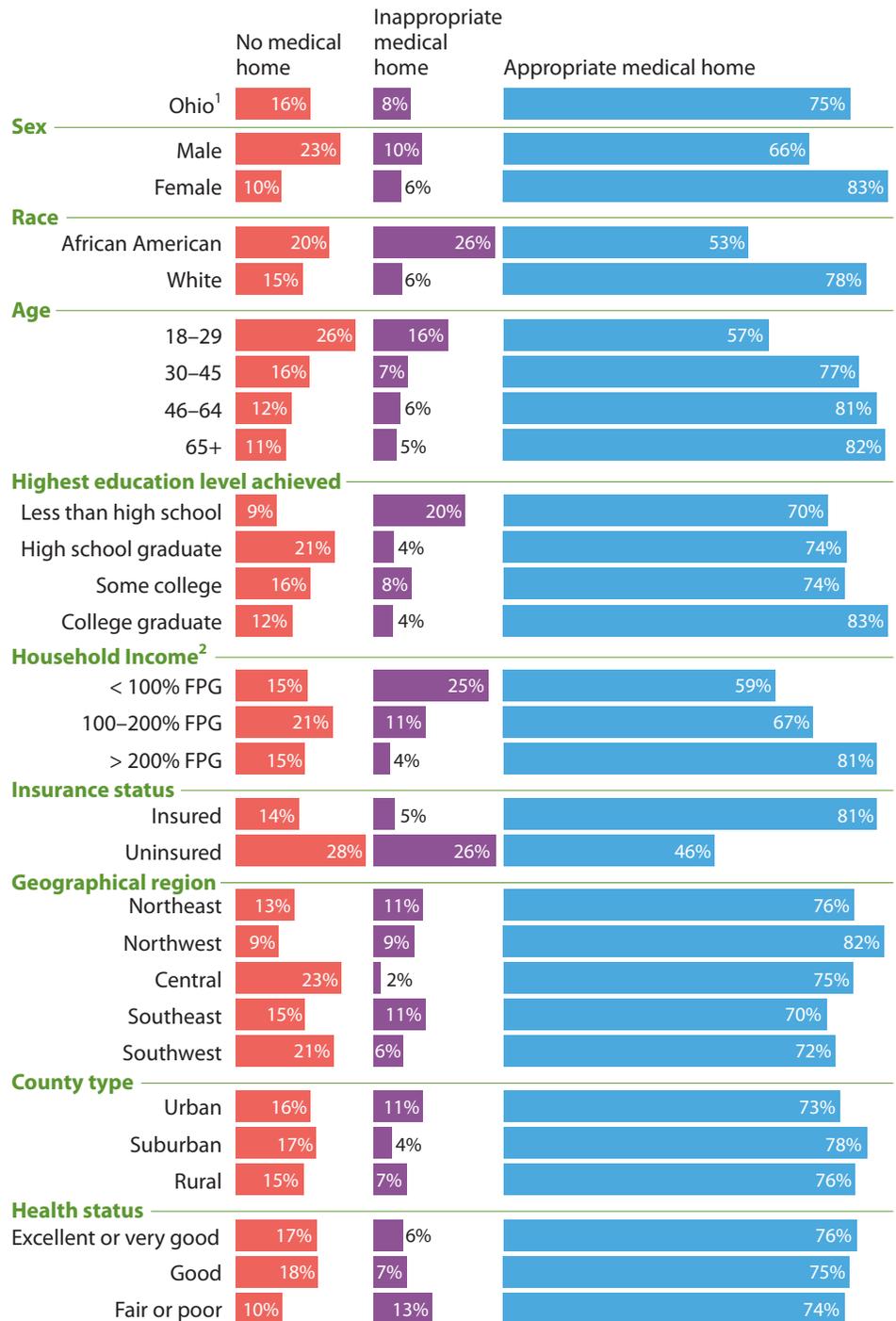
About 84% of Ohio adults indicated that they have a usual place of care, on par with the Healthy People 2010 goal of 85% of people having a usual primary care provider.

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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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.

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.



What Ohioans Think About Treatment vs. Prison for People with Severe Mental Illnesses Convicted of Non-Violent Crimes



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



Almost 60% of Ohioans strongly favor treatment vs. prison for people with severe mental illnesses convicted of non-violent crimes, according to the 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*. This is up from 45% in 2006. Slightly more Ohioans (64%) strongly favored treatment vs. prison for people with severe mental illnesses who are convicted of non-violent crimes *and* who have no prior criminal record.

For many people with severe mental illnesses who get in trouble with the law, community-based treatment is more effective than prison for addressing individual needs and preventing repeat run-ins with the law. Community-based treatment can also be more cost-effective than prison¹.

Ohioans in general see punishment as the lowest priority for dealing with crime in the state, the 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* found. When asked which they thought should be the TOP

% of Ohioans who strongly favor replacing prison sentences with mandatory mental illness treatment programs for people with severe mental illnesses who...



priority for dealing with crime in Ohio, adults selected:

- Enforcement (34%), such as putting more police officers on the street
- Prevention (31%), such as education and youth programs
- Rehabilitation (21%), such as education and job training for prisoners
- Punishment (13%), such as longer sentences and more prisons

Stronger Support for Treatment vs. Prison

Between the 2006 and 2008 *Polls*, Ohio adults' attitudes toward treatment vs. prison for people with severe mental illnesses have shifted toward more strongly

favoring treatment. Since 2006, 13% of Ohioans have shifted their opinions and now strongly favor treatment over incarceration for people with severe mental illnesses who are convicted of a non-violent crime. Further, 26% of Ohioans indicated they somewhat favor treatment vs. prison, bringing the total who favor it to 84% in 2008, up slightly from 2006, when 78% favored it.

This increase in support for treatment vs. prison was true across almost all demographic groups. For the demographic groups that showed an opposite trend—that is, less support for treatment vs. prison—the differences between 2006 and 2008 are within the margin of error for the survey.

¹ *President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health* (2003). *Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America*.



What Ohioans Think About What the State Should Spend More Money on



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati 

What area of state government would you most like to see the state of Ohio spend more money on? For almost 1 in 3 Ohio adults, it's healthcare, according to the 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*.

Ohioans would most like to see the government spend more on:

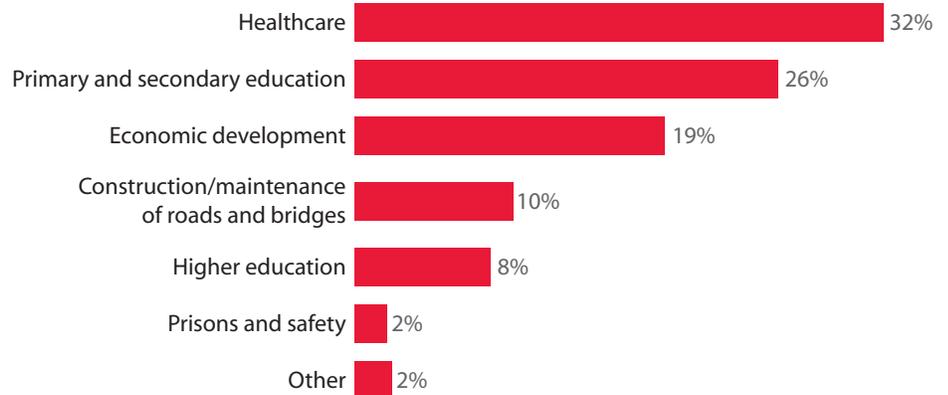
1. Healthcare (32%)
2. Primary and secondary education (26%)
3. Economic development (19%)
4. Construction and maintenance of roads and bridges (10%)
5. Higher education (8%)
6. Prisons and safety (2%)

Ohioans more likely within demographic groups to choose healthcare as the area they would most like to see the Ohio government spend more money on included Ohioans:

- living in rural counties (44%)
- living in Southeastern Ohio (44%)
- who were female (42%)
- with less than a high school education (41%)
- living between 100–200% of the federal poverty guidelines¹ (FPG; 40%)

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

Thinking about the Ohio budget, what area of state government would you MOST like to see the state of Ohio spend more money on?



For some demographic groups, healthcare fell to second place:

- African Americans
 1. Primary and secondary education (39%)
 2. Healthcare (27%)
- The uninsured
 1. Primary and secondary education (34%)
 2. Healthcare (31%)
- Ohioans ages 30–45
 1. Primary and secondary education (34%)
 2. Healthcare (25%)
- Ohioans living in a household with children
 1. Primary and secondary education (33%)
 2. Healthcare (26%)

• Ohioans living above 200% FPG

1. Primary and secondary education (29%)
2. Healthcare (26%)

• Males

1. Primary and secondary education (26%)
2. (tie) Economic development; Healthcare (22%)

For college graduates, healthcare (18%) was third behind primary and secondary education (40%) and economic development (22%).



Ohioans' Experiences with Type of Health Insurance Coverage

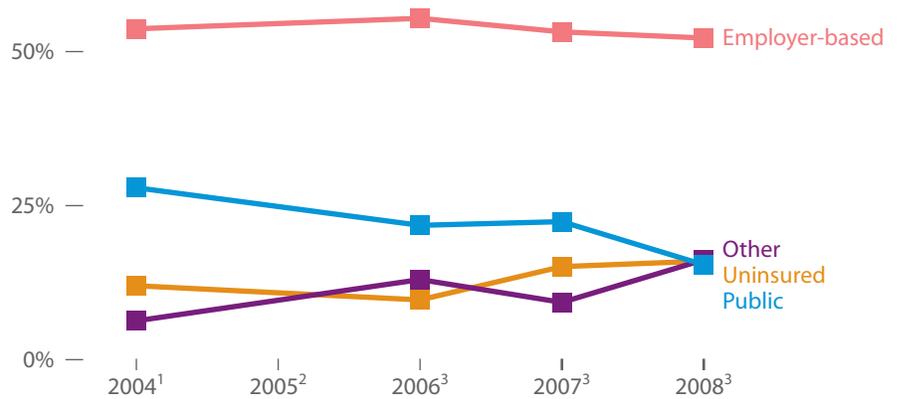


Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



The percent of uninsured Ohio adults has risen slightly to 16% in 2008, according to the *Ohio Health Issues Poll*. This is up from 12% in 2004. At the same time, the percentage of Ohio adults insured through employer-based plans¹ remained relatively consistent but the percentage insured through the public system decreased from 28% to 15%. In 2008, 16% of Ohio adults reported they got their insurance from somewhere other than an employer-based plan or public coverage, up from 6% in 2004.

Type of insurance coverage for Ohio adults, ages 18 and older



¹ Data from 2004 are from the Ohio Family Health Survey.

² Data from 2005 are not available.

³ Data from 2006–2008 are from the Ohio Health Issues Poll.

Type of Insurance for Ohioans Ages 18–64

In general, trends among Ohioans ages 18–64 mirror the state trends for all adults:

- a slight decrease in employer-based coverage (64% in 2004 to 60% in 2008)
- a decrease in public coverage (15% in 2004 to 9% in 2008)
- a slight increase in other sources of insurance (7% in 2004 to 12% in 2008)
- a slight increase in the uninsured (14% in 2004 to 19% in 2008)

¹ Employer-based plans are plans provided by a respondent's or his or her spouse's employer. Public coverage includes plans provided by Medicare, Medicaid, or some combination.

Type of Insurance for Ohioans Ages 65+

When a U.S. citizen turns 65 years old, he or she is eligible for Medicare, a public health insurance program for older adults. Some adults over age 65 are also eligible for Medicaid-assisted Medicare, in which the Medicaid program pays for part of the Medicare insurance premiums. Historically, the vast majority of Americans ages 65 and older have been covered by public insurance. In 2008, only 2% of Ohio adults ages 65 and older reported being uninsured.

Although almost all Ohioans ages 65 and older are insured, the type of insurance they have has changed. According to the 2004 *Ohio Family Health Survey*,

96% of Ohioans ages 65 and older reported being covered by public insurance and 2% reported being covered by employer-based insurance. According to the 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll*, 45% of Ohioans ages 65 and older reported being covered by public insurance, 17% reported having employer-based coverage, and 36% reported getting their coverage from elsewhere.

These changes are possibly a sign that Ohioans are working longer than the traditional retirement age. Or, it could be that retired Ohioans are opting to retain employer-based coverage offered as part of a retirement package or find their own insurance rather than enroll in public insurance.