



# Rate of Ohio adults without health insurance drops

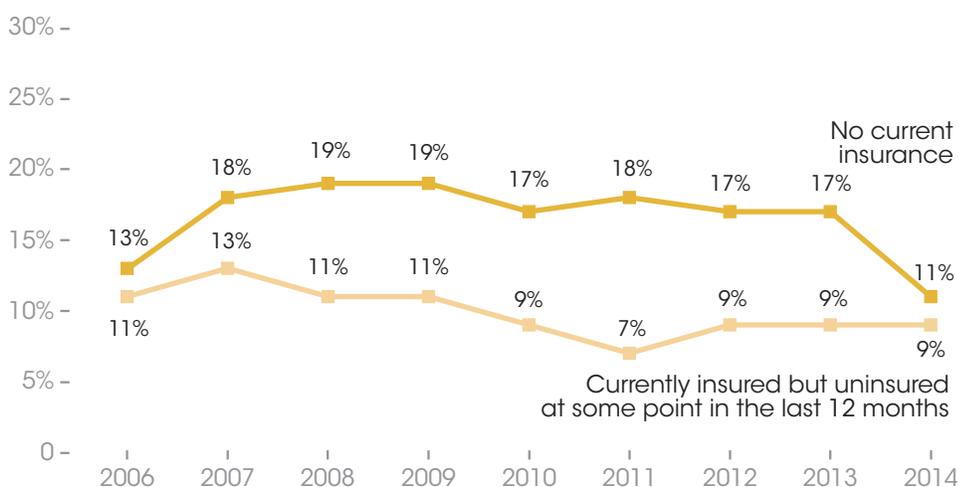
Having health insurance is an important factor in being able to get needed healthcare. Each year, the **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** asks about health insurance coverage to learn about Ohio adults' insurance status. Because nearly all Ohioans ages 65 and older (99%) are insured, this summary focuses on Ohioans ages 18-64.

## Uninsured rate drops to 11%, lowest in poll history

Slightly more than 1 in 10 Ohio adults (11%) did not have health insurance at the time of OHIP. This translates to nearly 800,000 uninsured Ohio adults. The uninsured rate dropped significantly in 2014 for the first time since OHIP began in 2006. It had been stable between 17% and 19% since 2007. In 2006, the percentage of uninsured adults was 13%.

National surveys have also found that the percentage of uninsured adults decreased significantly in 2014. The decline coincided with the implementation of the major coverage and enrollment

## Percentage of Ohio adults ages 18-64 who were uninsured currently or at any time in the last 12 months



components of the Affordable Care Act.<sup>1</sup>

OHIP respondents who purchased insurance on their own were asked “Did you get health insurance as a result of the healthcare law, or for some other reason?” One in 10 (10%) said they obtained insurance as a result of the healthcare law.

<sup>1</sup> Polls include Gallup, [www.gallup.com/poll/172403/uninsured-rate-sinks-second-quarter.aspx](http://www.gallup.com/poll/172403/uninsured-rate-sinks-second-quarter.aspx), and the Commonwealth Fund, [www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2014/jul/health-coverage-access-aca](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2014/jul/health-coverage-access-aca).

## Number of uninsured at some point in last year is stable

The stability of health insurance coverage is also a factor in access to healthcare. A measure of stability is whether a person has been covered continuously for the past 12 months. About 1 in 10 Ohioans ages 18-64 (9%) who were insured at the time of OHIP had been uninsured at some point in the previous 12 months.

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Certain groups are more likely to experience insurance instability. Almost 4 in 10 adults (39%) living at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL<sup>2</sup>), African Americans (29%) and adults with less than a high school education (31%) were uninsured currently or at some point in the past year. The percentage of adults who were uninsured currently or in the past year dropped significantly for all three groups.

<sup>2</sup> In 2013, 138% FPL was an annual household income of \$32,500 for a family of four.

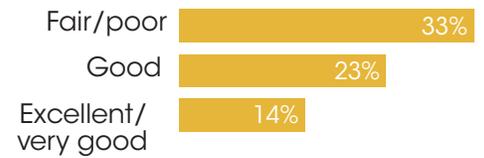
## Healthier adults less likely to be uninsured

There is a strong connection between adults' self-reported health status<sup>3</sup> and whether they have health insurance.

Healthier adults were less likely to have been uninsured at any point in the past year. Slightly more than 1 in 10 adults (14%) who reported excellent or very good health were uninsured currently or at some point

<sup>3</sup> OHIP asked "Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?"

## Health status of Ohio adults currently uninsured or uninsured at some point in the last 12 months (ages 18-64)



in the last year. By comparison, more than 3 in 10 adults (33%) who reported fair or poor health were uninsured currently or at some point in the past year. These numbers also dropped in 2014.



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# Employers are most common source of health insurance

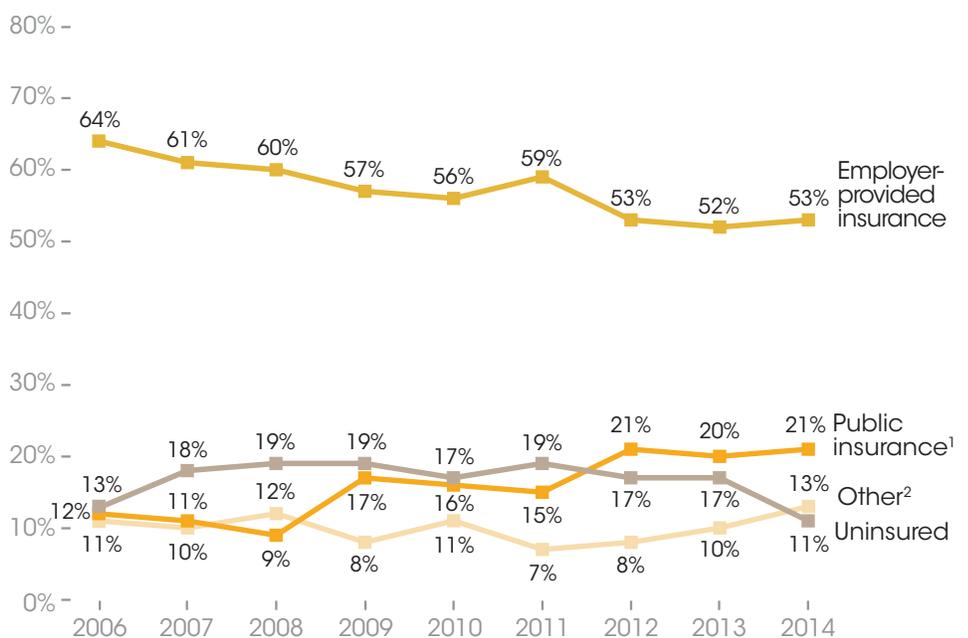
Most people in the United States rely upon some type of health insurance coverage to pay for their healthcare. The **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** asks about the insurance status of Ohio adults and their family members. Because nearly all Ohio adults ages 65 or older are insured (99%), this summary focuses on Ohioans ages 18-64.

OHIP found a significant drop in the rate of uninsured adults in 2014. Only 1 in 10 Ohio adults reported that they were uninsured in 2014 (11%), compared with nearly 2 in 10 in 2013 (17%). This is similar to national poll results.

## More than half insured through employer

The rate of adults receiving health insurance through their employer has gradually declined both in Ohio and across the nation. However, this remains the most common source of insurance coverage. In 2014, more than half of Ohio working-age adults (53%) received health insurance through their employer or a spouse's employer. This is similar to percentage of people reporting employer-based coverage in the past two years.

**Type of insurance coverage for Ohio adults ages 18-64** (Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.)



<sup>1</sup>Public insurance includes Medicare, Medicaid, veteran benefits and combinations of the three.

<sup>2</sup>Other includes purchased own plan, somewhere else, other and don't know.

## Other sources of insurance increase

The rate of adults who had insurance from another source rose from 10% in 2013 to 13% in 2014. This includes people who bought their own plan. Among working-age adults who bought their own insurance plan, 1 in 10 (10%) reported that they were able to do so because of the new healthcare

law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

## Public insurance stable

Approximately 2 in 10 working-age adults (21%) reported that they received public insurance from Medicare, Medicaid, veteran benefits or a combination of the three. This rate has remained stable since 2012.

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# Self-reported health linked to income, education, age

There are many ways to assess a person's health. One method is to ask a person to evaluate his or her own health. The **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** asks Ohio adults: "In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?" Research has made a strong and powerful link between people's response to this question and their predicted length and quality of life.

## Half of Ohio adults report excellent or very good health

Half of Ohio adults (50%) reported that their health is excellent or very good in 2014. This has remained stable since 2008.

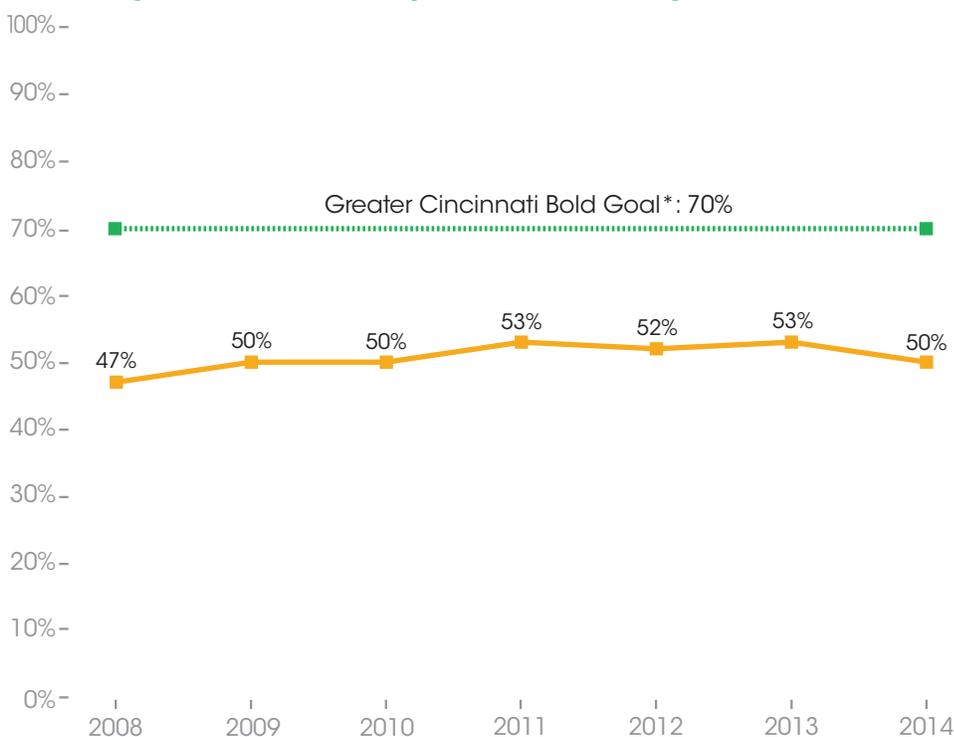
## Better health reported among higher-income, more-educated adults

As noted in previous OHIP results, better self-reported health is strongly associated with higher income. Six in 10 adults living above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)<sup>1</sup> reported excellent or very

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<sup>1</sup> In 2013, 138% FPL was an annual household income of \$32,500 for a family of four; 200% FPL was \$47,100 for a family of four.

## Percentage of adults reporting excellent or very good health



\* The Bold Goal: By 2020, at least 70% of the community will report having excellent or very good health. For more information on the Bold Goals, please visit [www.uwgc.org/community-impact/bold-goals](http://www.uwgc.org/community-impact/bold-goals).

## Percentage of Ohio adults reporting excellent or very good health, by education level



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good health in 2014. This compares with only 4 in 10 adults (39%) living between 138%-200% FPL, and fewer than 4 in 10 adults (35%) living below 138% FPL.

Better health is also associated with more education. Nearly 7 in 10 college graduates (66%) reported excellent or very good health, but only 3 in 10 adults with less than a high school education (31%) did so. (See graphic on front.)

### Self-rated health declines as age rises

Ohio adults are also less likely to report excellent or very good health as they get older. More than 6 in 10 adults age 18 to 29 (63%) reported excellent or very good health. Only 4 in 10 adults age 65 and older (40%) did so.

### Percentage of Ohio adults reporting excellent or very good health, by age





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# Prescription drug misuse, heroin use by Ohio adults

Since 2007, unintentional drug poisoning has been the leading cause of injury death in Ohio, surpassing traffic accidents, suicide and falls. According to the Ohio Department of Health, an average of five people per day dies because of drug overdoses in our state. The rate of drug overdose deaths increased by 366% between 2000 and 2012. The majority of these deaths are from opioid use: either the misuse of prescribed opioids or the use of heroin.<sup>1</sup>

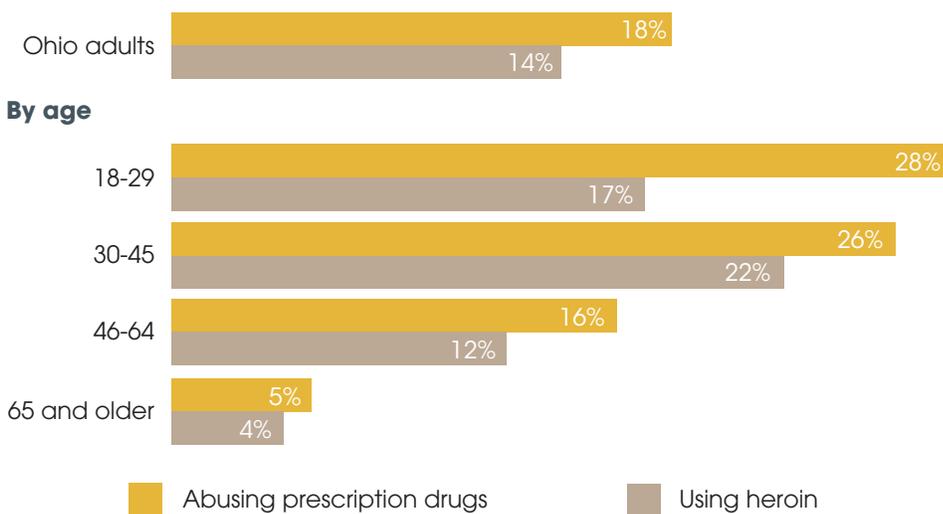
## Two in 10 Ohio adults know someone who has abused pain pills

The **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** asks Ohio adults, “Thinking about your friends and family, have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet or codeine?”

In 2014, nearly 2 in 10 Ohio adults (18%) said yes. This translates into more than 1.6 million Ohio adults. This percentage is similar to the

<sup>1</sup> Ohio Department of Health: [www.healthy.ohio.gov/vipp/drug/dpoison.aspx](http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/vipp/drug/dpoison.aspx)

**Percentage of Ohio adults who report that family members or friends have experienced problems as a result of using heroin or abusing prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet or codeine**



20% of Ohio adults who said yes in 2011, but lower than the 27% of Kentucky adults who said yes in 2013.<sup>2</sup>

## More than 1 in 10 Ohio adults know someone who has used heroin

OHIP also asks, “Thinking about your friends and family, have any

of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of using heroin?” In 2014, more than 1 in 10 Ohio adults (14%), about 1.2 million, answered yes.

Heroin is a growing problem in our state and around the country. During the past decade the majority of drug overdose deaths in Ohio have been caused by prescription drugs. However, in 2012 the percentage of drug overdose deaths caused by heroin (35.5%) was

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<sup>2</sup> 2013 Kentucky Health Issues Poll. “Misuse of Prescription and Illegal Drugs in Kentucky.” February 2014. Retrieved from [https://www.interactforhealth.org/upl/Misuse\\_of\\_prescription\\_and\\_illegal\\_drugs\\_in\\_Kentucky.pdf](https://www.interactforhealth.org/upl/Misuse_of_prescription_and_illegal_drugs_in_Kentucky.pdf).

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nearly equal to those caused by prescription opioids (36.4%) for the first time.<sup>3</sup> Heroin is also a major challenge in Northern Kentucky. In 2013 30% of Northern Kentucky adults said they knew a friend or family member who used heroin.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ohio Department of Health: [www.healthy.ohio.gov/vipp/drug/dpoison.aspx](http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/vipp/drug/dpoison.aspx).

<sup>4</sup> 2013 Kentucky Health Issues Poll. "Misuse of Prescription and Illegal Drugs in Kentucky," February 2014. Retrieved from [https://www.interactforhealth.org/Upl/Misuse\\_of\\_prescription\\_and\\_illegal\\_drugs\\_in\\_Kentucky.pdf](https://www.interactforhealth.org/Upl/Misuse_of_prescription_and_illegal_drugs_in_Kentucky.pdf).

Research has shown a link between prescription opioid misuse and the rise in heroin use. A recent report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) found that 4 of 5 new users of heroin had previously abused prescription drugs.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> SAMHSA News Release, "Nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers may raise the risk of turning to heroin use." August 2013. Retrieved from [www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1308215815.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1308215815.aspx).

## Younger adults more likely to know of drug-use problems

Adults younger than 45 are more likely than older adults to report knowing someone who is using either heroin or misusing prescription drugs. Among Ohio adults ages 18-45, about 2 in 10 know someone using heroin, and nearly 3 in 10 know someone abusing prescription drugs. (See chart on front page.)



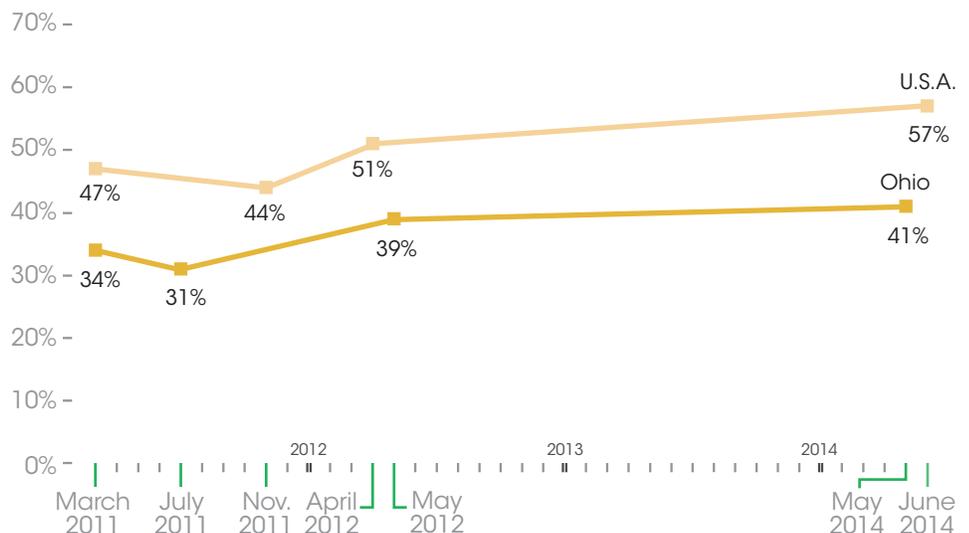
# Ohioans' understanding, views of Affordable Care Act

In early 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed by Congress and signed into law. Provisions of this law have been going into effect since then. Open enrollment for health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace took place for the first time in fall 2013. The **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** asked Ohio adults about their understanding and opinion of the law and their experience with it so far.

## Ohio adults still trail nation in understanding healthcare law

Ohio adults continue to lag the nation when asked “Do you feel you have enough information about the health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally?” In May 2014, 4 in 10 Ohio adults (41%) said they *did* have enough information, while 6 in 10 (59%) said they did not. These percentages are about the same as they were in May 2012. The percentage of Ohio adults who feel they understand

**Do you feel you have enough information about the new health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?**  
(Graph presents only those who responded “yes.”)



the law remains far below the percentage of adults in the nation who do.<sup>1</sup>

## Most Ohio adults think federal government should not provide healthcare coverage

OHIP respondents also were asked whether they thought it was the responsibility of the federal government to make sure that all Americans have healthcare coverage. More than 5 in 10 Ohio

adults (55%) said this was not the government’s responsibility, while 4 in 10 (42%) said the government should be involved. Democrats, adults ages 18 to 29, adults living below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL),<sup>2</sup> and African Americans were all more likely to say that the federal government should be responsible for ensuring healthcare coverage.

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<sup>1</sup> National results are from the Kaiser Health Tracking Polls from March and November 2011, April 2012, and June 2014. For more details visit <http://kff.org/tag/tracking-poll>.

<sup>2</sup> In 2013, 100% of the Federal Poverty Level was \$23,550 for a family of four.

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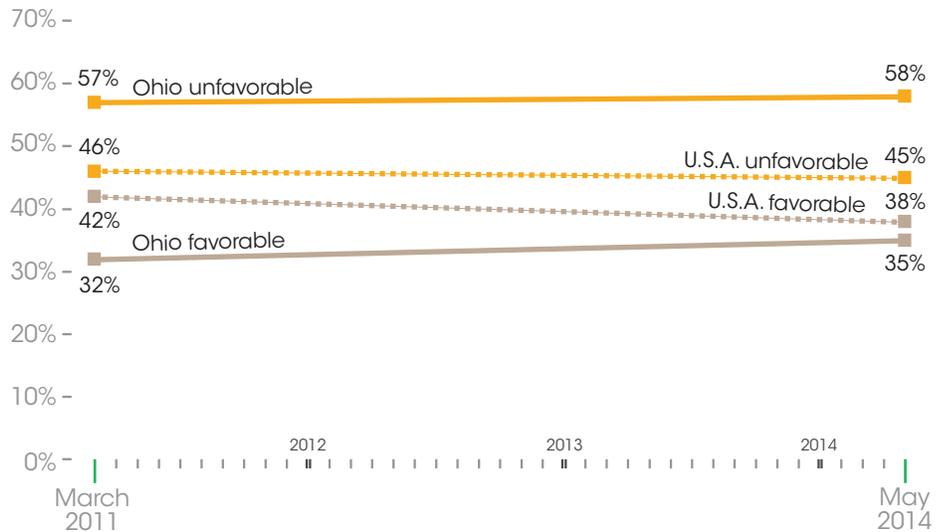
## One-third of Ohio adults have favorable opinion about healthcare law

More than 3 in 10 Ohio adults (35%) report a generally favorable opinion of the healthcare law, similar to the nation. But about 6 in 10 Ohio adults (58%) have an unfavorable opinion, more than the nation. These percentages for Ohio are about the same as they were in 2011.

Fewer than 1 in 10 Ohio adults (7%) said they did not know their opinion of the healthcare law. This uncertainty was higher among adults ages 18-29 (12%), adults with less than a high school education (25%), adults in fair or poor health (15%) and adults in Northwest Ohio (17%).

OHIP asked adults with an unfavorable opinion of the law if they had this opinion because the law “goes too far” or “doesn’t go far enough” in changing the healthcare system. Most adults (76%) said that the law goes too far. Only 21% said the law doesn’t go far enough.

## Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?\*



\* National results are from the Kaiser Health Tracking Polls from March 2011 and May 2014. For more details visit <http://kff.org/tag/tracking-poll>.

## About 1 in 10 Ohio adults have tried using health insurance marketplace

OHIP asked, “Over the past few months, have you tried to purchase health insurance through a health insurance exchange or marketplace?” About 1 in 10 Ohio adults (9%) said yes. Adults living below 200%

FPL were more likely to say yes than adults living above 200% FPL. High school graduates were least likely to have tried using the exchanges (5%) compared with adults with less than a high school education (15%), some college (10%) or a college degree (11%).



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# How Ohioans view health of state, their neighborhood

Personal health is affected by the choices we make every day. But the community in which we live also influences our health. The **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** asks Ohio adults their opinions about the health of their own neighborhood and of the state as a whole.

## 7 in 10 Ohio adults rate state as a healthy place to live; varies by region

OHIP asks, “How would you rate the State of Ohio as a healthy place to live?” More than 7 in 10 Ohio adults (74%) rate the state as excellent, very good or good as a healthy place to live.

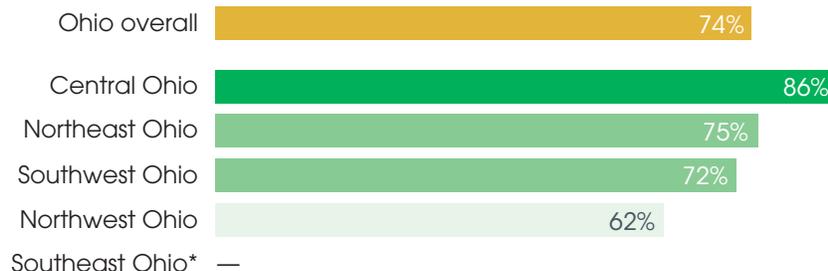
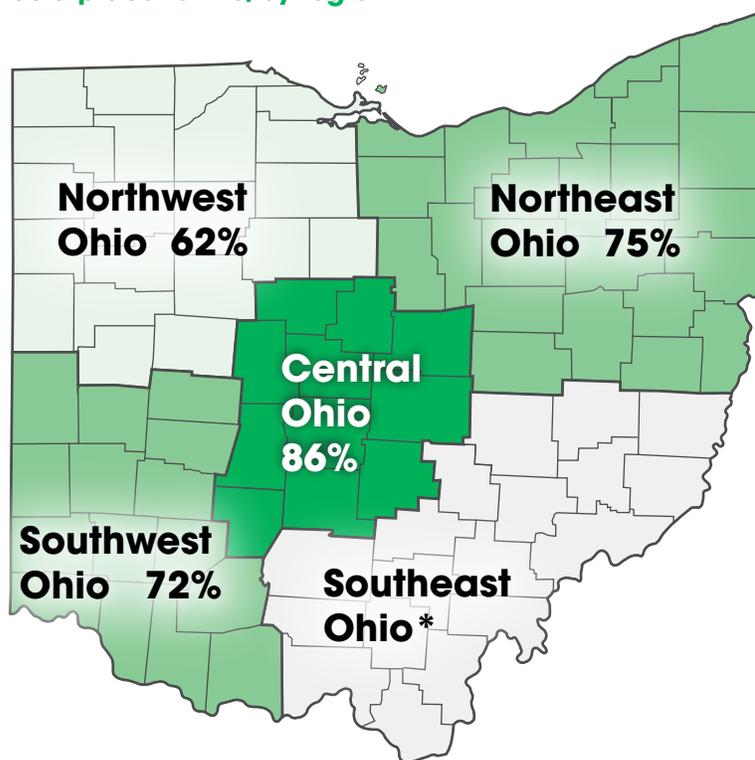
This percentage varies by region. Nearly 9 in 10 Central Ohio adults (86%) say Ohio is a healthy place to live, compared with about 6 in 10 Northwest Ohio adults (62%).

## 8 in 10 Ohio adults say their neighborhood is a healthy place to live

OHIP also asks, “How would you rate your neighborhood as a healthy place to live?” Ohio adults rate their neighborhood slightly higher than the state. Eight

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### Percentage of adults who rate Ohio as excellent, very good or good as a place to live, by region



\* Sample size too small to report findings.

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in 10 Ohio adults (79%) say their neighborhood is excellent, very good or good as a healthy place to live.

## Race, age affect ratings of state, neighborhood

Ratings of state and neighborhood health vary by race in Ohio. About 8 in 10 White adults say Ohio (79%) or their own neighborhood (83%) is a healthy place to live. Only about 5 in 10 African American adults (51%) say their neighborhood is a healthy place to live, and about 3 in 10 (34%) say Ohio is a healthy place to live.

Ratings also vary by age. As age increases, adults are more likely to rate the state and their neighborhood as a healthy place to live. (See graph.)

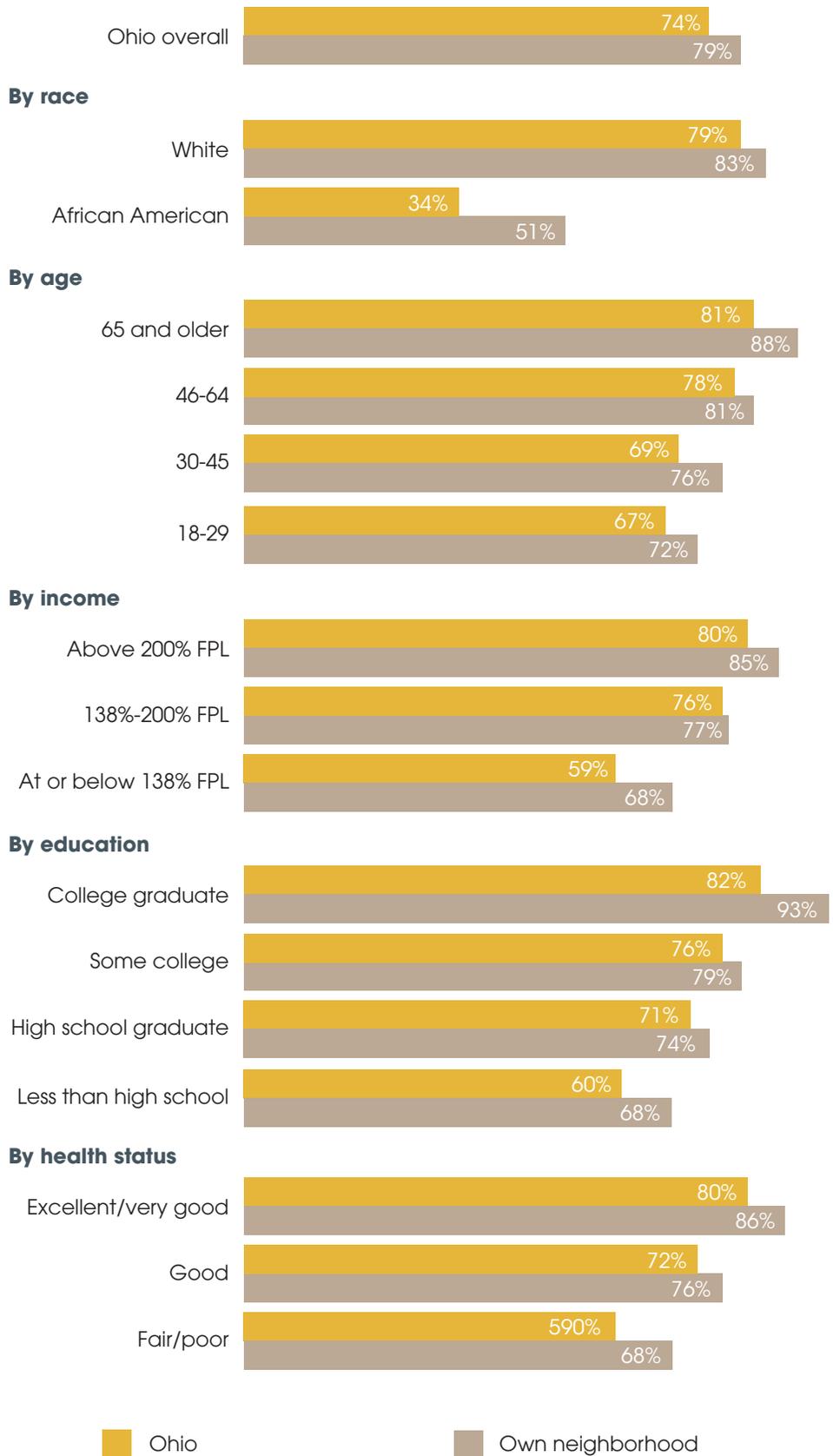
## Poverty, education, health status affect perception of health

Adults earning 138% or less of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)<sup>1</sup> are less likely than adults earning more than 200% FPL to consider either Ohio or their own neighborhood a healthy place to live. (See graph.)

Education also affects adults' perception of state and neighborhood health. About 7 in 10 high school graduates consider the state (71%) or their own neighborhood (74%) to be a healthy place to live. But about 8 in 10 college graduates (82%) say Ohio is a healthy place to live, and more than 9 in 10 (93%) say their own neighborhood is healthy.

OHIP also asks adults to rate their own personal health. Among adults who rate their personal health as excellent or very good, more than 8 in 10 (80%) say Ohio is a healthy place to live. However, fewer than 6 in 10 adults (59%) who rate their personal health as fair or poor say this. Similarly, nearly 9 in 10 adults (86%) with excellent or very good health say their neighborhood is healthy, compared with fewer than 7 in 10 adults (68%) with fair or poor health.

## Percentage of Ohio adults who rate the State of Ohio or their neighborhood as excellent, very good, or good as a healthy place to live



<sup>1</sup> The Federal Poverty Level in 2013 was \$23,550 for a family of four.



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January 2015

# How Ohio adults rate the support in their communities

How people feel about their communities has an effect on mental and physical health. It can improve survival rates and is associated with good health.<sup>1</sup> People who feel more positively about their community are also more likely to adopt healthy behaviors.<sup>2</sup>

The Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP) asks Ohio adults if they agree or disagree with three statements about their communities:

- People can depend on each other in my community.
- Living in my community gives me a secure feeling.
- People in my community know they can get help from the community if they are in trouble.

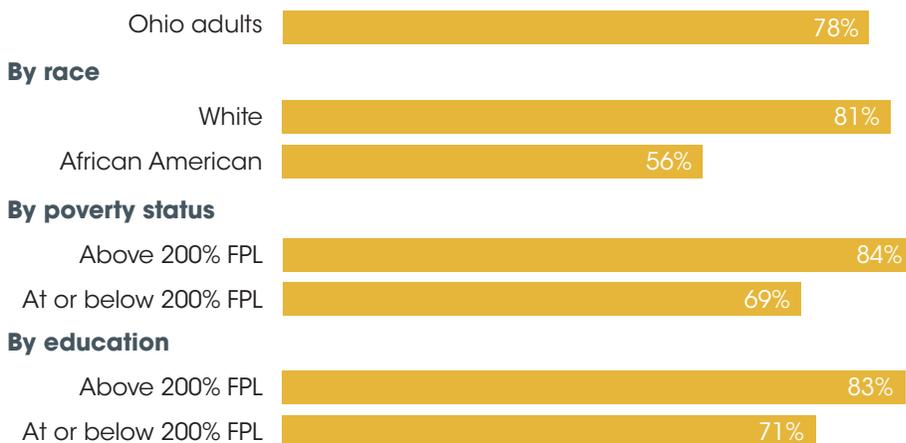
In general, large majorities of Ohio adults feel positively about their communities.

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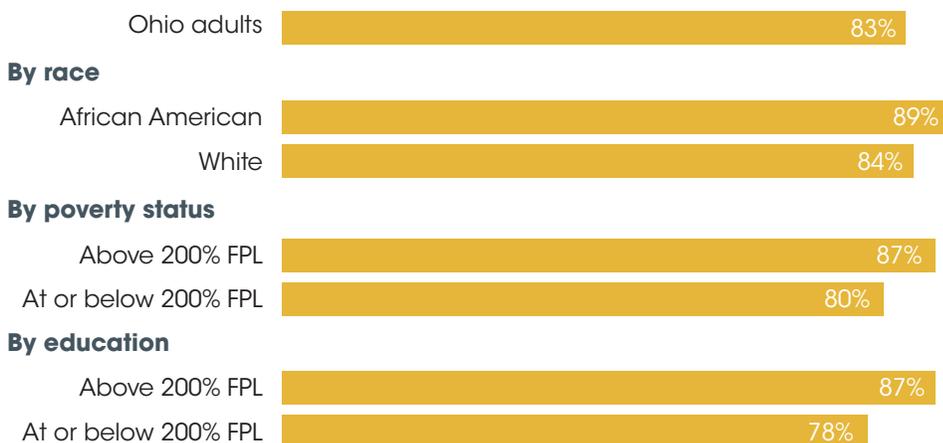
<sup>1</sup> Ruiz, John, Prather, Courtney C. & Kauffman, Erin E. (2013) "Social Support." In *Encyclopedia of Behavioral Medicine*. (pp. 1844-1845). New York, NY: Springer New York.

<sup>2</sup> August, Kristin J. & Rook, Karen S. (2013). "Social Relationships." In *Encyclopedia of Behavioral Medicine*. (pp. 1839-1840). New York, NY: Springer New York.

**Percentage of Ohio adults who agree that people can depend on each other in my community** (Graph presents the total of adults who said they agreed strongly, agreed somewhat or leaned toward agreeing.)



**Percentage of Ohio adults who agree that living in my community gives me a secure feeling** (Graph presents the total of adults who said they agreed strongly, agreed somewhat or leaned toward agreeing.)



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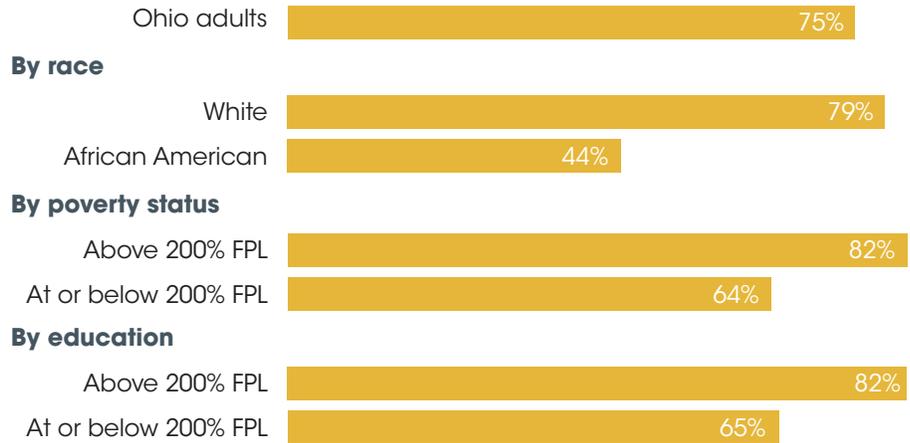
## Community ratings vary by group

While most Ohioans feel positively about their communities, these ratings vary by income, education and race:

- **Poverty status:** Adults living above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)<sup>3</sup> feel more positive about their communities than adults living between 138% and 200% FPL or adults living at or below 138% FPL.
- **Education:** Adults with some college or a college degree feel more positively about their communities than those with less education.
- **Race:** Whites rate people in their community as more dependable and are more likely to report being able to get help from their community than African Americans. However, African Americans and Whites feel equally secure in their communities.

## Percentage of Ohio adults who agree that people in my community know they can get help from the community if they are in trouble

*(Graph presents the total of adults who said they agreed strongly, agreed somewhat or leaned toward agreeing.)*



<sup>3</sup> In 2013, 138% FPL was \$32,500 for a family of four; 200% FPL was \$47,100.