







## What Ohioans Think About Expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program















The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is a federal program that provides health insurance coverage to children born in the U.S. in lowand moderate-income families. Enacted 10 years ago, SCHIP will expire October 1, 2007, unless Congress renews it by September 30. This pending renewal has sparked a broader debate over expanding SCHIP as one way of providing health coverage for more Americans.

In Ohio, SCHIP is known as "Healthy Start" and is part of Ohio's Medicaid program. Families with children enrolled in Healthy Start must reapply every 12 months for coverage for their children. Income changes may affect eligibility.

Each state has different eligibility requirements for SCHIP. Healthy Start's eligibility guidelines are:

| Who  | $FPG^1$      | Restrictions  |
|--|--------------|---|
| Children up to age 19                      | <150%        | None  |
|  | 151–<br>200% | Cannot have other health insurance                  |
| Pregnant<br>women                          | <150%        | Coverage<br>ends 60 days<br>after birth of<br>child |
| Babies born to<br>Healthy Start<br>mothers | <150%        | Coverage<br>lasts one<br>year, then<br>reapply      |

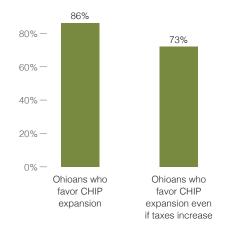
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) was an annual income of \$20,000 for a family of 4 in 2006.

## Support for Healthy Start Expansion

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 8% of Ohio's children - or 220,000 children were uninsured in 2005. About 11% of children across the U.S. are uninsured.

The 2007 Ohio Health Issues Poll asked Ohioans if they would favor expanding Healthy Start to include all uninsured children in the state. The majority of Ohioans (86%) said they would favor an expansion of Healthy Start to cover all uninsured children in Ohio.

We then asked Ohioans who favored Healthy Start expansion if they would still favor it if it meant they would have to pay more in taxes. Of just Ohioans who favored expansion, 85% said they would still favor expansion if it meant they would pay more in taxes. Therefore, 73% of all Ohioans favored expansion even if it meant they would pay more in taxes.



Ohioans *more* and *less* likely to favor expanding Ohio's Healthy Start program to include ALL uninsured children

| Demographic                 | % who favor CHIP expansion |  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Ohio                        | 86%                        |  |
| Sex                         |                            |  |
| Female                      | 90%                        |  |
| Male                        | 82%                        |  |
| Ethnicity                   |                            |  |
| African American            | 100%                       |  |
| White                       | 84%                        |  |
| Age                         |                            |  |
| 30 to 45                    | 90%                        |  |
| 46 to 64                    | 83%                        |  |
| Education                   |                            |  |
| Less than high school       | 95%                        |  |
| College graduate            | 81%                        |  |
| Family Income               |                            |  |
| Below 100% FPG <sup>1</sup> | 96%                        |  |
| Above 200% FPG              | 86%                        |  |
| Health Insurance            |                            |  |
| Uninsured                   | 92%                        |  |
| Insured                     | 85%                        |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2006 was an annual income of \$20,000 for a family of 4.

These findings are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll, part of the Ohio Poll conducted April 26-May 8, 2007, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 825 adults from throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ±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.