



# 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*.<sup>1</sup>

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.

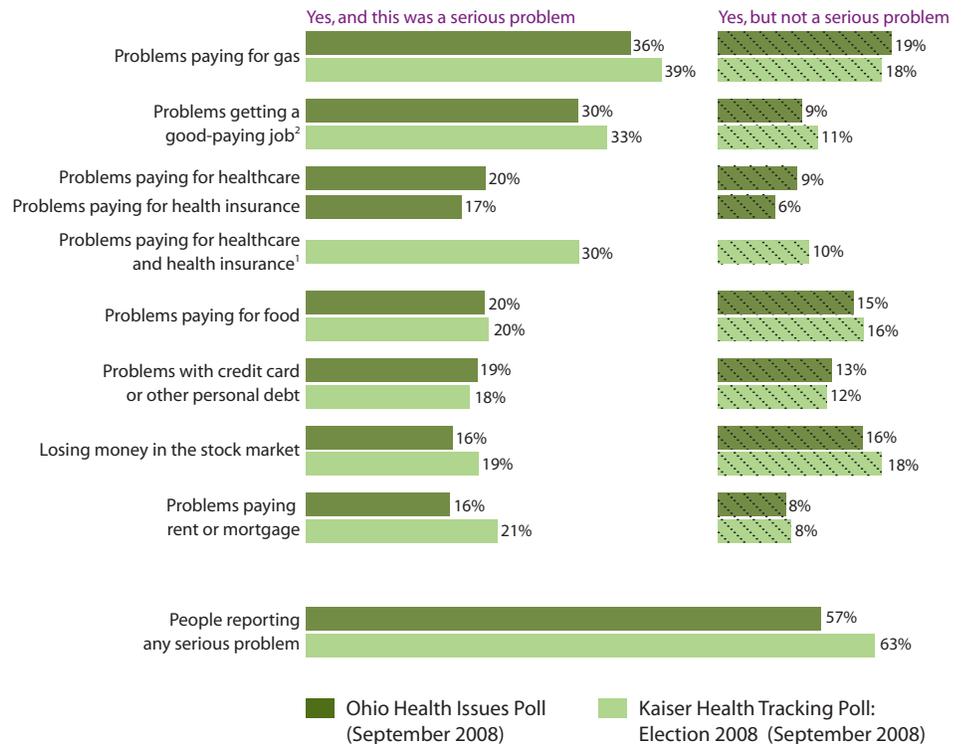
In general for Ohio adults, as age and education level increased, the percentage of adults reporting serious problems decreased. The one exception was losing money in the stock market, where the percentage reporting problems increased with age and education.

## People More Likely to Have Serious Problems Paying for Healthcare

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

<sup>1</sup> 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?



<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

