



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



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



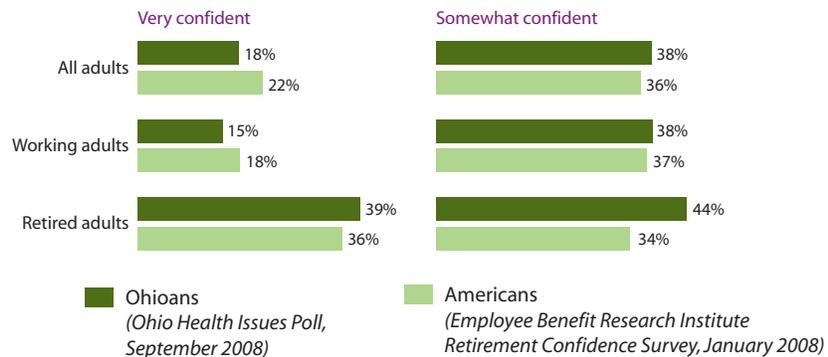
Medical expenses can weigh heavily on a household's budget. It can be worse in retirement, when income is often lower but healthcare expenses are higher. To gauge concern about Ohioans' ability to pay for medical care in retirement, the Fall 2008 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohio adults, "How confident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