



What Ohioans Think about *How Healthcare Reform Will Affect Them*

October 2009



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



Healthcare reform continues to make national news. However, the real opinions of the public are not always heard among the noise. To find out what Ohioans think, The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati conducted a Fall 2009 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* focused entirely on healthcare reform.

The *Poll* asked Ohio adults how healthcare reform would affect the quality and cost of their own healthcare. Despite the millions of dollars invested in anti-healthcare reform campaigns, a large majority of adults in Ohio and across the nation¹ think that healthcare reform will either make their healthcare better or keep it about the same.

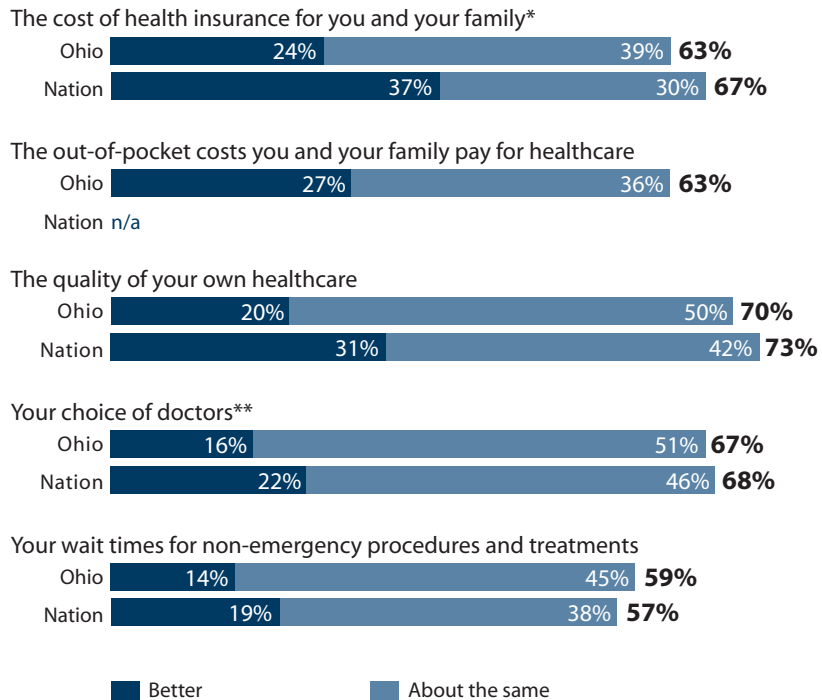
Ohioans Say that Healthcare Reform Will Not Increase Healthcare Costs

The majority of Ohioans and adults across the nation thought that healthcare reform would not increase the cost of their healthcare:

- 63% of Ohio adults and 67% of adults in the nation²

¹ National data are from the September 2009 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, available at www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/posr092909pkg.cfm
² The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll asked about "the cost of health care for you and your family."

If the President and Congress pass healthcare reform, do you think that would make the following issues better, worse, or about the same for you? (Graph presents only those who said reform would make each issue better or the same.)



Sources: Ohio data are from the Fall 2009 Ohio Health Issues Poll, available at www.healthfoundation.org/ohip.html. National data are from the September 2009 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, available at www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/posr092909pkg.cfm.

* The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll asked about "the cost of health care for you and your family."

** The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll asked about "your choice of doctors and hospitals."

said that healthcare reform would make the cost of health insurance better for them and their families or keep it about the same.

- 63% of Ohio adults said that healthcare reform would make the out-of-pocket costs

they and their family pay for healthcare better or about the same. (Note: The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll did not ask this question.)

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Ohioans who said more often that healthcare reform would make the cost of their healthcare better included:

- African Americans,
- the uninsured,
- Ohioans ages 18-29,
- Ohioans living below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG)³, and
- Ohioans reporting fair or poor health status.

Ohioans Say that Healthcare Reform Will Not Lower Healthcare Quality

The majority of Ohioans and adults across the nation thought that healthcare reform would not lower the quality of their healthcare:

- 70% of Ohio adults and 73% of adults in the nation said that healthcare reform would make the quality of their own healthcare better or keep it about the same.
- 67% of Ohio adults and 68% of adults in the nation⁴ said that healthcare reform would make their choice of doctors better or keep it about the same.
- 59% of Ohio adults and 57% of adults in the nation said that healthcare reform would make their wait times for non-emergency procedures and treatment better or keep them about the same.

Ohioans who said more often that healthcare reform would make the quality of their healthcare better included:

- African Americans,
- Ohioans living below 200% FPG , and
- Ohioans on Medicaid.

³ 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2008 was an annual income of \$42,400 for a family of 4.

⁴ The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll asked about "your choice of doctors and hospitals."

Ohioans who Are Dissatisfied with their Health Insurance Are More Optimistic about the Personal Effects of Healthcare Reform

The Poll asked Ohio adults if they were satisfied or dissatisfied with their current health insurance plan. About 86% of Ohioans were satisfied and 14% were dissatisfied with their current insurance. However, Ohioans who were dissatisfied with their current insurance were twice as likely than satisfied Ohioans to report that healthcare reform would make the quality and cost of their healthcare better.

If the President and Congress pass healthcare reform, do you think that would make the following issues better, worse, or about the same for you? (Graph presents only Ohioans who said reform would make each issue better.)

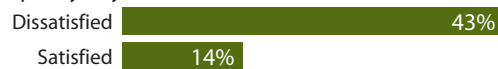
The cost of health insurance for you and your family



The out-of-pocket costs you and your family pay for healthcare



The quality of your own healthcare



Your choice of doctors



Your wait times for non-emergency procedures and treatments



Source: Data are from the Fall 2009 Ohio Health Issues Poll, available at www.healthfoundation.org/ohip.html.