

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



In early 2010, Congress passed two pieces of federal legislation that have the potential to profoundly change healthcare in this country. Before the legislation passed, Congress and others debated whether those changes would be for the better or for the worse. The 2010 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohio adults what they thought about how the healthcare reform legislation will affect them and the healthcare system.

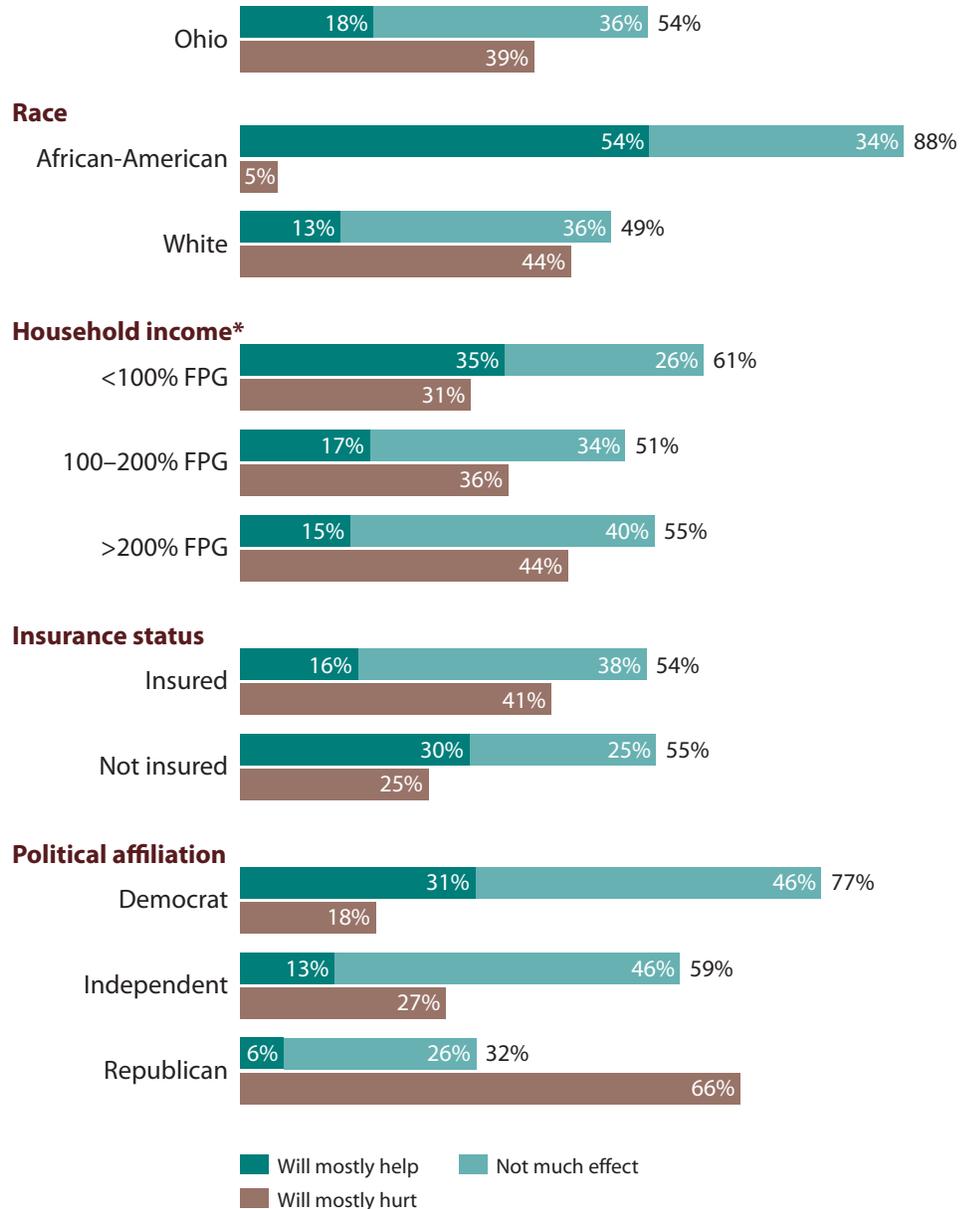
## Majority of Ohioans Say Reform Will Help Them or Not Affect Them

Over half of Ohio adults (54%) said that healthcare reform would mostly help (18%) or not affect them much (36%) in the next 10 years. Another 39% said that the reform law will mostly hurt them, and 7% didn't know how they would be affected.

African Americans (54%), adults living below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG; 35%),<sup>1</sup> and the uninsured (30%) said more frequently that the healthcare reform law would help them.

*(continued on back)*

**Which of the following statements best describes how you think the new healthcare reform law will affect you over the next 10 years? (Percentages will not add to 100% because the percent responding "don't know" are not included.)**



<sup>1</sup> 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2009 was an annual household income of \$22,050 for a family of 4.

\*100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2009 was an annual household income of \$22,050 for a family of 4.

## **Majority of Ohioans Say Reform Will Make U.S. Healthcare System Better or No Different**

The majority of Ohio adults (57%) say that healthcare reform would make the healthcare system better than it is now (33%) or will not make much difference (24%) in the long run. 40% say that reform will make the US Healthcare System worse than it is now.

## **Support for Reform Very Partisan**

Support for healthcare reform falls strongly along party lines. Democrats state more frequently than Republicans that reform will mostly help them individually over the next 10 years, at 31% and 6% respectively. In terms of the effect on the healthcare system in general, 6 in 10 Democrats thought that healthcare reform will make the U.S. healthcare system better than it is now, while 7 in 10 Republicans thought that healthcare reform will make the U.S. healthcare system worse.