

# What Ohioans Think about *Integrating Mental and Physical Health Care*



The  
**Health  
Foundation**  
of Greater Cincinnati

The current U.S. healthcare system separates treatment for physical and mental illnesses. Physical and mental health care are offered in different locations and by different healthcare providers. There are also different levels of insurance benefits for physical and mental health care. This can mean that people delay getting or do not get needed services because it is too difficult to go to more than one place or because of cost.

The current model, where physical health care is offered in primary care settings and mental health care is offered in mental health settings, assumes that:

- people have the resources and ability to get to and coordinate care between two places,
- providers have the ability and resources to coordinate care across the systems, and
- people feel comfortable, safe, and respected in each place.

Across the country, healthcare systems are beginning to offer physical and mental health care in the same locations. The majority

## Ohioans who support the integration of physical and mental health care, that is, having both types of services in the same place



■ Strongly support    ■ Somewhat support

of these programs bring mental health care into primary care settings, such as doctor's offices and community health centers.

Research has shown that people with severe mental illnesses die sooner, have poorer physical health, and are less likely to get physical health care than the general population. In 2008, the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) created the Ohio Coordinated Center for Integrating Care (OCCIC), housed at The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, to help communities that want to integrate physical health care into mental health care settings. As of July 2010, there were over 50 of these integrated care programs across the state.

To find out what Ohioans think about having mental and physical health services in the same location—whether that is physical health care in a mental health setting, or vice versa—the 2010 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* asked Ohioans what they think about the integration of mental and physical health care.

## Large Majority of Ohioans Favor Integrating Mental and Physical Health Services

The majority of Ohioans strongly (44%) or somewhat (36%) favored offering physical and mental health services in the same location. Support was strong across all demographic groups.