





# Caregiving rates among Ohioans

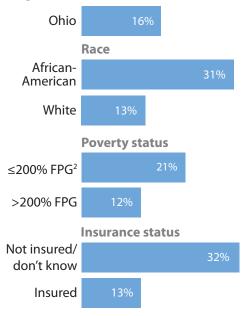
Ohioans have experienced tough economic times in the last few years. Like the nation, Ohio has seen increasing rates of poverty, unemployment and people without health insurance. Nationally, 1 in 5 caregivers had to move into the same home with their family members to cut expenses during the 2007-2009 recession.<sup>1</sup>

To understand caregiving among Ohioans, the 2011 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* (OHIP) asked about assistance provided to family members who are chronically ill or disabled and are no longer able to care for themselves. About 1 in 6 Ohioans (16%) reported that they provided such assistance.

## African-Americans, poor more likely to be caregivers

African-Americans are more likely to be caregivers. About 1 in 3 African-American adults in Ohio (31%) report caring for a chronically ill or disabled family member, compared with about 1 in 10 white adults (13%).

<sup>1</sup> Evercare Survey of the Economic Downturn and Its Impact on Family Caregiving; National Alliance for Caregiving and Evercare, 2009. Percentage of adults who provide assistance to family members who are chronically ill or disabled and are no longer able to care for themselves



Likewise, people with lower incomes are more likely to be caregivers. About 1 in 5 people living at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG<sup>2</sup>) report having a caregiving role (21%), compared with 1 in 10 of those living above 200% FPG (12%).

## Uninsured report higher rate of caregiving

Caring for a family member may make it difficult to hold a full-time job, leaving caregivers at risk of being without health insurance.<sup>3</sup> Nearly 1 in 3 uninsured Ohioans (32%) report caring for a chronically ill or disabled family member, compared with 13% of Ohioans with insurance.

#### **Caregiving by region**

Adults in the Ohio counties of Greater Cincinnati are more likely to be caregivers. About 1 in 4 adults in the Cincinnati area (25%) report providing care to a chronically ill or disabled family member, a rate higher than other Ohio regions and the state as a whole (16%).

#### Caregivers by area of dominant TV influence



<sup>3</sup> A Look at Working-Age Caregivers' Roles, Health Concerns, and Need for Support, Alice Ho, Sara R. Collins, Ph.D., Karen Davis, Ph.D., and Michelle M. Doty, Ph.D., The Commonwealth Fund, August 2005.

These findings unless otherwise noted are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP) conducted July15-25, 2011, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 946 adults throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. This included 742 landline interviews and 204 cell phone interviews. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to ±3.2%. There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias.

For more information about OHIP, please visit www.healthfoundation.org/ohip.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2010 was an annual household income of \$22,050 and 200% FPG was \$44,100, both for a family of 4.