

## What Ohioans Think about *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*



After much debate in Congress about healthcare reform, President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law in early 2010. Some provisions of the law took effect immediately, and some will be phased in through 2014.

As the provisions of the law are phased in, elected officials continue to discuss healthcare reform. To find out what Ohioans think, The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati included questions about the ACA and its components on the most recent *Ohio Health Issues Poll* (OHIP).

### Few Ohioans Have Enough Information about the ACA

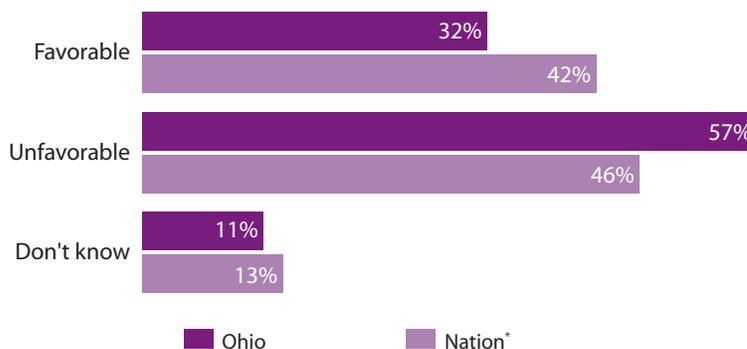
Only 1 in 3 Ohio adults (34%) felt they had enough information about the ACA to understand how it would affect them personally. The majority of Ohio adults (65%) felt they needed more information to understand how the law would affect them. This was consistently high regardless of age, education, or political affiliation.

Despite the lack of enough information, Ohio adults have strong opinions on the law. Nearly 1 in 3 Ohio adults (32%) reported having a generally favorable opinion of the ACA,

**Do you feel you have enough information about the health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?** (Percentages will not add to 100% because the percent responding "don't know" are not included.)



**Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?**



\* National data are from the March 2010 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll.

while over half (57%) had a generally unfavorable opinion of it. An additional 11% of Ohio adults expressed no opinion about the law. A recent national poll found that 42% of adults in the U.S. had a favorable opinion of the law, 46% had an unfavorable opinion, and 13% expressed no opinion.<sup>1</sup>

Political affiliation made a difference in who favored the law. Half of Ohio Democrats (50%) reported a generally favorable opinion of the ACA, compared to 25% of Independents and 14% of Republicans.

### Bipartisan Support of Components of the Law

OHIP also found that the majority of Ohioans, regardless of political affiliation, said that the inclusion of certain elements in the law

<sup>1</sup> National polling results come from the March 2011 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, available at: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8166.cfm>.

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made them more favorable toward the law. Respondents felt most favorably toward the law because of these elements:

- Small business tax credits (74%)
- Prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage to children who have a pre-existing health problem (66%)
- Gradually closing the Medicare prescription drug “doughnut hole” (64%)
- Requiring all new health plans to provide their customers access to basic preventive health care services (64%)
- Creating an insurance option, or high-risk pool, for those whose pre-existing conditions currently make it too difficult for them to find and buy affordable health insurance (64%)

**Ohioans who feel more or less favorable toward the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) because it includes the following elements**

*(Percentages may not add to 100 because those responding “don’t know” are not included.)*

