

# Healthcare top priority regardless of court ruling

Challenges to the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), better known as the healthcare reform law, were heard before the U.S. Supreme Court in March 2012. Its decision is expected by the end of June. To understand how many Ohioans are following news about the case and how important affordable, quality healthcare is for Ohio adults, the 2012 **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** included several questions about the law and the Supreme Court case.

## Fewer than half closely following news about case

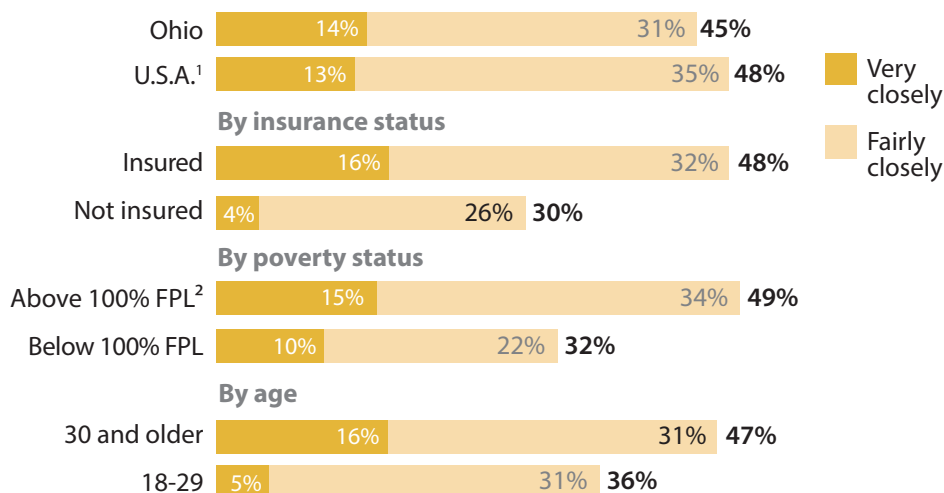
Nearly 4 million Ohio adults (45%) reported they are following news about the Supreme Court case very closely or fairly closely, a rate similar to national results (48%).<sup>1</sup> More Ohio adults, nearly 5 million (55%), are not closely following news about the case.

## Groups most likely to benefit from law not following news about case

The healthcare law aims to increase the affordability of and access to

<sup>1</sup>National results are from the May 2012 Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, available at <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8315.cfm>.

**How closely have you been following the news about the case before the Supreme Court challenging parts of the healthcare law?** (Graph presents only those who said they were following very closely or fairly closely.)



health insurance for everyone, particularly those who are currently uninsured. Young adults and the poor are uninsured at much higher rates than other demographic groups.

However, few people in these groups are following news about the Supreme Court case, even though they could benefit if the healthcare law remains intact. Only 3 in 10 uninsured Ohio adults (30%) are following news about the case. Similarly, 32% of adults living below 100% of the federal poverty level

(FPL<sup>2</sup>) and 36% of adults ages 18-29 are following the case.

## Large majority says quality healthcare should be priority for president, Congress

More than 8 in 10 Ohio adults (86%) said that if the healthcare law is ruled unconstitutional, providing access to affordable, quality

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<sup>2</sup>100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2011 was an annual household income of \$22,350 and 200% FPL was \$44,700, both for a family of four.

healthcare for all Americans should be a priority for the president and Congress.

The healthcare reform debate has been politically divisive. However, regardless of political affiliation, large majorities said providing access to affordable, quality healthcare should be a priority. More than 9 in 10 Democrats (91%) said healthcare access should be a top or important priority, similar to nearly 9 in 10 Independents (87%) and 8 in 10 Republicans (79%).

Additionally, large majorities of the groups most likely to benefit said providing affordable, quality healthcare should be a priority. More than 9 in 10 Ohio adults living below 100% FPL (94%) and 8 in 10 uninsured adults (84%) said healthcare should be a priority.

**If the Supreme Court rules that the entire healthcare law is unconstitutional, do you think providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans should be ...**  
*(Graph presents only those who said it should be the top priority for the president and Congress or an important but lower priority.)*

