

# Understanding of healthcare law still low

President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), better known as the healthcare reform law, in early 2010. Challenges to the constitutionality of the 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 Ohio adults understand the new law and what they think about providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans, the 2012 **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** included several questions about the law and support for increased healthcare access.

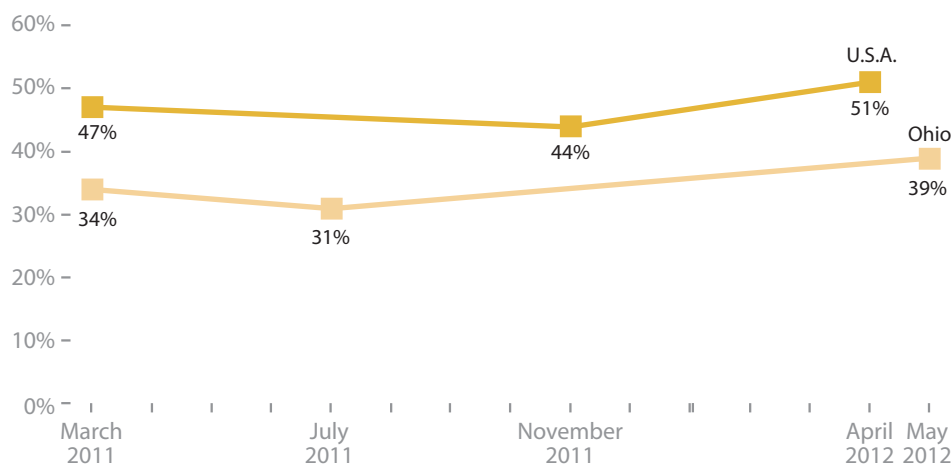
## Ohio adults lag nation in understanding healthcare law

Only 4 in 10 Ohio adults (39%) report that they have enough information about the new health reform law to understand how the law will affect them personally. This is up slightly from 3 in 10 (34%) in March 2011. However, Ohioans' understanding of how the law will affect them personally has been consistently lower than the nation.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National results are from the Kaiser Health Tracking Polls from March and November 2011 and April 2012. For more details visit: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/trackingpoll.cfm>

## Do you feel you have enough information about the new health reform law to understand how it will impact you personally, or not?

(Graph presents only those who responded "yes.")



## Uninsured most likely to benefit but least informed

The healthcare law aims to increase the affordability of and access to health insurance for everyone, particularly those who are currently uninsured. However, among all groups measured by OHIP, uninsured adults reported the least understanding about the potential impact of the law. Fewer than 3 in 10 uninsured Ohioans (27%) reported that they had enough information to understand the impact of the law on them personally, compared with more than 4 in 10 insured Ohioans (41%).

## Large majorities support increased access for all

More than 8 in 10 Ohio adults (83%) favor providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans. Support for access was consistently high regardless of age, income, education, insurance status or political affiliation. Large majorities of Democrats (90%), Independents (88%) and Republicans (71%) favor providing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Americans.