



What Ohio adults think about fracking

Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, is a relatively new way to extract natural gas. Fracking injects water, sand and chemicals into rock formations to create cracks in the rocks, releasing oil or natural gas. Since December 2009, Ohio has issued 308 fracking permits, resulting in 105 wells being drilled.¹ Existing and planned wells are predominantly in Eastern Ohio.

Supporters of fracking see it as new revenue for the state and a chance to create high-paying jobs. Opponents are concerned about the impact of this type of drilling, including the chemicals used in the process, on the environment and the health of those living near fracking sites.

To understand Ohioans' opinions about fracking in the state, the 2012 **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** asked Ohio adults a number of questions about their knowledge and concerns about fracking.

Most Ohioans know little about fracking

When asked how much they had heard about a drilling method called

¹Ohio Department of Natural Resources, accessed 7/19/2012: <http://www.ohiodnr.com/oil/shale/tabid/23174/Default.aspx>

How much, if anything, have you heard about a drilling method called hydraulic fracturing, sometimes called fracking?



hydraulic fracturing, more than 6 in 10 Ohio adults reported knowing a little (32%) or nothing at all (31%) while nearly 4 in 10 (37%) reported knowing a lot.

Majority thinks fracking is happening in their region

Of the 7 in 10 Ohio adults (69%) who had heard of fracking, more than half (51%) think that fracking is happening in their region. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, fracking permits have been issued almost exclusively in Northeast and Southeast Ohio, with one permit in Central Ohio (Knox County). A majority of respondents in Northeast and Southeast Ohio knew that fracking is happening in their region. In other regions, a large minority of respondents also reported that fracking is happening in their part of the state.

Ohioans split on health concerns related to fracking

Ohioans familiar with fracking² were split when asked if they thought fracking poses a threat to the health of the general public. Nearly 4 in 10 (38%) said that fracking does not pose a threat. Similarly, nearly 4 in 10 (36%) said that it does pose a threat. A large percentage of Ohio adults (26%) familiar with fracking said they don't know if fracking poses a threat to the health of the general public.

Would you say the fracking drilling method ... ?³

Does not pose a threat to the health of the general public



Poses a threat to the health of the general public



Don't know



²Ohioans who reported knowing a lot or a little about fracking.

³OHIP asked "Some Ohioans think the fracking drilling method poses a threat to the health of the general public. Other Ohioans think the fracking drilling method does not pose a threat to the health of the general public. What about you ... would you say the fracking drilling method poses a threat to the health of the general public or does not pose a threat to the health of the general public?" (Asked only of those who have heard of fracking.)