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# Rate of Ohio adults without health insurance lowest ever

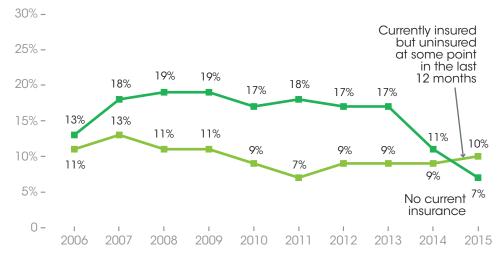
Having health insurance is an important factor in being able to get needed healthcare. Each year, the *Ohio Health Issues Poll* (OHIP) asks about health insurance coverage to learn about Ohio adults' insurance status. Because nearly all Ohioans ages 65 and older (98%) are insured, this summary focuses on Ohioans ages 18-64.

#### Percentage of uninsured Ohio adults drops to 7%

Fewer than 1 in 10 Ohio adults (7%) did not have health insurance at the time of OHIP. This translates to nearly 500,000 uninsured Ohio adults. The percentage of uninsured dropped significantly during the past two years. In 2006, the percentage of uninsured adults was 13%. Between 2007 and 2013, it rose and remained stable between 17% and 19%. In 2014, the uninsured rate dropped to 11%. In 2015 it fell again to the lowest level in OHIP history.

National surveys have also found that the percentage of uninsured adults continued to decrease in 2015. The decline coincided with the implementation of the

#### Percentage of Ohio adults ages 18-64 who were uninsured currently or at any time in the last 12 months



major coverage and enrollment components of the Affordable Care Act in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

## More say they obtained insurance as result of healthcare law

OHIP respondents who purchased insurance on their own were asked "Did you get health insurance as a result of the healthcare law, or for some other reason?" One in 4

<sup>1</sup> Polls include Gallup, <a href="https://www.gallup.com/">www.gallup.com/</a>
<a href="poll/184064/uninsured-rate-second-quarter.aspx">poll/184064/uninsured-rate-second-quarter.aspx</a>, and the National Health Interview Survey, <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/">www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/</a> insur201508.pdf.

(25%) said they obtained insurance as a result of the healthcare law, a significant increase from 1 in 10 (10%) in 2014.

## Stability of insurance over past 12 months

The stability of health insurance coverage is also a factor in access to healthcare. A measure of stability is whether a person has been covered continuously for the past 12 months. One in 10 Ohioans ages 18-64 (10%) who were insured at the time of OHIP had been

#### **Continued on back**

These findings unless otherwise noted are from Interact for Health's Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP) conducted July 15-28, 2015, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 811 adults throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. This included 448 landline telephone interviews and 363 cell phone interviews. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to ±3.4%. 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 <a href="www.interactforhealth.org/ohio-health-issues-poll">www.interactforhealth.org/ohio-health-issues-poll</a>. If you have questions about the data in this document, please contact Jennifer Chubinski, Director of Community Research, at 513-458-6608 or <a href="mailto:ichabinski@interactforhealth.org">ichabinski@interactforhealth.org</a>.

uninsured at some point in the previous 12 months.

Certain groups are more likely to experience insurance instability. Three in 10 Ohio adults (30%) living at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL²) were uninsured at the time of the survey or at some point in the past year. This is a significant drop from 39% in 2014.

### Healthier adults less likely to be uninsured

There is a strong connection between adults' self-reported health status<sup>3</sup> and whether they have health insurance.

# Health status of Ohio adults currently uninsured or uninsured at some point in the last 12 months (ages 18-64)



Healthier adults were less likely to have been uninsured at any point in the past year. One in 10 Ohioans ages 18-64 (10%) who reported excellent or very good health were uninsured currently or at some point in the last year, compared with 14% in 2014. By comparison, nearly 3 in 10 adults (28%) who reported fair or poor health were uninsured currently or at some point in the past year. This is a decline from 33% in 2014.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  In 2014, 138% FPL was an annual household income of \$32,913 for a family of four.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OHIP asked "Would you say that in general your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?"