



Most Ohio adults have favorable view of Medicaid; uninsured rate steady

The **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** is conducted every year to learn more about the health opinions, behaviors and status of Ohio adults. In 2018, OHIP asked Ohio adults several questions about their health insurance coverage, including whether they had insurance, the source of this insurance and their opinion about Medicaid.

WHAT DID OHIP FIND?

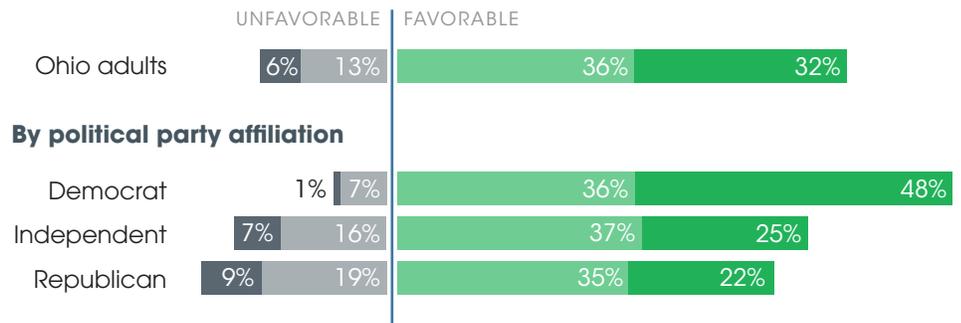
OHIP asked, "I'd like to ask you some questions about Medicaid, the government health insurance and long-term care program for low-income adults and children. In general, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Medicaid?"

Seven in 10 Ohio adults (68%) reported that they have a very or somewhat favorable view of Medicaid. That compares with 2 in 10 adults (19%) with a somewhat or very unfavorable view.

Majorities of all political parties have favorable view of Medicaid

Responses to this question varied by political party, though a majority of each political party held a

In general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Medicaid? (Totals may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.)



■ Very unfavorable ■ Somewhat unfavorable ■ Somewhat favorable ■ Very favorable

SOURCE: 2018 Ohio Health Issues Poll (released October 2018)

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favorable view. Six in 10 Republicans (57%) and Independents (62%) held a somewhat or very favorable view, compared with 8 in 10 Democrats (84%).

These results are similar to the nation. The Kaiser Family Foundation's Health Tracking Poll asked this question in February 2018. It found that 74% of adults across the nation had a somewhat or very favorable view of Medicaid. Majorities of all political parties had a favorable view of Medicaid.¹

¹ Kirzinger, A., Wu, B., & Brodie, M. (March 1, 2018). *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll – February 2018: Health Care and the 2018 Midterms, Attitudes Towards Proposed Changes to Medicaid*. Retrieved from www.kff.org/health-reform/poll-finding/kaiser-health-tracking-poll-february-2018-health-care-2018-midterms-proposed-changes-to-medicaid/.

Percentage of uninsured adults remains steady

OHIP also asked adults whether they had health insurance coverage, and if they did, what kind. Because nearly all adults older than 65 have health insurance coverage through Medicare, the data reported in this section reflects results for Ohioans ages 18 to 64.

In 2018, 1 in 10 Ohio adults ages 18 to 64 (9%) reported that they did not have health insurance coverage. The percentage of adults without health insurance dropped significantly in both Ohio and in the country when the major

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parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) were implemented in 2014. In Ohio, about 1 in 10 adults have been uninsured since then.

This is similar to the nation. The National Center for Health Statistics estimates that 13% of all adults ages 18 to 64 were uninsured during January through March 2018.²

Half get insurance through an employer

Half of Ohio adults ages 18 to 64 reported that they received insurance through their own or a spouse's employer (50%). This percentage is similar to 2017, but has gradually decreased since 2015.

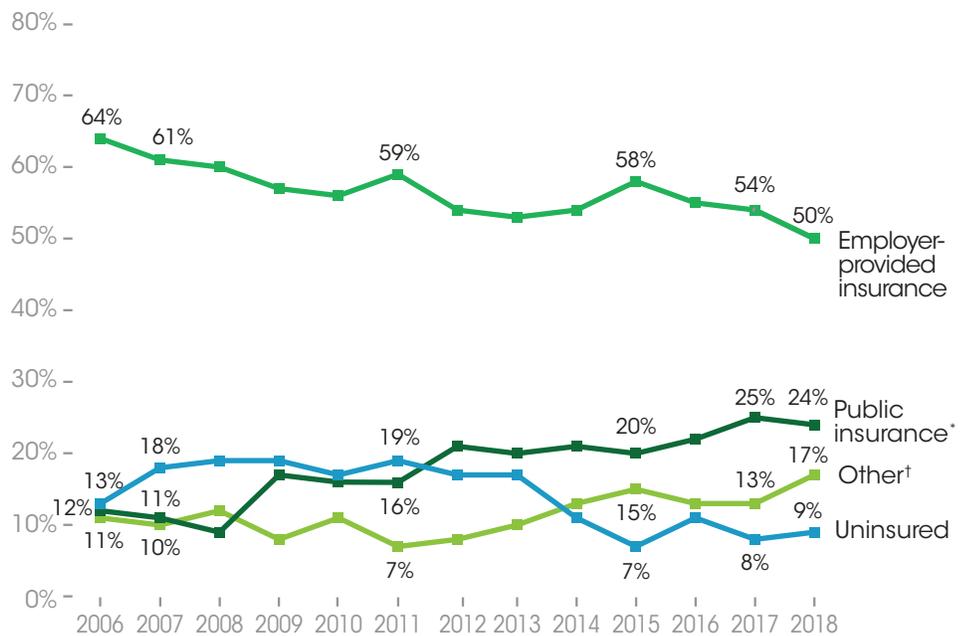
Nearly 1 in 4 Ohio adults (24%) received public insurance, including Medicaid, Medicare, veteran benefits and combinations of the three. Nearly 2 in 10 adults (17%) reported they had insurance from another source, including people who bought their own plan, and people who responded "other" or "don't know." These percentages are similar to 2017.

Fewer than 1 in 10 have unstable insurance

Another way to evaluate access to health care is to look at the

² Cohen, R.A., Martinez, M.E., & Zammitti, E.P. (2018). Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January - March 2018. National Center for Health Statistics. Retrieved from www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur201808.pdf.

Type of insurance coverage for Ohio adults ages 18-64 (Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.)



* Public insurance includes Medicare, Medicaid, veteran benefits and combinations of the three.

† Other includes purchased own plan, somewhere else, other and don't know.

SOURCE: 2018 Ohio Health Issues Poll (released October 2018)

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stability of health insurance. One measure of stability is whether a person has had continuous health insurance coverage for the past 12 months. In 2018, fewer than 1 in 10 currently insured adults (7%) had gone without health insurance at any time in the past 12 months, the same as in 2017.

WHY DO WE ASK THESE QUESTIONS?

Health care is expensive, and most people rely on health insurance to help cover the cost. The

Affordable Care Act (ACA) was designed to reduce the number of people without insurance coverage. These questions help us understand the impact of the ACA, and monitor whether and how that impact is sustained over time. In addition, assessing public opinion about specific programs such as Medicaid is valuable to inform policymakers as they consider changes to those programs in the future.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

Interact for Health supports Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN) Ohio as it advocates for access to affordable, quality health care for all Ohioans. UHCAN Ohio helps consumers speak out to decision makers about their health care needs, assists consumers during the open enrollment period for the Health Insurance Marketplace, advocates for solutions to Ohio's significant lack of oral health care access, and educates people about proposed changes to eligibility and coverage for Medicaid health insurance so that people can advocate to their benefit. For more information about UHCAN Ohio, please visit <http://uhcanohio.org/>.