

# What Ohioans Think About... Treatment Differences in Healthcare

Results from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll—May 2005

The majority of Ohioans think that the healthcare system treats people unfairly based on whether or not they have health insurance. Just over half believe that age and being overweight play a part in the healthcare system treating people unfairly. Less than half believe education, physical disabilities, race or ethnic background, sexual orientation, and sex play a role.

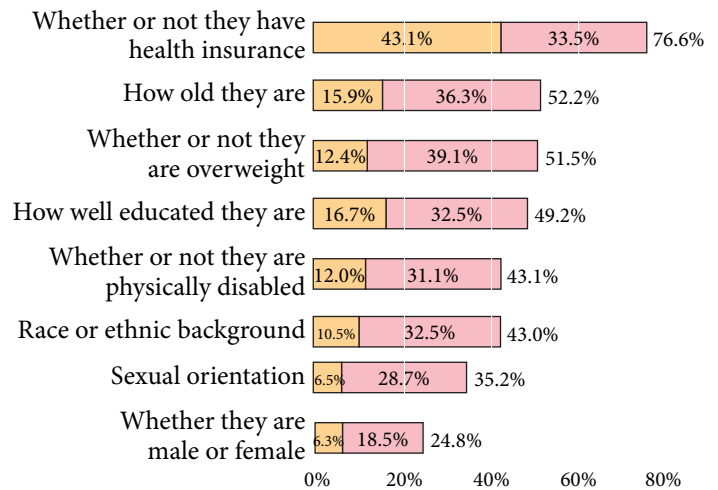
Ohioans see some differences between African American people and white people when it comes to getting healthcare, having insurance coverage, and dying from certain diseases. Over 50% of Ohioans believe that African Americans are less likely to have health insurance, and 42.4% of Ohioans believe African Americans are less likely to get the healthcare they need. About 40% of Ohioans believe that African American people are more likely to die from heart disease or diabetes than white people.

Just under 45% of Ohioans believe there is no difference in the life expectancies of African American and white people, although 46.8% believe white people live longer. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Closing the Health Gap, the average white person lives 5.5 years longer than the average African American person.

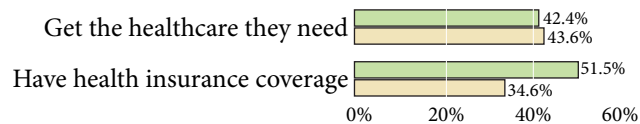
### Average life expectancies

	African American	White
Male	68.6 years	75.0 years
Female	75.5 years	80.2 years

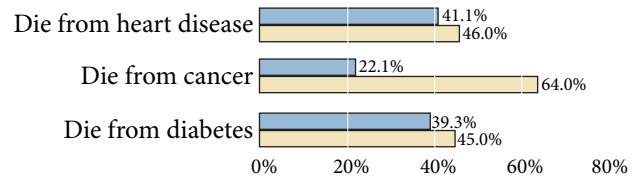
### % of Ohioans reporting that they think the healthcare system treats people unfairly *very often* or *somewhat often* based on certain characteristics



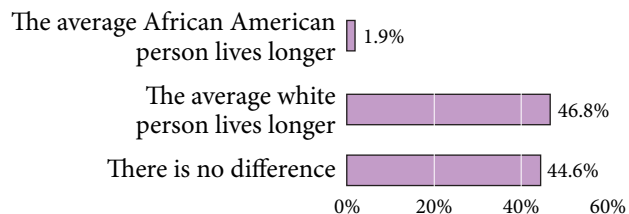
### % of Ohioans reporting that they think the average African American person is *less likely* or *no different* than the average white person to...



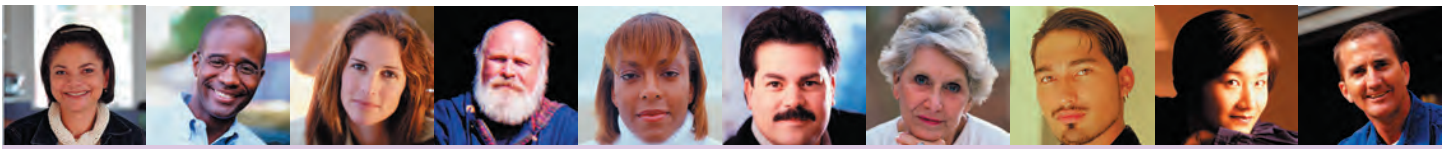
### % of Ohioans reporting that they think the average African American person is *more likely* or *no different* than the average white person to...



### % of Ohioans reporting that they think that...



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# What Ohioans Think About... Changes to Ohio Medicaid

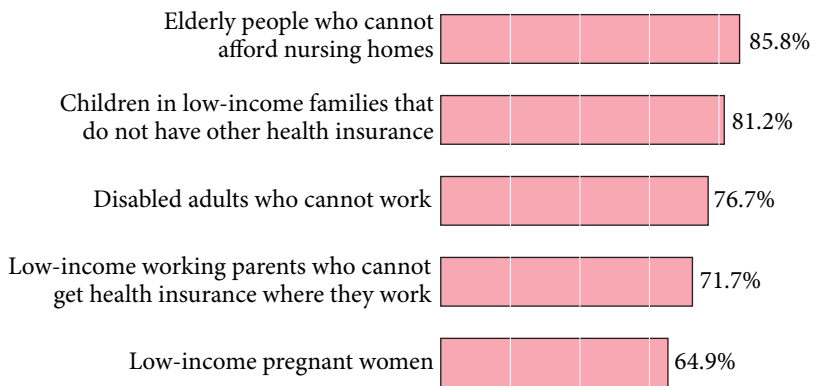
Results from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll—May 2005

The majority of Ohioans think that the Ohio Medicaid program is important for eligible Ohioans who otherwise wouldn't have health insurance, including the elderly, low-income working parents, and children. In addition, Ohioans oppose reducing the number of low-income working parents who receive Medicaid or the services Medicaid provides in order to pay for the program.

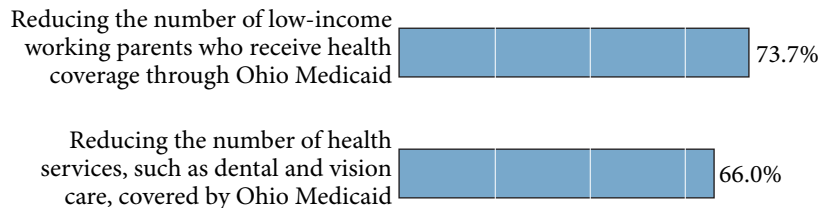
At the same time, Ohioans are willing to find other ways to pay for the Medicaid program, such as increasing taxes on alcohol or tobacco products, increasing the state sales tax by one-half of one percent, or spending less on certain state-funded programs to pay for Medicaid. The top two ways Ohioans would like to see lawmakers choose to pay for Medicaid are increasing cigarette or alcohol taxes and increasing the state sales tax.

Spend less on _____ to pay for Medicaid	Favor	Oppose
State aid to cities and local governments	56.6%	40.5%
State highway programs	53.9%	45.1%
State efforts to improve the environment	50.1%	48.2%
State aid for higher education	38.1%	60.2%
Temporary cash assistance to needy families	33.5%	63.4%
Public security, including police and prisons	28.2%	69.9%
State aid to public schools	18.8%	80.0%

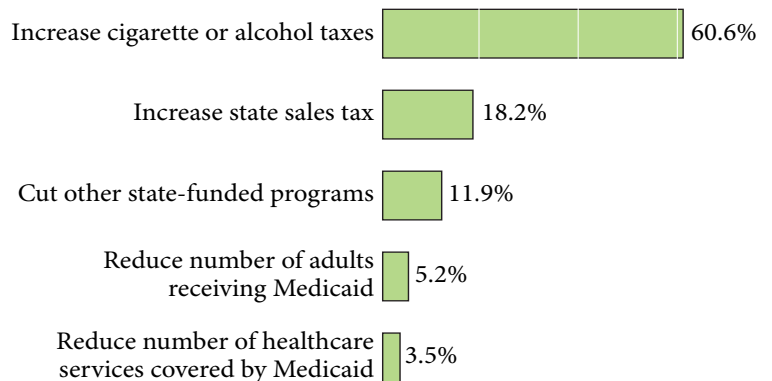
% of Ohioans reporting that it is **very important** for Ohio Medicaid to provide coverage to...



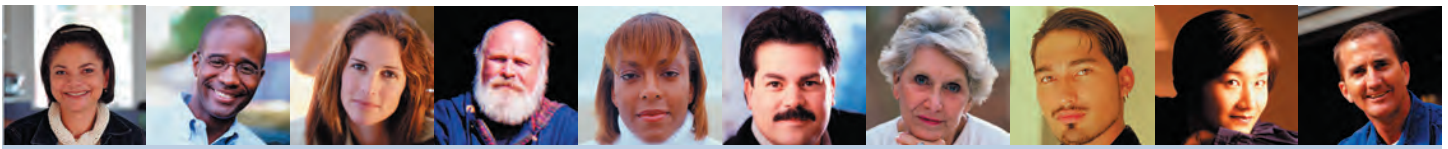
% of Ohioans reporting that they **oppose** the following changes to Medicaid



% of Ohioans reporting what they would **most like** to see Ohio lawmakers choose to address the state of Ohio not being able to afford health coverage for everyone eligible for Ohio Medicaid



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# What Ohioans Think About...

## Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

Results from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll—May 2005

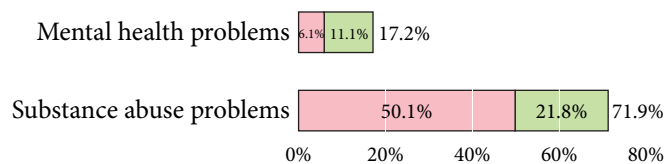
Mental illnesses and substance use disorders (which include improper use, abuse, or addiction of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs) affect many people. At some point during his or her lifetime, 1 in 5 people will have or know someone who has a mental illness, and X in X people will have or know someone who has a substance use disorder.

A few decades ago, most people believed that a person with a mental illness was responsible for their condition. Since then, research has shown that mental illnesses are biologically based brain disorders. Today, less than 20% of Ohioans believe that people with mental illnesses are to blame for the condition.

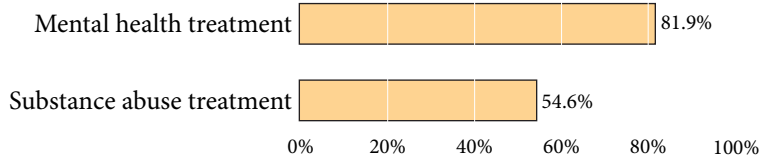
On the other hand, 70% of Ohioans believe that people with substance abuse problems are largely to blame for their own condition. There is emerging evidence that substance use disorders are also biologically based brain disorders and that they are chronic, lifestyle-related health conditions like lung cancer, heart disease, or diabetes. As our understanding of substance use disorders continues to grow, public opinion of what is to blame for these disorders will most likely change, as it did for mental illness.

Mental illnesses and substance use disorders are treatable conditions, and the majority of Ohioans are willing to pay more for health insurance to see insurance companies cover these conditions at the same levels as

% of Ohioans reporting that they **strongly agree** or **agree somewhat** that people with mental health or substance abuse problems are largely to blame for their own condition



% of Ohioans reporting that they feel insurance companies should cover mental health and substance abuse treatment at the same levels as they do physical health treatment even if it means the amount they pay for health insurance goes up



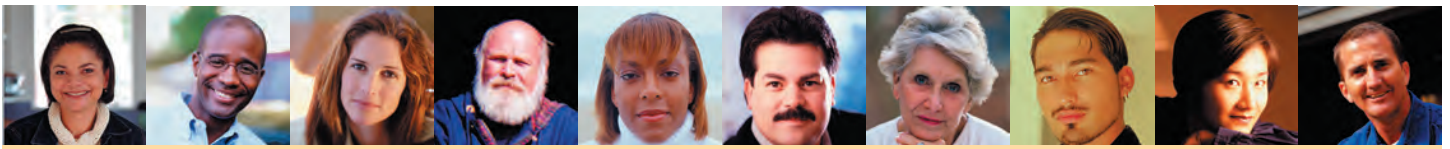
physical health treatment. Currently, most insurance plans have stricter limits on mental health and substance abuse treatment than on physical health. For example, for \$35,000 per year in physical health care expenses, the average family with health insurance pays \$1,500 out-of-pocket. That same family would pay \$12,000 out-of-pocket for \$35,000 in mental

health treatment under the same insurance plan.

Treatment is key to saving money in the long run. For every \$1 spent on mental health and substance use disorder treatment, \$7–X are saved in other healthcare costs, lost productivity, criminal justice system costs, and other societal costs.

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# What Ohioans Think About...

## The Costs of Healthcare

Results from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll—May 2005

When asked to name their most important healthcare issue for the Ohio government to address, 39.8% of Ohioans said cost, including cost of healthcare in general, prescriptions, and insurance premiums. Currently, about 86% of Ohioans have some type of private or public health insurance.

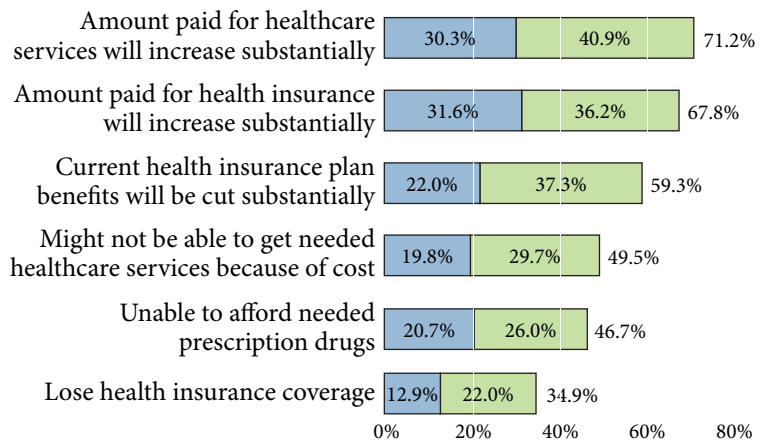
Other issues Ohioans thought were important for the government to address include access to needed healthcare, Medicare or Medicaid, specific diseases or illnesses, and the uninsured.

Although the majority of Ohioans with health insurance are not worried about losing that coverage over the next 12 months, they are worried that their benefits will be cut substantially and that they will have to pay more for insurance premiums and healthcare services. Just under half of insured Ohioans are worried that they won't be able to get needed healthcare or prescription drugs because of cost.

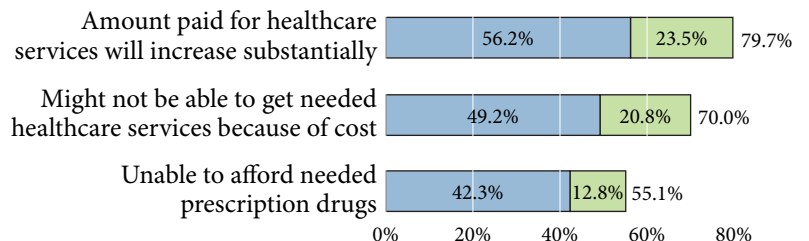
For uninsured Ohioans, who make up about 14% of the adult population in the state, the rates are higher: 79.7% are worried that the amount they pay for healthcare services will increase substantially over the next 12 months, and 70.0% are worried that they won't be able to get needed healthcare because of cost.

Most important healthcare issues Ohioans want the Ohio government to address	% of Ohioans reporting this issue as most important
Cost of healthcare (in general)	16.6%
Cost of prescriptions	15.6%
Access to needed healthcare (in general)	13.4%
Medicare or Medicaid	8.2%
Specific disease or illness	7.7%
Cost of insurance premiums	7.6%
Uninsured	7.6%

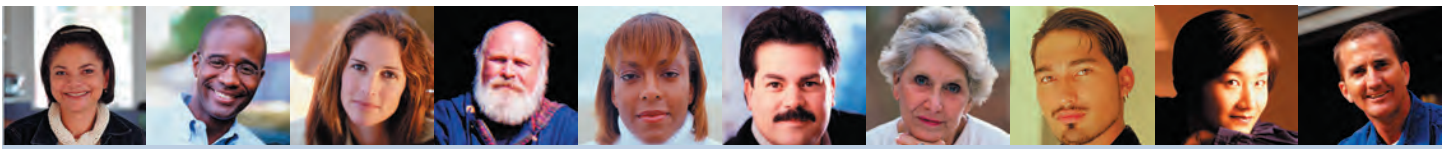
% of **insured** Ohioans reporting that they are **very worried** or **somewhat worried** that these changes might take place in the next 12 months



% of **uninsured** Ohioans reporting that they are **very worried** or **somewhat worried** that these changes might take place in the next 12 months



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# What Ohioans Think About...

## Substance Use Disorders

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Substance use disorders (which include improper use of, abuse of, or addiction to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs) affect many people. These disorders are biologically based brain disorders and are chronic conditions like heart disease or diabetes. They are treatable, but relapses can occur.

Despite the mounting evidence that substance use disorders are brain disorders, public opinion still holds that people with substance use disorders are largely to blame for their own condition. About 7 in 10 Ohioans (71.9%) agree that people with substance abuse problems are to blame for their condition, compared to only 2 in 10 Ohioans who agree that people with mental health problems are to blame for their condition.

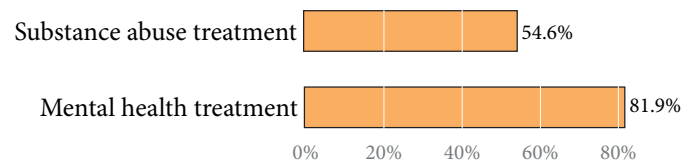
*% of Ohioans reporting that they **strongly agree** or **agree somewhat** that people with substance abuse or mental health problems are largely to blame for their own condition*



A few decades ago, most people believed that a person with a mental illness was to blame for their condition. Since then, wider sharing of research about the biological causes of mental illnesses has helped shift public opinion. As our understanding of substance use disorders continues to grow and research becomes shared more widely, public opinion of what is to blame for substance use disorders will most likely change, as it did for mental illnesses.

Substance use disorders are treatable conditions, and just over half of Ohioans (54.6%) are willing to pay more for health insurance to see insurance companies cover these conditions at the same levels as physical health treatment. In comparison, 81.9% of Ohioans are willing to pay more for health insurance to see insurance companies cover mental health treatment at the same levels as physical health treatment.

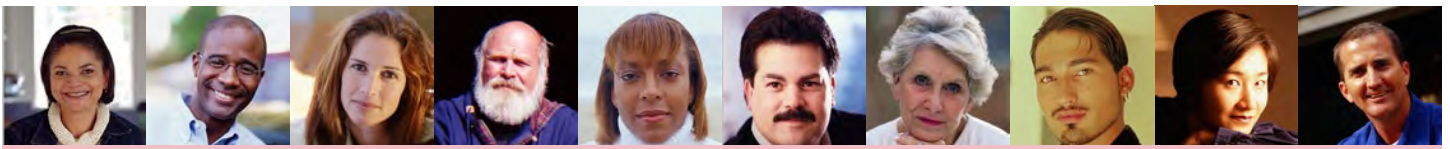
*% of Ohioans reporting that they feel insurance companies should cover substance abuse and mental health treatment at the same levels as they do physical health treatment even if it means the amount they pay for health insurance goes up*



Currently, most insurance plans have stricter limits on substance abuse and mental health treatment than on physical health. For example, for \$35,000 per year in physical health care expenses, the average family with health insurance pays \$1,500 out-of-pocket. That same family would pay \$12,000 out-of-pocket for \$35,000 in substance abuse or mental health treatment under the same insurance plan.

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# What Ohioans Think About...

## Smoking Bans in Workplaces, Restaurants, and Bars

Results from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll 2005

According to the CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 1 in 4 Ohioans (25.8%) were current smokers in 2004, compared to 1 in 5 people in the nation (20.8%). Between 2002 and 2004, smoking rates declined by 2.2% in the nation but by only 0.8% in Ohio.

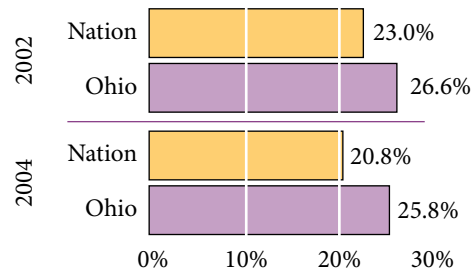
According to the Ohio Health Issues Poll, just over half of Ohioans (52.3%) would favor a state law that would make it illegal to smoke in all workplaces, restaurants, and bars. Among all Ohioans, those more and less likely to favor the ban include:

People <b>more</b> likely to favor the ban	% of Ohioans favoring the ban
People ages 65 and over	70.9%
College graduates	66.3%
White women	58.7%
African Americans	58.0%
Republicans	57.8%
People with incomes above 200% of poverty	55.2%

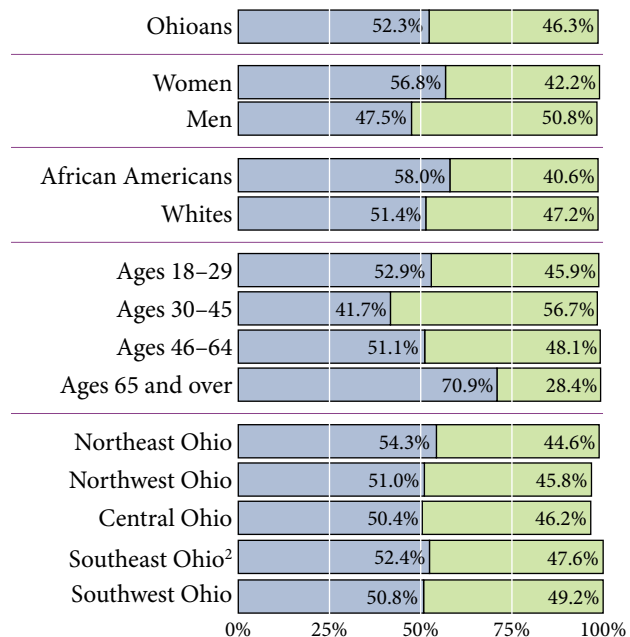
People <b>less</b> likely to favor the ban	% of Ohioans favoring the ban
White men	43.9%
People ages 30-45	41.7%
People with incomes below 100% of poverty	41.5%
Independents	40.7%
People with less than a high school education	39.3%

For complete results, please visit [www.oasis.uc.edu](http://www.oasis.uc.edu). The Ohio Health Issues Poll 2005 is included under The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's collection.

% of Ohioans and people in the nation who reported being a current smoker in 2002 and 2004 (source: BRFSS)



% of Ohioans reporting that they **favor** or **oppose** an Ohio state law that would make it illegal to smoke in all workplaces, restaurants, and bars<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Percent of respondents reporting "don't know" are not included in this chart. This can be calculated by subtracting the percent reporting "favor" and "oppose" from 100%.

<sup>2</sup> Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation.

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