

# 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.

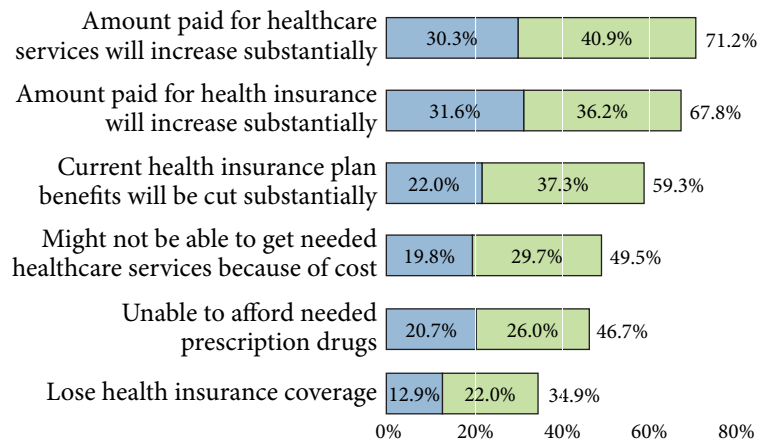
Other issues Ohioans thought were important for the government to address include access to needed healthcare, Medicare or Medicaid, specific diseases or illnesses, and the uninsured.

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.

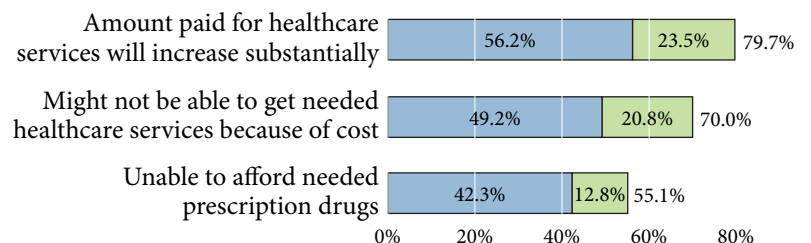
For uninsured Ohioans, who make up about 14% of the adult population in the state, the rates are higher: 79.7% are worried that the amount they pay for healthcare services will increase substantially over the next 12 months, and 70.0% are worried that they won't be able to get needed healthcare because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



*These findings are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll, part of the Ohio Poll conducted March 21–April 10, 2005, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 846 adults from throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ±3.4%. In addition to sampling error, 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 the Ohio Health Issues Poll, please visit [www.healthfoundation.org/ohip](http://www.healthfoundation.org/ohip).*