



What Ohioans Think About Expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program



Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati 

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is a federal program that provides health insurance coverage to children born in the U.S. in low- and moderate-income families. Enacted 10 years ago, SCHIP will expire October 1, 2007, unless Congress renews it by September 30. This pending renewal has sparked a broader debate over expanding SCHIP as one way of providing health coverage for more Americans.

In Ohio, SCHIP is known as "Healthy Start" and is part of Ohio's Medicaid program. Families with children enrolled in Healthy Start must reapply every 12 months for coverage for their children. Income changes may affect eligibility.

Each state has different eligibility requirements for SCHIP. Healthy Start's eligibility guidelines are:

Who	FPG ¹	Restrictions
Children up to age 19	<150%	None
	151–200%	Cannot have other health insurance
Pregnant women	<150%	Coverage ends 60 days after birth of child
Babies born to Healthy Start mothers	<150%	Coverage lasts one year, then reapply

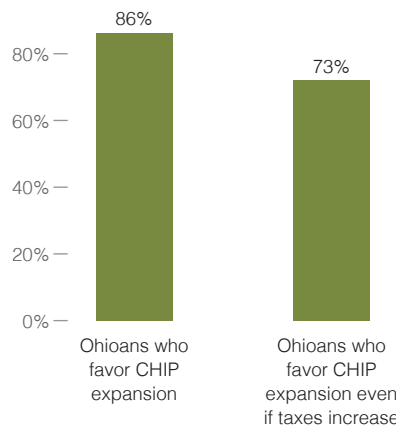
¹ 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) was an annual income of \$20,000 for a family of 4 in 2006.

Support for Healthy Start Expansion

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 8% of Ohio's children—or 220,000 children—were uninsured in 2005. About 11% of children across the U.S. are uninsured.

The 2007 Ohio Health Issues Poll asked Ohioans if they would favor expanding Healthy Start to include all uninsured children in the state. The majority of Ohioans (86%) said they would favor an expansion of Healthy Start to cover all uninsured children in Ohio.

We then asked Ohioans who favored Healthy Start expansion if they would still favor it if it meant they would have to pay more in taxes. Of just Ohioans who favored expansion, 85% said they would still favor expansion if it meant they would pay more in taxes. Therefore, 73% of all Ohioans favored expansion even if it meant they would pay more in taxes.



Ohioans *more* and *less* likely to favor expanding Ohio's Healthy Start program to include ALL uninsured children

Demographic	% who favor CHIP expansion
Ohio	86%
Sex	
Female	90%
Male	82%
Ethnicity	
African American	100%
White	84%
Age	
30 to 45	90%
46 to 64	83%
Education	
Less than high school	95%
College graduate	81%
Family Income	
Below 100% FPG ¹	96%
Above 200% FPG	86%
Health Insurance	
Uninsured	92%
Insured	85%

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