



What Ohioans Think about Healthcare Reform Going too Far or not Far Enough

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Results From The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati



Healthcare reform continues to make national news. However, the real opinions of the public are not always heard among the noise. To find out what Ohioans think, The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati conducted a Fall 2009 *Ohio Health Issues Poll* focused entirely on healthcare reform.

To understand what Ohio adults think about proposed changes to the healthcare system, the *Poll* asked Ohioans if proposed changes go too far or not far enough.

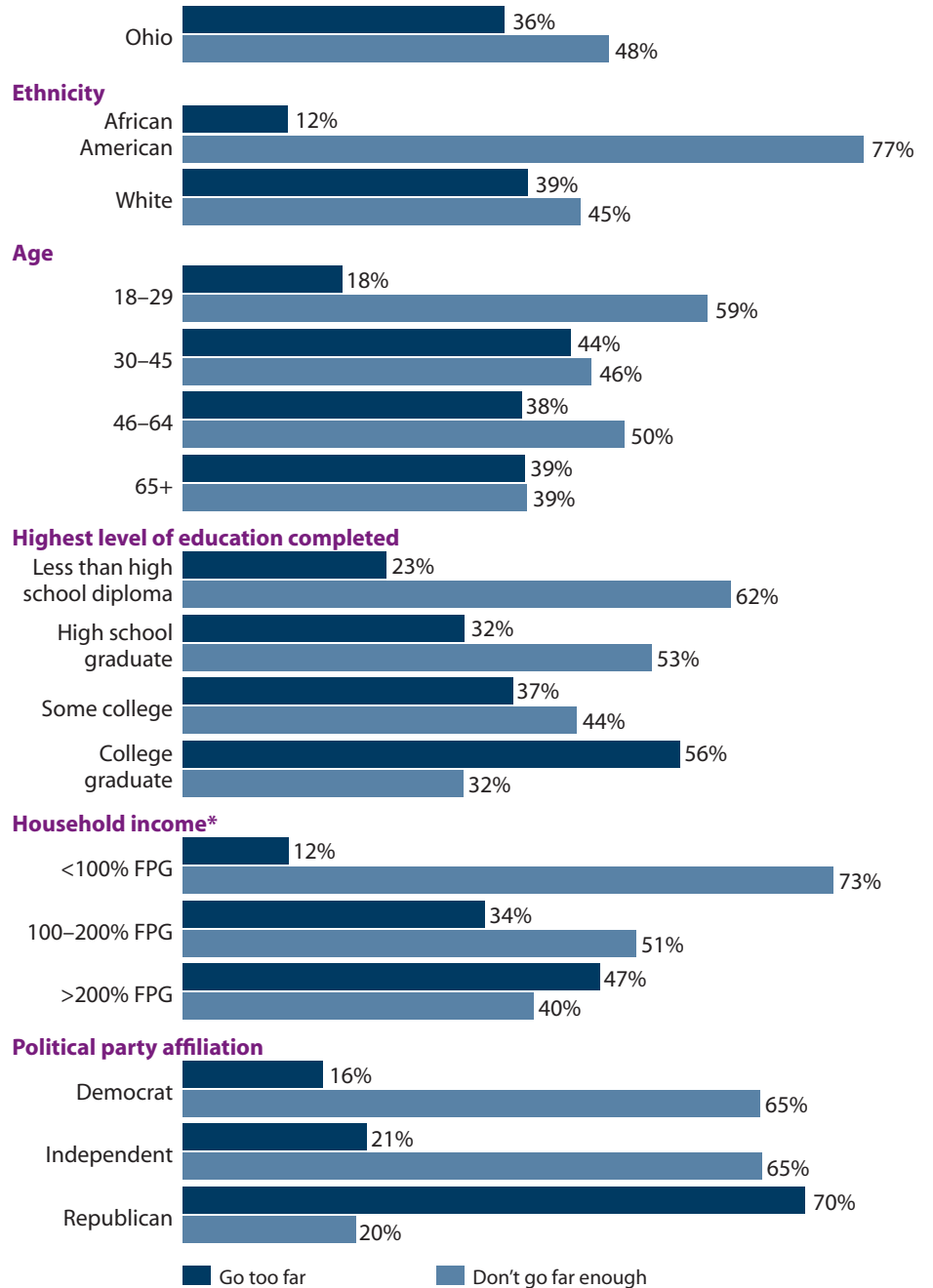
More Ohioans Say Changes Don't Go Far Enough

Just under half of Ohio adults (48%) said that proposed changes to the healthcare system don't go far enough, but just over one-third (36%) said they go too far. Some groups have much wider margins of difference between respondents who said the proposed changes don't go far enough and those who say they go too far.

Ohioans More Likely to Be Uninsured Say Proposed Changes Don't Go Far Enough

Subgroups that typically are more likely to not have health insurance say much more frequently that the

Do you think proposed changes to the healthcare system go too far or don't go far enough? (Graph presents only those who said the changes go too far or don't go far enough.)



* 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2008 was \$21,200 for a family of 4.

Source: Fall 2009 Ohio Health Issues Poll, available at www.healthfoundation.org/ohip.html

These findings unless otherwise noted are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's *Ohio Health Issues Poll*, part of the *Ohio Poll* conducted September 16-26, 2009, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 818 adults from throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, 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.html.

proposed changes don't go far enough, including Ohioans who:

- are African American,
- are ages 18–29,
- have not graduated from high school, and
- are living below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG).¹

Ohioans More Likely to Have Insurance Say Proposed Changes Go too Far

Respondent groups that typically have health insurance coverage say much more frequently that the proposed changes go too far, including Ohioans who:

- are college graduates and
- are living above 200% FPG.

Division along Party Lines

Republicans and Democrats have identified healthcare reform as important, but each party has a different vision for how to reform the current system. Not surprisingly, a large majority of Ohioans who identified themselves as Democrats (65%) think that the proposed changes don't go far enough, and a large majority of Ohioans who identified themselves as Republicans (70%) say that they go too far.

¹ 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in 2008 was an annual income of \$21,200 for a family of 4.