

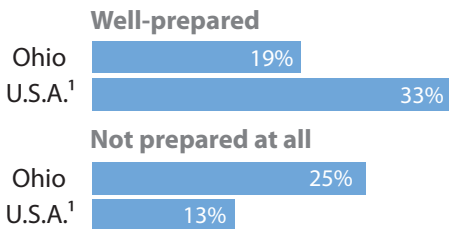
# Are Ohioans ready for emergencies?

Each year Ohio experiences emergencies ranging from flooding to fires to public health emergencies. To understand adults' readiness to deal with such events, the 2011 **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** asked a number of questions related to emergency preparedness, behavior in the case of suspected air or water poisoning, and support for the poison control center.

## Ohioans less prepared than nation for emergency

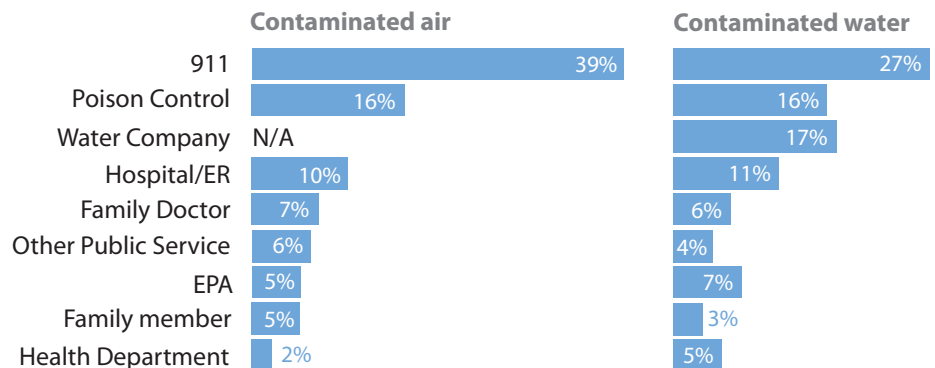
One in 5 (19%) Ohio adults reported they are well-prepared to handle a large-scale disaster or emergency, less than the nation (33%).

### How well prepared is your household to handle a large-scale disaster or emergency?



<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data (BRFSS). (2010). Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>

### Who Ohioans would call first if they thought they were exposed to contaminated air/water\*



\* Does not add to 100% because the responses "don't know" and "other" are not included

## Ohioans would call 911 first, poison control second

Ohio adults were asked who they would call first if they thought they were exposed to contaminated air or water. In both cases 911 was the most popular choice followed by the poison control center or the water company.<sup>2</sup>

## Majority thinks taxes should fund poison control centers

Just fewer than 1 in 4 Ohio adults

<sup>2</sup> 911 and the Poison Control Center are staffed to handle different types of calls. 911 handles emergency care and immediate transport requests, while the poison control center provides immediate first aid advice, evaluation, follow up, and healthcare provider consultation.

(24%) have contacted their local poison control center, but more than 7 in 10 (71%) think their community should provide tax dollars to support the local poison control center.

### Poison control centers

A poison control center is a 24-hour emergency and technical information service available to anyone concerned about poisonous or hazardous substances. Poison control centers are staffed by people trained to provide poison treatment advice. To be connected to a poison control center in your region, call 1-800-222-1222.

These findings unless otherwise noted are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP) conducted July 15-25, 2011, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 946 adults throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. This included 742 landline interviews and 204 cell phone interviews. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to  $\pm 3.2\%$ . 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 OHIP, please visit [www.healthfoundation.org/ohip.html](http://www.healthfoundation.org/ohip.html)