



# The link between income, health in Ohio

Since 2005, the **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** has tracked health opinions and health status of adults in the state. An important indicator of well-being in the state is adults' overall self-rated health status.

OHIP asks "Would you say that, in general, your health is excellent, very good, good, fair or poor?"

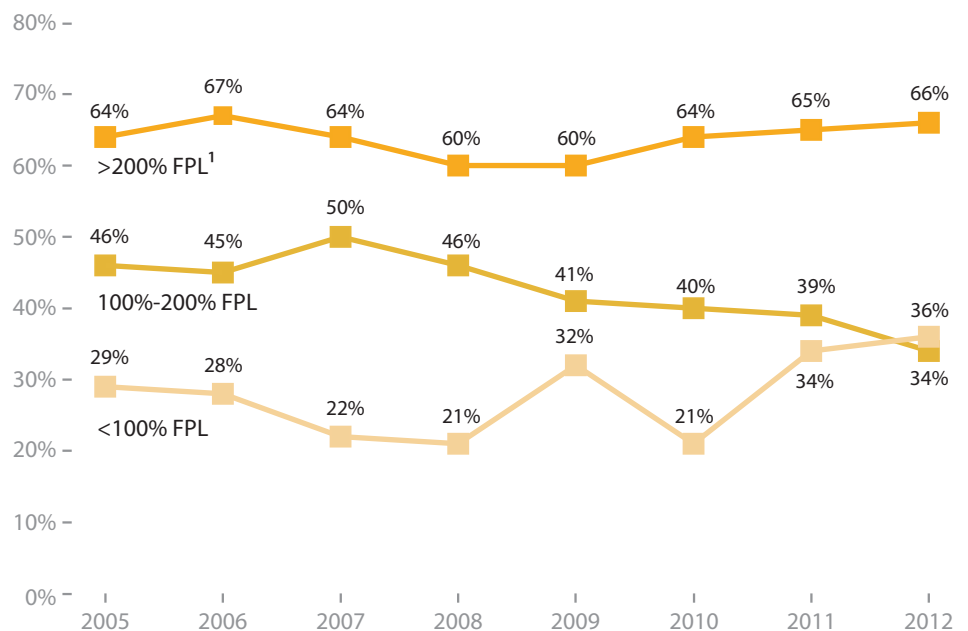
## Ohioans living above 200% FPL<sup>1</sup> consistently report better health

In Ohio and in similar national surveys, adults with higher incomes report being in better health. Do healthy people make more money because they can work more days or at better jobs? Or are people who make more money healthier because they have resources to preserve and improve their health? It is not possible to clearly answer these questions because many factors affect both health status and income.

Since OHIP began, people with higher incomes have consistently reported better health status. Each

<sup>1</sup>100% of the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2011 was an annual household income of \$22,350 and 200% FPL was \$44,700, both for a family of four.

## Ohio adults reporting "excellent" or "very good" health, by household income, 2005-2012



year since 2005 more than 6 in 10 Ohioans living above 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL)<sup>1</sup> reported being in "excellent" or "very good" health. This compares with between 2 in 10 and 3 in 10 Ohioans living below 100% FPL.

## Self-reported health status improves for poorest

In 2012 more than 3 in 10 Ohio adults living below 100% FPL (36%)

reported being in "excellent" or "very good" health, up from lows of 2 in 10 in 2008 and 2010. The 2012 rate is the highest percentage of adults in this poverty category reporting "excellent" or "very good" health in OHIP history.

By contrast, 3 in 10 Ohioans living between 100% and 200% FPL (34%) reported being in "excellent"

**Continued on back**

These findings unless otherwise noted are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP) conducted May 29-June 6, 2012, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 834 adults throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. This included interviews conducted by both landline telephone and cell phone. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to  $\pm 3.4\%$ . 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 <https://www.healthfoundation.org/ohio-health-issues-poll>. If you have questions about the data in this document, please contact Jennifer Chubinski, Director of Community Research, at 513-458-6608 or [jchubinski@healthfoundation.org](mailto:jchubinski@healthfoundation.org).

or “very good” health. This is down from a high of more than 5 in 10 adults (54%) in 2006 and is the lowest percentage of adults in this poverty category reporting “excellent” or “very good” health in OHIP history.

Although the difference in health status between adults living below 100% FPL and those living between 100% FPL and 200% FPL is not statistically significant, this is the first time in OHIP history that adults living below 100% FPL rate their health better than those living between 100% and 200% FPL. It is not clear why this shift has occurred, but it is clear that adults living above 200% FPL consistently rate their health much higher than those living below 200% FPL.