



# The link between income, health in Ohio

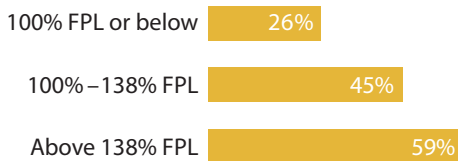
Since 2005, the **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** has tracked health opinions and health status of adults in the state. An important indicator of well-being in the state is adults' overall self-rated health status.

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

## Ohioans with higher income report better health

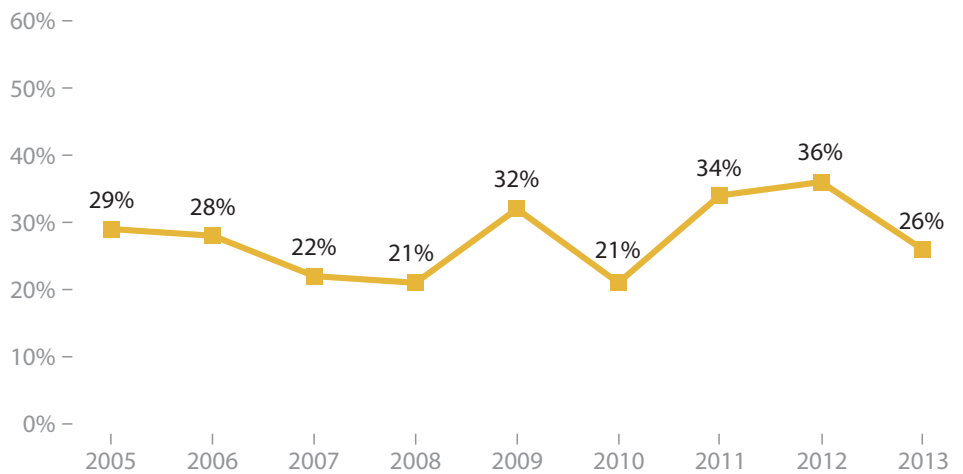
In Ohio and in similar national surveys, adults with higher incomes report being in better health. In 2013, 6 in 10 (59%) Ohio adults above 138%<sup>1</sup> federal poverty level (FPL) report "excellent or "very good" health, compared with less than 3 in 10 (26%) adults living below 100% FPL.

### Percentage of adults reporting "excellent" or "very good" health by income, 2013



### Ohio adults living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level reporting "excellent" or "very good" health, 2005-2013

*(The margin of error on the sample of adults under 100% FPL (N=138) is larger than for the statewide sample (MOE = ± 8.3%)*



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. However, it is clear that higher income and better health go hand in hand.

(26%) living below 100% FPL reported having "excellent or "very good" health. This is down from a high of nearly 4 in 10 adults (36%) in 2012 and is more in line with the results from the mid-2000's. It remains to be seen if this is a one-time decline, or indicative of a longer term trend.

## Health of adults living in poverty declines

In 2013, fewer than 3 in 10 adults

<sup>1</sup> 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2012 was \$31,800 for a family of four; 100% FPL is \$23,050. A key element of the Affordable Care Act is the expansion of Medicaid to nearly all individuals with incomes up to 138% of FPL in states that choose to expand Medicaid.

These findings unless otherwise noted are from The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP) conducted May 19-June 2, 2013, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 868 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 ±3.3%. 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).