



2008 Background Overview

The Ohio Family Health Survey (OFHS) data is the most current data available on health coverage and other health-related characteristics of Ohioans, with collection having been conducted between August 2008 and January 2009. The 2008 OFHS provides the major data set for planning health care reform and for establishing Ohio healthcare budgets. The primary purpose of the OFHS is to provide Ohio policymakers with information about the health status, health care utilization, health insurance coverage and health care access of Ohioans at a state and county level for all Ohioans, with special emphasis on those on Medicaid and who are uninsured.

History and study design:

- This is the third interval of the OFHS, with prior surveys having been conducted in 1998 and 2004.
- Survey data are not fully comparable to prior years due to design and instrument modifications.
- The 2008 survey contains responses from nearly 51,000 adults (one per household).
- The 2008 survey contains proxy responses for over 13,000 children (one per household).
- The 2008 survey utilizes a complex design requiring special statistical techniques and software for analysis.
- Survey design allows for some county-level analysis. However, the ability to obtain reliable estimates at the county level depends on the sample size of the county and the subpopulation of interest.
- Minority populations were over-sampled to enable valid comparisons of measured characteristics among those groups. Specific effort was made to include African-Americans in Ohio's six largest counties so accurate information could be obtained for communities and neighborhoods within each county, with improved coverage of racial and ethnic minorities in each county.
- Because of changes in telephone usage by some segments of the population, a cell phone sample was conducted to assure adequate representation of adults 18 to 44 years old and their families.

- Topics captured in the survey:
 - Health coverage status
 - Employment characteristics
 - Coverage for supplemental services (vision, dental, prescriptions, and mental health)
 - Health status
 - Health care utilization
 - Unmet needs
 - Access to care
 - Health risk factors
 - Health outcomes and selected disease estimates
 - Income

Project team and sponsors

- Funding Sponsors:
 - Ohio Department of Insurance
 - Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
 - Ohio Department of Health
 - Ohio Department of Mental Health
 - Cleveland State University
 - Ohio Board of Regents

- Additional funding contributions:
 - Health Policy Institute of Ohio
 - Sponsored university researchers at:
 - Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center,
 - The University of Cincinnati,
 - Case Western Reserve University,
 - Ohio University and
 - The Ohio State University

- In-kind development support:
 - Akron University
 - Case Western Reserve University
 - Cleveland State University
 - Mount Union College
 - Ohio University
 - The Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine
 - The Ohio State University
 - The University of Cincinnati
 - The University of Toledo
 - Wittenberg University
 - Wright State University

- Other Supporters
 - State Senator Tom Neihaus
 - The Center for Community Solutions
 - The Ohio Hospital Association
 - The Ohio Osteopathic Association
 - The Ohio State Medical Association

- Project Management:
 - The Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center at The Ohio State University, with a contract for project leadership and technical support from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio.
 - The survey vendor is Macro International, a subsidiary of InfoUSA, headquartered in Calverton, MD. Macro International is a public company providing market research and survey research services. Macro has extensive experience in conducting sophisticated surveys, including the 2004 OFHS. In part to fulfill its needs for the 2008 Ohio Family Health Survey, Macro International opened its newest tele-research facility in Springfield, Ohio, last spring.

- The 2008 OFHS has been guided by an executive committee consisting of the following members:
 - Jerry Friedman, JD, Executive Sponsor, The Ohio State University
 - Bill Hayes, PhD, Co-Executive Sponsor, The Health Policy Institute of Ohio
 - Tim Sahr, MPH, MA, M.Div., Th.M., Co-Principal Investigator, The Health Policy Institute of Ohio
 - Amy Ferketich, PhD, Principal Investigator, The Ohio State University
 - Allard Dembe, Sc.D. Research Advisory Council Leader, The Ohio State University
 - Bo Lu, PhD, Co-Principal Investigator, The Ohio State University
 - Debbie Clement Saxe, Section Chief, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Job and Family Services
 - Bill Ramsini, PhD, Chief, Ohio Department of Health
 - Doug Anderson, Chief Policy Officer, Ohio Department of Insurance, and
 - Carol Carstens, PhD, Manager, Ohio Department of Mental Health

- Principal Investigators
 - Tim Sahr, The Health Policy Institute of Ohio
 - Amy Ferketich and Bo Lu from The Ohio State University College of Public Health




Types of Analysis Possible; rates by:

- Race (White, Black, and Asian), and ethnicity (Hispanic)
- Region: Appalachia, Metropolitan, Rural non-Appalachia, and Suburban
- County on many variables, depending on sample size
- Income
- Type of coverage
- Insured and uninsured

Caveats and reminders:

- The income reported is the annual family income for the 2007 calendar year.
- The insurance status references the week prior to being surveyed for the period August 2008 through January, 2009.
- The results presented from the Ohio Family Health Survey are descriptive. Accordingly, associations between variables should not be assumed. Techniques for modeling associations and causality should use methods appropriate for cross-sectional data.
- Survey results should not be considered reliable or reported when the confidence intervals associated with a proportion cover zero (such as -2.1, 0, 2.1).
- The survey results include upper and lower counts based on the confidence intervals. Traditionally, the middle point count associated with a variable's proportion should be reported – caution should be used when considering how to report the upper and lower confidence limits.
- Some of the “not working” are officially listed as “unemployed.” Some are intentionally staying at home, and others do not meet the official government definitions of unemployment. These percent of working figures reflect the experience across the survey period and do not reflect the exact current situation. With the continued economic downturn, these numbers likely overstate the percent of working age Ohioans who are actively employed
- For reporting purposes, anyone with Medicare/Medicaid coverage are counted as participating in that program, even if they have additional insurance coverage of their own.
- Persons with insurance coverage through an employer are included in that count, even if they have another form of coverage.
- Respondents were asked to report their status for specific chronic conditions including asthma, diabetes, heart problems and blood pressure.

Next steps:

- Presentation materials and Regional Demographic Tables can be downloaded from the OFHS collaboration web site:  <http://grc.osu.edu/ofhs>
 -  [Enter as a Guest](#) 
 - Download from public documents
- Special reports:
 - A series of special reports are being prepared on various topics: Medicaid, obesity, family violence, mental health, children's health, health disparities, etc.
 - These reports will be released at the OFHS Sponsored Research Forum on June 1.
 - Additional analysis and reports will continue to be released on a periodic basis.
- Regional Forums
 - The Health Policy Institute of Ohio intends to do a series of regional forums in May and June on the OFHS findings and reform activities taking place in Ohio.
- Access to the survey dataset
 - Public use file made available in April.
 - Research dataset (restricted use) available with signed data use agreement.

- Contact Lorin Ranbom, Director, Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center, Office: (614) 366-0328, lorin.ranbom@osumc.edu.
- OFHS Funded Research Projects and Principal Investigators
 - Dr. Leona Cuttler, Case Western Reserve University, Obesity in Children and Families Across Ohio
 - Dr. Gerry Fairbrother, University of Cincinnati, Potentially Medicaid Eligible Population without Medicaid Coverage
 - Dr. Deborah Levine, Ohio State University, The Impact of Increased Cardiovascular Prevalence on Caregiver Burden in Ohio
 - Dr. Jennifer Malat, University of Cincinnati, Ethnic and racial disparities in health status, and access to care
 - Dr. Anthony Goudie, University of Cincinnati, Children with Special Health Care Needs
 - Dr. Monica Mitchell, University of Cincinnati, Mental Health Status, Access and Service Utilization in Ohio: Trends Related to Insurance, Income, Demographic Characteristics and Physical Health
 - Dr. Holly Raffle, Ohio University, Geographic disparities in health status and access to care
 - Dr. Eric Seiber, Ohio State University, Assessing the Impact of Ohio Medicaid
 - Dr. Lauren Smith, Ohio State University, Access to and utilization of health services by rural-dwelling Ohio children
 - Dr. Lisa Simpson, University of Cincinnati, Child Health and Healthcare Across Ohio
 - Dr. Ken Steinman, Ohio State University, Domestic Violence among Medicaid and uninsured populations in Ohio: associations with mental health, chronic disease and healthcare utilization
- Information and requests:
 - For more information:
 - 2008 OFHS: [REDACTED] <http://grc.osu.edu/ofhs>
 - 2004 OFHS: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/releases/rl031005.stm>.
 - 1998 OFHS: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/healthStats/survey/ofhs1.aspx>
 - All media requests for interviews and information should be made through Paul Quinn at The Health Policy Institute of Ohio.
 - Organizations or individuals interested in specific analysis of the data can contact Barry Jamieson at the Government Resource Center.
 - Organizations wanting special briefings or presentations at meetings can contact Barry Jamieson at the Government Resource Center.

Future Surveys:

- Development of the Ohio Employer Health Survey (OEHS) is underway and is expected to be in the field this summer.
- Development plans are underway to conduct a follow up Ohio Family Health Survey starting in the fall of 2009 – the emphasis will be tracking major changes to the Ohio’s health and health system given the recent economic downturn.

- Both the OEHS and the 2009 OFHS depend on securing funding support. Interested funding partners are encouraged to contact Bill Hayes at the Health Policy Institute of Ohio.

Citation of the Ohio Family Health Survey:

State of Ohio: Department of Insurance, Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Health, and Department of Mental Health. Ohio Family Health Survey, 2008 [Computer File]. Ohio State University, Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center [distributor], 2009. Columbus, Ohio.

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