



News Release

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NE Ohio health insurance among adults decreased; child coverage increased between 2004 and 2008

Full report with graphs and data tables:

http://www.communitysolutions.com/images/upload/resources/2008OFHS_CuyahogaSummitLorain031709.pdf

(Cleveland, OH) Health insurance coverage in Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Summit counties mirrors that of the state in many ways, according to an oversampling report related to the 2008 Ohio Family Health Survey (OFHS). The Northeast Ohio Supplemental Sample report was prepared by The Center for Community Solutions and the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University.

Findings of the OFHS, released yesterday by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, show that, between 2004 and 2008, the number and percent of persons without health insurance increased among working-age adults ages 18 to 64, but decreased among children under 18. Similar findings are found for Cuyahoga, Summit, and Lorain counties.

The full report, available at www.CommunitySolutions.com, provides detailed localized data for Cuyahoga, Summit, and Lorain counties. Highlights:

Adults Ages 18 to 64 Without Health Insurance Worsens

- **All together in the three urban counties**, there was an estimated 238,000 persons age 18 to 64 that had no health care insurance coverage at the time they were surveyed in 2008.
- In **Cuyahoga County**, more than 141,000 adults ages 18 to 64, or 17.6 percent, were without health insurance last year.
- **Summit County's** adult uninsured rate was even higher, at 19.6 percent, compared to the state's rate of 17.0 percent.
- **Lorain County** had a lower estimated adult uninsured rate at 15.9 percent, though due to a relatively small sample size we could only be 90 percent sure that the actual rate was between 13.1 percent and 19.1 percent.
- **For both the state as a whole and for the counties noted here**, estimated numbers and rates for adults ages 18 to 64 are all higher than those estimated from the 2004 OFHS.

Health Insurance Rates for Children Improve

- Estimated uninsured numbers and rates for children under age 18 declined from 2004 to 2008 for the state and Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Summit counties.
- Nevertheless, there were still an estimated 17,000 children in the three counties who were uninsured in 2008, indicating need for greater outreach to enroll eligible children.

Characteristics of Uninsured Adults Ages 18 to 64

- Males are more likely to be uninsured than females.
- Younger adults have higher estimated uninsured rates than older adults.
- Racial disparities in health insurance coverage exist for the state and all three counties.
- Married couples have much higher health insurance rates than others.
- Adults ages 18 to 64 who are less educated are also less likely to have health insurance.
- Adults who are unemployed and those working part-time are more likely to be uninsured. Yet, many full-time workers were uninsured in 2008 in Ohio.
- Adults at “near poverty” levels, especially those between 101 and 150 percent of the poverty income threshold, are about as likely to be uninsured as those below poverty.
- In the state—and in each of the three counties noted here—the highest estimated uninsured rates were highest for those just above the poverty threshold, indicating that Medicaid income eligibility limits stop short of helping those adults who are employed in jobs that keep them just above the poverty line but provide no health insurance.

Characteristics of Uninsured Children

- The socio-economic characteristics of those adults without health insurance also affect their children.
- Disparities in health insurance for African American children were apparently nonexistent in 2008.
- Though it is statistically uncertain, Asian children seem to have the lowest uninsured rates.
- Like the adult population, children listed as “Other Races” had the highest rates of uninsured in the state and among the three counties studied here.

Adult Health Status and Health Insurance Coverage

- Adults ages 18 to 64 who rated themselves in excellent to good health in 2008 were more likely to have health care insurance than those in fair to poor health.

Sample sizes for the state and the counties in this study are as follows:

<u>Adults:</u>	<u>Children</u>
• Ohio – 50,944	• Ohio – 13,443
• Cuyahoga Co. – 4,103	• Cuyahoga Co. – 1,030
• Lorain Co. – 1,878	• Lorain Co. – 527
• Summit Co. – 3,346	• Summit Co. – 855

Among the total number of surveys noted above—Adults and Children—the Northeast Ohio Supplemental Sample provided the following number of respondents:

- Cuyahoga Co. – 1,178
- Lorain Co. – 476
- Summit Co. – 708

The Ohio Family Health Survey and the Northeast Ohio Supplemental Sample provide a rich source of data on the health conditions of the state and region. Major areas for future analysis include the following topics:

- Access to health care (usual source of care and unmet needs)
- Health status and chronic conditions
- Health care utilization (medical and emergency department visits)
- Satisfaction with health care
- Comparisons between central cities and suburbs

Funders of the Northeast Ohio Supplemental Oversample include The Center for Health Affairs, Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County, Community Health Partners, Elyria Health District, EMH Regional Medical Center, The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland Ohio, Sisters of Charity Foundation, and Summit County Health Department.

The Center for Community Solutions is a private, independent, nonprofit organization focused on policy and system reform. It provides strategic leadership to improve targeted health, social, and economic conditions. Established in 1913, it is a United Way agency.

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