



Reasonable Costs: What Ohioans Afford to Pay for Health Care

On Tuesday, April 29, Policy Matters Ohio released a report, *Reasonable Costs: What Can Ohioans Afford To Pay For Health Care*. Among the findings of the report:

Health care is unaffordable for more than 4.6 million of Ohioans. Many of these Ohioans spend more than they can afford on health care or simply go without health care altogether. Ohio families need help to afford health care to prevent sacrificing basic needs.

Three-fourths of Ohio's uninsured do not earn enough income to contribute to the cost of health care without sacrificing other basic needs. Even those with higher incomes cannot afford the full cost of health care.

- In Ohio, families at or below 200 percent of the poverty level--\$35,200 for a family of 3--cannot afford to make any contribution toward health care. This includes half of Ohio's uninsured. These families are struggling to keep up with rent, food, transportation, and other basic necessities even before health care costs are considered.
- Families who earn between 200 and 300 percent--\$52,888--of poverty level can only afford *nominal* contributions to health care before sacrificing other basic needs. This includes 25 percent of Ohio's uninsured.
- For many Ohioans above the poverty level, health coverage is only affordable because of an employer-contribution toward the cost.

A full copy of the report can be obtained from Policy Matters Ohio at www.policymattersohio.org.

Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage is working to assure that Ohioans have affordable coverage for, and access to, high quality health care making the needs of consumers front and center in this debate.

Coverage must be affordable and be publicly funded for those with lowest incomes and must be subsidized on a sliding scale. Employers, insurers, providers, government, and consumers—according to their ability to pay—must contribute to the cost of health coverage to achieve shared responsibility.