



For Immediate Release
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THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE RELEASES NEW REPORT ON CONSEQUENCES OF NOT HAVING HEALTH INSURANCE

Columbus, OH—The Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a study today on the consequences of not having health insurances and found that what has been a bad situation for many years has only gotten worse. The number of people getting health insurance through their job has continued to decline, costs have risen, and the number of uninsured has grown.

The IOM report suggests that, in communities with high numbers of uninsured, people who actually have health insurance are less likely to be satisfied with the quality of their care and their choice of health care providers. Clearly, when millions of Americans are uninsured, we are all affected. Since so many people in our state live without health insurance, we all need to work for solutions, whether we are insured or not.

“The report also confirms what we see every day in Ohio,” said Col Owens, Co-Chair of Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage. “The report cites eight serious medical conditions where lack of insurance is associated with poorer outcomes. People without health insurance miss out on early detection and are not able to access the care they need.”

The IOM says there is no change in sight for these trends unless action is taken. The report’s recommendation is clear stating, ‘we recommend *with the strongest urgency we can convey* that the President and Congress take action on coverage and costs.’ That’s a powerful statement from the IOM.

“With more than 1.3 million people in Ohio going without any health coverage, the findings underscore the dire need for federal and state leaders to heed the advice of the IOM and act immediately to ensure that all individuals have health insurance,” continued Owens.

Over the next few months, Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage will focus on the large number of Ohioans who are denied insurance each year because of pre-existing conditions. OCHC will support efforts to reform Ohio’s insurance market to bring premium fairness and transparency in spending.

The nonpartisan Institute of Medicine (IOM) convened a committee of health policy experts with different points of view to study evidence on the uninsured. Findings and recommendations from the committee were released today in Washington, DC. The report is the first IOM looking at issues of uninsurance since a landmark series of reports released between 2000 and 2004. For more information, see www.rwjf.org

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