

For Immediate Release
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THE HEALTH FOUNDATION
OF GREATER CINCINNATI

Contact: Dan Geeding
Phone: 513-458-6602

The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati Files with U.S. Supreme Court Cites uninsured rates for Cincinnati area

The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati today filed an Amicus Curiae (Friend of the Court) brief with the United States Supreme Court regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The Foundation filed the brief “in support of neither party.” The Foundation feels it is important that the Supreme Court be aware of facts that came from real people in a real community about health insurance affordability and how individuals’ decisions to purchase health insurance relates to their income.

“The Health Foundation supports reform in the health care system, and especially making health care available for as many people as possible. The Foundation is not taking a position on the specifics of the Affordable Care Act,” said James Schwab, President and CEO of The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. We do feel it is important, however, to report our opinion, supported by our data, that most people who do not have health insurance appear to make that decision out of economic necessity, not choice.

“The goal of the Foundation is to improve the health of people and families in our region. And we believe one of the best ways to achieve this goal is by extending health insurance coverage – the key to access to needed health care - to more people,” said Patricia O’Connor, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Foundation.

To properly serve those in the Cincinnati area, the Foundation sponsors the *Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey* which is conducted every five years by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. The survey samples people from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana who live in the Foundation’s service area.

The most recent survey, conducted in the Fall of 2010, asked respondents about their health insurance status. The responses indicate that for many people, the failure to obtain health insurance is associated with financial need, not a personal choice to remain uninsured and then pay for health services as needed.

The survey results showed that of those with low income, 43% were currently uninsured. But of those whose incomes are more than double the poverty level, only 6% were uninsured.

The following table summarizes these results:

Uninsured Rates by Poverty Level

People age 18-64	Income		
	Below \$10,830 (Below \$22,050 for family of four)	\$10,830 -\$21,660 (\$22,050 -\$44,100 for family of four)	Over \$21,660 (Over \$44,100 for family of four)
Uninsured	43%	30%	6%

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The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati is an independent non-profit dedicated to improving community health through grants, evaluation and education. The Foundation works in Cincinnati and 20 surrounding counties in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. For more information, go to www.healthfoundation.org.

Additional Websites:

Consumer information about the ACA:

<http://reform.healthfoundation.org/>

2010 Greater Cincinnati Community Health Status Survey:

https://www.healthfoundation.org/data_publications/gchss.html

The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati's Amicus Curiae brief:

http://reform.healthfoundation.org/documents/upl/Amicus_Curiae.pdf