

OHIO

I. Political Environment¹

A. GOVERNOR: Ted Strickland (**D**); 1st Term/61% - Re-election year: 2010

Leadership/interest in health care reform: The Governor proposed in his FY08 budget proposal to cover 52,000 children and parents through Medicaid and SCHIP expansions. He also supported the creation of a health insurance Connector (or Exchange).

B. LEGISLATURE

House/Assembly: 53R/ 45D

Senate: 21R/ 12D

Speaker: Jon A. Husted (**R**)

President of the Senate: Bill Harris (**R**)

II. State Health Insurance Coverage²

A. State Health Insurance Coverage of the Non-elderly, 2005-2006

	OH		US
	#	%	%
ESI	6,630,902	67%	61%
Medicaid	1,398,804	14%	13%
Individual Insurance	441,179	4%	5%
Other Public	212,995	2%	2%
Uninsured	1,209,873	12%	18%
Uninsured < 200% FPL	776,603	64%	65%

B. Federal Matching Rate (FMAP) FY2008: 60.79%

C. Medicaid Eligibility by FPL

Children	200%
Non-Working Parents	90%

III. History of state health reform

In the 2007 legislative session, Ohio expanded the Medicaid eligibility level for children from 200% to 300% FPL. In December, however, CMS denied Ohio's request for this Medicaid expansion. Gov. Strickland recently announced plans to reapply to expand SCHIP eligibility for children up to 250% FPL, but children between 250% and 300% will remain uninsured. The Ohio Legislature also passed provisions to allow Medicaid Buy-In for children with "catastrophic" disabilities in families over 300% FPL. An attempted increase in Medicaid eligibility for parents from 90% to 100% FPL was unsuccessful.

In addition, Gov. Strickland proposed \$500,000 to study the creation of health insurance Connector (or Exchange) for Ohio. The Governor, members of Legislature and business community have expressed

¹ State Yellow Book: A Leadership Directory, Winter 2008

² State Medicaid Fact Sheet – The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Link: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/mfs.jsp?rgn=37&rgn=1&x=10&y=14>

their commitment to work on comprehensive health care reform. (OH advocates, Ohio Department of Health, SCI, BNA Daily Health Care Report, Dec. 28 2007)

IV. Current fiscal conditions

State and Local Tax Revenue as a Percentage of Personal Income, 2005³: 11.41%
US Average, 2005: 10.73%

State tobacco tax per pack⁴: \$1.25 National tobacco tax ranking: 16th

In 2009, Ohio is projected to face a total budget shortfall of \$733 million - \$1.9 billion (3.6 - 9.4% of FY 2008 general fund)⁵.

³ Tax policy Center (June, 2007), "State and Local Tax Revenue as a Percentage of Personal Income, Selected Years 1997-2005". Link: <http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxfacts/displayafact.cfm?Docid=511>

⁴ Tax policy Center (April, 2007), "State Cigarette Taxes, 2007"; Link: http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxfacts/Content/PDF/cigarette_rates.pdf

⁵ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (January 2008), "17 States Faces Total Budget Shortfall of At Least \$31 Billion in 2009; 11 Others Expect Budget Problems." Link: <http://www.cbpp.org/1-15-08sfp.htm>