

HPIO releases 2017 Ohio Medicaid Basics

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio earlier this month released **Ohio Medicaid Basics 2017**.

The Medicaid program pays for healthcare services for more than 3 million Ohioans and is an important driver of payment reform and quality measurement initiatives within the healthcare system.

Released to coincide with the state biennial budget, Ohio Medicaid Basics is a foundational summary of the state-federal program. The 2017 edition provides an overview of Ohio Medicaid eligibility, enrollment and financing. The brief also reviews key Medicaid-related policy changes and includes an

update on Medicaid expansion enrollment trends and spending.

HPIO has created Medicaid Basics every two years since 2005.

The Medicaid program plays a central role in the health of many Ohioans. As a healthcare payer for one in four Ohioans, Medicaid enables improved access to care, as well as treatment of chronic health conditions (including mental health conditions), injuries, illnesses and addictions. Medicaid also pays for preventive care, prescription drugs and screenings.



While there is evidence that Medicaid coverage improves access to care, it is important to note that overall health is influenced by a number of other factors.

“Policymakers and other health stakeholders should ensure that policies and programs implemented within and outside of the Medicaid program are aligned to address the other drivers of overall health,” the brief concludes.

HPIO Health Value Dashboard data informing policymakers on Ohio’s greatest health challenges

Data from HPIO’s recently released **2017 Health Value Dashboard** is driving conversations on how Ohio can tackle its greatest health challenges.

In March, HPIO released the latest edition of its *Health Value Dashboard*, which ranks states and the District of Columbia on a combination of population health and healthcare spending metrics. According to the *Dashboard*, Ohio ranks 46th in the nation on health value.

Since the release, HPIO staff have testified before two committees of the Ohio House of Representatives.

In early March, Amy Bush Stevens provided interested-party testimony to the House Ways and Means Committee, using data from the *Dashboard* to inform legislators as they consider raising the state’s tobacco tax rates.

A week later, both Stevens and Reem Aly provided testimony to the Finance Subcommittee on Health

and Human Services, giving a broader overview of *Dashboard* data.

On April 21, HPIO released its latest publication, *A Closer Look at Tobacco Use and Health Value*.

Ohio ranks near the bottom in adult cigarette smoking (43) and secondhand smoke exposure for children (49) out of the 50 states plus D.C. Ohio ranks 33rd in tobacco prevention spending.

Analysis of *Dashboard* data found that states with a lower adult smoking rate are more likely to have a better health value rank—meaning better population health outcomes and lower healthcare spending.

The brief also highlights the impact of smoking on Medicaid costs and outlines evidence-based

Download Health Value Dashboard material at:
www.hpio.net/2017-health-value-dashboard

HPIO regional forums to address health equity

HPIO is partnering with the Ohio Commission on Minority Health and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps to host a series of regional forums to explore ways to close health gaps in Ohio.

At the forums, to be held in May in Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland, stakeholders will learn about Ohio's overall health status and challenges, as well as health disparities and inequities experienced by minority and other populations across the state. Data will be shared from the [2017 Health Value Dashboard](#) and the [2016 State Health Assessment](#).

Attendees will also learn about actionable, evidence-informed strategies from the 2017 state health improvement plan that can be implemented by local health improvement initiatives to reduce health disparities and inequities, and move towards health equity. Each forum will feature a facilitated panel discussion on the impact of health disparities and inequities in each region.

To learn more about the forums, visit the [event page](#) on HPIO's website.



Thank you to our funders

The following core funders are advancing the health of Ohioans through informed policy decisions:

- Interact for Health
- Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
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- Cardinal Health Foundation
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- Mercy Health
- CareSource Foundation
- SC Ministry Foundation
- United Way of Central Ohio

HPIO online seminar series

The path forward What comes next for health policy?

With new federal leadership, there are likely to be significant reforms to health and healthcare policy in the U.S. The President and many in Congress have expressed strong interest in repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. However, the path forward is unclear, as are the potential impacts to states. This series of online seminars will provide snapshots of federal health policy decision-making throughout 2017. National and Ohio-based speakers will address current health policy debates in Congress and the White House and the implications of federal-level changes for state policymaking and Ohioans.

The general attendance fee is \$20 per online seminar. For additional information, please see the registration page.

July 14, 2017

Seminar 2: Robert Laszewski, President, Health Policy and Strategy Associates, Inc.

Robert Laszewski is president of Health Policy and Strategy Associates, Inc. (HPSA), a policy and marketplace consulting firm specializing in assisting its clients through significant health policy and market changes. Mr. Laszewski has participated extensively in the nation's health care debate, especially on health insurance reform and the impact it will have on existing health insurance programs, the insurance industry and the evolving relationship between payers and providers.

October 2017

Seminar 3: TBD

For more information or to register, visit

<http://bit.ly/2IXbEzG>