

State taps HPIO to study link between social determinants of health and infant mortality

After a competitive selection process, the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) contracted with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio to study the social determinants of health and infant mortality.

As a part of this project, HPIO is convening an advisory group that will contribute content expertise, provide feedback on preliminary findings and make recommendations for policy changes to improve the social, economic and physical environments that impact maternal and infant health. HPIO also will be convening a subcommittee to explore the impact of housing on infant mortality rates.

HPIO will gather stakeholder input to inform four areas of research for the project:

- **Most improved state research**, a state-level trend data analysis to identify most improved states, including largest reductions in black infant mortality
- **Health Value Dashboard data analysis** to identify the strongest drivers of infant mortality from the social, economic and physical environment domains
- **Literature review and environmental scan**, with a focus on housing, transportation, employment, education, including descriptions of existing programs and policies in Ohio

- **Inventory of evidence-informed social determinants of health strategies** to identify examples from other states

HPIO will submit a final report to LSC by Dec. 1, 2017.

The requirement for LSC to contract with a nonprofit entity to study and make recommendations related to the social determinants of infant mortality was included in Senate Bill 332 (sponsored by former Senator Jones and Senator Tavares). SB 332 was enacted by the Ohio General Assembly in late 2016 and signed by Governor Kasich in early 2017.

Institute monitoring federal health reform activity

With new federal leadership, there are likely to be significant reforms to health and healthcare policy in the U.S. The new executive administration and many in Congress have expressed strong interest in repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). However, the path forward is unclear, as are the potential impacts to states.

As uncertainty over health reform continues in Washington, HPIO is monitoring developments to determine the potential impact on Ohioans.

In June, HPIO released a brief titled **State policy options in the American Health Care Act (AHCA)** following the U.S. House's passage of the bill. This publication highlights some of the areas in which Ohio policymakers will encounter new decision

points if the bill is signed into law. The publication also includes estimates of the potential change in the average monthly premium for a silver-level plan from the ACA to the AHCA in various Ohio counties, along with a profile of the county's marketplace enrollees by age and income.



HPIO also is hosting a series of three online seminars to 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 first webinar, in April, featured Boston University professor David Jones. In August, HPIO will host Robert Laszewski an influential national expert on the healthcare market. The third webinar in the series is planned for October.

Project to inform policymakers on evidence to address addiction

HPIO is beginning a new project designed to help policymakers to make sense of the tremendous amount of information being generated on the nation's addiction crisis.

HPIO began convening an advisory group of addiction experts in May 2017. Work is underway to create a central repository for standards/guidelines, expert consensus statements/recommendations, model policies and evidence registries for addiction prevention, treatment and recovery. HPIO will also develop an inventory of relevant policy changes enacted in Ohio over the past four to six years, and identify areas where Ohio policy could be better aligned with standards and evidence.

Future phases of the project could include development of a multi-state convening of key stakeholders from Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and other neighboring states to discuss similarities and differences in state and local policies and identify best practice ideas from other states. Future products may also include an inventory on harm reduction, overdose reversal, children services, law enforcement, criminal justice reform and surveillance and evaluation.

HPIO launches new quarterly publication on health value

HPIO is launching a new quarterly electronic publication this month titled the Ohio Health Value Review (OHVR).

Building on the work of the *Health Value Dashboard*, OHVR is designed to strengthen connections between public health and health care partners in Ohio and highlight opportunities for different sectors to work together to improve health value in our state.

OHVR also will provide updates on emerging health policy issues and evidence-informed strategies to improve health. The Review will be distributed through HPIO's email contact list and each issue also will be posted on HPIO's website.

HPIO to track alignment of state budget with State Health Improvement Plan priorities

HPIO has begun tracking health-related provisions in the recently passed state biennial budget to determine their impact on priorities from the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP).

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) contracted with HPIO to facilitate the development of the 2017-2019 SHIP.

The SHIP is designed to be used as an actionable plan to improve population health outcomes and control healthcare spending. It is a strategic menu of priorities, outcome objectives and evidence-based strategies to address three of Ohio's greatest health challenges.



Thank you to our funders

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

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