



# Connections between criminal justice and health

**Advisory group meeting 1**

Aug. 22, 2023

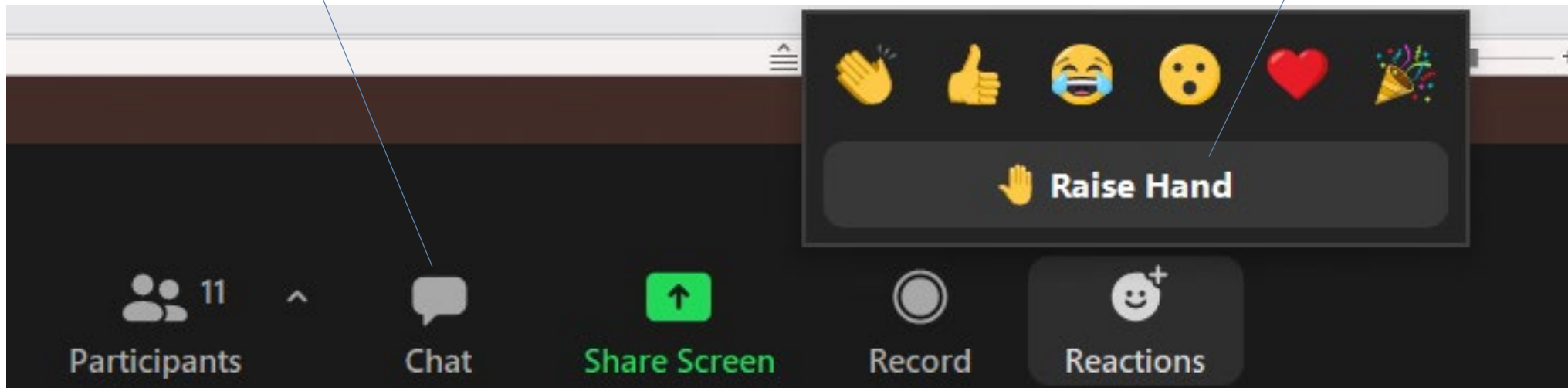
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## Chat

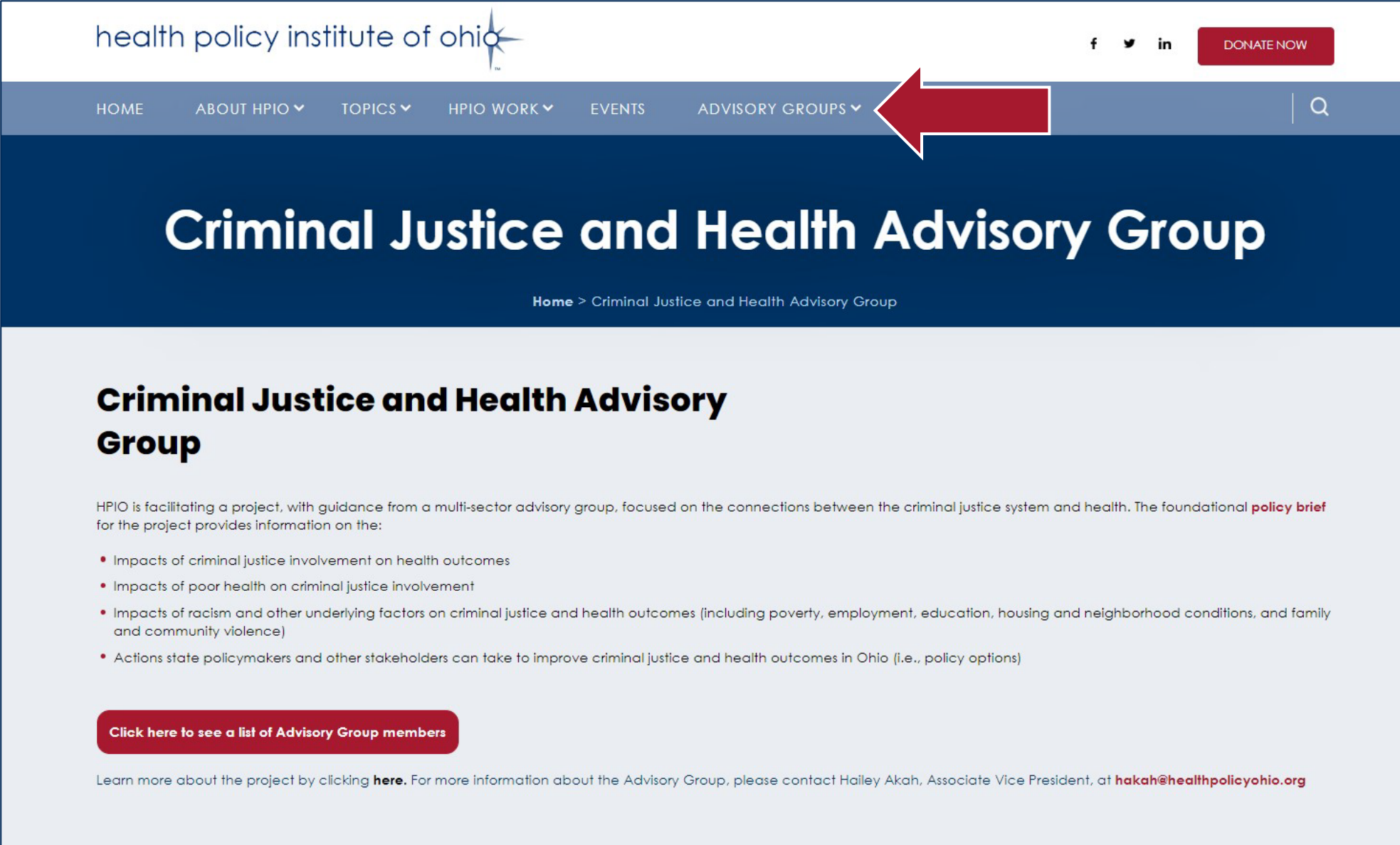
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# Criminal justice and health advisory group page



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## Criminal Justice and Health Advisory Group

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### Criminal Justice and Health Advisory Group

HPIO is facilitating a project, with guidance from a multi-sector advisory group, focused on the connections between the criminal justice system and health. The foundational [policy brief](#) for the project provides information on the:

- Impacts of criminal justice involvement on health outcomes
- Impacts of poor health on criminal justice involvement
- Impacts of racism and other underlying factors on criminal justice and health outcomes (including poverty, employment, education, housing and neighborhood conditions, and family and community violence)
- Actions state policymakers and other stakeholders can take to improve criminal justice and health outcomes in Ohio (i.e., policy options)

[Click here to see a list of Advisory Group members](#)

Learn more about the project by clicking [here](#). For more information about the Advisory Group, please contact Halley Akah, Associate Vice President, at [hakah@healthpolicyohio.org](mailto:hakah@healthpolicyohio.org)



# Vision

Ohio is a model of health, well-being and economic vitality.

# Mission

To advance evidence-informed policies that improve health, achieve equity, and lead to sustainable healthcare spending in Ohio.

# Today's agenda

- **Project update**
- **Discussion:** Children and family brief scope and purpose
- **Discussion:** Data sources and gaps
- **Discussion:** ACEs strategies
- **Next steps**

# Today's objectives

As a result of this meeting, **HPIO will have guidance** from the Advisory Group on

- The **scope and purpose** of the fourth Connections Between Criminal Justice and Health brief

# Introductions

# Project update



# hpio Health Policy Brief

## Connections between criminal justice and health

### Overview

According to the HPIO *Health Value Dashboard*, Ohio ranks 47 out of 50 states and D.C. on health value — a composite measure of population health outcomes and healthcare spending. Incarceration, arrest and crime contribute to Ohio's poor health value rank.

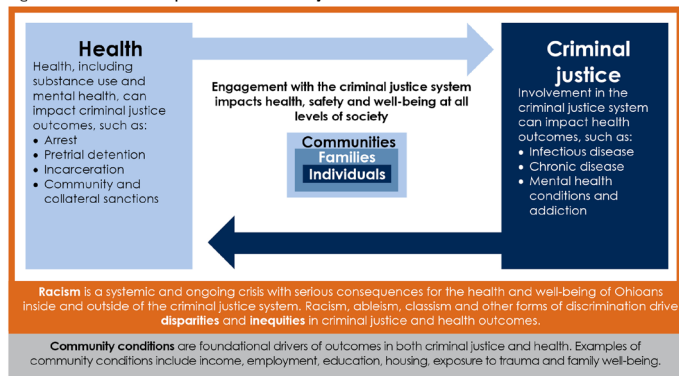
This brief summarizes research on the complex connections between criminal justice and health (see figure 1), with a focus on the impact of criminal justice involvement on health and well-being. The brief also outlines policy options that state policymakers and other community leaders can take to reduce incarceration and improve the health of Ohioans at highest risk for criminal justice involvement.

The research evidence is clear that poor mental health and addiction are risk factors for criminal justice involvement and that incarceration is detrimental to health. Obstacles to health and well-being are particularly striking for Ohioans who are at highest risk of criminal justice involvement.

### 3 key findings for policymakers

- **There is a two-way relationship between criminal justice and health.** Mental health and addiction challenges can lead to arrest and incarceration, and incarceration contributes to poor behavioral and physical health for many Ohioans.
- **Racism and community conditions contribute to criminal justice involvement and poor health.** Racist and discriminatory policies and practices and community conditions, such as poverty, housing instability and exposure to trauma, lead to increased criminal justice involvement and drive poor health outcomes.
- **Improvement is possible.** There are evidence-informed policy solutions to combat the drivers of criminal justice involvement and poor health outcomes.

Figure 1. The relationship between criminal justice and health



# hpio Health Policy Brief

## Connections between criminal justice and health

### Insights on justice and race

Public and private leaders across Ohio work to build and support safe, just and healthy communities where every Ohioan can thrive. Criminal justice partners, including law enforcement, courts and corrections, play an important role in that effort. Goals of the criminal justice system include preventing crime and improving community safety. However, these worthy goals are not achieved under current criminal justice policies.

Involvement with the criminal justice system has wide-ranging, negative effects on physical and mental health for Ohioans. At the same time, justice involvement creates trauma, barriers to employment, education and housing, and may increase a person's likelihood of re-offending.<sup>1</sup> Communities of color in particular have been disproportionately impacted by our criminal justice system.

Building upon HPIO's policy brief, *Connections Between Criminal Justice and Health*, this brief takes a closer look at the role of race within criminal justice policy. The two-way relationship between criminal justice and health is influenced by racism and other forms of discrimination, which can drive poor outcomes in both sectors (see in figure 2). Ohioans of color are often negatively impacted by unjust biases, policies and structures in the criminal justice system. This results in stark racial disparities in criminal justice outcomes, such as incarceration (see figure 1). Improvements within the criminal justice system can lead to safer, healthier and more vibrant communities in Ohio.

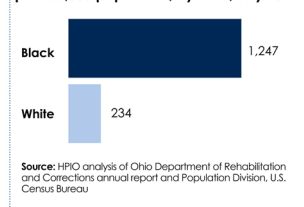
### This brief explores:

- The relationship between the criminal justice system and race
- Barriers to justice at the individual, institutional and structural levels that lead to poor outcomes for people of color
- Recommendations and resources for public and private stakeholders to promote safe and healthy communities across Ohio

### 3 key findings for policymakers

- **Disparities in the criminal justice system are not inevitable,** and although unjust biases, policies and structures exist, improvement is possible.
- **Ohioans of color experience barriers to justice** stemming from a long history of racism in the criminal justice system that casts a shadow over modern policymaking.
- **Public and private stakeholders can take meaningful action** to eliminate racism in the criminal justice system and improve health, safety and well-being for every Ohioan.

Figure 1. Ohio incarcerations in state prison per 100,000 population, by race, July 2021



# hpio Health Policy Brief

## Connections between criminal justice and health

### Pretrial incarceration and the bail system

Every Ohioan wants to live in a community that is safe, provides opportunities for good health and where their families can flourish. This policy brief examines the impact of pretrial incarceration and the money bail system on the health, safety and well-being of Ohioans and their communities.

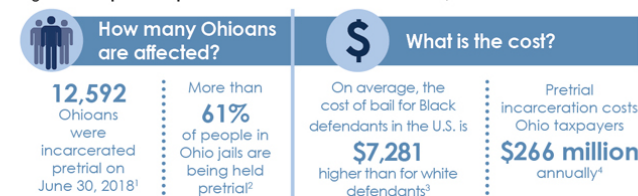
For several years, policymakers across Ohio have been engaged in bipartisan efforts to reform the money bail system with the goal of increasing safety and justice in Ohio communities. Because of the many connections between criminal justice and health, research indicates that bail reform will have positive impacts on the health and well-being of Ohioans. However, the path to policy change has been difficult and thousands of people continue to be incarcerated before being convicted of a crime.

Figure 1 shows the scope of the problem and the significant costs of the current pretrial system. Ohio must now look to research evidence and promising practices in other states to illuminate a clear path forward for effective policy change. By implementing evidence-based reforms to the money bail system, policymakers can improve health, advance equity and reduce healthcare and criminal justice spending in Ohio.

### 3 key findings for policymakers

- **Pretrial incarceration leads to negative outcomes.** Incarceration before conviction often harms individual and community health, safety, family well-being and financial stability.
- **Ohio's current bail system is unfair and inequitable.** Money bail, which incarcerates people pretrial based on their ability to pay for release, is a barrier to justice for many Ohioans, especially Black Ohioans and those with low incomes.
- **Evidence-based reforms exist.** State and local governments across the country have made changes to their pretrial systems, and research shows promising results.

Figure 1. Snapshot on pretrial incarceration and bail in Ohio, 2018



Note: Unjust biases, policies and structures, including bias in criminal justice data, result in bail amounts for Black defendants that are often higher than bail amounts for white defendants.

### This brief:

- Examines the impacts of pretrial incarceration on individuals and communities
- Describes the current state of pretrial policy in Ohio and promising bail alternatives in other states
- Provides state and local policy options to reform the money bail system

# Brief 1 goals

Inform policy changes to:

- **Eliminate disparities and inequities** in criminal justice and health outcomes
- **Improve health outcomes** for people who are currently or are likely to become justice involved

## Health

Health, including substance use and mental health, can impact criminal justice outcomes, such as:

- Arrest
- Pretrial detention
- Incarceration
- Community and collateral sanctions

Engagement with the criminal justice system impacts health, safety and well-being at all levels of society

Communities

Families

Individuals

## Criminal justice

Involvement in the criminal justice system can impact health outcomes, such as:

- Infectious disease
- Chronic disease
- Mental health conditions and addiction

**Racism** is a systemic and ongoing crisis with serious consequences for the health and well-being of Ohioans inside and outside of the criminal justice system. Racism, ableism, classism and other forms of discrimination drive **disparities** and **inequities** in criminal justice and health outcomes.

**Community conditions** are foundational drivers of outcomes in both criminal justice and health. Examples of community conditions include income, employment, education, housing, exposure to trauma and family well-being.

# To improve criminal justice and health outcomes:

- Support mental well-being and improve crisis response for people at higher risk of criminal justice involvement
- Reduce the number of people incarcerated
- Improve health for people who are currently or formerly incarcerated
- Improve community conditions for people at higher risk of criminal justice involvement

# Who is at higher risk of criminal justice involvement?

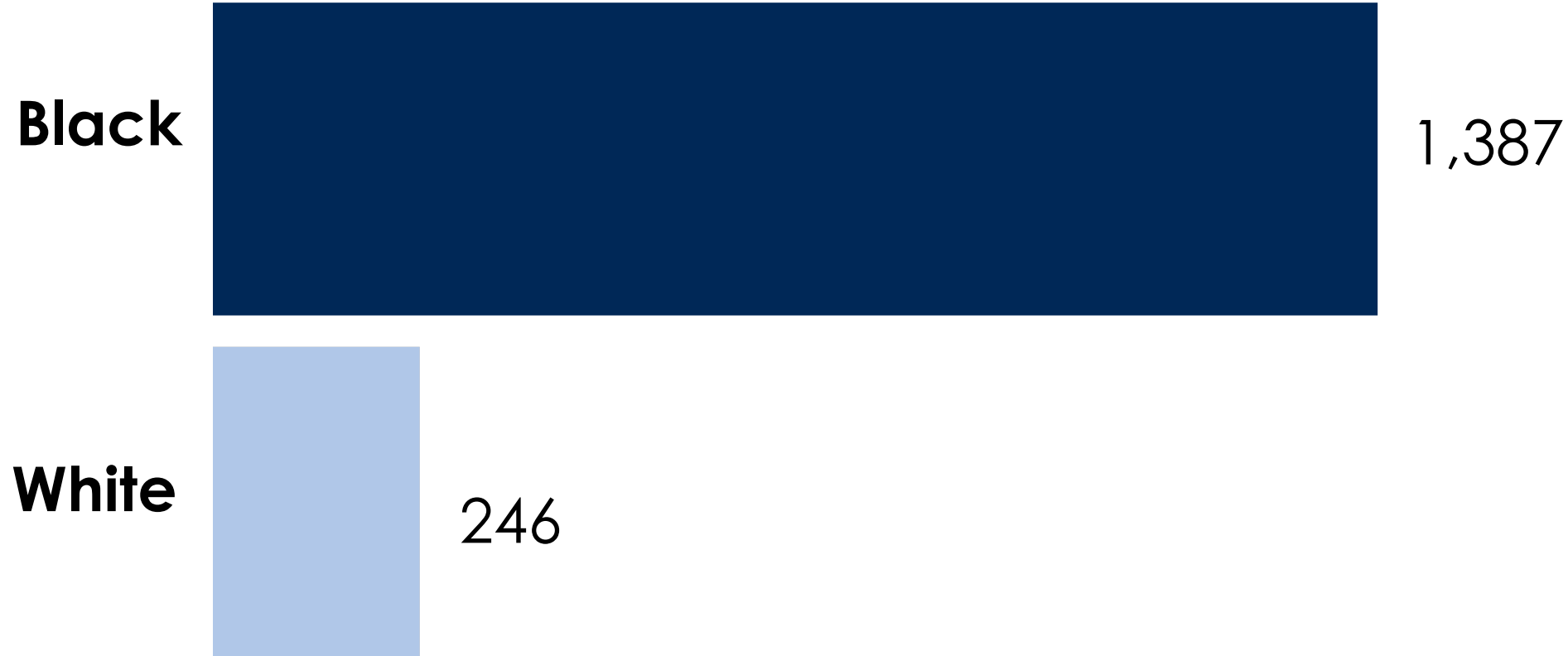
- Black Ohioans and other people of color
- People with low incomes
- People with behavioral health and/or disabling conditions
- People who were formerly incarcerated

# Brief 2 goals

- **Highlight barriers to justice** at the individual, institutional and structural levels that lead to poor criminal justice and health outcomes
- Inform policy changes to **eliminate racism** in the criminal justice system

# Ohio incarcerations in state prison

per 100,000 population, by race, July 2022



**Source:** HPIO analysis of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections annual report and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 1-year estimates



# Taking action



Acknowledging individual bias and perceptions of behavior



Improving institutional policies and procedures



Reforming structures and systems



# Brief 3 goals

- **Examine the impacts of pretrial incarceration** on individuals and communities
- Describe **promising bail alternatives** to provide options to reform the money bail system

# Snapshot of pretrial incarceration and bail in Ohio, 2018



## How many Ohioans are affected?

**12,592**  
Ohioans  
were  
incarcerated  
pretrial on  
June 30, 2018

More than  
**61%**  
of people in  
Ohio jails are  
being held  
pretrial



## What is the cost?

On average, the  
cost of bail for Black  
defendants in the U.S. is  
**\$7,281**  
higher than for white  
defendants

Pretrial  
incarceration costs  
Ohio taxpayers  
**\$266 million**  
annually

**Note:** Unjust biases, policies and structures, including bias in criminal justice data, result in bail amounts for Black defendants that are often higher than bail amounts for white defendants.

**Sources:** Health Policy Institute of Ohio policy brief, "Connections between Criminal Justice and Health: Pretrial incarceration and the bail system." **See publication for important data notes on this graphic.** Data for how many Ohioans affected provided by the Bureau of Adult Detention. Memo to the Supreme Court of Ohio Task Force to Examine the Ohio Bail System. Provided Feb. 21, 2019. Data on cost from Arnold, David, Will Dobbie, and Crystal S. Yang. "Racial bias in bail decisions." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 133, no. 4 (2018): 1885-1932 and by Meeker, Robert. HB 439 Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement. Ohio Legislative Services Commission, Jan.23, 2018.

# Promising alternatives to money bail: Unconditional release and pretrial services

## Unconditional release (emerging evidence):

- Decline in the jail population; no change in rearrest rates
- Mixed evidence on racial disparities

## Pretrial services (emerging evidence):

- Increased court appearance rates
- Decline in the jail population; no change in rearrest rates

**Source:** "The Current State of Bail Reform in the United States: Results of a Landscape Analysis of Bail Reforms Across All 50 States."  
Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, December 2021.

# Discussion

## scope and purpose

## Health

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**Background:**

How we chose this topic



**Priority of Gov.  
Mike DeWine**



**Priority of the  
General  
Assembly**



**Children's  
hospital  
reports**



# Background: How we chose this topic

hpio Health Policy Brief  
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)  
Health impact of ACEs in Ohio

08.28.2020

**Overview**  
There are many organizations working to improve child well-being in Ohio at the state and local levels. Across these entities, the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) has surfaced as a common challenge that must be addressed.

Exposure to ACEs is a pervasive problem affecting many children in Ohio and across the country. National data and analysis provide clear evidence that ACEs exposure is linked to poor health and well-being through adulthood, including disrupted neurodevelopment, social problems, disease, disability and premature death.<sup>1</sup> In addition, ACEs exposure has severe long-term cost implications at the individual and societal levels, including increased medical, child welfare, criminal justice and special education expenditures, as well as productivity losses.<sup>2</sup>

This brief:

- Summarizes current research on how ACEs impact health and well-being
- Provides new data and analysis on the prevalence of ACEs in Ohio and the impact of ACEs on the health of Ohioans

More specifically, this brief expands on what we know from national research by exploring these questions:

- To what extent could Ohio's health outcomes be improved by preventing ACEs?
- Which ACEs have the most significant impact on the health of Ohioans?

**Ohio ACEs Impact project**  
Led by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio, this project will include a series of three policy briefs and a resource page to build on and amplify current efforts to address ACEs.

This brief focuses on the health impact of ACEs on Ohioans. The remaining two briefs will provide information on:

- The economic impact of ACEs in Ohio
- Evidence-informed and cost-effective strategies to prevent, screen and treat for ACEs exposure

**3 key findings for policymakers**

- **Exposure to ACEs is a pervasive problem.** Nearly two-thirds of Ohioans have been exposed to ACEs. Ohioans of color and Ohioans with low incomes, disabilities and/or who are residents of urban and Appalachian counties are more likely to experience multiple ACEs.
- **Preventing ACEs can improve health.** For example, if exposure to ACEs were eliminated in Ohio, an estimated 36% of depression diagnoses could be prevented.
- **Focusing action on specific ACEs may yield more significant health impacts.** Data analysis suggests that preventing and mitigating the impacts of emotional and sexual abuse and living in a household with someone who has a substance use disorder, mental health problem or who is incarcerated are likely to have the largest effects on the health of Ohioans.

Ohio ACEs Impact Project

November 2020

hpio  
health policy institute of ohio

**Ohio addiction policy scorecard**

**4**

**Children, youth and families**

**HPIO Addiction Evidence Project**

November 2020

**20**

**HEALTH VALUE DASHBOARD**

**23**

Health Policy Institute of Ohio  
20 Years  
Celebrating two decades of impact, 1980-2020

July 2023

20 Years  
Health Policy Institute of Ohio

**Unlocking Ohio's economic potential**

The impact of eliminating racial disparities on Ohio businesses, governments and communities

**Overview**  
Ohio can grow its economy and preserve public resources by ensuring that every person has the opportunity to live a healthy life and fully participate in the state's economy. When people are healthy and financially stable, their families, businesses and local communities benefit.

However, the 2023 Health Value Dashboard shows that Ohioans face worse health outcomes, including living shorter and less healthy lives, than people in most other states. Contributing factors include rising overdose and suicide deaths and Ohio's long-term decline in labor force participation.

These challenges are especially stark for Black and Hispanic/Latino Ohioans, who often face barriers to health and employment — barriers that are rooted in systemic and historical injustices that continue to this day. This results in disparities, or systematic differences in outcomes, experienced across groups of Ohioans.

Beyond the substantial impacts on people and communities of color across Ohio, disparities in outcomes, such as life expectancy and overall health status, represent missed economic opportunities for Ohio businesses, governments and communities. Allowing these disparities to continue to exist will only result in a more economically unstable and unhealthy Ohio. By eliminating racial disparities, leaders in Ohio can grow the workforce, increase consumer spending, strengthen communities and reduce fiscal pressures on state and local budgets.

This analysis:

- Summarizes the factors that contribute to racial disparities in Ohio
- Provides new data on the economic benefits Ohio could gain by eliminating disparities
- Recommends a series of actions that Ohioans can take to eliminate racism, improve health and increase economic vitality

**If Ohio eliminates disparities...**  
Researchers estimate that by 2030:

- ▶ **Ohio could gain \$79 billion in economic output each year**

In addition, Ohio could gain:

- ▶ **\$40 billion** more in total income
- ▶ **\$30 billion** more in consumer spending
- ▶ **\$4 billion** more in state and local tax revenues
- ▶ **\$3 billion** in reduced healthcare spending
- ▶ **\$2 billion** in increased employee productivity
- ▶ **\$621 million** in reduced corrections spending

# Brief 4: Impact on children and families

Data and information on:

- Impacts of over-policing, incarceration and collateral sanctions on child health and well-being and generational cycles of trauma and incarceration
- The effect of parental incarceration and/or criminal records on children
- Disparities and inequities
- Analysis of current state policy
- Policy options to break generational cycles

# Discussion questions

1. Which pending policy decisions at the state and local level could this brief inform?
2. What relevant work is taking place at your organization or in your community?

# Discussion question

Should we highlight the effect of juvenile justice involvement on family health and well-being? If so, what is the most important thing to elevate?

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# Discussion question

What family health and well-being conditions or factors that lead or contribute to justice involvement for parents are most important to elevate in this brief?

# Discussion

## data sources and gaps




# Data Sources

Data Source	Measures
National Survey of Children's Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children of incarcerated parents</li></ul>
Ohio Department of Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ohio arrest rate</li></ul>
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Characteristics of total supervision population</li></ul>
Kids Count Data Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children who had a parent who was ever incarcerated</li><li>• Youth residing in juvenile detention, correctional and/or residential facilities</li><li>• Children who live in unsafe communities</li></ul>
Ohio Pregnancy Assessment Survey (OPAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spouse, partner, or respondent went to jail in the 12 months before new baby was born</li></ul>
Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey (OHYES!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incarcerated household members</li></ul>
BRFSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lived with anyone who served time or was sentenced to serve time in prison, jail, or other correctional facility as a child (ACE)</li></ul>
Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parent went to jail due to child support owed</li><li>• Ever spent time in correctional institution</li></ul>

# Discussion questions

1. What other sources should we look at that are not listed here?
2. What sources can help fill in the data gaps we have identified?
3. What reports, plans, state/local initiatives, or other information should we review?

# ACEs prevention strategies

	Key strategy
 <p>Promoting social norms that protect against violence and adversity</p>	Community-based violence prevention 
 <p>Intervening to lessen immediate and long-term harms</p>	Drug courts
	Trauma-informed care
	Behavioral health treatment

**Becky Carroll**

Dir. Policy Research & Analysis  
bcarroll@hpio.net

**Meeting:**

Thursday, Sept. 21  
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Virtual on Zoom

# Next steps

# Next steps

- **Next meeting: October 3, 12:30-2p**
- Draft review: early October



# Contact information

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Thank you