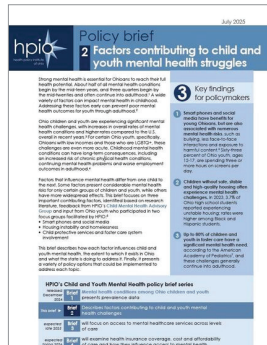


HPIO continues work on child mental health

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio has released a new brief titled **"Factors Contributing to Child and Youth Mental Health Struggles."** The brief is the second in a series of four planned HPIO publications on child and youth mental health.



There are a variety of factors that influence a child's mental health. The brief focuses on three important contributing factors:

- Smart phones and social media
- Housing instability and homelessness
- Child protective services and foster care system involvement

address each topic.

From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, 2025, HPIO will **host a webinar** to explore key findings from the brief. Speakers will include:

- Lead author Becky Carroll, HPIO Director of Policy Research and Analysis
- Dave Henwood, Child and Youth Permanency Manager, Protective Services, Fairfield County Job and Family Services
- Lindsay Green, Educational Connection Specialist from Beavercreek, Ohio
- Andrea Pollock, Program Director of Next Step and Chagrin Falls Park Community Center, Axess Family Services, Inc.

"Ohio children and youth are experiencing significant mental health challenges, with increases in overall rates of mental health conditions and higher rates compared to the U.S. overall in recent years," according to the brief.

The brief describes how each factor influences child and youth mental health, the extent to which it exists in Ohio and what the state is doing to address it. Finally, it presents a variety of policy options that could be implemented to

HPIO hosts central Ohio training on using data, evaluation to achieve equity



A panel of central Ohio organizations describe how they use data and evaluation to advance equity within their organizations.

With support from The Columbus Foundation, HPIO recently hosted an interactive workshop with information and resources about how to use data and evaluation to advance equity in central Ohio.

Using resources from HPIO's **Equity Evaluation Toolkit**, the Columbus workshop was designed to build capacity among public and private partners to measure and evaluate their work, communicate about their successes and challenges, and drive toward policy and systems change.

Participants also heard from a panel of local organizations using data and evaluation to advance equity within their organizations.

As part of the training, HPIO produced and shared a data snapshot, **"Closing Health Gaps in Columbus,"** that explores the underlying reasons why some groups of Columbus residents live shorter and less healthy lives. The snapshot also includes resources that outline effective strategies that state and local leaders can use.

Work with us

We can help you navigate complex and rapidly changing policy environments to ensure you are making well-informed decisions that meet your goals and objectives. Learn more here:



HPIO completes analysis of Medicaid expansion impact, turns focus to federal spending changes

Last month HPIO completed an expansive study on the potential impacts of the elimination of Medicaid expansion in Ohio ([click here for a four-page summary of the project](#)).

Since Ohio expanded Medicaid eligibility in 2014, hundreds of thousands of residents with lower incomes – including people who are working, parents, grandparents, veterans and caregivers – have gained access to medically necessary health care. As of March 2025, nearly 770,000 Ohioans are covered through Medicaid expansion.

The HPIO analysis coincided with state policymakers considering the state's 2026-2027 biennial state budget ([House Bill 96](#)), which was signed into law on July 1 and

contains a provision discontinuing Medicaid expansion if the federal share of Medicaid expansion costs drops below its current 90%.

In the coming weeks, HPIO plans to release similar analysis on the potential impacts of the recently passed federal spending bill (HR 1).

HPIO will begin analysis of HR1 with a series of publications on how the new federal legislation could impact healthcare affordability for working Ohioans.

The series will include a data brief on current healthcare affordability considerations for working Ohioans, followed by brief policy explainers on the impact of recent federal policy changes, such as Medicaid work requirements and cost-sharing rules.

Thank you to our core funders

These funders are advancing HPIO's mission by providing general operating support:

- The bi3 Fund
- Bruening Foundation
- CareSource Foundation
- The Cleveland Foundation
- The Columbus Foundation
- The George Gund Foundation
- The Harmony Project
- HealthPath Foundation of Ohio
- Interact for Health
- Mt. Sinai Health Foundation
- Nord Family Foundation
- North Canton Medical Foundation
- Ohio State Bar Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton

A list of HPIO project-specific funders is available at: www.hpio.net/about-us/funders

State, local organizations throughout Ohio rely on HPIO expertise for assessments, plans

Over the past few months HPIO has completed a number of projects for local and state agencies across Ohio. Find out more about HPIO's experience working with local health departments, ADAMH board, health collaboratives and state agencies, by scanning or clicking the QR code to the right.



Save the date



THURSDAY
OCTOBER 9

HPIO's second annual policy summit

Prioritizing what works

A focus on policies with the greatest return on investment



Mitchell Hall at Columbus State Community College

Registration will open this summer at: www.hpio.net/events