

HPIO rapid response provides state leaders with key Medicaid data

As Ohio policymakers examined how to prevent, identify and eliminate fraud, waste and abuse in the Ohio Medicaid program, HPIO quickly gathered and analyzed data and provided technical assistance to legislators and their staff.

Medicaid provides healthcare coverage for about a quarter of Ohioans (26%, or 3 million people in 2024). The Medicaid line item, which includes federal funds, state general funds and other sources, is the largest in the state budget.

Given the size and scope of Ohio Medicaid, state leaders have a responsibility to hold the program to high accountability standards, while also maintaining access to needed services for Ohioans eligible for the program.

As these discussions unfolded, several legislators and their staffs contacted HPIO about key provisions and turned to HPIO for expertise on the Ohio Medicaid program. HPIO's work was also cited in nine media stories and in testimony from other Ohio organizations.

During an Ohio House Medicaid Committee hearing



HPIO President Amy Rohling McGee speaks at a June 3 Columbus Metropolitan Club panel discussion on "How Ohio's Medicaid Squeeze Could Impact Families."

on potential waste, fraud and abuse involving in-home care for Medicaid enrollees, the chair asked how the cost of home- and community-based care compares to institutional care. Within days, HPIO released a [data graphic](#) showing that home-based care is substantially less costly than institutional care.

In the following week, as legislators focused on reforming Medicaid with an emphasis on payments for home-based care, HPIO released a [data snapshot about Medicaid and home- and community-based](#)

[services in Ohio](#) to inform their decisions.

HPIO also submitted [interested party testimony](#) to the Ohio House Medicaid Committee, providing further analysis for policymakers to consider.

During this time, HPIO President Amy Rohling McGee participated in a [Columbus Metropolitan Club panel discussion](#) on federal policy changes to Medicaid, along with Ohio Sen. Louis Blessing, former Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy and Dr. Buhari Mohammed, CEO of Heart of Ohio Family Health.

HPIO's rapid response to state Medicaid reform discussions built on its March policy explainer on [changes to Medicaid financing in Ohio](#) resulting from provisions in [HR 1](#), the federal reconciliation bill sometimes referred to as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act."

The Ohio General Assembly went on to pass [SB 315](#), which expands electronic visit verification requirements for Medicaid home healthcare. Discussion on further reforms to Medicaid is expected when legislators return in the fall.

VIEW HPIO MEDICAID RESOURCES

Since its founding, HPIO has focused on providing state policymakers with data and analysis to inform decisions on the state's Medicaid program. You can find all of HPIO's work related to Medicaid, healthcare access and coverage here:

<https://bit.ly/4f8K8XF>



HPIO wraps 4-part series on child mental health in Ohio

HPIO recently released the fourth and final brief in its Ohio **Child Mental Health Project** series.

The latest brief addresses **insurance coverage and affordability of mental healthcare for Ohio children and youth**. The brief examines health insurance coverage, cost of care and how they influence access to mental health services.

About half of all mental health conditions begin by the mid-teen years and three-quarters begin by the mid-twenties, and they often continue into adulthood. Ohio has higher rates of many mental health conditions compared to the U.S. overall, and these rates have worsened over time.

Led by HPIO and informed by a **multi-sector advisory group**, the project includes policy briefs exploring:

- Prevalence data of various mental health conditions
- Factors that contribute to mental health challenges for young Ohioans
- Access to mental health care services among Ohio children and youth
- The influences of health insurance and treatment costs on access

This work builds on a wide body of analysis focused on **adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)**.

HPIO is grateful to the Harmony Project and the Woodruff Foundation for supporting the Ohio child mental health project, as well as its **core funders**.



Learn more about
HPIO's Child Mental
Health Project



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A list of HPIO project-specific funders is available at
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