HPIO concludes deep dive into Ohio's policy response to addiction crisis

Addiction Evidence Project final brief, fact sheets released

Since 2017, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio's **Addiction Evidence Project** (AEP) has cataloged and assessed state-level policy changes and identified strengths, gaps and opportunities for improvement on a comprehensive range of substance-use topics.

In September, HPIO released the final brief in the project, **Taking Action to Strengthen Ohio's Addiction Response**. A **30-minute webinar** detailing the findings from the brief is scheduled for Nov. 16.

"Over the past 20 years, Ohioans have pulled together to address the

Learn more

All of the resources created as part of HPIO's Addiction Evidence Project are available at:

https://bit.ly/HPIO_AEP

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complex challenges of addiction in unprecedented ways," the paper concludes. "Now, with pending opioid settlements on the horizon, there is an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of Ohio's efforts to date and plan for what should happen next."

HPIO also released a series of accompanying fact sheets:

- **Insights on Addiction and Race** provides data and information on differences in addiction outcomes by race, and the factors that drive those differences.
- **Insights on Addiction and Geography** presents information about differences in downstream addiction-related harms, and the factors driving those differences, across Ohio communities.
- **Refocusing Ohio's Approach to Overdose Deaths** explores what drives overdose deaths, why overdose deaths continue to increase and what Ohio can do to improve overdose prevention.

Later this year, HPIO plans to release a brief on alcohol and tobacco use. In 2022, HPIO is planning analysis related to cannabis use.

HPIO completes Strategic Action Plan on Aging toolkit for Ohio Department of Aging

HPIO has submitted an implementation toolkit for the Ohio Department of Aging's (ODA's) **Strategic Action Plan on Aging** (SAPA). The toolkit is expected to be released by ODA this fall.

HPIO was contracted by ODA to create the SAPA, which was completed earlier this year. The SAPA provides a comprehensive

roadmap for public and private collaboration to support the health and well-being of older Ohioans and addresses the many challenges identified in the 2020 **Summary Assessment of Older Ohioans**.

The toolkit includes guidance and resources for aging network partners to act on the SAPA.

HPIO analysis identifies 12 strategies to prevent ACEs

New analysis from HPIO has identified 12 cost-beneficial strategies that state leaders can implement to prevent adverse childhood experiences.

The strategies are included in a new report, **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): A Strategic Approach to Prevent ACEs in Ohio**.

The brief highlights strategies Ohio's public and private leaders can implement to ensure that communities across the state are equipped to support children and families who are most at risk for experiencing adversity and trauma – including Ohioans of color and Ohioans with low incomes, disabilities and/or who live in urban and Appalachian areas.

Policy change leads to improved access in Ohio

Many forces influence movement toward improved health, equity and sustainable healthcare spending. While it can often take years to accomplish, policy can have an impact in ways not possible through direct service alone.

One example of the power of policy change is the impact of expanded Medicaid eligibility. Following the state's decision to expand Medicaid eligibility in 2014, more than 829,000 Ohioans now have Medicaid coverage,which drove a decrease in the uninsured rate from 13.4% to 7.2%.

In 2013, HPIO contributed to this policy change by partnering with other researchers to produce the Ohio Medicaid Expansion Study. A coalition of Ohio hospital, philanthropic and grassroots organizations used the analysis to inform the decision-making process. The study was cited by the Kasich Administration and members of the General Assembly during deliberations that resulted in Ohio Medicaid expansion approval.

Over the four editions of HPIO's *Health Value Dashboard*, Ohio's performance on access to care stands out as a positive trend (see graphic below).

In 2021, Ohio ranked seventh out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia for access to care — the first time Ohio has ranked in the top quartile on any *Health Value Dashboard* domain.

While access is clearly a bright spot for the state, the *Dashboard* found that Ohio's population health outcomes remain poor.

Access to care is critical, particularly for Ohioans with serious health conditions. But health is shaped by many factors, including our social, economic and physical environments. In order to improve overall health value, Ohio will need to replicate the policy focus it has had on access to comprehensively address all drivers of health and equity.

2021 HEALTH VALUE DASHBOARD

Ohio's rank on access to care

25	17	18	7
2014	2017	2019	2021

What's on the horizon?

Connections between racism and health

When: Wednesday, Oct. 27 • 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Online via Zoom

Ensuring that every Ohioan has a fair opportunity to achieve good health and well-being is a shared value among public and private leaders.

However, Ohioans of color continue to face barriers to health where they live, work, learn, play and age that are rooted in racism. Having a better understanding of the impacts of racism on communities of color is a necessary step toward a healthier future for Ohio.

This online forum will provide an overview of the role racism has played in shaping the health of Ohioans of color. Speakers will discuss barriers to learning about racism and provide new strategies for communicating on health equity.

Visit the HPIO website to register: **https://bit.ly/2ZaW3B6**

Speakers include:

- **Dr. Terrance Dean**, Assistant Professor, Black Studies, Denison University
- **Dr. Julie Sweetland**, Senior Advisor, FrameWorks Institute
- **Ruqaiijah Yearby**, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Institute for Healing Justice and Equity, and Professor, Saint Louis University School of Law

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