



Hunger and health

Exploring challenges and opportunities
in the food policy landscape

June 25, 2026



VISION

Every Ohioans reaches their full health potential

MISSION

To inform data-driven policy that improves health, health equity and the value of healthcare spending



2026 core funders





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2026 HEALTH VALUE DASHBOARD™

Findings from the Health Value Dashboard

Ohio ranks

Food insecurity



Diabetes



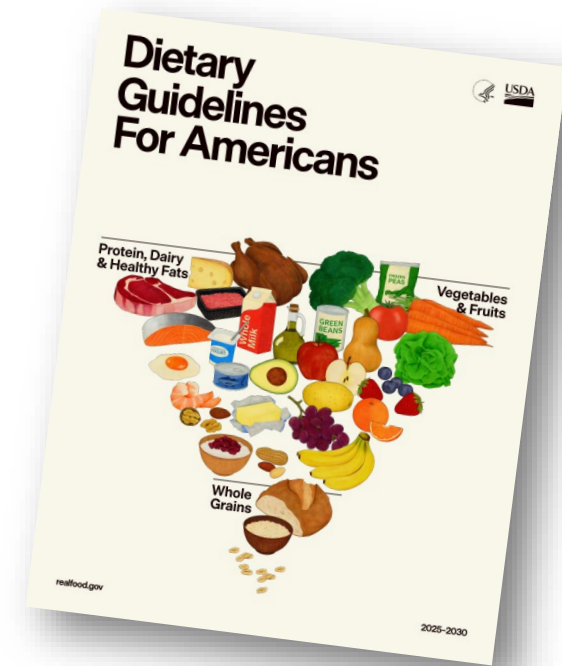
Hypertension



Source: Health Policy Institute of Ohio. 2026 Health Value Dashboard. April 2026.

Federal Interest in nutrition and chronic disease prevention

- Nutrition and diet
- Food ingredients and food production
- Healthy lifestyles
- Chronic disease prevention
- Childhood health



SNAP enrollment



Of Ohioans are enrolled in SNAP (1.38 million people, 712,131 households)

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, 2024

Ohio's estimated share of SNAP costs, before and after HR 1



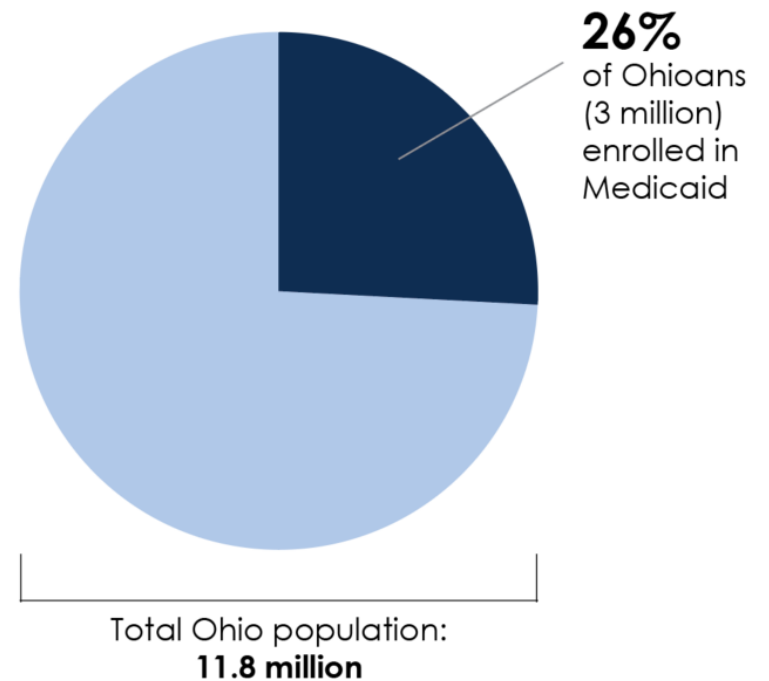
Source: Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality

Medicaid in Ohio

- **Jointly funded** by the state and federal government
- Covers nearly **3 million Ohioans** (26% of population)
- Coverage associated with **positive health and financial outcomes**

Estimated percent of Ohioans enrolled in Medicaid, December 2024

1 in 4 Ohioans are enrolled in Medicaid



Source: HPIO analysis of Ohio Department of Medicaid Demographic and Expenditure dashboard (Accessed Jan. 22, 2025) and U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2023 1-year estimates)

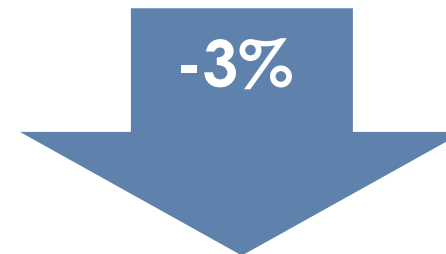
Estimated funding and coverage impacts of HR 1 on Ohio FFY 2025-2034

Federal Medicaid
funds to Ohio



-\$33 billion

Coverage

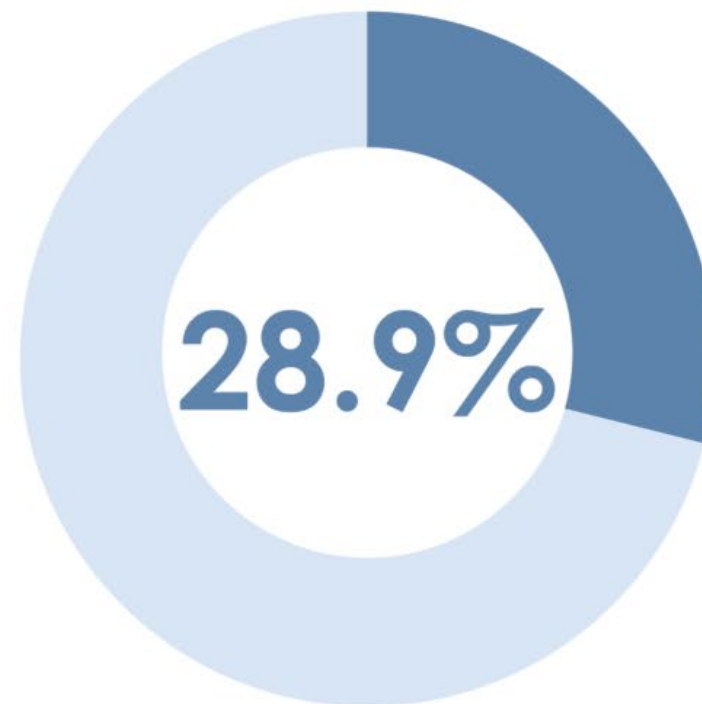


**-340,000
Ohioans**

Sources: Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy Center for Children and Families; KFF

Ohioans reporting difficulty paying for usual household expenses

More than 1 in 4 Ohioans had trouble paying expenses in 2023



Source: Health Policy Institute of Ohio, 2026 Health Value Dashboard, April 2026. Data from Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey, 2023

Learn more



Federal health policy impact on Ohio

A series of HPIO briefs on recent federal health policy changes



<https://www.healthpolicyohio.org/our-work/projects/federal-health-policy-impact-on-ohio>



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Nutrition and health in Ohio

Grace Wagner, Director of Health Initiatives
Ohio Association of Foodbanks



Who We Are

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger.

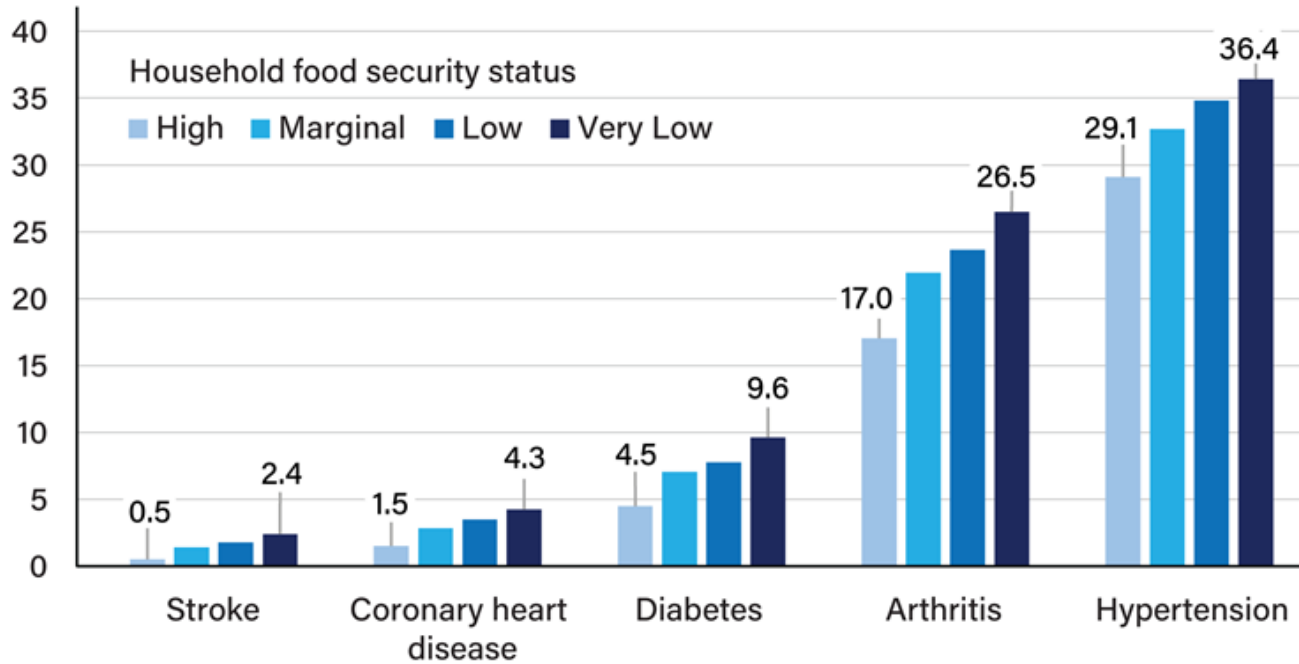
Our mission is to assist and represent Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks in providing food and other resources to people in need and to pursue areas of common interest for the benefit of people in need.



Predicted disease prevalences for adults in low-income households, 2019-22

USDA Economic Research Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Predicted prevalence (percent)



Note: **Predicted prevalence** estimates are adjusted for survey year indicators, age, gender, employment, marital status, race/ethnicity, insurance status, education, family size, and household income-to-poverty ratio. Sample includes working-age adults (19-64) in households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty line.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Health Interview Survey, 2019-22.

CHARTS of NOTE

LASTING IMPACTS: HOUSEHOLD HEALTH STATUS



34.4%
HAVE AT LEAST
ONE MEMBER
WHO IS
DISABLED



24.4%
HAVE AT LEAST
ONE MEMBER
WITH DIABETES



34.6%
HAVE AT LEAST
ONE MEMBER
WITH HIGH BLOOD
PRESSURE/
HYPERTENSION



12.3%
HAVE AT LEAST
ONE MEMBER
WITH HEART
DISEASE/STROKE



23.9%
HAVE AT LEAST
ONE MEMBER THAT
STRUGGLES WITH
MENTAL HEALTH
OR MENTAL
ILLNESS

MORE THAN HALF (57.8%) OF FOOD PANTRY VISITORS REPORTED THAT THEY WERE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN AFFORDING FOOD OR AFFORDING MEDICINE OR MEDICAL CARE, INCLUDING 25.6% THAT REPORTED DOING SO EVERY MONTH OR ALMOST EVERY MONTH OVER THE LAST YEAR.



49.9% VALUE THAT FOODBANKS HELP THEM EAT HEALTHIER FOODS

16.5% VALUE THAT FOODBANKS HELP THEM TO MANAGE THEIR HEALTH CONDITIONS

Hunger in Ohio 2024
A Data-Driven Profile on Ohioans Facing Hunger

PREVENTION ↔ TREATMENT



POPULATION-LEVEL HEALTHY FOOD POLICIES AND PROGRAMS



NUTRITION SECURITY PROGRAMS (SNAP, WIC, SCHOOL MEALS)



PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS



MEDICALLY TAILORED GROCERIES



MEDICALLY TAILORED MEALS

NUTRITION COUNSELING
AND EDUCATION

State-wide Initiatives



**Robust SNAP and
Medicaid assister
networks**



**Ohio Food is Medicine
Collaborative**

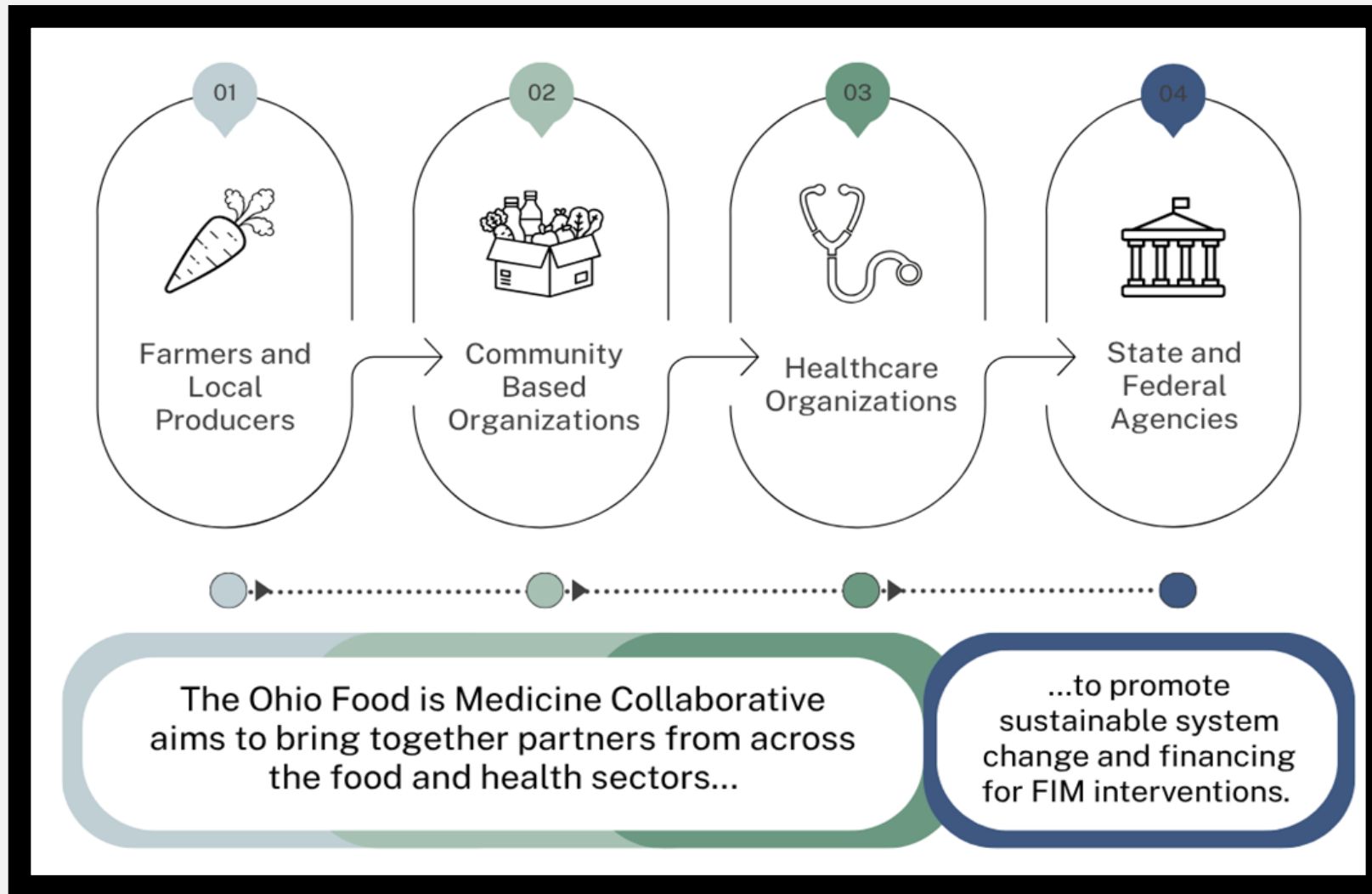


**Ohio Community Health
Collaborative, in
partnership with
Pathways HUBs and AAAs**



**Community Reinvestment
Collaborative Plan, led by
Medicaid managed care**

Ohio FIM Collaborative





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Panel discussion

Policy opportunities to advance
Food is Medicine initiatives



Questions?





Ways to influence policy

- Write letters, emails or make phone calls
- Provide district specific data
- Provide analysis of a bill
- Provide testimony at a legislative hearing
- Provide a one-page fact sheet
- Organize community partners to visit key policymakers
- Invite policymakers to visit your organization or speak at a meeting you host

Poll questions





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Thank you

