HPIO releases 2017 Health Value Dashboard

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio earlier this month released the latest edition of its Health Value Dashboard, which ranks states and the District of Columbia on a combination of population health and healthcare spending metrics. According to the Dashboard, Ohio ranks 46th in the nation on health value.

The Dashboard is unique in its emphasis on “health value,” rather than on population health outcomes alone. No other national ranking factors in the impact of healthcare spending. The Dashboard also takes a more comprehensive approach in looking at health by evaluating social, economic and physical environments, which are significant contributors to overall health. The Dashboard provides in-depth data on 118 metrics.

The HPIO Health Value Dashboard shows that Ohioans live less healthy lives (43rd in population health) and spend more on health care (31st in healthcare spending) than people in most other states.

“Ohio performs well on access to care, but poorly on population health,” HPIO President Amy Rohling McGee said. “Access to care is critical for people who are sick, experience an injury or have a chronic health condition. However, access alone is not sufficient to improve overall health. Ohio performs poorly on other important factors that impact health value.”

Like most states, Ohio’s performance is moving in the right direction, with more metrics that improved than worsened in recent years. However, there are a number of metrics in which Ohio ranked in the bottom quartile.

“The good news is that we know what works to improve health behaviors and support healthy communities,” McGee said. “We need to build on the improvements that have been made in Ohio and continue to implement evidence-informed solutions to address Ohio’s greatest health challenges.”

To assist policymakers in determining effective strategies, HPIO has launched an online Guide to Improving Health Value.

The data collection and analysis for the Dashboard was conducted in partnership with the Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. Metrics were selected by a wide array of experts who participated in an advisory group and workgroups convened by HPIO.

HPIO keeping pulse of federal policy changes

As the federal health policy landscape shifts on a seemingly daily basis, HPIO continues to monitor how any legislation or executive action in Washington will impact Ohioans.

The Institute will host a series of webinars throughout the year featuring state and national policy experts giving a “point-in-time” update on the latest in federal health policy (see more details on the reverse side).

Currently, HPIO is monitoring developments related to the American Health Care Act, the Republican plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

HPIO President Amy Rohling McGee appeared on WOSU radio program "All Sides with Ann Fisher" the morning after AHCA was introduced. She discussed how efforts to change the Medicaid program could impact Ohio access to care for Ohioans. The program is broadcast statewide to public television stations.

According to HPIO’s recently released Health Value Dashboard, Ohio ranks 17th in the nation on access to care and 13th in the nation on uninsured adults, rates that can be attributed, at least in part, to Ohio’s decision to expand Medicaid eligibility through the ACA. The percent of Ohioans who were unable to see a doctor due to cost also has greatly improved since the 2014 Dashboard and ranks 13th in the nation as well.

“Access to care is one of Ohio’s greatest strengths in the Dashboard so it is important for us to build on that strength,” McGee said. “The federal policy changes currently being considered have the potential to significantly impact access, so it is an issue we will be closely monitoring and analyzing.”
HPIO plays lead role in state health improvement plan process

ODH must conduct a state health assessment, or SHA, and prepare a SHIP in order to remain accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board. ODH contracted with HPIO to facilitate the development of the 2016 SHA and the 2017-2019 SHIP. The SHA was completed by HPIO in July 2016.

The SHIP is designed to be used as an actionable plan to improve population health outcomes and control healthcare spending. It is a strategic menu of priorities, outcome objectives and evidence-based strategies to address three of Ohio’s greatest health challenges:

- Mental health and addiction
- Chronic disease
- Maternal and infant health

ODH and OHT intend to use the SHA and the SHIP to strategically target resources and efforts led by the state and to inform policy. In announcing the release of the SHIP, OHT indicated that the plan guided the governor’s health policy decisions in his proposed budget.

“Governor John R. Kasich’s 2018-2019 budget directs funding toward Ohio’s greatest health challenges, including maternal and infant health, mental health and addiction, and chronic disease,” according to the release.

Taking a comprehensive approach, the plan highlights powerful underlying drivers of wellbeing, such as student success, housing affordability and tobacco prevention.

HPIO online seminar series

The path forward: What comes next for health policy?

With new federal leadership, there are likely to be significant reforms to health and healthcare policy in the U.S. The new executive administration and many in Congress have expressed strong interest in repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. However, the path forward is unclear, as are the potential impacts to states. This series of three online seminars will provide snapshots of federal health policy decision-making throughout 2017. National and Ohio-based speakers will address current health policy debates in Congress and the White House and the implications of federal-level changes for state policymaking and Ohioans.

The general attendance fee is $20 per online seminar. For additional information please see the registration page.

April 7, 2017
Seminar 1: David Jones, Assistant Professor, Health Law, Policy & Management, Boston University
David K. Jones joined the Boston University faculty in the fall of 2014 after completing a PhD at the University of Michigan. His research examines the political and policy issues surrounding the ACA’s implementation. He is working on a book about how states made decisions around whether or not to create health insurance exchanges.

July 14, 2017
Robert Laszewski is president of Health Policy and Strategy Associates, Inc. (HPSA), a policy and marketplace consulting firm specializing in assisting its clients through the significant health policy and market change afoot. Mr. Laszewski has participated extensively in the nation’s health care debate, especially on health insurance reform and the impact it will have on existing health insurance programs, the insurance industry, and the evolving role between payers and providers.

October 2017
Seminar 3: TBD

For more information or to register, visit http://bit.ly/2IXbEzG