Legislative Service Commission
social determinants of infant mortality

Advisory Group Meeting #4
October 17, 2017
Objectives

• Draft list of policy recommendations that address housing, transportation, education and employment
  – Refine and strengthen initial draft recommendations
  – Add new recommendations for consideration
  – Discuss prioritization
Meetings:
- Advisory Group: 4
- Housing Subcommittee: 2
- Steering Committee: 3
Trends in Ohio infant mortality rates, by race (1990-2016)


"Model-Fitted" Definition – Joinpoint software models were used to test the statistical significance of changes in trends. For each group the best fitting trend lines are presented. A change in trend was observed for all races infant mortality in 1996 and for white mortality in 1997. No change in trend was detected for black infant mortality.
## Timeline and deliverables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable/activity</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recruit and convene stakeholder groups</td>
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<td>8/28 AG meeting</td>
<td>8/17 AG meeting</td>
<td>9/14 AG meeting</td>
<td>10/17 AG meeting</td>
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<td>Most improved state research and <strong>Dashboard</strong> analysis</td>
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<td>8/23 HS meeting</td>
<td>9/21 HS meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature review and environmental scan: Housing, transportation, employment, education—including focus on rental assistance program</td>
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<td>Inventory of evidence-informed SDOH strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development and prioritization of recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final report</td>
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<td>Draft</td>
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AG = Advisory Group  
HS = Housing Subcommittee
SB 332 requirements

1. Review of policies and programs: housing, transportation, education, employment

2. Identify opportunities to improve policies and programs

3. Study impact of state-funded rental assistance program

4. Evaluate best practices from other states
Small group discussions at August Advisory Group meeting:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Education
- Employment
Summary of relationships between housing, transportation, education, employment and infant mortality

Cross-cutting factors
- Poverty
- Racism* and discrimination
- Toxic and persistent stress, trauma and violence

Challenges and inequities in the social, economic and physical environment**
- Housing
- Transportation
- Education
- Employment

Negative effects on health and equity
- Inadequate pre-conception, prenatal and post-natal care
- Poor maternal health
- Inadequate access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity
- Limited education and employment opportunities
- Poverty
- Toxic and persistent stress
- Other topic-specific factors***

Leading causes of infant mortality
- Poor birth outcomes
- Sudden unexplained infant death
- Accidents, injuries and violence

* Structural, institutional, interpersonal and internalized racism
** Topics specified for study by SB 332
*** See figures 2-5 for details
Policy recommendations
Policy recommendation development process

- Gather initial policy ideas through literature review and Advisory Group discussions
- Create evidence inventories for each topic
- Share evidence inventories and initial draft recommendations as pre-read before Oct. 17 AG meeting
Policy recommendation development process, cont.

- Discuss and refine recommendations at Oct. 17 Advisory Group meeting
- Prioritization by Advisory Group via online survey (immediately after Oct. 17 meeting)
- Finalize recommendations (Oct.-Nov.)
Policy recommendations are informed by...

- Inventory of evidence-based policies and programs (from evidence registries and systematic review)
- Literature reviews
- Most-improved state analysis
- Suggestions and priorities from Advisory Group
# HOUSING evidence inventory

Effective strategies to address housing challenges and inequities relevant to infant mortality

10-12-2017

**Key**
- **Green** = 2017-2019 State Health Improvement Plan strategy
- **Red** = Leading causes of infant mortality

## Affordability

**Relevant policy goals:**
- Increase access to housing rental assistance programs
- Reduce structural barriers to accessing affordable housing
- Increase the supply of affordable housing for renters with incomes at 50% of the area median income
- Improve coordination of services for low-income families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy or program</th>
<th>Evidence rating and direct outcomes documented in evidence review</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **1. Tenant-based rental assistance (SHIP)** | **CG:** Recommended:  
- Reduced exposure to crimes against person and property  
- Decreases in neighborhood social disorder  
  **WWFH (Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)):** Some evidence:  
- Increased neighborhood choice  
- Increased neighborhood socioeconomic diversity  
- Reduced exposure to crime |
| **2. Low-income housing tax** | **WWFH:** Some evidence:  
- Increased access to affordable housing |

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# EDUCATION evidence inventory

Effective policies and programs to address education challenges and inequities relevant to infant mortality

HPIO draft: 10/12/17

**Key**
- **Green** = 2017-2019 State Health Improvement Plan strategy
- **Red** = Leading causes of infant mortality
- **Italic** = Outcomes also relevant to housing, employment, poverty, racism, stress or violence

## Educational attainment

**Relevant policy goals:**
- Increase high school graduation rates through programs geared toward the highest risk students
- Strengthen dropout prevention and recovery schools and programs
- Increase the number of Ohio adults who take and pass high school equivalency exams or pursue or earn a high school diploma
- Improve college preparation and college entry programs and services for low-income Ohioans
- Strengthen career-technical education programs
- Reduce financial barriers to post-secondary education
- Reduce other barriers to high school completion programs and post-secondary education for students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy or program</th>
<th>Evidence rating and direct outcomes documented in evidence review</th>
<th>Indirect / other potential outcomes in evidence review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **1. Career academies** | **WWFH:** Scientifically supported:  
- Increased high school graduation  
- Increased academic achievement  
- Improved student attendance  
  **Top Tier Evidence:** Top Tier:  
- Sustained increase in annual earnings for men | **WWFH:** Other potential beneficial outcomes:  
- Increased earnings |

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Types of evidence

Evidence-based decision making

- Best available research evidence
- Experiential evidence
- Contextual evidence

Source: Puddy and Wilkens (2011)
Pathway diagram, literature review and Advisory Group input + Evidence inventory + Subject matter expertise on specific policy levers for Ohio = Policy recommendation
Criteria for prioritizing policy recommendations

- Strength of evidence of effectiveness
- Relevance to the priority populations for infant mortality
- Potential size of impact on overall infant mortality rate and risk factors
- Potential size of impact on inequities and disparities
- Opportunities given current landscape and awareness of the problem in Ohio
- Short-term political feasibility (2 years)*
Criteria for prioritizing policy recommendations

• Strength of evidence of effectiveness
• Relevance to the priority populations for infant mortality
• Potential size of impact on overall infant mortality rate and risk factors
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• Opportunities given current landscape and awareness of the problem in Ohio
• Short-term political feasibility (2 years)*
132nd General Assembly

**House**

- **Rep. Cliff Rosenberger** - Speaker
- **Rep. Fred Strahorn** - Minority Leader

- **66 Republicans**
- **33 Democrats**

**Senate**

- **Sen. Larry Obhof** - Senate President
- **Sen. Kenny Yuko** - Minority Leader

- **24 Republicans**
- **9 Democrats**

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Policy goals

Tier 1 recommendations: Politically feasible within next two years (emphasize in report)

Tier 2 recommendations: Policy options for the longer-term (include in report)
Effective policy recommendations are....

- Specific and actionable
- Directed at the decision-making authority that can implement the change
  - Legislative, executive or judicial branch
  - Federal, state or local
  - Public or private
- Evidence-informed
- Realistic within policy landscape
“Health is about more than health care, and the same is true for health equity.”

- Steven H. Woolf
Health Affairs, June 2017
Health inequities, disparities and equity

Health inequities
Disparities in rates due to differences in the distribution of social, economic, environmental or healthcare resources*

Health disparities
Differences in health status among segments of the population such as by race or ethnicity, education, income or disability status

Health equity

*Working definition from the CDC Health Equity Working Group, October 2007

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Priority populations

Groups of Ohioans most at risk for infant mortality:
• African Americans
• People with low levels of educational attainment
• People with low income
• Residents of infant mortality “hot spot” communities
• Pregnant women and parents of infants
• People of childbearing age
# Small groups

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Policy goals</th>
<th>Policy recommendations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>Employment</td>
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Contact

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Health Policy Institute of Ohio
a.stevens@healthpolicyohio.org
Upcoming HPIO forum

Politics, perceptions and the role of evidence in policymaking

Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017
Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square

Speakers include:
- **Ron Haskins**, Co-Chair, Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking and Brookings Institution
- **Jennifer Haberkorn**, Politico
- **Aaron Sharockman**, PolitiFact

For more information or to register, visit www.hpio.net