

HPIO report gives state policymakers options for addressing infant mortality

In December, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio delivered a report to state policymakers titled "A New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity."

Senate Bill 332, which was signed into law in early 2017, required the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to contract with a nonprofit organization to issue a report regarding the social determinants of infant mortality. LSC contracted with HPIO for this purpose.



Developed with guidance from more than 100 Ohio stakeholders, the report:

- Describes the many ways that factors beyond medical care affect the health of infants and their families, focusing on housing, transportation, education and employment as required by SB 332
- Assesses the extent to which current housing, transportation, education and employment policies and programs meet the needs of Ohioans most at risk for infant mortality
- Identifies lessons learned from other states that have successfully reduced overall and black infant mortality rates, including innovative ideas to address the social determinants of health
- Offers specific, actionable and evidence-informed policy options that state and local policymakers can employ to address unmet needs and inequities

The full report, a 16-page executive summary and 2-page snapshot are available on [HPIO's webpage](http://www.hpio.net).

2017 HPIO highlights

Throughout the year, HPIO partnered with policymakers and other stakeholders engaged in the policymaking process to provide the independent and nonpartisan analysis needed to create evidence-informed state health policy. Below are examples of HPIO projects identified by stakeholders in our year-end survey as having the biggest impact on the policymaking process.

State Health Improvement Plan: Facilitated by HPIO under state contract, the plan has shaped policy priorities and resource allocation at the state and local level, and also has put a focus on social determinants of health and equity.

Infant mortality: HPIO's work on social determinants of health helped set the stage for Senate Bill 332 and subsequent implementation of SB 332 provisions. The infant mortality report released by HPIO in December will inform work to address the social drivers of infant mortality going forward (see story to the left).

Dashboard: The *HPIO Health Value Dashboard*, the second edition of which was released in March, is seen as a foundational resource for discussions of population health in the state, as well as a useful tool for advocacy and setting priorities.

Medicaid: HPIO's credible and non-partisan work on Medicaid, including "Ohio Medicaid Basics 2017," is used as a resource by state policymakers and other stakeholders to inform decisions about Medicaid eligibility and other Medicaid-related policies.

Education and health: HPIO's series of products on education and health policy have raised the visibility of the connections between the issues, offered policy options and provided analysis to inform recently introduced legislation on school expulsions and suspensions.

Opiate and addiction: HPIO's work — including a September addiction forum and newly launched Addiction Evidence Project — has informed decisions to address Ohio's opiate crisis and improve the state's behavioral health system.

HPIO Equity Advisory Group works to increase understanding of the issue in Ohio

HPIO is convening stakeholders across sectors in Ohio to bridge the gap in knowledge and understanding of health equity and provide a forum for developing more consistent and persuasive messaging to policymakers.

Stakeholders in Ohio neither share a common definition of health equity nor a common understanding of how to achieve health equity. This lack of consensus and understanding can impede productive and actionable discussions to advance health equity throughout the state.

HPIO's Equity Advisory Group will:

- Come to consensus on a shared definition of health equity
- Inform the development of resources that provide information on approaches to achieving health equity
- Advise development of a "key messages" fact sheet that provides more consistent and persuasive messaging to policymakers related to health equity work

The Equity Advisory Group held its first meeting Jan. 18, with other meetings planned through the spring. Information is available at hpio.net/hpio-equity-advisory-group

Following HPIO recommendations, ODH shares population health info

Responding to recommendations in HPIO's 2016 report "Improving Population Health Planning in Ohio," the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently launched a [new webpage](#) that compiles community health assessments and plans completed by local health departments and hospitals, as well as community benefit information for tax-exempt hospitals in Ohio.

To learn more about HPIO's work to improve population health planning in Ohio, visit www.hpio.net/populationhealth

The 2016 report was prepared by HPIO for the Ohio Governor's Office of Health Transformation, ODH and the Ohio Department of Medicaid, to facilitate stakeholder engagement and develop recommendations to improve the state's population health planning infrastructure. The report was used to inform the work of the 2016 State Health Assessment (SHA) and the 2017-2019 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), both of which were created by HPIO under contract with ODH.

The information on the new [ODH website](#) lays the groundwork for ongoing implementation of the 2017-2019 SHIP and future SHIPs.

Thank you to our funders

The following core funders are advancing the health of Ohioans through informed policy decisions:

- Interact for Health
- Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
- The George Gund Foundation
- Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland
- The Cleveland Foundation
- HealthPath Foundation of Ohio
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
- Cardinal Health Foundation
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- Mercy Health
- CareSource Foundation
- SC Ministry Foundation
- United Way of Central Ohio

Upcoming HPIO Forum

Addressing the social drivers of healthy aging

Policy options to improve health and impact spending growth

As Ohio's population continues to age, policymakers are faced with unique challenges. This forum, a follow-up to a popular 2016 HPIO forum, will explore the aging policy landscape, supports for healthy aging, public and private payment models and social determinants of health for aging populations.

Featured Speakers

- **Robert Applebaum**, Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University
- **Barbara Sears**, Director of Ohio Department of Medicaid
- **Glennon Sweeney**, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
- **Zach Kenitzer**, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
- **Angelica Herrera-Venson**, National Council on Aging
- **Anne Montgomery**, Altarum
- **Jean Accius**, AARP
- **Josephine Kalipeni**, Caring Across Generations
- And more to be announced!

Featuring a panel discussion on Ohio's age-friendly communities in:

- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Oxford

When: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018

Where: The Conference Center at OCLC — Lakeview Room
6600 Kilgour Place
Dublin, OH 43017

Keep up-to-date with all HPIO events at
www.hpio.net/category/events/