Key findings

Overall wellbeing for Ohioans has declined. Trends in premature death, life expectancy and overall health status indicate that the health of Ohioans has worsened. Unintentional injuries (including drug overdose), cancer and heart disease were the leading causes of premature death in 2017.

Many Ohioans lack opportunities to reach their full health potential. SHA data identifies several groups that experience much worse outcomes than the state overall, including Ohioans who are black/African American, have lower incomes, have disabilities or live in Appalachian counties.

Underlying drivers of health must be addressed. Data and regional forum findings support the need to address the following cross-cutting factors: physical activity, tobacco use, access to dental and mental health care, income and unemployment, adverse childhood experiences, transportation, lead poisoning risk and racism.

Mental health and addiction, chronic disease, and maternal and infant health continue to be significant challenges in Ohio. Ohio’s performance on these priorities has worsened or remained unchanged in recent years.

New concerns emerge in the wake of Ohio’s addiction crisis. Drug use has contributed to troubling increases in hepatitis C and children in foster care.

Life expectancy drop serves as call to action

After decades of improvement, Ohioans’ life expectancy at birth declined from 2010 to 2017 by about one year.

Impact of racism and discrimination persists

Historical and contemporary injustices compound over a lifetime, leading to higher rates of infant deaths, blood pressure, late-stage cancer diagnoses and shorter lives for some groups, particularly black/African-American Ohioans.

Multi-sector collaboration to improve health is critical

An estimated 80 percent of the modifiable factors that impact overall health are attributed to community conditions and the opportunity to make healthy choices.

Factors that influence health

- Clinical care (Such as prenatal care quality and access)
- Health behaviors (Such as tobacco use and nutrition)
- Social, economic and physical environment (Such as housing, transportation, education and employment)

Underlying drivers of inequity: Poverty, racism, discrimination, trauma, violence and toxic stress
The road to improvement
SHA findings emphasize that improvement must build upon:
• A comprehensive framework with clear priorities and measurable objectives
• Shared priorities across rural, urban and Appalachian regions of the state
• Cross-sector partnerships to address the many factors that shape our health
• State and local efforts to achieve health equity

Next steps
A collaborative of stakeholders from across Ohio are developing the 2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), to be released later in 2019. This plan will provide a roadmap to address the challenges highlighted in the SHA.

The 2020-2022 SHIP will include a strategic menu of priorities, outcome objectives and evidence-based strategies to be implemented by state agencies, local health departments, hospitals and other community partners, including sectors beyond health.

Regional forum insights
While each community is unique, results from SHA regional forums and an online survey found that there were many shared strengths, challenges and priorities across the state. Top priorities overall included:

Health outcomes
• Mental health and addiction
• Chronic disease
• Maternal and infant health

Cross-cutting factors
• Poverty
• Transportation
• Physical activity and nutrition
• Access to care

How was the SHA developed?
Led by ODH, the SHA was developed with input from hundreds of Ohioans through:
• Five regional forums held in October 2018 with 521 participants
• Online survey completed by 308 stakeholders
• Advisory Committee with 101 participants (as of April 2019)
• Steering Committee made up of representatives from 13 state agencies, including sectors beyond health

The Online SHA includes data on a wide range of topics, including:
• Health outcomes and behaviors
• Healthcare spending, access and quality
• Public health and prevention
• Social, economic and physical environment factors, such as education, employment, poverty, housing, violence and transportation
• Disparities, trends and comparisons between Ohio and the U.S. overall

Funded by ODH, the SHA and SHIP provide information and guidance for many state agencies. The 2020-2022 SHIP will align state agency priorities toward a shared vision of improved health and economic vitality.