

## HPIO work influences state policy changes in 2019

2019 was another successful year for HPIO, as the organization continued to partner 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 some examples of state policy changes that were influenced by HPIO's work.

- **Naloxone storage licensing:** In 2019, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy issued a resolution permitting a licensed terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) to store naloxone off-site for the purposes of personally furnishing it. This policy change supports increased community distribution of the overdose-reversal drug and was included as an "opportunity for improvement" in the [Addiction Evidence Project scorecard report on harm reduction](#), which was released in Nov. 2018. HPIO discussed the issue with the Pharmacy Board and provided technical assistance regarding the policy change to RecoveryOhio.
- **Harm reduction funding:** Funding for harm reduction was added as a new line item for the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) in the 2020-2021 state budget. This is the first time that harm reduction is explicitly funded in a state budget in Ohio and is consistent with findings of HPIO's [Addiction Evidence Project scorecard report on harm reduction](#). Leaders from ODH and RecoveryOhio reported that this publication has been a useful resource.
- **School-based prevention reporting and funding:** The 2020-2021 state budget included a provision to track prevention programs in K-12 schools

and additional funding for school-based prevention and wellness, consistent with recommendations from HPIO's [education and health series](#), [Addiction Evidence Project](#) and [Health Value Dashboard](#).

- **Tobacco 21:** The 2020-2021 state budget increased the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to age 21. In addition, several local municipalities passed Tobacco 21 ordinances, including a comprehensive policy passed in Cincinnati. Stakeholders indicated that HPIO's work on tobacco prevention and cessation (particularly in the [Health Value Dashboard](#)) contributed to these changes.
- **Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR):** The 2020-2021 state budget establishes a PAMR that is required to release data on maternal mortality every two years. HPIO staff provided technical assistance to policymakers during development of this provision.
- **Agency collaboration on behavioral health and child welfare:** Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services staff report that they have used the substance use disorder report HPIO prepared for ODH as part of the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting project to collaborate across agencies to improve outcomes for families affected by addiction.
- **Telehealth:** As the result of a 2019 rule change, the Ohio Department of Medicaid significantly expanded coverage of telehealth services. HPIO's earlier work on telehealth helped to lay the foundation for this change.

## HPIO tapped to create Strategic Action Plan on Aging

The Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) is contracting with HPIO to facilitate development of the Strategic Action Plan on Aging (SAPA).

The SAPA will build off of ODA's [2019-2022 State Plan on Aging](#) and align with Ohio's 2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan.

HPIO is convening a SAPA Advisory Committee to provide guidance on a concise set of priorities, outcomes and strategies for Ohio's aging population to include in the SAPA.

HPIO will first produce a Summary Assessment of Older Ohioans, which will combine primary data key findings compiled by ODA in the development of its State Plan on Aging with a prioritized set of secondary data measures collected and analyzed by HPIO.

The completed SAPA will provide a prioritized and specific action plan that state and local partners can use to ensure all Older Ohioans achieve their full health potential.

# HPIO continues work analyzing Ohio's response to addiction epidemic

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio has released the third in a series of inventories and scorecards analyzing Ohio's policy response to the addiction crisis and outlining areas where the state could be more effective.

The new report, "**Ohio Addiction Policy Inventory and Scorecard: Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System**," provides policymakers and other stakeholders with the information needed to take stock of Ohio's policy response to addiction within the law enforcement and criminal justice sectors.

Key findings include:

- **Progress toward evidence-informed policies.** Ohio is beginning to move in the right direction by embracing evidence-informed policies, such as Crisis Intervention Teams and specialized dockets, that address addiction in law enforcement and criminal justice settings.
- **Systemic issues in the criminal justice system.** National "tough on crime" policies have resulted in high rates of incarceration for addiction-related offenses. In addition, historically

discriminatory criminal justice practices have disproportionately impacted communities of color. More can be done to reduce the number of people with substance use disorder in the criminal justice system, decrease spending on incarceration and improve outcomes for Ohioans struggling with addiction.

- **Gaps in data and information.** Policymakers do not have the information they need to comprehensively address addiction and inequities in the criminal justice system because of significant gaps in data collection, analysis and evaluation.

In 2018, HPIO released scorecard reports on **prevention, treatment and recovery** and **overdose reversal and other forms of harm reduction**. Future reports will address children's services and data and evaluation.

In recent years HPIO has created **several tools** for policymakers to address the addiction crisis. Addiction-related data was also included in HPIO's **Health Value Dashboard**.

## 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
- Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland
- The George Gund Foundation
- The Cleveland Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation, Cleveland
- Sisters of Charity Foundation, Canton
- HealthPath Foundation
- Cardinal Health Foundation
- Mercy Health
- Nord Family Foundation
- CareSource Foundation
- North Canton Medical Foundation
- SC Ministry Foundation

## Upcoming HPIO Forum

### Ohio's policy response to addiction Law enforcement and the criminal justice system

In the wake of the addiction crisis, policymakers are engaged in a bipartisan effort to reform Ohio's criminal justice system.

Participants will learn more about the findings of HPIO's report, "Ohio Addiction Policy Inventory and Scorecard: Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System," from state and national experts.

#### Speakers include:

- **Vanessa Price**, Director, National Drug Court Institute
- **Monica Kagey**, Manager, Specialized Dockets, Supreme Court of Ohio
- **And more to be announced!**

**When: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020**  
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Where: The Conference Center at OCLC, Lakeside Room**  
6600 Kilgour Pl.  
Dublin, OH 43017

The registration fees for the forum are:

- \$65 general admission
- \$80 with 3.5 hours of social work continuing education units
- \$100 with 3.5 hours of continuing legal education credits
- There is no charge for state executive branch employees, legislators and staff (may be subject to JLEC disclosure)
- HPIO Board Directors can attend for free using the promo code: BOARD



## HPIO is moving

At the end of January, HPIO will be moving to the 140 Town Center building, located on the corner of Town and Fourth streets in Columbus. Our new address will be:

**140 E. Town Street, Suite 1000, Columbus, OH 43215**