

Fact sheet spotlights racial disparities in infant mortality

HPIO released a new fact sheet titled **“Taking action: Eliminating racial disparities in infant mortality.”**

The fact sheet highlights that, “For many years, Ohio’s infant mortality rate has been higher than most other states... Ohio’s policymakers and health leaders have acted on this issue through multiple advisory committees, collaborative efforts, investments, legislation and other policy changes.”

In December 2020, Governor DeWine announced the creation of a new task force focused on eliminating racial disparities in infant mortality by 2030. The task force will host listening sessions in 11 counties, providing an opportunity for members to learn about

promising programs, evaluation results and barriers to improving maternal and infant health for Black families.

The fact sheet includes troubling infant mortality disparities data (see graphic below) and information on what can drive change and move Ohio forward. It highlights three action steps that are needed to eliminate racial disparities in infant mortality. Future efforts must:

1. Dismantle racism and address its consequences
2. Improve health across the life course, not just pregnancy
3. Maintain improvements in access to clinical care, while also advancing meaningful policy changes to improve community conditions

HPIO addiction scorecard focuses on youth, families

A new policy scorecard from HPIO has found that Ohio policymakers can do more to effectively address addiction’s toll on children and families.

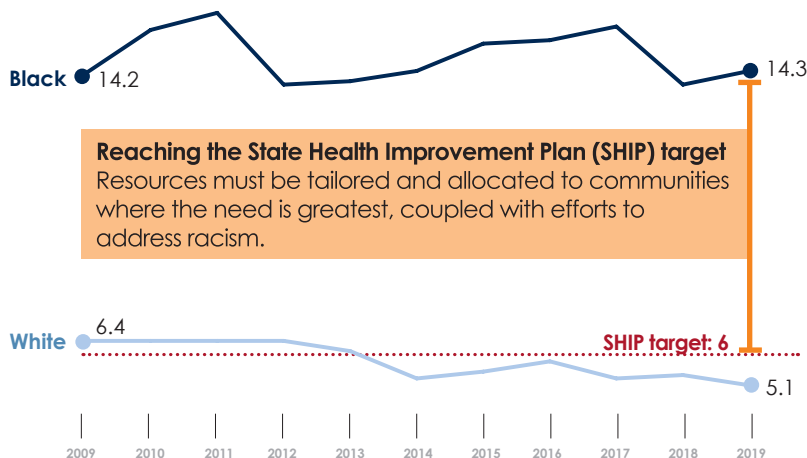
The latest in a series of scorecards detailing Ohio’s policy response to the addiction crisis, HPIO explores parental substance use and its impact on children, youth and families.

The release of the **Ohio Addiction Policy Scorecard: Children, Youth and Families** follows new data from the Ohio Department of Health showing that the state’s overdose death rate increased by 6.4% from 2018 to 2019. The 2020 rate is expected to be even higher.

The scorecard found that Ohio’s sharp rise in drug overdose deaths from 2011 to 2017 was followed by a steady increase in the number of children entering the child protection system. The scorecard also shows that Ohio has launched multiple programs to address the needs of children and families impacted by addiction, but more can be done to keep families together, ameliorate childhood trauma and build resilience.

This latest release is the fourth in a series of policy scorecards designed to provide policymakers and other stakeholders with information needed to address substance use disorders in a comprehensive, effective and efficient way. All materials in HPIO’s Addiction Evidence Project are available on HPIO’s website, including a new **compilation of opportunities for improvement** from all of the policy scorecards.

Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births) by race, Ohio (2009-2019)



Source: Ohio Department of Health

HPIO's year at a glance

2020

31
reports, executive
summaries, fact sheets
and resource pages



Cited or quoted in

101

media articles



COVID-19



42
research
updates

4
Data
briefs

556
research articles
reviewed and
summarized

4,863
visits to HPIO's
COVID-19
resource page

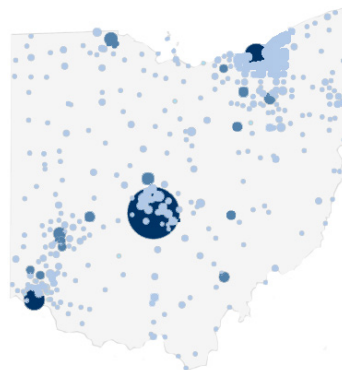


31
presentations

8
forums hosted
with over
750
attendees

Statewide reach

There were **36,523** visits to HPIO's website in 2020. More than 63%, or 23,100 visits, were from Ohioans:



Thank you to our funders

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

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- 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
- Nord Family Foundation
- North Canton Medical Foundation
- Mercy Health
- CareSource Foundation

staff-picked

Top 5 highlights of HPIO's work in 2020

1
Informing Ohio's
response to
COVID-19

2
Releasing a brief
on connections
between **racism**
and health

3
Facilitating the
**COVID-19 Minority
Health Strike Force
Blueprint**

4
Releasing a brief
and hosting a
forum on **adverse
childhood
experiences**

5
Releasing fourth
**addiction policy
scorecard**

Work begins on next edition of HPIO Health Value Dashboard

HPIO has begun work on the fourth edition of its *Health Value Dashboard*. The latest version is slated to be released in April.

In 2014, HPIO developed the *Health Value Dashboard* to enable Ohio policy makers to track Ohio's progress towards health value — a composite measure of Ohio's performance on population health outcomes and healthcare spending. The *Dashboard* examines Ohio's performance relative to other states, tracks change over time and examines Ohio's greatest

health disparities and inequities. The *Dashboard* is released every two years to coincide with the introduction of Ohio's biennium budget. The 2019 edition of the *Dashboard* has been viewed more than 7,400 times since its release.



Like previous editions, the 2021 *Dashboard* will include more than 100 metrics in which Ohio's performance is compared to the 49 other states and the District of Columbia. It will also include equity profiles spotlighting the magnitude of differences in outcomes of Ohioans based on race, ethnicity, education, income and disability status.

In addition, the *Dashboard* will include a section on COVID-19 in Ohio, compared to other states.