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.
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

556 research articles reviewed and summarized

4 Data briefs

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:

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

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.