

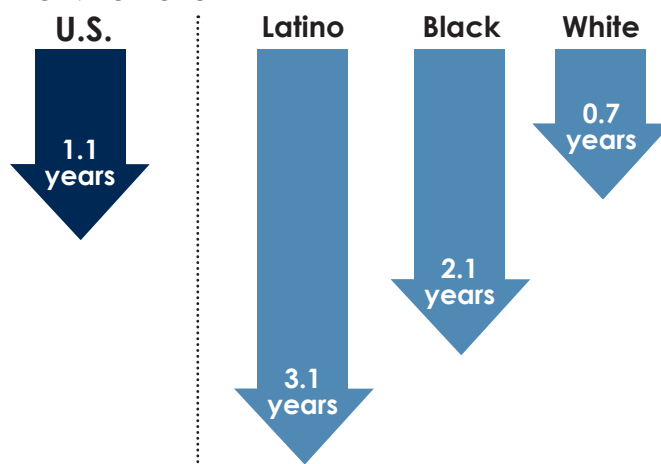
Impact of COVID-19 on health value

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in numerous health, social and economic challenges since March 2020. Though the full impacts of COVID-19 on health value cannot yet be fully assessed, researchers estimate that life expectancy in the U.S. dropped by 1.1 years in 2020, the largest single-year decline in more than 40 years.¹

Preliminary data and analysis suggest that COVID-19 has affected, and will continue to affect, the many factors that influence health, including employment, education, public health and healthcare. Examples of specific impacts include:

- **Education.** Reading test scores indicate that Ohio third-graders experienced about one-third of a year of learning loss by fall of 2020.²
- **Unemployment.** The economic downturn stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic led to increased unemployment in the U.S. Ohio's unemployment rate more than tripled in the early months of the pandemic, growing from 4.9% in March 2020 to 16.4% in April 2020. As of Feb. 2021, the rate is 5%.³
- **Immunizations.** Child immunizations have decreased rapidly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, likely due to delayed routine check-ups.⁴
- **Early cancer diagnosis.** Cancer screenings decreased early in the pandemic.⁵
- **Healthcare spending.** More than one in three non-elderly adults in the U.S. have reported that they delayed seeking or getting healthcare since March 2020.⁶ Year-to-year spending on healthcare services fell by approximately 2% from 2019 to 2020, the first decline in health spending in decades.⁷
- **Drug overdose deaths.** Rates of substance use and opioid use disorder are likely to increase, although the magnitude of COVID-19's impact is not yet known.⁸ Preliminary data from 2020 show that overdose rates increased by 20% in Ohio compared to 2019, reversing a previous downward trend.⁹

Estimated decline in life expectancy from 2019 to 2020



Impact on health equity

The COVID-19 pandemic is disparately impacting systematically disadvantaged communities across Ohio, including Ohioans of color, with disabilities and residents of urban or Appalachian counties.¹⁰ In many cases, the impact of the pandemic is widening existing inequities and health disparities. For example:

- **Life expectancy.** Researchers estimate that Black and Hispanic Americans will experience an outsized decline in life expectancy — 2.1 years and 3.1 years respectively — compared to the 1.1 years of decline in life expectancy for all Americans because of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹¹
- **Education.** Analysis of Ohio data in the fall 2020 found that declines in third-grade reading test scores for economically disadvantaged students were more pronounced for non-economically disadvantaged students.¹²
- **Unemployment.** In the fourth quarter of 2020, the unemployment rate for Black Ohioans (11.1%) was 2.3 times that of white Ohioans (4.8%).¹³

For all HPIO Health Value Dashboard material, visit

www.hpio.net/2021-health-value-dashboard



Notes

1. Andrasfay, Theresa and Noreen Goldman, "Reductions in 2020 US life expectancy due to COVID-19 and the disproportionate impact on the Black and Latino populations." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Feb 2021, 118 (5) e2014746118; DOI: 10.10173/pnas.2014746118
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3. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Unemployment Rate in Ohio, as compiled by FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Accessed April 1, 2021.
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10. Nemeth, Julianna M. and Tasleem Padamsee, "Ohio's COVID-19 Population Needs Assessment." The Ohio State University College of Public Health, October 2020. <https://cph.osu.edu/sites/default/files/docs/covid19inequities/1-Full Report.pdf>
11. Andrasfay, Theresa and Noreen Goldman, "Reductions in 2020 US life expectancy due to COVID-19 and the disproportionate impact on the Black and Latino populations." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Feb 2021, 118 (5) e2014746118; DOI: 10.10173/pnas.2014746118
12. Kogan, Vladimir and Stéphane Lavertu, "The COVID-19 Pandemic and Student Achievement on Ohio's Third-Grade English Language Arts Assessment*." The Ohio State University, 2021. http://glenn.osu.edu/educational-governance/reports/reports-attributes/ODE_ThirdGradeELA_KL_1-27-2021.pdf
13. "State unemployment by race and ethnicity." Economic Policy Institute, Economic Indicators, March 2021. <https://www.epi.org/indicators/state-unemployment-race-ethnicity/>