

## HPIO brief series spotlights strategies to prevent ACEs

A **new publication** from HPIO details the state's progress in taking action on four key evidence-informed strategies to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs): Early childhood education, early childhood home visiting, medical-legal partnerships and family income supports.

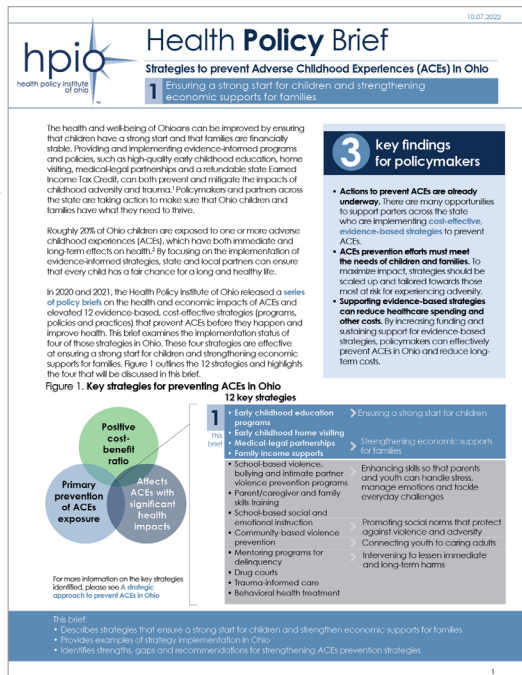
The publication is the first of three examining opportunities to prevent ACEs in Ohio. ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur during childhood and can generally be grouped into three categories: Abuse, household challenges and neglect.

"Ensuring a strong start for children and strengthening economic supports for families both contribute to making sure that every child in Ohio has the opportunity to reach their full health potential," the publication states.

The ACEs series is funded by the Harmony Project and HPIO's other core funders.

In 2020 and 2021, HPIO released a **series of policy briefs** on the health and economic impacts of ACEs and elevated 12 evidence-based, cost-effective strategies (programs, policies and practices) that prevent ACEs and improve health.

HPIO's **previous research** found that Ohio can eliminate more than \$10 billion in annual healthcare and related spending attributable to ACEs exposure.



## HPIO revisiting infant mortality report with series of action guides

Five years after the release of its comprehensive report on upstream strategies to prevent infant mortality, HPIO is preparing to provide state leaders with an update on Ohio's progress and give policymakers a list of prioritized recommendations upon which they can act.

HPIO delivered its report, "**A New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity**," to state leaders in December 2017, following the passage of Senate Bill 332 in early 2017. That legislation required the Legislative Service Commission (LSC) to contract with a nonprofit organization to issue a report regarding the social determinants of infant mortality. LSC contracted with HPIO for the project.

The centerpiece of the new report will be a series of five action guides for stakeholders that highlight prioritized policy recommendations related to improving housing, transportation, education, employment and eliminating racism. The new publications will also include tools for action that will provide stakeholders with guidance on how to implement the recommendations.

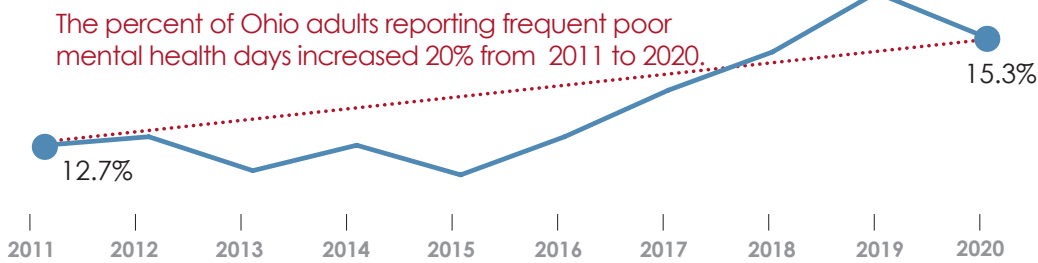
In conversations with state leaders and stakeholders, HPIO determined that there is a need to build on the foundation of the original work and move beyond a long list of recommendations. Stakeholders have indicated they want a prioritized set of recommendations that can be put into action.

The action guides will be designed to describe Ohio's budget and legislative process and outline how to effectively advocate for change at the state and local levels.

The Bruening Foundation and HPIO's other core funders are supporting this work.

## More Ohioans reporting frequent days of poor mental health

Percent of Ohio adults who reported frequent (14 or more) days of poor mental health in the past month



Source: Health Policy Institute of Ohio data snapshot, "Trends in mental health among Ohioans." Data from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2020.

## New HPIO Data Snapshot illustrates mental health trends in Ohio

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio has released a [Data Snapshot](#) with visualizations of data on prevalence and trends of mental health concerns in Ohio.

The snapshot includes data graphics on poor mental health days, depression, mental health care and trends in suicide. The publication also includes a list of resources to improve resilience and recovery in Ohio.

Ohio does relatively well compared to other states in providing care to those with mental health challenges, according to HPIO's [2021 Health Value Dashboard](#).

However, the new data analysis found that the number of Ohioans reporting depression is higher than the national average. Additionally, the percent of Ohioans reporting poor mental health (as displayed in the graphic above) and the number of suicides in the state have steadily increased over the past decade.

## HPIO resource page informs voters on ballot issue

HPIO has created an [online resource page on Issue 1](#), a statewide ballot initiative that will be decided by voters in the Nov. 8 general election.

Issue 1, if passed, would add language to the Ohio Constitution requiring Ohio courts to consider public safety when setting bail amounts, including the seriousness of the offense, a person's criminal record, the likelihood a person will return to court and any other factor that the Ohio General Assembly may prescribe. It would also remove the requirement that the procedures for establishing the amount and conditions of bail be determined by the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Since voters are policymakers in the case of a ballot initiative, HPIO created the resource page to make information on Ohio Issue 1 easily accessible. The resource page includes background on the initiative, information on the connections between criminal justice and health, research and analysis of Issue 1 and media coverage of the issue. The page also includes position statements from both proponents and opponents of the initiative.

HPIO's recently released policy brief "[Connections between Criminal Justice and Health: Pretrial Incarceration and the Bail System](#)" includes research that indicates that money bail negatively affects the health, safety and well-being of incarcerated people, their families and their communities. Poor jail conditions, such as overcrowding, lack of sanitation and inadequate nutrition, contribute to poor health among people in jail, and pretrial incarceration exposes more people to these effects.

## Thank you to our core funders

These funders are advancing HPIO's mission by providing general operating support:

- bi3
- Bruening Foundation
- CareSource Foundation
- The Cleveland Foundation
- The George Gund Foundation
- The Harmony Project
- HealthPath Foundation of Ohio
- Interact for Health
- Mercy Health
- Mt. Sinai Health Foundation
- Nord Family Foundation
- North Canton Medical Foundation
- Ohio State Bar Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland

A list of HPIO project-specific funders is available at: [www.hpio.net/our-funders](http://www.hpio.net/our-funders)

## Work on 2023 Health Value Dashboard continues

HPIO continues to prepare for the Spring 2023 release of the latest edition of its *Health Value Dashboard*.

Throughout the summer and early fall, HPIO has convened advisory groups of stakeholders to gather input on how the *Dashboard* should address equity, healthcare spending and COVID-19.

Those advisory groups helped HPIO finalize the list of metrics that will be included in the *Dashboard*. HPIO will continue compiling and analyzing data for the *Dashboard* through the fall.