Ohio’s approach to the social drivers of infant mortality

5 years later

Nov. 17, 2022
Vision
Ohio is a model of health, well-being and economic vitality.

Mission
To advance evidence-informed policies that improve health, achieve equity, and lead to sustainable healthcare spending in Ohio.
Participating in Zoom

Chat (found in bottom toolbar)

Raise hand (found inside reactions button)
The Health Policy Institute of Ohio is continuing work on the Social Drivers of Infant Mortality. The initial report was released in 2017, and now that the 5 year anniversary is quickly approaching, we are producing:

- An updated report that includes information about which policy recommendations from 2017 have been implemented, barriers to implementation, and a core set of prioritized recommendations for state and local policymakers.

- A series of 5 action guides highlighting the prioritized recommendations related to housing, transportation, education, employment, and racism; a description of the policy landscape related to each topic; and tools for action that will provide stakeholders with guidance on how to further implementation of the policy recommendations.
Today’s agenda

• Background and overview of 2017 SDOIM report
• 2023 SDOIM report: purpose and overview
• Policy inventory results
• Small groups: Implementation strengths and challenges
• Large group: Prioritization
• Next steps
Today’s objectives

As a result of this meeting, Advisory Group members will:
• Understand the results of HPIO’s preliminary analysis of progress on the 2017 SDOIM recommendations
• Provide HPIO with additional information on SDOIM policy implementation
• Provide HPIO with information about which policy goals from the 2017 SDOIM report should be prioritized for action in 2023
Background:
2017 SDOIM report
Senate Bill 332
A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity

Policy recommendations to improve housing, transportation, education and employment

Prepared by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio for the Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Dec. 1, 2017
Purpose of 2017 report

- Review of policies and programs: housing, transportation, education, employment
- Identify opportunities to improve policies and programs
- Study impact of state-funded rental assistance program
- Evaluate best practices from other states
- Make policy recommendations
Cross-cutting factors

Poverty
Racism* and discrimination
Toxic and persistent stress, trauma and violence

Challenges and inequities in the social, economic and physical environment**

- Housing
- Transportation
- Education
- Employment

Negative effects on health and equity

- Inadequate pre-conception, prenatal and post-natal care
- Poor maternal health
- Inadequate access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity
- Limited education and employment opportunities
- Poverty
- Toxic and persistent stress
- Other topic-specific factors***

Leading causes of infant mortality

- Poor birth outcomes
- Sudden unexplained infant death
- Accidents, injuries and violence

* Structural, institutional, interpersonal and internalized racism
** Topics specified for study by SB 332
*** See figures 4.1, 5.1, 6.1 and 7.1 in the full report for details

Copyright © 2022 Health Policy Institute of Ohio. All rights reserved.
Policy goals and recommendations
- Housing
- Transportation
- Education
- Employment

Long-term outcomes
- Healthy mothers and babies
- Improved birth outcomes
- Health equity

Across the life course
127 recommendations

- Housing: 7 policy goals, 21 recommendations
- Transportation: 6 policy goals, 38 recommendations
- Education: 7 policy goals, 31 recommendations
- Employment: 5 policy goals, 31 recommendations
- Cross-cutting: 6 recommendations
## Scope of recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In scope</th>
<th>Out of scope</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• State policy</td>
<td>• Federal policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local policy</td>
<td>• Health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Housing, transportation, education, employment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Equity, racism, discrimination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sources that informed
Policy goals and recommendations

• Literature reviews
• Scope of problem and policy landscape
• Advisory Group feedback (including prioritization)
• Additional subject matter experts
Key findings

• Improvement is possible
• Pregnancy is not the only period of time that matters for infant health
• Access to high quality health care is necessary, but not sufficient
• Racism, discrimination, violence & toxic stress are barriers to improvement
Lessons learned

• **Monitoring progress and evaluating impact** is critical, but rarely done

• **Untapped potential** for cross-sector collaboration between infant mortality prevention partners and housing, transportation, education and employment organizations
Lessons learned

• Publishing a report is a **starting place**
• Developing an **action plan** is necessary to move forward and engage policymakers
• **Prioritizing a concise set of recommendations** is key to motivating implementation (71/127 recommendations is too many!)
How has your organization used recommendations from the 2017 report?
Purpose and objectives:
2023 SDOIM report
Many recommendations to address infant mortality and disparities
2023 report components

Report

- Policymaker and stakeholder audience
- List prioritized recommendations
- Describe implementation progress and barriers

Action guides

- Stakeholder audience
- Five action guides on different topics
- Includes policy recommendations and tools for action
The report will include:
• Purpose and context
• Prioritized recommendations
• Implementation progress and barriers
• Policy inventory (supplementary spreadsheet)
2023 action guides

There will be five action guides focused on housing, transportation, education, employment and racism

The action guides will include:
• Purpose and context
• Recommendations (summary from report)
• Policy landscape
• Tools for action
Tools for action

• Describe effective state level advocacy
• Describe 1-2 local decision-making processes
• Include checklists, worksheets and/or other tools to further advocacy efforts
• Links to additional resources
Policy inventory
Preliminary results
# Implementation status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implemented</td>
<td>Implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some progress</td>
<td>State level: Progress made, partial implementation, or mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local level: Implemented in at least one local community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not implemented</td>
<td>Not implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrong direction</td>
<td>Policy implemented that is directly counter to the recommendation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>More information needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>Legislation is pending or other issue that may be resolved by end of 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall implementation status

Percent of all recommendations implemented (preliminary)

- Implemented: 15%
- Some progress: 38%
- Not implemented: 25%
- Wrong direction: 2%
- Unknown: 20%

Copyright © 2022 Health Policy Institute of Ohio. All rights reserved.
Implementation status, by topic

Percent of recommendations implemented (preliminary)

Housing (n=34)
- Implemented or some progress: 41%
- Not implemented or wrong direction: 38%

Transportation (n=58)
- Implemented or some progress: 45%
- Not implemented or wrong direction: 21%

Education (n=54)
- Implemented or some progress: 78%
- Not implemented or wrong direction: 11%

Employment (n=31)
- Implemented or some progress: 35%
- Not implemented or wrong direction: 48%
### Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>No progress or wrong direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Local affordable housing efforts</td>
<td>• Lack of state-level action to address discrimination in employment or housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ODOT equity focus in transportation planning</td>
<td>• HB 430 preempts local rent stabilization policies (134 GA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Home visiting investments</td>
<td>• HB 110 (134 GA): Federally Subsidized Housing Study Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reasons for progress

- Federal funding (COVID relief)
- Settlement funds (Volkswagen)
- Local action when state-level change is difficult
Reasons for progress (cont.)

• Leadership from Governor’s office on children’s issues, including lead poisoning and home visiting
• Bipartisan agreement on “clean slate” legislation (driver’s license suspensions, eviction expungement)
• Bipartisan support for K-12 funding and career-technical education
Barriers to progress

• Political power of landlords, compared to tenants
• Political power of employers, compared to low-wage workers
• Limited state funding for housing and public transportation
• “Wrong pocket” problem
• Bureaucratic complexity, inertia, bandwidth, silos
• Future: One-time federal funding ends
Small group breakouts
Discussion questions

1. Do you have any additional information about progress on these recommendations we should know about?
2. What strengths or opportunities led to the progress we saw for this topic?
3. What challenges or barriers prevented implementation of these policy recommendations?
4. What is different between 2017 and now in terms of unmet needs and the policy landscape?
Housing policy goals

**Policy goals**

Policies and programs designed to improve:
- Housing affordability
- Housing stability
- Neighborhood conditions
- Housing quality
- Equitable access to housing

Prioritizing communities most at risk for infant mortality

**Intermediate outcomes**

**Increased:**
- Supply of rental assistance and affordable housing
- Access to good jobs, post-secondary education and child care
- Safe sleep conditions
- Access to pre-conception, prenatal and postnatal care
- Food security and nutrition

**Decreased:**
- Discriminatory housing policies and practices
- Homelessness
- Poverty
- Toxic and persistent stress
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Exposure to toxins and other hazards

**Long-term outcomes**

- Healthy mothers and babies
- Improved birth outcomes
- Health equity

Copyright © 2022 Health Policy Institute of Ohio. All rights reserved.
Transportation policy goals

**Policy goals**
- Policies and programs designed to improve:
  - Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
  - Public transportation
  - Pedestrian safety
  - Air quality
  - Equitable access to transportation
- Prioritizing communities most at risk for infant mortality

**Intermediate outcomes**
- **Increased:**
  - Access to pre-conception, prenatal and postnatal care
  - Access to jobs, post-secondary education and child care
  - Access to healthy food and improved nutrition
  - Physical activity
- **Decreased:**
  - Discriminatory transportation policies and practices
  - Poverty
  - Toxic and persistent stress
  - Exposure to air pollution

**Long-term outcomes**
- Healthy mothers and babies
- Improved birth outcomes
- Health equity

Copyright © 2022 Health Policy Institute of Ohio. All rights reserved.
Education policy goals

**Policy goals**
- Policies and programs designed to increase:
  - Educational attainment
  - Equitable access to education
- Prioritizing communities most at risk for infant mortality

**Intermediate outcomes**
- **Increased:**
  - Educational attainment
  - Income
  - Literacy and health literacy
  - Social capital and social support
  - Access to healthy food and improved nutrition
  - Physical activity
  - Access to pre-conception, prenatal and postnatal care
  - Breastfeeding
  - Birth spacing
  - Safe sleep practices

- **Decreased:**
  - Discriminatory education policies and practices
  - Poverty
  - Toxic and persistent stress
  - Alcohol, tobacco and other drug use
  - Unplanned pregnancies

**Long-term outcomes**
- Healthy mothers and babies
- Improved birth outcomes
- Health equity
Employment policy goals

Policy goals

- Policies and programs designed to increase:
  - Employment and income
  - Access to work supports
- And improve:
  - Working conditions
  - Leave policies and employment benefits
  - Equitable access to employment
- Prioritizing communities most at risk for infant mortality

Intermediate outcomes

- Increased:
  - Income and economic mobility
  - Access to health insurance coverage
  - Access to healthy food and improved nutrition
  - Breastfeeding
- Decreased:
  - Discriminatory employment policies and practices
  - Poverty
  - Toxic and persistent stress

Long-term outcomes

- Healthy mothers and babies
- Improved birth outcomes
- Health equity
Prioritization
Prioritization criteria

- Evidence of effectiveness
- Relevance to infant mortality priority populations
- Potential size of impact on infant mortality rate and disparities
- Opportunities given the current policy landscape
- Political feasibility
Housing policy goals

1. Increase availability of rental assistance programs for renters with extremely low incomes
2. Reduce structural barriers to accessing affordable housing for the highest-risk renters (structural barriers include level of income, source of income, criminal record, etc.)
3. Increase the supply of affordable rental housing for Extremely Low Income and Very Low Income households in high opportunity and low poverty areas
4. Improve **coordination of services** for low-income families by convening cross-sector partnerships.

5. Increase the **supply of affordable housing** renters with Extremely Low Incomes.

6. Reduce the number of **evictions** and forced moves experienced by low-income families most at risk of infant mortality, including African Americans and pregnant women.

7. Improve the **quality** of affordable housing stock.
Discussion
Poll question
Transportation policy goals

1. Evaluate and continuously improve Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation provided through managed care plans
2. Evaluate and continuously improving Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation to be provided through the new state-based brokerage model starting in 2018
3. Strengthen access to **public transportation** by improving and expanding local bus systems
4. Improve **pedestrian safety and active transportation** through infrastructure design and investment
5. Decrease barriers to maintaining a **driver’s license**
6. Improve **air quality** through reduced **vehicle emissions**
Prioritization criteria

• Evidence of effectiveness
• Relevance to infant mortality priority populations
• Potential size of impact on infant mortality rate and disparities
• Opportunities given the current policy landscape
• Political feasibility
Discussion
Poll question
Prioritization criteria

• Evidence of effectiveness
• Relevance to infant mortality priority populations
• Potential size of impact on infant mortality rate and disparities
• Opportunities given the current policy landscape
• Political feasibility
Education policy goals

1. Strengthen early childhood education and family support programs
2. Increase graduation rates through high-quality programs geared toward the highest risk students
3. Strengthen career-technical education programs
4. Reduce financial barriers to postsecondary education
5. Increase the number of Ohio adults who take and pass high school equivalency exams or pursue other paths to earn a high school diploma

6. Improve college preparation and college entry programs and services for low-income Ohioans

7. Reduce other barriers to high school completion programs and postsecondary education for students
Discussion
Poll question
Employment policy goals

1. Increase incomes for pregnant women and parents of young children
2. Reduce unemployment and under employment
3. Increase access to work supports
4. Adopt more robust leave policies and employment benefits
5. Reduce exposure to toxic and persistent stress in employment settings
Discussion
Poll question
Next steps
Next steps

• Prioritization survey for additional AG members

• **Next meeting: January 19, 10a-12p**
  • Draft action tools
  • Dissemination and communications plan
Contact information

Amy Bush Stevens
Vice President
astevens@hpio.net

Hailey Akah
Associate Vice President
hakah@hpio.net

www.hpio.net
Thank you