HPIO releases new brief on link between outdoor air pollution, health in Ohio

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio recently released a new Health Value Dashboard policy brief titled "A closer look at outdoor air pollution and health."

Clean air and water, safe places to walk outside and access to healthy food are examples of conditions in the physical environment that affect the health and well-being of Ohioans. Outdoor air quality is included in the 2021 Health Value Dashboard, where Ohio ranked 46th, meaning that most other states have cleaner outdoor air.

The brief found that there are differences in air pollution exposure from county to county, as illustrated in the graphic above. Hamilton and Cuyahoga counties have the highest levels of PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) air pollution in the state, with high levels also reported across western and central Ohio.

Analysis by HPIO has found that the physical environment (including outdoor air quality) is strongly connected to a state’s overall health, only surpassed by public health and prevention. In fact, analysis of Dashboard data finds that the physical environment has a much stronger correlation with the overall health of a state than access to care or healthcare system performance.

The policy brief focuses on the importance of clean air and provides additional information on the outdoor air quality metric in the Dashboard, including how:

- Air pollution affects health outcomes
- Recent policy changes may affect air pollution
- Outdoor air quality can be improved in Ohio

Groundwork Ohio launches child dashboard developed with HPIO

Groundwork Ohio, a statewide public policy research and advocacy organization that champions high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, is releasing this month its first Early Childhood Dashboard.

Groundwork Ohio contracted with HPIO to facilitate the development of the Dashboard, which is a first-of-its-kind, comprehensive snapshot of Ohio’s performance on 61 key metrics related to young child health and well-being. The Dashboard puts data in context by analyzing trends across years, comparing Ohio to the U.S. and highlighting disparities and inequities.

"Prioritizing Ohio’s youngest begins with data," wrote Groundwork Ohio President and CEO Shannon Jones in the introduction to the Dashboard.

Groundwork Ohio describes the Dashboard as a “tool to advance equity and catalyze advocacy and action needed to lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids (prenatal to age 5), families and communities.”

The Dashboard was developed in partnership with early childhood experts, families, community organizations, providers, and other early childhood stakeholders at the local, state, and national levels.
These funders are advancing HPIO’s mission by providing general operating support:

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- CareSource Foundation
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- HealthPath Foundation of Ohio
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- Nord Family Foundation
- North Canton Medical Foundation
- Ohio State Bar Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
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A list of HPIO project-specific funders is available at: www.hpio.net/our-funders

Thank you to our core funders