HPIO releases Health Value Dashboard

The latest edition of HPIO’s biennial Health Value Dashboard found that although Ohio continues to rank lower than most states on health value, there are opportunities to build on the state’s strengths to improve the health and well-being of every Ohioan.

The fifth edition of the Dashboard, which was released on April 28, found that Ohio ranks 44 on health value compared to other states and D.C. (as displayed in the graphic below). That means that Ohioans are living less healthy lives and spending more on health care than people in most other states.

The Dashboard is designed for policymakers and other public- and private-sector leaders to examine Ohio’s performance relative to other states, track change over time and identify and explore health disparities and inequities in Ohio. The report also highlights evidence-informed strategies that can be implemented to improve Ohio’s performance.

With more than 100 data metrics, the report can be a valuable tool as Ohio’s leaders continue to develop the state’s biennial budget over the next two months.

“Ohio policymakers have many options to build on Ohio’s assets to create opportunities for prosperity and well-being throughout the state,” the report found.

HPIO identified three specific areas of strength on which Ohio can build to create opportunities for improved health value in the state:

- **Strengthen Ohio’s workforce**: Ohio can build upon recent success in attracting employers in high-growth industries to strengthen the workforce and reduce poverty
- **Foster mental well-being**: Ohio can build upon expertise with, and community response to, the addiction crisis to become a national leader in behavioral health
- **Improve healthcare effectiveness**: Ohio can build upon strengths in access to care to reinvigorate approaches to improving outcomes and controlling healthcare spending

Source: Health Policy Institute of Ohio 2023 Health Value Dashboard
Founders reflect on HPIO’s 20th anniversary

Two HPIO founders, Mitch Balk of the Mt. Sinai Health Foundation and Pat O’Connor, formerly of Interact for Health, spoke at HPIO’s forum on May 1 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Institute.

“At this 20-year milestone, we have every reason to be proud of HPIO,” said Balk, who served as the first chair of HPIO’s Board of Directors. “Our aim was to be nonpartisan, and the fact that both sides of the aisle and both Democratic and Republican gubernatorial administrations have looked to HPIO – and have contracted with HPIO – is proof positive that we have achieved our necessary objective.”

Balk credited Marcia Egbert of the George Gund Foundation for championing engagement from philanthropy in health policy and O’Connor for proposing the idea of the Institute and persuading funders to come together to create it in 2003.

“Looking back, we are all very pleased with how this has turned out,” O’Connor said. “HPIO is robust, respected, flexible and is able to do what is needed. We have a clear voice for health policy in Ohio.”

O’Connor added that, “For any funders who are listening, this organization is a great bang for your buck.”

HPIO brief offers strategies for reducing social drivers of infant mortality in Ohio

In March, HPIO released a new policy brief, Social Drivers of Infant Mortality: Recommendations for Action and Accountability in Ohio, that builds upon recommendations first included in a report the Institute completed 5 years ago.

Following the release of the brief, HPIO released action guides that highlight policy options for improving education and housing, two of the social drivers of infant mortality in Ohio. Action guides on employment, transportation and racism are expected to be released this summer.

“Despite the efforts of many in both the public and private sectors, progress since 2011 has been minimal and uneven, and Ohio’s infant mortality rate remains higher than most other states,” the report concludes.

For many years, policymakers and community leaders across Ohio have worked to reduce high rates of infant mortality. Decision makers have explored the issue through multiple advisory committees, collaborative efforts, investments, legislation and other policy changes. For example, the Ohio General Assembly passed Senate Bill 322 in 2017, which required the creation of the 2017 Social Drivers of Infant Mortality (SDOIM) report: A New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity, which was completed by HPIO.

HPIO releases latest edition of Ohio Medicaid Basics

HPIO has released the tenth edition of Ohio Medicaid Basics, a primer that provides an overview of the Medicaid program in Ohio, including information on Medicaid eligibility, covered services, delivery systems, financing, spending and recent policy and programmatic changes.

Ohio Medicaid provides coverage for 3.55 million Ohioans and accounts for about 39% of Ohio’s spending.

HPIO has released Medicaid Basics every two years since 2005. In addition to giving an overview of the program, the latest edition details recent issues, such as the COVID-19 public health emergency and updates to Medicaid Managed Care, and describes how they affect enrollment and spending.

Thank you to our core funders

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