



# HPIO IMPACT

July 2023

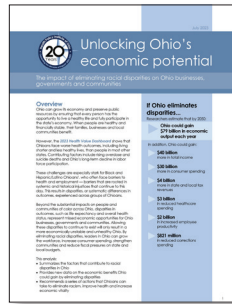
A quarterly update for supporters of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio

## HPIO analysis shows how eliminating disparities would boost economic growth in Ohio

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio has released new analysis that found that if Ohio eliminated racial disparities by 2050, the state could gain \$79 billion in economic output each year, an increase of 10% over current gross state product.

Titled “**Unlocking Ohio’s Economic Potential: The Impact of Eliminating Racial Disparities on Ohio Businesses, Governments and Communities**,” the analysis is a first-of-its-kind

look at the economic potential associated with eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in Ohio (see graphic to the right).



“Beyond the substantial impacts on people and communities of color across Ohio, disparities in outcomes, such as life expectancy and overall health status, represent missed economic opportunities for Ohio businesses, governments and communities,” the report finds. “By eliminating racial disparities, leaders in Ohio can grow the workforce, increase consumer spending, strengthen communities and reduce fiscal pressures on state and local budgets.”

The report also includes recommended action steps and examples of how states, counties and municipalities across the country are implementing policies to address disparities.

“Ohioans of all ages and from all sectors, communities and backgrounds can take meaningful steps to dismantle systemic racism and improve the health and economic vitality of the state,” according to the report.

Support for this project was provided by bi3, Interact for Health, The Columbus Foundation and HPIO’s other **core funders**.

### If Ohio eliminates disparities...

HPIO’s analysis found that by 2050:

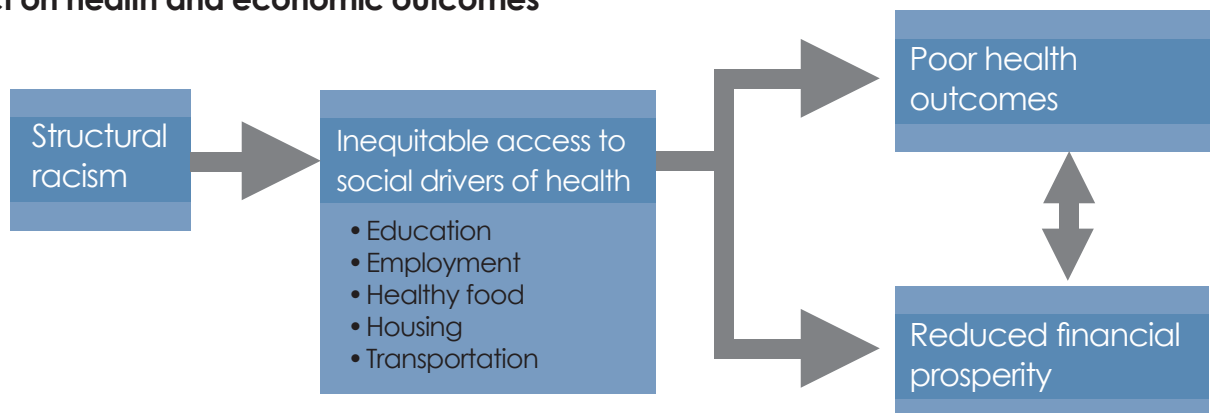
▶ **Ohio could gain \$79 billion in economic output each year**

In addition, Ohio could gain:

- ▶ **\$40 billion** more in total income
- ▶ **\$30 billion** more in consumer spending
- ▶ **\$4 billion** more in state and local tax revenues
- ▶ **\$3 billion** in reduced healthcare spending
- ▶ **\$2 billion** in increased employee productivity
- ▶ **\$821 million** in reduced corrections spending

### Racism’s impact on health and economic outcomes

Conditions for Ohioans of color, rooted in current and past racist policies and practices, make it more difficult for community members to access resources they need to be healthy



Source: Health Policy Institute of Ohio’s “Unlocking Ohio’s economic potential: The impact of eliminating racial disparities on Ohio businesses, governments and communities.”

# HPIO expands policy staff

HPIO has added four new staff members over the past several months.

Jasmine Barfield began May 1 as HPIO's new office manager and assistant policy analyst. She has more than 15 years of experience in project management, coalition building, event planning and technical assistance for a variety of social-justice-based non-profits across Ohio.

A week later, Robin Blair-Ackison and Tonni Oberly joined HPIO's staff.

Blair-Ackison is a Health Policy Analyst at HPIO. Prior to joining the Institute, Blair-Ackison worked as a program manager at the Ohio State University College of Public Health, where her focus was facilitation of strategic plans, community health improvement plans and health equity programming. Blair-Ackison also worked as a supervisor with OSU's COVID-19 Contact Tracing Team.

Oberly is a Senior Policy Analyst at HPIO, where she leads quantitative and qualitative research for the development of



From left, new HPIO staff members Tonni Oberly, Jasmine Barfield and Robin Blair-Ackison

policy briefs and resources. Prior to joining HPIO, Oberly worked as a birth equity research scholar at the National Birth Equity Collaborative.

June Postalakis, a spring 2023 intern at HPIO, accepted a position starting July 1 as a part-time assistant policy analyst. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a specialization in Sociology and minor in Public Policy from the Ohio State University.



## HPIO presents to General Assembly's Medicaid committee

HPIO President Amy Rohling McGee and Vice President of Research and Evaluation Amy Bush Stevens were invited to present July 13 to the General Assembly's Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee. The meeting focused on policy options for addressing Ohio's high infant mortality rate and severe racial disparities in infant deaths.

HPIO shared findings from its recently released publication "[Social Drivers of Infant Mortality: Recommendations for Action and Accountability in Ohio.](#)"

Other presenters at the meeting included representatives of Cradle Cincinnati, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus Public Health's Fetal-Infant Mortality Review Board and the Ohio Department of Health.

# HPIO releases new action guides to address infant mortality

HPIO recently released the fourth in a series of action guides that highlight policy options to address the social drivers of infant mortality in Ohio.

The [employment action guide](#), released in June, highlights policies prioritized by HPIO's [Social Drivers of Infant Mortality Advisory Group](#).

HPIO released similar action guides on [housing](#), [education](#) and [transportation](#). In the coming weeks, HPIO plans to release another guide on eliminating racism.

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 five years ago.

Funding for this project was provided by the Bruening Foundation and HPIO's other [core funders](#).

## 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 Columbus 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