

## HPIO tapped to develop Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint

In late June, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio submitted a draft Blueprint to Gov. Mike DeWine's Minority Health Strike Force that contained a series of recommendations to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 and other health outcomes and improve overall wellbeing for communities of color.

DeWine formed the COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force in April in response to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19.

The Strike Force includes community leaders and experts from throughout the state and is chaired by Alisha Nelson, Director of RecoveryOhio, and Ursel McElroy, Director of the Ohio Department of Aging. The

Strike Force contracted with HPIO to gather and synthesize input from Strike Force members and develop the Blueprint.

The Blueprint includes more than 30 actionable recommendations and is intended to serve as a roadmap for the DeWine administration to advance health equity in partnership with state, local and community officials.

The Blueprint's recommendations are organized into five categories:

- Understanding racism
- Health care and public health
- Social and economic environment
- Physical environment
- Data, implementation and accountability

## COVID-19 work continues for HPIO

With the number of COVID-19 cases continuing to rise in Ohio, HPIO plans to update two policy briefs it released on the pandemic in the spring.

In May, HPIO released [a brief comparing COVID-19 deaths to other leading causes of death](#). That brief was followed by one [analyzing COVID-19 disparities by race](#).

Both briefs will be updated in August with analysis of the latest Ohio COVID-19 data.

Within days of the first cases of COVID-19 being reported in Ohio, HPIO began work to inform state policymakers on the pandemic.

HPIO offered assistance to the Ohio Department of Health, which asked HPIO to track relevant research and analysis that could inform state decision making during the quickly evolving crisis.

Between March 25 and June 30, HPIO staff reviewed, summarized and tracked more than 600 articles to inform ODH's work to combat the pandemic.

While HPIO has transitioned from regularly tracking research articles for ODH, the Institute continues to update its [COVID-19 resource page](#) with relevant tools to address the pandemic and features the latest research findings in its weekly Health Policy News.

## HPIO work focuses on link between racism, health

For several years, HPIO has focused attention on health disparities in Ohio and the impact of racism on the wellbeing of communities of color.

On June 4, the Institute released a statement on racism and health concluding that it is clear "racism is a crisis with profound and pervasive impacts across all the factors that shape our health. This includes our healthcare, education, housing, food, economic, criminal justice and political systems, among others."

The statement also points out that there are "many evidence-informed policies that can be implemented by state and local policymakers and other leaders to eliminate health disparities and inequities."

HPIO will release a policy brief on racism and health in August that will outline some of those policies. The Institute will also continue to prioritize the issue throughout all of its work.

A collection of HPIO's [equity-related work](#) can be found on its website.

# HPIO developing toolkit for State Health Improvement Plan

As the Ohio Department of Health has begun to distribute the **2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan**, HPIO has continued work to ensure that the plan is successfully implemented.



**Assessment** (SHA), including a troubling drop in life expectancy from 2010 to 2017. Given the scope and complexity of Ohio's health challenges, the SHIP calls for cross-sector partnerships and alignment on a manageable set of measurable goals.

Facilitated by HPIO under contract with ODH, the SHIP is a tool to strengthen state and local efforts to improve health, wellbeing and economic vitality in Ohio. The SHIP's main components are:

- Six priorities, including three factors and three health outcomes
- Thirty-seven measurable objectives
- A menu of evidence-informed strategies
- An evaluation plan to track and report progress

The SHIP is Ohio's roadmap to address the many challenges identified in the **2019 State Health**

To facilitate widespread implementation of the 2020-2022 SHIP, ODH contracted with HPIO to develop a toolkit designed to supplement the SHIP document. The toolkit contains more specific information about how to, for example, identify priority populations, select strategies, communicate effectively about SHIP-aligned activities and develop evaluation plans to measure success and advance equity.

**All SHIP material**, including a "Welcome to the SHIP" video explainer, can be found on both HPIO's and **ODH's website**.

## HPIO forums hosted online for remainder of 2020

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, HPIO will host all remaining 2020 forums online. HPIO's online events will provide state policymakers and other health policy stakeholders the opportunity to hear objective analysis from recognized experts on current health policy issues and their potential impact on Ohio. These online forums are provided at no cost to participants, thanks to the generous support of our 2020 HPIO Forum Series Sponsors.

**September** — Improving child health and wellbeing: Creating opportunities for all Ohio children to thrive

**November** — Politics, perceptions and the results of the 2020 election

**December** — What's on the horizon for state health policy? Improving the health and wellbeing of older Ohioans

Online forum details will be shared as they become available at [www.hpio.net/category/events/](http://www.hpio.net/category/events/)

## Thank you to our funders

The following core funders are advancing the health of Ohioans through informed policy decisions:

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- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
- Nord Family Foundation
- North Canton Medical Foundation
- Mercy Health
- CareSource Foundation

## Home visiting assessment completed

HPIO has submitted to the Ohio Department of Health a needs assessment update on the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program.

The Ohio Department of Health commissioned HPIO to facilitate development of this report by June 30.

The MIECHV Needs Assessment Update is required by federal law as a condition of receiving MIECHV and Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant funding beginning in 2021. The purpose of this Needs Assessment Update is to: (1) provide a current landscape of Ohio's home visiting programs and (2) inform the provision of home visiting services across the state, with a focus on Ohio's most at-risk communities.