

HPIO work spotlights importance of housing for pregnant women in Ohio

State budget adds funding for stable housing project for new moms

The two-year state budget passed in late June includes \$2.25 million in fiscal year 2022 to finance replication of Healthy Beginnings at Home (HBAH) — a pilot research project developed in Franklin County — to support stable housing for pregnant women.

CelebrateOne, the organization that developed HBAH, contracted with HPIO to evaluate the project and provide key findings and recommendations to strengthen HBAH replication and improve housing and health outcomes for pregnant women and their families. HPIO recently completed the [final report](#) for the project.

The evaluation of HBAH is one of several projects by HPIO that have spotlighted for policymakers the importance of quality, stable housing for pregnant women and new mothers in Ohio.

HPIO brought attention to the need to address housing for pregnant women and new moms in a 2017 report that was created under contract with the Legislative



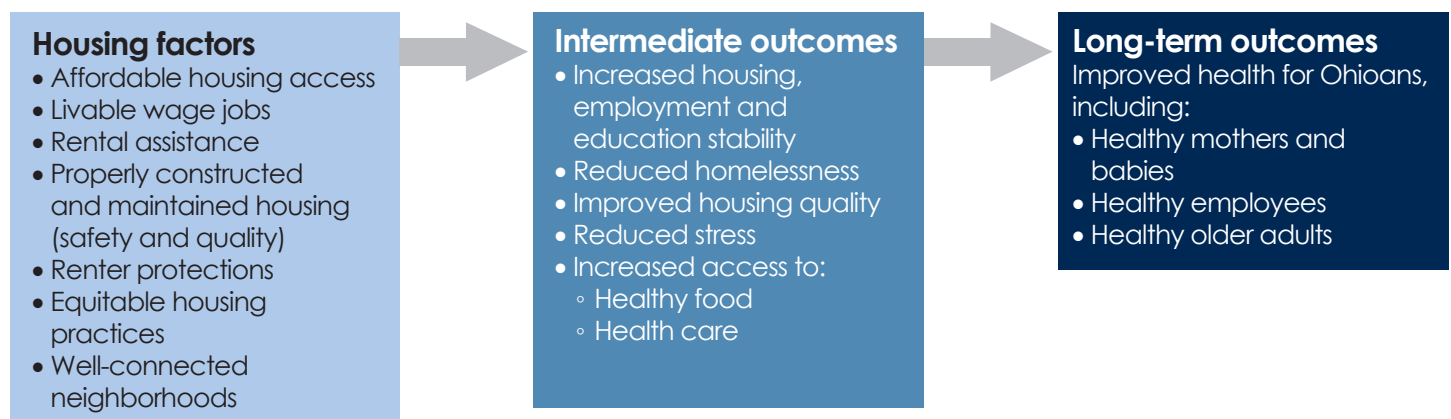
Service Commission, titled **“A New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity: Policy Recommendations to Improve Housing, Transportation, Education and Employment.”**

That report found that, “Safe, secure and affordable housing is a fundamental human need, but is out of reach for many Ohioans with lower incomes. When housing is too expensive, it is harder to pay for other essentials like healthy food, transportation and prescriptions, which are important for a healthy pregnancy.”

More recently, HPIO included safe and affordable housing as one of the 35 recommendations in the COVID-19 **Ohio Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint**. HPIO was contracted by the Ohio Department of Health to draft the Blueprint. The Institute worked with strike force members to get feedback and attended community townhalls convened by the COVID-19 Minority Health Strike Force to develop the list of recommendations.

HPIO also recently published a fact sheet titled **“Housing Affordability and Health Equity,”** which was part of a series of fact sheets distributed to policymakers during the budget deliberation process.

What is the relationship between housing and health?



HPIO analysis links criminal justice and health

In June, HPIO released a new brief titled, [Connections between Criminal Justice and Health](#).

According to the brief, "The research evidence is clear that poor mental health and addiction are risk factors for criminal justice involvement, and that incarceration is detrimental to health."

The brief highlights the many factors that impact both criminal justice and health outcomes, finding that:

- **There is a two-way relationship between criminal justice and health.** Mental health and addiction challenges can lead to arrest and incarceration, and incarceration contributes to poor behavioral and physical health for many Ohioans.

- **Racism and community conditions contribute to criminal justice involvement and poor health.** Racist and discriminatory policies, practices and community conditions, such as poverty, housing instability and exposure to trauma, lead to increased criminal justice involvement and drive poor health outcomes.
- **Improvement is possible.** There are evidence-informed policy solutions to combat the drivers of criminal justice involvement and poor health outcomes.

The brief includes 15 specific evidence-informed policy options for policymakers.

Mark your calendar

1:30 to 2 p.m.
July 29

Webinar: Criminal Justice and Health

HPIO is hosting a webinar to explore key findings from the brief

To register or learn more, visit HPIO's website

State agencies continue to turn to HPIO

Several state agencies have continued to engage HPIO with projects that will have long-term impacts on the policies and programs adopted by the state.

State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) toolkit

HPIO recently finished a series of tools designed to facilitate widespread implementation of the [2020-2022 SHIP](#). The Ohio Department of Health contracted with HPIO to develop a toolkit, which contains more specific information about how to identify priority populations, select strategies, communicate effectively about SHIP-aligned activities and develop evaluation plans to measure success and advance equity.

Strategic Action Plan on Aging (SAPA) toolkit

HPIO has also been contracted by the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) to create an implementation toolkit for the [SAPA](#), which HPIO completed and ODA released earlier this year.

The SAPA provides a comprehensive roadmap that requires public and private collaboration to improve outcomes for older Ohioans and addresses the many challenges identified in the 2020 [Summary Assessment of Older Ohioans](#). The toolkit will include guidance and resources for aging network partners to act on the SAPA.

Assessment of alignment of local health department and hospital plans and hospital community benefit spending with the 2020-2022 State Health Improvement Plan

ODH contracted with HPIO to assess alignment of local health department community health implementation plans and hospital implementation strategies to the 2020-2022 SHIP. This included an analysis of community benefit decision making. The report provides state leaders with valuable information about the status of local-level SHIP alignment, hospital community benefit spending and opportunities to strengthen alignment in the future.

Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) community planning and collaboration

OMHAS selected HPIO to develop an implementation plan for their newly released strategic plan, and to develop a new community planning template and process. This project began in June 2021.

Thank you to our funders

- bi3
- CareSource Foundation
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- Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
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A list of HPIO project funders is available at: www.hprio.net/our-funders