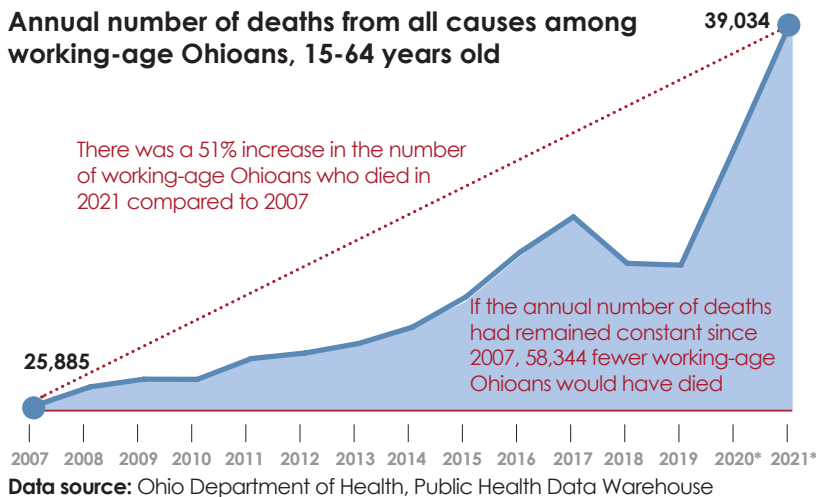


Annual number of deaths from all causes among working-age Ohioans, 15-64 years old



HPIO publication spotlights trend in working-age deaths in Ohio

Ohioans between the ages of 15 and 64 are dying at a much higher rate than they were 15 years ago, according to new analysis from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio.

The analysis, which is compiled in a new data snapshot, "**Death Trends among Working-age Ohioans**," found that the number of deaths among working-age Ohioans increased 51% from 2007 to 2021, from 25,885 to 39,034. If the annual number of deaths had remained constant since 2007, 58,344 fewer working-age Ohioans would have died.

"These mostly preventable deaths have a tremendous impact on Ohio families, communities and society," according to the data snapshot. "In addition, the loss of a large number of working-age adults negatively affects Ohio's economy and businesses."

The increasing death rate for working-age Ohioans is part of a long-term trend, starting in the early 2000s, in which Ohio performs worse than the U.S. overall. That trend, combined with the long-term decline in Ohio's labor force participation rate and recent factors related to the pandemic, have made it more difficult for Ohio employers to fill open positions.

"There are many effective strategies to address addiction, promote mental health and support access to healthy food and physical activity," all factors that could improve Ohio's working-age death rate, according to the analysis. "Public and private partners can work together to ensure more Ohio workers have the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life."

HPIO picked to develop State Oral Health Plan

Oral Health Ohio, a coalition of statewide partners who educate and advocate to improve the state's oral and overall health, is using HPIO's expertise in planning, data analysis and facilitation to develop the latest edition of Ohio's State Oral Health Plan (SOHP).

The Ohio SOHP is an actionable roadmap to ensure oral health is integrated with, and elevated to, the same importance as overall health. The SOHP is designed to guide actions taken by policymakers, advocates, educators, providers and funders.

HPIO began work on the project by compiling secondary data to assess oral health in Ohio. HPIO also organized a series of virtual focus groups for healthcare providers from across the state. The events gathered feedback from 52 providers, including dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, nurses and others.

In late June, HPIO hosted a series of five in-person focus groups in Athens, Toledo, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus that gathered input from 114 community members on their experiences with oral health.

That information, along with guidance from an advisory group made up of stakeholders from throughout the state, will now be compiled into a comprehensive assessment, highlighting oral health strengths and challenges in Ohio.

The SOHP Advisory Group will take the findings in the assessment and select strategies, policies and objectives for inclusion in the final plan, which is expected to be released in early 2023.

Oral Health Ohio is managed by the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio, one of HPIO's core funders.

HPIO tapped to assist planning, equity work for state, local behavioral health agencies

HPIO is anticipating that its work with state and local behavioral health agencies will continue this summer, following successful completion of earlier planning and assessment projects.

Last year, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) contracted with HPIO to develop an implementation plan for its strategic plan and create a community assessment and planning template that will be used by local Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) boards throughout the state.

Given the success of the project, OhioMHAS will again contract with HPIO this summer to provide technical assistance and coaching to ADAMH boards on using the new community assessment and planning template.

HPIO has also been engaged by two local ADAMH boards to provide expertise related to mental health and substance use disparities.

The Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB) of Clark, Greene & Madison Counties has contracted with HPIO to develop a workplan that identifies priority areas that MHRB can focus on to reduce and eliminate racial disparities in mental health and substance use and identify data that can be used to evaluate and track progress on achieving equitable outcomes.

Following an initial scoping contract with the Montgomery County ADAMHS, HPIO is now planning to begin work developing a Behavioral Health Equity Roadmap Assessment for the agency. The assessment will use qualitative and quantitative data to identify community strengths and behavioral health challenges, needs and disparities, as well as gaps in mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services for different groups.

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 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

A list of HPIO project funders is available at: www.hpio.net/our-funders

You are invited to HPIO's next online event

Protecting young Ohioans

Strategies to improve mental health for children and adolescents

When: Tuesday, Aug. 2 • 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Online via Zoom

Every young Ohioan deserves the opportunity for good mental health. Children and adolescents who are mentally healthy reach developmental and emotional milestones, and learn healthy social and coping skills.

Recent trends show that children and adolescents are experiencing increasingly poor mental health outcomes, including depression and death by suicide. These trends demand action from both public and private partners to protect Ohio's children and young adults. This forum will explore research, best practices and policy options on the state of youth mental health in Ohio and highlight potential solutions for this impending crisis.

Speakers include:

- **Kelly Blankenship, DO**, Associate Chief Medical Officer and Division Chief of Psychiatry, Dayton Children's Hospital
- **Tony Coder**, Executive Director, Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation
- **Caren Howard**, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Mental Health America
- **Sherry Shamblin**, Chief Strategy Officer, Hopewell Health Centers
- **And more to be announced!**

Visit the HPIO website to register: <https://bit.ly/3O4MU0o>