



A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity

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Vision

To influence the improvement of health and well-being for all Ohioans.

Mission

To provide the independent and nonpartisan analysis needed to create evidence-informed state health policy.

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Tactics

Written and online products

Education

Convening

Technical assistance



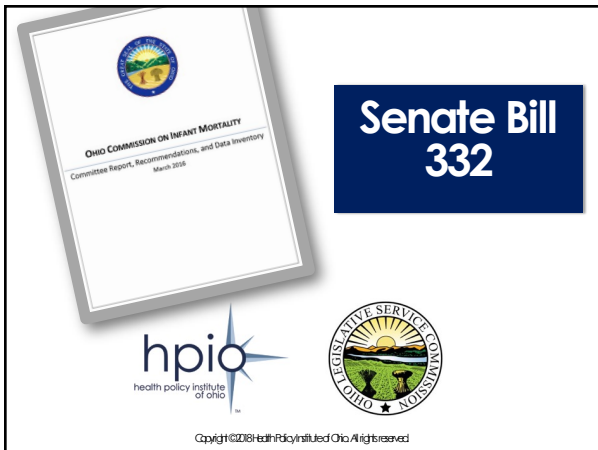
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Objectives

- Introduce report
- Discuss key findings
- Review policy goals and recommendations
- Provide actionable next steps

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“The Commission recognized that improving the social determinants of health is critical to improving birth outcomes but did not have enough time to delve into these multi-system issues.”

**-Ohio Commission in Infant Mortality,
March 2016**

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SB 332 requirements

1. Review of policies and programs: **housing, transportation, education, employment**
2. Identify opportunities to improve policies and programs
3. Study impact of state-funded rental assistance program
4. Evaluate best practices from other states
5. Make policy recommendations

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Sources of information

Most improved state research

- ✓ State-level trend data analysis to identify most-improved states, including most improved for black infant mortality
- ✓ Literature review, document review and key-informant interviews to identify how other states improved

Literature review and environmental scan

- ✓ Summarize research literature
- ✓ Focus on housing, transportation, employment, education
- ✓ Describe existing programs and policies in Ohio

Health Value Dashboard data

- ✓ Analysis to identify strongest drivers of infant mortality from social, economic and physical environment

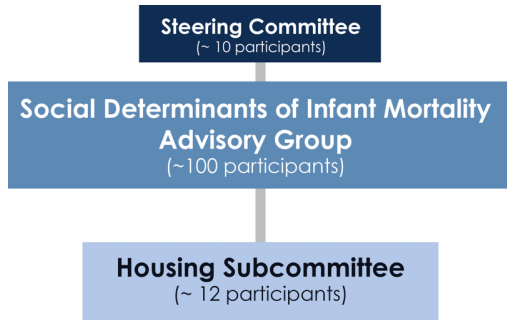
**Stakeholder
input**

Inventory of evidence-informed SDOH strategies

- ✓ Systematic reviews, evidence registries and expert consensus reports
- ✓ Examples from other states

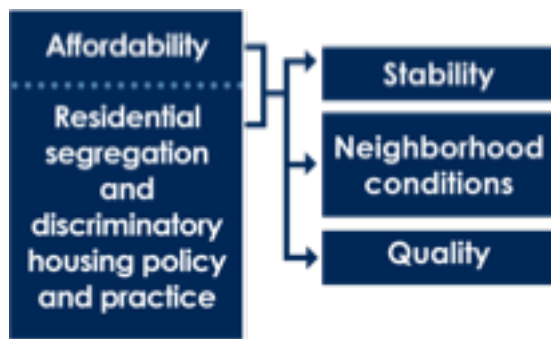
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Stakeholder engagement



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Housing infrastructure challenges and inequities



Key findings

1. Troubling trends
2. Troubling disparities
3. Access to care is necessary,
but not sufficient
4. Community conditions are
challenging for risk groups
5. Policymakers have many
options

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Key themes for improving community conditions

- Prioritize housing and employment
- Connect the disconnected
- Ensure all children have the opportunity to thrive
- Acknowledge and address the roles of racism, discrimination, violence and toxic stress
- Innovate, leverage public-private partnerships and join forces across sectors
- Coordinate, collaborate, monitor and evaluate
- Balance short-term fixes with longer-term change

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Housing policy goals

Goal 1) Increase the availability of rental assistance programs for renters with Extremely Low Incomes

Goal 2) Reduce structural barriers to accessing affordable housing for the highest-risk renters (structural barriers include level of income, source of incomes, criminal record, etc.)

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Housing policy goals

Goal 3) Increase the supply of affordable rental housing for Extremely Low Income and Very Low Income households in high opportunity and low poverty areas

Goal 4) Improve coordination of services for low-income families by convening cross-sector partnerships

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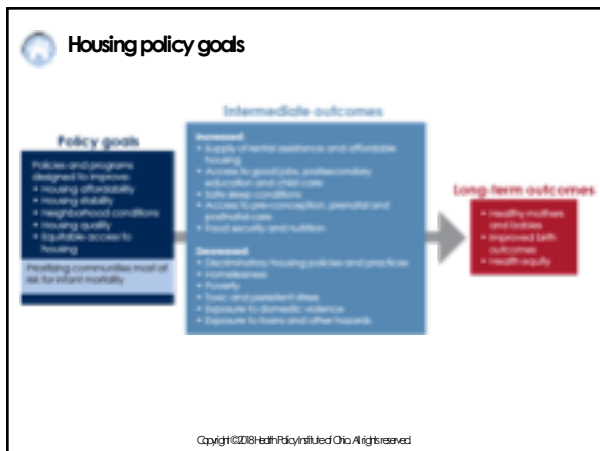
Housing policy goals

Goal 5) Increase the supply of affordable housing for renters with Extremely Low Incomes

Goal 6) Reduce the number of evictions and forced moves experienced by low-income families most at risk of infant mortality, including African Americans and pregnant women

Goal 7) Improve the quality of affordable housing stock

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Policy recommendation development

Evidence-based policy or program

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Specific policy lever

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Policy recommendation

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Recommendation examples: Rental assistance

Recommendation 1.1. Fund Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) to establish state-funded rental assistance targeted to reduce infant mortality

Recommendation 1.2. Increase funding for rapid rehousing and rental assistance through:

- Increased county recordation fees to Ohio Housing Trust Fund
- Increased funding from Ohio Development Services Agency
- Amending state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families spending plan

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Recommendation examples: Reduce barriers to rental housing

Recommendation 2.1. Pass legislation to reduce or eliminate barriers, including:

- Discrimination based on source of income
- Criminal history
- Delay use of criminal background checks

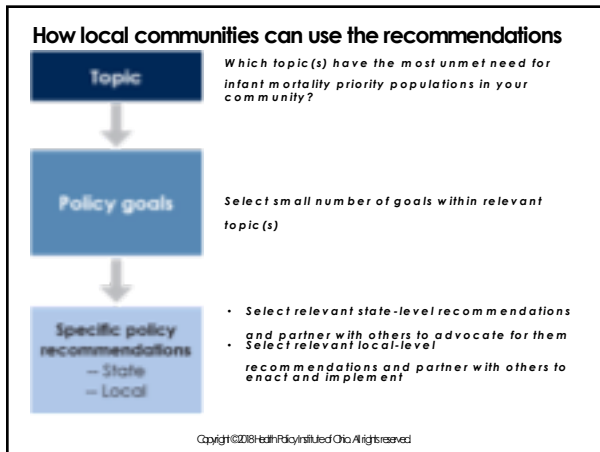
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Recommendation examples: Convene cross-sector partnerships

Recommendation 2.1. Convene relevant state agency with Medicaid managed care plans, Ohio Equity Institute partners and Continuums of Care to discuss ways that Medicaid managed care plans can support housing stability among Medicaid enrollees most at risk for infant mortality, including people with low incomes and low levels of educational attainment, African Americans and residents of infant mortality hot spot zip code areas or neighborhoods.

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Partnering with local efforts to reduce infant mortality

- Infant mortality collaborative groups (e.g. CelebrateOne)
- [Ohio Equity Institute teams](#) (link to contact information)
- [Pathways Community HUB models](#)
- Local and regional health systems
- Local health departments
- [Community health needs assessments](#) and plans

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Questions

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