Ohio's approach to the social drivers of infant mortality

5 years later

Jan. 19, 2023

Vision

Ohio is a model of health, well-being and economic vitality.

Mission

To advance evidence-informed policies that improve health, achieve equity, and lead to sustainable healthcare spending in Ohio.
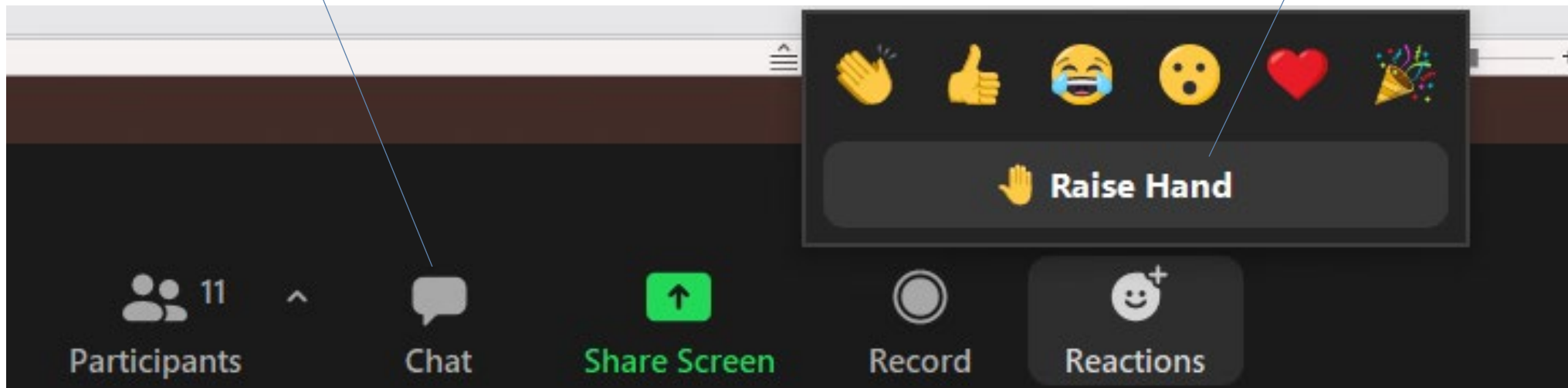
Participating in Zoom

Chat
(found in bottom toolbar)

Raise hand
(found inside reactions button)

SDOIM Advisory Group page

health policy institute of ohio

HOME   ABOUT HPIO ⌄   TOPICS ⌄   HPIO WORK ⌄   EVENTS   ADVISORY GROUPS ⌄

Social Drivers of Infant Mortality (SDOIM) Advisory Group

Home > Social Drivers of Infant Mortality (SDOIM) Advisory Group

Social Drivers of Infant Mortality (SDOIM) Advisory Group

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio is continuing work on the **Social Drivers of Infant Mortality.** The initial report was released in 2017, and now that the 5 year anniversary is quickly approaching, we are producing:

- An **updated report** that includes information about which policy recommendations from 2017 have been implemented, barriers to implementation, and a core set of prioritized recommendations for state and local policymakers
- **Series of 5 action guides** highlighting the prioritized recommendations related to housing, transportation, education, employment, and racism; a description of the policy landscape related to each topic; and tools for action that will provide stakeholders with guidance on how to further implementation of the policy recommendations

Type in the chat box

What makes you hopeful about improving health and advancing equity in 2023?

Today's agenda

- Project update
- Policy goals and recommendations: Eliminating racism
- Action tools
- Dissemination and communications
- Next steps

Today's objectives

As a result of this meeting, **Advisory Group members** will:
- Understand the results of the goal prioritization and the draft recommendations for housing, transportation, education and employment
- Provide feedback on the draft goals and recommendations on eliminating racism
- Provide feedback on the types of action tools
- Provide feedback on the dissemination and communications strategy

Project update

A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity

Policy recommendations to improve housing, transportation, education and employment

hpio
health policy institute of ohio

Prepared by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio for the Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Dec. 1, 2017

2023 report components

Report

- **Policymaker and stakeholder audience**
- List prioritized recommendations
- Describe implementation progress and barriers

Action guides

- **Stakeholder audience**
- Five action guides on different topics
- Includes policy recommendations and tools for action

2023 report

The report will include:
- Purpose and context
- Prioritized recommendations
- Implementation progress and barriers
- Policy inventory (supplementary spreadsheet)

2023 action guides

There will be five action guides focused on housing, transportation, education, employment and racism

The action guides will include:
- Purpose and context
- Recommendations (summary from report)
- Policy landscape
- Tools for action

Implementation status

Implemented	Implemented
Some progress	State level: Progress made, partial implementation, or mixed Local level: Implemented in at least one local community
Not implemented	Not implemented
Wrong direction	Policy implemented that is directly counter to the recommendation
Unknown	More information needed
Pending	Legislation is pending or other issue that may be resolved by end of 2022

Report
Released
Dec. 2017

HB166
State Budget
(SFY 2020-2021)
July 2019

COVID-19
declared
a pandemic
March 2020

HB110
State Budget
(SFY 2022-2023)
July 2021

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (federal)

Kasich Administration

DeWine Administration

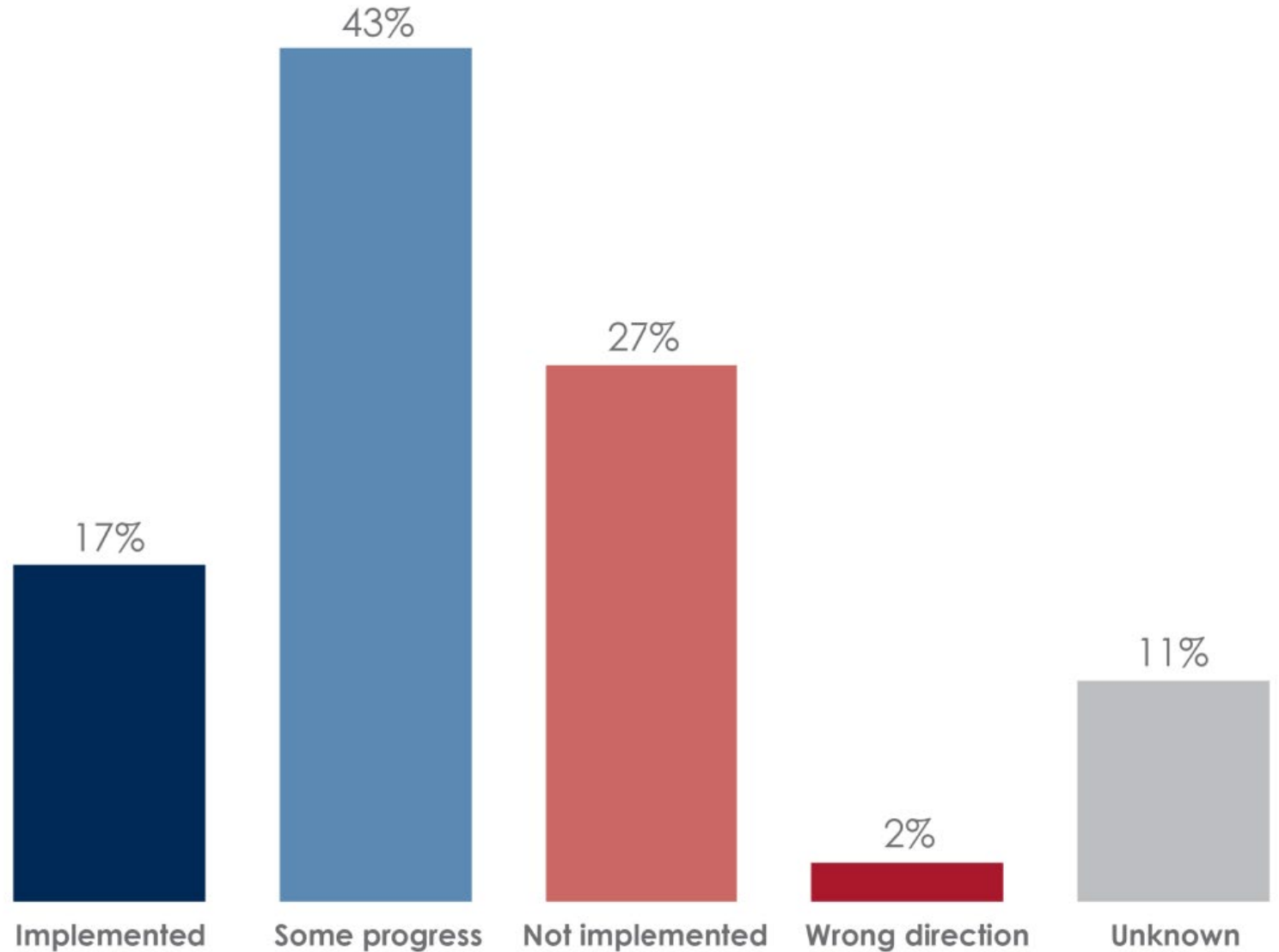| 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |

| 132 General Assembly | 133 General Assembly | 134 General Assembly |

Overall implementation status

Percent of all recommendations implemented (preliminary, updated 1/19/23)

17%	43%	27%	2%	11%
Implemented	Some progress	Not implemented	Wrong direction	Unknown

Prioritized policy goals and draft recommendations

Scope of recommendations

In scope	Out of scope
• State policy • Local policy • Housing, transportation, education, employment • Equity, racism, discrimination	• Federal policy • Health care

Getting to a concise set of goals

	2017	2023 (preliminary)
Policy goals	25	14
Recommendations	127	43

Prioritized policy goals: Housing

Goal 1: Increase availability of rental assistance

Goal 2: Reduce structural barriers to affordable housing

Goal 3: Increase affordable housing supply

Goal 1: Increase availability of rental assistance

Increase funding for programs that assist pregnant women and families, including those with extremely low incomes, with maintaining their current housing or affording new housing

State recommendations

- 1.1. Rapid re-housing and rental assistance
- 1.2. Financial incentives for prioritizing pregnant women

Goal 2: Reduce structural barriers to affordable housing

Implement policies to protect renters from discrimination, particularly for families at highest risk of eviction and housing instability.

State recommendation

- 2.1. Eviction expungement and other clean slate policies.

Local recommendations

- 2.2. Renter protections
- 2.3. Mitigation funds

Goal 3: Increase affordable housing supply

Increase funding for affordable housing developments for very low-income and extremely low-income renters and homeowners in high opportunity and low poverty rate areas.

State recommendation

- 3.1. Financial incentives for local housing development

Local recommendations

- 3.2. Inclusionary zoning
- 3.3. Funding for affordable housing development

Prioritized policy goals: Transportation

Goal 4: Improve Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Goal 5: Improve and expand local public transportation

Goal 4: Improve Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Monitor and continuously improve the performance of Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) provided through Medicaid managed care plans, prioritizing timely services for pregnant women and parents of young children.

State recommendations
- 4.1. Medicaid oversight
- 4.2. Medicaid transparency
- 4.3. Managed care plan quality improvement

Goal 5: Improve and expand local public transportation

Strengthen Ohio's public transportation infrastructure through increased investment and expanded transit services in communities most at risk for poor family health outcomes.

State recommendations

- 5.1. Transit funding allocation
- 5.2. Transit revenue source

Local recommendations

- 5.3. Transit service improvements
- 5.4. Community engagement in transportation planning

Prioritized policy goals: Education

Goal 6: Strengthen early childhood education and family support programs

Goal 7: Reduce barriers to career-technical education and other postsecondary education programs

Goal 6: Strengthen early childhood education and family support programs

Increase the number of children participating in high-quality early childhood education and provide support to families with young children.

State recommendations
- 6.1. Increase the number of early childhood care and education professionals
- 6.2. Improve supports for early childhood education startups

State and local recommendations
- 6.3. Increase parent education and support
- 6.4. Increase parent engagement
- 6.5. Improve early childhood education quality

Goal 7: Reduce barriers to career-technical education and other postsecondary education programs

Increase funding and flexibility for career-technical education (CTE) and postsecondary education programs to increase access for secondary school students, especially vulnerable student populations.

State recommendations
- 7.1. Increase funding for CTE
- 7.2. Increase the number of CTE instructors
- 7.3. Remove financial barriers for postsecondary ed
- 7.4. Ensure postsecondary financial aid opportunities are available to older students returning to school

Local recommendation
- 7.4. Expand existing CTE programs

$ Prioritized policy goals: Employment

Goal 8: Increase access to work supports

Goal 9: Adopt more robust leave policies and employment benefits

Goal 8: Increase access to work supports

Structure public benefits to help working caregivers with young children advance in their careers and reach self-sufficiency.

State recommendations
- 8.1. Increase eligibility for childcare subsidies
- 8.2. Reduce benefits cliffs
- 8.3. Incentivize employer child care supports

Goal 9: Adopt more robust leave policies and employment benefits

Strengthen public and private workplace policies and benefits to provide more flexibility and support for pregnant women and families with young children.

State and local recommendations
- 9.1. Incentivize employer benefits
- 9.2. Increase paid family leave
- 9.3. Set living wage standard
- 9.4. Increase breastfeeding supports

Discussion questions

1. Should any of the goals be revised or reframed given the current policymaking environment?

2. Is it important to have a balance of state vs. local recommendations?

Poll question

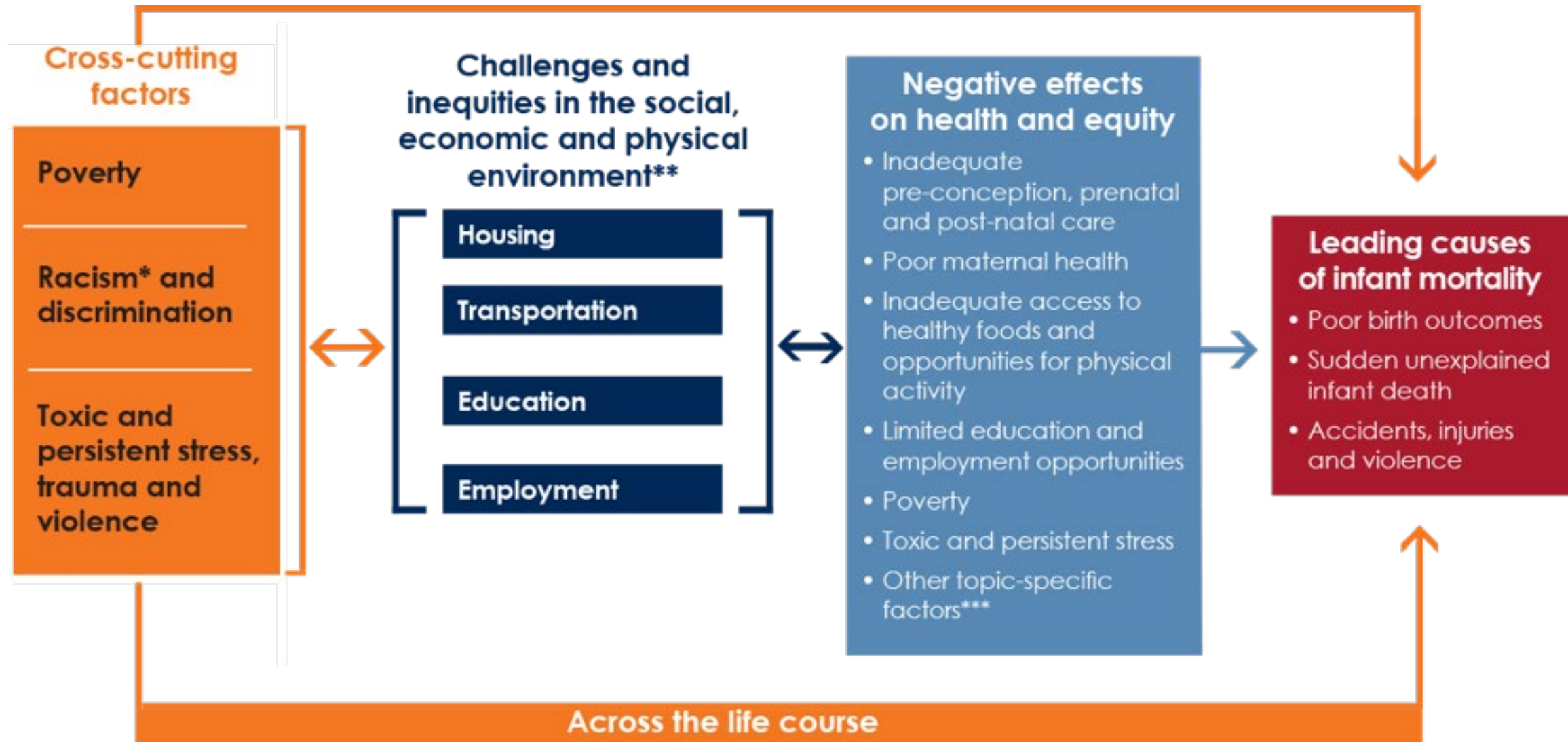# Policy goals and recommendations:
Eliminating racism

A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity

Policy recommendations to improve housing, transportation, education and employment

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Prepared by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio for the Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Cross-cutting factors

Poverty

Racism* and discrimination

Toxic and persistent stress, trauma and violence

Challenges and inequities in the social, economic and physical environment**

Housing

Transportation

Education

Employment

Negative effects on health and equity

- Inadequate pre-conception, prenatal and post-natal care
- Poor maternal health
- Inadequate access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity
- Limited education and employment opportunities
- Poverty
- Toxic and persistent stress
- Other topic-specific factors***

Leading causes of infant mortality

- Poor birth outcomes
- Sudden unexplained infant death
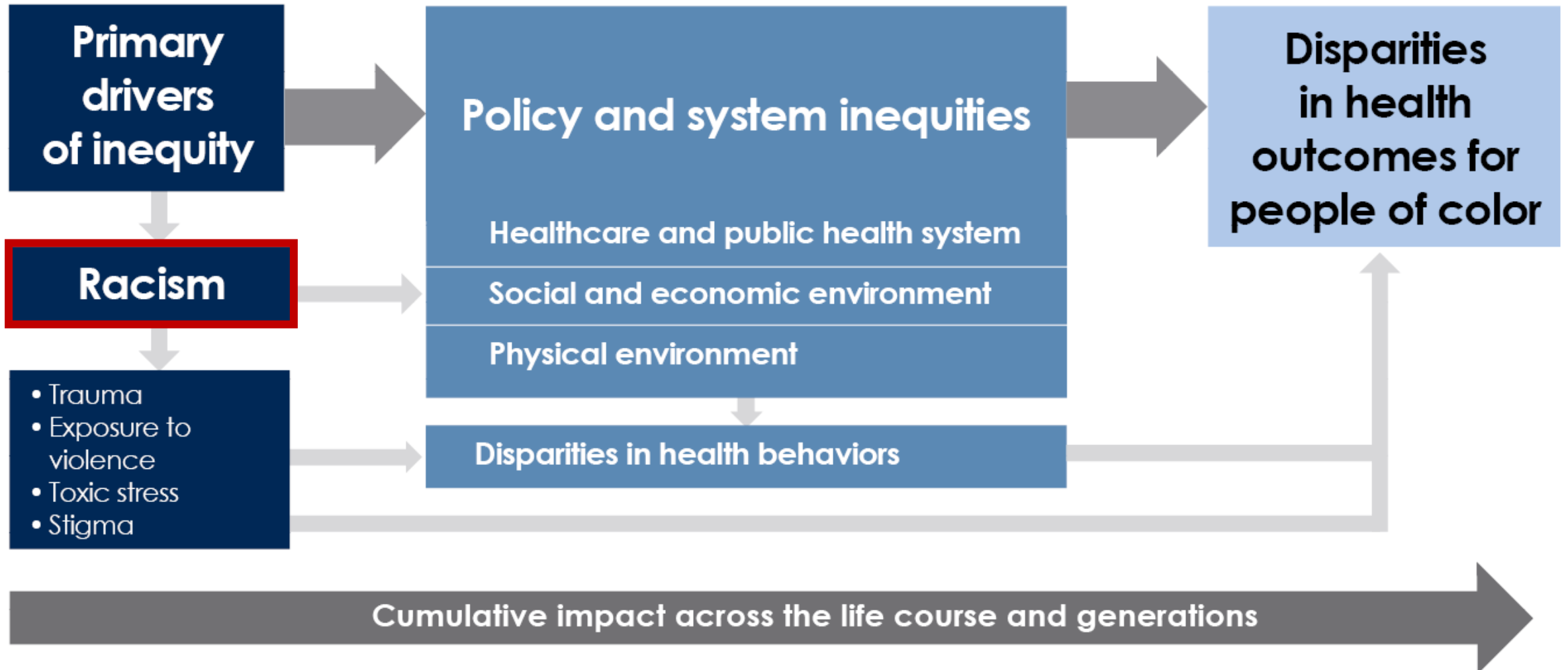- Accidents, injuries and violence

Across the life course

* Structural, institutional, interpersonal and internalized racism
** Topics specified for study by SB 332
*** See figures 4.1, 5.1, 6.1 and 7.1 in the full report for details

CONNECTION BETWEEN RACISM AND HEALTH

Primary drivers of inequity

Racism

- Trauma
- Exposure to violence
- Toxic stress
- Stigma

Policy and system inequities

Healthcare and public health system

Social and economic environment

Physical environment

Disparities in health behaviors

Disparities in health outcomes for people of color

Cumulative impact across the life course and generations

2023 report components

Report

- **Policymaker and stakeholder audience**
- List prioritized recommendations
- Describe implementation progress and barriers

Action guides

- **Stakeholder audience**
- Five action guides on different topics
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Prioritization criteria

- Evidence of effectiveness
- Relevance to infant mortality priority populations
- Potential size of impact on infant mortality rate and disparities
- Opportunities given the current policy landscape
- Political feasibility

Potential goal 10: Acknowledge the effects of racism on infant mortality

Facilitate conversations about how racism has impacted birth outcomes for Black babies to open the door for creative, collaborative solutions.

Sample recommendations
- 10.1. Announce a commitment to equity
- 10.2. Share data and research

Potential goal 11: Create and implement equitable policy agendas and plans that increase opportunities for healthy births

Enact plans that advance evidence-informed action steps to improve community conditions and increase opportunities for healthy births in Black communities.

Sample recommendations
- 11.1. Advance the **Plan of Action to Advance Equity**
- 11.2. Implement the **State Health Improvement Plan**

Potential goal 12: Advocate for and fund policies and programs that promote justice and fairness

Establish policies and contribute resources to dismantle racism and increase opportunities for healthy births.

Sample recommendations

- 12.1. Advocate for policy change
- 12.2. Assess the impact of proposed policies
- 12.3. Fund initiatives to eliminate racism

Potential goal 13: Recruit, support and train leaders and staff to serve communities of color more effectively

Ensure that the leadership and staff of government offices, businesses and community organizations, particularly those in the housing, transportation, education and employment sectors, reflect the communities that they serve and that all staff are trained to address racism through their work.

Sample recommendations
- 13.1. Recruit diverse staff
- 13.2. Education and train staff

Potential goal 14: Authentically partner with Ohioans of color and tailor policies and programs to meet their needs

Establish trust with members of Black communities across the state, share power and decision-making authority and customize policies and programs to ensure they meet the needs of Black Ohioans.

Sample recommendations
- 14.1. Build trust
- 14.2. Host accessible community meetings

Discussion questions

1. Are there any "eliminating racism" goals that are missing from this list? Should any goals be revised or reframed?

2. Which goal is most critical for preventing infant mortality and eliminating disparities?

Poll question

Action tools

Tools to drive **local**-level action

- Implementation examples from local Ohio communities (profiles) or list of all local Ohio communities that have implemented the recommendation
- List of key sectors and organizations
- Guidance on:
  - Decision maker analysis
  - Coalition building
  - Messaging and communications

Tools to drive **state**-level action

- Implementation examples from other states (profiles) or lists of all states that have implemented the recommendation
- Guidance on decision maker analysis
- State budget advocacy opportunities (list of specific ways to engage in the process)
- Tips for submitting testimony to the General Assembly, meeting with legislators or understanding the legislative process

Formats

- Checklists
- Worksheets or templates
- Questions for consideration
- Links to technical expertise
- Links to data to make the case
- Definition of key terms/ glossary
- In-depth examples or list of brief examples

Discussion questions

1. What kinds of tools would be most useful for your organization?

2. Thinking about other state and local partners, what kinds of tools and content would be most likely to result in successful advocacy and policy/systems changes aligned to the SDOIM policy goals and recommendations?

Dissemination and communications

2023 report components

Report	Action guides
• **Policymaker and stakeholder audience** • List prioritized recommendations • Describe implementation progress and barriers	• **Stakeholder audience** • Five action guides on different topics • Includes policy recommendations and tools for action

Ways to influence policy

- Write letters, emails or make phone calls
- Provide district specific data
- Provide analysis of a bill
- Provide testimony at a legislative hearing
- Provide a one-page fact sheet
- Organize community partners to visit key policymakers
- Invite policymakers to visits your organization or speak at a meeting you host

Discussion questions

1. Which dissemination and communications strategies will be most effective for getting these tools in the hands of people who will use them?

2. To which existing groups focused on housing, transportation, education, employment, equity, and/or infant mortality should we reach out?

Discussion questions (cont.)

3. As an advisory group member, what could your role be in disseminating these resources and advancing the recommendations?

Next steps

Next steps

- Thank you for volunteering to review the recommendations and additional context for the report and action guides.
- **No future meetings planned.** We will reach out via email.

Thank you