



Ohio's approach to the social
drivers of infant mortality
5 years later

Nov. 17, 2022



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.

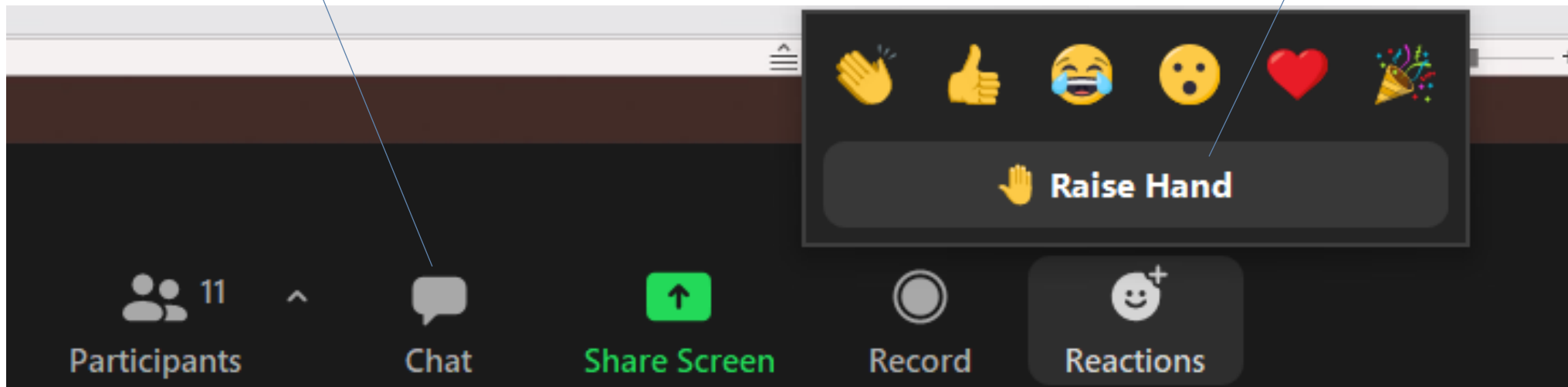
Participating in Zoom

Chat

(found in bottom toolbar)

Raise hand

(found inside reactions button)



SDOIM Advisory Group page



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Social Drivers of Infant Mortality (SDOIM) Advisory Group

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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

Today's agenda

- Background and overview of 2017 SDOIM report
- 2023 SDOIM report: purpose and overview
- Policy inventory results
- **Small groups: Implementation strengths and challenges**
- **Large group: Prioritization**
- Next steps

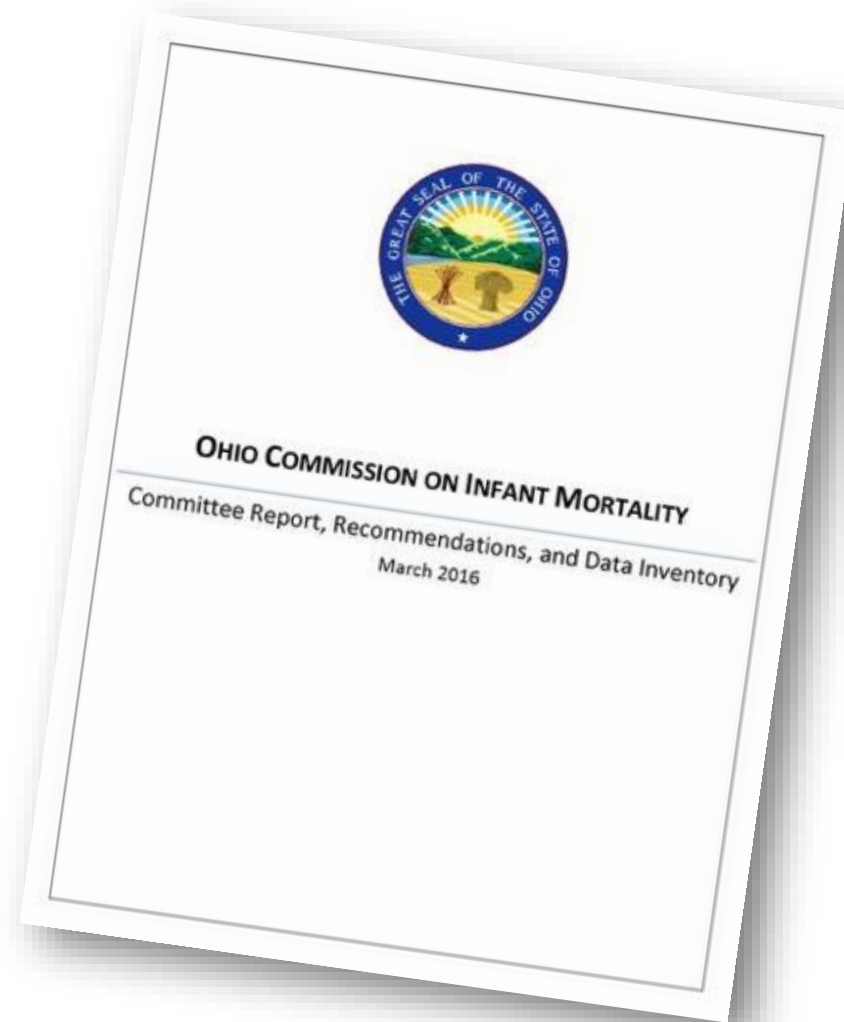
Today's objectives

As a result of this meeting, **Advisory Group members** will:

- Understand the results of HPIO's preliminary analysis of progress on the 2017 SDOIM recommendations
- Provide HPIO with additional information on SDOIM policy implementation
- Provide HPIO with information about which policy goals from the 2017 SDOIM report should be prioritized for action in 2023

Background: 2017 SDOIM report

Senate Bill 332





A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity

Policy recommendations to improve
housing, transportation, education
and employment

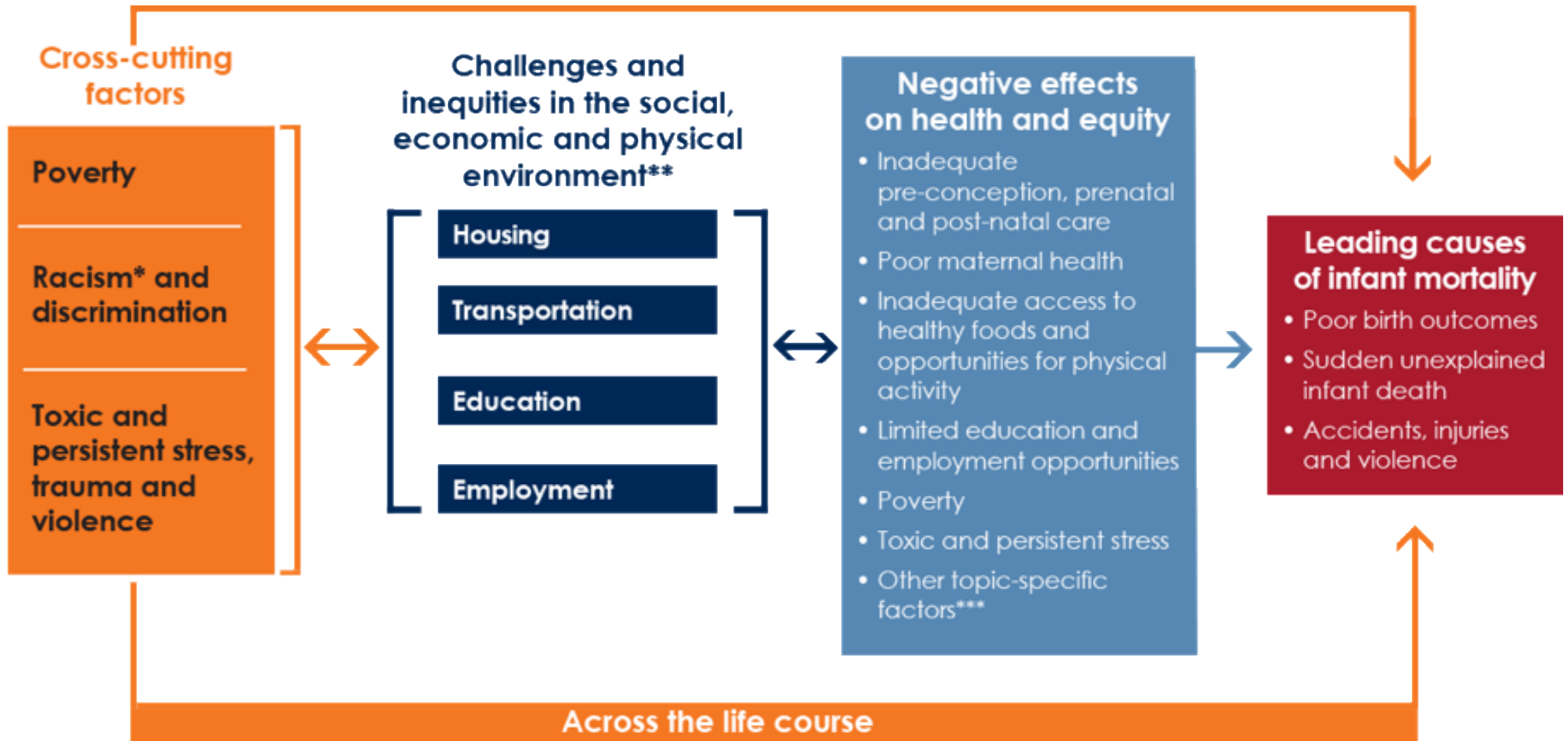


Prepared by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio
for the Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Dec. 1, 2017

Purpose of 2017 report

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



* 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

Policy goals and recommendations

- Housing
- Transportation
- Education
- Employment

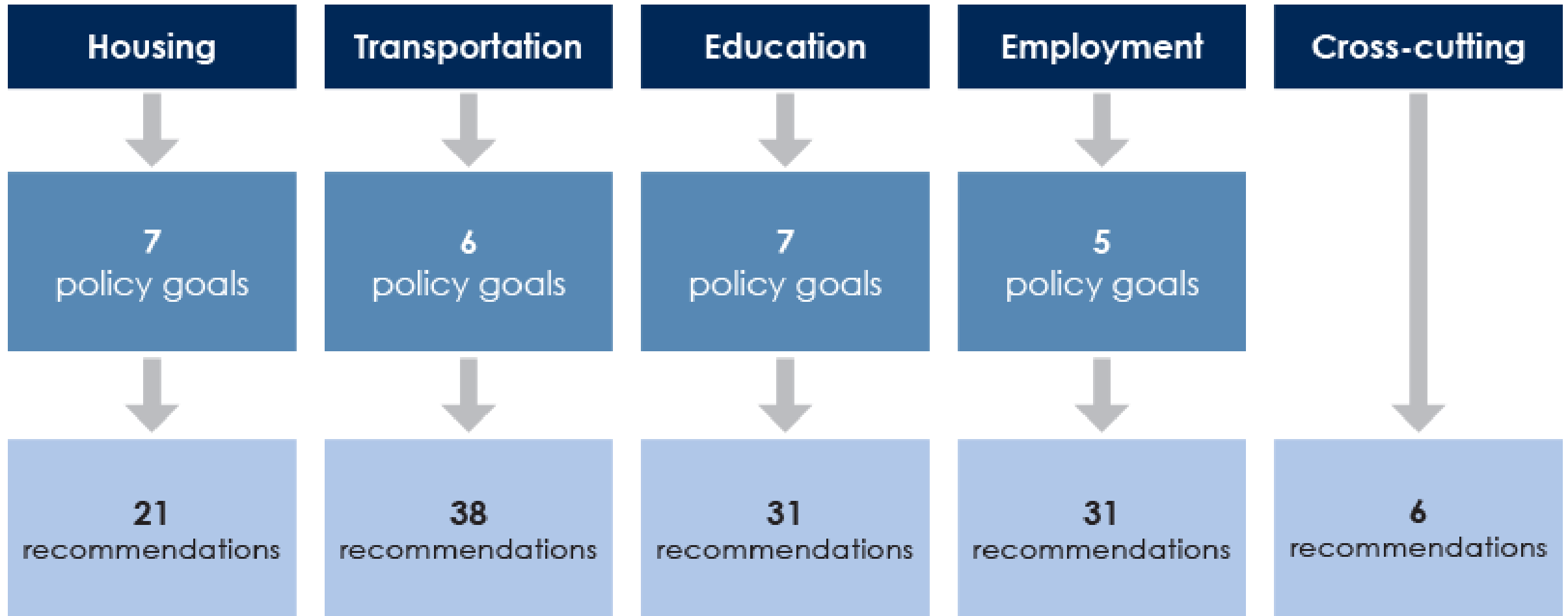


Long-term outcomes

- Healthy mothers and babies
- Improved birth outcomes
- Health equity

Across the life course

127 recommendations



Scope of recommendations

In scope

- State policy
- Local policy
- Housing, transportation, education, employment
- Equity, racism, discrimination

Out of scope

- Federal policy
- Health care

Sources that informed

Policy goals and recommendations

- Literature reviews
- Scope of problem and policy landscape
- Advisory Group feedback (including prioritization)
- Additional subject matter experts



From the report

Key findings



- Improvement is possible
- Pregnancy is not the only period of time that matters for infant health
- Access to high quality health care is necessary, but not sufficient
- Racism, discrimination, violence & toxic stress are barriers to improvement

Post-report

Lessons learned



- **Monitoring progress and evaluating impact** is critical, but rarely done
- **Untapped potential** for cross-sector collaboration between infant mortality prevention partners and housing, transportation, education and employment organizations

Post-report

Lessons learned



- Publishing a report is a **starting place**
- Developing an **action plan** is necessary to move forward and engage policymakers
- **Prioritizing a concise set of recommendations** is key to motivating implementation (71/127 recommendations is too many!)

Type in the chat box



How has your organization used recommendations from the 2017 report?

Purpose and objectives: 2023 SDOIM report

Many recommendations to address infant mortality and disparities

A new approach to reduce infant mortality and achieve equity

Policy recommendations to improve housing, transportation, education and employment

Prepared by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio for the Ohio Legislative Service Commission
Dec. 1, 2017

SHIP
State Health Improvement Plan
Ohio 2020-2022
April 2020

Health Policy Brief
Connections between racism and health
Taking action to eliminate racism and advance equity

Overview
3 key findings for policymakers

- Racism is a health crisis.
- Racism markedly directly and indirectly across all levels of society.
- Many opportunities to dismantle racism exist.

Why should we focus on racism?

COVID-19 OHIO
MINORITY HEALTH
STRIKE FORCE
BLUEPRINT

MORE THAN A MASK

HEALTHY START BABIES
2022 MARCH OF DIMES REPORT CARD

OHIO

PRETERM BIRTH GRADE: D+ (9.8)

PRETERM BIRTH RATE: 10.6%

INFANT MORTALITY: 6.6

INFANT MORTALITY RATE: 6.5

PRETERM BIRTH RATE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

PRETERM BIRTH RATE BY CITY

Ohio Eliminating Disparities in Infant Mortality Task Force
Draft Recommendations
Sept. 29, 2021

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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**

Tools for action

- Describe effective state level advocacy
- Describe 1-2 local decision-making processes
- Include checklists, worksheets and/or other tools to further advocacy efforts
- Links to additional resources

Policy inventory Preliminary results

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

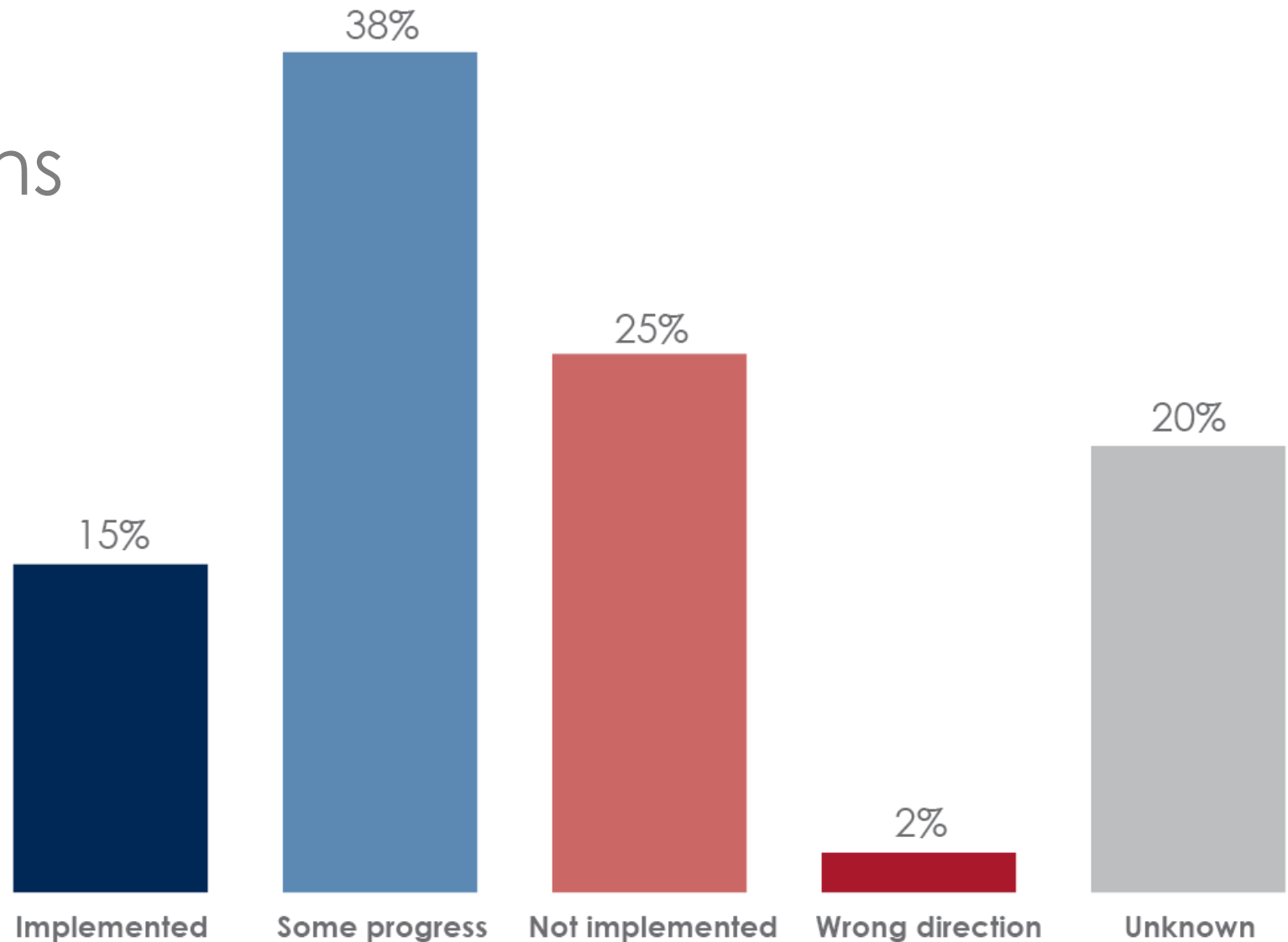
132 General Assembly

133 General Assembly

134 General Assembly

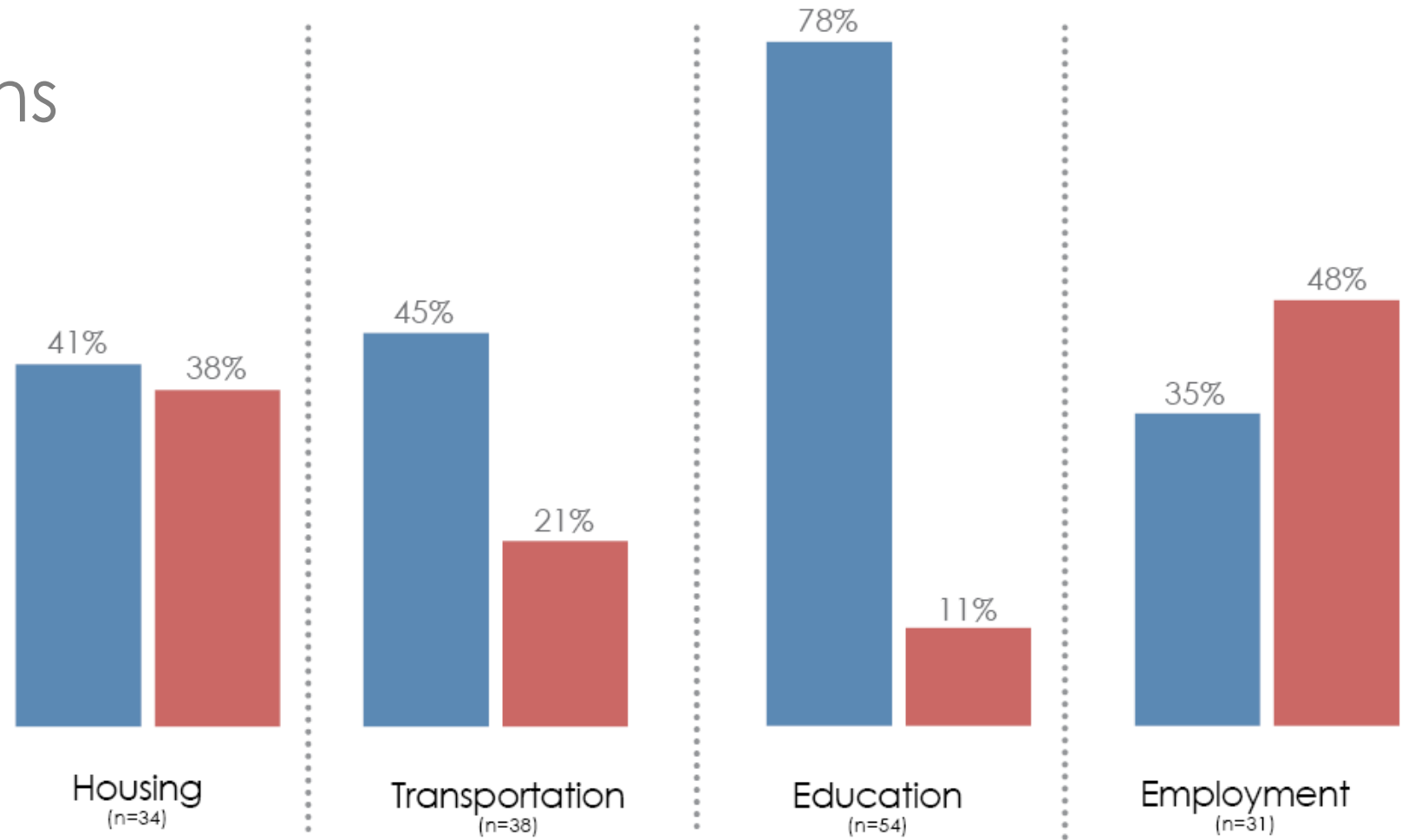
Overall implementation status

Percent of all recommendations implemented (preliminary)



Implementation status, by topic

Percent of recommendations implemented (preliminary)



Implemented or some progress

Not implemented or wrong direction

Examples

Progress

- Local affordable housing efforts
- ODOT equity focus in transportation planning
- Home visiting investments

No progress or wrong direction

- Lack of state-level action to address discrimination in employment or housing
- HB 430 preempts local rent stabilization policies (134 GA)
- HB 110 (134 GA): Federally Subsidized Housing Study Committee

Reasons for progress

- Federal funding (COVID relief)
- Settlement funds (Volkswagen)
- Local action when state-level change is difficult

Reasons for progress (cont.)

- Leadership from Governor's office on children's issues, including lead poisoning and home visiting
- Bipartisan agreement on "clean slate" legislation (driver's license suspensions, ~eviction expungement)
- Bipartisan support for K-12 funding and career-technical education

Barriers to progress

- Political power of landlords, compared to tenants
- Political power of employers, compared to low-wage workers
- Limited state funding for housing and public transportation
- “Wrong pocket” problem
- Bureaucratic complexity, inertia, bandwidth, silos
- Future: One-time federal funding ends

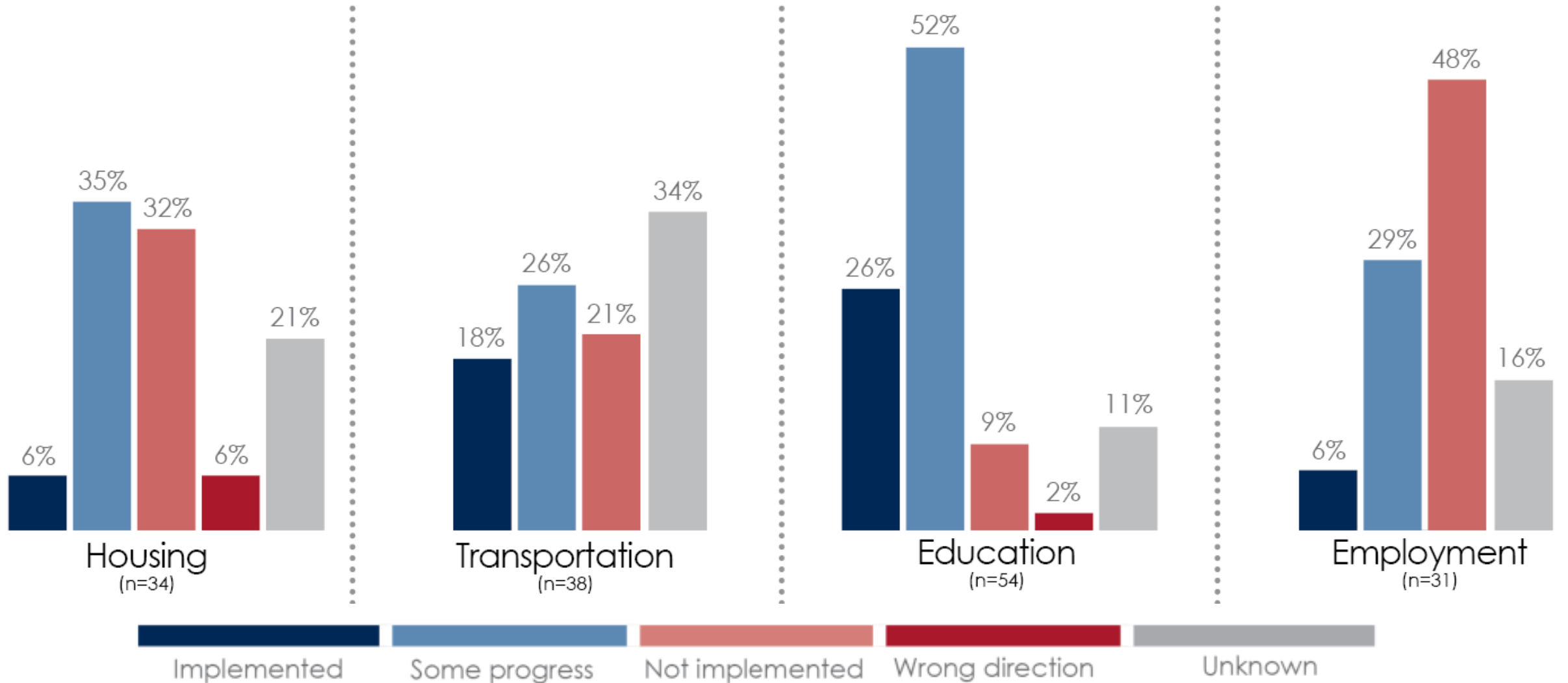
Small group breakouts

Discussion questions

1. Do you have any additional information about progress on these recommendations we should know about?
2. What strengths or opportunities led to the progress we saw for this topic?
3. What challenges or barriers prevented implementation of these policy recommendations?
4. What is different between 2017 and now in terms of unmet needs and the policy landscape?

Implementation status, by topic

Percent of recommendations implemented (preliminary)





Housing policy goals

Policy goals

Policies and programs designed to improve:

- Housing affordability
- Housing stability
- Neighborhood conditions
- Housing quality
- Equitable access to housing

Prioritizing communities most at risk for infant mortality

Intermediate outcomes

Increased:

- Supply of rental assistance and affordable housing
- Access to good jobs, post-secondary education and child care
- Safe sleep conditions
- Access to pre-conception, prenatal and postnatal care
- Food security and nutrition

Decreased:

- Discriminatory housing policies and practices
- Homelessness
- Poverty
- Toxic and persistent stress
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Exposure to toxins and other hazards

Long-term outcomes

- Healthy mothers and babies
- Improved birth outcomes
- Health equity



Transportation policy goals

Policy goals

Policies and programs designed to improve:

- Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
- Public transportation
- Pedestrian safety
- Air quality
- Equitable access to transportation

Prioritizing communities most at risk for infant mortality

Intermediate outcomes

Increased:

- Access to pre-conception, prenatal and postnatal care
- Access to jobs, post-secondary education and child care
- Access to healthy food and improved nutrition
- Physical activity

Decreased:

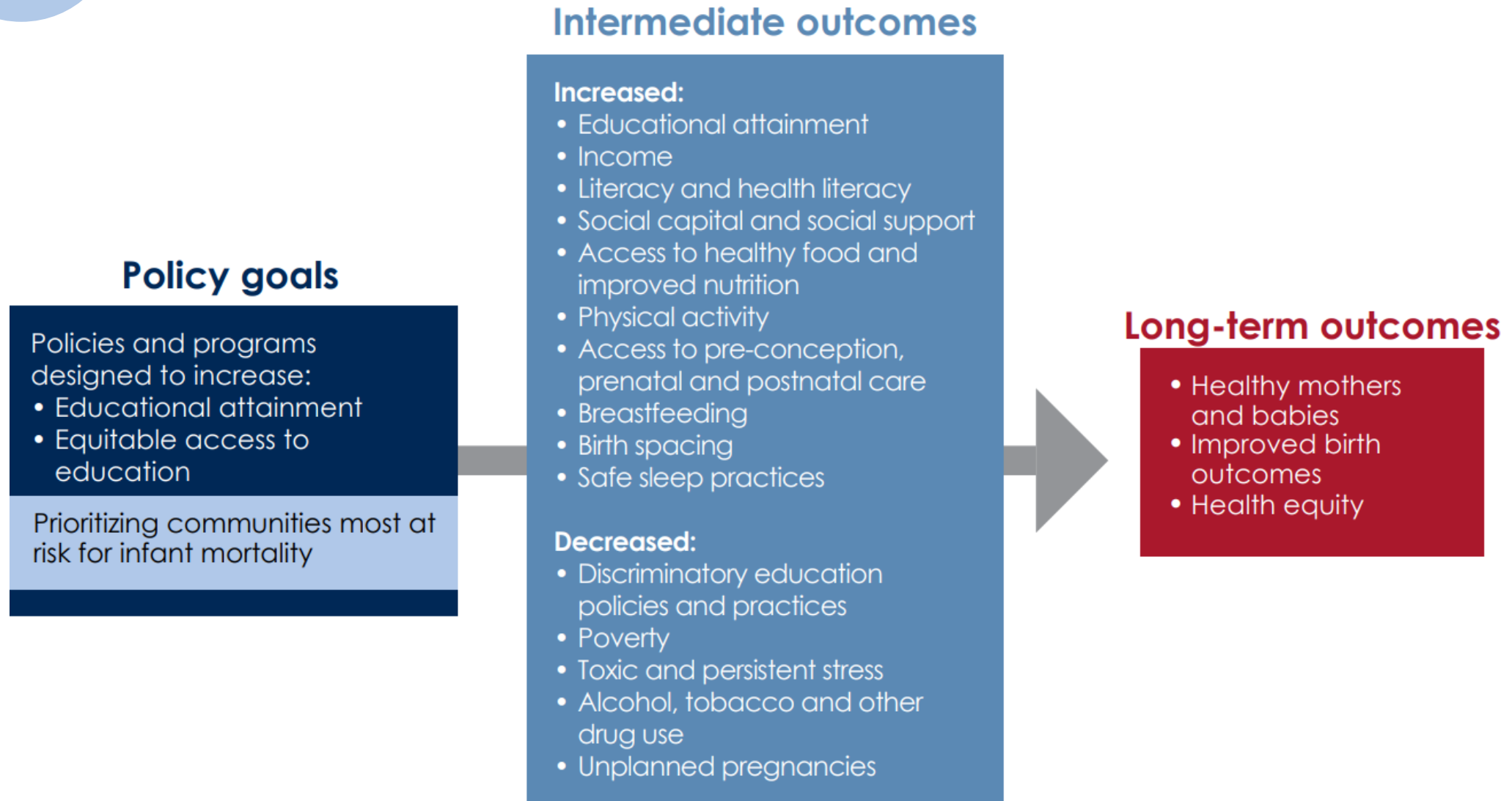
- Discriminatory transportation policies and practices
- Poverty
- Toxic and persistent stress
- Exposure to air pollution

Long-term outcomes

- Healthy mothers and babies
- Improved birth outcomes
- Health equity



Education policy goals





Employment policy goals

Policy goals

Policies and programs designed to increase:

- Employment and income
- Access to work supports

And improve:

- Working conditions
- Leave policies and employment benefits
- Equitable access to employment

Prioritizing communities most at risk for infant mortality

Intermediate outcomes

Increased:

- Income and economic mobility
- Access to health insurance coverage
- Access to healthy food and improved nutrition
- Breastfeeding

Decreased:

- Discriminatory employment policies and practices
- Poverty
- Toxic and persistent stress

Long-term outcomes

- Healthy mothers and babies
- Improved birth outcomes
- Health equity

Prioritization

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



Housing policy goals

1. Increase availability of **rental assistance** programs for renters with extremely low incomes
2. Reduce **structural barriers** to accessing affordable housing for the highest-risk renters (structural barriers include level of income, source of income, criminal record, etc.)
3. Increase the **supply of affordable rental housing** for Extremely Low Income and Very Low Income households in **high opportunity** and low poverty areas



Housing policy goals (cont.)

4. Improve **coordination of services** for low-income families by convening cross-sector partnerships
5. Increase the **supply of affordable housing** renters with Extremely Low Incomes
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
7. Improve the **quality** of affordable housing stock

Discussion

Poll question



Transportation policy goals

1. Evaluate and continuously improve **Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation** provided through **managed care plans**
2. Evaluate and continuously improving Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation to be provided through the **new state-based brokerage model** starting in 2018



Transportation policy goals (cont.)

3. Strengthen access to **public transportation** by improving and expanding local bus systems
4. Improve **pedestrian safety and active transportation** through infrastructure design and investment
5. Decrease barriers to maintaining a **driver's license**
6. Improve **air quality** through reduced **vehicle emissions**

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

Discussion

Poll question

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



Education policy goals

1. Strengthen early childhood education and family support programs
2. Increase graduation rates through high-quality programs geared toward the highest risk students
3. Strengthen career-technical education programs
4. Reduce financial barriers to postsecondary education



Education policy goals (cont.)

5. Increase the number of Ohio adults who take and pass high school equivalency exams or pursue other paths to earn a high school diploma
6. Improve college preparation and college entry programs and services for low-income Ohioans
7. Reduce other barriers to high school completion programs and postsecondary education for students

Discussion

Poll question

\$ Employment policy goals

1. Increase incomes for pregnant women and parents of young children
2. Reduce unemployment and under employment
3. Increase access to work supports
4. Adopt more robust leave policies and employment benefits
5. Reduce exposure to toxic and persistent stress in employment settings

Discussion

Poll question

Next steps

Next steps

- Prioritization survey for additional AG members
- **Next meeting: January 19, 10a-12p**
 - Draft action tools
 - Dissemination and communications plan



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Thank you