



For Immediate Release  
Oct. 10, 2023

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## Updated HPIO analysis finds deaths among working-age Ohioans still much higher than 15 years ago

**(COLUMBUS, Ohio)** – Updated analysis from the Health Policy Institute of Ohio found that working-age Ohioans are dying at a much higher rate than they were 15 years ago, despite a drop in deaths in 2022 as the state emerged from the pandemic.

The analysis, which is compiled in a new data snapshot, "[Updated Death Trends among Working-age Ohioans](#)," found that the number of deaths among working-age Ohioans increased 32% from 2007 to 2022, from 25,885 to 34,146, as illustrated above. If the annual number of deaths had remained constant since 2007, 66,637 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 leading cause of death for working-age adults remains unintentional injuries, which included unintentional drug overdoses and motor vehicle crashes.

"Unintentional drug overdose deaths continue to play a major role in Ohio's increased death rate, accounting for 14% of all deaths among Ohioans ages 15-64 in 2022," the analysis found.

The analysis concludes that "There are many effective strategies to address substance use, promote mental health and support access to healthy food and physical activity, all of which can help reduce deaths among working-age Ohioans... Public and private partners can work together to ensure more Ohio workers have the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life."

*For any questions about the analysis, or if you would like to talk with the report's authors, please call or text Nick Wiselogel at 614.530.9918 or email [nwiselogel@hpio.net](mailto:nwiselogel@hpio.net).*