



Senate Select Committee on Housing

September 26, 2023



Mission

HPIO is an independent and nonpartisan organization. Our mission is to advance evidence-informed policies that improve health, achieve equity, and lead to sustainable healthcare spending in Ohio.

Vision

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



CORE FUNDERS



Bruening



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Evidence-informed policy



Data in
context

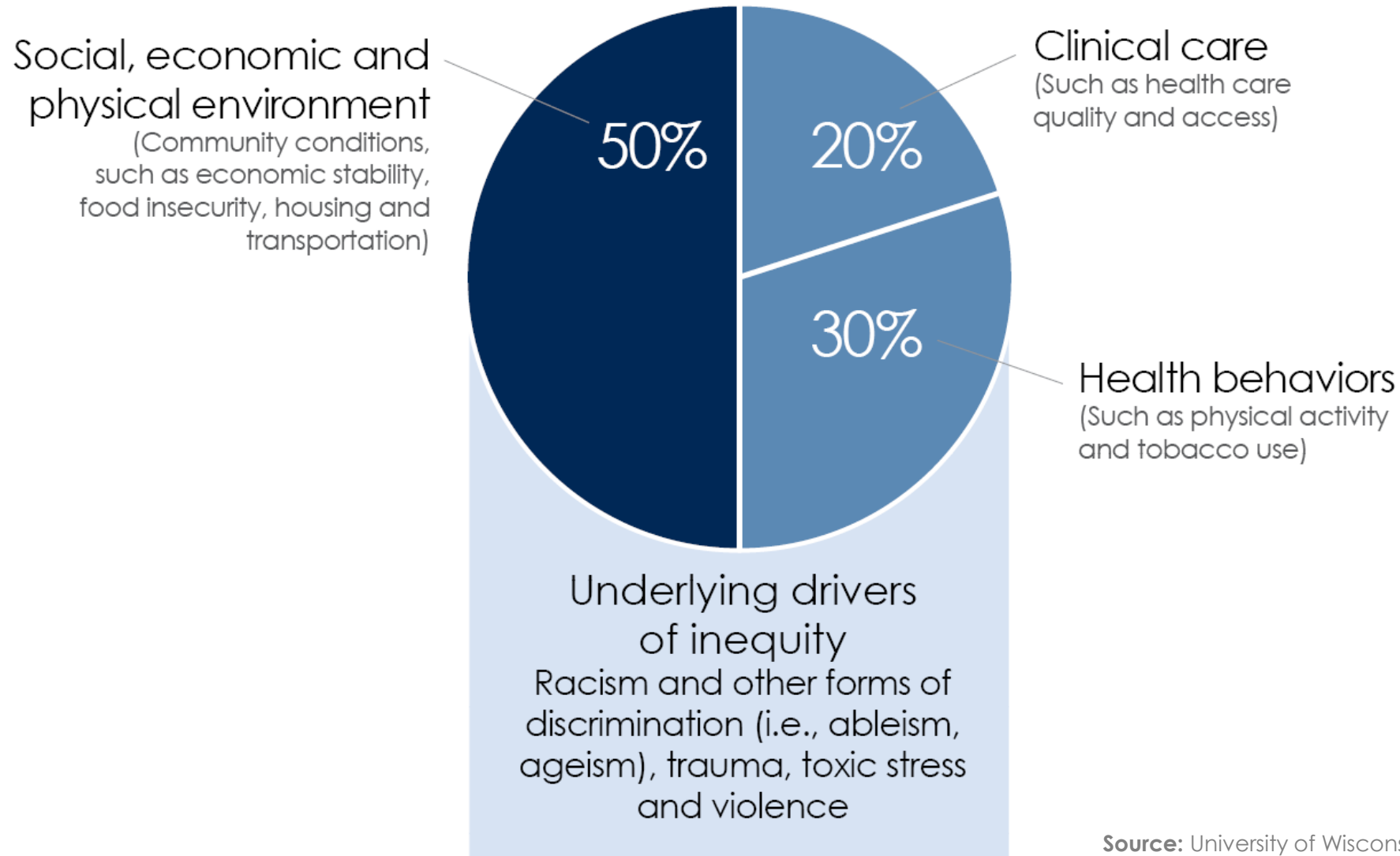


Concise key
findings



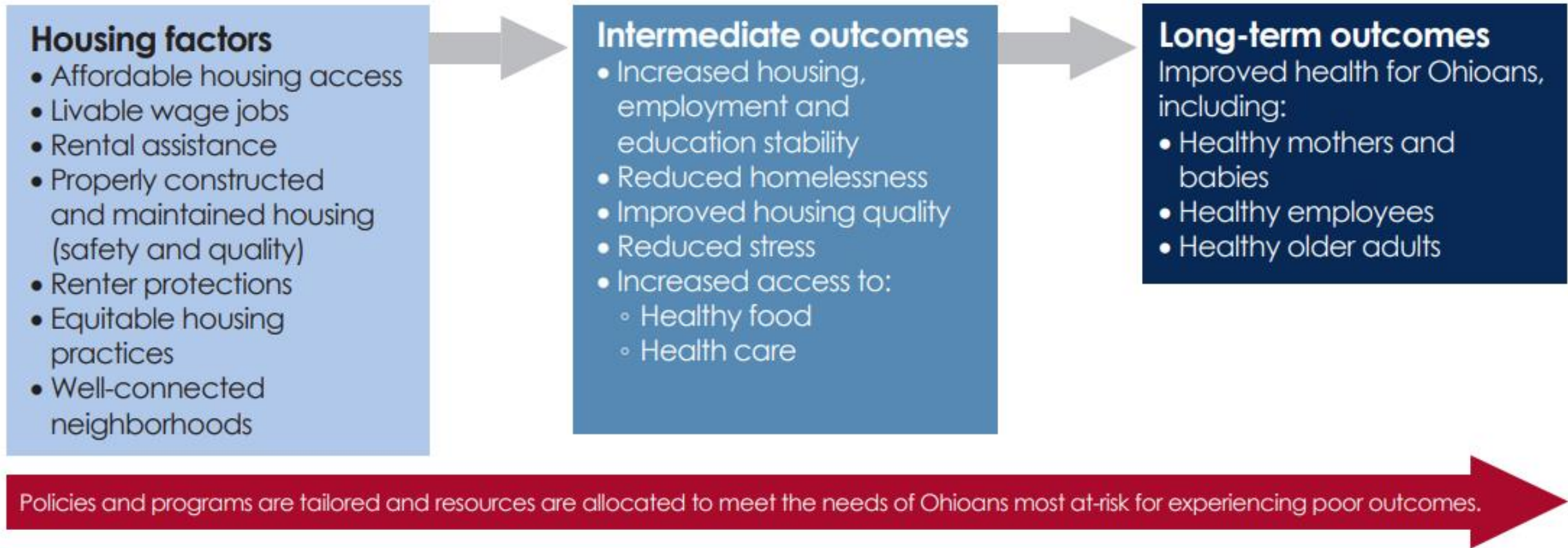
Highlight
what works

Modifiable factors that influence health



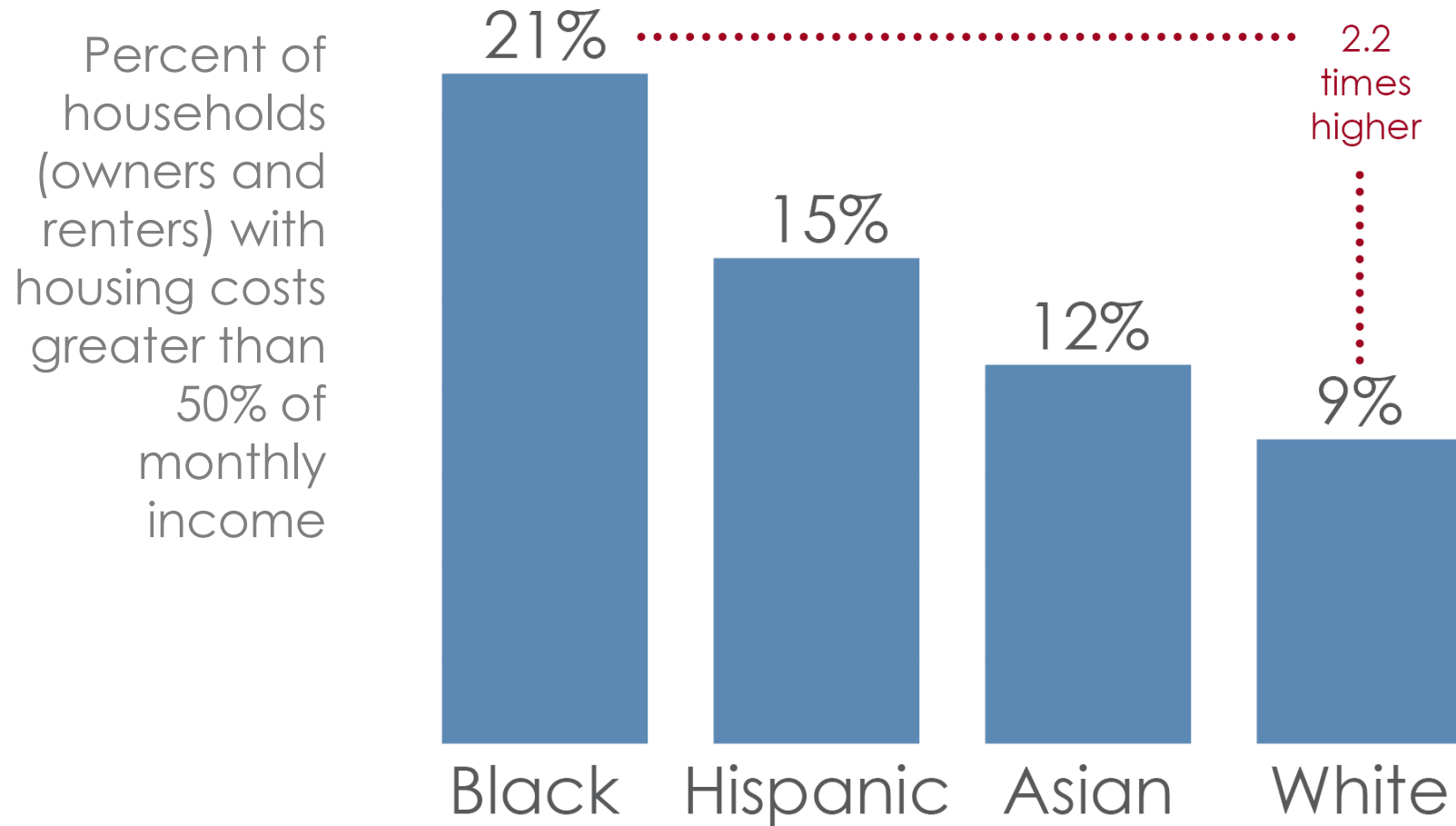
Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

What is the relationship between **housing** and **health**?



Severe housing cost burden

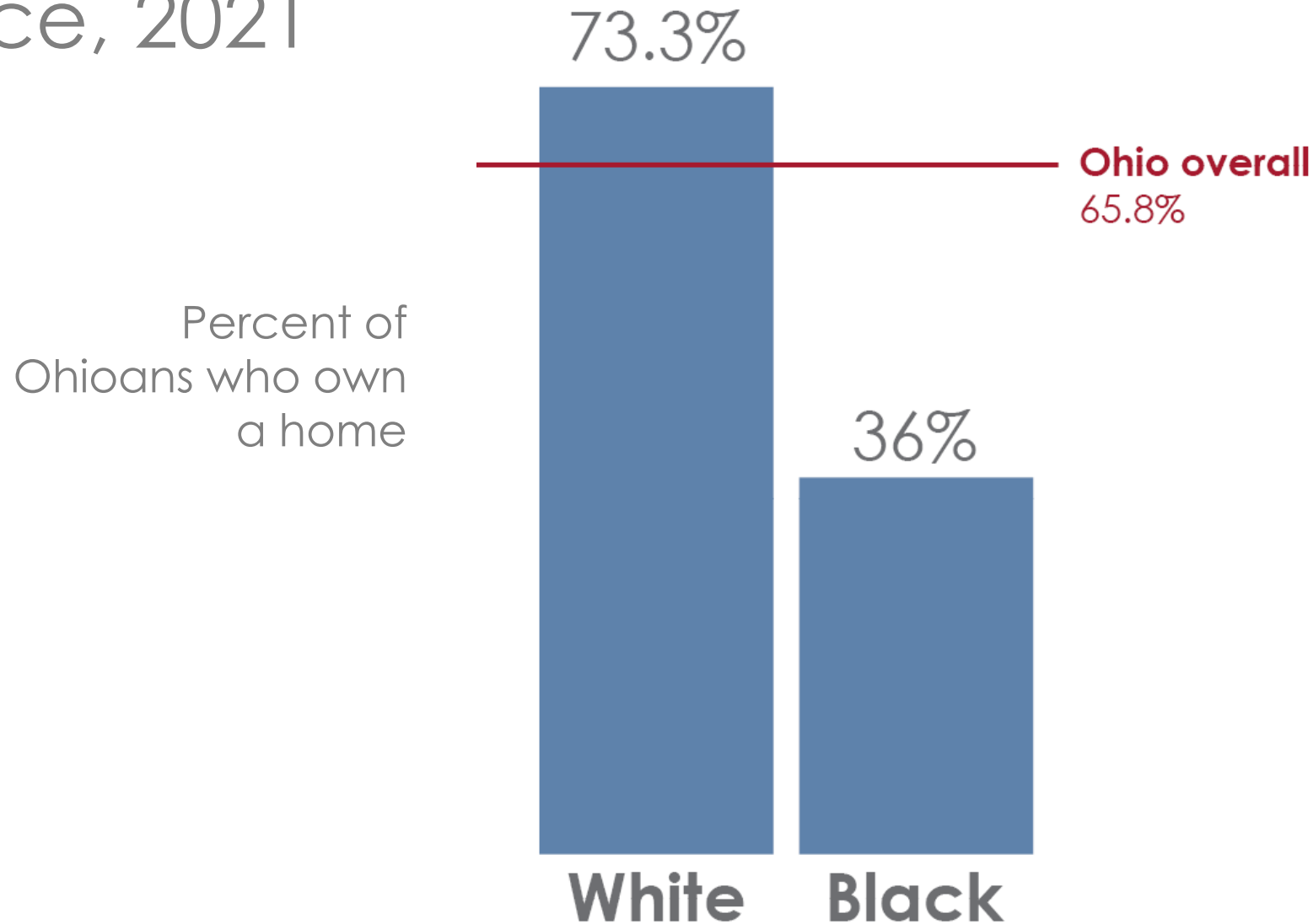
among Ohioans, by race, 2015-2019



Source: Analysis of American Community Survey as compiled by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research, Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data by HPIO and The Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Affairs, Ohio University

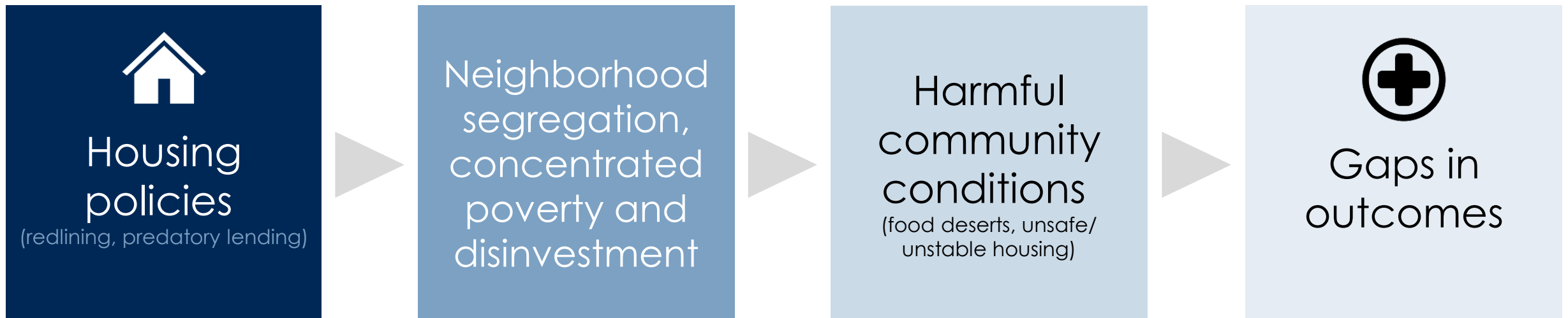
Home ownership in Ohio

by race, 2021



Source: American Community Survey via FY 2024 Ohio Housing Finance Agency Needs Assessment

How can policies create barriers to health?



Ohio's greatest challenges

infant mortality

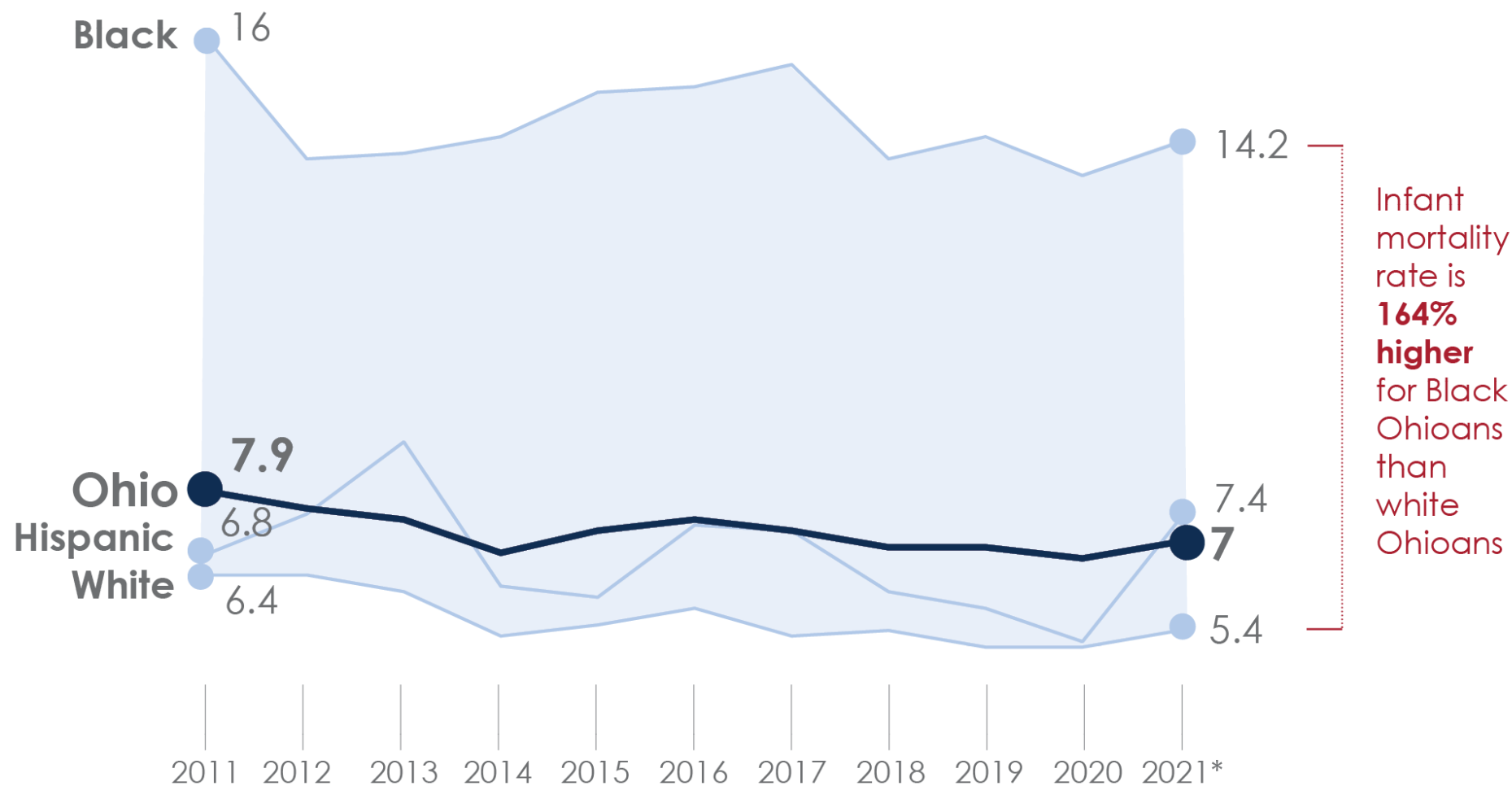


Based on 2020 data

Infant mortality in Ohio

2011-2021*

Number of infant deaths per 1,000 births, by race and ethnicity



*At the time this data was pulled (2.6.2023), the 2021 data year was marked as partial and may be incomplete.
Source: Health Policy Institute of Ohio, "Social Drivers of Infant Mortality: Recommendations for Action and Accountability in Ohio." Data from Ohio Department of Health, Public Health Information Warehouse, Birth Resident and Mortality datasets

A blue silhouette of an iceberg is positioned on the left side of the slide. A horizontal blue line, representing the water surface, cuts across the middle of the iceberg. The portion of the iceberg above the line is small and jagged, while the portion below the line is much larger and more complex in shape, illustrating the concept of hidden causes.

Infant mortality

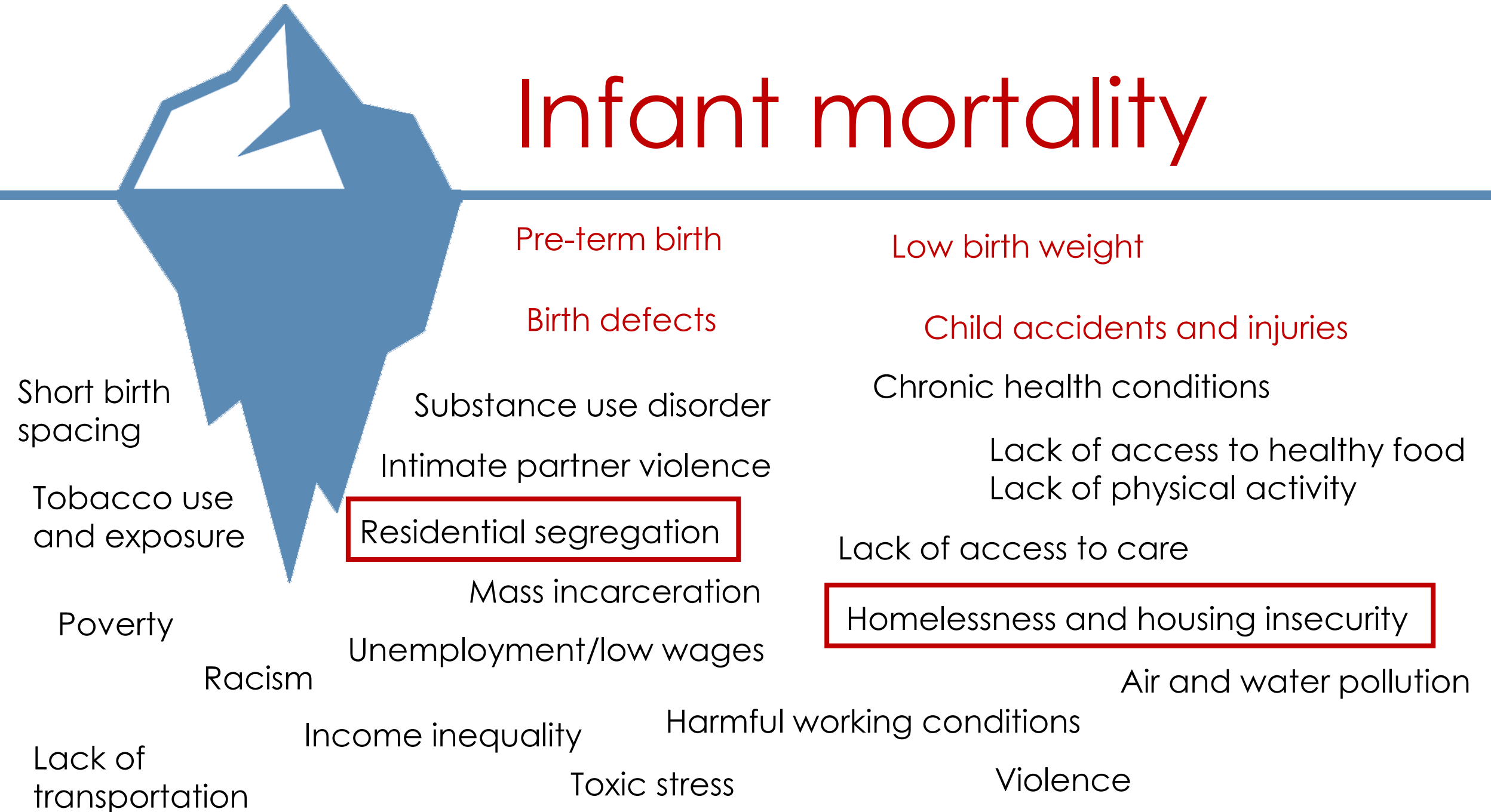
Pre-term birth

Low birth weight

Birth defects

Child accidents and injuries

Infant mortality





Social Drivers of Infant Mortality

Recommendations for Action and Accountability in Ohio

Why is action needed?

For many years, policymakers and community leaders across Ohio have worked to reduce high rates of infant mortality. Decisionmakers have explored this issue through multiple advisory committees, collaborative efforts, investments, legislation and other policy changes.¹ For example, the Ohio General Assembly passed Senate Bill 322 in 2017, which adopted recommendations from the Ohio Commission on Infant Mortality's 2016 report and required the creation of the 2017 Social Drivers of Infant Mortality (SDOIM) report: *A New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity*.

3

Key findings for policymakers

- 1. Changes beyond health care are needed to ensure that every baby thrives.** While healthcare innovations are necessary, improvements to broader community conditions are needed to decrease widening gaps and reinvigorate Ohio's stalled progress on infant mortality.
- 2. Leaders across sectors must work together for meaningful changes.** Public and private partners from the health, housing, transportation, education and employment sectors have many opportunities to change policies and invest in effective solutions to eliminate disparities.
- 3. Progress on past recommendations has been mixed.** Policymakers can build upon the bipartisan cooperation, sustained investment and local collaboration that contributed to action on evidence-based recommendations, and more can be done to engage community members and hold leaders accountable for enacting specific changes to support families.

Building on and prioritizing recommendations to reduce infant mortality



A New Approach to Reduce Infant Mortality and Achieve Equity (2017)
Specific recommendations to improve housing, transportation, education and employment. Developed by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) for the Ohio Legislative Service Commission.



Final Recommendations of the Eliminating Disparities in Infant Mortality Task Force (2022)
General recommendations to improve health care, education, economic stability, neighborhood and built environment and social and community context. Coordinated by the Ohio Department of Health.



This policy brief builds upon these recommendations by prioritizing specific and actionable steps leaders can take to create change in five areas: Housing, transportation, education, employment and racism.



housing



transportation



education



employment



racism



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
- 1.3. Medicaid waiver for tenancy support

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

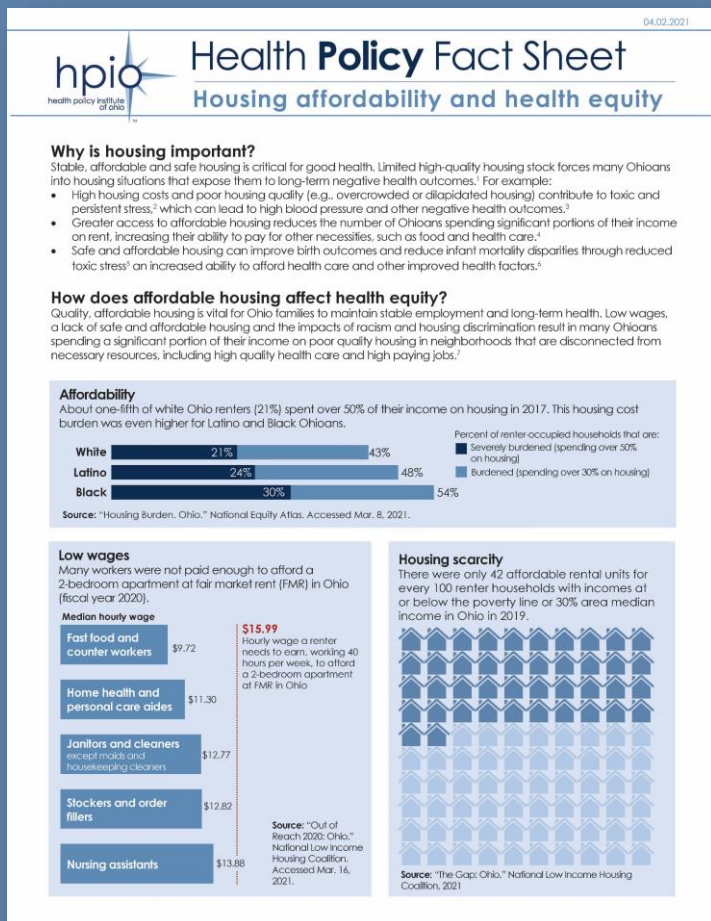
Goal 3: Increase affordable housing supply

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 recommendations

- 3.1. Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
- 3.2. State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit

Additional Resources



QUESTIONS?



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