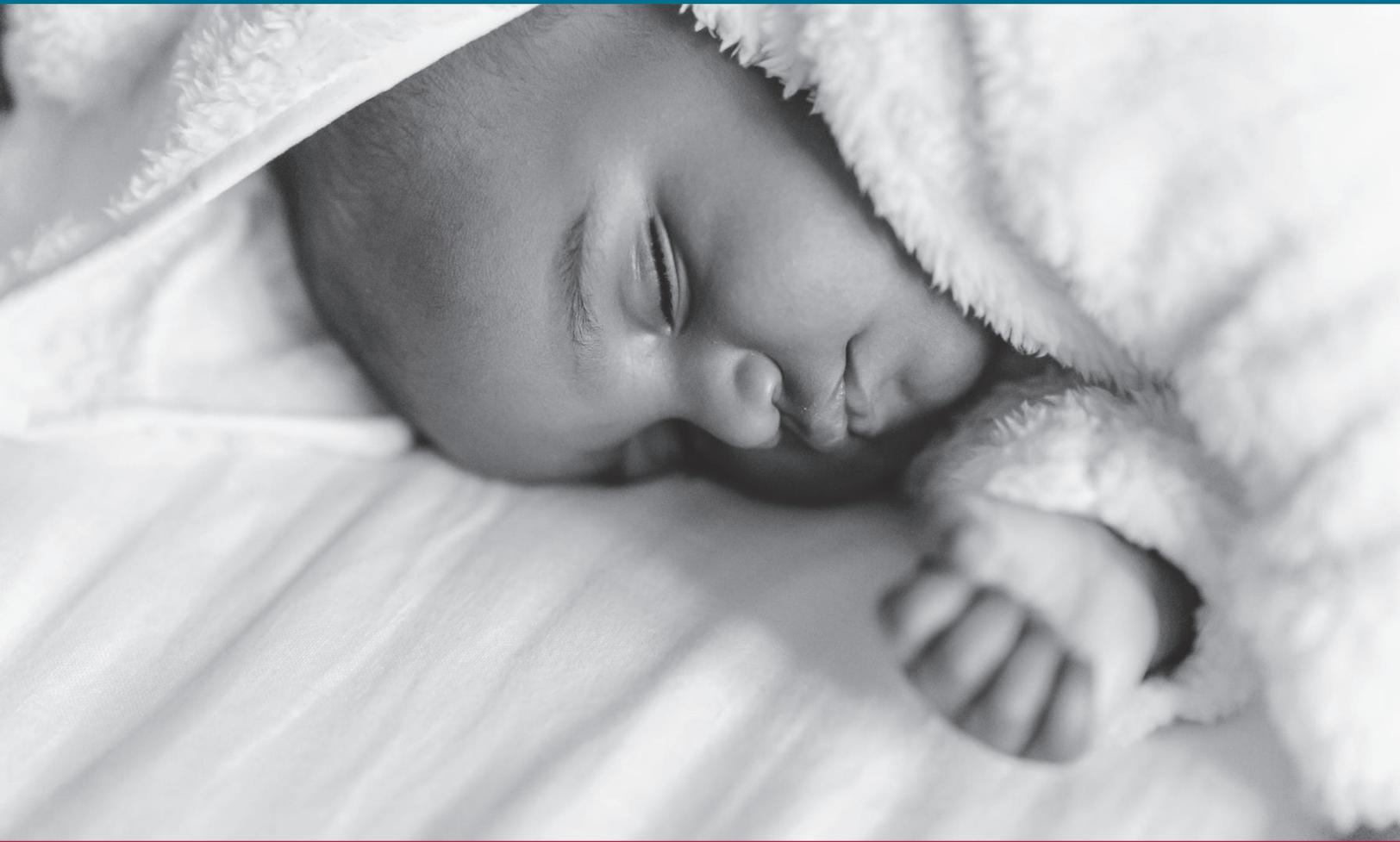




Preview

Early Childhood Dashboard



Acknowledgments

Groundwork Ohio thanks the supporters of the *Early Childhood Dashboard*, including:



Groundwork Ohio contracted with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio to facilitate the *Early Childhood Dashboard Preview*.

A Message from our Leadership

We cannot secure a strong future for Ohio without prioritizing the needs of our youngest Ohioans and the families that care for them.

The first few years of life can either support or inhibit a child's ability to thrive and contribute to society. The vital truth is that it's never too early to invest in our youngest children—but it can be too late. On the heels of an unprecedented pandemic that has had far-reaching, negative impacts on the health and well-being of Ohio's youngest children and their families, it is more critical now than ever to lay a strong foundation for our babies, toddlers, and preschool-age children. Our priorities as a state must be focused on ensuring young children in Ohio are healthy and ready to learn.

In thinking about how we can impact and drive change for our youngest Ohioans, Groundwork Ohio, along with our partners, asked:

"How will we know if every child in Ohio has the opportunity to reach their full potential?"

Answering this question is predicated on our ability to track and measure progress. For this reason, Groundwork Ohio is developing a first-of-its kind *Early Childhood Dashboard* to more fully examine the factors and outcomes required to achieve equity and lay a strong foundation for young children. The *Dashboard*, which will be released in early 2023, is being created as a tool to track Ohio's performance and to catalyze advocacy and action for our youngest Ohioans.

As a precursor to a comprehensive 2023 *Early Childhood Dashboard*, Groundwork Ohio has contracted with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio to develop this *Early Childhood Dashboard Preview*. This *Dashboard Preview* provides a snapshot of Ohio's performance on 20 key early childhood metrics, putting data in context through an analysis of trend, Ohio to U.S. comparison, and disaggregation of data to identify disparities and inequities.

The data in the *Dashboard Preview* makes it clear that, while some progress has been made, Ohio has room for improvement in supporting our young children and their families. For example, the data indicates that:

- Less than half (41.9%) of Ohio's children are ready for kindergarten¹
- More than 1 in 3 of Ohio's youngest children, ages 0-5, have been exposed to adversity and trauma²
- Almost half (44.5%) of children in Public Services Agency Custody are ages 0-6³

In addition, across the data, the *Dashboard Preview* highlights sobering disparities and inequities that are the lived reality for Ohio's children of color.

Prioritizing Ohio's youngest begins with data. We offer this *Early Childhood Dashboard Preview* as a starting place for measuring what matters. Over the next year, Groundwork Ohio will be gathering feedback on the *Dashboard Preview* to inform development of the inaugural 2023 *Early Childhood Dashboard*, which will more fully examine the factors and outcomes required to achieve equity and ensure every young child is healthy and ready to learn. As part of this process, Groundwork will consult with and seek feedback from early childhood experts, including families, community organizations, providers, and other national, state, and local experts. Ultimately this unique work will highlight both Ohio's early childhood strengths and challenges and illuminate areas where we need increased investment, focused attention, and urgent action.

As our state leaders forge a path forward toward a healthier, more productive, and economically vibrant state, our youngest children must be an integral part of the vision. Indeed, the success of our state is dependent on a strong foundation of healthy, vibrant, and ready-to-learn children. We look forward to building this work together and invite you to explore the data, provide feedback on the *Dashboard* itself, and join us in our quest to make Ohio the best place to be a young child.



Warm personal regards,



Shannon Jones
President & CEO
Groundwork Ohio

1. Ohio Department of Education (2020-2021 School Year)
2. Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey (2019)
3. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (State Fiscal Year 2021)



About Groundwork Ohio

Groundwork Ohio is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research, policy, and advocacy organization. Groundwork's mission is to champion high-quality early learning and healthy development strategies from the prenatal period to age five, that lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids, families, and communities.

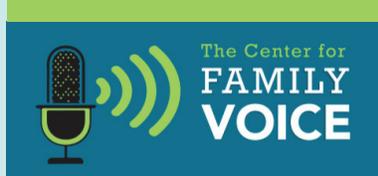
Groundwork Ohio contracted with the **Health Policy Institute of Ohio** to facilitate development of the *Early Childhood Dashboard Preview*.

Groundwork Ohio's Centers of Excellence

Key findings and data from the *Early Childhood Dashboard* will inform the work of Groundwork Ohio's three Centers of Excellence:



The Center for Maternal and Young Child Health builds and transforms systems to improve maternal and young child health, advance health equity, and prioritize prevention through policy development, research, and collaboration.



The Center for Family Voice authentically engages families with young children to elevate family voice in policy development, advocacy, and decision-making.



The Center for Early Learning focuses on securing and sustaining quality leadership in early childhood systems development and advancing early learning policies, practices, and systems.

What is Groundwork Ohio's Early Childhood Dashboard Preview?

Groundwork Ohio developed the *Early Childhood Dashboard Preview* as a precursor to a first-of-its-kind, more comprehensive *Early Childhood Dashboard* to be released in 2023. The comprehensive *Dashboard* is being created as a tool to advance equity and catalyze advocacy and action needed to lay a strong foundation for Ohio kids (prenatal to age 5), families, and communities. This *Dashboard Preview* provides a snapshot of Ohio's performance on 20 key early childhood metrics that examine the factors and outcomes required to ensure young children in Ohio are healthy and ready to learn. The *Dashboard Preview* also puts data in context by analyzing trends across years, comparing Ohio to the U.S., and highlighting disparities and inequities.

Over the next year, Groundwork Ohio will gather feedback on the *Dashboard Preview* to inform development of the 2023 *Dashboard*. As part of this process, Groundwork will consult with and solicit feedback from early childhood experts, families, community organizations, providers, and other early childhood stakeholders at the local, state, and national levels. The 2023 *Dashboard* will build on the *Dashboard Preview* to more fully examine the factors and outcomes required to achieve equity and lay a strong foundation for young children in Ohio.

Laying a strong foundation for Ohio's young children

What **factors** build a strong foundation for young children?

- Early learning access and quality
- Healthcare access and quality
- Early childhood adversity and trauma prevention
- Economic stability

What **outcomes** indicate that Ohio provides a strong foundation for young children?

Young children in Ohio are healthy and ready to learn.

Vision

Ohio is the best place to be a young child and every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Approach

Investments are made at a young age to achieve equity and lay a strong foundation for every child.