



The State of Black Women & Reproductive Justice

OHIO

Ohio has a population of 11.7 million people, making it the 7th most populous state in the United States.¹

Black individuals comprise 13.3% of the state population, similar to the national population; 77.3% of the population is white; 4.5% is Hispanic, and 2.7% is Asian.

Legislative Profile

- Governor Mike DeWine (R) opposes reproductive autonomy.
- The Ohio state House and Senate oppose reproductive autonomy.

Policy Profile

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE^{2 3}

- Ohio expanded Medicaid as part of the ACA implementation. As a result:
 - » 921,000 additional Ohio residents gained access to Medicaid and CHIP between 2013 and 2021.
 - » The percentage of uninsured Ohioans has declined by 46%.
- Ohio Medicaid covers women for 12 months post-partum if they have incomes below 205% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- 9.7% of Black Ohioans, 7% of whites, and 14.5% of Hispanics lack health insurance.
- The state's work requirement for Medicaid has not been implemented; it was first suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic; then, in 2021, the Biden Administration rejected all Medicaid work requirements.

HEALTH IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC^{4 5}

- The Black population accounted for 12% of all COVID-19-related deaths in Ohio, which aligns with the percentage of the state's population (13.3%).
- The white population comprised 85% of COVID-19-related deaths and 77.3% of the population; the Hispanic population accounted for 2% of deaths and 4.5% of the population.

- More than half of Black, white, and Hispanic people in Ohio are vaccinated (61%, 55%, and 65%, respectively).

ACCESS TO ABORTION CARE^{6 7 8}

- Ohio's abortion laws have been in flux since the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. There is a 2019 state law banning abortion after 6 weeks of pregnancy, but it is currently enjoined and not in effect; as a result, abortion remains legal until approximately 22 weeks of pregnancy.
- The Ohio Supreme Court is considering the case. At the same time, a constitutional amendment to guarantee abortion access will appear on the ballot in November.
- Birthing people or pregnant women are required to receive state-mandated counseling that contains misinformation about abortion before they can have the procedure. Women must wait 24 hours after counseling before the procedure.
- Parents must give their consent before a minor can receive abortion care.
- Abortion care is only publicly funded in cases of life endangerment, rape, or incest.
- The state requires abortion clinics to meet unnecessary and onerous standards related to their facility, equipment, and staff.
- Ohio's abortion rate in 2020 was 9.3 procedures per 1,000 women aged 15 – 44.

FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES^{9 10}

- Ohio law does not specifically permit minors under age 18 to get a prescription for birth control without a parent's or guardian's permission.
- Ohio law prohibits the allocation of family planning funds to organizations that provide abortion care, counseling, or referrals unless abortion-related activities are physically and financially separated from other family planning services.

SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION¹¹

- State law mandates provision of sexual health education and HIV/AIDS prevention education; boards of education in the school districts establish the health education curriculum.
- Health education is required to emphasize abstinence; Ohio requires schools to teach about adolescent sexual activity's negative outcomes.
- The state does not require health education to include information about contraception.
- Parents are allowed to opt their children out of health education classes.

Systemic Disparities

STD/STIS, INCLUDING HIV/AIDS¹²

- Among STD/STIs diagnosed in Ohio in 2021 for which race/ethnicity was reported:
 - » There were 387 cases of Syphilis: 36% were among Black women, 55% were among white women, 7% were among multi-racial women, and 1.3% were among Hispanic women.
 - » There were 30,425 cases of Chlamydia: 45% were among Black women, 41% were among white women, 7.7% were among multi-racial women, and 5% were among Hispanic women.
 - » There were 12,101 cases of Gonorrhea: 58% were among Black women, 30% were among white women, 8% were among multiracial women, and 3% were among Hispanic women.
- Among women who received an HIV diagnosis in 2022 for which race/ethnicity was known, 46% were Black women, 47% were white women, and 5% were Hispanic women.
- In 2021, 33% of the AIDS-related deaths among women in Ohio were among Black women; 38% were among white women, 22% were among multiracial women, and 7% were among Hispanic women.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN OHIO

From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, there were

112

domestic violence fatalities in Ohio, including

22 CHILDREN

Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), *Ohio Domestic Violence Fatalities, 2022*, Columbus (OH): ODVN, 2023. Online: <https://www.odvn.org/reports/>

The U.S. mortality rate for Black women was 69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births, 2.6 times the rate of white women (26.6).

SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE CANCERS¹³

- In Ohio, the age-adjusted rate of new breast cancer cases is 122.8 cases for every 100,000 women. Black women's rate is 120.3 for every 100,000 women, compared to 124.6 and 90.9 for white and Hispanic women, respectively.
- The breast cancer mortality rate for Black Ohioans is 27.5 deaths for every 100,000 women, compared to 19.5 per 100,000 for white women.
- The age-adjusted cervical cancer rate is 7.1 cases for every 100,000 Ohio women. The rate for Black women is 6.6 per 100,000 women, compared to 7.1 and 8.9 for white and Hispanic women, respectively.
- The cervical cancer mortality rate is 2.3 deaths for every 100,000 women, for both Black and white women.

MATERNAL & INFANT MORTALITY^{14 15 16 17 18}

- Ohio has the 6th-highest rate of maternal mortality in the country. From 2018-2021, the CDC reports that there were 85 pregnancy-related deaths. The state's maternal mortality rate was 21.3 deaths for every 100,000 live births. In comparison, the US national rate during that time-frame was 20.4/100,000 live births.
- The CDC's Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System is based only on vital statistics data submitted by states. Many state Maternal Mortality Review Committees, like Ohio, access multiple sources of information. According to the state, pregnancy-related deaths in Ohio increased from 2008 to 2018, from 10.8 deaths for every 100,000 live births in 2008, to 23.7/100,000 in 2018. Most (61%) of these deaths were preventable.
- In Ohio, the severe maternal mortality rate for all women is 71.9 deaths for every 10,000 live births. For Black women, the rate is 112.2, compared to 60.5 and 67 for white and Hispanic women, respectively.
- New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that the nation's maternal mortality rate increased in 2021, to 32.9 deaths for every 100,000 live births. The U.S. mortality rate for Black women was 69.9 deaths per 100,000 live births, 2.6 times the rate of white women (26.6).
- The Black infant mortality rate in Ohio was 13.6 deaths for every 1,000 live births in 2022-2020. For whites, the rate was 5.1/1,000. The state's goal is to decrease the rate to 6.0 or fewer deaths.

LGBTQIA+ LIBERATION¹⁹

- Ohio law protects LGBTQIA+ individuals in the child welfare system, with respect to adoption and foster care, and those who are state employees.
- State laws prohibits coverage for transgender care in Medicaid coverage.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE^{20 21}

- Black women in Ohio make 64 cents for every dollar that a white man makes, creating a wage gap of 36 cents.
- The lifetime wage gap for Black women in Ohio is \$857,120; a Black woman has to work until age 83 to make what a white man does by age 60.
- In Ohio, 39.1% of women-headed households live in poverty. Among Black women, 24.8% live in poverty, compared to 13.6% of all women aged 18 and older, and 11.3% of white women in the state.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE^{22 23 24}

- Black individuals comprise 43% of the Ohio prison population, although they comprise just 12% of the state population. They are 5.6 times more likely to be incarcerated than white individuals.
- Individuals who are in prison cannot vote in Ohio.
- Ohio prohibits restraints from being used on inmates during pregnancy and for six weeks post-partum.

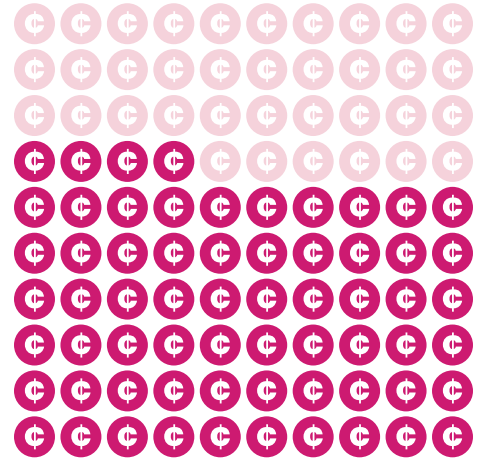
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN^{25 26 27 28}

- More than one-third (38%) of Ohio women experience intimate partner rape or stalking during their lifetime.
- In 2022, there were 55,556 victims of domestic violence in Ohio; 75% of the victims were women. Of all victims in 2022, 31% were Black individuals, and 63% were white.
- From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, there were 112 domestic violence fatalities in Ohio, including 22 children. In the vast majority of cases (91%), the victim was killed by a gun. One-quarter (25.6%) of cases involved a victim who had reported a domestic violence incident to the police.
- Ohio prohibits domestic violence misdemeanants from possessing concealed carry permits.
- In 2022, there were 11 women were killed in police-involved shootings; 2 of the victims were Black women, and 9 were white women.

Endnotes

1. United States Census Bureau, *Quick Facts*, Washington (DC): Census Bureau, 2022. Online: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MI,US/PST045222>
2. HealthInsurance.org, *Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment in Ohio*, HealthInsurance.org, 2023. Online: <https://www.healthinsurance.org/ohio-medicaid/>
3. KFF, *Uninsured Rates for the Nonelderly by Race/Ethnicity: 2021*, Palo Alto (CA): KFF, no date.
4. KFF, *COVID-19 Deaths by Race/Ethnicity: 2022*, Palo Alto (CA): KFF, no date.
5. Ndugga N, Hill L, Artiga S, Halder S, *Latest Data on COVID-19 Vaccinations by Race/Ethnicity*, Palo Alto (CA): KFF, 2022. Online: <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/latest-data-on-covid-19-vaccinations-by-race-ethnicity/>
6. Livingston D, "What Ohio Voters and patients need to know about abortion in this critical election year," *Akron Beacon Journal*, June 14, 2023. Online: <https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/local/2023/06/14/is-abortion-legal-in-ohio-laws-heartbeat-bill-constitutional-amendment/70313118007/>
7. Sex, Etc., *Sex in the States: Ohio*, Piscataway (NJ): Rutgers University, no date. Online: <http://sexetc.org/action-center/sex-in-the-states/>.
8. KFF, *Rate of Legal Abortions per 1,000 Women Aged 15-44 Years by State of Occurrence*, Palo Alto (CA): KFF, no date.
9. Sex, Etc., *Sex in the States: Ohio*, Piscataway (NJ): Rutgers University, no date. Online: <http://sexetc.org/action-center/sex-in-the-states/>.
10. Ohio Laws & Administrative Rules, *Section 37091.046: Grants for women's health services*, Legislative Service Commission, 2023. Online: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3701.046>
11. Sex, Etc., *Sex in the States: Georgia*, Piscataway (NJ): Rutgers University, no date. Online: <http://sexetc.org/action-center/sex-in-the-states/>.
12. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics, *Atlas Plus HIV, Hepatitis, STD, and Data*, Atlanta (GA): CDC, no date. Online: <https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/nchhstpatlas/main.html>.
13. U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group, U.S. *Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2022 submission data (1999-2020)*, Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2023. Online: <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz>
14. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Maternal deaths and mortality rates by state for 2018-2020* - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta (GA): National Center for Health Statistics, 2021.
15. Ohio Department of Health (ODH), *Ohio Maternal Health Data and Reports: Overview of Pregnancy-Related Deaths in Ohio*, Columbus (OH): ODH, no date. Online: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/pregnancy-associated-mortality-review/Reports/PAMR-Reports>
16. Hoyert DL, *Maternal mortality rates in the United States, 2021*, Atlanta (GA): National Center for Health Statistics, 2023. Online: <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/124678>.
17. Ohio Department of Health (ODH), *Eliminating Racial Disparities in Infant Mortality Task Force*, Columbus (OH): OHD, no date. Online: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/eliminating-racial-disparities/welcome-to>
18. United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics (DVS). *Linked Birth / Infant Death Records 2007-2020*, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, on CDC WONDER On-line Database. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>
19. Movement Advancement Project (MAP), *Ohio's Equality Profile*, Boulder (CO): MAP, no date. Online: https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality_maps/profile_state/OH
20. National Women's Law Center (NWLC), *Lifetime Wage Gap Losses State by State*, Washington (DC): NWLC, 2023. Online: <https://nwlc.org/resource/the-lifetime-wage-gap-state-by-state/>.
21. National Women's Law Center (NWLC), *Women in Poverty, State by State*, Washington (DC): NWLC, 2022. Online: <https://nwlc.org/resource/women-in-poverty-state->
22. Nellis AN, *The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons*, Washington (DC): The Sentencing Project, 2021. Online: <https://www.sentencing-project.org/reports/the-color-of-justice-racial-and-ethnic-disparity-in-state-prisons-the-sentencing-project/>.
23. Ohio Attorney General, *The New R.C. §2901.10 and R.C. §2152.75: Restraint of a pregnant female who is a charged, adjudicated, or convicted offender*, Columbus (OH): Ohio Attorney General, no date.
24. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), *Felony Disenfranchisement Map*, New York (NY): ACLU, no date. Online: <https://www.aclu.org/issues/voting-rights/voter-restoration/felony-disenfranchisement-laws-map>
25. Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, *Domestic Violence Report 2022*, Columbus (OH): Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, 2023.
26. National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, *Domestic Violence in Ohio*, Denver (CO): NCADV, 2021. Online: <https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2497/ohio-2021101912193441.pdf>
27. Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), *Ohio Domestic Violence Fatalities, 2022*, Columbus (OH): ODVN, 2023. Online: <https://www.odvn.org/reports/>
28. Washington Post *Police Shootings Database*, no date. Data from 2020-2023. Online: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

OHIO'S WAGE GAP



BLACK WOMEN MAKE 64 CENTS FOR EVERY \$1.00 A WHITE MAN MAKES, A WAGE GAP OF 56 CENTS.

Source: National Women's Law Center (NWLC), *Lifetime Wage Gap Losses for Black Women: 2020 State Rankings*, Washington, DC: NWLC, 2021.

AMONG OHIOANS,
24.8%
OF BLACK PEOPLE ARE
LIVING IN POVERTY,
COMPARED TO
11.3%
OF WHITES

Black individuals comprise 43% of the Ohio prison population, although they comprise just 12% of the state population. They are 5.6 times more likely to be incarcerated than white individuals.

We are a national partnership focused on lifting up the voices of Black women leaders at the national, regional, and state level in our ongoing policy fight to secure Reproductive Justice for all women and girls.



**IN OUR OWN VOICE:
NATIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AGENDA**
601 13th St., NW, Suite 650 N • Washington, DC 20005 • 202-545-7660 • www.blackrj.org

Strategic Partners



P.O. Box 292516
Los Angeles, CA 90029
(323) 290-5955
www.bwwla.org



55 M Street SE | Suite 940
Washington, D.C. 20003
(202) 548.4000
www.bwhi.org



The Beatty Building
5907 Penn Avenue, Suite 340
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206
(412) 450-0290
newvoicesrj.org



P.O. Box 10558
Atlanta, Georgia 30310
(404) 505-7777
www.sisterlove.org



1750 Madison Avenue
Suite 600
Memphis, Tennessee 38104
(901) 222-4425
sisterreach.org



P.O. Box 89210
Atlanta, GA 30312
(404) 331-3250
www.sparkrj.org



501 Wynnewood Dr, Ste 213
Dallas, Texas, TX 75224
(972) 629-9266
theafiyacenter.org



1226 N. Broad Street
New Orleans, LA 70119
(504) 301-0428
wwav-no.org

Acknowledgments

Authors

Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO,
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive
Justice Agenda

Editor: Susan K. Flinn, MA

Design: Goris Communications

Because the Reproductive Justice framework encompasses bodily integrity and autonomy, our use of the term "women" includes cis, femmes, trans, agender, gender non-binary, and gender non-confirming individuals.