



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

AFFORDABLE 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 was approved by voters in November 2023.
- Birthing or pregnant people 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 U.S. 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.

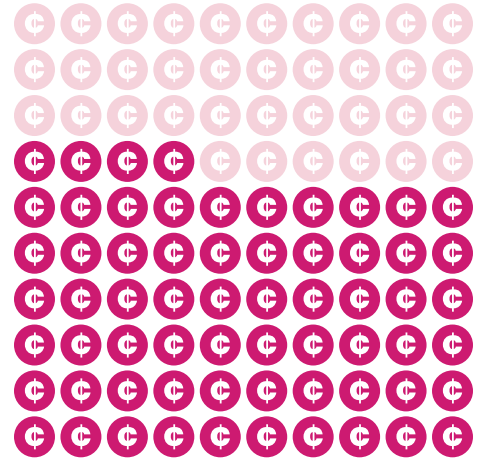
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN^{25 26 27 28}

- 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 misdemeanors 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.

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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:
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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.