

# VOTE for OHIO KIDS

## Quality, timely, and accessible health care

KNOW  
THE ISSUES

Quality, timely, and accessible health care is vital to supporting and maintaining a child's overall mental health and well-being and contributes to the long-term vitality of our state. Health care provided prenatally, during early childhood, and into youth and adolescence can prevent, treat, and mitigate the impacts of harmful and costly medical conditions that impede a child's healthy social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral development. A stable source of quality, timely, and accessible health care throughout a child's life has positive impacts on their ability to thrive as an adult — including better overall mental and physical health and improved economic self-sufficiency.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of our systems in both responding to and preventing a behavioral health crisis and has exacerbated the health care challenges facing our youngest Ohioans.

### What does the data tell us?

Many of our youngest Ohioans are facing severe behavioral health challenges and are not receiving important preventative health care services:

➔ More than **1 IN 4 CHILDREN (25.8%)**



ages 3-17, reported having a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral health problem in 2019-2020.<sup>1</sup> **Approximately 25%** (320,697) of the 1.28 million children enrolled in Ohio Medicaid were diagnosed with at least **one behavioral health condition** in CY 2019.<sup>2</sup>



### A THIRD OF PARENTS (36.4%)

with children, ages 3-17, reported having **some level of difficulty** in getting or not being able to **obtain the mental health treatment or counseling** their child needed.<sup>3</sup>



Among Ohio children enrolled in Medicaid, only





**61.6%**

received the recommended number of well-child visits

in the first 15 months of life and only **54.6%** received their adolescent well-child visits in Calendar Year (CY) 2019.<sup>4</sup>

Children of color, who live in Appalachian or rural regions of the state, with disabilities, who are from families with low incomes, and LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to experience barriers to accessing behavioral health services, compared to their peers

## *To improve mental health & well-being, Ohio's next governor should support access to quality, timely, and accessible health care by:*

-  Ensuring every child is enrolled in a stable source of healthcare coverage and that all eligible children and expectant mothers are enrolled in Medicaid.
-  Investing early in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of behavioral health issues.
-  Supporting a diverse, integrated, and culturally competent behavioral health workforce that provides a continuum of services that meet the needs of children prenatally, during early childhood, and into youth and adolescence.
-  Ensuring healthcare providers are trained in and utilize trauma-competent practices.

## Sources

1. National Survey of Children's Health (2019-2020)
2. [\*Report on Pregnant Women, Infants and Children – SFY 2020\*](#) (issued July 19, 2021), Ohio Department of Medicaid
3. See note 1.
4. See note 2.

Presented by:



  
#Vote4OhioKids