



Bringing International Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals to Dayton

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Human Rights Cities

City governments that guide all their local policies and programs by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* and other international human rights standards, such as the United Nation's *Sustainable Development Goals*, to reach economic, social, and cultural justice for people living in urban cities. Human Rights Cities collaborate with local, national, and international grassroots organizations, advocates, scholars, and practitioners to achieve this.

Connection to International Human Rights Articles

The targets are connected to articles 3 & 25.1 from the *UDHR*, 6.1 from the *International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*, and 24.1, 24.2, & 24.3 from the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*. These establish that every person, particularly children, have the right to a secure and healthy life with access to social services provided by the government.

Challenges in Dayton, Ohio

3.1 Maternal Mortality: 14 women in the Dayton area died for pregnancy-related reasons (2012-2016). Black women are 2.5 times more likely to die than white women.

3.2 Infants Deaths: 16.9 African American babies die out of 1,000 births, while 4.2 white babies die out of 1,000 births (2017)

3.3 Disease Epidemics: 1,268 cases of HIV/AIDS in 2017, and 279 cases of Hepatitis A due to an outbreak in 2018. Montgomery County has one of the highest rates in the state for both epidemics.

SDG 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Wellbeing for All



Advocacy Campaign Idea

Collaborating with organizations such as *Public Health Dayton and Montgomery County*, *Moms & Babies First: Ohio's Black Infant Vitality Program*, *AIDS Resource Center Ohio* in Dayton, the campaign will interview low-income families who have been affected by these issues, particularly African American mothers, for a TV segment and recurring podcast episodes. The goal will be to push the local government for continued and increased funding for free social services (health and transportation), and increased accessibility to information.

Personal Reflection

SDGs and human rights articles helped me see local issues and solutions with a global lens. I realized Dayton is not exempt from human rights issues that affect cities over the world. I learned that, locally, most issues disproportionately affect African Americans. Also, documentation about an issue increases the likelihood of government action. It seems that Dayton officials and organizations are taking steps to improve local health issues, but there is still a lot of work to do. I think the SDG goals can be a useful framework to continue this work.

Opportunities in Dayton, Ohio

3.1 Maternal Mortality: In 2019, a task force to address maternal mortality in Ohio was funded with \$12 million. Locally, programs like *Help Me Grow Brighter Futures* have efforts such as nurses supporting expecting mothers weekly until the birth of their child.

3.2 Infant Deaths: In 2018, a county task force and organizations to stop infant mortality were funded with \$3 million. The rate of infant deaths has been declining over the last two years.

3.3 Disease Epidemics: Hepatitis A vaccines for at-risk populations provided by Montgomery County (3,108 in 2018) have decreased the infection rate.

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